

The Lamp Lighter
January 2018
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 10:30 am at St. Paul Lutheran Church

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

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

From Pastor William D. Leitch...What's your New Year's resolution for 2018? Mine is discipleship. I will be leading a Ministries Studies course in March on Evangelism. Evangelism is a part of the process of discipleship.

"Discipleship". We use this word a lot in the church. What does it really mean to us?

Definition: A disciple is a follower, one who accepts and assists in spreading the doctrines of another. A Christian disciple is a person who accepts and assists in the spreading of the good news of Jesus Christ. **Christian discipleship is a process** by which disciples grow in the Lord Jesus Christ and are equipped by the Holy Spirit, who resides in our hearts, to overcome the pressures and trials of this present life and become more and more Christ-like. This process requires believers to respond to the Holy Spirit's prompting to examine their thoughts, words, and actions and compare them with the Word of God. This requires that we be "in the Word" daily – studying it, praying over it, and obeying it. In addition, we should always be ready to give testimony of the reason for the hope that is within us (1 Peter 3:15) and to disciple others to walk in His way. According to Scripture, being a Christian disciple involves personal growth characterized by the following:

1. Putting Jesus first in all things (Mark 8:34-38)
2. Following Jesus' teachings (John 8:31-32)
3. Fruitfulness (John 15:5-8)
4. Love for other disciples (John 13:34-35)
5. Evangelism – Making disciples of others (Matthew 28:18-20)

Being a disciple of Christ requires work and discipline. Otherwise, we are NOT! But it is a process. We cannot do it by ourselves. We go through this process together. Together we grow stronger. Yet, there is a moment in everyone's life that we must reach out to one who is not on this journey/process with us. It might seem overwhelming to even begin the journey or to get someone else's attention to come with us on this journey. Yet, Jesus demands it.

Where are you on your faith journey? Do you know where you are going? Do you know where you are heading? Do you have a road map to get there? Who is your partner on this journey? Remember, partners are a part of the process.

I challenge everyone to write down your answers to these questions. If you do not have answers to these questions, then I challenge you to write down the questions you need answered in order to become a more focused and purposeful disciple.

Christ is calling you. The Church needs you. We are in this together. Together we can keep our focus on Christ and how he calls us. We can do Christ's will and change the world.

I hope that you can share your answers with others. It will start a very good conversation for our journey together.

Your fellow disciple,
Pr. Bill

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 yes/no vote to give the Shared Ministry Team permission to continue planning a proposal for consolidation between Living Lord and St. Paul. 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... A New Year, New Wineskins?

“No one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins.” (Mark 2:22)

Jesus is speaking about the old making way for the new. He has come to bring a new teaching, and those who heard him at Capernaum exclaimed, “What is this? A new teaching – with authority!” All of Jesus’ teaching and ministry points to the new age that has dawned with the coming of the kingdom of God. Throughout Jesus’ ministry, there will be tension between the “old” and the “new”, and all the while, those who follow Jesus will struggle to grasp what it means to live in the already and the not yet – the kingdom at hand, and the kingdom yet to come.

We have the new year of 2018 ahead of us! We already know many things about what it means to be the church of Jesus Christ, and to do the will of God. There are traditional ways of doing things – tried and true “wine in old wineskins”. Yet, we are also on a path with new direction! Our Mission Envisioning Team wants to lead us in prayer, member-to-member communication, youth outreach, and joint social ministry. For certain, this will bring new ideas and new energy – fresh new “wine in new wineskins”. Let us conserve all that is worthy of keeping (the old), and celebrate the presence of our Savior among us. Let us also reach out to grasp the good and great blessings that Jesus Christ has yet to bring (the new).

An “old” pastor with new hope,
Pastor Ann Marie Winters

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come.” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

St. Paul Annual Congregation Meeting / Shared Ministry Vote: The Annual Meeting of the Congregation, to accept the Annual Report, is scheduled for **Sunday, January 28, 2018**, at 11:30 am. The only other matter of business will be the yes/no vote to give the Shared Ministry Team permission to continue planning a proposal for consolidation between Living Lord and St. Paul.

It’s Fun to Participate in the Shared Ministry’s Goals for 2018: When our “Mission Envisioning Team” met to cast a vision for our Lutheran churches, we said that one goal is that:

“All parts of the body will care for one another, pray for each other’s needs, and grow stronger in faith in Christ, who is the head of the body.”

In 2018, a step to reach that goal is to increase our **caring and faith-based relationships**. In other words, we wish to deepen our church friendships through prayer and mutual caring for one another. Will you participate in our special prayer emphasis for January by enhancing one of your church friendships?

JANUARY PRAYER EMPHASIS: CHURCH FRIENDSHIPS

Here is what we are asking our members to do: Pray for a friend in your congregation. Your friend can be someone you know well, or only a little bit. The prayer will be most effective if you ask God’s help to increase your relationship to your friend.

- Listen attentively to your friend
- Put real effort into your friendship
- Ask and phone to see how your friend is doing
- Be sensitive to know what your friend needs and provide it

Be-A-Friend Sunday... On **Sunday, January 14**, our Shared Ministry will celebrate a milestone of friendship. We will gather for a joint worship service at St. Paul at 10:30 am. After we worship, everyone is invited to gather for chili in the fellowship hall. There will be 10 minutes set aside for friendship conversations, pairing a person from St. Paul with a person from Living Lord, for conversation on the question: “What do you love most about your church?”

Chili Cook-off...Ready, set, cook! The 150th Anniversary Committee of St. Paul is sponsoring a chili cook-off competition after our combined worship on **January 14**. Do you have a chili that you would like to enter in the mild, medium, or hot category? A first place medallion will be awarded in each category (to be judged by those tasting). Please enter your name and category on the sign-up sheets at St. Paul and Living Lord. Please contact Terry Cephlecci or Pastor Bill if you have any questions. The Menu: \$7.00 will get you unlimited tasting and a bowl of your favorite chili, plus condiments like cheese, sour cream, scallions, pepper, Fritos, crackers, and pasta, as well as drinks and dessert.

Celebrate Grand-families..."Celebrate Grand-families" is a new support group for grandparents raising their grandchildren. St. Paul is reaching out to support these families with Christian compassion and a place to meet and discuss their needs. We are starting with the group with five families from the community, and more are welcome, if you know of anyone who would fit in. While the women meet, we will have crafts, games, bible stories, snacks, help with homework, tutoring, and a fun social time for eight children. Their ages are 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, and 13. Church members are needed to help with the children. Sessions in January will be on **Saturdays, January 13 and 27**, from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm. Please contact Brenda Cephlecci or Pastor Winters to help.

From the Fellowship Committee Chairperson, Kara Busefink...

January Fellowship...We will have Fellowship on **Sunday, January 21**, after both services.

From the Finance Committee, Treasurer Dave Henderson... The books are closed for November 2017. Receipts for November were \$8,967.66 and expenses were \$13,144.02, resulting in a loss of \$4,176.36 for the month. Year-to-date through November 2017, we had income of \$124,453.43 and expenses of \$133,772.59, for a year-to-date loss of \$9,319.16. We are currently \$21,458.00 behind in our budgeted giving through November. As we enter December of 2017, we need a strong month to see if we can salvage the year. Let’s see if we can get back in a positive cash flow position for the month of December.

From the Later Life Committee Chairperson, Karen Bandy...After 6 ½ years as Later Life Chairperson, I bid fond adieu to the position and turn over the reins to Lorraine Bell. I wish to thank all of you who have helped over the years to make my job easier. To Lynne Walters who has made all those fabulous Thinking of You cards; to Nancy Walters for her help with homebound deliveries; and to the countless elves who have baked for our homebound. All in all, though, it will be fun to be a serving member of Living Lord Lutheran Church in whatever I can do. Wishing you all the best that life has to offer.

Card Class...There are no card-making classes scheduled for early January. Please watch your bulletins and the bulletin board for information on classes later in January.

From the Outreach Committee Chairperson, Donna Tompkins...

Angel Tree Update... Thank you to all who took an angel from the Angel Tree and shopped for these children in our community. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to make Christmas a special time for our area children.

NSOV Christmas Party Update... The Outreach Committee would like to thank everyone who assisted with the Niles Shepherd of the Valley Christmas Party. The residents thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

From the Parish Education Committee, Member Pat Was... The Adult Forum will return on **Sunday, January 7**. We will join Ray Vander Laan in a 5 part series titled "A Clash of Kingdoms". This is his newest study which we should all find interesting.

From the Worship Committee Chairperson, Jan Was...

Un-Hanging of the Greens... We will meet on **Saturday, January 6**, at 9:00 am to take down the Christmas decorations. Please consider giving some time to this activity.

From the Parish Nurse, Dora Muller... *"An empty lantern provides no light. Self-care is the fuel that allows your light to shine brightly."* Unknown

This is the year, like every year, that we all hope for big changes. We all make resolutions to improve our health, our relationships with family, friends, and God. Usually all these plans are forgotten in two weeks. For 2018, I propose that we focus on a few goals that are achievable without trauma and at the same time are enjoyable. The list of goals might vary from choosing a healthier diet, more exercise, enjoying nature, participating in an outreach program, and devoting one hour per day or week to improving our relationship with God. Self-care should be a priority. Take care of ourselves first, as in an airplane when an oxygen mask drops. You put one on yourself before you help someone else. By caring for ourselves first, we then will have more energy to care for others. We often get lost in the daily shuffle with so many demands on our time and energy, so that by the end of the day we are physically and mentally exhausted. Self-care does not mean that we have a lack of interest in the well-being of others. The ultimate goal of self-care is to energize ourselves to better serve others. For 2018, let's focus on personal growth and self-care. During the next 12 months, we will discuss the various facets of self-care and how to incorporate them into our daily lives. My personal goals for 2018 will include more time to enjoy hiking with my husband, appreciating the beauty of the outdoors, reserving a few minutes each day for meditation and prayer, refueling my soul with gratitude, recognizing the healing touch of Jesus, and accepting the small daily blessings that I receive. I will keep my family as a first priority, close my eyes to distractions, and limit participation in "outside" projects. I will learn to say "no" without feeling guilty and energize myself to better serve God, family, and community. My goal for you for 2018 is to renew your inner strength and enjoy the beauty of life by prioritizing your personal self-care.

EVENTS IN JANUARY

Friday, January 5 – Saturday, January 6 – Catechism Retreat at Camp Frederick

Saturday, January 6, 9:00 am – Un-Hanging of the Greens

Monday, January 8, 6:00 pm – Council in Activity Room

Sunday, January 14 – Joint Worship w/Comm. at 10:30 am at St. Paul followed by Chili Cook-off/

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Sunday, January 21 – Fellowship After Both Services/Blood Pressure Screening

Sunday, January 28, 11:45 am – Annual Congregation Meeting

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

1 = Faith Miller
3 = Lamar Shoemaker
8 = Nelson Crain
10 = Pat Was
11 = Emily Busefink
13 = Donna Stone
14 = Don Smith
15 = Aaron Piel
17 = Rita Tewksbary & Rose Zavatsky
18 = Michael Fedorchak
20 = Martin Nutt
21 = Marc Lambert
23 = Thomas Gifford
24 = Dottie King
26 = Paul Milone
27 = Richard Fedorchak & Nancy Walters
29 = Cecile Draime
31 = Pastor Bill Leitch & Bonnie Sanzenbacher

Anniversaries



NEWS FROM ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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.