

The Lamp Lighter
February 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
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ADULT FORUM AT 9:00 AM
SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 10:00 AM
CHOIR PRACTICE AT 11:00 AM

From the Pastor, Gerald Gammon...February is upon us! And so are the colder temperatures! (All of you who escaped to Florida and other warmer climates quit smiling!) We aren't going to let cold weather keep us from sharing in fellowship and praising our Lord. No, in fact we are gearing up to do these things more so.

The Lenten Season begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18. Our service will take place at 5:00 pm this year to give those who are still employed a better opportunity to join us after work. The following Wednesday, February 25, is the start of our Lenten Soup Suppers, which will also take place at 5:00 pm. It is my great hope that we have a great turnout for these events, and we can enjoy each other's company, good food, and the praise of our Lord.

Another event that will take place in February is a more contemporary worship service which will be held on February 8. (We hope to do these services on a monthly basis.) While we will still worship our Lord, we will focus more on praising Him and hopefully get closer to Him. These services will include the use of recorded music and maybe eventually live musicians.

Since the weather isn't that inviting, many of us will hunker down in our homes. While doing so, let us make time to pray, read scripture, and ask for God to send His Spirit upon us as we prepare ourselves for the coming celebration of the Resurrected Lord.

Please remember those who have been ill in your prayers. Also, be mindful of those who we don't see on a regular basis. Reach out to them and let them know that they have not been forgotten. You just might be the miracle they have been waiting for!

I also ask that we give thanks for our Church Council (outgoing and incoming). We are truly blessed to have such wonderful people willing to give of their time and talents to help our church continue the mission of Jesus.

I close with this prayer:

Lord God, creator of all that is, please look into the hearts of your people and find what might be distracting them from Your will. Help them to remove all obstacles that keep them from fully enjoying Your love and help them all to be better conduits of the love expressed to us in Jesus, we pray in His most holy name, amen.

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!

From the President, Bob McKinney...The 2026 Council will be installed on Sunday, February 8. The Council Retreat and Meeting will be on Saturday, February 14, at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

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 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 continue collecting in February 2026 all sizes of T-shirts, all sizes of socks, and all sizes of undergarments for younger students in the primary grades. Many thanks for your past generosity and caring. Our Committee will resume taking communion to our homebound members soon. Don't forget we have volunteer members to help getting 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!

From the Fellowship Committee Chairperson, Pam Gerbetz...I hope everyone is coping with Old Man Winter safely. We have been on a roller coaster this winter of snow, then rain, then cold, and then warm. Nature has thrown us a mixed bag this year. This is my last report for a while. I hope everyone has enjoyed our various foods and Fellowships. My undying love to my team and my husband, Ernie, for all of their hard work. All I had to do was ask and they were right there. Those kinds of friends are priceless. Ernie didn't really have a choice. LOL. Please welcome the next chairperson and I will be there to support her when I get through with this health issue. We are a special group of Lutherans and Ernie and I are so thankful we found this church. God's blessings to all.

Monthly Women's Breakfast...Please join us at our monthly breakfast at Vasilio's in Cortland on the second Thursday of every month (**Feb. 12**) at 10:00 am. All are welcome!

Fellowship Sunday...Nancy Walters, the new Fellowship Chairperson, will host Fellowship on **Sunday, February 15**. It will have a Valentine theme. Please plan to attend.

EVENTS IN FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 8, 10:00 am – Contemporary Service/Installation of Council

Saturday, February 14, 10:00 am – Council Retreat & Meeting in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, February 15 – Transfiguration of Our Lord/Fellowship after Service/**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

Wednesday, February 18, 5:00 pm – Ash Wednesday Service

Sunday, February 22 – Lent 1

Wednesday, February 25, 5:00 pm - Soup Supper & Lent Mid-week Service

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

7 = Larry John
8 = Frederick Peachman
10 = Kya Cowell
12 = Rollie Walters
18 = Anthony Brounce
19 = Bill Dillon
25 = Cynthia Griffin
28 = Bonnie Smith

Anniversaries

8 = Lauka, Tom & Pat
19 = Gerbetz, Ernie & Pam
25 = Altieri, Tom & Darlene