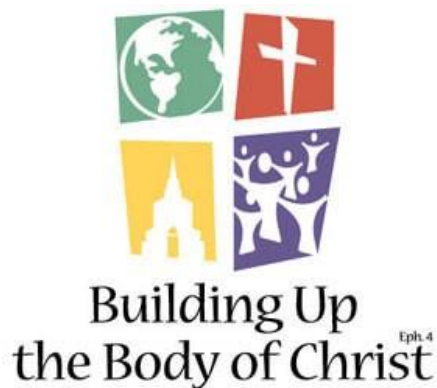


Covenant News



July 2022

Pastor's Spin



Sibling in Christ

Greetings! Although I'm sure Sunday, July 3, will be a day of barbeques and other celebrations, or perhaps, preparing for the fun activities the next day; July 3 is also the time when the church recognizes good 'ole Thomas...aka Doubting Thomas, for many. Nevertheless, it's rather interesting that one of the Scripture readings applied to his special day is Ephesians 4:11-16:

The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the

body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knitted together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love. (NRSV)

So, when connecting that line of thinking to the story in the Gospel of John, after the Resurrection, in which Thomas (in)famously says, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe" (20:25), can such a dubbed-Doubting Thomas be part of the "building up the body of Christ?" Can we, who have questions, who have our fair share of doubts, who aren't so sure about the earthly, let alone Divine, things; can such not-fully-certain us be part of the "building up the body of Christ?"

Isn't there something to be said about "speaking the truth" about our questions and doubts "in love," not only in the sense of wanting to dig deeper into this mind-boggling never-ending-grace God, but wanting to reassure all the rest of us Thomases that yeah...it's okay to not have this all figured out. We don't have to reach a certain level of intellectual knowledge or unflinching trust to be grafted into the precious body of Christ. God has already knitted all us questioners and doubters together with a love that can never be taken away from us in Jesus Christ. And even though we are part of that family in Christ, we will be "tossed to and fro" with our uncertainties about eternity, about God's presence in the world, "Why do bad things happen to good people?" and more. Nevertheless, God's holy knitting of all us essential ligaments will not be torn apart.

Not all of us have the gifts to be a Thomas, who supposedly ends up going to India to spread the Great News of hope and new life in Jesus Christ, but we still have been fully equipped with the Holy Spirit to make an impact on the all-around "body's growth in building itself up in love." *In love*, for sure: no judgement, no guilt, no shaming, for having questions or doubts. No looking down upon our siblings in Christ for being human. Granted, we can encourage one another to do better in how we treat children of God near and far away, but we encourage *in love*, to be sure. It remains a work in progress, but a most *holy work* in progress, so that we ligaments do not resort to tearing each other apart, but building one another up with the same resilient love that took on sin and death and won the victory for us all, in Jesus Christ, our still-Risen Lord. Thanks be to God, indeed!

In Christ,
Pastor Brad



For the months of July and August, on Sunday mornings, we will worship outside! Bulletins and Communion will be available to be picked up by the side office door, and you will be invited to remain in your car or bring your own lawn chair, and enjoy the Creation, as we praise the still-Creating God! If the weather does not cooperate for any of those Sundays in July and August, we will move into the sanctuary for that morning.

Happy BirthDay

7/1 Chuck Dickey

7/10 Keary Knerem Sr.

7/1 Joyce Mihalek

7/10 Amber Kyle

7/3 Rosa Garnett

7/21 Kristine Sandor

7/9 Linda Allende

7/25 Mark Gabor

7/9 Emily Knerem



7/2 Jennifer & Chris Constant

Happy 11th Anniversary

7/12 Nicole & Jeff Garvin

Happy 13th Anniversary!



We have started updating our Covenant congregation directory, not only with revised phone numbers, email and physical/mailling addresses, but also including pictures with this one as well. However, we're going to try something new this time around. Instead of having you come to Covenant for an appointment with a photographer, we're inviting you to send in your own picture of

yourself, you and your loved one, or your family. This does not have to be professionally done. Feel free to make it your own. Make it fun and creative, if you like. Take it outside in nature. Include your pets, if you want. It can be in-the-moment laughter. We would like this to be an enjoyable Covenant family project for the summer. Then, you can send the picture in via email, mail, or dropping it off at the church. If you need help taking a picture, please contact Jen at the church office, and we will be happy to make arrangements to do so.



We join our siblings in Christ of Church of the Master for another summer of Picnic & Praise on Wednesday's through July 27, starting at 6pm with a potluck meal (feel free to bring something to offer to eat, if you like) and moving into a time of song and Scripture with reflection. We will gather at Master July 6 and 13, and then here at Covenant for July 20 and 27. Come, let us worship the Lord!



FREE

Monthly Community Meal

****RETURNS INDOORS****

at The Lutheran Church of the Covenant

19000 Libby Road, Maple Heights, OH 44137

5:00 - 6:00 PM

Beginning Thursday, **May 26, 2022**

and continuing every **4th Thursday** of the month

Come to the back of the church to enter the church hall

Questions? Call Mary

(216-924-6096)

Dear Pastor Brad, Ted, members of Council and Congregation of Church of the Covenant,

It is with truly mixed feelings that I write this letter to announce my retirement from my duties as a church musician. My last Sunday with you is January 29, 2023.

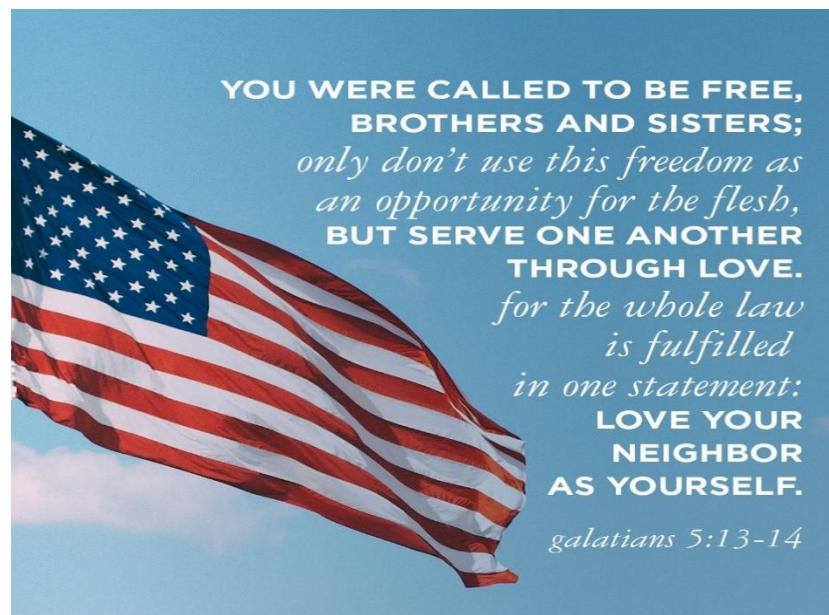
I appreciate the opportunity given me for personal and musical growth during my tenure. I hope I have been able to enrich your worship.

For the past several years, (more than I can believe!), I have had the privilege to get to know so many of you, sharing in your celebrations and your sadnesses alike. I have enjoyed the blessings of your friendship, your support, and the welcoming love from the family that is your congregation. This is, therefore, not a decision made easily.

I realize the search for an organist can be very difficult, so I wanted to allow you ample time to find a replacement. After January 29, I will be available on a limited basis to substitute, but I'd prefer not to commit to any long-term interim arrangement.

I have truly been blessed with not only one, but two wonderful congregations who demonstrate constantly what it means to be and live as Christians. I wish you the best and you will always have a place in my heart.

Peace to you always,
Robin Crawford



The Lutheran Church of the Covenant

July 2022

Server Schedule	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1	2 11 am-1 pm Rise Ministry hall 3:00 Women's AA Meeting hall No Worship
AG: Claudia Senderak, Jean Rusher, Gwen Susaneck	3 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 Eucharist in Parking Lot	4	5 6:30 pm Women's AA meeting in Parish Hall	6 6:00-8:00 pm Rise Ministry Bible Study in Hall 6:00 pm Picnic & Praise LCM	7	8 6:30-8:00 pm GOD AA meeting in Parish Hall	9 11am-1pm Rise Ministry hall 3:00 Women's AA Meeting in Parish Hall
AG: Claudia Senderak, Jean Rusher, Gwen Susaneck	10 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 Eucharist in Parking Lot	11	12 6:30 pm Women's AA meeting in Parish Hall	13 6:00-8:00 pm Rise Ministry Bible Study in Hall 6:00 pm Picnic & Praise LCM	14	15 6:30-8:00 pm GOD AA meeting in Parish Hall	16 11am-1pm Rise Ministry hall 3:00 Women's AA Meeting hall 5:00 pm Worship in sanctuary
AG:- Sheila Werner, Annie Copeland, Paula Hohenstein	17 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 Eucharist in Parking Lot	18	19 6:30 pm Women's AA meeting in Parish Hall	20 6:00-8:00 pm Rise Ministry Bible Study in Hall 6:00 pm Picnic & Praise Covenant	21	22 6:30-8:00 pm GOD AA meeting in Parish Hall	23 11am-1pm Rise Ministry hall 3:00 Women's AA Meeting hall
AG: Sheila Werner, Annie Copeland, Paula Hohenstein	24 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 Eucharist in Parking Lot	25	26 6:30 pm Women's AA meeting in Parish Hall	27 6:00-8:00 pm Rise Ministry Bible Study in Hall 6:00 pm Picnic & Praise Covenant	28 4:30-6:00 Community Meal in Parish Hall	29 6:30-8:00 pm GOD AA meeting in Parish Hall	30 11 am-1pm Rise Ministry hall 3:00 Women's AA Meeting in Parking Lot
AG: Joan Garvin, Marie Zahn, Jen Garbercih	31 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 Eucharist in Parking Lot						

Covenant News

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

2022 Blossom Outing

Join us on Sunday evening of Labor Day weekend, Sept. 4, 2022 at 7:p.m. to enjoy a heartwarming true story that became one of the most popular stage and film musicals of all time. The treasured musical *The Sound of Music*, by legendary Rodgers and Hammerstein will be presented by the Blossom Festival Orchestra and members of the Baldwin Wallace University Music Theatre Program. Tickets at the Senior rate of 50% reduction are \$29.00 each. Please notify Arlene Lasher if you are interested in attending. Please make checks payable to Arlene Lasher, as she has already reserved a number of seats for Covenant. Payment for tickets are due no later than Sunday, July 24, 2022. Hope you can join us.