

The Lamp Lighter
May 2021
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

From Interim Pastor Larry Klinker...In the month of May we continue to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ as we celebrate the Sundays after the resurrection of the Christ. Remember, I keep saying that Easter is celebrated as a season of seven Sundays and not one Sunday. As your interim pastor, I am not sure what your practice has been on how you celebrated the Sundays of late Easter.

So, on the Fifth and Sixth Sundays of Easter we return with the disciples to the Gospel of John and explore chapter 15 from Jesus' farewell discourses as a prelude to celebrating the day of Pentecost on May 23. Here is where I might do some things that are a little different for you. For the Seventh Sunday of Easter, I slide over the readings for Ascension Day, which is celebrated on Thursday, May 13. Since so few of us hold Ascension Day services, it is recommended that we move this celebration to the following Sunday just like we did with Epiphany Sunday or like we do with Reformation Sunday or All Saints Sunday.

Now on Pentecost Sunday we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit that will enable us to be witnesses of the resurrection of Jesus Christ in our time and place. A couple of things will take place. First, during the reading of the Gospel, we will put out the pascal light that represents the presence of the risen Christ among us that has been burning during worship by the baptismal font. We now celebrate the giving of the Holy Spirit according to the Gospel of John which made the risen Christ present in each believer. Secondly, we will include in place of the creeds we usually do another one of those Rite of Affirmation of Baptism. Here we are reminded of the connection of our personal baptism with the receiving of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

On May 30 we will be focused liturgically on Trinity Sunday. (I am well aware that this is Memorial Day weekend, and we will surely remember all those who are serving our country, those who have served our country, and those who have given their lives for our freedoms.) What makes Trinity Sunday one of those tough days to preach on Trinity Sunday is because it is difficult to explain the mystery of the Trinity. Traditionally, Trinity Sunday is also the one Sunday each year that we confess together the Athanasian Creed on page 54 of our old green LBWs. This is the third of our three great creeds we confess as Lutheran Christians. (The Apostle's Creed and the Nicene Creed are the other most commonly used creeds.) We have an old version we have found in the files that breaks the creed into speaking parts for men and women because it is so long.

We are making a transition in the month of May from the season of Easter where we are still focused on the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the giving of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost to when we arrive in June and explore the ministry of Jesus through the eyes of the Gospel of Mark on the Sundays after Pentecost.

Thrivent Members...If you are a Thrivent member and would be interested in using your Thrivent Choice Dollars to support the ministries of Living Lord Lutheran Church, please call Pr. Klinker at 330-550-0077 or the church office. If you would be interested in using Thrivent Action Grants to help support the ministries of Living Lord, please also call Pr. Klinker or the church office. Pastor will meet with you to discuss how to go about setting up these support systems.

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 readings from an Older Testament book and then a Newer Testament book. We currently are reading the Older Testament book of Isaiah on Pastor Larry's Bible blog online at <http://klinkerld-pastorlarrysbible.blogspot.com/>. Join us online.

Interim Pastor Larry Klinker's Office Hours...Pastor Larry will be in the office on Wednesdays from 9:30 am to noon. You may reach him at 330-550-0077 or email him at klinkerld@att.net.

From the President, Nancy Walters...Christ has risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! It is hard to believe that the Easter season is here! Last year the services were all virtual. I, for one, missed being in the church with the bell choir playing, the choir singing, and the organ playing the familiar hymns. This year it was all there. The church was decorated with all the flowers (thanks Jan Was) and it was almost normal (well, except for the masks and social distancing). Thank you, Lynn Golen, for the work in preparing the bulletins for Holy Week and for Easter Sunday and thank you to all who helped in the services.

The Church Council is looking for a couple of volunteers. One of them is to represent Living Lord at Camp Frederick and the other is to represent Living Lord at Shepherd of the Valley. I am not sure how much time is involved, but if you are interested in one or the other or both, I will find out. Just call me at 330-889-3382. The pay isn't great, but it is twice what we paid last year!

When you attend Sunday services, please be sure to sign in on the clip board on the table outside the entrance to the sanctuary (where the bulletins are located). The secretary can only count your presence if you mark the sheet. If you see someone in attendance who has not signed in, please mark it for them.

When you enter or leave the church building using your key, please make sure to set the alarm and lock the door. The church has been found to be unlocked and/or the alarm not set. If unsure of how to do this, please ask Rollie Walters or a Council member for instructions.

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 Finance Committee, Treasurer Dave Henderson...The books are closed for March 2021. Receipts for March 2021 totaled \$7,227.75 and expenses were \$6,970.35, for a net gain of \$257.40. We continue to hold on because we do not have a permanent pastor on payroll. We need to build a pretty good surplus for the time when we do have a pastor's full salary. Attendance in March was growing as the vaccinations roll out. In the coming months, hopefully we will return to normal attended worship services. Again, thank you to all who helped keep us going financially and spiritually! Let's hope and pray that 2021 is a better year!

From the Fellowship Committee Chairperson, Donna Wright...A special thank you to all those individuals who are working on the storage room next to the kitchen. An inventory will be taken at a later date to see what we have on hand or what we need. The refrigerator/freezer was checked out and all old or out of date items were discarded. Thank you to Sue Armstrong and Karen Bandy for assisting me on this project. Things are slowly starting to move forward and hopefully we can resume some kind of normalcy in the near future.

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...We have started our prayer chain with five members (if I forgot someone, please let me know): Camille Allen (330-503-1817), Karen Bandy (330-856-4835), Pam Boothe (740-395-3564), Karin McKinney (330-469-6083), Jacquie Thomas (330-609-9805), and Lorraine Bell (330-219-5881). Please call one of the women with the name needing prayer and any concerns your feel are relevant. Be sure to have the permission of that person. That person will pass it on to the next one and it will go on to the next person, etc., so that we are all praying.

From the Larry L. Maggiano, M.D., Memorial Scholarship Fund Chairperson, Lorraine Bell ... Scholarship Award Presentation...The Maggiano Scholarship Award Presentation will be held on **Sunday, June 6**, at the **10:00** am worship service. The scholarship is a grant from the Larry L. Maggiano, M.D., Memorial Scholarship Fund. The scholarship goes to eligible college or trade school students as determined by the Scholarship Fund Board.

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 Summer decorations that might cheer up their food trays or for their bulletin boards, and small knickknacks they may put on their dresser or windowsills.

From the Parish Ed Committee Chairperson, Raymond Boothe...Calling all children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren! We are happy to announce that there will be a **drive-thru** Vacation Bible School on **Saturday, June 12**, between 1:00 and 2:00 pm in the church parking lot. Each child will receive five different bags, with each bag containing an opening overview by Pastor, a Bible lesson, an activity/craft, and a snack. If you look carefully, you may even see a Bible character at the drive-thru. If you have an interested child, please contact the church office at 330-856-5302, including the voicemail, or by email at secretary@lllc.org with the child's name, age, grade completed, and contact information. There are registration forms on the ledge under the main bulletin board; please turn in your registration forms by **Friday, June 4**. We look forward to seeing you! River of Life is a Vacation Bible School program that guides children through learning about the work to which God calls us in the world. This year's VBS will focus on the importance of water, highlighting how ELCA World Hunger is working with our neighbors around the world in projects related to clean water.

Graduating Seniors...Eric Babinchak is graduating from Howland High School and plans on attending Ashland University to major in Business while playing football. He will be recognized on Graduation Recognition Sunday, June 6.

From the Property Committee...The Property Committee is looking for a few good people to cut the grass at the church during the summer. There is a sign-up sheet on the main bulletin board. If you need help with learning how to operate the mower, please call Rollie Walters at 330-889-3382. The Property Committee will also be planting flowers in the front of the church on **Tuesday, May 18**. Donations for the flowers and mulch are needed to fund this project. The envelopes for these donations are on the main bulletin board. Please make your checks payable to Living Lord Lutheran Church and mark "Outdoor Flowers" in the memo portion.

From the Worship Committee...

Pentecost Geraniums...In recognition of Pentecost, the Worship Committee will be decorating the worship space with red geraniums; please also remember to wear your red. Pentecost Sunday is **May 23** and these geraniums will be replanted outside. Families/Individuals are asked to make donations to the geranium fund. You may request a memoriam or honorarium. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the main hallway. The cost of each plant is \$5.00 and the last day to sign up is **Sunday, May 2**. **PLANTS ARE TO BE PAID FOR WHEN ORDERING.** You may place your check in the offering plate or mail it to the Parish Office. Make checks payable to Living Lord Lutheran Church and mark "Geraniums" in the memo portion. Please help us beautify our church.

Summer Worship Schedule...We will begin our Summer Worship Schedule on **Sunday, June 6**. We will have services at 8:00 and **10:00** am. We will also recognize our graduating seniors and award the Maggiano Scholarship on this date.

Worship Assistants...We are in urgent need of the following Worship Assistants at both services: Assisting Ministers, Communion Assistants (for when we return to regular communion), Lectors, and Ushers. Please call the church office or email secretary@lllc.org if you would be willing to assist with worship.

From the Parish Nurse, Dora Muller...The past couple of months have tested us. As we are asked to stay apart, we grieve the lack of family contact and celebrations are delayed. The fear of COVID-19 is constantly in our routine. But the future is brighter, vaccines are now available, and we can enjoy the company of family and friends. Hopefully, a long-delayed celebration such as a wedding can finally take place. However, this does not mean that we should let our guard down. Masks should continue to be used, social distance maintained, and continue with self-care by following a healthy lifestyle and find ways to relate to family and friends without close physical contact. We now appreciate more the value of family and how much we take many things for granted. This past year, I witnessed pain and sorrow among my patients who lost their lives and at other times we were able to celebrate those who were able to return to their homes. Working on a COVID-19 unit strengthened my realization of the importance of family. My priorities have shifted to include greater family presence and to live closer to my child. After much planning, my husband and I decided to move to Philadelphia to be close to our son, Dustin, and his wife, Nancy. It is with mixed feelings that I prepare to move away from Ohio. My journey in Ohio has come to an end. The memories of my community work will be forever with me. It has been a blessing to serve our Living Lord congregation. I have humbly served you and I pray that I will be able to continue to serve others in our new home.

Music Festival at St. Paul Lutheran Church...Living Lord's bell choir, Jubilant Ringers, will be performing in a concert on **Friday, May 21**, at 8:00 pm at St. Paul Lutheran Church. The members of St. Paul Lutheran Church and Living Lord Lutheran Church are invited to attend the state convention events of the Ohio Federation of Music Clubs to be held at St. Paul Lutheran Church on Friday and Saturday, May 21 and 22. There will be a concert presented in the sanctuary on Friday at 8:00 pm beginning with organ solos, followed by the Hand Bell Choir (Jubilant Ringers) of Living Lord Lutheran Church, and the National Federation of Music Clubs 2019 Young Artist winner in strings, Alexander Hersh, a cellist from Chicago. He has performed with the Houston Symphony and the Boston Pops. Hersh is co-artistic director of Nexus Chamber Music Chicago that is dedicated to deconstructing the traditional barrier between audience and performer. The concert will be followed by a reception in Cassel Hall. The cost of the concert, including the reception, is \$5.00 payable at the door. On Saturday, May 22, the members of these congregations are invited to three free competition programs given by outstanding piano, string, and vocal students from all over Ohio ranging in age from 10 to 19 years of age. The first competition program is from 11:00 am to 12:00 noon given by students young than 7th grade. The second program given by students in grades 7-9 begins at 1:00 pm, followed by the program given by students in grades 10-12. Many of the students are from NE Ohio, including Boardman, Canfield, Cortland, and Cleveland. Everyone is asked to wear a mask except the performers when they are performing. If you have any questions, please see Lynne Walters (330-856-9689).

EVENTS IN MAY

Wednesday, May 5, 10:00 am – Trustees Meeting in Activity Room

Sunday, May 9 – Mother's Day

Sunday, May 16, 11:45 am – Council in Activity Room/NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Sunday, May 23 – Pentecost – Wear Your Red!

Sunday, May 30 – Holy Trinity

MAY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

- 3 = Jean Frye
- 5 = Madeline Goussios, Lauren Lambert, & Keith Muller
- 6 = Sue Armstrong & Jo Maggiano
- 17 = Hanna Hunt
- 18 = Edith Holmstrom
- 20 = Jim Cohol
- 23 = Marge Shoemaker
- 28 = Stephen Prindle

Anniversaries

- 19 = Lucas, Robert & Alberta
- 27 = Gifford, Tom & Jill
- 29 = Peachman, Frederick & Jean

