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APRIL 2019

# St. Paul Lutheran Church

Olean, Indiana

*“The Church with the Glad Heart and Hand”*

*“Faithful to Our Lord through Changing Times” – Our Mission Statement*

*“Growing in Faith, Sowing the Love of Jesus” – Our Purpose Statement*

Church - (812) 667-6989 Church E-mail olean@seidata.com

Website: stpaulolean.org

Pastor: Pastor Curtis Black E-mail: [pastorcurtisinky@gmail.com](mailto:pastorcurtisinky@gmail.com)

St. Paul & St. Peter Cemeteries: John Stegemoller Cell Phone (812) 569-5014

## Dear Friends,

There is a gentleman in Asheville, North Carolina, who writes an advice column for the local paper. Recently, someone wrote back to him, asking whether he believed that someone needed to be afraid of eternity in hell in order to be a moral person. While you can go here (<https://www.citizen-times.com/story/entertainment/2019/03/19/ask-john-doesnt-fear-hell-keep-us-moral/3201277002/>) to see his response, the question got me thinking about how I would answer the question if someone ever asked me. So here is my response: no, I do not believe that someone must be afraid of hell in order to be a moral person. In fact, I believe that someone attempting to be a moral person for the sake of avoiding hell is pursuing morality for the wrong reason.

### Baptismal Birthdays

24 Samuel Powaga

### Senior Birthdays

10 Ralph Vogel

16 Frank LaGreca

17 Marilyn Smith

29 Martha Blodgett

What does it mean to be a “moral” person? It means having high principles for proper conduct. Where might these principles come from? They can come from an organization’s code of conduct, a society’s implied ethics and standards, or from a faith tradition’s teachings. Pursuing the morality taught by any of these can be done through a positive pursuit of good morals rather than a fear of hell.

For me, pursuing morality because we are afraid of hell is a venture at risk of being doomed from the start. We start reading legal standards and codes of conduct to understand the bare minimum of what we have to do. We stop focusing on how our actions impact others. If avoiding hell is the starting point, then the entire pursuit of morality is based on the reward one receives from their moral behavior, which goes against the point of morality in the first place.

Besides, pursuing morality because we are afraid of hell suggests that we can earn our way out of hell into the salvation of the Lord, and we profess that this is not possible. As much as we may strive to follow the moral codes the Lord has given us, we fall well short on many occasions.

So why attempt to be a “moral” person? For one, it is good for the people around us. For another, it is part of our calling as disciples of Jesus. But above all, we attempt to be a “moral” person as a way of giving thanks for Jesus’ death and resurrection, by which we are forgiven, justified, and saved. And when (not if) we fail in our attempt, we confess our failures to the Lord, who seeks to forgive and bless rather than condemn and punish.

As we look ahead to Easter morning, we give thanks to the Lord for his death and resurrection and we pursue our calling as disciples not for the sake of avoiding hell but for the benefit of those around us.

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## **SUNDAY SCHOOL SPECIAL OFFERING**

The Sunday School Special Offering for the second quarter of 2019 (April thru June) will go to South Ripley Ministerial Association.

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## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**JULY 7-11, 2019**

**Who is My Neighbor?**

**VBS 2019**

Mark your calendar for July 7-11 for VBS 2019. We will explore “Who is My Neighbor?”.

Want to be a part of the fun? It takes lots of volunteers to make a week of VBS happen. See Teresa Lawrence after Worship, or email her (teresa\_ll@hotmail.com), or face book her, or message her or call/text her (812 621-0320) and let her know how you would like to be involved.

You’re a VBS student if you are age 1 through going into the sixth grade. If you have completed the sixth grade, you may be a member of the VBS staff. You never become too old to help with VBS!

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## **“BACK DOOR FRIENDS OF FAITH”**

Donations for “Back Door Friends of Faith” for April will be Personal Items. Items needed: Shampoo, Conditioner, Body Wash, Deodorant, Baby Wipes, Diapers, Panty Liners, Depends, Feminine Products (Tampons, etc.), Bar Soap, Polident/Fixodent, and Tooth Paste. The date for collection will be **Sunday, April 14**. Again, THANKS for your support of this special ministry sponsored by Tyson United Methodist Church. A big Thank You to all who donated items in March. This continues to be a great need. Items for May will be Paper Products.

*Ruth Green, Coordinator*

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## **2019 FLOWER CHART**

If you, or a group, would like to provide flowers in the Sanctuary for Worship Service, please sign you, or the group, up on the flower chart located in the educational building. If a Sunday remains unclaimed, someone will take care of that Sunday. Questions? See The Flower Chart Ladies – Becky Turner, Ashley Hunger, or Teresa Lawrence.

The 2019 flower chart is available on the bulletin board in the Education Room.

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## **ALTAR GUILD VOLUNTEERS**

Need altar guild volunteers for most all Sundays throughout this coming year. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Education Building, or call the office 812-667-6989, Monday through Thursday during the hours of 9 to 12. The office is closed on Fridays.

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## LUTHER LEAGUERS TAKE NOTE

All youth who wish to help prepare for the Easter Egg Hunt should arrive at Church by 11:00 am on Saturday, April 20. The Hunt will begin at 1:00 pm. Before and after the hunt we will make preparations for Sunday morning breakfast. We will decide before we leave Saturday what time we need to begin cooking Sunday morning.

Please Hop on over on Saturday April 20 at 1:00 for the Easter egg hunt. We will be serving snacks, playing games, and of course hunting eggs.

**We hope you will join us Easter Sunday morning for breakfast between services.**

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## EASTER EGG HUNT

**APRIL 20, 2019**

The annual Easter Egg hunt will be held on Saturday afternoon, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 P.M. All kids invited.

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## DARLA JACOBS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP 5K RUN/WALK

**April 28, 2019**

Dillsboro PTO has started a Memorial Scholarship through South Dearborn Dollars for Scholars in memory of Darla. They will be awarding two \$500 scholarships to two graduating seniors that attended Dillsboro Elementary School. They will be holding a 5k/walk on **April 28** to help fund the scholarships. There will be concessions, raffle prizes, awards for runners and walkers, a Fun Run for 3rd grade and under, along with other activities. All proceeds go to the scholarships. There is also a place for volunteers. See the form in this newsletter if you would like to participate or donate to the scholarship. Forms are also located at both church entrances. An entry form needs to be filled out for each person participating and volunteering. There is also an online link on the entry form. **If you are making a check, please make it out to SDDFS with Darla Jacobs in the memo line.** Please send checks and/or entry forms to Dillsboro PTO, 13200 North Street Dillsboro, IN 47018. Cost for race is: 3rd grade and under \$10 (guaranteed a t-shirt), Students \$15, Adults \$20 before April 21, \$25 the day of the race. Any questions please contact Linda (Tim) Hurelbrink at 812-584-4222. Darla and her family are loved by her Church Family. If you can help in any way, it is much appreciated. Thank you in advance.

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## THANK YOU

\* Thank you to everyone for the cards and best wishes extended for my birthday *Jerry Smith*

\*Thanks to Alethea Jacobs for playing the piano for our Ash Wednesday service.

\*Thanks to the ladies who prepared and served the evening lunch on March 17, to the SE IN – KY Synod Spring Assembly.

\*Thanks to Larry Hunger for trimming the knock out roses around the church and all of the other odd jobs he and Esther are always doing.

\***Danke! Danke! Danke!** Many thanks to everyone who stayed and enjoyed the food and fellowship of the German Dinner. I appreciate the bakers who brought the delicious desserts and German potato salad, the beautiful young ladies who served the meal, and everyone who helped clean up. I want to give a special shout out to Doug Rump for his help, too! We'll see you again next year! *Becky Turner*

\*Thank you so much for the lovely baptismal service you planned and hosted for our daughter Marian. We also appreciate the quilt from the Martha Circle. It is incredible to reflect on the years of experience and love for God's children that went into that and so much else in our church. We are glad to be members. *Sincerely, Dawn Wehr, Steve Powaga, Evala and Sam*

\*Thanks to Ralph and Jennifer for donating the micro-wave in the kitchen.

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## CONSTITUTION BY-LAWS

We will be voting on the by-laws to our constitution at the next quarterly meeting on April 28<sup>th</sup>. A copy of these are found at the end of this newsletter. Please look them over before the meeting.

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## BAPTISMS

We welcomed on Sunday, March 10, 2019, Eden Bliss Landwehr and Bennett Lane Swango into membership through the Rite of Holy Baptism.

Eden, daughter of Tyler and Brechelle Landwehr, was born October 6, 2018. Her sponsors were Eric and Ashley Landwehr.

Bennett, son of Paul and Nicole Swango was born January 22, 2019. His sponsors were Michael and Christy Swango.

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## PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY

**Luke Smith:** 8166 Madrone Court, Indianapolis, IN. 46236. He is undergoing his cancer treatments in Indy. - *Birthday January 20 (He has retired from the service.)*

**Jacob Menchhofer** and his wife, Erin, daughters Ella, Ava, and Willow: 40 Red Feather Trails, Wakefield, RI 02879-2044 *Jacob's Birthday: January 24, Erin's Birthday: August 7, Ella's & Ava's birthday, March 18, 2016, Willow's birthday February 9, 2019.*

**Col. Whit Wright** and family: 1 Couchman Street, Fort Bragg, N.C. 28307

**Adam Thieman**, son of Randy and Rhonda Thieman, in Alaska.

**James Bardine**, brother of Mandy Black, at Robins AFB, GA

**Tristan Ralston**, grandson of Pat Ralston, in Okinawa, Japan.

**Mike Harris**, in N.C.

**David Black** (Pastor's brother) now back in the states.

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## CONDOLENCES

Our Christian Sympathy to Jim and Patsy Hyatt and family on the recent passing of Jim's nephew, Michael Hyatt.

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## ROGATION SUNDAY

**APRIL 28, 2019**

Tractors and Planters and Seed, Oh My! Mark your calendars for April 28, 2019 and join us for Rogation Sunday. What's "Rogation" Sunday? The celebration of Rogation is an ancient custom that has been observed since the 5<sup>th</sup> century. Rogation means to ask. On Rogation Sunday, we will ask God's blessing on farming equipment, seed, and the sowers of the seed, the animals, the earth and the sea. We are stewards of Creation, but we are neither its authors nor its owners.

The farmers and gardeners of Olean are encouraged to bring their tractors, planters, hoes, seed, animals, plows, etc. to the Church to receive God's blessing. You are welcome to cruise in with your equipment on Saturday evening.

Feel free to wear your farming clothes. Jeans, flannel shirts and bibbed overalls welcome



The ladies of St. Paul continue to be busy in various roles throughout the Church. The Quarterly meeting was held on March 5, 2019. The group provided a meal to the Conference Assembly on March 17, 2019. Thank you to all who contributed and assisted with serving the meal. Donations continue to be gathered for the Spring Cluster meeting. The guest speaker will be the Director of Second Stories, which is a program to assist moms who are currently struggling. Items needed are listed on a sheet on the bulletin board. Also anyone wishing to attend the Spring Cluster, please sign up as well.

WELCA was also able to address the need to replace the washer and dryer in the parsonage. Both items were 12+ years old and in need of repair. This is one of the ways we utilize our funds which we receive through our free will donation meals and other fund raising. As always there are many, many tasks being completed by so many people. We are truly blessed to have willing hands.

The Mary Circle will meet on Tuesday evening at 6:30 p.m. Vicki Diem has Prayer and Devotions. Kaye Hunger will lead us in Bible Study. Mary Ann Geisler is to provide refreshments. All ladies of the church are invited.

Visiting Committee for April: Ruth Tebbing and Vicki Diem.

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## **CHURCH SUPPERS**

**St. Paul, Crossroads**, invites everyone to their Chicken & Beef Supper on Saturday, April 6, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. Freewill Offering, Carryout - \$10. Children under 10 - \$5.00

**St. John, Hubbles Corner**, invites everyone to their Tenderloin Dinner on Saturday, April 27 from 5-7:30 p.m. Freewill Offering.

## CHURCH COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 17, 2019

Church Council met after Worship on February 17, 2019. The meeting was opened with prayer. The secretary's report was presented and approved.

The financial secretary's report was approved as presented.

The treasurer's report was presented with the following balances:

General	\$7,340.60	Continuing Education	\$ -174.03	Improvement	\$26,812.17
Relay for Life	\$1,073.00	Music	\$2,316.33	Playground	\$5,423.23
Luther League	\$6,773.21	Preservation	\$903.00	Camp Fees	\$125.00
Vinup Interest Trust	\$5,251.36	God's Work	\$3,541.56	Trust	\$1,997.10
Bible School	\$ 644.94				

The report was approved as presented.

### Old Business

Replacing the downstairs flooring has paused. The original price of \$6,300 has now increased to \$9,800. A request of \$10,000 to finish the project will be asked for congregational approval at next week's annual meeting.

A land and building committee is being formed.

An update on the constitutional changes was given. The changes will be included in the March Newsletter:

- 3.03.01 needs to be removed.
- C7.05 Add provision if synod is purchasing property for us.
- C8.02.13 Seasonal membership will use current language.
- 8.04.01 Youth instruction for communion needs to be moved.
- 16.02.C Footnote resolution needs to be added. Updates to constitution need to have a date.

Vote will be taken at the next meeting.

The mortgage pay-off celebration will be on April 28, 2019, to coincide with Rogation Sunday.

### New Business

The cell phone service for Pastor is going directly to voicemail. No service or problems with the wifi service seems to be a part of this.

To improve communication with Pastor after hours, the phone from church could possibly be connected to the parsonage. Listing cell phone numbers in additional locations could also help.

Respectfully submitted, *Peggy Mix, Secretary*

*Notes taken by Joan Rohrig, Financial Secretary*

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## SUMMARY OF REQUESTED CONSTITUTION CHANGES

Bylaw 3.03.01. While the buildings of the congregation shall be open to all people to share in its worship, instruction, pastoral care, and fellowship, the congregation rejects fellowship with organizations, secret or open, which are avowedly religious or which practice forms of religion without confessing faith in the Triune God and in Jesus Christ as the eternal Son of God incarnate to be our only Savior from sin.

**NOTE: Asked to delete this bylaw for amending a required provision that cannot be amended, even by bylaw.**

**C7.05.** Notwithstanding the provisions of \*C7.02. and \*C7.03. above, where this congregation has received property from the synod pursuant to a deed or other instrument containing restrictions under provision 9.71.a. of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, this congregation accepts such restrictions and:

- a. Shall not transfer, encumber, mortgage, or in any way burden or impair any right, title, or interest in the property without prior approval of the Synod Council.
- b. Shall—upon written demand by the Synod Council, pursuant to †S13.23. of the constitution of the (insert name of synod)—reconvey and transfer all right, title, and interest in the property to the synod.

**NOTE: Need to add C7.05 into our constitution.** It may not apply to us now, but would apply if we ever receive property from the synod.

C8.02.e ...The Congregation Council may grant seasonal membership to such persons provided that this congregation is a member of a synod where the Synod Council has approved seasonal member voting on its territory. Such seasonal members shall have all the privileges and duties of voting members except that:...

**NOTE: This includes language that was added to the 2016 model constitution but was not included in our constitution.**

Bylaw 8.04.01. Communion Participation

1. This congregation invites all of its members who have been prepared to receive the Sacrament, to participate regularly in Holy Communion.
2. Preparation for Holy Communion will be provided for young baptized members of the congregation prior to the start of Confirmation. When this preparation will be provided is at the discretion of both the pastor and the parents of the child. In the case of a new adult member who is not previously baptized or does not have a background in Lutheran beliefs regarding Holy Communion, preparation for Holy Communion will be provided prior to baptism/reception into membership.
3. Participation in Holy Communion shall be open to members of other congregations who accept the Lutheran teaching in regard to this Sacrament. It shall be made known to prospective participants that the belief of this congregation is: Participation in the Lord's Supper is the reception of "the body and blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ himself for us to eat and drink."
4. Record of participation in Holy Communion shall be maintained. If a member of another congregation communes, notice may be sent to his/her pastor upon request.

**NOTE: This cannot remain under C8.04. We can keep it if we desire, but we must move it to another portion of the constitution.**

Footnote to C16.02.c attached to the word "resolution": "Such an effective date must be stated in relation to the requirements of \*C16.03 to allow time for synodical review of the amendment.

**NOTE: This needs to be added back into the constitution.**