

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

Worship Schedule

Sundays at 8:00 am & 10:30 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

Sunday School Schedule

Living Lord Lutheran Church 9:15 am
Emmanuel Lutheran Church 10:00 am
St. Paul Lutheran Church 9:30 am

From Pastor William D. Leitch... WOW! It's September already! Although it is the season for harvesting for agriculture, for the church it is a time for planting, cultivating, and nurturing. Rally Sunday at Living Lord is September 10. We prepare to join together every Sunday to study Scripture and understand how God called others and how God is calling us now.

On August 20, we launched our Catechism Class for the 2017/2018 year. It's a great bunch of kids who have energy and a real desire to go deeper into their faith. I get excited about VBS and Servant Week, and I am blessed to be with these youth.

It's a time for all of us to go deeper into our faith. Our Council, along with our Shared Ministry Team, have also decided to take our congregations into a conversation that will focus on our future. Our desire is that we intentionally and collectively look at who we are and how God is calling us now.

We will have a one-day retreat on **Saturday, October 7**, at St. Paul. Everyone is encouraged to attend. There are three different five minute informative DVD presentations followed by discussions. This retreat will prepare us for six Sundays of discussions during sermon time. We pray that you can share with others pertinent things that we need to consider in future decisions that others have not witnessed.

If you cannot attend the retreat, I strongly encourage you to attend the Adult Forum beginning on September 10. Pat Was will be leading a six session class on how to listen to God that later moves us to how then to speak.

We have collected real data about our congregation, our building, the building plans that were considered over ten years ago, and we hope to learn more from each of you that may open our eyes to the opportunities to which God would lead us.

Living Lord has shrunk from 465 members in 2010 to 250 members by the end of 2017. It "seems" that we are relatively strong in spite of this shrinkage, but the reality is we will not be able to sustain our congregation in 5-10 years at this rate.

Although consolidation can extend our life, we also need to have a focus on God that will spread the Gospel and grow the church. During our August Council Meeting, we had a practice discussion about what consolidation might look like. We realized that there will be loss and grieving. We will need to be sensitive to this. We also realized that there are God Focuses that we can work toward even now. Kara Busefink and Stacey Stredney led us on a discussion that brought us great encouragement. We plan to have a youth lock-in to hear the voice of our youth and their parents.

God's Work, Our Hands... On **Saturday, September 9**, our area Lutheran Churches will be out serving the community at various locations and times. Living Lord will join together at Emmanuel Lutheran from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm to pack and deliver school bags. This will allow many of our folks to get back and set up for Rally Day the next day.

From Pastor Ann Marie Winters... As I write this article on "Preparing for the Renewal of our Church", I want to tell you so much. I have written this letter as well as articles on "Strengths for Navigating Change" and "Taking a Risk,...What would God want us to do?" Please take the time to sit with these thoughts and pray for our churches. Then share your thoughts, too.

"Preparing for the Renewal of our Church"

We are planning a renewal series to begin in October. You can prepare by reading the following scriptures and asking these sorts of questions...

October 8, The Burning Bush (Exodus 3:1-12) LISTEN
How does your church need God's help? How do you need God's help?

October 15, The Valley of Dry Bones (Ezekiel 37:1-14) LOOK
What looks "dry" in your congregation? What new life do you seek from God?

October 22, Jesus Sends out 70 Disciples (Luke 10:1-24) RESPOND
Where is God sending your congregation? How is your congregation responding to Jesus' call?

(October 29, 500th Anniversary of the Reformation – Joint Festival Worship at St. Paul)

November 5, Finding the Lost (Luke 15) FORGIVE
Who is "lost" in your community? To whom is God calling your congregation to announce God's gracious forgiveness?

November 12, The Great Commandment (Matthew 22:34-40) LOVE
How does your congregation love God? How do the disciples in your neighborhood love their neighbors?

November 19, The Great Commission (Matthew 28) GO
What is the risen Lord Jesus commanding your congregation to do?

Praying with you and for you,
Pastor Ann Marie Winters

What are three strengths that help you navigate change? (taken from an article by Homaira Kabir)

Strength #1: Vision:

A vision helps us sit with confusion and ambivalence, while our minds connect the dots and look for creative solutions that keep us moving in the right direction.

Strength #2: Humility

Humility is a form of acceptance – the acceptance of not knowing. It keeps us growing, it keeps us hungry for knowledge – and in our changing times, it keeps us open to the opportunities that surround us.

Strength #3: Connection

Human connection is one of our most basic needs. A smile, a touch, or someone who listens and understands can regulate the sympathetic nervous system, return us to a state of calm, and ignite our own compassion, so we can extend it to others.

Taking a risk, and what would God want us to do?

When Jesus teaches on “taking a risk”, we see that God rewards those who are willing to invest their resources, wisely (not foolishly). We may learn from this that whatever God gives us is on loan to us from Him, and God wants us to do our best to use it with wisdom and to increase its value.

Excerpts from Matthew 19:12-26 (The Message)

There was a man who called ten servants together, gave them each a sum of money, and instructed them, “Operate with this until I return.” When he came back, he called those ten servants to whom he had given the money to find out how they had done. The first said, “Master, I have doubled your money.” He said, “Good servant! Great work!” The second said, “Master, I made a 50% profit on your money.” He said, “I’m putting you in charge of five towns.” The next servant said, “Master, here is your money safe and sound. I kept it hidden in the cellar. To tell you the truth, I was a little afraid of you.” Then he said to those standing there, take the money from him and give it to the one who doubled my stake.” **He said, “Risk your life and get more than you ever dreamed of. Play it safe and end up holding the bag.”**

The Lutheran churches in Warren are in such a place now that we may need to take a risk with what we have and who we are. We are considering what our mission may be if we come together, to work more closely together. What could happen if we pooled our financial resources? We could have more capital from which to operate. What would happen if we used a single building for worship, and had a ministry site for our mission activity on the west side? We could have less overhead. What could happen if we put our human energy together for service to others, for worship, and for outreach with the Word? More energy could develop through synergy.

These are the risks before us...What would God want us to do?

Empty Nest: Blessed Sacrament Parish will host Tom Sauline, author of *Empty Nest*, for three consecutive Tuesdays in September. He will lead us in working through change in our lives, letting go, and learning to love anew. The evenings are open to all! We begin on **Tuesday, September 12**, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm, continue on September 19, and conclude on September 26. A simple call to Paula Pierce at the parish office (330-372-2215) to sign up will do!

Everyone has a part to play in the church’s Mission Planning: As we look at our mission and outreach in the community, we want to hear your voice. What do you think about our social ministry, our work with other churches, our witness in the world? These may seem like big questions, but we will explore them together in a special six-week program this Fall.

At this time, St. Paul and Living Lord have decided to engage in a “Prayer and Renewal Series” called *Fanning the Flame* (from the Northwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA).

- **A RETREAT TO PREPARE DISCUSSION LEADERS ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7:**
 - Training leaders of St. Paul and Living Lord
 - “Invitation to a journey” 6-minute DVD with discussion
 - “For the sake of others; in God for the world” 5-minute DVD with discussion
 - “We are church for the sake of the world” 5-minute DVD with Bishop Eaton/discussion
- **WORSHIP ORDER FOR OCTOBER 8 THROUGH NOVEMBER 19:**
 - The six weeks of worship from Oct. 8 to Nov. 19 will include a 15-minute small group discussion time during the worship service. Each worshipper will be included in a small group. A captain will lead discussion and make note of 2 or 3 points that come from their group each week.

- SIX WEEKLY THEMES, SCRIPTURE, AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:
 - Oct. 8: The burning bush: LISTEN
 - Oct. 15: The valley of the dry bones: LOOK
 - Oct. 22: Jesus sends out 70 disciples: RESPOND
 - Oct. 29: JOINT REFORMATION WORSHIP AT ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
 - Nov. 5: Finding the lost: FORGIVE
 - Nov. 12: The great commandment: LOVE
 - Nov. 19: The great commission: GO

Materials for discussion will be circulated in the September and October Newsletters so you can prepare in thought and prayer. Please feel free to discuss this program with members of council and the pastors. It is an exciting time for us all! You won't want to miss it.

REFORMATION 500TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION:

DVD Course discussion "Lunch with Luther" Sunday noontime

8 weeks, Sept. 3 to Oct. 22

Seminary teachers make topics accessible to laity; hosted at St. Paul for Trumbull Area Lutherans; bring a brown bag lunch; drinks provided

DVD Course Description – Luther's Legacy for Laity: Martin Luther's legacy is a rich treasure for all Christians, but particularly for lay people. Luther, through the doctrines of justification, freedom of the Christian, bondage of the will, and vocation, provides Christians with an understanding of what God has done for us and what God wants to do through us for the sake of the neighbor. All the big questions of faith and life are found in the abundance of Reformation theology. These theologians shape how Christians view their place in the world. These presentations were filmed live at the Lay School of Ministry in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, ELCA. This 8-week course will have a DVD presentation and discussion totaling 90 minutes each Sunday. Come to one or all sessions. Please reserve a place by calling Lynn Golen at St. Paul Lutheran Church at 330-394-5741. All are welcome!

Movie: "Martin Luther: The Idea that Changed the World"

Tuesday, October 24, 7:30 pm

Special showing for area Lutherans at Tinseltown, Southern Park Mall (Youngstown)

Shared Ministry Joint Worship

Sunday, October 29, 10:30 am

At St. Paul Lutheran Church; finger food reception in Cassel Hall following worship

Anniversary of the Reformation

Sunday, October 29, 6:00 pm

At St. Columba Cathedral, Youngstown, Catholic-Lutheran Ecumenical Evening Prayer

From the Fellowship Committee Chairperson, Kara Busefink...

September Fellowship... We will have Fellowship on **Sunday, September 17**, after both services.

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

Card Class... Join us for a card-making class on **Thursday, September 7**, in the Activity Room. We will be making 4 cards. Our theme will be "Four Fence Cards". 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, September 3. Emmanuel and St. Paul members are welcome to join us – call Nancy Walters at 330-889-3382 to get signed up!

From the Outreach Committee Chairperson, Donna Tompkins...

Community Meal at Emmanuel Lutheran Church...The Outreach Committee will be assisting with the Community Meal at Emmanuel Lutheran Church on **Friday, September 22**. We are in need of volunteers for setup, serving, and cleanup. Setup begins at 9:00 am with the meal being served at 12:00 noon. Please see the sign-up sheet on the main bulletin board if you are willing to assist. We also will need help from volunteer bakers to provide 12 dozen cupcakes. All from St. Paul are welcome to volunteer, too! St. Paul – please call Donna Tompkins at 330-984-0684 if you are able to assist. Living Lord - please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board if you are able to help. Please have your cupcakes at the church (please place them in the refrigerator) on Thursday, September 21. If you have any questions, please contact Donna Tompkins at 330-984-0684.

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

Sunday School Registration...Sunday School will begin on **Sunday, September 17**, for grades pre-K through 6th grade. Classes will start at 9:15 am and last for one hour. The children will learn Bible stories and do crafts, along with many other activities. We look forward to seeing our children this year. Please fill out and return to the church office a Sunday School Registration Form to get your child/grandchildren enrolled.

Adult Forum...The Adult Forum will begin on **Sunday, September 10**, with a study titled “Keep It Shut”. The six part DVD study is hosted by Keren Ehman. It focuses on What to Say, How to Say It, and When to Say Nothing At All. In light of the various ways we communicate today, it is especially important to understand what the Bible teaches us. So if you talk, write, email, text, tweet, Facebook, Instagram, or still use smoke signals, this discussion is for you. Join us on Sundays at 9:15 am after the first worship service.

From the Worship Committee Chairperson, Jan Was...We will return to our regular worship schedule of 8:00 and **10:30 am on Sunday, September 10**.

Choir Start-up...Choir will begin on **Sunday, September 10**, with rehearsal at 9:45 am. If you are interested in joining the Choir, please see May Crain Love.

From the Youth & Family Committee Chairperson, Stacey Stredney...Please join us at Living Lord Lutheran Church on **Sunday, September 10**, for our Rally Day Picnic! This year’s picnic is set to begin at 1:30 pm and will kick off our Sunday School program and fall activities. We ask that you bring a covered dish or dessert to help make this a wonderful event filled with food, fun, fellowship, and activities for all ages. A pot-luck sign-up sheet can be found on the main bulletin board.

From the Parish Nurse, Dora Muller...The summer is winding down and around the valley the canning season is in full swing. Almost all my co-workers have the pantry full with tomatoes, hot peppers in oil, green beans, peaches, and the list goes on. If you can plant, you can preserve it. One of the dangers of canning is botulism, which is food poisoning. Every fall there are reports of foodborne botulism. Botulism came from the Latin which means sausage. It was first identified in Germany during an outbreak of sickening as a result of contaminated sausage. When one follows the canning process for safe home canning, the risk of developing botulism decreases. Always sterilize your jars, use new lids for the jars, follow the safety directions to canning, and your harvest will be available for months to come.

Thank you...I just wanted to take the opportunity to thank you for being a part of making this year’s Good Grief Camp possible. We were able to see 41 campers be able to let loose and be a kid for a week. It was great to see lots of smiles as our staff and grief counselors worked hard to love and serve these campers. We were blessed to have many families and talented volunteers who pitched in and gave long days and nights to put together a fantastic week of camp. It was a great success and was all due to your generosity and support. This camp has impacted many kids’ lives, and we would love to see it continue to grow and impact as many as possible who have experienced loss. Thank you for being a part of this team and for believing in the power of camp. Sincerely, Matt Miller, Director of Camp Frederick

EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER

Wednesday, September 6, 6:00 pm – Shared Ministry Meeting in Activity Room

Thursday, September 7, 2:00 & 6:00 pm – Later Life Card Class in Activity Room

Saturday, September 9, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm, God’s Work, Our Hands at Emmanuel

Sunday, September 10, Adult Forum Start-up at 9:15 am/Choir Start-up at 9:45 am/Rally Day Picnic at 1:30 pm

Saturday, September 16, 8:00 am – Congregation Breakfast

Sunday, September 17 – Fellowship After Both Services/Blood Pressure Screening/**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

Friday, September 22, 9:00 am – Community Meal at Emmanuel

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

- 1 = Louis Cox & Tootie Rogers
- 6 = Kathy Frantz & Louise King
- 7 = Jean Peachman
- 11 = Kaitlyn Mazzola
- 15 = Bill Hawley
- 16 = Joshua Cox & Kathy Cox
- 17 = Leroy Morgan
- 18 = Zachary Blythe & Trish Offerdahl
- 22 = Brian Frantz
- 23 = Dawn Hakeem
- 25 = Janice Adgate & Nancy Hinely
- 26 = Robert McKinney
- 29 = Rosel Radtka

Anniversaries

- 7 = Sanzenbacher, Lee & Bonnie
- 9 = Was, Pat & Jan
- 10 = Smiley, Jared & Carolyn
- 13 = Ginter, Dave & Fran
- 19 = Altieri, Nicholas & Jennifer
- 27 = Crain, Nelson & Stephanie

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 September...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 Pasta Dinner... The 150th Anniversary Committee is sponsoring a Pasta Dinner on **Sunday, September 17**, from 12:00 to 3:00 pm. Menu consists of pasta, meatballs, salad, bread & butter, dessert, and hot & cold beverages. Tickets are \$8.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children 12 and under. Tickets will be on sale after service on Sundays and also at the door. Take outs available. Please come and support this worthy cause! This is a Thrivent sponsored event.

St. Paul Save the Date – Oktoberfest...Please mark your calendars for **Saturday, October 21, 2017**. That is the date set for our annual Oktoberfest at St. Paul. As always, we will be needing lots of help in order to make this event a huge success; Emmanuel and Living Lord members may volunteer to assist, too. During the month of September, sign-up sheets will be placed in the narthex. These will be for you to volunteer to help at this event as well as to donate specific items to be included in our gift basket raffles. Please watch for these sheets or call Brenda Ceplecci at 330-534-2388 or Diana Bauman at 330-856-6034 to offer your services. This is not only a great night for fellowship, but also serves as one of our biggest fundraisers of the year. Your help will be greatly appreciated!

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.