

DECEMBER 2019

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# 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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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

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## Dear Friends,

The Bible is many things. It is "the cradle wherein Christ is laid," in the words of Martin Luther. It is the "inspired word of God," according to many Christians, though we may differ on whether this means that the Bible is "inerrant" (without mistake) or not. It is a source of great literature, including prose, poetry, hymns, letters, and even deeply symbolic language.

Above all, the Bible is a story revealing the Lord's relationship with the Lord's people. Within this story are many individual stories, including (but not limited to) the stories of Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Samuel, David, Ruth, Esther, Job, Jonah, Peter, Mary Magdalene, and Paul. All of these stories have things to say to us on their own. But they also come together to tell one story: the story of what the Lord has done for the Lord's people over the centuries.

The season of Advent is a season of waiting and preparing for the arrival of Christ. Then, at Christmas, we begin the central chapters of the Bible's one story. With the birth of Jesus, we begin the story of the Lord becoming human and living among us as he works his way toward the Cross and the tomb. Along the way, Jesus teaches us about the Kingdom of Heaven, the limitations of the Law, and the open door that welcomes people from every nation and background into the family of God. And at the end, we can put the pieces together to see that Jesus is the promised Messiah, the one sent into the world to redeem all of God's Creation.

We invite you to join us as we begin these central chapters of the story. We have multiple ways of entering the story: our Blue Christmas service on December 17<sup>th</sup> for those who are struggling to find joy in this season, our children's program as our younger members share their versions of the story of Jesus' birth, and our candlelight service as we welcome the newborn child at his makeshift home away from home. Whether you join us for one, two, or all three of these worship services, you will be stepping into the story that is the peak of the one biblical story: the story of what the Lord has done for us through Jesus.

### Baptismal Birthdays

10 Reese Rusconi  
30 Marian Powaga

### Senior Birthdays

1 Alethea Jacobs  
2 Louis DeBurger  
4 Geneva Dick (93)  
11 Donetta Benham  
17 Ruth Ann Sellers  
19 Jerry Webster  
28 Shirley Barth

We wish you a blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas! *Pastor Curtis*

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## **SUNDAY SCHOOL SPECIAL OFFERING**

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

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## **CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL**

For the past several weeks, Children's Sunday School has been attended by one student. With this decline in attendance, we believe it is time to try something new. Children's Sunday School will be held the first Sunday of every month beginning December 1, and continuing through 2020. Children's Sunday School is for children through sixth grade. It is held in the basement, and begins at 9:00 a.m.

At any other time you know your child would like to attend Sunday School, please let us know ahead of time, and we will make it available to your child on that Sunday.

If you have any questions, please contact Teresa (812) 621-0320 or Alaynna (812) 621-0266.

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## **CHRISTMAS EVE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM ALERT!**

### **One year olds through Sixth Grade**

The "ABCs of Christmas" is our theme. We will continue to practice singing "Away in a Manager" at Kids' Choir, Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. 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](mailto:teresa_ll@hotmail.com). if you have any questions.

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## **"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, December 8**. 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. Items for February will be Paper Supplies. Contact Lois Vogel if you have questions.

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## **THANK YOU**

\* Thank you to everyone who agreed to have their names placed on the Church Counsel ballot this year.  
- *The Nominating Committee*

\*Thanks to all my family who started prayer chains, to my church family for cards, prayers, visits, and a special thanks to Pastor Black for his visit after my surgery. God Bless all of you. *Larry & Esther Hunger*

\*Thank you to Pastor Black for his prayers and visits. Thanks to the Women of the church, Eileen, Barbara, Alethea and Kaye for their special visits and gifts. Thanks to all for the prayers and the cards. May God Bless You! *Marilyn Smith*

\*Heartfelt thanks to my family, church family and friends for your continued prayers, concern, calls, cards, visits, flowers and food since my cancer diagnosis. Your kindness brightened days and always brought smiles. My treatments are finished, and prayers answered. Thanks be to God and thanks to each of you. *Barb Eades*

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## BAPTISMS

We welcomed on Sunday, November 3, 2019, Elisha James Rusconi, son of Joseph and Laura 'Hoskins' Rusconi thru the Rite of Holy Baptism. Eli was born June 22, 2019. His sponsors were Amy Hoskins and Drew Ackley

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## ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 3, 2019

We remembered on All Saints Sunday those who had departed from our midst since last All Saints Sunday: Arthur 'Sapo' Swingle, Willian 'Bill' Westmeier, Quintin Thomas, and Mary Ensminger.

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## 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.

**Matthew Bittick** deployed to Kuwait



The women of St. Paul continue to be actively involved in God's work. On November 2<sup>nd</sup> three representatives of St. Paul attended the Fall Cluster Conference at Zion Lutheran Church. St. Paul will be hosting the Cluster meeting in the spring 2020 and tentative plans are already being discussed.

The Turkey Dinner was held and was very successful, thanks to the hard work of Mary Ann and her crew.

Work continues on the serving cabinet which should be available in time for the Soup and Sandwich meal in February.

The Coats for Kids project is reaching the goal and St. Paul's will have provided 50 coats by the end of the project. These coats in conjunction with our project partner, Rebeca Scherer, will result in 100 children in Ripley County receiving a warm coat for winter. We are truly blessed to have been a part of this program and continue to be blessed by the generosity of the members of our congregation.

Plans for the upcoming Christmas event are being finalized and once again we will enjoy fellowship and creating gingerbread houses.

The women of St. Paul continue to be an active part of the continuing ministry of the Church. We look forward to 2020 and continue to be a part of God's Work. Our Hands.

Thank you to all the individuals who carry out His work in so many ways, both seen and unseen.

Visiting Committee for December is Ruth Green and Kaye Hunger.

Christy Swango, WELCA President

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## WELCA CHRISTMAS PARTY

DECEMBER 3, 2019

WELCA will be hosting the Christmas party on December 3 at 6:30. Join us for snacks, fun, fellowship, and gingerbread house decorating. Everyone is welcome and feel free to bring a friend or two. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Ed. Bldg. so we can make sure we have enough supplies.

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## 13<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CAROL FEST

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4,

Join us at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 4 for caroling and the reading of the Christmas story across the road by the nativity scene. Dress for the weather and bring a flashlight. Anyone play guitar??? That would be a wonderful addition this year! Following the singing, warm up with a cup of hot chocolate or coffee and enjoy a HORST doughnut – or two!! (In case you hadn't heard, Horst's Little Bakery Haus was named "2018 Sweetest Bakery in Indiana!!!!") If you don't want to be out in the cold, you can even park your car in the driveway and sing (or listen) from there!!

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## BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

DECEMBER 17, 2019

Our Blue Christmas service will take place on Tuesday, December 17th at 7:00 pm. If the holiday season is leading you to grief, anxiety, depression and sadness more than it is leading you to peace, comfort, and joy, then we invite you to participate in this different worship service. At this service, we can admit that we are not okay and be our true selves in worship. A Blue Christmas service may not be for everyone, but it may be the perfect Christmas service for you or for someone you know, so invite everyone who is having a difficult holiday season. Peace, *Pastor Curtis*

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## DESSERT AUCTION

Our 12<sup>th</sup> annual dessert auction was another huge success thanks to you. We raised \$1211 to help in the fight against cancer. THANK YOU!

Mark your calendar for Ripley County's 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

A *CELEBRATE* # 25 Strong kick-off event will be held January 16 at Margaret

Mary Health Center in Batesville. The doors will open at 6pm with the program from 6:30pm-7:30pm. A silent auction will be held and refreshments will be provided.

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

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## SHUT-INS

During this holiday season let us remember our shut-ins with a card. They are:

Esther Booster: 1921 East Co. Rd. 300 South, Versailles, IN 47042

Esther Geisler: 7 West Co. Rd. 450 South, Versailles, IN 47042

Robert Hurelbrink: 4222 South Baseline Rd., Versailles, IN 47042

Frank LaGreca: 6730 East Co. Rd. 550 South, Dillsboro, IN 47018

Ron Raper: 1339 West US 50, Versailles, IN 47042

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## CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

OCTOBER 23, 2019

On Wednesday evening, October 23, 2019, Jenny Darnold, Ed Armbrecht, Jennifer Bunselmeier, David Lawrence, Joan Rohrig, Bob Hunger, Pastor Black, and Peggy Mix met in the Education Unit.

The financial secretary's report was accepted as presented.

The treasurer's report was accepted as presented. Account balances were given as follows:

General	\$6,675.97	Continuing Education	\$65.97	Improvement	\$19,410.61
Relay for Life	\$340.00	Music	\$2,205.38	Playground	\$5,423.23
Luther League	\$7,502.48	Preservation	\$903.00	Camp Fees	\$ -85.00
Vinup Interest Trust	\$5,251.36	God's Work	\$3,541.56	Trust	\$2,598.88
Bible School	\$563.88				

Total of all accounts=\$54,397.32. The secretary's report was accepted as presented.

During Pastor Black's report, he gave a positive response to the workshop he attended. Both confirmation class members attended the community worship at the Pumpkin Show. He also requested that the nominating committee ask members being contacted about serving on council if anyone would also volunteer to attend synod assembly.

**Old Business** The matter of the safe deposit box was first discussed. Jennifer thinks that Ed is the only person listed to have access to it. The matter will be tabled until an inventory of the box can be assembled, and then a decision about who should be listed to have access can more easily be composed. For a church credit card, the bank will need official records to show that establishing one has been approved. A limit needs to be set. At Friendship State Bank, a \$39 fee will be assessed each time more than the limit is charged. They also require \$5 for replacing a card. Anyone who is approved to use it must have an ID and their Social Security number on record. Then each person would be issued his or her own card with individual name on it. Council decided that only Martha Jean and Pastor would be issued cards. Uses, such as Church Windows fee, travel expenses, etc., will be designated. German American Bank will also need board minutes to state who is authorized to execute the application to apply for credit on behalf of the church. Pastor and Martha Jean would be approved to use the card for up to \$1,250 each for a total of \$2,500. Council voted to apply through German American Bank's program with Jenny Darnold abstaining.

The congregation still has not heard if the changes to the Constitution have been approved by the synod. Pastor reported that those changes have been sent to the synod constitutional review committee, but has no further update. He will check with them to see if all submissions they need have been provided.

**New Business** The water heater has been replaced by Grover Miller.

Jennifer Miller has volunteered to supervise the junior high and high school part of the Christmas Eve program. Teresa Lawrence will oversee the part done by the younger children.

Dylan Chandler will again do the snow removal at the church. David will collect bids for mowing.

WELCA will be replacing the folding tables used for serving meals in the educational unit with new cabinets.

All members of Council are requested to be at the Thanksgiving Eve service.

Pastor's salary increase is already being paid. His health insurance will continue at the Gold+ level. A motion to approve Pastor's pay at \$1,700.88 per pay plus the recommended and required benefits effective September 1 was passed.

Other support pay increases were approved. Supply pastors will be paid \$150/week and mileage rate set by the IRS. The secretary's and custodian's pay is recommended to increase by 25 cents per hour, starting January 1st.

Business to be presented at next week's Quarterly Meeting will include Pastor's salary recommendation. The nominating committee will be set. Positions to be filled will be secretary, treasurer, deacon, and vice president. Eileen LaGreca has requested time to honor the Martha Circle which has disbanded.

The meeting adjourned to discussion of the book. In November, Chapters 10-12 will be discussed. In December, Chapters 13-15 will finish the book.

Respectfully submitted, *Peggy Mix, Secretary*