

MARCH 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

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Dear Friends,

You are likely receiving this newsletter just after the Church observes Ash Wednesday, which falls on February 26th this year. This means that we will have just started the liturgical season of Lent, a 40-day period that leads us into Holy Week.

St. Paul – Olean traditionally observes this season with a series of Wednesday evening prayer services. These services will start on March 4th and continue through April 1st, the final Wednesday before the beginning of Holy Week. We will spend this time in worship and prayer using the "Holden Evening Prayer" liturgy.

Our theme for these evening prayer services will be "At the Name of Jesus." We will be taking time each week to read Philippians 2:5 – 11, St. Paul's quotation of an ancient Christian hymn, which reads as follows:

⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

(Phi 2:5-11 NRSV)

Different weeks will bring a different portion of this passage into focus. Together, these various phrases will help us travel the road to the cross and picture the swift change between the greeting Jesus received as he entered Jerusalem and the jeers he received as Pontius Pilate brought him before the mob calling for Jesus' death.

Baptismal Birthdays

- 10 Eden Landwehr
- 10 Bennett Swango
- 15 Landon McIntosh
- 15 Karter McIntosh

Senior Birthdays

- 12 Ellen Chase
- 13 Jerry Smith
- 15 Esther Booster (92)
- 29 Jim Benham
- 30 Bob Ehlers
- 31 Doris Droege

I invite you to join me and your siblings in Christ for these evening prayer services. I hope that these evening prayer services and these reflections will help you journey through the season of Lent on our way to Holy Week. *Pastor Curtis*

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.

VBS

Mark your calendar for July 5-9 for VBS! Our theme is year is "On Earth as in Heaven". We will be focusing on the Lords' Prayer. Planning for this event is in the beginning stages. Look for more info to follow. Please volunteer to be a part of the VBS Team this year! Question? See Pastor Curtis, Teresa or Alayna.

"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, March 8**. Items needed are Cleaning Supplies.

Items for April will be Personal Products.. Contact Lois Vogel if you have questions.

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

- David and Ruth Green on the birth of a Great Granddaughter, Audra Michelle Baker born February 17, 2020, wt. 9 lbs. and 21 in. long. Andra is the daughter of Zach ary and Amanda Baker.
- Darcie Diem for setting a new school record for South Ripley Swimming in the 200 Freestyle with a time of 2:12.97 and also the 500 Freestyle with a time of 6:03.68.
- Tyler Liming, who will be partnered with Tyler Hinkle, for the National Unified Bowling tournament in Reno, Nevada in March. Jason Liming will also participate as a coach.

THANK YOU

- Sorry I messed and forgot to give a big thank you to Phyllis Armbrecht for filling in for me while I was in the hospital. Now I need to give a big shout out to Paul and Cheryl Obendorf for coming to my rescue when I wasn't able to come to work again. Thanks to Ernest Lee Hunger for taking the February Newsletters to the post office for me, Kaye and Christy for coming and helping to fold and prepare the newsletters. I just couldn't do it without their help. I sure appreciate all the help I have had. We are truly God's family always willing to help each other out in time of need. God Bless you all!! *Martha Jean*
- Thank you to the Sunday School fund for funding our first trip to Kangaroos in Madison! Fourteen kids and fourteen adults attended. A great time was had by all! See the pictures posted on the Church face book page. Look for this to become an annual event! - *Teresa Lawrence*
- Once again, I have been blessed to be part of this caring congregation. Thank you for your cards, goody bags, delivered meals, gifts, messages, and especially the prayers during my recent surgery and hospital stay. It was good to be back "home" at Olean where even my littlest choir kids had prayed for me. **Thanks be to God who continues to watch over me.** *Phyllis Armbrecht*
- Thank you to everyone who helped me with my Pay It Forward Project. My mom, Aunt Jenny, grandparents, and I delivered over 150 blankets (in bags decorated by Camden, Bentley, and Eva Lou) to my friends at Norton's Children's Hospital NICU on Friday, February 21. Those blankets will bring comfort to all the babies in the NICU who need a little bit of love. You know a little bit of love goes a long, long way! I know because you have all loved me from the beginning when I was like those tiny babies. Thank you so much!!! Love, *Andrew "Tater Tot Bob" Bloos*
- Thanks to Dr. Cory Driver, Deacon, for filling in for Pastor Curtis while he was on vacation on Sunday, February 16. Dr. Driver is on staff at the Synod office as the Director, Transformational Leadership Academy.
- Thanks to Robin Stegemiller for playing the piano for us on February 16.
- Thank you for the donations to our Back Door Friends in Faith. We appreciate your continued giving. *Blessings, Tyson United Methodist Women*

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.



The Soup & Sandwich dinner donations totaled \$862. These funds will be used purchase supplies to support our ongoing Lutheran World Relief Quilt project.

Be sure to check out the new cabinets in the educational building. These cabinets hold all of our roasters and chafing dishes, along with all of the paper goods we use for meals. The cabinets can be easily rolled out to be used to serve meals off of. Our first meal that we will put these to use is the German Dinner on March 1st. We hope you'll be there!

Prayer shawls are available for those who need them. The shawls now have a new home in Chester's Closet. If you need assistance with prayer shawls, please contact Barbara Eades or Phyllis Armbrecht.

Matt's Mission continues to support numerous individuals. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Thanksgiving and Christmas offerings. These funds were designated to support Matt's Mission and will be put to good use to continue to support travel for ongoing medical treatment.

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.

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.

The Agape Meal will be served on April 9 at 6 pm in the educational building. We hope you will join us.

Our next general meeting is March 3 at 6:30 pm in the educational building. Devotions led by Linda Rump. Hostess will be Linda Rump.

Visiting Committee for March: Lois Vogel and Dedra Landwehr

An order form is enclosed for the Easter flowers to decorate our sanctuary on Easter.

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. The invitation to join the choir (and the congregation) will also be extended to local churches. Please share this information with others.

EASTER FLOWERS**ORDER BY MARCH 23, 2020**In honor of:
_____*or*In memory of:
_____*or*In thankfulness for:
_____Given by:

We will publish a listing in the Easter Sunday bulletins.

We will still do the Easter Lily Cross

We are doing something different this year, and having a variety of spring flowers that you may order.

They are

Easter Lilies	\$14.00	# _____	Mums/daisies	\$18.00	# _____
Tulips	\$15.00	# _____	Hydrangeas	\$30.00	# _____
Hyacinths	\$15.00	# _____	Azaleas	\$28.00	# _____

This includes foil and bow