

The Lamp Lighter
November 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...As I look at the Gospel readings for the Sundays in November, there seems to be a tension in what Jesus teaches us to do. We are to plan and be prepared, but for what? And for what time? The bridesmaids who did not have enough oil for their lamps must have expected the wedding sooner or were they not listening for more instruction and missed the update? For the servant given one “talent”, he saw the master as a tough, unforgiving boss. He thought that it was better to protect whatever he had, bury it, and hide it rather than use it and increase its value.

In both cases, the bridesmaids and the servant both stopped participating in the cause. Perhaps the bridesmaids were just along for the fun. They did not see themselves as ones of any value. The marriage was just another party. After all, it was not their commitment. However, Jesus was speaking to us through this parable about our commitment to a relationship with him. We are all married to Jesus and Jesus is looking for a bride who is committed and engaged in the relationship – not just along for the ride. The servant who buried the “talent” was not engaged in the cause. It seems he had no clue as to what the master wanted.

I have been revived by everyone’s participation in our quest to explore where God is sending us, Living Lord Lutheran Church, along with St. Paul Lutheran Church. Where is God sending us? Where do we need God’s help? Instead of being frozen in place by fear or by a lackadaisical attitude that we are just along for the ride, I am inspired by the genuine care of all of you. I sense that you sincerely care about using all our talents to serve God’s purpose. And together we are expecting God to give us updates and we will be ready to respond as God reveals our purpose.

Thank you all for participating in our group discussions and sharing your thoughts and questions. Every single comment written down has inspired other thoughts and ideas. I feel that we had stoked a fire that is giving us new life. Our ad hoc committees have exceeded my expectations. Shame on me for having any doubts. It is wonderful when everyone participates. You each see something others cannot see.

Together we are the Body of Christ. I am revived and I look forward to the next several years of Shared Ministry, doing mission and ministry together and thriving in our community.

Envisioning Mission Retreat: A leadership retreat for short and long-range planning will be held on **Saturday, November 4**. It is time to cast a vision and dream a picture of what a consolidated church could be like in 5 to 10 years from now, and to design the steps to get there. This workshop will be held in the Fellowship Hall at Living Lord Lutheran Church from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm. We will brainstorm to discover what God dreams for our church and community to prosper in his Word. St. Paul's ad hoc committee members are: Diana Bauman, Liz Chapin, Tim Martin, Brenda Ceplecci, and June Hutchison. Anyone else who is interested in shaping a vision of a consolidated church is welcome to come to the workshop as well. There are also 6 or 7 leaders from Living Lord who will attend, as well as their Council members, both pastors, and any congregation members who are interested. If you plan to attend, please sign up for the "Envisioning Mission Retreat" in the main hallway so we know how much food to prepare. Please keep our church and our vision for the future in your thoughts and prayers.

Stewardship Presentation Sessions: Please schedule yourself for one of the following Stewardship Presentation sessions: Nov. 5 after the 8:00 am service; Nov. 5 after the 10:30 am service; Nov. 12 after the 10:30 am service, or Nov. 19 after the 10:30 am service. You will be receiving a letter enclosing your Estimate of Giving Card for 2018. Please bring this card with you to one of these meetings. We will collect them and bring them all to the altar on Sunday, Nov. 26.

Sign Language Classes...American Sign Language Classes will be held at Living Lord for adults and children (great for hard of hearing folks, too). Classes will be held on Nov. 8, 15, & 29, and Dec. 13. Classes run from 6:00 to 8:00 pm and the cost is \$75.00. Please contact Pam Beish at pamelabeish302@gmail.com or at 330-646-1637 if you are interested in taking these classes.

From Pastor Ann Marie Winters...ABOUT GRATITUDE...AND "THE MAKE A LEAP OF FAITH" CAMPAIGN

As I write this letter, I have just received news of the birth of a new baby. You may guess that this was the birth of Joelle, the daughter of Michelle and Joe Jarzembowski, and the granddaughter of Diana Bauman. Joelle is a miracle. She is a blessing. This family prayed for and blessed Joelle all along the way, and as a church family, we joined in those intercessions. Now, God has graciously gifted us with a new life.

I don't know how you feel, but I am brought to my knees in thanksgiving and praise to God. A birth has the power to move me to tears of gratitude. I am writing this letter about gratitude really. We need to feel thankful. It is good for us. Gratitude opens our minds and hearts to what is new and worthy of our thanksgiving to God. Gratitude enlivens us to what is good and praiseworthy in our lives. Gratitude nourishes the saint within us.

So, first, I want to thank each of you, my brothers and sisters. Thank you for your steadfast dedication to God. Thank you for your prayers for me and for our church.

Secondly, I wish to thank you for your generous thank-offerings to God through the church. Would you be willing and able to continue or increase your giving in 2018? Also, we suggest that you try to make a leap of faith on four days this coming year. That is, will you step up your giving on **four Sundays** this year **to simply try a tithe or an increase that would be a leap of faith for you**? The first "Make a Leap Sunday" is November 26. You will receive a letter and an Estimate of Giving card in the mail. Three other "Make a Leap Sunday" opportunities are planned for February, May, and August 2018.

May God continue to pour out his plenteous blessings on us all,
Pastor Ann Marie Winters

Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship Service hosted by St. Paul...How will you celebrate Thanksgiving this year? Most probably you will gather with family members and friends around a turkey dinner. Most likely there will be a prayer recognizing God as the source of all blessings, and thanks for a generous number of people or things in your life. This Thanksgiving, I challenge you to also make a worship service the center of your Thanksgiving. We will celebrate 66 years of community Interfaith Thanksgiving on the evening of Tuesday, November 21, at 7:30 pm to be hosted by our

church. Lots has come and gone in 66 years, and most notably our congregations have changed. Our community has still valued the gathering of Christian and Jewish neighbors who revere the Lord and offer him praise. When I came to St. Paul, I was given the mandate to continue the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, and we have kept it alive. However, last year, only six members of St. Paul's congregation and only three couples from the other congregations attended the service at SS. Peter & Paul. PLEASE make this Interfaith Community Thanksgiving service a part of your Thanksgiving week festivity. It is definitely worth the investment of your time to welcome our neighbors and celebrate with them.

From the Fellowship Committee Chairperson, Kara Busefink...

November Fellowship... We will have Fellowship on **Sunday, November 19**, after both services.

From the Finance Committee, Treasurer Dave Henderson... The books are closed for September 2017. Receipts for September were \$8,971.59 and expenses were \$10,890.56, resulting in a loss of \$1,918.97 for the month. Year-to-date through September 2017, we have income of \$105,186.01 and expenses of \$109,177.69, for a year-to-date loss of \$3,991.68. We are currently \$15,000.00 behind in our budgeted giving through September. As we enter the fourth quarter of 2017, we need a strong close to 2017 and a strong October to get us back on track and meet our financial objectives. Let's see if we can get back in a positive cash flow position starting with October.

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

Card Class... Join us for a card-making class on **Thursday, November 2**, in the Activity Room. We will be making 4 cards. Our theme will be "Happy Holidays" (one Thanksgiving/Fall card and three Christmas 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, October 29. 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...

Bingo at NSOV Update... The Outreach Committee would like to thank everyone who assisted with the Bingo at Niles Shepherd of the Valley on Wednesday, October 25. The residents thoroughly enjoyed themselves! Thank you all for helping to make this a successful event!

Thanksgiving Food Baskets... The Outreach Committee will again be giving out Thanksgiving Food Baskets. Our goal is to help 20 families. If you know of someone in need of a Thanksgiving Food Basket, please call the church office to get signed up before **Sunday, November 5**. The Outreach Committee is asking for monetary donations to purchase turkeys and grocery shopping lists are posted on the Outreach Bulletin Board. We will also need 40 brown grocery bags, if you happen to have any you would like to donate. Please turn in your monetary and grocery donations no later than **Sunday, November 12, 2017**. Distribution of the Thanksgiving Food Baskets will be on **Friday, November 17**, from 9:00 am until noon. If you have any questions, please contact Donna Tompkins at 330-984-0684.

Angel Tree... We can help make Christmas a special time for area children. Our Angel Tree will be up on **Sunday, December 3**. Stop by the tree, choose an angel, sign them out, and have fun shopping! We will have 20 children to buy for. All gifts must be returned UNWRAPPED by **Sunday, December 10**, with the angel tag attached. If you have any questions, please contact Tootie Rogers at 330-545-1135. If you are unable to be in church on December 3 and would like to participate, please call Tootie and she will mail you an angel.

From the Property Committee Chairperson, Rolland Walters...

- * Parking lot lights – installation will be completed by the end of October.
- * Landscaping in the front of sanctuary – The new cross was installed with new landscaping planned and completed by next spring. Plans include bricking from the cross to the sidewalk, adding benches, and planting flowers/bushes. This project was funded by an anonymous donor.

Organ Update

- * The wiring for the new speakers has been installed. The installation of the actual speakers will occur during the week of October 23.
- * The organ installation date has yet to be determined.

Projects for upcoming winter months will include:

- * Waxing floors in Fellowship Hall, kitchen, bathrooms, and narthex.
- * Cleaning of carpets beginning in the Education Wing and proceeding to complete the sanctuary. I have a professional carpet cleaning machine and the only cost to the congregation will be the soap, for a savings of hundreds of dollars.
- * Replace the rubber floor trim in the narthex with a ceramic tile baseboard.
- * Repaint women’s restroom to correct the overflow of spray from the Education Wing insulation.

Projects I would like to complete before my term as Property Chairperson is done (yet to be quoted):

- * The two furnaces that supply heat for the sanctuary are about 18 years old. Heating specialists that have been in for other services have informed me that they are running on borrowed time and need replaced.
- * Two furnaces for the Education Wing are over 15 years old and I would also like to see them replaced before the end of my term.

Our Property Committee meeting times are posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. We are always looking for new members, especially younger, able-bodied ones that can help but will take suggestions and donations anytime.

From the Worship Committee Chairperson, Jan Was...

Hanging of the Greens...I know it doesn’t seem possible, but the “Hanging of the Greens” is fast approaching. Advent begins on December 3, so mark your calendar for **Saturday, December 2**, as our day for decorating the sanctuary. More details will follow in the November bulletins and December Newsletter.

From the Parish Nurse, Dora Muller... *“Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand, and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home.”* Edith Sitwell

The month of November is almost here and winter is fast approaching. With the cold weather, we move indoors and the dangers of house fires and carbon monoxide poisoning sharply increase. This is the time to make certain that you have installed quality smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. Carbon monoxide is a silent killer that can decimate families, while smoke inhalation kills more than do burns from flames. These risk factors can be prevented with the installation and proper maintenance of alarms. They are very affordable and even are available through grants from the community. Remember, install alarms on every level of your home and test the batteries at least once a month. I still remember once when I was home alone and the chirping sound woke me. I didn’t know how to disengage the sound and saw no sign of a fire. The next day, after a sleepless night, I was informed that the chirping serves to alert the user that the battery was nearly dead and should be replaced. Recently, I learned that alarms today are available with a battery life of ten years. My education on smoke alarms is now up to date. For your family’s safety, it is a good idea to furnish your home with quality alarms, test them monthly, and make certain to change the batteries or replace the alarms according to the manufacturer’s instructions. Once your alarms are in working condition, look for other fire dangers, which include the beautiful candles that we enjoy so much. Please keep them away from anything that can burn and extinguish them when leaving the room or going to sleep. Additionally, electrical fires can cause a lot of destruction. With today’s technology and so many electrical devices, we need to pay attention to electrical cords to make sure that they are not damaged, which can lead to fires. A final note – a home fire escape plan is a must. Inspect your home and create safety exit routes which would be valuable in the case of a home fire. With a little preparation, we can safely enjoy the winter months in the warmth of our homes and continue to live healthy lives.

Thank you...

With thanks to all our dear friends at Living Lord for the beautiful book and card. With special thanks to Pastor Bill for all his uplifting visits and also Karen Bandy and Norma Taiclet who visited with the lovely gifts. The Fall card, as usual, made by Lynne Walters was just wonderful! May God bless all of you. Sincerely, Paul and Mike Milone

Dear Ladies & Gentlemen,

Thanks again for helping us with the Community Meal. It is always fun having you and the fellowship is the greatest. Lucille & Sue at Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Thank you Friends of Frederick at Living Lord,

Thank you for your gift of \$1,500.00 received on October 9, 2017, for Camp Frederick. We are grateful and humbled by your faithful stewardship of God’s good gifts. Your prayers and gifts make a difference! We ask that you spread the word in your church family about summer camp and also about the facilities which are available for rent here at Camp Frederick. We have found that “word of mouth” is by far the best way to advertise what we have here. In compliance with the 1993 IRS rulings, this is your notice that the entire amount of your donation is tax-deductible, since “no goods or services were provided in exchange for the donation”. You will receive a summary of your annual gifts in January. Thank you again for including Camp Frederick in your giving plan.

EVENTS IN NOVEMBER

Wednesday, November 1, 6:00 pm – Shared Ministry Meeting in Activity Room

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

Wednesday, November 8, 6:00 pm – Sign Language Class in Activity Room

Monday, November 13, 6:00 pm – Council in Activity Room

Friday, November 17, 10:00-noon – Thanksgiving Food Basket Pick-up

Saturday, November 18, 8:00 am – Congregation Breakfast in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, November 19 – Fellowship After Both Services/Blood Pressure Screening/**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

Thursday, November 23 – Happy Thanksgiving – OFFICE CLOSED

Wednesday, November 29, 6:00 pm – Sign Language Class in Activity Room

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

- 1 = Eric Babinchak
- 2 = Bridget LaRock
- 5 = James Holmstrom
- 9 = Christopher McCrimmon
- 12 = John Metzger & Michael Taiclet
- 13 = Reva McConnell
- 14 = Ryan Glinn, Diane Marrara, & Jan Was
- 15 = Missy LaRock
- 20 = Amy Pesa, Lauren Quinton, & Serenity Sheets
- 21 = Darcy Drotleff

- 22 = Luke & Thomas Gifford
- 23 = Mary Ann Roberts & Reed Rooks
- 24 = Becky Easton
- 25 = Betty Hinton & Elizabeth Sheets
- 27 = May Crain Love & Matthew Metzger
- 28 = Evan Burns
- 29 = Erika Sheets

Anniversaries

- 13 = Milone, Paul & Mary (“Mike”)

NEWS FROM THE SHARED MINISTRY

Emmanuel Clothes Closet...The Clothes Closet is open every Tuesday at 9:00 am. In need of: autumn and winter clothes (children & adults), 35 gallon black garbage bags, gallon zip lock bags, toilet tissue, deodorant, lotions, bar soap, dish soap, and all baby needs.

Emmanuel Shopping Cart Needs for November...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 Coffee Cup Greetings...Held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month.

St. Paul Operation Christmas Child...Operation Christmas Child is underway and we need everyone's support to once again make this a success. Please remember to pick up a box to fill or bring in items and we will fill the shoe boxes for you. OCC has made some changes. They can no longer accept toothpaste or candy of any kind due to customs regulations. Also, the cost to ship the boxes has increased to \$9.00, so if you choose to make a monetary donation, it will be greatly appreciated. I ask that ALL donations and filled shoe boxes be returned to St. Paul by **Sunday, November 12** – the start of National Collection Week. See Deborah Bartlett, Judy Dodge, or Debbie Groves with any questions.

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.