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Fellowship Days Return

The Women of the Church will be having their Fellowship Days from 9:30 to 3:00 the Wednesdays in January and February, beginning January 8th. During these days the women put together quilts for Lutheran World Relief, make cheer baskets, Linus blankets, and other projects to aid the needy. Lunch is served at noon! Soup is provided, and you are invited to bring a dish to share. (It helps if the dish has food in it.) It is a great time of fellowship and service. Come join the ladies. On the 8th the ladies will be joined by Nancy Teeter's Sewing Circle.

1st Communion Classes Begin

Any child who is ready to take their First Communion is invited to come to the preparation classes. They will be held on Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM for five Sundays beginning on January 12. First Communion will be February 9.

That's a BIG Fish!

Jonah teaches us how to listen to God. For six Fridays starting on January 10 Pastor Doug will lead a discussion on the book of Jonah. The discussion will be from 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM. The cost is \$6.00. Please contact him for more information and to sign up.

Finding Healing for Life's Hurts

Are your coping skills coping less effective than before?

Do life's hurts bug you?

A healing care group meets for 16 weeks to invite Jesus to bring deep healing to the places where we need it the most. Carol Pretorius and Pam Van Horn will be leading a group of six to eight women on Tuesday nights starting at 6:30 PM on January 28. Call Carol 419-886-4045 or Pam 740694-3142 for info or to sign up. There is a cost for the materials.

What Gift Did/ Will You Give?

Ask Jesus the following question: "What gift would you like me to give you this Christmas?" Wrap it up, address it to Jesus, and put it under your Christmas tree.

The ideal gift:

- Has meaning for the recipient,
- Reflects your relationship with the recipient,
- Contains your own ingenuity, skill, & creativity,
- Cost you something,
- Is given with great love.

Note: Christmas last for 12 days until January 5.

New Year / New You

Weight Watchers

Mondays from 5:30 to 6:30
in the Community Room.

Food Addicts Anonymous

Mondays from 6:00 to 7:00
in the Social Room.

Alcoholics Anonymous

Mondays from 8:00 to 9:00
in the library.

Gift of the Month

The Gift of the Month for January is milk, fresh fruit and/or vegetables for Harmony House.

Please put milk in the refrigerators of Community Room kitchen or Social Room kitchen on Saturday evening or Sunday morning.



Photo at right: Darian Gottfried wrapping gifts for the 12 Days of Christmas during Sunday School hour. Photo by Ashley DeFrancisco.



Ultreya

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Sunday, January 12, 2014

3:00 p.m.

A Potluck Dinner will follow the worship service.

Meat and paper products will be provided.

Bring your favorite dish to share.

There are still seats available for the **FLORIDA TRIP**. Contact **Marge Armstrong** (740-694-0817) if you are interested. Cost is \$490.00

Thank You Notes Received

Dear Friends:

Our Board of Directors, Staff, and Residents would like to take a few moments to express our thankfulness for caring, compassionate, and generous people such as you. We appreciate your willingness to take part in the lives of the young people we serve. Our children come to us with a number of emotional, behavioral, or psychological concerns. Our mission is to serve these children and work with their families to promote their mental, social, physical, and spiritual well being so that they can return to their homes and communities with the belief and confidence that they can fulfill their life goals. Thank you for taking a significant part in their successes. Your gift of \$250.00 is sincerely appreciated.

For over a century, it has been the faithful support of our friends and partners that has kept our ministry to chil-

dren and families strong and successful, and it is what will continue to strengthen us as we advance into our second century of service. I pray that God will bless you for your generosity toward His children.

Thank you so very much for your gift and support of Oesterlen!

Sincerely,

Donald L. Warner, Executive Director

Dear Friends:

I would like to thank everyone for all the prayers, food, gifts, visits, and the cheer basket that was so pretty and good.

It's so nice to have friends who are such a wonderful help, and I really appreciate it.

God Bless,

With love,

Dixie Gehrisch

Dear Church Family,

Thank you very much for the cheer basket and thinking of me. I enjoyed it.

Barbara Noblet

Thank You to all the wonderful people who brought desserts to the Thanksgiving Dinner at the church. We had such a nice selection of delicious goodies to pick from.

A special thanks to those who helped plate and set out the desserts.

It is nice that we have so many who are willing to give of their time and talent to make all the special things happen here at St. Paul Lutheran Church.

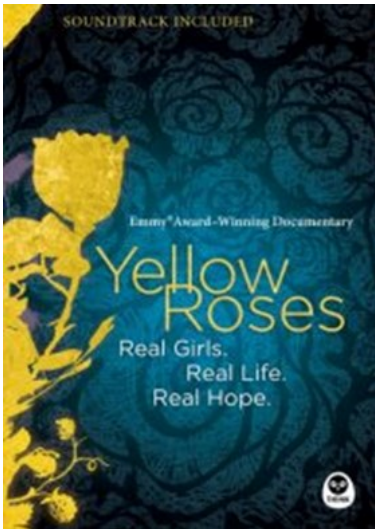
Nancy Teeter

Thanks to all the ladies of the church who made the wonderful cheer basket.

Merry Christmas,

Jean Reed

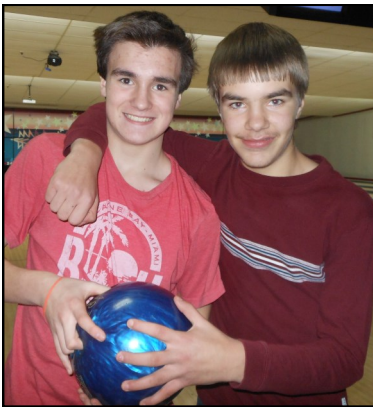
Yellow Roses Bible Study



The Yellow Roses Bible Study is an eight week study for girls ages 13 – 18. We will begin the study on Sunday, January 5th from 4:00 to 5:30. Please consider joining Ashley DeFrancisco and Katy Lang as we teach about real challenges girls faced in the real world, and how to find hope through them all. Some topics that will be discussed are relationships, beauty, unrealistic expectations and abuse.

Please call/text Ashley to sign up – 419 496 9612
Space is limited.

Below: Seth Wilson and Brian Harding having fun at bowling!



Dads & Daughters

What is it like to be your daughter's Dad?

How is raising a daughter different than raising a son?

What does your daughter need from you?

Daughters need their Dads in way that no other male can meet. Pastor Doug invites all Dads of Daughters for a six week hour and half conversation about that special relationship dynamic. The discussion group will meet on Sunday afternoons from 4:00 to 5:30 on Sundays, beginning January 19th.



The youth at the December 15th bowling outing after delivering the gifts to the residents of the Country Meadow Nursing Home.

Left to right: Aly Wend, Kylee Helinski, Morgan Klenk, Avery Wend, Kaylin Helinski, MacKenzie Klenk, Valerie Golden, Lacy DeFrancisco and Meghan Hadley. *Photo by Ashley DeFrancisco.*

Pastor Doug's Letter: December 17, 2013

Merry Christmas to all.

As we enter this season of celebrating that Jesus is God-With-Us, I give thanks to God for one member of the Body of Christ who truly has allowed God to be incarnate in her flesh. She is truly one of God's great gifts. Imagine: God in us. Only you do not have to imagine it, you can see it in the flesh.

When December 31 comes, DeLee McNaul will write her last letter of blessing to those for whom we pray. Once a year, for more than ten years, you have gotten a personal letter from DeLee letting you know that we are praying for you.

Several years before that, we began the tradition of praying for each member of the Ministry Body for one week. We randomly assigned each person to a different week so that it would not necessarily be alphabetical nor be all the same family members each week. The list is published each year, and the names for the week are put in the bulletin. The church members are invited to pray for each other by name. DeLee was one of the members who faithfully prayed for us week in and week out.

Throughout her lifetime DeLee has served Jesus in a number of ways in the church, in her family, and in the community, but eventually health problems began to hinder her ability to serve in ways that she once enjoyed. One day she said to me, "I want to serve Jesus but cannot get out like I used to. I have been thinking. I pray for these people each week, and I wonder if I might write them a personal letter telling them that we are praying for them. I like to write letters and this is something I could do."

"Of course you can do that," I said. I wrote a brief general paragraph, put it on letterhead, and made arrangements for Barb to bring her labels, envelopes and stamps. Every six months or so she would call Barb and ask for more envelopes, letterhead or stamps. From then on everyone got a letter once a year.

DeLee will tell you this is a precious gift for her to give. Writing the letters brings her joy and gives her great satisfaction to serve the church family. This year her health has worsened and it has become increasingly difficult for her to see and to write. So she has decided to stop the writing but to keep on praying.

Thank you, DeLee, for your gift of prayer. It has been a greater gift to our church than anyone can imagine. Much of the blessing that has come our way has been due to your prayers and to the prayers of all those who faithfully remember us before God. You truly have great faith and your faith enables the power of God to work within us.

For those of you who do not know DeLee, it is important to know that this faith that she has is the result of a lifetime of trusting God. She has faced her share of challenges, difficulties and troubles in this life. She has responded to them with faith, hope and love. She expects God to be good, she expects God to answer with blessing, and so she prays.

Several things impress me about her life, and she serves as an example for us all. She did not begin to pray when frailty of health began to confine her to home. She worshipped God all her life, read her Bible daily, and prayed every day. This life time attention to God has resulted in God doing a transforming work in her. There is no bitterness in her, no worry, and no self-pity. Instead she is grateful, joyful and hopeful. A lifetime of trusting God and loving God has distilled in her a deep experience of God's love and faithfulness.

One of the *Personal Pretorius' Principles* is: The older a person is the more they become their true selves. Like an ancient tree in winter, striped of the leaves that hide its inner branches, the true shape is revealed against the winter sky.

Even better, one of the *Biblical Principles* is: "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit." *2 Corinthians 3:17-18 (NRSV)*

Merry Christmas literally means *Joyful Christ Worship*. You are invited to have that same heart of *Joyful Christ Worship* that DeLee has by inviting the Spirit of the Lord to be incarnate—to be God-in-the-flesh—in you. How God will be in you will be different than how God is in DeLee. She is God's unique saint, and you are God's unique saint. How you invite the Spirit of the Lord to be in you will be different than the ways that DeLee does. Yet, like all the saints before us and around us, it will certainly involve attention to worship, to the Word of God, and to prayer.

Joyful Christ Worship,

Pastor Doug

Happy Birthday

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 3 Debbie Jolin | 13 Andrew Garn |
| 3 Trey Boyd | 14 Adrienne Hoover |
| 4 Lois McCullough | 14 Steven Broeske |
| 5 Tara Teeter | 17 Erin Craw |
| 6 Tom Boyd (Sr) | 17 Shirley Wade |
| 6 Morgan Klenk | 22 Donald Harding |
| 7 Jeff Wright | 22 Matt Craw |
| 7 Cody Teeter | 26 Geraldine Leedy |
| 8 Clare Clemens | 26 Valda Washburn |
| 11 Jacob Helinski | 27 Cheryl Lantz |
| 11 Jordyne Helinski | 30 Nick Hammett |
| 13 Laurie Boone | 31 Brent White |
| 13 Danielle Wright | |

Happy Anniversary

- January 2, 1993 Rod & Cindy Pearce
 January 20, 1951 Loren & Madge Peters

Remember Our Shut-Ins

Wedgewood Estates

600 South Trimble Road,
 Mansfield, OH 44906

George Ridenour, Bea Tawse

Oak Grove Manor

1670 Crider Road,
 Mansfield, OH 44903

Jean Reed

Country Meadow Care Center

4910 Algire Rd,
 Bellville, OH 44813

Barb Noblet

Homebound Church Family:

Ella Jane Fry
 Roberta Loescher
 Dixie Gehrisch

Library News

New on the shelves of our church library is the 10-DVD set of **Love Comes Softly**. Inspired by Janette Oke’s acclaimed novel series, this heartwarming collection follows one family’s story from their early beginnings on the American frontier. After his wife dies, Clark Davis marries the also widowed Marty Claridge, and the two set out to homestead the untamed West. When they start a family of their own, a triumphant saga begins filled with adventure, courage, love and faith.

If you crave some clean comedy, the CD **Having a Girls’ Nite Out**, by Chonda Pierce will satisfy your appetite. Chonda will remind you of Erma Bombeck, and in some ways, Phyllis Diller as well, as she captures hilarity and inspiration, music and comedy for women of all ages in all walks of life. One male reviewer wrote, “I laughed! I cried! I was jealous, because I’m not a girl and no one would let me in the building!”

Bo’s Café is a novel by John Lynch, Bill Thrall and Bruce McNicol. High-powered Exec Steven Kerner has no idea his American dream is about to come crashing down. His high-profile, high octane life has always provided everything he’s wanted. Or so he thought. When his unresolved anger threatens his marriage, and his attempts to fix it only drive the one he loves farther away, he is pushed to the brink. An invitation from mystery man Andy Monroe may be the greatest hope Steve’s ever been handed.

You are invited to visit our library, borrow these or any materials you choose to for two weeks by signing them out on the clipboard there. If you have any comments, requests or recommendations, please call Nancy Bletner, 505-303-4663 or Judy Harding, 419-886-1904.



Paul Harding working hard wrapping presents for the 12 Days of Christmas project. Photo by Ashley DeFrancisco.

Worship Services for January

Jan 5 Second Sunday of Christmas

Jeremiah 31:7-14 Psalm 147:12-20 *Ephesians 1:3-14* John 1:1-18

The Future of the Church: The Remnant Will Reign

Today is the last official day of the twelve festival days of Christmas, but our world has packed away its Christmas trimmings and turned its focus to the New Year. And we are the children of our age. Yet, we are children of God too, and our focus is different. We look to the prophets to learn how to read what will happen in the future. The prophets' words are remembered because they got it right. Today we listen to Jeremiah speak the God's word that the remnant will reign.



Jan 12 Baptism of Our Lord

Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 29 *Acts 10:34-43* Matthew 3:13-17

The Future of the Church: To Be the Covenant People

You can be baptized or you can be **BAPTIZED!!** Baptism can be a squirt of perfume or a flame thrower. Baptism can be washing your hands or a two hour soak in a hot tub. When we consider the future of the church we are invited to hear the words of the prophet Isaiah when he promises that we will be the covenant people. The baptism of Jesus enabled him to make this possible for him and for us.

Jan 19 Second Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 40:1-11 *1 Corinthians 1:1-9* John 1:29-42

The Future of the Church: To Live for Not-Your-People

When we consider what the church will be like in the future it is clear from the prophet Isaiah and from the work of Jesus that we are called to be a light to the nations, to bring salvation to those who do not know God. As Archbishop William Temple said, "The Church is the only society on earth that exists for the benefit of non-members."



Jan 26 Third Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1-4 Psalm 27:1, 4-9 *1 Corinthians 1:10-18* Matthew 4:12-23

The Future of the Church: Is Below the Equator

Lift up your eyes. Do not look only to our own congregation, synod, denomination, or heritage. God is doing dramatic work throughout the world and the greatest growth in the church is coming below the equator in many of the third world countries. If God can use the hicks from Galilee to turn the world upside down, we do well to look farther in our own world to see what God is bringing to the church of the future.



Meals for the Sick

When church members come home from the hospital, Lana Worner calls volunteers to bring them a simple meal. She said, "I might take soup and banana nut bread. One

person bought a meal and delivered it." Call her (after 10 AM) at 419-886-4873 if you would like to volunteer to do this. Call her too to request a meal for someone.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 Christmas 1 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Learning 10:30am - Worship	30 5:30pm - Weight 6pm - FAA 6:30pm - Reunion 7pm - Bible Study 7pm - Reunion	31 New Year's Eve	1 New Year's Day	2 4pm - Painter's Alive 6pm - Prayer	3	4
5 Christmas 2 8:15am - PD on 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - Learning 10:30am - Worship 4pm - Yellow Roses	6 5:30pm - Weight 6pm - FAA 6:30pm - Reunion 7pm - Bible Study 7pm - Reunion 8pm - AA	7 6:30pm - Yoga 7pm - Reunion	8 9:30am - Fellowship 6:15pm - Catechism 7pm - Arise! Praise 7:30pm - Catechism 7:30pm - Choir	9 4pm - Painter's Alive 6pm - Prayer	10 1:15pm - Jonah Bible	11
12 Baptism of Jesus 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - First 9:30am - Learning 10:30am - Worship 3pm - Ultreya	13 5:30pm - Weight 6pm - FAA 6:30pm - Reunion 7pm - Bible Study 7pm - Reunion 8pm - AA	14 6:30pm - Yoga 7pm - Reunion	15 9:30am - Fellowship 6:15pm - Catechism 7pm - Arise! Praise 7:30pm - Catechism 7:30pm - Choir	16 4pm - Painter's Alive 6pm - Prayer 7pm - Guardians &	17 1:15pm - Jonah Bible	18
19 Epiphany 2 8:15am - PD on 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - First 9:30am - Learning 10:30am - Worship 4pm - Dads &	20 Martin Luther King, 5:30pm - Weight 6pm - FAA 6:30pm - Reunion 7pm - Bible Study 7pm - Reunion 8pm - AA	21 6:30pm - Yoga 7pm - Reunion	22 9:30am - Fellowship 6:15pm - Catechism 7pm - Arise! Praise 7:30pm - Catechism 7:30pm - Choir	23 4pm - Painter's Alive 6pm - Prayer	24 1:15pm - Jonah Bible	25
26 Epiphany 4 8:15am - Worship 9:30am - First 9:30am - Learning 10:30am - Worship 4pm - Dads &	27 5:30pm - Weight 6pm - FAA 6:30pm - Reunion 7pm - Bible Study 7pm - Reunion 8pm - AA	28 6:30pm - Healing 6:30pm - Yoga 7pm - Reunion	29 9:30am - Fellowship 6:15pm - Catechism 7pm - Arise! Praise 7:30pm - Catechism 7:30pm - Choir	30 4pm - Painter's Alive 6pm - Prayer	31 1:15pm - Jonah Bible	1

Thanks to This Year's **Poinsettia** Donors

Bob, Judy, John & Jim Coppersmith, in memory of John & Hildegarde Werner and Carl & Ardella Coppersmith.

Alwine & Fred Stull, in memory of Mr. Mrs. George Diener and Mr. Mrs. Harold Stull.

Lois Oyster, in memory of Carroll Oyster, Olive Darling and Tim Tilton.

Elaine & Steve Dotson

Alwine & Fred Stull, in honor of Amelia Rados.

Jeff, Stacy, Jenny & Danielle Wright, in memory of Stephanie Wright and Paul J. Cullen.

Sabrina and Callan Pugh, in memory of Caitlin Pugh.

Marge Armstrong, in honor of loved ones.

Clare Duncan Clemens, in memory of our Veterans.

Mr. Mrs. Donald Shaffer, in memory of their parents.

Gary & Connie Barr, in memory of Eugene Wise.

The Lang Family, in memory of Jerry Lang.

Adrienne, Rich & Jessica, in memory of Bill Hoover.

Gary & Cheryl Lantz, in honor of the Christ Child.

Steve & Laurie Leedy & Family, in memory of Rosemary Shasky and Gene Leedy.

Adrienne, Rich & Jessica, in honor of Tom & Jackie Boyd and Margaret Hoover.

Lois McCullough, in memory of Harry McCullough.

Dick & Bonnie Brenneman, in memory of loved ones.

Judy Adams, in honor of the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Lois McCullough, in honor of Sara, Andy, Jessica, Rex & Michael.

Carolyn Stoner, in memory of Leonard Stoner, Harry & Lausena Stoner and Robert & Mary Clever.

Samantha & Brian Stoner & Family, in memory of Zona Loveland-Atwell.

In honor of the family of **Paul and Nancy Martin**.

Jim & Jamie Woodward, in memory of Jim Jacobs and Herb Woodward.

Samantha & Brian Stoner & Family, in memory of Gahan Diesel Eddleblute.

Pastor Doug & Carol, in honor of the Incarnation of Jesus in the lives of the people of St. Paul Lutheran Church.

Pam Hartley, in memory of Edward.

A special thanks to

Wade & Gatton Nurseries

for donating the trees, wreaths, and roping.



OUR MISSION:

Living & Sharing God's Love



OUR VISION:

We live & share our faith in Jesus Christ by:

- ◇ Trusting God with all our heart.
- ◇ Learning God's desire for us.
- ◇ Telling others about God's love,
- ◇ Caring for others using the gifts God gives us.

The St. Paul Epistle

St. Paul Lutheran Church
48 Church Street
Bellville, Ohio 44813

Pastor Doug Pretorius

Church Phone
419-886-3521

Church Fax
419-886-3521

Email
StPaulBell@AOL.com

Web
www.splc-bellville.org

8:15 AM

Arise! Worship Service
Acoustical Guitar Music

9:30 AM

Adult & Kids Learning

10:30 AM

Rejoice! Worship Service
Organ Music
Nursery Available

Holy Communion Weekly

Handicapped Accessible