

FEBRUARY 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](mailto:pastorcurtisinky@gmail.com)

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

---

## Dear Friends,

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." ~ Matthew 6:21

In all my time serving here as your pastor, I have seen your great love for this congregation and the surrounding community. You have shared with me what it means to many of you have worshipped and served the Lord within this congregation alongside your grandparents, your parents, your children, and/or your grandchildren.

In recent years, we have had several special projects around the congregation. We extended the porch on the north side of the education building and put new safety rails around both porches and the accessibility ramp. We refurbished the front doors. We have installed new flooring in the basement to replace the carpet that bore the signs of water damage. We have installed a new cabinet so we could store our communion supplies close to the sanctuary. And you, the members of this congregation, have stepped up to fund each of these projects (sometimes with the help of outside grants).

Even as we prepare for a new project for this year (see details in another section of the newsletter), we plan for this project with a healthy building fund.

But as we have focused on funding these projects and maintaining our building fund, we have lost focus on our general fund, by which we maintain and support the ministry of the congregation. Perhaps this is because we only have so much to donate and we made a choice to do our part to fund the projects mentioned above. Perhaps this is because we donate when we attend worship but do not donate when we do not attend worship. Perhaps this is because we have lost a significant number of our members to death in recent years.

Whatever the reason(s) may be for our current situation, our general fund is hurting, and we must ask for your financial support for our ministry. How you choose to respond is up to you. If all you can do is offer one small additional gift, we would gladly welcome your gift and commend your giving in the

### Baptismal Birthdays

12 Marshall Peelman

### Senior Birthdays

1 Katie Werner

2 Larry Hunger

7 Lois Vogel

10 Eileen LaGreca

21 Cheryll Obendorf

22 David Green

27 Ellen Mulford

spirit of the widow giving two coins (Mark 12:41 – 44). If you are not in the habit of giving a financial offering when you are present for worship, we invite you to start. If you have a habit of giving when you are here but not when you are absent, we invite you to consider using your bank's electronic banking system to set up a weekly or monthly offering that the bank can submit automatically for you whether or not you are present for worship. If you have made any type of will or financial plan, we invite you to consider arranging for a legacy gift to the congregation (and I can put you in contact with the synod's gift planner to help you make those arrangements).

I greatly appreciate your connection with St. Paul – Olean and your great desire to see the congregation flourish in its ministry within this community. I know that the love many of us hold for this place runs deep within us. We thank you for all that you have done to support the ministry of this congregation, and we thank you for all that you will do in the future to support the ministry of this congregation.

*Pastor Curtis*

---

## **SOUP AND SANDWICH LUNCH**

**FEBRUARY 2**

The WELCA requests the pleasure of your company at their annual soup and sandwich lunch after worship on February 2. Yummy homemade soups will warm you up before you head home for the Super Bowl later in the day. Free will offering will help purchase supplies for our Lutheran World Relief quilts.

---

## **FEBRUARY 16 WORSHIP SCHEDULE CHANGE**

Leading us in worship February 16 will be Dr. Cody Driver, Deacon. Dr. Driver is on staff at the Synod office as the Director, Transformational Leadership Academy.

There will be **no communion** that Sunday as Pastor Curtis will be on vacation.

---

## **SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING      FEBRUARY 23, 2020**

A special Congregational meeting will be held after service on Sunday, February 23, to discuss and vote on funding the drainage problem. The quote for this project is \$10,950.

---

## **ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE**

**FEBRUARY 26**

Our Ash Wednesday service will take place at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, February 26. The service will include worship, the imposition of ashes, and Holy Communion.



---

## LENT AND EASTER OFFERINGS

Offerings from the midweek Lenten services as well as the special Easter envelopes will be designated to South Ripley Sunshine Society Food Pantry.

---

## 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, February 9**. Items needed are Paper Supplies.

Items for March will be Cleaning Supplies. Contact Lois Vogel if you have questions.

---

## THANK YOU

- (To the WELCA) We would like to THANK YOU for making a contribution to our South Ripley Student Council for our yearly Christmas Drive. We reached out to over 75 churches, businesses, and community members in the surrounding area and raised over 1,400 dollars and were given over 100 toys, coats, gift cards, and various items. No matter how big or small, every donation made Christmas extra special for many students here at South Ripley. Thank you!  
~ SRES Student Council
- Special Thanks to my family for all their care after my stroke. Thanks for all the prayers, cards, phone calls that I received. Thanks to Pastor Curtis for his hospital visit. All of this meant so much to me. I am doing better and on the road to recovery. May God Bless each and every one.  
- Martha Jean
- Thanks to everyone who came out for a day of fun and fellowship at Pollard's Bowl on Sunday, January 23! There were 20 bowlers and nine spectators who cheered. Strikes and spares were abundant, along with a "few" gutter balls. You are also invited to support us in league play on

Thursdays at 6:30. Maybe some extra fans would help move us out of last place. ~*The Holy Oleanders – Connie, Mary Ann, Phyllis, and Ellen*

---

## CONGRATULATIONS TO...

- Blake and Libby Litmer on the birth of a daughter, Caroline Sue, on January 15, 2020. Caroline weighed 9 lb. 13 oz. and was 21.5 inches long. She is also welcomed home by big brother, Russell.
- Beth Mix McKenzie on graduating with her BSN in December. She graduated at the top of her class with honors and was the valedictorian/class speaker. She passed the boards in January and will start her new job beginning in February at Methodist Hospital in downtown Indianapolis working in the neuro-trauma progressive care unit.
- Tyler Liming and the South Ripley Raiders boys' bowling team for winning the regional and advancing to the semi-state.
- Reese Swingle and the South Ripley Junior Varsity boys' bowling team for winning the championship at the Columbus tournament.
- Darcie Diem and the South Ripley girls' swim team for being named Ohio River Valley Conference champs.

---

## CONDOLENCES

### Our Christian Sympathy to:

\* Lynette Thayer Young and family at the passing of her mother, Jeanette Huntington Thayer on January 11, 2020. Services were held on Thursday, January 17 at Filter-DeVries-Moore Funeral Home in Dillsboro. Jeanette was also the aunt of Greg Huntington.

---

## PRAYER LIST

Please help keep our prayer list current by notifying the office of additions or deletions.

---

## GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE

**APRIL 10**

“Tenebrae” comes from the Latin meaning “shadows” or “darkness,” so it is a service of shadows. The Tenebrae service makes use of gradually diminishing light through the extinguishing of candles to symbolize the events of Holy Week from the triumphant Palm Sunday entry through Jesus’ burial. This increasing darkness symbolizes the approaching darkness of Jesus’ death and of hopelessness in the world without God. The service concludes in darkness with worshippers leaving in silence to ponder the impact of Christ’s death and await the coming Resurrection.

This year, the choir will lead the service with the presentation of “It Is Finished” by Mary McDonald. It includes readings, selections by the choir, and congregational singing. The choir has already begun to work on the music, but will need additional voices to make it more meaningful. Rehearsals will continue each Wednesday evening at the end of our regular practice time. Additional brief rehearsals (15 minutes or so) will be held after worship each Sunday. Definite dates and times will be posted later. A link to the music has been posted on the church Facebook page and a CD is available for your use so you can rehearse at home. Additional music will be ordered, but we’ll need an accurate count of who will be participating. **Singers, please sign up on the bulletin board as soon as you can.** Order will be placed on February 17. The invitation to join the choir (and the congregation) will also be extended to local churches. Please share this information with others.

---

## 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, deployed

**James Bardine**, brother of Mandy Black, at Robins AFB, GA

**Tristan Ralston**, grandson of Pat Ralston, stationed in Hawaii.

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

**Travis Cornelius** (Steve Althoff's nephew) deployed.

**Mattheus Bittick** deployed to Kuwait

---

## LWR BLANKETS

Lutheran World Relief Blanket making happens on Tuesdays beginning at 1:00. No experience or sewing skills necessary. If you can tie a knot then we can put you to work. Come share the fellowship while making a difference in the world. Proceeds from the **February 2 Soup and Sandwich lunch** will be used to purchase supplies for the quilts.



WELCA recently purchased two custom cabinets for the educational building that will be able to hold all of the serving supplies for meals and will also be able to be used as a tabletop to serve meals from. The cabinets are expected to arrive by mid-February.

Designation of our February soup and sandwich dinner funds to LWR quilt supplies. German dinner and turkey dinner funds will be held in the WELCA general fund.

Olean will host the Spring Cluster gathering on April 18. Pencil the date on your calendar and plan to attend. Watch the newsletter for more details.

Thank you to everyone who donated coats for the "Coats for Kids" project. 54 coats were collected. We will do this project again in the fall so now would be a good time to catch kids' coats on sale at the end of the season.

School kits will be assembled again this year for LWR. Church council has approved for us to place baskets at the door on Sunday, May 17 to receive monetary donations from those congregational members who would like to help fund this project.

Our next general meeting is March 3 at 6:30 pm in the educational building.

February 5 – Mary Circle meeting – 1:00 (Note the new time change to afternoon meetings!)

Prayer and Devotions – Linda Cutter    Bible Study – Kaye Hunger    Hostess – Alethea Jacobs

*Jenny Darnold, WELCA President*

---

## ANATOMY OF YOUR OFFERING ENVELOPE

I've had a few questions about what the designations mean on your church offering envelope. Here it is in a nutshell.....

- Current – all monies designated here go in the general fund to pay salaries, utilities, insurance, and other operating expenses.
- Improvement – all monies designated here go to pay for general or specific improvements to the church/parsonage.
- Benevolence – all monies designated here are sent to the Indiana-Kentucky Synod office for distribution to their ministries as well as a portion being sent to the ELCA.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (Please specify) – all monies designated here are placed where you request – i.e. World Hunger, Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, Matt's Mission, Back Door Friends of Faith, just to name a few. This money is held in trust until such time that it can be disbursed to the appropriate entity. (Usually at the end of each month.) Other designations, such as VBS, Music, Playground, Luther League, Relay for Life, etc. are placed in those individual funds.

Offerings in your envelope that are not designated for something specific go into the general fund. Loose offering placed in the offering plate each Sunday also goes into the general fund.

Because St. Paul – Olean does not operate on a set “budget”, your offerings go where you choose. If we did operate on a budget, all the money would go into one fund and distributed according to that budget.

If you have any questions at all, please reach out to me and I will do my best to answer them.

- *Phyllis Armbrecht, Treasurer*