

NOVEMBER 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

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

Dear Friends,

The questions vary, but I get asked a form of the question on a regular basis. They are questions like, "What does (this denomination) believe about (fill in the blank here)?" or "Why do (members of this denomination) distribute Communion like that?" or "What's the difference between (this denomination) and the ELCA?" I am always happy to discuss these questions because they help us learn about ourselves and our neighbors.

In our adult Sunday School class, we will be starting a new curriculum this month. We will be studying *Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith: A Lutheran Perspective on Faith Traditions in America, Revised Edition*. The book will introduce us to many of the larger Christian denominations as well as several non-Christian traditions found within the country. For each group, the book will provide both a summary of the denomination's or religion's beliefs and faith practices as well as a comparison to what we believe, proclaim, and practice as Christians within the ELCA Lutheran tradition.

As we go through the book, we will find denominations that are very close to ours, including denominations close enough to ours that we have established "full-communion" relationships with those denominations (meaning that their pastors can preside over our worship services and sacraments, and vice versa). We will find denominations that are significantly different from ours, but to whom we are still unified within the body of Christ. We will learn some basics about other religions. And we will learn about our own faith tradition, especially what we are willing to fight for and where we are willing to tolerate some amount of disagreement.

I invite you to join us as we begin this journey of faithfully holding our beliefs and practices in the light of other beliefs and practices. If you have ever wondered about the differences between Christian denominations or the differences between Christianity and other religions, this is a great place to raise those questions and explore what we hold in common and what we hold in tension with other groups. The class gathers at 9:00 AM on Sundays.

Pastor Curtis

Baptismal Birthdays

5	Russell Litmer
13	Cole Obendorf
22	Cheyenne Swango
26	Hank Guenther
30	J J Mutz

Senior Birthdays

13	Gary Johnson
15	Marilyn Jeffries
19	Jean Acre
20	Leland Cutter

SUNDAY SCHOOL SPECIAL OFFERING

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

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM ALERT!!

One year olds through Sixth Grade

If you have a child who is one year old through sixth grade, let Teresa or Alaynna know whether or not your child would like a part in the Christmas Eve Christmas Program. The Program is held the evening of Christmas Eve. This group will be given parts to memorize, and will sing "Away in a Manager". We will sing through the song at Kids' Choir, Wednesdays at 6:30. There will be no scheduled practices. You may contact Teresa or Alaynna on the Church face book page, by face book messenger, by cell phone (812) 621-0320 or email teresa_ll@hotmail.com.

COATS FOR KIDS

St. Paul's WELCA is excited to once again be partnering in the Coats for Kids project which provides warm winter coats to local children. In the near future you will find opportunity on the bulletin board to purchase a warm coat for a local child. The coats may be purchased and dropped off at the church with the notation Coats for Kids. For those who prefer you may give monetary donations to one of the WELCA officers, Christy, Jenny, Phyllis, or Barb and we will make arrangements to purchase the coats. This is a very worthwhile project which directly impacts our local community. Should you have any questions please contact one of the WELCA officers. Once again we look forward to your assistance with this worthy cause.

"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, November 10**. Items needed are Paper Products:

Toilet Tissue, Paper Towels (really need), Paper Tissue (Kleenex, Puffs, etc.) and Trash Bags. Items for December will be Cleaning Products. Contact Lois Vogel if you have questions.

BAPTISMS

We welcomed on Sunday, October 6, 2019, thru the Rite of Holy Baptism, Ella May Meyers and Lava Louise Mutz.

Ella May Meyers was born June 5, 2019 to Taylor and Laura Meyers. Her sponsors were Tina Mutz, Derek Mills, and Autumn Rohrig.

Ava Louise Mutz was born November 9, 2018 to John and Tina Mutz. Her sponsors were Laura Meyers and Carroll and Joan Rohrig.

We welcomed on Sunday, October 20, 2019, Owen Paul Guenther, son of Sean and Brittany Guenther. Owen was born June 22, 2019. His sponsors were Megan and Thomas Gray.

THANK YOU

- * Thank you to everyone who remembered Kenneth and I with birthday cards and good wishes for our September birthdays. We are blessed. *Kenneth & Sharen Thomas*
- * Thanks to Rita Cassidy for playing for us for worship on Sunday, October 6.
- * Thanks to Pastor Larry Knigga for leading us in worship on October 13 and October 20.
- * Thanks to Larry and Esther Hunger for taking the Lutheran World Relief Blankets and School Kits to Ohio to be shipped.
- * Thanks you to everyone who sent me birthday cards, gave me gifts, and for all of the phone calls for my birthday. They were greatly appreciated. God Bless you all!! *Martha Jean*

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Jacob Brinson and Bridget Swinney who were married on Saturday, October 5, 2019, at Hopewell Baptist Church.

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.

Travis Corndius (Steve Althoff's nephew) who has been deployed.

CONDOLANCES

Our Christian Sympathy to:

* David and Ruth Green and family on the recent passing of Ruth's sister-in-law, Donna Jo Lafary.

* The family of Mary Ensminger, who passed away at Margaret-Mary Hospital, Batesville, on October 17. Mary was born on May 13, 1943, baptized at St. Paul on April 2, 1950. She was confirmed on July 7, 1957. Members of her confirmation class were: Alan Eaton, Alice 'Eaton' Gray, William Green, Karen 'Hunger' Sauley, and Shirley 'West' Mingee.

Services were held at St. Paul on Tuesday, October 22, 2019 with burial in St. Paul Cemetery.

She is survived by her two brothers Alan Stegemoller and Jerry (Joyce) Stegemoller.



The women of St. Paul are busy preparing for many activities during the upcoming weeks.

Plans are in the process for completion of a buffet type cabinet which will provide a serving surface as well as storage capabilities to be used for meals and other events in the educational building. The cabinet will not be available

for the upcoming turkey dinner but is planned to be available for use for the Soup and Sandwich meal in February.

Once again the group is assisting with the Coats for Kids project. Please find details regarding the program in a separate article in the newsletter.

The WELCA remains an active part of St. Paul's with many projects and activities. All women of the congregation are encouraged to participate in meetings and activities as we "Grow in Faith and Sow the Love of Jesus"

The Mary Circle will meet November 5 at 6:30 p.n. Prayer and Devotions by Martha Jean, Bible Study by Kaye Hunger and Hostess for the evening is Dedra Landwehr.

Visiting Committee for November is Lois Vogel and Dedra Landwehr.

MARTHA CIRCLE – BAPTISMAL QUILTS

If you didn't attend the congregational meeting on October 27th, I'd like to share some background information on the Martha Circle and their quilt project.

Upon my retirement in 2008, I was voted in as chairman of the Martha Circle. I became very close to these ladies and they became like family to me. I wish to honor them as they continued to give of themselves...the older members connecting with the younger ones, thru the quilts they made for newly Baptized members. At the time, the circle members were META THIEMEN, ALTA DIEM, PATSY RALSTON, TRULY DRAUT, JUNE HURELBRINK, ESTHER GILLILAND, ESTHER BOOSTER AND PAT DAILY.

Everyone had ideas for the quilt label. The words "Jesus Loves Me, This I Know" along with Noah's Ark and animals, and the child's name and birth date, were chosen. Along with pictures, fabric, colors etc. for the 6 inch squares.

While Alta was still at home she sewed squares together, as I pinned them. After the meetings we would color the outlined pictures and place them where they looked best. I had to be sure I had more blocks ready to color as they would have theirs colored and be ready for more. The first quilt, was given to Allie Marie Redwine Hooton on August 9, 2009 at her baptism....Great granddaughter of Jerry and Merrell Webster. Since then 36 quilts have been given during baptisms, and an additional 4, which included Children's Hospital in Cincinnati. At one time there were 7 active members and 5 were over 90 years old and still giving of themselves.

The Martha Circle is no longer in existence and no more quilts are available. In order to continue this Baptismal gift tradition, I need volunteers from the congregation. Anyone from our nursery class to those over 100 years old are most welcome. All you have to do is color the pictures already outlined, AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO STAY INSIDE THE LINES. I will provide the 6 inch squares of fabric and the Fabric Markers. You can call me and I will see that you get the supplies. 812-667-5507. Thank you in advance for "giving of yourself" to continue this tradition. *Eileen LaGreca*

CROP WALK REPORT

There was an article in the Sept.-Oct. Lutheran magazine reporting 2019 as the 50th anniversary for Crop Walks. Christian Rural Oversea program has had participation of many ELCA Congregations throughout the years. I thank the Lord St. Paul's, Olean is one of them.

St. Paul's donated \$600.00 to feed the hungry of Ripley County and the world.

Pastor Curtis, Mandy, Matthew, Barb Eades, and I walked and fought hunger one step at a time.

Thanks to everyone that made this happen. Your Brother in Christ, *Gary Landwehr*

Editor's note: A big thank you to Gary for being in charge of this wonderful service each year! Without Gary being in charge, this wouldn't happen. Thanks again Gary

RELAY FOR LIFE DESSERT AUCTION**NOVEMBER 17**

St Paul Relay for Life Team will hold their 12th annual Dessert Auction Sunday, November 17, 2019 following the morning service. Anyone wishing to donate a dessert or any other item to the auction for Relay for Life, please bring them to the Fellowship Hall before service on Sunday, November 17.

Mark your calendar for Ripley County's 25th Relay for Life, 9 a.m. Saturday, June 13, 2020 – 1 a.m. Sunday June 14, 2020 at Batesville High School Track. Plans are under way to **CELEBRATE # 25 Strong**.

The website is active and ready for registration at <http://main.acsevents.org/goto/stpaulolean>

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES**AUGUST 18, 2019**

After Worship on September 15, church council met in the sanctuary. Those present were Jenny Darnold, Bob Hunger, David Lawrence, Ed Armbrecht, Jennifer Bunselmeier, Joan Rohrig, Linda Cutter, Pastor Black, and Peggy Mix. Pastor opened the meeting with prayer.

Copies of the secretary's report for both the August meeting and the special meeting were distributed. They were approved as presented.

Joan reported that through the month of July, the financial secretary's and treasurer's reports were in agreement. The treasurer's report will be checked this week. The only difference appears to be the interest earned.

By the October meeting, the treasurer's report should be up to date.

Pastor Black presented his report. He called the council's attention that the liturgy for Worship on September 29th will be shortened to allow for him to take part in the ecumenical service at the Pumpkin Show. Several baptisms are scheduled for October and November. One is scheduled during Pastor's vacation, but Pastor Knigga has agreed to preside over it. The family has agreed to this arrangement.

Old Business

The application for a church credit card has been received. After it has been reviewed, more discussion will follow next month.

Signs for the playground and parking lot discussed at last month's meeting will be posted soon.

Pastor's salary increase will be paid and brought up at the quarterly meeting in October. The annual discussion of his salary increase should be addressed in July. The new salary suggested by the synod is \$40,821. Other benefits will be based on this amount.

Joan brought the CD that matured. CDs are currently in a lock box at Friendship State Bank. Jennifer will check to see whose names are listed as people with access to that box. The discussion about who should be listed will continue at the next meeting.

New Business

While the rummage sale was being set up, the air conditioning unit in the educational building gave out. It has been fixed and a bill will be coming soon.

Since Pastor will be on vacation when the October meeting is scheduled, council changed the date to Wednesday, October 23rd, at 6:00. The book discussion will be postponed until that meeting so that Council could help with packing materials left from the rummage sale. For October, members should read Chapters 8 and 9.

The meeting was adjourned. Respectfully submitted, *Peggy Mix, Secretary*

QUARTERLY MEETING**JULY 28, 2019**

After worship on July 28, 2019, the congregation met for a quarterly meeting. David Lawrence opened the meeting. Pastor Black offered an opening prayer.

The secretary's report was presented and approved. The treasurer's report was made available on paper. The financial secretary presented her report and explained that the drop in the treasurer's balance was probably due to paying off some of the improvements. Both reports were accepted as presented.

The flooring project in the basement is done. When Mike Holman is free, he will be contacted about an estimate for the drainage problems.

Todd Ault replaced the broken window in the garage across the road.

The sign in front of the church needs some repair. Sometimes it does not light, and pieces of it have loosened or broken. The company that provided it will be contacted to see about the repairs.

Next Sunday, August 4, is the church picnic.

September 14 is the annual rummage sale.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned by praying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, *Peggy Mix, Secretary*