

Covenant News



November 2020

Pastor's Spin



As long as you promise not to tell, we've been committing a crime against the liturgical police the last few years. Instead of celebrating Christ the King Sunday (the last Sunday before Advent commences), like the overwhelming majority of our Lutheran and plenty other sister congregations do, we have worshiped with a Day of Thanksgiving focus. I'm not sure many of you noticed, or even care all that much, but it's worth making sure we're all on the same page in case those aforementioned liturgical police ever do show up that late Sunday in November (I don't know for sure that they do, in fact, exist, but plenty of other pastors bring them up in casual conversation, so who knows?).

I'll be honest: I'm the culprit. I started doing this with the first congregation I served with out of seminary. When it came to the whole Day of Thanksgiving worship, we tried doing so that respective Wednesday evening (the day before the actual national holiday). Let's just say not too many people showed up. Evidently, people like to start preparing the meal early or something. We even tried it that Tuesday, but again, not too many showed up. Evidently, it takes a couple days to clean and prepare who knows what for family to come, or they may have to travel to distant places or something. We could have just complained about it: "another way the overall culture/society is putting anything and everything before worship and God, along with soccer practices and work-related whatever," or we could bend the liturgical rules and acknowledge we can celebrate a Day of Thanksgiving together as a family in Christ the Sunday before or after the national holiday (as if we can be thankful beyond a single day or something).

I've come to believe there's something rather special about focusing on that giving-of-thanks that Sunday before what turns out to be one of the craziest weeks of the entire year. It has a way of giving us all the space and time to take a collective sigh, that Holy-Spirit-empowered kind of sigh that's too deep for words: to mentally and spiritually prepare ourselves for a time that will have its nagging way of obsessing over anything and everything except the peaceful and the beautiful and the wonderful of this world, including the God (the Emmanuel) amidst it all. I don't know that it works for everyone. Who knows? Maybe some would prefer the good 'ole Christ the King Sunday. But sometimes we need the sacred reminder to not forget the actual giving-of-thanks amidst the cleaning, food-preparing and down-right anxiety-filled stressing.

Of course, we could make the argument that we should just be doing a Day of Thanksgiving pretty much every Sabbath opportunity now amidst this COVID-19 landscape: to help us keep on being grateful for the many aspects of life that remain intact in spite of a global pandemic. Then again, every opportunity we have to connect with God is an opportunity to be thankful. Well, actually, every moment of our life is an opportunity to be thankful. As far as I know, we don't have a set limit pre-determined by God in our spiritual DNA.

Regardless, as a community of faith, a family in Christ who has been put through the emotional and spiritual ringer this year (as have many others throughout the world), we'll take Sunday, November 22, as a collective opportunity, as a sacred privilege to give thanks to this steadfast cup-runneeth-over God. We'll take a precious sigh together to hear, feel and even taste that this God is sticking it out with us no matter what; that not even a cross could stop our crown-of-thorns-wearing King. It may not be the same Thanksgiving this year, but it will still be one to be thankful for, for the (and our) Greatest News brought to life in Jesus Christ, our still-Risen Savior and Lord. *Thanks* be to God, indeed!

In Christ,
Pastor Brad

From all of us at the Lutheran Church of the Covenant, we wish you and yours a wonderful Thanksgiving, no matter how you may gather!





11/1 Don Rusher Jr

11/12 Dave Gaglione

11/2 Matt Marik

11/14 Lois Williams

11/3 Donna Franz

11/26 Vince Besednjak

11/3 Steve Senderak

11/29 Emily Garberich

11/7 Donna Kobella

11/30 Dylan King



*11/17 Elaine & Keary Knerem
Happy 46th Anniversary*



We hope to continue worshipping together for in-person public worships from our sanctuary. **However, the consensus of our Covenant church council is if Cuyahoga County is deemed a Level 4 (purple) from the Ohio Public Health Advisory System map, which is often shown during Governor DeWine's weekly press conference, we will pause our in-person public worships until that level decreases.** We will continue to do our part in providing the safest environment possible knowing the risk for those with pre-existing health conditions and compromised immune systems. We want everyone who worships with us to feel safe, so that they may focus on worshipping God with their whole heart. When we do worship together in-person, we will continue the following protocols:

- You will be asked to wear a mask the entire time you are in the church building (unless you have a health condition that prevents you from doing so).
- Worship will be made shorter with the lack of air flow in the sanctuary during the fall and winter months.
- Bulletins and individual Communion elements in plastic cups will be available for you to pick up as you enter the back of the sanctuary.
- An offering basket will also be in the back of the sanctuary for you to drop your offerings into, as there will not be a time during worship for offering plates to be passed around.
- Blue X's have been placed in front of the pews to mark where we encourage you to sit to maintain physical distancing from those who are not of your household/family. Each spot also has hand sanitizer bottles on that respective pew.
- We will not be singing together as a congregation, as more published scientific studies reveal the harm with the potential spreading of aerosols/droplets.
- Also, for the bold print in the bulletin, we ask you speak in a whisper voice as opposed to speaking loudly as a group for the prayers of intercession responses, the Lord's Prayer, etc.
- There will not be a processional or recessional of the cross, as well as no receiving line after worship with Pastor Brad. If you have anything you wish to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact him.

We understand this may seem extreme, but we will always err on the side of caution for our Covenant family's health and safety, including your individual family and friends whom you may come in contact with during the week. We greatly appreciate your patience and understanding as we take on this unique journey together with God's help to be sure. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our Covenant council members.



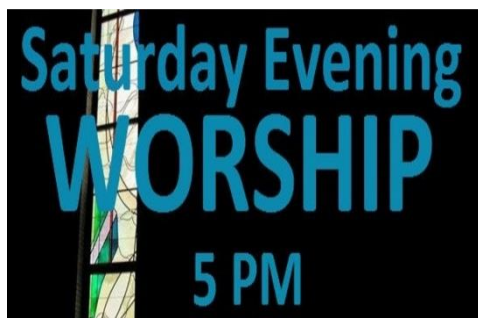
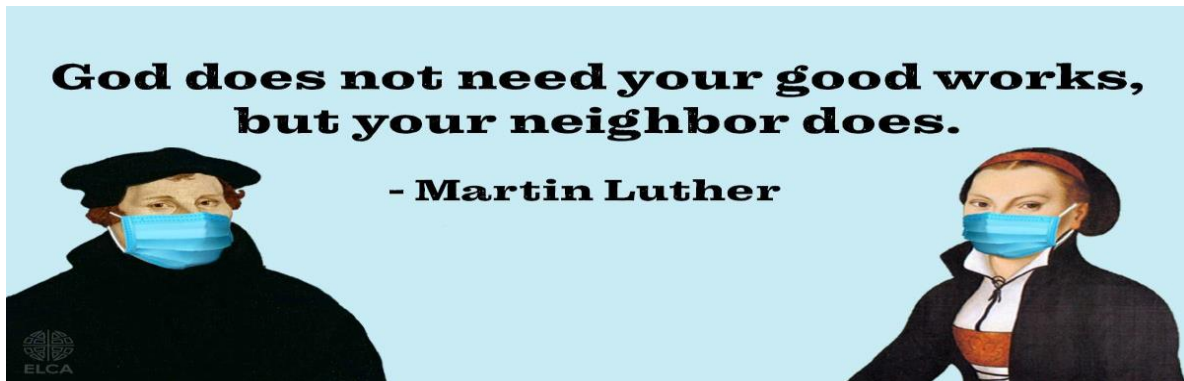
Our semi-annual congregational meeting that we often hold in October will, instead, be done Sunday, November 15, immediately after the worship in the sanctuary.

On Sunday, November 22, our worship together will be a Day of Thanksgiving for the many blessings that still remain in our life.



If we do need to pause our in-person public worship:

- We will notify you through the Covenant phone call groups that we put together back in March, as well as through e-mail, our Facebook page and our website.
- We hope to record worship with only the worship leaders present in the sanctuary and upload it to our Facebook page as well as our website, hopefully in time for Sunday morning.
- The bulletin for the upcoming worship will be e-mailed to you and will be uploaded to the website. A PDF of the sermon will also be uploaded to the website.
- Regardless of how we worship, if you are in need of groceries or other essential items that you do not feel comfortable getting yourself, please do not hesitate to contact your Covenant group, Jen at the church office or Pastor Brad.



As of right now, we plan on re-starting our Saturday worships (5pm), beginning Saturday, December 5, and continuing the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month from the sanctuary.

On November 25, the wider church commemorates Isaac Watts, an English minister, theologian, as well as hymn-writer of hundreds, ten of which are in our *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) hymnal. One is “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross,” for which he is responsible for the following words (ELW 803):

- 1 When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss
and pour contempt on all my pride.
- 2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.
- 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e’er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?
- 4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.



Isaac Watts
Born: July 17, 1674
Died: November 25, 1748

Greetings to all members of the congregation!

Recently I became involved in the Lake County Messiah Chorus, which has presented a full (or nearly full) annual presentation of Handel's glorious oratorio, The Messiah, since 1949! This year, for the first time, they have been forced to cancel the production due to the pandemic. As a result, the steering committee has been looking at other ways to continue to offer the beauty and inspiration of this wonderful music. For example, a radio broadcast of the CD of the 2016 concert is in the works for Christmas day on several local stations.



They have also asked choir members to contact their own churches and ask that they offer links to YouTube videos (disk 1 and disk 2) of the 2012 production. Following are the links:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6_GL4nfvb9E

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1di-WXyadw0>

You can also go to the chorus website to pick up the hyperlinks: www.messiahchorus.com

There is no cost to listen via these links, or on the radio. However, if you are so moved and able, donations are happily accepted to make up for the freewill offering collected at the concerts and patron ads placed in the program.

Messiah Chorus of Lake County 1121 Riverside Dr. Painesville, OH 44077

Thank you so much for your support and have a blessed Advent/Christmas season!

-Robin

St. Nicholas Festival

The St. Nicholas Festival is free and open to all children of the community. We will be doing a virtual St. Nick night this year. Children need to be registered by an adult for this event and have internet access.



Friday, December 4 is the deadline for registration and is required. Space is limited to the first 48 registrants, children ages 3 - 8th grade. Please contact the church office to register: CovenantLC@sbcglobal.net or 216-662-0370

Advent activity kits can be picked up the week of December 7th –December 11th, at the church office with timeslots confirmed by Jen. A YouTube video with instructions, and a special message from Bishop Nicholas, will be on our YouTube channel for your crafts.

CALLED TO BE SAINTS



Richard Nemeth

February 14, 1942 - October 29, 2019

Richard Nemeth was very dedicated to and active in the church. He was vice-president of the church council, a Eucharistic minister, and you could often find him at the Farmers' Market volunteering. He was the ultimate family man. He loved his wife more than anything on earth and was the best father any

two children could have. He then became the proud grandfather of his three beloved grandchildren. He passed away peacefully in his sleep surrounded by his family. We miss his laughter and love daily, but find great comfort knowing he is at peace, finding relief from the pain his illness caused, lovingly cradled in God's compassionate arms.

- Laura Mele



Dorothy Devorak

April 7, 1921 - December 8, 2019

Dorothy Devorak was a wonderful woman. She was a nurse and very devoted to family. After she graduated from nursing school, she began her nursing career in California working for a doctor there. When her father passed away, and her mother needed assistance, she returned to Cleveland to take care of her. It was at this point she began working at the Cleveland Clinic

for Dr. Burkfeld in the sports medicine center. She loved telling us stories about the Cleveland Browns when they would come in.

Dorothy loved to travel, and she especially loved to go to New York and see the Broadway plays. She enjoyed Ireland and visiting all the villages there. She was quite the conversationalist and loved to talk to people of all ages. She kept in contact with many friends throughout the years and loved writing to them as well as speaking on the phone. When Dorothy retired, she volunteered for the Arthritis Foundation, and also volunteered to work at church for the rummage sale.

- Roni Basler



Marion Lick

April 28, 1925 - February 8, 2020

Marion Lick (nee Haller) was born on April 28, 1925. She married Edward Lick on May 19, 1945 and had three children Denise, Lori and Nancy. She had three grandchildren, Matthew, Lindsey, Michael and six great grandchildren, Lucas, Landon, Lorelei, Mischa, Mattelyn and Delphine. She was a devoted member of

Lutheran Church of the Covenant and served on Altar Guild, in the nursery, Directress of Vacation Bible School, Sunday School Secretary, on the Miriam Circle and Assistant Financial Secretary.



Greta Kause

August 10, 1922 - March 10, 2020

Greta May Kause (nee Hart), was born on August 10, 1922, in Sandelheath, England. The Hart family was a very Christian family and brought their children up in the Methodist faith. When Greta was in her teens, she finished her schooling and got a job as a kitchen maid in a

large manor house. Greta would ride her bicycle over 20 miles to go home and visit her family.

World War II had begun, so she got a job closer to her home as a house maid at a doctor's home. During this time is when she met her soon-to-be husband, Adelbert, who was stationed in the same town. In 1944, Greta and Del were married and soon there was a newborn son. Del was sent to France for D-Day and later fought at the Battle of the Bulge, where he was wounded and sent back to the United States, but not before visiting his new wife and son. Greta's faith and prayers and her family gave her strength during this time of her life.

In 1946, Greta, now a "war bride", made the trip over to the United States with her 18-month-old son. She brought with her the Methodist hymnal that she was given as a gift. She left behind all she ever knew of her life in England to her new life with a new family in Cleveland, Ohio. This was very difficult for her, but her love for her husband and family and a lot of prayers kept Greta going. They proceeded to have three more children and managed to buy a home in Maple Heights in 1952. Greta had to find a church to bring her family, and Zion Lutheran Church was up the street so they all could walk there if there was no transportation available. They all became members and were confirmed at Zion. Greta was so proud of her voice and singing her hymns loud and clear. Maybe not choir material, but it didn't matter. She also was very active with their Dorcas Society.

Greta kept close to her English family and friends all through her 74 years in America and made many visits back to her homeland. Those trips always included every Sunday going back to the Methodist chapel. After retiring from Rockside School and Benjamin Moore where she worked as a cook in the kitchens, Greta and Del moved to Florida for six years. In 1986, they returned back to their children where they settled into their apartment in Bedford, Ohio. Greta, then, joined The Lutheran Church of the Covenant and looked forward to attending with her daughter, Karen.

Greta's life ended on March 10, 2020. She left behind four children, eight grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren. Her husband, Del, passed on June 6, 2003. Greta was such a strong, Christian woman, which helped her through her last days of her life. She was at peace with herself and was looking forward to meeting her Lord Jesus Christ. During those days, we would sing her favorite hymns to her out of her Methodist Hymnal and pray with her. Her family is such a great example of the Christian life she lived. We all are the people we are, because of our loving mom.

- Karen Zack



Margaret Kriynovich

November 26, 1926 - May 1, 2020

The daughter of Hungarian immigrants, raised on the East side of Cleveland, she married her husband Ernest and settled in Maple Heights, raising three sons and a daughter. This is the cornerstone from which our family has grown. She developed an innate strength that came

from experiencing life events such as the Great Depression, World War II, the loss of 12 siblings and her own parents, sending her oldest son to Vietnam, her husband's passing and surviving a stroke in her early 60's. Her resilience resulted in a beautiful and full 93 years of life of which we all have been privileged to be a part of. Her life was centered around her devout faith and she dedicated over 50 years to teaching children every Sunday morning at Lutheran Church of the Covenant, touching thousands of lives who passed through her classroom. She also was a devoted wife and mother, who eventually became a grandmother to seven and great grandmother to 10. She was most proud of the fact that all seven of her grandchildren were college graduates. We have no doubt that, as a faithful servant of our Lord, she is resting peacefully with him.

- The loving family of Marge Kriynovich



George Lautanen

May 30, 1923 - August 27, 2020

George was born in New Lyme, Ohio and met Eleanor at New Lyme High School. They married in 1943 and then were separated by World War II. When George came home, uninjured but having lost a brother in the war, they set up housekeeping in a government apartment. George attended Fenn College (now evolved into Cleveland State University) and earned his bachelor's degree in engineering.

The two of them were now a family of five. They purchased a house in Warrensville Heights and provided a cozy home and fun yard and neighborhood for daughters Janet, Linda and Nancy (Anna). George commuted downtown each

day, moving up in his career and becoming a projects manager for H.K. Ferguson, specializing in HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning,) The next house was a ranch on 1.5 acres in Walton Hills. All three daughters graduated from Bedford High School and went on to get college degrees. George had a number of interesting projects for his company, including those for Frito-Lay in Texas, several for Anheuser-Busch, and one that had him up on the roof of the collapsed Pontiac Silverdome in Detroit.

Through the years he provided a place for his dying mother-in-law and later welcomed his father-in-law to live in their home and continue his vegetable gardening. For fun, he played golf, and the family took vacations in various places in the eastern United States, including the Great Smoky Mountains and the 1965 New York World's Fair. He and Eleanor twice visited Europe and made numerous trips to Florida to visit relatives or play golf with his buddies. He was also a dedicated bowler. He drove himself to the bowling alley every Tuesday until late last fall. This past May, he was on the championship team.

George was an attentive host, always making sure family get-togethers and special events were welcoming. Most of all, he was the guy who was there for his family, his friends, his church and the larger world. He gave a variety of assistance to older family members and to many charitable organizations. When people talk about "a life well lived," they are talking about George. We, his family, are grateful that he was in our lives for so many years. He has been a rock and an inspiration to us. He remains in our hearts.

- Linda Glover



Pastor Omar Stuenkel

July 20, 1920 - June 12, 2020

He was born near Concordia, Missouri, on July 20, 1920. His education was in Lutheran schools and colleges. He graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and was ordained a Lutheran pastor in Dayton, WA in 1945. On February 5 of that year he had married Elaine Schulz of Faribault. Their union resulted in four children: David Carl (and Judy), Omar T. Jr. (and Joy), Rita Marie (and Dennis Schmidt), and Edward Lewis (and Mary

Beth). In November 1979 Omar married Pearl Rueber of Owatonna, Minnesota. Her children, Lynn (and Kerwin) Palan and Roger, became cherished stepchildren. Omar has nine grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren plus two step grandchildren, six step great-grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren.

After his pastoral service in Dayton, WA, Omar successively served Concordia College, Portland, OR; Calvary Church, Portland, OR; Zion Church, Fairbanks, AK (as founding pastor); the Lutheran Witness, St. Louis, MO; Lutheran Church of the Covenant, Maple Heights, OH; Prairie Church, Eden Prairie, MN; and , concomitantly, as an editor at Augsburg Publishing House, Minneapolis, MN. After retirement in 1986 he served as interim pastor at various times at Trinity Church, Owatonna; Oakland Church, Oakland; and Trinity Church, Albert Lea; all in Minnesota.

Omar is the author of several books and many articles and sermon studies published by Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis and by Augsburg Publishing House, Minneapolis. He was an avid reader, a good gardener, and eager fisherman and small game hunter. For 17 years he and his wife, Pearl, owned a lake cottage in northern Minnesota. After retirement they lived successively in Owatonna, MN; Bella Vista, AR; and Coeur d'Alene, ID and Spokane Valley, WA.





Adopt-A-Turkey

Southeast Clergy Hunger Center Thanksgiving Food Drive

The Southeast Clergy Hunger Center continues to feed families and individuals in increasing numbers. Because the U.S. Department of Agriculture is giving less food to the Cleveland Foodbank, the Hunger Center's funds do not go as far. As a result, the Center is asking member congregations to consider an "Adopt-a-Turkey" drive to provide turkeys for the families at Thanksgiving and Christmas.



To that end, Covenant has established an "Adopt-a-Turkey" fund. On average, turkeys run from \$12 to \$14 dollars each. If you feel so moved, please make a contribution to the Southeast Clergy Hunger Center, either directly or through the Lutheran Church of the Covenant. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

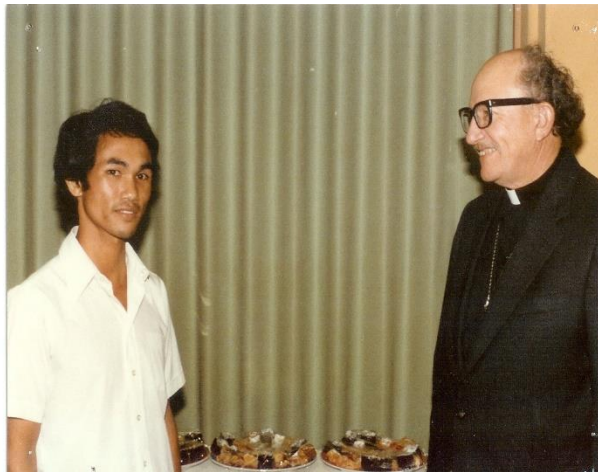
The Lutheran Church of the Covenant

November 2020

Server Schedule	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10/31/2020 AG: Werner, Copeland, Hohenstein	1 All Saints Sunday 9:00 Eucharist	2	3 7:00 Worship & Music Meeting	4	5	6	7
11/7/2020 AG: Senderak, Rusher, Susaneck	8 9:00 Eucharist	9	10 7:00 Council Meeting	11	12	13	14
11/14/2020 AG: Senderak, Rusher, Susaneck	15 9:00 Eucharist	16	17	18	19	20	21
11/21/2020 AG: Garvin, Zahn, Garberich	22 Thanksgiving Service 9:00 Eucharist	23	24	25	26 Office closed for Thanksgiving Weekend	27 Office closed for Thanksgiving Weekend	28
11/28/2020 AG: Garvin, Zahn, Garberich	29 9:00 Eucharist	30	Dec 1	Dec 2	Dec 3	Dec 4 St. Nick Night Deadline	Dec 5 Saturday Eucharist at Covenant

Covenant News

The Lutheran Church of the Covenant
19000 Libby Road, Maple Heights, Ohio 44137



Lutheran Church of the Covenant sponsored this family from Laos in 1980. One of the many ministries Pastor Stuenkel encouraged and supported while serving as our pastor.

