



The Messenger

October 2019

**St. Paul's
Evangelical
Lutheran
Church**

3295 S. Union Ave.
Alliance, Ohio 44601
330-823-2285

FROM PASTOR MUSE

FROM "WHY IS IT?" TO "HOW CAN I?"

There are two main ways we engage most situations, either passively or actively.

Passive is when we put the power of the circumstance or outcome in the control of another. It is the responsibility of another to tend to or accomplish a task, and others passively stand by and judge, critique or otherwise have little investment in the circumstance. Examples are comments: "Why is this the way it is?" "Why hasn't this been done, thought of, spoken about?" These thoughts and comments put accountability on another person. The questioner is in a place of judgment about the circumstance or action. We all do this in areas where we inherently have little control; politics, finance, sports. We can also do it in areas of our lives where we have power, but we have chosen to abdicate control or decide to have little investment in a circumstance. Areas such as "Why hasn't this task been done?" "Why aren't I being made to feel the way I want to feel?" The list could go on and on. We passively give over power to another and then judge how the other uses the power we give them.

The second path is an active investment in a circumstance or situation. We actively take power given to us and use it

for a different outcome. We do this by changing how we think or ask about the circumstances surrounding us — doing so in such a way that we claim our power. The shift is simple, but it is very profound. It is moving from the "Why is it/Why isn't it?" questions to "How can I?" question. How can I impact this situation or circumstance? How can I influence this decision or path? "How can I" is an active question containing involvement and investment. How can I influence the decisions made in our country? How can I change the way I feel about myself? How can I move my life forward? How can I?

Jesus invested in this active approach to our relationship with God. Before his birth, people's relationship with God was passive. A believer went to the priest and then left the God-stuff to them. The people were very disconnected and depended on the leader/teacher to do the heavy lifting. Their place with God was passive, and their investment in the kingdom was minimal. Jesus came to bring active participation in the relationship between God and a person. Repentance, acts of piety, grace through faith, carrying the cross, following the savior are all active investments which

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|---|----|
| From Pastor Muse Cont. From Pastor Thompson | 2 |
| Christian Education Thank You Birthdays Eternal Flame Dedication | 3 |
| Music & Worship Outreach Meditation with Pastor | 4 |
| WELCA Church Women United Deborah's Fall Cluster Gathering | 5 |
| October Calendar | 6 |
| Lectionary Readings for October | 7 |
| October Worship Assistants Youth Group | 8 |
| Continuing Events & Activities "Cross"ing | 9 |
| New Church Mailing Address October Council Meeting Oktoberfest | 10 |

Continued from page 1.

lead to the question of "How can I?" How can I be closer to God? How can I aid the coming of the kingdom? How can I speak to God on a more intimate level? How can I?

This vertical shift in our relationship with God also extends horizontally in our interaction with God's community. God has not crafted the church to be a passive place of asking "Why" and letting others do the work. God has crafted the community to be a place of active investment and participation.

When all of the members of God's

community actively invest in the work of the community, with whatever gifts God has instilled in them, the community prospers and grows. When a member sees a need or something missing, God is not waiting for them to ask, "Why." God is seeking the member to ask, "How?" How can I fix this? How can I impact this? How can I make a difference? How can I work to bring about the kingdom in this place? Asking "How?" and acting on the answer, is the active investment God is seeking from every person who comes to the altar of grace.

When you find yourself in God's community and begin to ask "Why" because something is out of place or not prospering, stop and rethink the question. Ask God to transform the question from "Why" to "How." How can I help God? How can I make a difference in your community? How can I make a difference in your kingdom? How can I have an impact? And then listen for the answer, because God will answer that question, much quicker than God will answer the Why.

God's Blessings,
Pastor Muse

FROM PASTOR THOMPSON

BEING A REFORMATION CHURCH IN TIMES OF CULTURAL CHANGE.

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"² He called a child, whom he put among them,³ and said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."⁴ Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.⁵ Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. (Matthew 18:1-5, NRSV)

How open are we to learning? Martin Luther was a life-long student. He pursued answers to the questions and doubts that plagued him. He studied and prayed! He was aware of the world around him and often commented on it. (We now reject some of those comments because of the inherent cultural biases of Luther and his time.)

Yet, we also recognize the power of this quote for Karl Barth, theologian: "Take your Bible and take your newspaper, and read both. But interpret newspapers from your Bible." (Time Magazine, May 1, 1966)— **Karl Barth**

How we read scripture actively influences how we "read and interpret" our current situation. We are called to bring our understanding of God, grace, mercy, and salvation into every part of our lives. This includes how we look at the news, the challenge of providing safety, shelter, and wellness to all people.

We, just like Martin, also carry the biases of our upbringing and culture. We are to be critical of ourselves, and strive not to confuse religious traditions and cultural assumptions with the word of God. It is not an easy task! It is difficult because we need to question ourselves and what we are trained to believe about others and ourselves.

The critical action of self-reflection is to first assume a posture of learning. To be humble enough to accept that we don't have all the answers and can learn from others. Change can only occur when we are willing to let go of long-held beliefs. Jesus spent his time with his disciples beginning this very process in them. To invite them into a new world-view and through that change the ability to reimagine creation, community, faith, and salvation.

God, help us to child-like in faith, hungry for new knowledge and ready to grow in new and unexpected ways! Amen.

Peace,
Pastor Diana Thompson

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Planted in Good Soil, to Grow for God!

Greetings to All!

I hope everyone is enjoying the start of the fall season! Sunday School is in full swing and would love for you to join us! Our teachers have wonderful lessons they would welcome you to take part in! Our Sunday School classes take place from 9:45 am to 10:45 am. Our theme for this year is "Planted in good soil, to grow for God!"

During our Kid's Church program the children discuss God's message of the day, take part in crafts and games, and build relationships with friends! The Kid's Church program starts after the children's time and ends prior to sharing of peace. Students preschool through 5th grade are welcome to

join us for Kid's Church. As a reminder Kid's Church will take place during both services. The only exceptions will be the first Sunday of each month and when the Children's choir sings. We look forward to seeing you!!

Our family fun night will take place on Friday, December 13th! We will have crafts, a movie, and lots of fun!! More detail to follow next month!

With God's Love,

Brianne Black



Thank You!

To Our Church Family,

Dave and I would like to express our gratitude for all the prayers, the donations and the wonderful desserts that were provided for the benefit. We are truly blessed to have each and everyone of you in our lives. Please continue on with the prayers for us, as Dave continues on with treatments.

*God Bless,
Dave and Pat Kinnard.*

I want to take this opportunity to thank my church family and friends for coming to see me, send me cards, flowers and phone calls while I spent a moment in Community Care. A special thank you to Pastor Muse for his comforting words and encouragement, and to Gayle Fiegenschuh for coming and giving me communion several times. From what I have been told its going to be a long slow process but with God's help and my family I will get through this.

In God's love, Barb Plajer

HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

May you enjoy many more and may God bless each one of you in many ways as you enjoy another year in God's grace.

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2 - Beau Siegfried | 14 - Nikki Gorby |
| 2 - Michelle Smith | 15 - Anthony Scott |
| 3 - Betsy Goshorn | 15 - Dorothy Starvaggi |
| 4 - Sherri Scott-Schweninger | 16 - Cindy McClarren |
| 5 - Pat Nelson | 16 - Cecilia Raga |
| 5 - Steven Sedei | 17 - Sarah Leasure |
| 6 - Josh White | 19 - Andrea Huffman |
| 9 - Pamela Leforte | 21 - Traci Raga |
| 10 - Chondra Fassnacht | 23 - Caleb Russell |
| 10 - Austin Mehl | 23 - Owen Schmoyer |
| 10 - Josh Turner | 24 - Margaret Hostettler |
| 11 - Tony Castina | 25 - Richard Essick |
| 11 - Mark Himmelein | 25 - Adrienne O'Neill |
| 12 - Dorothy Aiello | 29 - Everett Baird |
| 12 - Greg Hobe | 29 - Elizabeth Myers |
| 13 - Benjamin Carman | 31 - John Bienz |
| 13 - Jason Siegfried | 31 - Robert Huffman |
| 13 - Brian Shutler | |

The Eternal Flame is given to the glory of God and in thanks for and in celebration of all the Saints before, present and in the future.

By Gayle Fiegenschuh.



MUSIC & WORSHIP

Music & Worship Committee will meet on Tuesday, October 1 at **7:00 pm** in Garnes Hall. Please see Gina Falconer if you are unable to attend.

Choirs have started, but it's not too late to come and join us! Practices are on Thursday evenings. Please see Gina Falconer if you have any questions about singing or ringing with one of St. Paul's choirs!

The Junior Choirs will begin rehearsing on Thursday, October 10. These choirs are for those in grades 2-8. The Singing Angels will rehearse from 5:15 – 5:45 and the KFC Ringers will rehearse from 5:45 – 6:15. Anyone interested in being a part of the Junior Choirs, please come and join us! If you have any questions, please see Gina Falconer.

Our Purpose is to be the Body of Christ.

Reformation Sunday, October 27.

Please remember to wear RED on Reformation Sunday, October 27.

All Saints Sunday, November 3.

On November 3 (All Saints Sunday), we would like to honor the Saints in our lives. Please feel free to bring a photo of a Saint from your life. During the service you will have an opportunity to bring the photo forward to honor them as a Saint in your life.



Meditation

Groups

Thursday, October 3, at 10:30 am.

Tuesday, October 15, at 7:00 pm.

No experience is required. Wear comfortable clothes and bring an open heart and mind.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

“Undie Sundays”

A popular ministry of the congregation.

During the month of October we will be addressing this need within the Alliance School Community. The schools have asked for girls and boys underwear sizes 6, 8, 10, and some 14 and 16. Socks and leggings/sweatpants of all sizes are also needed. All items gathered will be distributed as needed to the elementary schools within the district.

The designated container will be at the back of Garnes Hall to receive all donations you wish to make.

As always, if you want to contribute to this mission and are unable to do the shopping yourself, monetary donations are always welcome. Make contact with any member of the Community Outreach Committee and we will do your shopping for you. Thanks in advance for your support.

DEBORAH'S

The Deborah's will meet on October 11 at 12:00 pm in Garnes Hall. All women are invited to come and enjoy in fellowship and good food!

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Church Women United will gather at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 427 East Broadway (with parking behind the church) at 1:00 pm on October 4.

Robin Cain will present "Early Learning Program." Attendees are asked to bring nonperishable snacks for the Flight Packs given to students at Northside Elementary School.

The Board will meet at 11:30 am.



Women of the ELCA Canton Massillon Cluster Fall Gathering *For Such a Time.*

Saturday, November 9, 2019
9:00 am – 2:00 pm

This gathering is open to all women. No preregistration required. Cost is \$5.00 per person.

Lunch is a salad potluck (each church is asked to bring a salad for every three people attending).

The speaker is Lora Wyss – Hartville Migrant Ministry. A hymn sing will be lead by Shari Mosely. Bible study on Queen Esther lead by Nancy McKnight.

Join other women of faith at Advent Lutheran Church, 1516 Edison St. Uniontown, Ohio.



The WELCA Envelopes are very important source of funds for our work in the church community. We give to several area charities, such as the Salvation Army, Child Development Day Care, Domestic Violence Shelter, and the Alliance Pregnancy Center. When we host special events, that money is donated to a local charity needing help. Please help us with your support.

October 2019

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| | | 1 7:00 pm Church Committee Meetings | 2 10:30 am Open Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist 5:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Open Bible Study | 3 9:30 am Pack Quilts 10:30 am Meditation with Pastor 5:30 pm Children's Choir 6:15 pm Joybells 7:15 pm Chancel Choir | 4 1:00 pm Church Women United | 5 5:00 pm Crossing Casual Worship 6:00 pm Fellowship Dinner |
| 6 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Fellowship Hour 9:45 am Sunday school 11:00 am Worship 12:30 am Chapel Communion | 7 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Grief Support Group | 8 7:00 pm Gift & Ministry Support Committee | 9 5:30 pm Youth Group No Bible Study No Midweek Eucharist | 10 5:15 pm Singing Angels 5:30 pm Children's Choir 5:45 pm KFC Ringers 6:15 pm Joybells 7:15 pm Chancel Choir | 11 12:00 pm Deborah's | 12 |
| 13 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Fellowship Hour 9:45 am Sunday school 11:00 am Worship | 14 | 15 7:00 pm Meditation with Pastor | 16 10:30 am Open Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist 5:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Open Bible Study | 17 5:15 pm Singing Angels 5:30 pm Children's Choir 5:45 pm KFC Ringers 6:15 pm Joybells 7:15 pm Chancel Choir | 18 | 19 8:30 am Men's Breakfast 5:00 pm Oktoberfest |
| 20 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Fellowship Hour 9:45 am Sunday school 11:00 am Worship 1:00 pm Youth Sunday Newsletter Items Due | 21 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm Grief Support Group | 22 4:30 pm Alliance Community Dinner | 23 10:30 am Open Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist 5:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Open Bible Study | 24 5:15 pm Singing Angels 5:30 pm Children's Choir 5:45 pm KFC Ringers 6:15 pm Joybells 7:15 pm Chancel Choir | 25 | 26 11:00 am Thompson Garnes Hall |
| 27 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Fellowship Hour 9:45 am Sunday school 11:00 am Worship | 28 | 29 | 30 10:30 am Open Bible Study 12:00 pm Midweek Eucharist 5:30 pm Youth Group 7:00 pm Open Bible Study | 31 5:15 pm Singing Angels 5:30 pm Children's Choir 5:45 pm KFC Ringers 6:15 pm Joybells 7:15 pm Chancel Choir | Next Church Council Meeting November 12 | |

OCTOBER 2019—THE WORD OF GOD IN WORSHIP

October 6, 2019

TIME AFTER PENTECOST—LECTIONARY 27

INTRODUCTION

A little faith goes a long way is our Lord's point in the gospel. A mustard seed's-worth has miraculous potential. The patience, tenacity, and endurance required for the life of faith are the blessings received in water and the word (holy baptism), bread and wine (holy communion), the word read and proclaimed in this assembly. Anticipate them. Receive them with thanksgiving.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Benevolent, merciful God: When we are empty, fill us. When we are weak in faith, strengthen us. When we are cold in love, warm us, that with fervor we may love our neighbors and serve them for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

READINGS AND PSALM, Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4, Psalm 37:1-9, *Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust in the LORD. (Ps. 37:5)*, 2 Timothy 1:1-14, Luke 17:5-10,

October 13, 2019

TIME AFTER PENTECOST—LECTIONARY 28

INTRODUCTION

It's a miracle! Multiple miracles! The waters of holy baptism have healed us. The body and blood of Jesus in holy communion have made us clean. We have died with Christ and been raised with him. For all this we have returned to offer thanks. From this place we are sent on our way rejoicing to share the good news.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and most merciful God, your bountiful goodness fills all creation. Keep us safe from all that may hurt us, that, whole and well in body and spirit, we may with grateful hearts accomplish all that you would have us do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

READINGS AND PSALM 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c, Psalm 111, *I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart. (Ps. 111:1)*, 2 Timothy 2:8-15, Luke 17:11-19

October 20, 2019

TIME AFTER PENTECOST—LECTIONARY 29

INTRODUCTION

Pray always. Do not lose heart. This is the encouragement of the Christ of the gospel today. Persistence in our every encounter with the divine will be blessed. Wrestle with the word. Remember your baptism again and again. Come regularly to Christ's table. Persistence in our every encounter with the divine will be blessed.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

READINGS AND PSALM Genesis 32:22-31, Psalm 121, *My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth. (Ps. 121:2)*, 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5, Luke 18:1-8

October 27, 2019

REFORMATION SUNDAY

INTRODUCTION

On this day we celebrate the heart of our faith: the gospel of Christ—the good news—that makes us free! We pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to unite the church today in its proclamation and witness to the world. In the waters of baptism we are made one body; we pray for the day that all Christians will also be one at the Lord's table.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

READINGS AND PSALM Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 46, *The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. (Ps. 46:7)*, Romans 3:19-28, John 8:31-36

| Lectors | 8:30 | 11:00 | Acolytes | 8:30 | 11:00 |
|------------|--------------|-------------------|------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| October 6 | Kevin Hoopes | Sue Grove | October 6 | Kyle Hoopes Owen Hoopes | Travis Franklin Katie Thompson |
| October 13 | Pat Nelson | Gayle Fiegenschuh | October 13 | Emily Owens | Bergen Rhome |
| October 20 | Art Garnes | Mark Himmelein | October 20 | Ben Craig | Owen Sutton |
| October 27 | Trudy Mehl | Gayle Fiegenschuh | October 27 | Bergen Rhome Ben Craig | Abigail Guthrie Karen Guthrie |

| Greeters | 8:30 | 11:00 | Ushers | 8:30 | 11:00 |
|------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| October 6 | Greg Brookes Cathy Brookes | Karen Wolfe Bonnie Holland | October 6 | Art Garnes Cindy Garnes | Josh Falconer John Wolfe |
| October 13 | Jerry Valentine Jan Valentine | Tim Owens Debbie Owens | October 13 | Bob Williams Kyle Hoopes | Aaron Owens Liam Turner |
| October 20 | Craig Henschen Sue Henschen | Jeff Webb Norita Webb | October 20 | Mark Hostettler Michael Knapik | Jack Esterly Barb Esterly |
| October 27 | Pat Nelson Dorothy Aiello | Bob Williams Mary Lou Williams | October 27 | Art Garnes Cindy Garnes | Kevin Palmer Adee Palmer |

| Coffee Hour Hosts | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| October 6 | Brian and Janice Marschinke |
| October 13 | Joan Boyce and Diana Cullen |
| October 20 | Jeff and Norita Webb |
| October 27 | Dwight and JoAnn Brenner |



Youth and Children Sunday will be October 20.

We will go to Arrowhead Orchards on Route 172 in Paris for a time of apple picking, pumpkin picking and fall family activities. We will meet at the church at 1:00 pm and travel to the orchard or you can go to the orchard separately. We will plan to be back at the church by 3:15 pm. Join us for this fun family activity.

Wednesday Youth Group

All youth 5th—12th grade and their friends are invited to our weekly Youth Group. Dinner served at 5:30 pm and we conclude at 7:00 pm.

- October 2 Pride
- October 9 Confidence
- October 16 Integrity
- October 23 Social Media
- October 30 Halloween

CONTINUING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

PASTOR'S SUNDAY ADULT CLASS

Pastor Muse leads an adult class every Sunday morning. It is in the room next to the bathrooms on the main floor, room #3. Pastor Muse is leading an 8 week study based on "The Storm Inside" by Sheila Walsh. This study will focus on trading chaos for identity with God. It is not too late to join us!

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Sign up for *The Weekly Messenger* on our website www.LivingBody.org or text 4STPAULS to 22828.

MEDITATION WITH PASTOR

Meditation with Pastor is Thursday, October 3 at 10:30 am and Tuesday, October 15 at 7:00 pm. Join us for this powerful time. No experience is needed, just come in comfortable cloths with an open heart.

MID-WEEK EUCHARIST

Mid-week Eucharist. Join us every Wednesday at noon in the chapel for a time of word, prayer and Eucharist. **There will be no Midweek Eucharist on October 9.**

INK CARTRIDGE RECYCLING

We continue to collect used ink cartridges and toner cartridges. This is a great way to help offset the cost of

COMMUNITY SERVICE SUNDAY

There will be no community activity Sunday in October. See you in November.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday November 24th at 10:00 am

office supplies. Our box is running low so please contribute. There is a donation box in Garnes Hall.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Breakfast is **Saturday, October 19 at 8:30 am**. Breakfast menu: Egg Casserole. The topic is the importance of men's health. If you would like to be on the text reminder list, please text Pastor Tim at 330-409-5775, comment Men's Breakfast.

REMINDER OF HOSPITAL ADMITTANCE

Due to the change in confidentiality regulations the hospital is no longer allowed to contact churches when a member is admitted. If you are admitted to the hospital please make sure you indicate you are a member of St. Paul's and contact the church office so we know of your time in the hospital.

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study will continue in October with the group studying the Gospel of Matthew. We gather every Wednesday at 10:30 am and 7:00 pm in the Welcome Center. Everyone is invited to join. **There will be no Bible Study on October 9.**

FIRST SATURDAY MEAL AT "CROSS"ING

Join us at the "Cross"ing on Saturday, October 5 at 5:00 pm for our casual worship service in the pavilion.

Following the service, we will have our first Saturday meal and fellowship time. This month we are planning Baked Potato Bar.

Tableware and drinks will be provided.



ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

3295 S. Union Ave
Alliance, OH 44601

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*Our purpose is to
be the living body
of Jesus Christ!*



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Find us online!
www.LivingBody.org
www.facebook.com/St.Pauls.Alliance
www.twitter.com/PaulLutheran
www.instagram.com/St.PaulsAlliance

The Reverend Timothy H. Muse - Lead Pastor
The Reverend Diana Thompson - Administrative Pastor
Rhonda Ferrall - Secretary
Kathy Sloan - Organist
Gina M. Falconer - Director of Music
Brianna L. Black - Director of Christian Education
Gayle B. Fiegenschuh - Communion Minister and Visitation

Stay informed and sign up for *The Weekly Messenger* email on our website, Facebook page, or text 4STPAULS to 22828.

**NEW MAILING
ADDRESS
FOR THE
CHURCH**

We are now receiving mail directly to the church building. **Send mail to** 3295 S. Union Ave., Alliance, OH 44601

***THE WEEKLY
MESSENGER***

Keep up-to-date with our weekly e-newsletter.

Sign up by texting 4STPAUL to 22828 or register through our website. The button is on our homepage.

**NEXT CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING**

**NOVEMBER 12, 2019
7:00 PM**

Reminder: Council meets very other month on the odd numbered months!

**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
4TH ANNUAL FAMILY OKTOBERFEST**

Saturday, October 19, 2019

5:00-9:00 pm

Church Pavilion



Brats, hot dogs, buns, water, punch, plates and silverware provided. Bring a German food or dessert to share (Examples: schnitzel, sauerkraut, potato salad, potato pancakes, pretzels, strudel, etc.) Bring a lawn chair and drinks other than water and punch (Alcoholic beverages are permitted).