

SEPTEMBER 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

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Dear Friends,

The 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly (CWA, for short) took place last month in Milwaukee, Wisconsin from August 5th – 10th. My initial thought was that I would list some highlights from the 2019 ELCA CWA as my newsletter column for this month. Around the country, however, one particular action has captured the vast majority of the attention of the media and the membership. So let’s take some time to reflect on this particular action and what it means for us. As we reflect, I will draw in several quotes from Bishop Bill Gafkjen’s public letter (released August 12, 2019) and share his understandings of the memorial.

During the CWA, the assembly received a memorial (essentially a request for action officially passed and submitted by one or more synods during their respective synod assemblies) that begins by calling on the CWA to reaffirm “the long-term and growing commitment of (the ELCA) to migrants and refugees and to the policy questions involved.” This portion of the memorial is a recognition of the work that the ELCA (and its predecessor bodies) have been doing for many decades. This includes the work of Lutheran Immigrant and Refugee Service (LIRS, for short), first established in 1939, and Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO, for short), a more-recent ministry of the ELCA begun in response to the recent increase in unaccompanied minors attempting to enter the country through various methods.

According to Bishop Gafkjen’s letter, “This resolution also ‘recognizes that the ELCA in congregations, synods and the churchwide organization are already taking the actions recommended by this memorial’ and requests ‘that appropriate staff’ from various agencies and ministries ‘review the existing strategies and practices by the five current sanctuary synods and develop a plan for additional tools that provide for education and discernment around sanctuary.’” As the ELCA Churchwide office lives into its calling to serve and support refugees

Baptismal Birthdays

2 Eli Stenger
18 Matthew Wood
25 Camdyn Hunger

Senior Birthdays

1 Kenneth Thomas
2 Esther Hunger
4 Phyllis Armbrecht
8 Vicki Diem
12 Sharon Thomas
28 Kenneth Cutter

and immigrants, it will study what synods and congregations are already doing, learning best practices and what will provide the greatest benefit to the Churchwide office's ministry partners.

Although others have suggested that all 9,000+ congregations across the ELCA are now required to carry out certain ministries and actions, this is not the case. The memorial passed by the CWA does not require us to do anything or to stop doing anything. "Nevertheless," writes Bishop Gafkjen, "the call to love the neighbor is so central to our faith that each of us in our local contexts are called to figure out how God is calling us to embody this love as individuals and as communities of faith and witness. We engage this discernment in deep and honest discussion, debate, prayer, study, and discernment with our siblings across the community, the synod, and the church. We do so centered in Jesus Christ crucified and risen for the life of the world. In the end, as one bishop has put it, 'For us, welcoming people is first and foremost a matter of faith which impacts how we live out all our vocations in God's world, including our political life.'"

So what might this look like in our community? How are we, both as individuals and as a congregation, called to embody God's love for our immigrant and refugee neighbors? That is worthy of ongoing prayer, discussion, and discernment. I pray that the Lord may open our eyes to what our neighbors in this community need from the Church and how we can meet that need.

Pastor Curtis

NEW DIRECTORY INFO NEEDED

A new directory will be printed soon. (No photos will be included in this one.) This is a great way to quickly find an address to mail a card or a phone number to share information with other congregational members. If you have any changes that need to be made, please contact the church office. Email addresses can also be included. The information that is currently in the church computer will be used to compile the directory unless you have changes that need to be made. Please have all information to the church office by October 1.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

OCTOBER 5, 2019

We will hold a Blessing of the Animals on Thursday, October 5th at 6:00 p.m. in the church parking lot. We will hold a brief time of prayer before bestowing individual blessings on every animal present that day. While there is no restriction on the type of animal you may bring to this service of blessing, we do ask that all animals be properly restrained throughout the time together. If you are unable to bring your animal to the parking lot, we invite you to bring a picture of that animal to the service and we will share the blessing via the picture.

COLLEGE ADDRESS

If anyone has a student going to college, please give their name, cell phone number, email address, and mailing address to the office, so we can send them the newsletter and refer them to a local congregation and/or campus ministry. Thanks!

SUNDAY SCHOOL SPECIAL OFFERING

The Sunday School Special Offering for the third quarter of 2019 (July thru September) will go to Ronald McDonald House in Cincinnati.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL BLESSING/CHURCH PICNIC SUNDAY

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Back-to-School Blessing/Church Picnic! A good time was had by all.

Eighteen kids were present at Worship and recognized. Ten kids received storybook or kid Bibles!

Thank you to the Versailles Dairy Queen, Versailles McDonalds, Versailles Pizza Hut, Gold Star, Crossroads, for Bingo prizes. Thank you to Shirley Barth for running bingo and gathering the bingo prizes. Thank you to Negangard Party Rentals for renting us a great slide! Thank you to Versailles Dairy Queen for the mini blizzard coupons for the kids. Thank you to the Landwehr family for taking care of the slide and cleaning up the shelter house. Thank you to Alayna, Vicki, David Lawrence, Pastor Curtis and Linda Cutter, Barb, and all the bingo girls for their kitchen help and assistance in prepping for the day. Thank you to Jenny Darnold for the wonderful VBS slide show. Thank you to Mackenzie for the wonderful special music! Thank you to Pastor Curtis for the lovely Back-to-School Blessing.

Thanks to everyone who attended Worship, brought pitch-in items for the picnic, stayed to enjoy the day of fellowship, and donated to the free will offering. We brought in \$224.00 to cover some of the day's expenses. Thank you to God for giving us a perfect day for our event, and all of our many blessings!

"GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS" SUNDAY

Plan to stay after Worship on Sunday, September 9 to be a part of "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday. Lunch will be provided. We will be making fleece blankets for kids in the foster care system, unloading and setting up for the rummage sale, and enjoying a day of fellowship.

Questions? See Pastor Curtis, Linda Cutter, Vicki Diem or Teresa Lawrence.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday, September 8 will be Sunday School Sundaes Sunday! The fun starts at 9:00 a.m. in the basement for kids ages 1 through Sixth Grade!

We don't have ice cream every week, but join us when you can for Sunday School.

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.

ALTAR GUILD VOLUNTEERS

Need altar guild volunteers for Sundays this coming year especially **November!** 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.

“BACK DOOR FRIENDS OF FAITH”

Backdoor Friends of Faith is a Mission Outreach of the Tyson United Methodist Church in Versailles. This is made possible through volunteers donating their time and organizational skills to keep it running smoothly. Community support through prayer, donation of products and/or money can go a very long way toward making a big difference in the lives of families in this community. Thank you for being a part of this mission. The next pick up is the evening of Sunday, September 8. While this is the month for cleaning supplies such as laundry soap, dryer sheets, fabric softener, all-purpose cleaner, dish detergent, and toilet cleaner, they are low on paper products as well. (Toilet tissue, paper towels, Kleenex, trash bags)

Items for October will be Personal Items. Contact Lois Vogel if you have questions.

THANK YOU

Our heartfelt thanks to those of you who included us in your prayers over the past several months. We have been blessed beyond measure to have such a supportive and caring church family. The number of cards, phone calls, visits, and personal messages of concern have been overwhelming. We give thanks to God for His healing touch and for each of you.

Eddie and Phyllis

Dear St. Paul Lutheran Church, Thank you for your gift of \$112.00 for ELCA World Hunger. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of our neighbors around the world.

In Christ, Rev. Robin K. Brown, Mission Funding Director, Congregations

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Cheryl Tebbing and Rodney who were united in marriage on Saturday, August 24, at the Christian Church in Plainfield, Indiana.

PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY

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.

SMORGASBORD

St. John's Lutheran, Napoleon, smorgasbord will be held on September 5, serving from 4:30 to 7:00 P.M. Carry-outs available. Any questions call 812-852-4416.

BLANKET MAKING**OCTOBER 1, 2019**

The ladies will begin their blanket making for the fall and winter on Tuesday, October 1 beginning at 1:00 P.M. Anyone that can tie a knot is invited to come and join in the afternoon of beginning together and helping make blankets for Lutheran World Relief, Safe Passage, and/or Salvation Army in Madison.



The WELCA will hold their General Meeting on Tuesday evening, September 3rd at 6:30 p.m. Kaye Hunger will lead us in devotions and also will be our hostess for the evening. All ladies of the congregation are invited.

Visiting Committee for September: Linda Cutter and Martha Jarvis
If you know of anyone who would like for the committee to visit please let the committee know. Thanks

CHILDREN HOSPITAL STITCHERS LUNCHEON SEPT. 19,

Stitcher's Luncheon for Cincinnati Children's Hospital will be held on Thursday, September 19 from 11:30-1:30. at Newport Syndicate. Anyone wishing to go please let Irma Rohls know by September 4. Anyone having items made for Children's Hospital please have them here at church by September 15. Thanks.

7TH ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE**SEPTEMBER 14, 2019**

Olean's Seventh Annual Rummage Sale will be held on September 14, 2019. Please continue gathering your gently used clothing, toys, books and household items. Please remember that we cannot accept electronic items or exercise equipment. These items do not sell.

You may begin bringing your items to the Church on Sunday, September 8, and place them in the educational building. No items will be accepted after Thursday. If you need assistance in bringing your items to the Church, please contact Teresa, Linda C., Vicki or Mary McCarty.

Everyone can shop beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday. Items that remain and can be used at the Church will be gathered after the Saturday shopping has ended. The congregation can shop for a free will offering following Worship Service on Sunday. After this, items that remain and can be used by local organizations, will be gathered. What remains will be bagged and boxed for delivery to the Mountain Mission Ministries.

This project is a part of **"GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS."**

Come work with us beginning Sunday, September 8 through September 15. Please mark your calendar, and be a part of this Ministry. Questions? See Mary, Linda C., Vicki or Teresa.

QUARTERLEY MEETING**APRIL 28, 2019**

The quarterly meeting of St. Paul was opened by David Lawrence. Pastor Black offered prayer.

The secretary's report was read and approved.

The financial secretary's report was read and approved.

No treasurer's report was available, but all bills have been paid.

To complete old business, the flooring bill from Halcomb's has been paid.

Pastor Black explained the five items in the constitution that needed to be changed. If the changes are made, the constitution should align with the synod and be approved. By a show of hands, the changes were approved.

Ralph Miller added that any property accepted from the synod should be documented.

Accepting nothing from the synod will keep the congregation from owing anything. The suggestion was agreed to.

A list of spring clean-up needs will be posted in the educational unit.

In new business, two adult representatives are needed for synod assembly in Lafayette. Anyone willing to go should see Pastor.

Danny Geisler reported on snaking the drainage lines with a camera. Gutter guards could possibly help keep items such as dead birds from creating blockages. Because the pipe may be too thin, new pipe may be needed all around the church. Before the next council meeting,

David will try to get four estimates.

David reported that Marie has verbally stepped down as president of church council, but has not submitted anything in writing. Council has reached out to her. Several members expressed concerns for the congregation.

The meeting closed by praying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, *Peggy Mix, Secretary*

CHURCH COUNCIL

JULY 21, 2019

Council met on Sunday, July 21, 2019. The following council members were in attendance: Pastor Black, David Lawrence, Bob Hunger, Joan Rohrig and Linda Cutter.

The secretary's report was approved as presented.

The financial secretary's report was approved as was the treasurer's report.

Pastor presented his report. He will be taking vacation on October 13th and 20th.

A request from Veronica Brown to transfer her membership to St. Thomas Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Bloomington has been received. Council agreed to the transfer.

God's Work, Our Hands is considering two projects. One is painting a mural in Versailles on the Square. The other is to tie fleece blankets for the Youth Advocacy Program to be given to children in the foster care system. The choice will be made August 6.

Old Business

Dorothea Goris has changed when the tree in honor of Quintin Thomas will be planted to October.

Todd Ault has replaced the broken window in the garage across the road for \$15.

New Business

The state of Indiana has passed a new law involving safety of school children. If a school bus is operated on a U.S. or state route, outside city or town boundaries, the bus driver may not load or unload a student at a location that requires the student to cross a highway. Gil Landwehr has asked for permission for a bus turn around in the church parking lot. Council approved.

Discussion was held on the sign in front of the church. There are several lights that are not working as well as other problems. It was agreed to call Heitz Sign Company of Madison to set up an appointment for maintenance of the sign.

The mowing bill has been paid for the first few months of the season by the General Fund. The Cemetery will pay the fee for the next few months.

Fixing the drainage problem is still on hold because Holmans are so busy.

Next month's meeting will be held on August 18th. The meeting closed by praying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, *Linda Cutter and Joan Rohrig for Peggy Mix, Secretary*