

**The Lamp Lighter**  
**January 2025**  
**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**  
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**SUNDAY WORSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:30 AM**  
**ADULT FORUM AT 8:45 AM**

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**From the Pastor, Gerald Gammon...**By the time that you are reading this, our National Day of Thanksgiving will be over, and with it, Black Friday and Cyber Monday. In fact, it should be just a few days until Christmas Day! And just a short time after that it will be New Year's Day!

Many of us can recall the pitch slogan of businesses (especially fitness centers and diet clubs) "A new year, a new you", as they promised miraculous transformations in your physique. Well, I have to tell you as I look to the upcoming new year, I don't want a new you. No, although I am still learning names and faces, I love the you that you are right now! That's right, YOU!

In the short time that I have been with you, I have learned that you, yes you, are miraculous just the way you are. This is what I have learned about you so far. You are:

- ♥ Faithful – Not only are you faithful to your God, but you are also faithful to your church and one another. You just celebrated 60 years as a church! You constantly act out of caring for one another, especially when one is in need.
- ♥ Courageous – You decided as a church that you were not being served as you thought you should be by the ELCA, so you made the brave decision to leave and move forward on your own path. It was not an easy decision, but you made it and are moving forward as a family of faith.
- ♥ Giving - You give to and support your church and each other. When something needs to be done, you do it! You give to people you don't even know when you find out that there is a need.
- ♥ Adventurous – You took a chance and signed up a fat old fellow with a goatee to be your pastor! Although we had several “practice” runs together, you reached out in faith and hired me. I will endeavor not to let you down, nor break the trust you have bestowed me with. (Don't panic...my contact is only for a year! Lol)
- ♥ Passionate – You freely express your faith. You do so with your words and your deeds. I have witnessed such great acts of faith and humanity in what you do for this church, each other, and those in our community.
- ♥ Joyful – It has been said that “Laughter is the best medicine”. If that's true, there should never be anyone in our church that isn't healed. Together you enjoy God's plan and blessings. You deal with serious issues by poking fun at yourselves and others to relax and comfort one another, and I applaud you for it!

So, you see, I don't want a new you. I want the same loving, giving, faithful, adventurous, passionate, joyful YOU! But I do wish you a blessed New Year.

Your servant leader,  
Pastor Gerry

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**From the President, Bob McKinney...**Wow—it's January 2025—can you believe it? Another year in the books and here we go. Let's hope all goes well for Living Lord Lutheran Church in this new year. We have a busy month planned. The budget will be worked on and completed. We will be looking at the budget very carefully and could have some hard discussions about looking at new revenue sources. All Committees will have their final reports ready for our Congregation Meeting. We will be taking down the Christmas decorations as well (that part makes me sad). We will be finishing up our nomination process and hopefully will have all positions filled. We might be looking at different ways of filling some of those positions. If anyone is interested in one of the open positions, please see me or any member of Council. We will keep you updated.

**Annual Congregation Meeting...**Our Annual Congregation Meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 26, 2025**, at 10:30 am. Please plan on attending.

**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](http://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.

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**From the Finance Committee, Treasurer Dave Henderson...**The books are closed for October 2024. The receipts for October were \$8,105.65 and expenses were \$8,827.98, for a loss of \$722.33 for the month. Year to date numbers through October had receipts at \$76,077.05 and expenses at \$71,309.49, for a gain of \$4,767.56. Year to date we are still positive. However, we will continue to have challenges with our budget. Let's try and keep current on our pledges during 2024.

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**From the Evangelism/Membership Committee Chairperson, Barb Wright...  
Transportation Team...**Do you have an appointment and your car won't start? Do you want to come to church but your car is in the shop? You want to worship with your friends at Living Lord, but you have no way to get to church? Well, we have some wonderful volunteers to drive you if you are unable to drive to your destination. If you are in need of transportation, please call one of the following: Darlene Altieri (330-856-9704 or 330-984-7797), Ernie Gerbetz (330-856-7506 or 330-647-3008), Pam Gerbetz (330-856-7506 or 330-647-3138), Neal and Joyce L'Amoureux (330-824-1643), or Karin McKinney (330-469-6083). You may call one of the volunteers listed and make arrangements with them for your needed trip. Discuss thorough and precise plans and enjoy the service provided. Thank your provider and God!

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**From the Fellowship Committee Chairperson, Pam Gerbetz...**As another year begins, we find ourselves stepping forward into a new time for our church and we pray that with God's help and guidance we can continue to do His work here on earth. Our mission still remains the same. I have committed to another year as Fellowship Chairperson and I hope to continue our traditions and practices of fellowship and friendship. It is a vital part of our health as a Lutheran congregation. I am hoping to organize a pepperoni roll sale for Super Bowl weekend. As soon as I get through this recovery period after my surgery, I will get started on that endeavor. Ernie and I want to wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year and a prosperous 2025!

**Monthly Women's Breakfast...**Please join us at our monthly breakfast at Vasilio's in Cortland on the second Thursday of every month (**Jan. 9**) at 10:00 am. All are welcome!

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**Thank you...**To all your church family, A big thank you for the food basket. I very much appreciate your kindness and a special thank you to Karen Bandy for thinking of me and my family. Many Blessings, Mary Conlan

**Thank you...**Living Lord Lutheran Church, Thank you very much for the donation of food and Giant Eagle gift card. As a widow and small business owner, it is so often difficult to make ends meet and I am so grateful for your gracious help. Thank you, Amber Slick

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**EVENTS IN JANUARY**

Sunday, January 5 – Epiphany of Our Lord

Sunday, January 12 – Baptism of Our Lord

Sunday, January 19 – Fellowship/**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

Sunday, January 26 – Annual Congregation Meeting

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## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

### **Birthdays**

3 = Lamar Shoemaker

11 = Emily Busefink

14 = Don Smith

17 = Rita Tewksbary & Rosemarie Zavatsky

26 = Glen Erck

27 = Nancy Walters

29 = Cecile Draime

31 = Bonnie Sanzenbacher

### **Anniversaries**

*Happy New Year!*