

The Lamp Lighter
July 2017
The Newsletter of Living Lord Lutheran Church
Real God. Real Faith. Real Life.
www.LLLC.org

Worship Schedule

Sundays at 8:00 am & **10:00** am at Living Lord Lutheran Church
Sundays at 9:00 am at Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Sundays at 10:30 am at St. Paul Lutheran Church

From Pastor William D. Leitch...Our Shared Ministry leaders and Council members have been working together to gather data, looking to the future and what challenges we can expect. We want to share that information with you and pray about how God is calling us. A day long retreat has been proposed; it will explore the past mission of the church, and hopes for future mission. The retreat would be followed by a six Sunday series for our interactive discussion.

The Sunday discussion format will include small group discussions. It is always easier to get more voices heard when we break into small groups. We want to hear everyone's voice. What do you know about the history of the church? Why was the church built in its location? What was our mission and ministry in the past?

That's all about our history and our original intent. What is our mission and ministry now? What does our community need us to do today? Who is our community? How far should we reach?

Who are we? What are we capable of doing today as a congregation? How can we meet the needs of our community? What help do we need? Where can we get that help?

These are just a few of the questions we need to ask periodically. The answers need to come from you. You know who you are and what you are capable of doing. The leaders of our congregations need your answers because your answers are like data. We take all the data, crunch it, and prayerfully make the best decisions we can with God's help.

Our Shared Ministry leaders and Council members have been working together to gather data, looking to the future and what challenges we can expect. We want to share that information with you and pray about how God is calling us.

I share this with you now so that you may prepare yourselves to participate as fully as you can.

Blessings,
Pastor Bill

Joint Worship & Picnic...We will have a Joint Worship & Picnic on **August 6** beginning at 10:30 am at Howland Township Park. Worship will begin at 10:30 am, lunch at 11:30 am, and activities at 12:30 pm. There will be no services at the churches on this date. RSVP to attend the Shared Ministry Worship and Picnic by signing the sign-up sheet. We need to prepare enough Bar-B-Q chicken. Please bring your own comfortable lawn chairs for the day's activities and please bring a side dish to share.

From Pastor Ann Marie Winters... COMPASSION: A Biblical Perspective

“When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” (Matthew 9:36)

I always linger over the word “compassion” in this 36th verse when I read this 9th chapter in Matthew because it leads us to consider our Lord's **compassion** for people.

Compassion is not pity. The Word does not say that he pitied the people because they did not measure up to his standards. Morally, our Lord did challenge us to be perfect as our Heavenly Father is perfect, but he did not judge people. In fact, he spent time with sinners, he ate with them, and respected them as human beings – a people who needed relief and direction. His compassion was for all kinds of people – crowds of them. Their lives were his concern.

The verse does not say that Christ taught the people because their leaders' ideas were wrong. Yet, he did not leave them on their own to follow the Pharisees and the Saducees who often laid heavy burdens on the people. We know that Jesus came to bring freedom from sin, and death, and bondage. He relieves burdens compassionately.

The chapter goes on to say that our Lord Jesus took action out of **compassion**. His heart went out to the people. He taught the crowd in a way that was to relieve their suffering. He guided them with the care of a Good Shepherd. And he sent out the apostles to do the same!

May the compassion of our Lord Jesus be at the heart of our teaching, leadership, and action in the church.

Your “Pastor-Shepherd”,
Ann Marie Winters

The Prayer Chain: Can you be a link?

There are many ways that we share information, and many conversations that build up the church. My favorite communication in the church is prayer. It is holy communication by which we can reach the Father of us all with the true intentions of our heart, at any time, and for any reason, with any words that come to us. It is not holy because we use the right kind of language. It is holy because of the One who hears our prayer, and who loves us and tells us to bring all our requests to Him.

St. Paul teaches us to “pray without ceasing” (1Thes 5:17). How often have you asked others for prayer? How often have you also promised to bring someone's intention to God in prayer? I hope you may have experienced being covered by the prayers of others, surrounded by their intercessions on your behalf.

At one time, we had 15 intercessors on the prayer chain of St Paul. Some people have moved or passed to the saints triumphant. It is time to ask if you would join the prayer chain, so we can have many voices reaching to God's ears on behalf of our brothers and sisters.

Here is how it works: The requests that are made known to the Pastor or the Office Manager at St. Paul are passed on to the coordinator (June Hutchison). June contacts a couple of people, and they each call one person, until the request for prayer has made its way to the ears of many people who pray. So, no one calls more than one or two people. A prayer request is on the chain until the request is removed by the one who asked.

Won't you lend an ear to those who need prayer? And lift your voice to God? Thanks, Pastor Winters

From the Fellowship Committee Chairperson, Kara Busefink...

July Fellowship...We will have Fellowship on **Sunday, July 16**, after both services.

From the Finance Committee, Treasurer Dave Henderson...The books are closed for May 2017. In May, we had receipts of \$11,760.16 and expenses of \$12,812.64, for a loss of \$1,052.48 for the month. Year-to-date through May, we have receipts of \$69,132.50 and expenses of \$61,913.62, for a profit of \$7,218.63. We are still in good shape for the year. Please make every effort to keep your pledges on schedule. If you look at the last three years together (2014-2016), we have managed to achieve a balanced budget, which is our goal. I anticipate that in 2017 we will once again meet that goal.

From the Later Life Committee Chairperson, Karen Bandy...

Card Class...Join us for a card-making class on **Thursday, July 6**, in the Activity Room. We will be making 4 cards. Our theme will be "In the Good Ol' Summertime". Classes will be at 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm. The cost is \$12.00. Please bring adhesives like double-stick tape and liquid glue. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. The deadline for signing up is Sunday, July 2. Emmanuel and St. Paul members are welcome to join us – call Lynne Walters at 330-856-9689 to get signed up!

From the Outreach Committee Chairperson, Donna Tompkins...

Niles Shepherd of the Valley Summer Picnic...Join us for some summer fun on **Wednesday, July 19**, at Niles Shepherd of the Valley. We will gather at 11:00 am to begin setup and start the grill. We are looking for helpers, food donations, and two grill masters (it is a gas grill). There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board; Emmanuel and St. Paul members are encouraged to join us too! We need donations of cantaloupes, strawberries, blueberries, watermelon, and cupcakes. Please join us for a good time and help make the day a bright one for our friends at Niles Shepherd of the Valley. For more information, please contact Donna Tompkins at 330-984-0684.

From the Parish Education Committee Chairperson, Darlene Altieri...

Joint Vacation Bible School...This year's Joint Vacation Bible School is going to be held at Living Lord Lutheran Church **July 9-13** for children up to the 6th grade. This year's theme will be "Operation Overboard". Please join us for an exciting week of crafts and games. If you would be interested in volunteering to teach, lead crafts, lead games, set up and serve snacks, and lead the opening and closing, please contact Darlene Altieri at 330-856-9704, Debbie Groves at 330-442-5382, Pastor Ann Marie at 330-469-6296, or Pastor Bill at 330-465-6221. Please register your children by filling out a registration form (LLC: located on the table under the Parish Ed bulletin board in the Education Wing; St. Paul: located on the card table in the main hallway) and return it to the church office by **July 3**. Invite your friends and neighbors. This is FREE!

From the Parish Nurse, Dora Muller... *"When we are tired, everything seems so very much worse."* Jane Green

The demands of our daily life are very strenuous. It is the norm for women to work long hours outside the house only to come home where there is no time to rest because the family needs to be fed and homework to be checked. No wonder we are always tired. Our societal role for women is to nurture and to promote healing. No wonder we are always tired and we try to blame our state of fatigue on hormone imbalances, managing the household, professional careers, and raising children. My workday includes 12 hour shifts on my feet. It is nice to get home and relax for a couple of minutes before tackling the kitchen. All these physical and mental demands can lead to physical symptoms, such as flu, insomnia, weight gain, and irritable moods. We all know someone's mother who is always irritable and unpleasant, but we do not know what kind of daily struggles that person goes through. It is assumed that it is a result of the famous "time of the month", when in reality it is just fatigue. Fatigue can be a result of a lack of self-care. When was the last time we put ourselves first, reserved a couple of minutes a day to renew our energy? Filling our souls with gratitude and our body with a boost of energy is a must. There are many books that promise to have the answer to fatigue, however all that is needed is a little common sense to improve our lives. Embrace a healthier diet, adhere to sensible sleep habits, practice outdoor physical activities, build meaningful relationships, and develop hobbies that you enjoy. These small changes will help boost your energy, fight fatigue, and improve your immune system. The best advice is to take some time for ourselves, develop discipline in self-care, and do not be afraid to recognize that we cannot do everything alone. An impeccable house is not sometimes a happy home. Successful professional careers can be rewarding, but the price to achieve it by destroying our health is not worth it.

Thank you...

Dear Pastor Bill and Members of Living Lord Lutheran Church,
Thank you very much for the recognition of our graduation. We are so sorry that we were unable to attend the service and reception. We truly appreciate your thoughts and prayers. Jake and Emily DeScenna

Pastor Bill Leitch, Ronda, Living Lord Church Council, and the Living Lord Congregation,
Bob and I wish to thank you for sending us as delegates to the Northeastern Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America on June 9-10, 2017. Having never attended such a gathering before, it was truly an amazing opportunity. The venue was at the John Knight Center in Akron, Ohio. It was outstanding and well attended. Having never met Bishop Abraham Allende or hear him preach, Bob and I were filled with reverence and wonder by his charismatic speech and presence. Sharing the service, Eucharist, and music with over 400 attendees was truly uplifting. The three workshops we attended were well attended and inspiring and thought provoking. The business meeting and voting ran smoothly. One could tell that a lot of work and cooperation and speakers were involved and Godly, even with the youth. Again, we thank you all for letting us be Living Lord's delegates. It was truly an honor. Yours in Christ, The McKinneys

EVENTS IN JULY

Thursday, July 6, 2:00 & 6:00 pm – Later Life Card Class in Activity Room

Sunday, July 9, through Thursday, July 13, 5:30-7:30 pm – Joint Vacation Bible School at LLLC

Monday, July 10, 6:00 pm – Council in Activity Room

Saturday, July 15, 8:00 am – Congregation Breakfast in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, July 16 – Fellowship After Both Services/Blood Pressure Screening/**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

Wednesday, July 19, 11:00 am – Niles Shepherd of the Valley Summer Picnic

JULY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

- 1 = Shelby Anderson, Jack Lambert, & Kitty Thompson
- 3 = Nicholas Altieri
- 5 = Amy Piel
- 7 = Dora Muller
- 9 = Penny Johnson, Bob Lucas, & Steve Rinehart
- 12 = Eli Cless
- 13 = Ashley Harden
- 16 = Zachary Altieri & Malik Hakeem
- 21 = Harry Leisy
- 23 = Fred Welter
- 25 = Pietro Maloney
- 26 = Karen Bandy, Sarah Chopko, & Norma Taiclet
- 27 = Daniel Fedorchak, Michael Piel, & Vincent Prindle
- 29 = Emily DeScenna
- 31 = Holly Maggiano

Anniversaries

- 7 = Holmstrom, James & Edith



NEWS FROM THE SHARED MINISTRY

Emmanuel Clothes Closet...The Clothes Closet is open every Tuesday at 9:00 am. In need of: summer clothes (children & adults), bathing suits, deodorant, lotion, dish soap, paper towels, toilet tissue, anything for babies, plastic bags, curtains, doilies, sheets.

Emmanuel Shopping Cart Needs for July...Instant potatoes, canned sweet potatoes, stuffing mix, gravy (jar or mix), Vienna sausages, canned fruit, cracker snacks, cans of food with pop top lids for easy opening.

St. Paul Grief Ministry...Part of the Social Committee is Grief Ministry. Joyce Osborn (330-372-2136) is spearheading this ministry with Pr. Winters' and God's guidance and help. When a loved one dies, Joyce sends a set of four books called "Journeying Through Grief" throughout the first year. Each book describes the issues and feelings that a person tends to encounter at various points of grief and the books offer suggestions on handling them. If Pr. Winters or Joyce can be of any help or if you have any questions during a time of grief, please contact either of them.

St. Paul SPLASH TODAY...Donations are always warmly welcomed, and with your continued support, we will be able to sustain this valuable ministry to young families.