

JANUARY 2020

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,

"Everybody knows that."

When we have been members of a group or a family for a long time, we start to assume that everyone knows what we know. "Everybody knows" the story of how these two met. "Everybody knows" where to find the special holiday decorations and why it's not Christmas without these decorations in their proper place. "Everybody knows" the recipe for that one side dish or dessert that completes the family meal.

At least, we think everybody knows. Sometimes, we forget that the newer members of the family or group do not know these stories. They are not aware of how those two met, or why we need these particular decorations, or how to make that side dish or dessert that completes the meal. And the assumption that "everybody knows" these things reinforces the perception that the newer members of the family or group are not truly members of the family or group.

This type of thinking is especially dangerous for congregations. When we assume that "everybody knows," we start to build walls within the community. We start to isolate guests and newer members within the congregation by assuming that "everybody knows" where Chester's closet is, or that "everybody knows" we sing that hymn in a unique combination of tunes, or that "everybody knows" how to distinguish between page numbers and hymn numbers within the hymnal. When we use abbreviations and references that "everybody knows," we make it difficult for those who do not understand those abbreviations and references to participate in the events and activities to which we are inviting them. We also stop questioning why or how we do things because "everybody knows" why and how we do them.

In my role as pastor, I strive to be aware of those who do not know what "everybody knows." Therefore, I specify where portions of the liturgy can be found in the hymnal. I wait as guests who are used to reading everything printed in a bulletin or projected onto a screen or children who are learning how to participate in worship struggle to find the page because I would rather pause and enable their participation than rush ahead and force them to either catch up or (more likely) stop participating in worship until they understand where we are and what we are doing. And I try to limit my use of abbreviations and references so that no one misses out on an activity because they could not interpret what I said.

Baptismal Birthdays

None

Senior Birthdays

4 Ruth Tebbing

4 Ruth Green

10 David Diem

As we begin this new year, I invite you to notice what we assume that “everybody knows.” And I invite you to ask questions: Does everybody actually know this? How can we be more open to those who do not already know what we thought they knew? Are there things that “everybody knows” we do but we could either stop doing or do in a different way? And are we willing to risk not knowing so that we can learn something new?

SUNDAY SCHOOL SPECIAL OFFERING

The Sunday School Special Offering for the First quarter of 2020 (January thru March) will go to Fishes and Loaves Food Pantry.

CHILDREN’S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us for Children’s Sunday School held the first Sunday of every month. 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 Alayna (812) 621-0266.

“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, January 12**. 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.

THANK YOU

* I want to thank everyone for the cards, flowers and well wishes for my birthday. It made my day special! *Alethea Jacobs*

* Thank you for your generous donations sent 11-2-19 at your Cluster meeting. We appreciate your support and the items will put smiles on the faces of our service men and women! Wishing you all the special blessings of Thanksgiving to fill your heart with happiness. *Members of We Care Packages*

* I want to thank everyone for the prayers and prayer Shaw. All the love and support have made such a difference. I am so thankful! *Karen Sauley*

LWR BLANKETS

Lutheran World Relief Blanket making will resume Tuesday afternoon, January 7 at 1:00. Anyone who can tie a knot are most welcome to come and join us.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting will be held following service on Sunday, January 26. All Treasurers please have your books in the office ASAP after the first of the year.

Let's have a good attendance at our Annual Meeting this year.

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) back in the states.

Travis Corndius (Steve Althoff's nephew) deployed.

Matthew Bittick deployed to Kuwait



As 2019 came to a close and we anticipated the upcoming New Year, I have reflected back on the past year as President of the WELCA. I must admit that I accepted this position with anxiety and concern. I truly had no idea of the responsibilities of the role and what might be expected of me. What I have learned is that St. Paul's is truly a congregation filled with giving and loving individuals. I have been amazed at how everyone comes together to address a need. From the visiting committees, to the dinners, funeral dinners and auctions, Bible School, choirs, the Kids for Coats drive, the list goes on and on.

If I have omitted anyone, which I am sure I have, please know that all of you are very much appreciated. 2019 has been a year of many Blessings for me, not the least of which has been my involvement in WELCA. I have no doubt that 2020 will continue to be and even greater year. Please accept my gratitude for all the "Helping Hands" and generous and gracious hearts of this congregation.

Christy Swango, President for 2019

WELCA General Meeting in January will be held January 7 at 6:30 P.M. Hostess for the evening will be Barb Eades.

Visiting Committee for January: Martha Blodgett and Ellen Chase

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

SPECIAL MEETING—ELECTION OF OFFICERS NOVEMBER 24,

Following Worship on November 24, 2019, a special congregational meeting to elect officers was held. Ballots were handed out. A motion was made that since only one person was slated for each position, that those members be elected. The motion was seconded. All candidates were elected to their positions by unanimous vote.

Vice President--Paul Obendorf, Treasurer--Phyllis Armbrrecht, Secretary--Amy Hoskins,
Deacon--Matt West, Cemetery Treasurer--Patsy Hyatt

The meeting ended by praying the Lord's Prayer. Respectfully submitted, *Peggy Mix, Secretary*