

The Lamp Lighter
January 2019
The Newsletter of Living Lord Lutheran Church
Real God. Real Faith. Real Life.
www.LLLC.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 8:00 AND 10:30 AM
ADULT FORUM & SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR AGES 13-18 9:00 AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR AGES 2-12 10:15 AM

From Pastor William D. Leitch...January is the Season of Epiphany. Epiphany means “manifestation”. On this day, we celebrate the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles – that is, to all nations. Some Christian traditions celebrate three great epiphanies on this day: the magi’s adoration of the Christ child, Jesus’ baptism in the Jordan River, and his first miracle, in which he changes water to wine. The word and sacraments are for us the great epiphany of God’s grace and mercy. We go forth to witness to the light that shines brightly in our midst.

Through January, we will celebrate all these. I find it interesting how Scripture weaves these manifestations together from the creation of the world to the manifestation of the church as the Body of Christ. For example, worship for the Jews before the destruction of the Temple was the sacrifice of animals in the Temple. Jesus foretold the second destruction of the Temple that would occur in 70 A.D. At the same time, He promised that He would be the final sacrifice. His blood would be the last blood that would need to be shed. The sacrifice of His body would be for the sake of everyone and whoever believes in Him will receive that salvation.

So, Jesus’ blood was the last blood to be shed and that is good. We remember this every time we drink the wine at communion. Sometimes the invitation to come to communion is, “Come, taste and see that the Lord is good. Jesus saved the best until last, just like the servants witnessed at the Wedding at Cana.

Believe in Jesus and things will only get better.

As I said before, I find it interesting how Scripture weaves things together. The glory of the Lord is revealed in the reading of Scripture. People stand at attention. People weep. People prostrate themselves in prayer. The unity of the church is another reflection of the glory of God. Most gloriously, the promises of God are fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. Gather round. Listen up. Glimpse the glory of God.

Living Lord Annual Congregation Meeting...The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held on **Sunday, January 27, 2019**, 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 2019 Budget will be approved. Also at this meeting we will vote on the issue to permit same sex marriages to be performed on church property. 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.

Church Information...Please remember that you can obtain church information from the monthly Lamplighter Newsletter, the Constant Contact emails you receive, on the church website (www.lllc.org), on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/Living-Lord-Lutheran-Church-493806727349110/>), and postings on the church bulletin board. Church Council Meeting minutes are posted on the bulletin board and sent out via Constant

Contact. We would like to see a better “open rate” when we send information to you via Constant Contact so that we know you are being informed of the activities that are occurring at the church. If you have any other suggestions on how best to reach out to our parishioners, please see a Council member.

From the President, Bob McKinney... Well, where should I start with this month’s column. I am coming up to the end of serving as your Council President. To say the least, it has been quite interesting, and I mean that in a good way. I think I have had my ups and downs during the two-year period. I think we have accomplished much, but there is much to do. My first year was wrapped up in our Shared Ministry with St. Paul. We worked very hard in accomplishing much between our two churches, as we both have similar strengths and weaknesses. It was our goal to continue to work on ways we could come together as one. Then present that to both congregations for approval. We were not able to pass a resolution to move forward, so those efforts fell short. One last word on this – I understand it is very difficult and emotional to possibly close one church and combine with another, but in our current times, this is becoming a necessity to continue spreading the word of God and outreach we need to do in our communities.

My second year became consumed with the finances of the church. It was difficult for committees to function at 100% because of cash flow. Committee Chairs were digging into their pockets to fund programs so they could continue. We had a “Catch-up” Sunday in August to help folks to catch up on their summer giving. That helped to a smaller degree. Every conversation I would have seemed to involve cash flow and finances.

For some good news, we were able to update more of our heating and cooling systems, install new doors, update the kitchen and women’s restroom, and several outside areas were improved. Most of this was because of the Fuchs Fund and private donations by our congregation.

I will end this with my sincere appreciation to Council, Pastor Bill, and the congregation for your help during my tenure as President. But, if you so choose, I will be changing chairs on Council to be the Finance Chairperson. This will be quite the challenge and you will again be hearing some tough love from me early in the year.

From the Fellowship Committee Chairperson, Nancy Walters...

Fellowship in January... Well, another year has passed. Time for more Fellowships! We will have our first one of the year on **Sunday, January 20**, after both services. There will be a sign-up sheet on the main bulletin board. Thank you to all who have donated supplies; every item on the wish list has now been donated. I would also like to thank my husband, Rollie Walters, for painting the kitchen and removing the old tile from the floor. He also cleaned the windows in the kitchen so that we can finally see! Hopefully the new tile will be installed soon. Stop in and see what a great job he did. Thanks honey!

From the Finance Committee, Treasurer Dave Henderson... The books are closed for November 2018. Receipts for November were \$11,850.00 and expenses were \$13,507.06, resulting in a loss of \$1,657.06 for the month. So far, year-to-date through November 30, 2018, we have had receipts of \$129,942.09 and expenses of \$135,171.85 for a year-to-date loss of \$5,229.76. We started off the year as normal with a good winter and the summer months came and hit the giving hard and we fell behind. We had a good August as members helped us “Ketchup”. Since September, we have not done so well. So let’s see if moving forward in the last month of 2018 we can continue to maintain or increase our giving per our pledges and try to achieve a balanced budget. If we can do that and have a good Christmas season, we could finish the year with positive cash flow.

From the Later Life Committee, Member Lynne Walters...

Card Class...Join us for a card-making class on **Thursday, January 24**, in the Activity Room. We will be making 4 cards. The theme is "Love and Kisses". 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, January 20. If you have any questions, please contact Lynne Walters at 330-856-9689.

From the Outreach Committee Chairperson, Judy Shaffer...The Outreach Committee will be reviewing this year's schedule of events and the possible dates. Once we know when things are scheduled, we will post it.

From the Parish Education Committee, Member Pat Was...The Adult Forum will begin a new Ray Vander Laan series titled "Cultures in Conflict" beginning on **January 6**. The five-part series follows Paul as he travels through Greece and Israel spreading the Gospel in a world totally at odds with what he is preaching. It offers us an opportunity to understand how we can cope with the issues of our present society if our belief is strong enough.

From the Worship Committee Chairperson, Jan Was...

Un-hanging of the Greens...What goes up must come down! We will be taking the Christmas decorations down on **Saturday, January 5**, at 9:00 am. Please come and help with this task.

From the Parish Nurse, Dora Muller...*"You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough."*

A brand new year with all the expectations can lead to a better and healthier life. We all try to eat right, exercise, and adopt healthier behaviors. However, all these steps will not prevent the natural process of aging. Our body is a perfect machine, but all machines will show some wear and tear. Or, like my husband says, some depreciation is expected. This year we will discuss the role of chronic diseases that can affect our health. Some of these diseases can be the result of unwise health behaviors such as smoking; others can be occupational hazards such as fumes or gases in the environment in the work place. And we cannot forget those genes that we inherit from our parents, which we can do nothing about. For 2019, our goal will be to understand how chronic diseases can affect our lives, how to prevent them, and more importantly, if they are unavoidable, how to manage them. With careful management and knowledge of preventive measures, we all can adopt measures to decrease the risk of suffering from chronic diseases all too common during our golden years.

Thank you...Living Lord Lutheran Church family, Thank you for your condolences, cards and prayers in the loss of my father. Dad was ill for the past three years. The distance was painful and still hurts to be far from my mother and sisters. I am blessed to be a part of the loving Living Lord family. Thank you, Dora Muller

2018 LIVING LORD LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

President – Robert McKinney

VP / Youth & Family Chairperson – Vacant

Secretary – Warner Taiclet

Finance Chairperson – Pat Was, Interim

Evangelism/Membership Chairperson – Arlene Barkan

Fellowship Chairperson- Nancy Walters

Later Life Chairperson – Lorraine Bell

Outreach Chairperson – Judy Shaffer

Parish Education Chairperson – Darlene Altieri

Property Chairperson – Rolland Walters

Worship Chairperson – Jan Was

Treasurer – Dave Henderson

Financial Secretary – Terry King

EVENTS IN JANUARY

Sunday, January 20 – Fellowship After Both Services

Sunday, January 27, 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
14 = Don Smith
17 = Rita Tewksbary
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

None