

The Lamp Lighter
October 2021
The Newsletter of Living Lord Lutheran Church
Real God. Real Faith. Real Life.

Mission Statement

As the body of the Living Lord, Jesus Christ, we seek to reflect and share God's grace, love, and forgiveness with one another near and far.

Vision Statement

We are a community of faith committed to strengthening faith, strengthening lives, strengthening relationships, strengthening families, and thus, strengthening the community into which God has placed us.

Living Lord Lutheran Church
851 Niles-Cortland Road, N.E.
Warren, Ohio 44484
330-856-5302
secretary@llc.org
www.llc.org

ADULT FORUM AT 8:45 AM
WORSHIP SERVICE AT 9:30 AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:30 AM
CHOIR PRACTICE AT 10:30 AM

From Interim Pastor Larry Klinker...The month of October is usually set aside by me to help our members and friends of Living Lord Lutheran Church understand and appreciate our basic identity as Christians who understand themselves to be Lutheran. I want to use the opportunity with our month ending with the celebration of Reformation Sunday to flesh out a bigger understanding of being Lutheran other than just we are Protestants. In some circles, it is shorthand for we ain't Catholics!

Being a Lutheran Christian has a rich flavor to it just like we have been exploring how do we make disciples as Lutherans. Our understanding of being a Lutheran Christian also has three aspects to it. Lutherans are said to be **Catholic Evangelical Reformers**. Being Lutheran is not so much what we believe as it is a way of seeing, a way of hearing, a way of teaching, and a way of following.

Lutherans are **Catholic** in this sense: We are part of the Western Catholic Christian tradition in the liturgical way we worship with its pattern of Gathering, Word, Meal, and Sending, the creeds we use, the dates we celebrate Christmas and Easter, as well as the hymns we use and the way we pray.

Lutherans are **Evangelical** in this sense: The liturgy proclaims the center of our faith is gracious. Coming with unconditional love, mercy, and forgiveness, God gathers us to God's self and sustains us in God's inclusive family. This is our Good News.

Lutherans are **Reforming** in this sense: Lutherans (well, at least some of us) are willing to change the way we sing or speak or dramatize our faith Tradition so we can hear more clearly the Gospel. We have made changes like: we use more contemporary language, the inclusion of the laity, the ordination of women, more frequent Holy Communion, and a spirit of joy.

Here is how I would say it more clearly: We, as Lutherans who are Christians, keep **Reforming** our Catholic tradition so we can hear the **Evangelical** Good News more clearly.

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 October:

October 3: God makes the first man and woman (Genesis 2:18-24)

October 10: The Rich Young Ruler (Mark 10:17-27)

October 17: Jesus Prepares the Disciples (Mark 10:35-45)

October 24: The Blind Beggar (Mark 10:46-52)

October 31: The New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

November 7: The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12)

Mid-Week Bible Study...We started reading together the Gospel of Luke, which will be the Gospel starting in Advent of this year on Wednesday, September 8. If you are interested in joining us, just bring a version of the Bible you are comfortable working with. We are still in chapter one so you haven't missed much if you still would like to join us. The next class will be **Wednesday, October 6**, at 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. See you then!

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 Jeremiah in September and will continue reading it in October 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...

Camp Frederick...We are in need of a delegate to Camp Frederick. If you are interested, please see Nancy Walters for a description of the duties.

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 August 2021. Receipts for August 2021 totaled \$6,225.70 and expenses were \$6,657.18, for a net loss of \$431.48. Year-to-date through August, income is \$67,794.00 and expenses are \$61,320.96, for a gain of \$6,473.04! 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. If you can, please keep your pledges up to date. Again, thank you to all who continue to help us keep going financially and spiritually! Let's hope and pray that 2021 continues to be a better year!

From the Fellowship Committee Chairperson, Donna Wright...The Rally Day Brunch has come and gone. There were 35 in attendance. The day was bright and sunny, decorations were beautiful, and a wonderful assortment of food and liquid refreshments were in abundance. Many thanks to everyone who helped in any way to make the Brunch so successful. It was very nice to see so many happy smiling faces in attendance. As we are now having only one worship service each Sunday, a new sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board under Fellowship for volunteers to make coffee and clean up each Sunday. Each date is listed, so just sign your name on a certain date that you can volunteer. This change will lessen the need for two volunteers each Sunday as we have so few members available at present. The job doesn't pay much, but it is so rewarding! Please contact Donna Wright with any questions or suggestions at 330-469-9583.

Fellowship Sunday...We will have Fellowship after the 9:30 am service on the third Sunday of each month (October 17).

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...At this time, I would like to thank our long-time Outreach Committee Member Sue Armstrong for her years of service. Sue, we will all miss you! God bless and remember the door is always open.

LSOV Halloween Bags...The Outreach Committee would like to thank all of the congregation members that have been so generous with gifts for our LSOV Halloween bags. It is not too late – there is still room in the Halloween bags for a few more treats! We also hope to take doughnuts, but we need an OK from Liberty Shepherd of the Valley. Delivery will take place the last week in October.

Hat & Sock Collection...I will be taking crocheted hats, scarves, and new socks of all sizes to Stacey Altieri at St. Paul for their kids to distribute to those in need. If you would like to add some gloves, new socks, hats, or scarves, place them in the basket in the narthex or put them downstairs on the Outreach desk.

Thanksgiving Food Baskets...In less than two months we will be handing out our Thanksgiving Food Baskets. If you are in need or know someone who could use a basket, please let the secretary, Lynn, know or see Judy Shaffer anytime at church or leave a note in her mailbox. The list of food items needed will be posted in mid-October.

From the Parish Education Committee Chairperson, Raymond Boothe...

Adult Forum...The Adult Forum meets each Sunday at 8:45 am. We are watching the DVD “The Gospel of Mark”. Using the Bible as its script, this word-for-word visual adaptation brings Jesus' story---as told in the Gospel of Mark---to life. Using the latest archaeological, cultural, and textual findings about life in first-century Palestine, this powerful movie will revolutionize the way you experience and understand the story of Christ. Please plan to join us!

Sunday School...Sunday School for children is offered during Sunday morning worship at 9:30 am. We will be using The Story of the Week based on the worship service’s Scripture lesson.

From the Stewardship Committee Chairperson, Robert McKinney...

2022 Stewardship Program - Where Your Heart Is - For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:21. Brother Lawrence was a lay brother who lived among the barefooted Carmelites in Paris around 1660. He did not hold any office of leadership. He did not keep the books or make great contributions to the poor. He worked in the kitchen and did the dishes. Within the confines of pots and pans, he worshiped. He practiced the presence of God within his daily work, and it changed him. *The Practice of the Presence of God*, a book based on letters and conversations of Brother Lawrence, has since become a Christian classic. A humble monk who did KP duty, Brother Lawrence lived the steward’s life. He loved Jesus. He tried to be more like him. He read his Bible and practiced prayer. He carried his treasure with him in his heart. “I know that for the right practice of it, the heart must be empty of all other things; because God will possess the heart alone; and as He cannot possess it alone, without emptying it of all besides, so neither can He act there, and do in it what He pleases, unless it be left vacant to Him.” (From Letter 5 of Brother Lawrence, as published on the Christian Classics Ethereal Library, Calvin College. See www.ccel.org.) Such a little book of letters. Such a simple man. Pots and pans and prayer. It is the “stuff” of which we can do God’s work, if our hearts are “emptied” enough to make room for God. This year our congregation’s stewardship theme is “Where Your Heart Is”. We will be taking a look at what it means to be God’s stewards close to home and throughout the world. And we will focus on the theme verse: “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:21). Like Brother Lawrence, we need to consider what it is that we treasure in our hearts. Will our hearts cling to earthly treasures that will eventually disappear, or will they cling to the treasure of God’s kingdom that will last forever?

From the Worship Committee Chairperson, Karin McKinney...Worship services are now at 9:30 am. Masks are strongly suggested, and social distancing is recommended. Communion is still being served with the prefilled communion cups with wafers, not at the communion rail. The church is continuing to be sanitized and fogged. We want our congregation to feel as safe as possible while we are using our building. Rally Day, September 12, went well with 46 members attending worship service. The Choir was back in session singing "I Believe in You" and the Adult Forum with Dr. Raymond Boothe as the teacher had its first session. The Rally Day Brunch after worship service was also well attended and the theme was colorful with harvest colors and decorations. Thank you to Donna Wright and her Fellowship Committee and the Property Committee, who set up tents, tables, and chairs. Attendees could sit inside or outside to eat and visit. The weather was perfect. Interim Pastor Larry Klinker will be on vacation from September 26 through October 3. Pastors Lang Collins and Bernie Dougherty will be our Supply Pastors. We thank them for their service. I hope more members will feel safe and return to worship services. May God bless our church.

Worship Assistants...We are in need of the following Worship Assistants: 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.

Thank you...Thank you all for your prayers, your cards, and your support during my surgeries and recovery. It really means so much to know you are all there! Love y'all! Nancy Walters

EVENTS IN OCTOBER

Wednesday, October 6, 10:00 am – Trustees Meeting in Pastor’s Office

Sunday, October 10, 10:45 am – Council in Activity Room

Sunday, October 17 – Fellowship after 9:30 am Service/**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

Sunday, October 24 – Pledge Cards Due

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

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

Anniversaries

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

Council Members

President – Nancy Walters

Vice President & In-Reach Committee Chair – Lorraine Bell

Finance Committee Chair – Bob McKinney

Secretary – Pam Boothe

Evangelism/Membership Committee Chair – Jacquie Thomas

Fellowship Committee Chair – Donna Wright

Outreach Committee Chair – Judy Shaffer

Parish Education Committee Chair – Raymond Boothe

Property Committee Chair – Vacant

Worship Committee Chair – Karin McKinney

Youth & Family Committee Chair – Darlene Altieri

