

The Lamp Lighter
December 2020
The Newsletter of Living Lord Lutheran Church
Real God. Real Faith. Real Life.
www.LLLC.org

WORSHIP SERVICES SUNDAYS AT 8:00 AND 10:30 AM
ADULT FORUM & SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:00 AM
CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE AT 4:00 & 7:00 PM

From the President, Nancy Walters...The church is open for in-person worship on Sundays at 8:00 and 10:30 am. We will have the following protocols in place:

- Masks are required in the building
- Social distancing must be maintained. If you want to visit, meet in the parking lot
- Thermometer is to be used for temperature checks
- Hand sanitizer is to be used upon entering the building

Let's follow the protocols in order to stay safe.

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 Interim Pastor Larry Klinker...I am just learning how things are done at Living Lord Lutheran Church. I notice that you will be hanging the greens on Saturday, November 21, in preparation for the Advent season. Plans are being made to gather some people to change the dorsal curtains behind the altar from green to blue for the Advent season.

So it might be a good thing, from my perspective, to help us focus on the season of Advent, especially since we, as Lutherans, understand we are shaped into being disciples of Jesus through **Worship, Catechesis, and Individual Prayer**. Each season of the church liturgical year is meant to shape us with a particular message or emphasis. With the coming of the Advent season, we will be starting another church year where the gospel emphasis will be on the Gospels Mark and John.

I want to focus on Advent alone apart from the celebration of the Christ-mass because it has its own unique emphasis. Advent begins what we call the **Cycle of Light** that includes the seasons of **Advent**, where we wait, **Christmas**, where we rejoice, and **Epiphany**, where we manifest the light we have received.

So what is it that we are waiting for, preparing for in Advent? Advent is about God coming to us. We are preparing for the three ways God is coming to us in the Advent season. We wait in days that are growing shorter and nights getting longer for God to come to us. We wait with anticipation. We wait with hope for God to come. The season of Advent wants us to appreciate the three ways God comes to us to be with us.

The first focus of or waiting for God to come to us is a continuation of the message from Christ the King Sunday. We are being asked first and foremost to be prepared, to be ready for God to come at the end of time for the full establishment of the reign of God as King.

The second preparation of the Coming of God is the introduction of John the Baptizer in weeks two and three of the Advent season who is there to prepare the way for the coming of the ministry of Jesus with his call to be baptized. The coming of God now takes on a concrete form in the ministry of Jesus.

The third coming we are preparing for is the announcement of the birth of the Christ Child to Mary from the Gospel of Luke since Mark has no birth story associated with Jesus. This brings us to the very edge of our celebration of Christ-mass. But we are still waiting.

Advent is about the coming of God in Jesus the Christ. This Advent we can ask, wonder about, and reflect upon the ways we are preparing for the coming God in our lives. How do these three comings form our Advent spirituality?

Pastor Larry's Bible Blog...Pastor Larry offers you an opportunity to read your way thru scriptures with him each day at his Bible Blog. The readings alternate between reading from an Older Testament book and then a Newer Testament book. We are just finishing reading the book of Ezra in November from the Older Testament. Then we will begin reading the Newer Testament book of Titus on Pastor Larry's Bible Blog online at: <http://klinkerld-pastorlarrysbible.blogspot.com/>. Join us online. When we complete these two planned books, we will start the Older Testament book of Nehemiah. Then following Nehemiah, we will read The Epistle of James from the Newer Testament.

From the Call Committee Chairperson, Robert McKinney...We had a resignation from the Committee which created an open position to be filled. We nominated John Thomas for the position and the Council agreed. We now are back to seven members. We are still waiting for our Zoom meeting with the Synod to discuss what is next.

From the Finance Committee Chairperson, Robert McKinney...October's finances are in the books and we had another positive month. Please see Dave Henderson's Treasurer's Report below for all the numbers. We have only two months left in the year and with your help we can end on a positive note. We have started our Stewardship Program for 2021. You should have received your pledge card in the mail along with a letter from me. Please consider when making your pledge that we will be looking at a salary for a new full-time pastor. (We do not know exactly when that will be, but we must be prepared.) If you have not returned your pledge card yet, please do so at your earliest opportunity so we can plan our 2021 budget.

From the Finance Committee, Treasurer Dave Henderson...The books are closed for October 2020. Receipts for October 2020 were \$6,852.00 and expenses were \$6,776.32, resulting in a gain of \$75.68 for the month. Year to date through October, receipts have totaled \$106,697.88 and expenses were \$102,425.70, for a net gain of \$4,182.18 year-to-date. Thanks to everyone who sent their offerings in through the mail in October during this COVID-19 crisis. We are still positive for 2020. We restarted in-person worship services at the church on November 1 so hopefully we will continue to meet budget through the end of the year. Thank you all! Stay safe!

From the In-Reach Committee Chairperson, Lorraine Bell...Please notify Lorraine Bell at 330-219-5881 (cell) or 330-372-0227 (home) (or the church office) of any members who are hospitalized, ill, etc., so a card can be sent from the church.

Prayer Chain...The In-Reach Committee is going to start a phone prayer chain. This will be a way to share our loved ones' prayer concerns for family and the church. We need volunteers to serve, so if you are interested, please call Lorraine Bell at 330-219-5881 (cell) or 330-372-0227 (home). She will set up a list with the rules to be distributed in January. Thank you for considering this ministry.

From the Nominating Committee Chairperson, Robert McKinney...We are down to three positions still open; they are Evangelism/Membership Committee Chairperson, Property Committee Chairperson, and Worship Committee Chairperson. Please consider one of these positions that you are interested in. Call Bob McKinney or Nancy Walters for additional information about these positions.

From the Outreach Committee Chairperson, Judy Shaffer...Due to COVID-19, we have not been able to go to Shepherd of the Valley to host our Bingo. In place of our visits, Shepherd of the Valley has been holding their own Bingo, but have no prizes to give to the residents. We have been collecting and dropping off Bingo prizes. It is time to restock. If you are able to pick up some of these items while you are out shopping for yourself, call Judy Shaffer at 330-856-3148 to make arrangements to get them to her. Items we are collecting: lip balm, small pocket packs of tissue, lotions and hand creams, SOFT candy like Kit Kat bars, Three Musketeers, Hershey chocolates, Reese's Peanut Butter Cups, and bags of hard candy, small individual packets of crackers (nothing spicy) and cookies, small winter/Christmas decorations that might cheer up their food trays or for their bulletin boards, and small knickknacks they may put on their dresser or window sills.

Thanksgiving Food Baskets...The Outreach Committee would like to thank everyone who donated to the Thanksgiving Food Baskets. We were able to provide food to 15 families.

From the Worship Committee Chairperson, Jan Was...

Communion...We will begin having communion on **Sunday, November 29**, the First Sunday of Advent. We will be using pre-packaged wafers and cups. You will come up and pick up your cup (the wafer is on top of the cup) and return to your seat where you will open and take your communion. Please discard your own cup in the waste basket at the back of the sanctuary when you leave.

Christmas Eve Worship Services...Christmas Eve Worship Services will be at 4:00 and 7:00 pm.

From the Parish Nurse, Dora Muller...*"The true meaning of Christmas is to be thankful for the blessings we received and share the love ministry of Jesus among us."* Dora Muller

Everybody has a strong opinion on how to meet the challenge of the past 12 months with the COVID-19 pandemic hanging over our heads. We faced the hardship of physical separation even among family members, scarcity of household supplies, and the tendency to hoard dry goods and cleaning supplies. But we have prevailed, a strong sense of community has emerged from the pandemic. It is true we often missed many milestone celebrations: births, weddings, graduations, and memorial services, all this because of the fear of being contaminated by the virus. Personally, I can attest to the pain of seeing people separated from loved ones,

being isolated in a small room, and the fear of not being able to breathe. As a nurse, we follow nursing care protocol to provide the best care available. We had many successful stories of patients recovering from the virus, but we have also experienced some losing battles. As the Christmas season approaches, we are humbly thankful for our health and our families. We are now about to share the spirit of Christmas with a message of hope as we continue to exercise caution and follow the guidelines to wear a mask, keep social distance, and maintain our surroundings clean of virus. More important, we should not let the fear of the virus upset our zest for life. Let's celebrate Christmas season by keeping healthy and still stay in touch with family and friends, but at a smaller scale. My advice is to still remember the spirit of Christmas, but avoid unnecessary large gatherings and eventually we will be able to be winners over the virus. From my family to yours, we wish you a Merry Christmas, *Feliz Natal*, and the hope that 2021 will be the best year ever.

2020 COUNCIL

Board of Trustees

President – Nancy Walters

Vice President & In-Reach (formerly Later Life) Committee Chairperson – Lorraine Bell

Council Secretary – Warner Taiclet

Finance Committee Chairperson – Robert McKinney

Council Members

Evangelism/Membership Committee Chairperson – VACANT

Fellowship Committee Chairperson – Donna Wright

Finance Committee Chairperson – Robert McKinney

In-Reach (formerly Later Life) Committee Chairperson – Lorraine Bell

Outreach Committee Chairperson – Judy Shaffer

Parish Education Committee Chairperson – Raymond Boothe

Property Committee Chairperson – VACANT

Worship Committee Chairperson – Jan Was

Youth & Family Committee Chairperson – Darlene Altieri

Treasurer – Dave Henderson

Finance Secretary – Michael Taiclet

EVENTS IN DECEMBER

Sunday, December 6 – NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Tuesday, December 10, 9:30 am – Trustees Meeting in Activity Room

Sunday, December 13, 11:45 am – Council in Activity Room

Thursday, December 24, 4:00 & 7:00 pm – Christmas Eve Worship Service

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

1 = Gianna Altieri
6 = Hanna Miller
8 = Judie Welter
10 = Donna Wright
11 = Reginal Rooks
12 = Kara Busefink
17 = Cheryl Lauka
21 = Craig Henderson & Jeanne Zingale
25 = Rich Baringer
26 = Julie Taiclet
27 = Jennifer Babinchak
28 = Shelly Chopko
29 = Wendy Clagett
30 = Meghan Miller

Anniversaries

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