

The Lamp Lighter
October 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 AT 9:00 AM

From Pastor William D. Leitch...Through the month of October, we will hear encouragement from our Scriptures to have faith, pray, be connected with God, examine ourselves to ensure we don't block out God's response to us, and to open our eyes and see how God always keeps his word to us.

First, we will reflect on how powerful faith is. It might not seem like much, but it keeps us focused and alert to God's calling and presence in our lives

Second, the forgiveness we receive in the waters of Baptism and in the Body and Blood of Christ are so healing and empowering. Again, it may seem impossible in our current situations, or we may be impatient and just want God to fix us so we can continue doing what we do. If we continue doing our thing and fail to get our focus back to God, we might find our journey a bit rough. However, adjust your azimuth according to what God commands and things might get better sooner. Yes, when we are off target, it might seem that God is asking us to come the long way back. Uh, no, God is giving us the shortcut; we are the ones who made the journey long and hard.

Third, repentance is not just a formality that we say and go back to our old ways. True repentance requires some work and change. At our first Youth Group session this fall, we had the youth pair up and pass a ping-pong ball on the paddle to their partner without "dropping the ball". Needless to say, no one could do it that night. I asked them whose fault it was, and one of them always accepted the blame. I asked the other why they didn't speak up to blame their partner? They said they didn't want to shame or hurt the other and that they probably would have failed also. They realized that they didn't know everything, and they needed to learn more together with their partner. Wow! They made that lesson easy for me. The challenge: practice this with your brothers and sisters, husband and wife, parents and children.

I pray that through Bible Studies, worship, and working together that we will all grow in faith and be empowered to share the Good News.

Service Project...Brycen Prasky participated in two Servant Weeks at Camp Frederick this year. He is a leader and likes to learn new skills. He also has vision and can organize a project. I put him in charge of painting the Adult Retreat Center at Camp Frederick because he knew how to get it done without destroying the beautiful perennials around the Center.

Brycen is never done serving others. During the last week of August, he helped me build an access ramp for Jean Christopher-Difford. The first day, he dug 11 post holes. It was very hot and humid. He ensured that I was drinking enough water.

Brycen was working with tools he had not used before. I taught him proper posture to use the post hole digger and the iron spud to loosen the dirt. Brycen renamed them “Pokee” and “Pully”. You poke the ground, then you pull it out. My square is not a square. It is a triangle. Duh!! Of course it is! The prybar is a “Birdie”, because it has a spread end like a bird’s wing. AND when you set the posts you plum them. When they are plum, they are “sweet”.

The next workday, Brycen brought his brother, Zavier, who is 5 years old. Zavier was the “Fetcher”, “Getter”, “Cleaner-upper”, board holder, nail-hander, and anything else we needed to keep us building. Zavier learned what a trusted-leader his big brother was in a different context and gained even more respect for his brother. Hope that helps at home!



The next photo is the progress made the first day. The posts were set, and the joists were installed. Before we set the posts, Brycen simply set the posts in the holes. They were leaning in every direction, then Jean came out on the back porch. Brycen said, “Miss Jean, are these straight enough for you?” Jean replied, “No, Brycen. You will need to make them a little straighter.” I wish I had taken that photo. Nonetheless, Jean and Brycen are best friends after making each post “Sweet” in every direction.



The next photo was the end of the second day with the help of Zavier. Getting things level and square coming off the porch required many changes and cuts for each board the first day. Building the last 12 feet and transitioning to the drive took a lot of time again, but the hard part was done.



And so, after returning a couple days later for an hour or two, we put the finishing touches on and now Jean can get in and out safely. After the boards cure, we will paint the porch and ramp to match the color of the house. One of the objectives of our cooperative Youth Group this year is to do more service work. Call me if you want to help.



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 Northeastern Ohio Synod – Bishop Allende’s Retirement Announcement...

September 9, 2019

Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you.” So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. [Genesis 12:1, 4]

Dear People of God of the Northeastern Ohio Synod,

Greetings in the name of our crucified and risen Savior Jesus Christ!

I write to announce that I will retire as Bishop of the Northeastern Ohio Synod at the end of my current term on August 31, 2020. I will not stand for re-election at the 2020 synod assembly.

I am making this announcement now to allow adequate time for preparation for the process of electing a bishop, to allow me to discuss it openly as I travel around the synod, and so that you will have sufficient time to pray, to engage in open conversation together, and then to discern whom God is preparing to be your next bishop.

Five years ago, the Holy Spirit spoke and called me as your bishop.

The memory of that day will forever be indelibly etched in my brain. I vividly recall when the election results were announced. The assembly stood, the thunderous applause rang like cannon blasts in my ears, and I sat there among you, stunned and rendered nearly speechless.

Words cannot sufficiently express the joy, honor, and gratitude I feel for having had the opportunity to lead and guide you on Christ’s behalf, to pray for you, and to learn from you for the past five years.

However, in the rapidly-changing mission field around us, I believe that it is time for a fresh perspective and new leadership and imagination to carry this work forward in the face of never-ending challenges.

I have often read the words of God’s call to Abram in the above passage as if it were my story. But every story has a conclusion and I believe it is time to begin writing the final chapter of this blessed call.

In the meantime, we still have nearly a year to continue the work we have begun. I pray that this may be a time of joy and hope as we live toward living out our common mission into God’s future.

We end our Vespers (Evening Prayer) with the following prayer, which is fitting for this occasion:

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Peace and blessings,
Bishop Abraham Allende

From the Fellowship Committee Chairperson, Nancy Walters... We will have Fellowship between services on **Sunday, October 13**, to honor the MEF Award recipient.

From the Finance Committee Chairperson, Bob McKinney... I just wanted to update you on our plans for this year's Stewardship drive. Pastor and I have had a couple of meetings and we are in the process of putting things together, along with our parish secretary, Lynn, who is always an asset to us. We will be putting together a packet to be mailed out to our members, including next year's proposed budget and your individual pledge card. Pastor will touch on our Stewardship giving during the last three Sundays of October (and you might hear from me also). Pledges will be turned in and blessed on November 10 during our worship service. I am hoping we can all pray for guidance for our giving next year. I will keep you informed of our progress during October. Thanks, and if you have any questions, please let me know. I would also like to comment on the August 2019 Treasurer's Report. Dave Henderson finished up his report and I just saw the numbers and they look pretty good. We got through the summer with a positive cash flow and I want to thank everyone who stayed current with their pledges. Now, if we all can continue to fulfill our pledges through the end of the year, a big hug for all is coming! Our church committees are continuing to work hard, and our outreach continues throughout this community. Your giving makes that possible, so give yourself a pat on your back. I look forward to us finishing the year strong!

From the Finance Committee, Treasurer Dave Henderson... The books are closed for August 2019. Receipts for August were \$13,212.37 and expenses were \$11,924.82, resulting in a gain of \$1,287.55 for the month! The year-to-date numbers through August 2019 are still looking good. We have income of \$108,968.27 and expenses of \$98,545.90, for a gain of \$10,422.37. As is usually the case, we have some big contributions early in the year which skews our profitability, but during the summer months of June, July, and August, we held our own. The summer months are usually not the best months for us financially, but we had a positive cash flow for the combined three months. Let's see if we can keep a positive cash flow in September and as we move forward into the fall. Let's all try and keep current with our commitment to giving!

From the Later Life Committee Chairperson, Lorraine Bell... We still have some "I Love My Church" yard signs if anyone would like some. Look at the ones at the front of the church. **Free to you!** Use this as an opportunity to witness to your neighbors. Feel free to take as many as you would like; they are located by the parking lot entrance doors.

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

Card Class... Join us for a card-making class on **Thursday, October 3**, in the Activity Room. We will be making 4 cards. The theme is "Wet and Wonderful Fall" 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 29. If you have any questions, please contact Lynne Walters at 330-856-9689.

From the Mission Endowment Fund Committee Chairperson, Michael Taiclet... Greetings from the Mission Endowment Fund Committee. I apologize for not making this announcement sooner. It was to be in last month's newsletter, however due to my busy schedule between work, home, and here at church, plus being on vacation, I completely forgot to submit an article for last month. What a summer! It was tiring, but great! I recommend anyone who hasn't seen Mt. Rushmore to go and see it. It is breathtaking! Well, not only because of its spectacular views, but because of all the stairs you must climb from the parking garage to get to the entrance of the memorial and from all the stairs you must climb on the Presidential Trail. Ha ha! If anyone would like to see pictures or a video of the lighting ceremony, please let me know. I would be glad to share. And don't get me started about the ice cream. It is unbelievable! I would go back just to get some more. It is made from the original recipe for ice cream created by Thomas Jefferson. Now I am sounding like my Dad because I am giving out a history lesson. Sorry! Anyway, I hope everyone had a great summer like I did! Now, to the reason for this

article. I am pleased to announce this year's 2019 MEF Award winner. And the winner is...**the Howland Backpack Program**. The date is set! The 23rd Annual MEF Sunday will take place on **October 13, 2019**, the second Sunday in October. The award presentation will take place during both services. There will also be a time for Fellowship in between services. Come and see the special display presented by the Howland Backpack Program that will showcase the Howland Backpack Program and what they do. Come and learn about what they do, why they do it, and how our contribution will be utilized. To find out more information on this program, you can check out their website at www.howlandumc.com/grow-serve/tiger-food. Again, here is the itinerary for the 23rd Annual MEF Sunday (October 13): 8:00 am – Early Service with Award Presentation and Holy Communion; 9:00 am – Adult Forum & Sunday School; 9:15 am – Fellowship with a special feature on display; 9:45 am – Choir Practice; 10:30 am – Late Service with Award Presentation and Holy Communion. And in other news, I am also still looking for names for our next award. If you know of any group/organization that may benefit from our award, please notify me or any member of the MEF Committee (Michael Taiclet, Missy LaRock, Ronda Leitch, Tootie Rogers, Lamar Shoemaker, or Pastor Bill). We are looking for names to have by our next meeting in late November. I look forward to seeing you all on MEF Sunday, October 13! If you have any questions, you may contact me via email at computergeek752@gmail.com or leave a message in my mailbox at the church.

From the Outreach Committee Chairperson, Judy Shaffer...

Community Meal Update...The Outreach Committee would like to thank everyone who assisted with the Community Meal at Emmanuel Lutheran Church on Friday, September 20. We served approximately 125 people in our community.

Bingo at NSOV...The Outreach Committee will be hosting Bingo at Niles Shepherd of the Valley on **Wednesday, October 23**, at 1:30 pm. We will meet at 1:00 pm to set up. Men and women both are invited to assist. Please see the sign-up sheet on the main bulletin board if you are able to help. The Outreach Committee has received funding from the Fuchs Fund to purchase Bingo prizes. If you have any questions, please contact Judy Shaffer at 330-856-3148.

Thanksgiving Food Baskets...The Outreach Committee will again be giving out Thanksgiving Food Baskets. If you know of someone in need of a Thanksgiving Food Basket, please call the church office to get signed up as soon as possible (before **Sunday, November 3**). 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 30 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 10**. Please make your checks payable to Living Lord Lutheran Church and mark "Food Baskets" in the memo portion. You may put your check in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. Distribution of the Thanksgiving Food Baskets will be on **Friday, November 22**, from 9:00 am until noon. If you have any questions, please contact Judy Shaffer at 330-856-3148.

From the Worship Committee Chairperson, Meghan Miller...

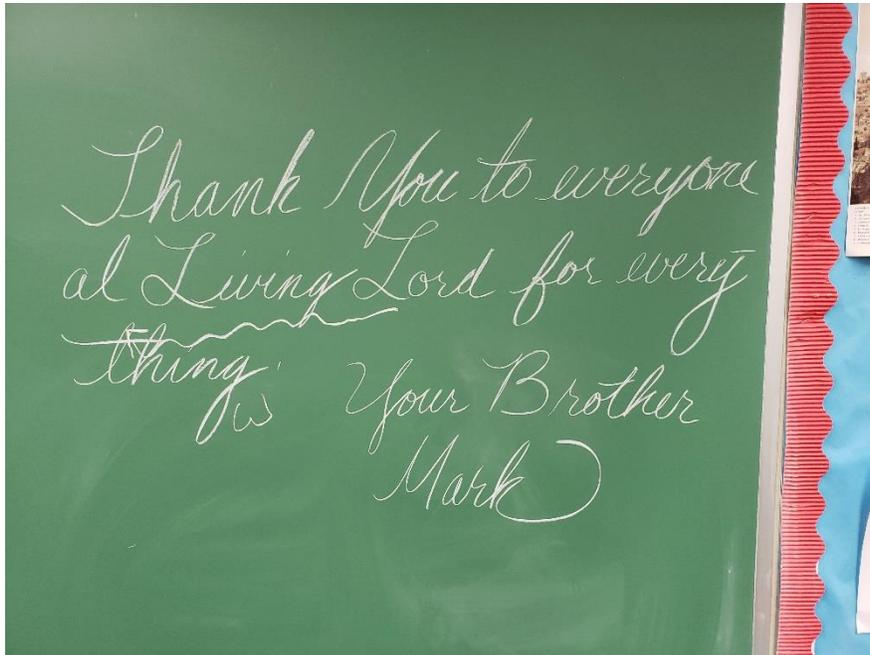
Worship Assistants...Please contact Meghan Miller at 330-618-5668 to let her know when you will be away on vacation or any dates you will not be available to serve.

Thank you...

Firstly, I would like to thank Pastor Bill for the visit to my home following the death of my father, Aniello Meloro. His conversation with me was very heartfelt and consoling. Also, many thanks to the friends in the congregation who expressed their condolences through their deepest thoughts, prayers, and cards of sympathy. They are greatly appreciated. May God bless you all. Patti and Steve Rinehart

We cannot thank you enough for your generous donations for both our teachers and students! We are very appreciative of your support. Gina Camelli, Howland Paw Pantry

Thank you & Farewell to Mark Cribley... We bid farewell to Mark Cribley, our custodian for the past six years, as he departs to focus on all the other work he has built up as a skilled worker in restoring and repairing homes and businesses. Mark was flexible and kept our church in excellent condition. A representative from the Mission Investment Fund walked into the church to advise us on our facility a few years ago. His spontaneous comment as soon as he entered the back door and looked down the highly buffed floor of the narthex was, "This church is alive and the people care!" Without a doubt, Mark cared about us and knew that his quality of work was his way to praise God. We will miss you, Mark, but we do have your phone number! We just may give you a call and hire you for some projects in the future. Blessings, The Grateful Folks of Living Lord



2019 LIVING LORD LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

President – Stacey Altieri

VP & Fellowship Chairperson – Nancy Walters

Finance Chairperson – Robert McKinney

Secretary – Warner Taiclet

Evangelism/Membership Chairperson – Arlene Barkan

Fellowship Chairperson- Nancy Walters

Later Life Chairperson – Lorraine Bell

Outreach Chairperson – Judy Shaffer

Parish Education Chairperson – Raymond Boothe

Property Chairperson – Rolland Walters

Worship Chairperson – Meghan Miller

Youth & Family Chairperson – Vacant

Treasurer – Dave Henderson

Financial Secretary – Michael Taiclet

EVENTS IN OCTOBER

Thursday, October 3, 2:00 & 6:00 pm – Later Life Card Class in Activity Room

Sunday, October 13 – MEF Award/Council in Activity Room 11:45 am

Sunday, October 20 – NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Tuesday, October 22, 7:00 pm – Witty Knitters in Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, October 23, 1:30 pm – Bingo at Niles Shepherd of the Valley

Sunday, October 27 – Reformation

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

- 2 = Jill Gifford
- 3 = Jean Christopher-Difford
- 6 = Heather McCrimmon
- 8 = Jack Stauffer
- 9 = Earl Butts, Dick Michaels, & Rachael Sheets
- 11 = Darlene Altieri & Rose Baringer
- 12 = Xahria Easton
- 17 = Kay Fisher
- 19 = Terry King & Michael Smith
- 21 = Lee Offerdahl
- 26 = Brycen Prasky
- 27 = Corinne McCrimmon
- 28 = Lee Sheets & Matt Walters
- 29 = Michael Prindle

Anniversaries

- 12 = Miller, Brandon & Meghan
- 20 = King, Carl & Louise
- 22 = Griffin, Robert & Cynthia