

OCTOBER 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,

Two years ago, as we observed the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, many people wrote a great number of books, articles, discussion guides, and other materials around the various events of the Reformation. There is a great deal to say about the causes of the Reformation and the theology behind the Reformation. But the collection of statements known as “The Five Solas” (“sola” = the Latin word for “alone”) summarizes the theology of the Reformation movement: “By grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone according to Scripture alone for God’s glory alone.”

“Grace alone” – Forgiveness, salvation, and all of God’s blessings to us come as free gifts. As Luther wrote in the Small Catechism, “I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him, but instead the Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel, enlightened me with gifts, made me holy and kept me in the true faith...” We have earned none of this, but the Lord chooses to give these things to us.

“Faith alone” – the faith that the Holy Spirit gives to us becomes our justification, which is to say that the Lord judges us and calls us “righteous” because Jesus’ covers us in his own righteousness.

“Christ alone” – The free gifts of forgiveness, faith, justification, salvation, and resurrection all comes to us through Christ’ life, death, and resurrection.

“Scripture alone” – as the ELCA’s page “Scriptures, Creeds, Confessions” (<https://elca.org/Faith/ELCA-Teaching/Scripture-Creeds-Confessions>) puts it, “Simply stated, the Scriptures tell about Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit uses the Scriptures to present Jesus to all who listen to or read them. That is why Lutheran Christians say that the Scriptures are the “source and norm” of their teaching and practice.” When we put forward a claim of what we believe, we point to what is revealed within the Bible as the basis of what we believe.

“For God’s glory alone” – Ideally, all that we do as Christians is for the glory of God and not for ourselves. Though we may draw the attention of others, our true aim is to draw attention to the Lord and what the Lord is doing in the world today.

Baptismal Birthdays

19 Elijah Clubb

Senior Birthdays

1 Martha J Jarvis

14 Kaye Hunger

15 Diana Johnson

28 Linda Cutter

31 Shirley Smith

There is much more that we can say about Luther, Philip Melanchthon, other leaders within the Reformation, and what it has meant to the world over the last 500 years. But if you need to summarize it for your non-Lutheran friends and neighbors, “The Five Solas” provide a brief entry into the discussion.

We sign off with the traditional ending of messages from many pastors, bishops, theologians, and even hymns: “Soli Deo Gloria!” (Glory to God Alone!) *Pastor Curtis*

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

OCTOBER 5, 2019

We will hold a Blessing of the Animals on Saturday, October 5th at 6:00 pm 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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SPECIAL OFFERING

The Sunday School Special Offering for the Fourth quarter of 2019 (October thru December) will go to Lutheran Outdoor Ministries.

“GOD’S WORK. OUR HANDS” SUNDAY

Thank you to everyone who stayed after Worship on September 14, 2019 to tie blankets and set up for the 7th Annual Rummage Sale.

Thank you to Barb and Linda C. for purchasing the material for the blankets using the “God’s Work. Our Hands.” Fund. The fun patterned fleece made really nice blankets.

A special thank you to Barb, Eileen, Mary Ann Geisler and Ruth Tebbing for cutting out the fleece, cutting the fringe and making holes for the fringe to be tied. We could not have made the blankets if it wasn't for them.

“Bless be the tie that binds” together...these blankets and the wonderful group of people who worked together on them. We made 42 fringed, 12 baby and 13 security blankets for Foster Kids. Thanks to Barb, Linda C., Ruth S., Phyllis, Eileen, Tobia, Makenna, Mary Ann, Vicki, Becky, Pastor Curtis, Teresa, Dawn, Eva, Holly, Amy, Taylor, Laura M, Joan, Mary M., Abby M, Peggy M., and our supervisor, Denny. Thanks to Sam, Tucker and Ella for adding the cuteness and entertainment. Thanks also to David L. and Briar for carrying the rummage sale stuff up from the basement.

RUMMAGE SALE

Thanks to everyone who worked bringing over tables, sorting, arranging, packing items for the Rummage Sale: Brian, Mary, Abby, and Connor McCarty; Linda C.; Christy S.; Martha Jean; Libby; Russ; Dawn; Vicki; Barb; Alaynna; Lamont; Pastor Curtis; Ralph V., Lois, Rhonda, Esther H. Larry H., Pastor Curtis, Gracey, Tucker, David L., Teresa, Joan, Peggy M., Bob H. Thanks to everyone who donated, shopped, gave us words of appreciation and encouragement, and prayed for this project. We raised \$1,145.25 for our “God’s Work. Our Hands.” Fund. These funds are used throughout the year for projects such as Pangburn Park Lunches, the materials to make the fleece blankets for Foster Kids, and helping members of our community when they are in need.

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. If you would like to donate some money towards flowers then the committee will get them for you. 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, October 13. Items needed are Personal Items,

Shampoo, Conditioner, Body Wash, Deodorant, Baby Wipes, Diapers, Panty Liners, Depends, Feminine Products (Tampons, etc.), Bar Soap, Polident/Fixodent, and Tooth Paste. They also could use gently used sweatshirts or jackets of any size for cooler weather. Items for November will be Paper Products. Contact Lois Vogel if you have questions.

THANK YOU

*Thank you for the get-well cards I received after my surgery. Also thanks to Pastor Curtis for his visit.

Larry Hunger

*Thanks to you for the get well card from the congregation. It was greatly appreciated. I am doing well now. *Patricia Ralston*

*Thank you for thinking of me. Special thanks to the ladies for the afghan. Just the thing for my reading thru this winter. *Bob Strubbe*.

*Thank you to everyone for my birthday cards. So nice of you to think of me. God's Blessings.

Vicki Diem

*A special thank you to everyone for the generous Lenten offering in memory of Quintin Thomas. We appreciate your prayers. God's Blessings, *David and Vicki Diem*.

*St. Paul's Lutheran Church: Thank you so much for the generous donation of school supplies! Our school and students are very appreciative of your thoughtfulness!

Sincerely, *South Ripley Elementary School*

*Thanks to Larry and Esther Hunger, Larry for spraying the parking lots again for weeds, and Esther for weeding the flower beds.

TRUNK OR TREAT

OCTOBER 27, 2019

Trunk or Treat will be held on Sunday afternoon, October 27, beginning at 1:00. Invite your friends.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Brian Thomas and Morgan Buskirk who were united in marriage on Saturday, September 14, 2019 at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Harrison, OH.

Congratulations to Bob Hurelbrink on the birth of a great-grandson. Aiden Michael Peabody was born on August 31 to Andrew and Megan Peabody. Aiden weighed 8 lb. 7.5 oz. and was 20.75" long.

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 being together and helping make blankets for Lutheran World Relief, Safe Passage, and/or Salvation Army in Madison.

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, stationed in Hawaii.

Mike Harris, in N.C.

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

SMORGASBORD – BENEFIT FOR RICK KUNZ

St. John's Lutheran, Napoleon, smorgasbord (last one of the season) will be held on October 3, serving from 4:30 to 7:00 P.M. Carry-outs available. Any questions call 812-852-4416.

All proceeds will go to the benefit for Rick Kunz who is a member of St. John's.



The ladies of St Paul WELCA met on September 3 for the Quarterly meeting. Discussion was held regarding the Christmas project for the group. It was agreed to once again support the Coats for Kids project which provides winter coats to local children. This has proven to be a very successful project which benefits the local community. Please consider including this in your holiday shopping. More details will be provided when available.

Mary Circle will meet October 1 at 6:30 p.m. Devotions by Linda Cutter, Bible Study by Kaye Hunger and the Hostess for the evening is Barb Eades.

All Ladies of the congregation are invited! We will elect officers for the Mary Circle at this meeting. Visiting Committee for October: Alethea Jacobs and Kaye Hunger

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

AUGUST 18, 2019

Church Council met after Worship on August 18, 2019 in the Educational Unit. Present were David Lawrence, Joan Rohrig, Linda Cutter, Bob Hunger, Pastor Black, and Peggy Mix.

Pastor Curtis opened the meeting with a prayer.

The secretary's report was approved as presented.

The financial secretary's report included that the treasurer has more than her report, but the difference has been pinpointed and the adjustment will be made.

No treasurer's report was available.

Pastor Curtis gave out copies of his report. The conference is considering a pulpit exchange for November 10th. Council approved that idea. Pastor Larry Knigga will be available to cover the two Sundays in October when Pastor Curtis plans to use his vacation time. Pastor also handed out copies of an article he has written to explain the Churchwide Assembly's statement about the church serving as a sanctuary for immigrants. Council raised no questions. The article will be included in the newsletter.

Old Business

The light fixtures in the parsonage have been replaced. A bill will be presented for reimbursement.

The landscaping that still needs to be done was discussed. David thought that Dylan Chandler had offered to do it with the mowing for around \$300. David will check with him about it. If he is able to do it. Pastor will be asked for a good time for it to be done.

Joan will check with the bank again this week about the credit card. Parameters about its use will need to be established.

David has asked Jenny Darnold, who was the other candidate for the position, about completing Marie's term as council president. She has agreed and council approved.

New Business

Many Bible VHS tapes are in the basement. Teresa has asked to put them on the rummage sale. If no one buys them, they could go on with the materials that go with the Mountain Mission truck. Council agreed.

Pastor's salary review is due. A 2.8% raise is recommended by the synod. This will be brought to the congregation at the next Quarterly Meeting in October. If it's approved, it will be retroactive to his anniversary date of September.

Neighbors of the church property have noticed people using the playground and parking lot during late hours. Since the church property is private, posting signs about its use will give police more authority to check on activity. David will see about a sign for the playground that announces it closes at dark, and another for the parking lot to stop unauthorized parking after 10:00. A motion was made and passed to get the signs and post them.

The next meeting will be on September 15th and may include cleaning up after the rummage sale.

Council adjourned to a discussion of *Canoeing the Mountains* and ended with praying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Peggy Mix, Secretary

SPECIAL CALLED CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING AUGUST 25, 2019

After Worship on August 25, 2019, Church Council met to discuss what to do with a CD that is maturing on Tuesday. Those present were David Lawrence, Bob Hunger, Linda Cutter, Joan Rohrig, Pastor Black, and Peggy Mix.

Information had been gathered from Civista Bank where the CD is and from Friendship State Bank. Besides deciding on where to invest the money, two names need to be added to the CD. The two people whose names were suggested were David Lawrence, who will probably be council president when the CD reaches maturity next, and Joan Rohrig as financial secretary.

Council agreed to reinvest the CD at Civista Bank for 9 months. The proceeds will equal 2% APY.

Council also voted to include David Lawrence and Joan Rohrig as the two members named on the CD. For future reference, council suggests that the financial secretary and treasurer's names be added to any CDs.

Respectfully submitted, Peggy Mix, Secretary