

The Lamp Lighter
January 2024
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@lllc.org
www.lllc.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:30 AM
ADULT FORUM AT 8:45 AM

From Interim Pastor Michael Meranda... This is the final article I will write for your "Lamp Lighter". Two simple words express my feelings: Thank You. You welcomed me as your interim pastor in June 2022. Not only did you welcome me, you also welcomed my wife, Mary. That double welcome was especially appreciated. She and I had to navigate together this stage of life, 42 years after I was ordained, called "retirement". For decades we were an intimate part of a community of faith. Suddenly that ended. Thanks to you, and to our Northeast Ohio Synod, we were able to share the Word and Sacrament with you these recent 18 months.

Right away we appreciated the hospitality of your personalities. You were welcoming and shared a great sense of humor. It was easy to fit in and enjoy your traditions at Living Lord. I have commented several times on how much we appreciated the accessibility of your building. The rooms and grounds were always well kept and maintained. Your worship space was so very comfortable with cushioned pews and air conditioning. Your staff and council and committees always generated positive encounters.

There is good precedent for ending with this thank you. That is how Luther would have us end and begin each day. Luther's Evening Prayer begins, "I give THANKS to you, Heavenly Father, that you have graciously protected me this day." Luther's Morning Prayer begins, "I give THANKS to you, Heavenly Father, that you have protected me through the night." In Luther's spiritual practice, the day is bookended with thankfulness. We begin with thanks. We end with thanks. A sense of gratitude propels us into the day. A feeling of gratitude helps us get a good rest at night.

So, I was grateful to be received as your interim in 2022. I am grateful to you for all we experienced together the past year and a half. Gratitude punctuates our experience. Gratitude propels us into the next stage of life.

Thank you so much!
Interim Pastor Michael Meranda

From the President, Bob McKinney...

Annual Congregation Meeting...We will hold our Annual Congregation Meeting on **Sunday, January 28**, following the worship service at 10:30 am. Please plan on joining us for this very important meeting.

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 October 2023. The receipts for October 2023 were \$7,153.71 and expenses were \$9,225.49, for a loss of \$2,071.78. Year to date through October, income was \$82,740.52 and expenses were \$84,837.31, for a loss of \$2,096.79. So far, year to date through October, we are a little over \$2,000.00 behind break even. Let's hope that the holiday season giving in 2023 can allow us to show a break even nor even a profit for the year.

From the Fellowship Committee Chairperson, Pam Gerbetz...Happy New Year! Hard to believe 2024 is set to begin! I hope the new year brings good health and prosperity to each and every one of you. I have moved the January Fellowship Sunday to **January 14** so we can gather to commemorate our 60th year of service to our Lord and Savior. We will have a little more than just sweets, so plan on joining us following our Sunday worship service. We are planning a "Hoagie Sale" for Super Bowl Sunday. Watch the bulletin board for more details. "Save the Date"! Please mark your calendars and save **Sunday, April 14, 2024**, for a luncheon at Ciminero's in Niles at 1:00 pm. Plans are being made for a celebration of our 60th Anniversary as Living Lord Lutheran Church.

Monthly Women's Breakfast...Please join us at our monthly breakfast at Vasilio's in Cortland on the second Thursday (**Jan. 11**) of every month at 10:00 am. All are welcome!

From the In-Reach Committee Chairperson, Bonnie Sanzenbacher...

Prayer Chain...The Prayer Chain of Living Lord Lutheran Church includes seven volunteer members. A Prayer Chain is simply a request that people join in prayer for others which deepens the power of prayer. If you would like to pray for others in our congregation and community who are ill, hospitalized, homebound, or have health issues, please contact Bonnie Sanzenbacher at 330-372-5103 for more information. The group could always use another “link”.

Camille Allen 330-503-1817
Karen Bandy 330-856-4835
Pam Boothe 740-395-3564

Karin McKinney 330-469-6083
Kitty Thompson 330-856-5996
Rosemarie Zavatsky 330-883-3267

From the MEF Committee Chairperson, Michael Taiclet...Hi everyone! I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! I would like to thank everyone who attended our MEF Award Sunday. It was a great success! It was great to see everyone and to see all the warm greetings everyone was giving to our award recipient. For those who missed it, this year’s MEF Award recipient was The Youngstown Blue Coats. Two representatives, Patty Summers (President, CEO, & Founder), and Rosann Panning (Vice President) were on hand to graciously accept our award. They were so blessed and honored for this award. I hope it will help them continue their ongoing mission. They provide such a great and much needed help to our community who are in such desperate need. Their mission is to prevent the freezing and injury caused by extreme weather exposure to the homeless and financially destitute Americans, with a special focus on military veterans. They do this by going to them, whether it’s in the woods, under a bridge, or in an abandoned area. They go above and beyond. I wish them continued success. In America, no one should freeze to death! That is why, now through Sunday, January 14, 2024, I am asking anyone who may have any of these items – **new or gently used** – winter coats, winter hats, gloves, mittens, new socks, boots, blankets, sleeping bags, tarps, and tents, and would like to donate them, I will have a table set up in the Education Wing hallway for the collection of these items. I know I have quite a few of these items and am glad to donate them to such a good cause. I thank you for any donations and I know that The Youngstown Blue Coats would too! Finally, this year will mark our 25th MEF Award. I already have plans in the works for a wonderful and eventful MEF Sunday in October. This year will also mark Living Lord’s 60th Anniversary. Two milestones, one year. There will be plenty of surprises and maybe the possibility of two recipients for this milestone occasion. We will have to see what the future may bring. I am asking for names of any organizations or groups that you may know that might benefit from our award. I have two names already and am looking for more. Please notify any of the MEF Committee members or myself. I thank everyone for their continuing support for the MEF and look forward to continuing to serve MEF.

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

Adult Forum...The Adult Forum meets every Sunday at 8:45 am. We will continue our study of Paul using the video and a new learning tool that each participant gets to keep. Please come join us.

Sunday School...We have Sunday School for all ages every Sunday at 9:30 am.

EVENTS IN JANUARY

Monday, January 1 – New Year's Day/OFFICE CLOSED

Sunday, January 7 – Baptism of Our Lord Sunday

Wednesday, January 10, 10:00 am – Trustees Meeting in Pastor's Office

Sunday, January 14, 10:30 am – Fellowship after Service to kick off our 60th
Anniversary Celebration/Council in Activity Room/**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

Monday, January 15 – Martin Luther King, Jr., Day/OFFICE CLOSED

Sunday, January 28 – Annual Congregation Meeting at 10:30 am

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

1 = Faith Miller
3 = Lamar Shoemaker
11 = Emily Busefink
17 = Rita Tewksbary & Rosemarie Zavatsky
23 = Thomas Gifford
27 = Nancy Walters
29 = Cecile Draime
31 = Bonnie Sanzenbacher

Anniversaries

