

The Lamp Lighter
December 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

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES

Living Lord Lutheran Church – 9:30 am 4th Sunday of Advent Worship service;
4:00 & 7:00 pm Candlelight Worship Service with Holy Communion
St. Paul – No 10:30 am Worship Service;
7:00 pm Vespers; 7:30 pm Candlelight Worship Service with Holy Communion

From Pastor William D. Leitch... We are in the season of Advent, “to come”. Jesus is coming, but not here yet. We are to wait and to prepare. We are to keep watch for Jesus, but stay busy preparing.

Jesus wants us to be so busy doing his will that we might not see him come. Still, that is what pleases Jesus – to come and see us working for him as if he were right next to us.

As a small child, we visited an older couple and had supper together. As I snooped around the house and looked at all their pictures and talked to their parakeet, I heard my parents bragging about how well I work around our house and helped with chores. It was the best feeling I could ever have – to know that I pleased my parents. I was ready to go home and get to work right then.

Jesus sees our care and hard work to do his will. God is present in our lives always. I asked a highway worker candidate in an interview once, “What would you do if the crew took a break someday and it seemed like they didn’t care to get back to work?” He responded, “My work glorifies God, and God is always watching.” Work for this highway worker was not just a paycheck, but rather, it was his passion to do it well for the safety and security of those he maintained the roads for and more importantly – for the glory of God.

We can share this blessing with everyone around us by sharing the one for whom we work – God – and to tell them of the joy we receive knowing that we please God by our caring and our working and our doing the best we can.

Go! Tell! Make believers! That is what Jesus means when he tells us to prepare the way. That “call” is part of everything we do. We are called to tell about Jesus in everything we do. We should be looking for every opportunity that presents itself to tell about this Jesus to whom we give the glory. Pastor Bill

Important Announcement Concerning Our Shared Ministry... There will be two Town Hall meetings on **Sunday, December 3, 2017**. The first meeting is at 9:00 am at Living Lord in the sanctuary. The second meeting is a Joint Town Hall at 12:00 pm at St. Paul in Cassel Hall.

Purpose: To request permission for our Shared Ministry Team to continue to prepare a viable plan for consolidation that could be considered for congregational approval in the future. (The vote for permission to develop a plan is scheduled for our January 28, 2018, Annual Congregational Meetings.) There is much more work, investigation, analysis, and planning to be done before a viable plan for consolidation can be completed. At this meeting, we need to answer your questions and to get your input on our proposed process.

Note: A vote for consolidation will not occur until a viable plan is presented in the future.

Town Hall Meeting Procedure: To present current informational data about:

1. Our two church buildings – presenting a comparison of:
 - a. Operational costs and mission activity in the building that affects that cost.
 - b. Capacity.
 - c. Long-term scheduled maintenance costs.
2. The financial status of each congregation:
 - a. A comparison of our budgets.
 - b. A comparison of our balance sheets.
3. Mission Envisioning Plan

Note: The building and financial comparisons will give an overview of our resources and a base from which we can dream about new ministry together and the resources that could make that possible.

Rollie Walters and Terry Coplecci will present the Building data.
Dave Henderson and Phil Lapmardo will present the Financial data.

This will set the stage for the presentation of the Mission Envisioning Plan to be presented by Stacey Altieri and Diana Bauman.

We encourage everyone to come to St. Paul at 12:00 pm for soup and sandwiches provided and served by our youth who are going to Houston for the ELCA National Youth Gathering. A donation for lunch will help pay their expenses.

The presentation at St. Paul will begin as soon as everyone is served and seated. There will be a Q & A session after all three presentations are completed.

You will receive an information packet around Thanksgiving to prepare you for the presentation and to formulate your questions. Please read this information and be prepared.

Joint Advent Services... We will have Joint Advent Services at Emmanuel on **Wednesdays, December 6, 13, and 20**, at 1:00 pm.

Sign Language Classes... American Sign Language Classes will be held at Living Lord for adults and children (great for hard of hearing folks, too). Class will be held on 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.

Living Lord Annual Congregation Meeting...The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held on **Sunday, January 28, 2018**, at 11:45 am in the Worship Space – mark your calendar! At this meeting, reports will be received from Standing Committees, Congregation Council Members will be elected, and the 2018 Budget will be approved. Also at this meeting, we will hold a vote “to permit Prs. Leitch and Winters to **pursue** plans for consolidation of 2 or 3 churches into a brand new church”. This will be a “Yes” or “No” vote. Your Annual Report will be on the table in the hall the week prior to the meeting; be sure to stop and pick it up.

From Pastor Ann Marie Winters...

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders...

Jesus came as a little child, in peace and in humility. As we lay the babe in the manger and remember his birth, let us also reflect on his coming as a great and powerful cosmic event. He came as God’s son. Jesus was destined to be the ruler of all the earth, and given titles similar to those given to an Egyptian king: “Wonderful Counselor” refers to a political leader; “Mighty God” to a warrior; “Everlasting Father” to one who cares for his people; and the “Prince of Peace” to one who brings prosperity.

These titles point to an aspect of Christmas that makes me reflect in wonder at God’s coming down. And I stand in awe at the event of God stooping from his throne to be born in flesh and blood. In this act of humbling himself, God “takes the government upon his shoulders”. He is our King, no matter what political powers pertain to us, we are claimed as God’s subjects – in fact, we are his own sons and daughters.

For all its peace and mildness, Christmas is also a powerful moment! Come and worship the newborn king!

Worshipping with you,
Pastor Ann Marie Winters

St. Paul Annual Congregational Budget Meeting...This year St. Paul’s Annual Congregation Meeting to review and pass the 2018 church budget will be held immediately following the 10:30 am worship service on **December 17**. Since we need a quorum, those who are preparing the potluck luncheon for our Joint Luncheon & Children’s Christmas Program should step out of the kitchen and be a part of the Congregational Budget Meeting for a brief moment. The proposed budget will be available for you to pick up in the narthex beginning Sunday, December 3.

The Giving Tree...The Giving Tree in the narthex at St. Paul gives us the opportunity to donate any warm articles of clothing for homeless men and women in Warren. When we asked the Warren Family Mission what is needed most, they said hats and gloves and hand warmers! (I’ll bet the hand warmers would be a unique and valuable item!) As we give to our brothers and sisters who seek shelter and warmth this winter, let us remember we give to Christ himself. Blessings from Judy Dodge and the Social Ministry Team!

From the Fellowship Committee Chairperson, Kara Busefink...

December Fellowship...We will have Fellowship on **Sunday, December 17**, after both services. There will also be Fellowship after the 7:00 pm service on Christmas Eve.

From the Finance Committee, Treasurer Dave Henderson... The books are closed for October 2017. Receipts for October were \$10,299.76 and expenses were \$11,450.88, resulting in a loss of \$1,151.12 for the month. Year-to-date through October 2017, we have income of \$115,485.77 and expenses of \$120,628.57, for a year-to-date loss of \$5,142.80. We are currently \$13,170.83 behind in our budgeted giving through October. As we enter the fourth quarter of 2017, we need a strong November and December to get us back on track and meet our financial objectives for the year. Let’s see if we can get back in a positive cash flow position by the end of November. I know we can do it!

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

Card Class...Join us for a card-making class on **Thursday, December 7**, in the Activity Room. We will be making 4 cards. Our theme will be "Christmas cards/winter 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, December 3. 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...

Thanksgiving Food Baskets Update...The Outreach Committee would like to thank all who donated to the Thanksgiving Food Baskets. We were able to help 13 families.

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 Parish Education Committee Chairperson, Darlene Altieri...St. Paul will host the Joint Children's Christmas Program and Luncheon on **Sunday, December 17**. The Luncheon will begin at noon with the program to follow. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Education Wing under Parish Ed if you plan on attending this event. Please bring a covered dish to share.

From the Worship Committee Chairperson, Jan Was...

Hanging of the Greens...Hanging of the Greens will be on **Saturday, December 2**. Join us for coffee, juice, and donuts at 8:30 am. We will begin to decorate at 9:00 am. Please consider donating an hour of your time to complete this task. We all enjoy the decorations, so come and be a part of this activity.

Poinsettia Sale...Poinsettias will be available to purchase for Christmas. These flowers will be used to decorate the Worship Space for Christmas. The flowers are to be paid for when placing your order. The cost is \$13.25 for one large plant. You may place your check made payable to Living Lord Lutheran Church and marked "Christmas Poinsettias" in the memo portion in the offering plate. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Deadline to sign up is **Sunday, December 10**.

From the Parish Nurse, Dora Muller...*"I can't control everything in my life, but I can control what I put in my body..."*

With the holidays upon us, the overeating marathon is in full swing. All the good intentions of self-control and healthy choices are forgotten in the name of rich food and celebrations. This does not mean that the end of year celebration should be boring and bland. We all know that a typical holiday meal is laden with fat and sugar. Our arteries start to groan at the site of luscious dishes, and our pancreas and the whole body go into overdrive with off the chart glucose levels. The result is weight gain and an increase in cholesterol and blood sugar levels, which can lead to cardiovascular disease, arthritis, diabetes, and low self-esteem. Your holiday celebration doesn't have to be boring and mean that we have to deprive our bodies of special dishes. We need to approach this holiday season with moderation, making healthy choices, and balancing our diets to enhance our health while still enjoying the company of loved ones, friends, and co-workers. Instead of heavy emphasis on baking and exchanging sweets, so popular in the region, we can enjoy being together, volunteering our time to those who are lonely, and we should enjoy the outdoor activities to help burn calories. And, when it's time to share a table together, let's choose less caloric drinks, although a little eggnog is allowed, and we should practice everything in moderation. Remember, this is the season to share goodwill and spread happiness, not necessarily the season to load up with an unhealthy diet. With a few modifications, the holiday season can be the beginning of a more desirable and healthier life style.

EVENTS IN DECEMBER

Saturday, December 2, 8:30 am – Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, December 3 – Angel Tree Up/9:00 am Town Hall Meeting at LLLC;
12:00 pm Joint Town Hall at St. Paul/**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

Wednesday, December 6, 12:00 noon NSOV Christmas Party; 6:00 pm – Shared Ministry Meeting in Activity Room

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

Sunday, December 10 – Angel Tree Gifts Due

Monday, December 11, 6:00 pm – Council in Activity Room

Wednesday, December 13, 6:00 pm – Sign Language Class in Activity Room

Saturday, December 16, 8:00 am – Congregation Breakfast in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 17 – Fellowship After Both Services/Blood Pressure Screening/
12:00 pm Joint Children's Program & Luncheon at St. Paul

Sunday, December 24, Christmas Eve – 9:30 am 4th Sunday of Advent Worship Service; 4:00 & 7:00 pm Christmas Eve
Worship Service/Fellowship after 7:00 pm Service

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

1 = Gianna Altieri & Jennifer (Prokay) Altieri
2 = Margie Orinin
8 = Judie Welter
11 = Reginal Rooks
12 = Kara Busefink
16 = Brenda Jamison
17 = Cheryl Lauka
21 = Craig Henderson
25 = Rich Baringer
26 = Julie Taiclet
27 = Jennifer Babinchak
28 = Shelly Chopko
29 = Wendy Clagett
30 = Patricia Hinton & Meghan Miller
31 = Tyler Hinton & Alyssa Piel

Anniversaries

18 = Taiclet, Warner & Norma
19 = Walters, Rollie & Nancy



*Merry Christmas
from the Staff and Council
of Living Lord Lutheran Church*

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 December...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 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.