

**The Lamp Lighter**  
**January 2026**  
**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**

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**ADULT FORUM AT 9:00 AM**  
**SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM**  
**CHOIR PRACTICE AT 11:00 AM**

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**From the Pastor, Gerald Gammon...**Happy New Year! I sincerely pray that 2026 is a year of growth and prosperity for you all! By growth, I don't mean at the waistline, I mean within your spiritual relationship with the Lord. I also pray that this year will continue to be one of growth for our beloved church. I am excited that the Palmer family has been with us for a year now, and I hope that more families will join us soon.

Our Council will be working on various projects to stimulate growth within the church, and I ask that all who have ideas in this regard please bring them forward to us.

For our “snowbirds”, I pray that you are enjoying the warmth of your winter location and that when the temperatures here improve, you’ll return to your faith family. Know that no matter what your physical location, our love and the love of our Lord are with you always.

As we begin this new year, let us take a prayerful moment and recommit ourselves to our Lord and His church. Let us find ways in our lives to be more like Jesus and help others to do the same. We have been blessed with another year, 365 chances to improve our relationship with Jesus, let us take advantage of every one of them!

Undoubtedly, we are facing cold temperatures outside during this time of year. Let the love of Jesus Christ in our hearts warm us and those around us. We are members of His Body, here on Earth. As such let us do all we can to live lives that He would want us to live. Giving of our time and treasures to build His church, support those who are less fortunate than we are, and come before God with loving and repentant hearts.

Again, I wish you a wonderful year ahead! I include you all in my prayers and ask God to supply you with whatever is needed so that you can live the best year ever in 2026!

Pastor Gerry

**Monthly Men’s Breakfast...**Please join us for our monthly men’s breakfast the second Wednesday of each month at 9:00 am at Eat-N-Park. All are welcome!

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**From the President, Bob McKinney...**As we welcome the beginning of a new year, I am filled with hope and anticipation for the journey that lies ahead for our church community. The beginning of each year brings fresh opportunities for growth, reflection, and renewal here at Living Lord Lutheran Church. This year, I am hoping our church will be committed to exploring new ideas and initiatives aimed at making our congregation more relevant and engaged within the wider community. We recognize that our world is changing rapidly, and with change comes both challenge and possibility. In order to continue serving as a place of faith, compassion, and fellowship, we must be willing to listen, adapt, and try new approaches that speak to the needs of our neighbors. I am especially excited to work alongside our new Council members, whose energy and insights will be invaluable as we chart a course for the future. Together we will seek creative ways to connect with our community and extend a warm welcome to those who are searching for a spiritual home. I acknowledge that embracing change can be difficult, and that the path forward will not always be easy. Yet, our faith calls us to persevere, trust in God’s guidance, and remain steadfast in our mission. As we embark on this endeavor, we hope that our efforts will not only enrich the lives of current members but also inspire new individuals and families to join us in worship, service, and fellowship. Let us move forward knowing that together, and with God’s help, we can build a church that truly reflects the love of Christ and meets the needs of our community. Thank you for your ongoing support, prayers, and commitment to Living Lord Lutheran Church. Wishing you all a blessed and joyful New Year!

**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 Evangelism/Membership Committee Chairperson, Barb Wright...**The Evangelism/Membership Committee wishes our church family a prosperous and God's blessings year of 2026. Your generous support of Howland Local Schools Paw Pantry is greatly appreciated! If you have other ideas where we might be able to help others in some way, please let us know. Current members are: Rose Baringer, Bonnie Sanzenbacher, Drena Smith, Denise Scheiner, and Barb Wright. After talking with Charisse Mayhew, the coordinator for Howland Local Schools Paw Pantry, we will be collecting in January and February 2026 all sizes of T-shirts, all sizes of socks, and all sizes of undergarments for younger students in the primary grades. Watch the narthex bulletin board for further details in January 2026. Many thanks for your past generosity and caring. Our Committee will resume taking communion to our homebound members in January 2026. Don't forget we have volunteer members to help get our members in need of transportation to appointments or other necessities. Cards with transportation information are available on the narthex bulletin board. God's blessings for your help and Happy New Year!

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**From the Fellowship Committee Chairperson, Pam Gerbetz...**This is my last Newsletter article since I am taking a break from being the Fellowship Chairperson. It has been my pleasure serving up sweets, food, and friendship to this wonderful congregation. Ernie and I consider this church our family. We found our home here. I will still be a part of the Fellowship Committee by baking and helping out. I just need to address some health issues. Once again, thank you and I hope this year brings only good things to each of you.

**Monthly Women's Breakfast...**Please join us at our monthly breakfast at Vasilio's in Cortland on the second Thursday of every month (**Jan. 8**) at 10:00 am. All are welcome!

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### EVENTS IN JANUARY

Sunday, January 4 – Epiphany of Our Lord Sunday

Thursday, January 8, 10:00 am – Trustees Meeting

Sunday, January 11 – Baptism of Our Lord

Thursday, January 15, 10:00 am – Council in Activity Room

Sunday, January 18 – **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

Sunday, January 25, 11:00 am – 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

31 = Bonnie Sanzenbacher

#### **Anniversaries**