

The Lamp Lighter
August 2021
The Newsletter of Living Lord Lutheran Church
Real God. Real Faith. Real Life.
www.LLLC.org

WORSHIP SERVICES SUNDAYS AT 8:00 AND 10:00 AM

From Interim Pastor Larry Klinker...I started in the last Newsletter trying to answer the question: **“How do Christians who choose to be Lutherans make disciples?”** I firmly believe that our congregations are to be disciple-forming congregations. I want to take apart the three key parts I put forward last month that members are to be participating in to be formed as disciples of Jesus. Last month, I suggested that Lutherans participating in the life of faith within the congregation whose task is to form its members into disciples of Jesus Christ are to participate in three areas to help form their life of faith. I stated the three areas are: Worship, Catechesis, and Individual Prayer.

This month’s article will focus our attention on how our worship life contributes to our being formed as disciples of Jesus over time. The way Lutherans worship forms us into disciples of Jesus is by formation and reflection. We are formed by our worship by participating in it over time. We become what we do. But true to the Protestant tradition, Lutherans are always being reflective about what is happening to them by reflecting on God’s word.

Lutheran worship has a very definite pattern to it both at the level of the church year and the order of the service. The church year has a very clear pattern to be broken down into two main themes. The first is the **Cycle of Light** which includes the seasons of Advent (expectation), Christmas (fulfillment), and Epiphany (proclamation). The second is the **Cycle of Life** which includes the seasons of Lent (expectation), Holy Week and Triduum, Easter (fulfillment), and Pentecost (proclamation).

The church service order has a definite pattern built into it because it is based upon the understanding of we are gathered in from being the body of Christ in the world and then are sent out back into the world to be the body of Christ as Jesus’ disciples. Underneath this pattern is a movement from being intra-dependent on the Spirit within us to be extra-dependent on God outside of us while we are in the worship space. We are sent back out into the world based on the presence of the Spirit being intra-dependent with us again to act as Jesus’ disciples.

So, it is about **Gathering** when we do the confession and absolution, sing a Hymn, greet each other in Christ, and do the Kyrie and Canticle of Praise. We focus on the **Word** and our reflection on it when we hear the scriptures being read and the sermon preached, sing a Hymn, confess our faith as a response when we use the three creeds of the church, and gather the community’s intercessions for prayer. Our focus shifts to the third component which is the **Meal** which feels our relationship with God forming us into the body of Christ. We become what we eat! The Meal section includes the Offering, Great Thanksgiving, Preface, Eucharist prayers (words of Consecration), Lord’s Prayer, Distribution, Table blessing, Post Communion Hymn, and Post Communion prayer. The final form of worship for Lutherans is the **Sending** which includes the Blessing, final Hymn, and Dismissal to go back out into the world and act as the body of Christ in the world as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Lutherans become disciples of Jesus Christ by Worshiping, Catechesis, and Individual Prayer.

Story of the Week...One of the things that we, as Christians, who are people of the Book (Bible) really could use is a disciplined way for us to learn the many core Bible stories from the Scriptures. The book "Bible Stories for the Church Year" by Kristen Johnson Ingram does just that by tying Bible stories to the Sunday lectionary we use every week as part of worship. With that in mind, we want to start a program called the Story of the Week. Each week, starting for the first Sunday in June and continuing throughout the church year, we will offer a Bible story that is read as part of our liturgy to be learned. At some point, with more children present, we can even use these stories as the basis of children's sermons. We plan to put about five stories out each week and as the demand grows, we will make more stories available.

The Story of the Week for August:

- August 1: Manna and Quails (Exodus 15:22-16, 38)
- August 8: Elijah at the Mountain of God (1 Kings 19)
- August 15: Jesus is the Living Bread (John 6:51-58)
- August 22: Joshua writes the Covenant (Joshua 23 and 24)
- August 29: Battle of Jericho (Joshua 5:10-6:27)
- September 5: Jesus heals the deaf man (Mark 7:31-37)

Mid-Week Bible Study...Pastor Larry is asking if there is any interest in having a mid-week Bible study to be held on Wednesdays when he is at Living Lord as part of his office time. His thinking is it would be from 11:00 am to 12:00 noon starting in September if there is enough interest. Let Pastor Larry (330-550-0077) know if you are interested or call the office (330-856-5302) and leave a message.

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 have been reading the Older Testament book of Isaiah and have completed it in July. We started the Newer Testament book of First John to finish out July and will begin to read the Older Testament book of Jeremiah 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...

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 June 2021. Receipts for June 2021 totaled \$9,069.76 and expenses were \$7,177.92, for a net gain of \$1,891.84. Year-to-date through June, income is \$55,729.70 and expenses are \$43,979.16, for a gain of \$11,750.53! We continue to hold our own 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 June was growing as the vaccinations rolled out. In the coming months, hopefully we will return to normal attended worship services. Again, thank you to all who continue to help us keep going financially and spiritually! Let's hope and pray that 2021 is a better year!

From the Fellowship Committee Chairperson, Donna Wright...The tape is off the church pews, hymnals are back where they belong, and Fellowship coffee and goodies are back! The only thing missing is you and yours! If you are not on the Fellowship Committee, we could use your assistance at early church to set up the coffee station or for clean-up after the 10:00 am service. Just give me a call at 330-469-9583 and I will gladly add you to the list. Work is ongoing in the Fellowship Hall closet and progress has been made.

Fellowship is Back! We will have Fellowship after both services on the third Sunday of each month (August 15).

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 you 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 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 Fall 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 Worship Committee Chairperson, Karin McKinney...
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.

Handbell Refurbishment Project...The handbells are back from refurbishment and look and sound fantastic! Above and beyond the refurbishment process that we anticipated, there were three other problems that were addressed. Both the clappers and handguard disks on the bells were very brittle and were replaced. There were also issues with the castings on two of the bells, but since there was no indication of damage to the bells, the castings were replaced at no cost under warranty. The final cost was \$3,412.00. Thank you to the congregation and the Fuchs Fund for your support of the handbell refurbishment. Lynne Walters, Handbell Choir Director

EVENTS IN AUGUST

Wednesday, August 4, 10:00 am – Trustees Meeting in Activity Room

Sunday, August 8, 11:15 am – Council in Activity Room

Sunday, August 15 – **Fellowship After Both Services/NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

- 1 = Gabrielle Mazzola & Patti Rinehart
- 4 = Alexandra (Rinehart) Matune
- 5 = Susan Henderson
- 8 = Joyce L'Amoureux
- 10 = Lynne Walters
- 14 = Brandon Miller
- 15 = Diane Corbin, Patsy Pastva, & Delaney Rooks
- 18 = Tyler Pesa
- 19 = Tom Altieri
- 20 = Kayla Altieri & Tracy Taiclet Montagna
- 21 = Kevin & Kyle Chopko and Michele Lambert
- 22 = Art Taylor
- 25 = Lorraine Bell, Jean Dillon, & Stephen Mazzola
- 29 = Patty Smith
- 31 = Ken Ketcham

Anniversaries

- 4 = Gilmore, Jack & Patricia
- 12 = Boothe, Raymond & Pamela
- 20 = Marrara, Tony & Diane
- 23 = Muller, Keith & Dora
- 23 = Zingale, James & Jeanne
- 31 = Ketcham, Ken & Donna