March, 2013



The St. Paul Epistle

A Newsletter of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Bellville, Ohio

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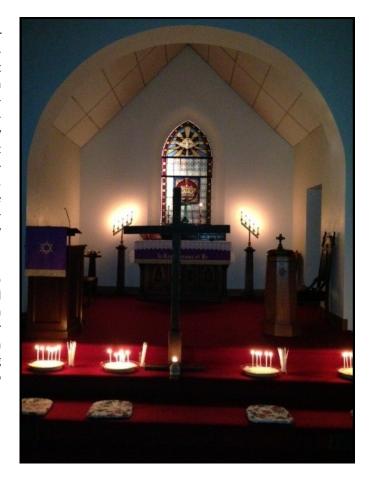
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Gather Around the Cross

You are invited to *Gather Around the Cross* on Wednesday evenings in Lent to let God encounter you through Scripture, singing, and silence. At each worship service there is the opportunity to come forward, kneel at the cross, and light an individual candle while you pray. The photo at right is the church chancel after the worship service on February 20th. (*Photo by Cheryl Lantz.*)

This simple Lenten worship service begins at **6:40** and will last about a half hour. In addition, a simple supper which will be served from 5:30 – 6:30. Take time during the busyness of the week to hear God speak to you.



Un-Birthday Party Celebration February 10th



Save Stamps for Veterans

You might have noticed boxes in the entry way to the sanctuary for collecting cancelled stamps. These stamps are sent to the Department of Veterans Affairs to be used in the rehabilitation of injured veterans.

Needed are:

- US stamps
- Foreign Stamps

Not Needed are:

- Damaged Stamps
- Meters
- Post Marks







Building Loan Modification

At the Ministry Body meeting on January 27, it was suggested that Finance Team look into refinancing the two loans we currently have with First Knox. In response to that request, Lance Dill at First Knox arranged for the following:

- 1. The bank did a loan rate modification (rather than refinancing). The modification lowered the rate on the two loans to 5.00% (currently 5.75%). Because the two loans are commercial loans, this is the best rate possible today.
- 2. There was a one-time fee of \$500.00 for the loan rate modification, at a cost of \$250.00 per loan.

- 3. Payment on the Church Street loan became \$2,768.02 per month. It was \$3,428.02. This will be a savings of \$660.00 per month and \$7,920.00 per year. The loan will fully repaid in May, 2023.
- 4. Payment on the Bell Street loan became \$697.52 (from \$750.85). This will be a savings of \$53.33 per month and \$693.96 annually. The loan will be fully repaid in July, 2014.
- 5. The Guardians approved moving forward with this transaction.
- 6. It was completed on Wednesday, February 6.

Braxton White Born



Braxton Robert White was born to Melissa and Brent White at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 7th. He weighed seven pounds even, and nineteen and a half inches. On the day of his birth Braxton's brother Titus crawled up onto his mother's bed, stroked Braxton's cheek and said, "My very own baby brother Braxton. Him look just like me....Let's go play Batman!"



The Un-Birthday Party Team: From left to right: Nancy Martin, Carol Cornell, Judy Coppersmith, Carolyn Stoner, and Ruthann Griebling

- Photo by Bob Coppersmith.

Easter Flowers

| flowers. You are inv | ited to purchase a flo | corating our church with Easter wer and then to take it home ders must be in by March 4^{th.} |
|----------------------|---|--|
| Name of Donor: | (As you want it to ap | |
| (Or) | | , |
| Given in memory of: | | |
| Flower Lilies | <i>Color</i> White | Quantity |
| Pot Mums | Lavender White Yellow | |
| Tulips | Purple Orange Pink Red Yellow | |
| Hyacinths | Blue Pink White | |
| Total | x \$10.0 | 00 = \$ |

Salvation Army Unit Up & Running

The Clear Fork Salvation Army Unit has been re-formed, re-organized, and re-trained. Starting February 1 the Unit began helping residents of the 44813 and the 44822 zip codes, Bellville and Butler.

Local residents can get assistance by calling **419-308-1927**. A volunteer will respond to the call in a timely manner, meet with the client to obtain the necessary information, and help them obtain what is needed.

The Bellville Neighborhood Outreach Center has granted the Unit the use of a room and a computer for client interviews. The BNOC and the Salvation Army Clear Fork Unit desire to work together to offer complimentary services.

Any donation mailed to the Salvation Army that has a 44813 or 44822 zip code on it will be automatically credited to the Clear Fork Unit.

Marriage Encounter

Married Couples - Give A Gift From Your Heart when you and your husband/wife attend a Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend! The communication in your relationship will improve by leaps and bounds on this special Weekend at the historic Island House Hotel in

Port Clinton, OH on April 12 - 14! For more information or to apply, visit God-LovesMarriage.org, or contact Duffy & Nan Guthrie at nguthrie@suite224.net or 440-599-9090. Weekends fill fast and applications are due by March 29 - don't miss out!

Maple Syrup Festival



Yum! Plan to have pancakes: \$7 adults and \$5 children.

Proceeds benefit youth summer camperships.

Sunday, March 10, 2013 Lutheran Memorial Camp

10:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. An outdoor event for all ages.



Free Day At Camp











Camp Mowana - March 17, 11:00 am to 4:00 pm

Lutheran Memorial Camp (LMC) - May 5,

11:00 am to 4:00 pm



John Harsch retired as the Mansfield Fire Department Chief after serving 27 years . Congratulations John!

Gift of the Month

The gift of the month for March will be Operation Buckeye, to support the troops. Some of the items they request are:

- ♦ beef jerky,
- ♦ hard candy,
- drink mix (to give the water a better taste),
- ♦ gum,
- ♦ chips,
- ♦ peanuts,
- ♦ cheese

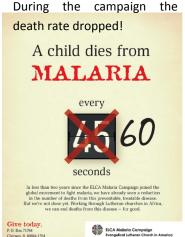
- ♦ crackers,
- ♦ granola bars,
- ♦ tuna snacks,
- ♦ tooth brushes
- ♦ toothpaste.
- ♦ deodorant,
- ♦ foot powder,
- ♦ puzzle books,
- ♦ K-cups, and
- ♦ phone cards.

The phone cards do not need to be international; domestic are fine.

Once again, thank you for your support of Gift of the Month! We had a such a great response for milk money for Harmony House that we continue to take 10 gallons every Monday and should have enough to finish February and go into March! The Noisy Offering for January which is buying the milk was \$288.00. What awesome givers you are! Harmony House is so appreciative!

GOAL!!!!!

The Northeastern Ohio Synod reached its goal of \$250,000.



Thank You Notes Received

Dear Friends at St. Paul Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your in-gift of a Hobart Commercial Mixer and attachments to Lutheran Memorial Camp, a part of Lutheran Outdoor Ministries in Ohio. Your kindness directly benefits everyone who participates in this ministry. Thank you for being so thoughtful and caring!

Retreaters are enjoying brisk walks along our trails and meeting around a cozy fire-place indoors. One retreater shared, Camp reignites our fire for Christ and allows us to recharge and return to our daily lives ready to share God's love!

We invite you please take a moment to visit our website for a year-round schedule at: www.lomocamps.org. We have online registration available for all of our programs.

We are humbled by your steadfast stewardship. Thank you again for your wonderful gift which helps to make this ministry possible.

Sincerely, In Christ Penny Christensen LOMO Exec. Director Rod Pearce Director of Camp Mowana And LMC

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the scholarship money. It will be a great help to me during my spring semester at MVNU. It is great to know that I have people who support me back at home. Thank you so much for everything that you have done for me.

Sincerely

Paul Harding

Dear Members of St. Paul Lutheran Church,

Thank you for the awesome gifts. We are enjoying them. It was very generous of you. We are grateful to receive them. We hope you had a good holiday and wish you and your families a Happy New Year. We had a wonderful holiday. We went sledding, played in the snow and are enjoying our gifts. Thanks again for your kindness and generosity!

Sincerely,

All of us from the CRC (Children's Resource Center)

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for remembering my 90th Birthday and making it special. I appreciate all the cards and phone calls. You made the day very special.

I love you. Sincerely,

Lloyd Hull



This is the front of the hand made CRC Card.

Children's Ministry Coordinator's Letter

On February 8th nine middle school youth, Pastor Doug, and myself set off for Toledo for the weekend. We had a fabulous speaker for the weekend, Dr. Luke Hartman. We started off the night with some mixers and a campfire time, sitting around with the musicians and singing.

On Saturday, some of the youth started out the day with Zumba. After Zumba we moved onto workshops and the youth really enjoyed their treks. Saturday afternoon was the Variety Show and two of our youth Alyson Wend (photo right) and Molly DeLaney (photo right middle) both sang for the audience. After dinner was the beginning of Crazy Dress Up Night (photo below right) and the kids had fun getting ready to make a grand entrance (and so did Pastor Doug). Saturday night ended with some late night activities and campfire time.

Sunday morning started off to a great start when speaker Dr. Luke Hartman (*Top left photo, He is in the middle of the back row*) joined us in our hotel room for breakfast and conversation. We then went to Sunday service and surprisingly got on the road at a decent time to travel home.



Alyson Wend with musician Lloyd Garrelts. Lloyd accompanied Alyson during her performance in the Variety Show.







Blessings,





Pastor Doug's Letter: Friday, February 22, 2013

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

For the past two months I have been listening to a CD presentation of *Great Scientific Ideas that Changed the World* taught by Professor Steven Goldman of Lehigh University as part of *The Great Courses* by The Teaching Company. It has been a fascinating time of discovery for me as I have listened to him describe the unfolding historical journey from the ancient Greeks first defining what knowledge is to our current scientific understanding.

The fascination for me has been trying to integrate my scientific understandings of the world and my theological understandings. One of the central questions of my life is: *How closely does God interact with the world?* Is God intimately and integrally woven into every aspect of our existence? Or, is God remote, like an architect who designed the cosmos and then moved on to other projects? The faith tradition gives me one answer and the scientific tradition gives another. Can the two be connected? Where? How? That is the question.

I suspect that only a few of you have similar thoughts. Probably most of you are not nearly as concerned about it as am I. Your *Life Question* is undoubtedly different than mine. Your *Life Question* comes to you from God and is part of the rich mix which God uses to bring about the Kingdom of God in all its diversity, complexity, and power. I suspect, however, that your *Life Question* does have both theological and scientific dimensions to it. I am curious to hear from you what you understand to be your *Life Question* and how much, or how little, your understanding of God and your understanding of science are a part of your question.

As I am listening Dr. Goldman describe the growth of scientific knowledge and how one idea builds upon another, I have noticed is that even those who have greatest scientific breakthroughs in understanding still got as much of it wrong as they got right. I recall the words of St. Paul who said, "We see through a glass darkly."

That gives me comfort as I am straining to see through the glass. What I see is that our society is in the midst of one of the transitional changes as dramatic as when we moved from an illiterate based culture to a literate one, accompanied by immense political, economic, and religious change. We in the Lutheran Church tend to focus on the religious change because of the impact of Martin Luther and the other Protestant Reformers. I was less aware of how much else in the society was

changing. So as I compare the changes then to the changes now, as I observe in our present culture the accelerating effects of the technological changes in communication, based upon an exponential growth in scientific knowledge, I have come to conclude that we CANNOT know what the world will be like for our children's children.

Nevertheless, despite seeing darkly, God has called me to preach the Word of God to you and to bring you the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion. In this time in this place among us, God has called us to live out the kingdom of God, to receive the life pouring forth from God and to respond with lives dedicated to loving God and loving our neighbor.

This indeed is happening here. I see God at work in us in so many ways. I see you wrestling with God's call upon your life. I am proud of your efforts to be faithful disciples of Jesus even as you too struggle to see through the glass darkly.

We have a rich faith tradition – as rich as our scientific tradition – which also has been growing in wisdom and knowledge, and also with fits and starts, false steps and dead ends. You call upon that tradition; you take what has been learned and apply it appropriately. You engage your *Life Question*.

I sense that God is calling us to do this as an entire Ministry Body, to ask what is in essence a *Church Life Question*:

- Where are we going?
- How is God shaping our future?
- What does God want us to tend to right now?

I believe that these questions come from the Holy Spirit who gives us the right questions. If we have the right questions, the Spirit will guide us all together to discern the answers.

Peace,

Paster Dong

Happy Birthday

| 1 Barbara Hoover | 14 Jean Reed |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 2 Pat Goss | 16 Titus White |
| 2 Larry Fenton | 17 Kristi Miller |
| 3 Lisa Boyd | 17 Larry Smith |
| 5 Abbie Albert | 19 Kylee Helinski |
| 5 Nancy Martin | 21 Lauren Cook |
| 6 Amy Frontz | 21 Nancy Snyder |
| 6 Darrell Banks | 21 Paige Hicks |
| 7 Madge Peters | 21 Maria Knight |
| 7 Molly Strickling | 24 Rosemary Shirk |
| 7 Janis Marhenke | 25 Kim Harsch |
| 9 Chris Laux | 26 Nick Worner |
| 9 Cyndie Murray | 26 Nathaniel Price |
| 10 Jamie DeFrancisco | 27 Romota Ridenour |
| 13 Jack Harsch | 28 Robin Klenk |
| 14 Callan Pugh | 28 Eileen Miller |

Happy Anniversary

| March 3, 2001 | Dick & Joan Echelberger |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| March 15, 1952 | George & Romota Ridenour |
| March 17, 1979 | Gary & Connie Barr |
| March 24, 1979 | Richard & Bonnie Brenneman |
| March 26, 1966 | Don & Lauren Shaffer |
| March 31, 1984 | Ron & Michelle Broeske |
| March 31, 1989 | Mark & Linda Albert |

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

Homebound Church Family:

Ella Jane Fry

Financial Report as of 1-31-13

Giving

| Building Fund January 2013 | | | \$ | 4 | ,977.20 | \$ | | | 5,845.53 | \$ | (868.33) | YTD |
|-------------------------------|--------------|------------------------|----------|------------|----------------------|-----|-----------|------|-----------------------|--------|------------------------|-----|
| General Fund January, 2013 | | | \$ | | | \$ | Expe | 1156 | 17,812.55 | \$ | (1,631.24) | YTD |
| | <u> </u> | , | , · | Income | | , , | Expe | nse | | _ | Difference | |
| Total | Ś | 65,838.02 | \$ | | 5,359.31 | \$ | | | 30,807.52 | \$ | 60,389.81 | |
| Designated Funds | \$ | 13,659.39 | \$ | 1 | 1,938.00 | \$ | | | 2,087.99 | \$ | 13,509.40 | |
| Technology Fund | \$ | 434.53 | \$ | | _ | \$ | | | 756.15 | Ś | (321.62) | |
| Endowment Fund | \$ | 3,221.35 | \$ | | - | \$ | | | 2,230.00 | \$ | 3,221.35 | |
| Scholarship Fund | \$ | 4,539.23 3,649.53 | \$ | | 241.00 | \$ | | | 2,250.00 | \$ | 1,640.53 | |
| Love Fund | \$ | 4,539.23 | \$ | | 990.46 | \$ | | | 1,031.34 | ş Ś | - 4,505.73 | |
| World Hunger Fund | \$ | 14,546.86 | \$ | | L,031.34 | | | | 1,031.34 | \$ | 13,0/8.53 | |
| General Fund Building Fund | \$ \$ | 25,787.13 14,546.86 | \$ \$ | | 5,181.31 1,977.20 | \$ | | | 17,812.55 5,845.53 | \$ | 24,155.89 13,678.53 | |
| Company Front | ć | 25 707 42 | Ļ | 1/ | 101 21 | , | | | 47.042.55 | ć | 24.455.00 | |
| Fund Summary | _ | ance | | Income | | | Expe | nse | | | Balance | |
| | Begi | nning | | | | | | | | | Ending | |
| Total | \$ 30,807.52 | \$ 28,639.35 | \$ | 2,168.17 | | \$ | 30,807.52 | \$ | 28,639.35 | \$ | 80.18 | |
| Designated Fund | \$ 2,087.99 | \$ - | \$ | 2,087.99 | | \$ | 2,087.99 | \$ | - | \$ | 2,087.99 | |
| Technology Fund | \$ 756.15 | \$ 400.00 | \$ | 356.15 | | \$ | 756.15 | \$ | 400.00 | \$ | 356.15 | |
| Endowment Fund | \$ - | \$ - | \$ | - | | \$ | - | \$ | - | \$ | - | |
| Scholarship Fund | \$ 2,250.00 | \$ 2,250.00 | \$ | - | | \$ | 2,250.00 | \$ | 2,250.00 | \$ | - | |
| Love Fund | \$ 1,023.96 | | \$ | (91.41) | | \$ | 1,023.96 | \$ | 1,115.37 | \$ | (91.41) | |
| World Hunger Fund | \$ 1,031.34 | \$ 1,402.61 | \$ | (371.27) | | \$ | 1,031.34 | \$ | 1,402.61 | \$ | (371.27) | |
| Building Fund | \$ 5,845.53 | \$ 5,845.54 | \$ | (0.01) | | \$ | 5,845.53 | \$ | 5,845.54 | \$ | (0.01) | |
| General Fund | \$ 17,812.55 | \$ 17,625.83 | \$ | 186.72 | | \$ | 17,812.55 | \$ | 17,625.83 | \$ | 186.72 | |
| Expenses | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | \$ 25,359.31 | \$ 27,035.26 | \$ | (1,675.95) | | \$ | 25,359.31 | \$ | 27,035.26 | \$ | (1,675.95) | |
| Designated Fund | \$ 1,938.00 | \$ - | \$ | 1,938.00 | | \$ | 1,938.00 | \$ | - | \$ | 1,938.00 | |
| Technology Fund | \$ - | \$ 400.00 | \$ | (400.00) | | \$ | - | \$ | 400.00 | \$ | (400.00) | |
| Endowment Fund | \$ - | \$ - | \$ | - | | \$ | - | \$ | - | \$ | - | |
| Scholarship Fund | \$ 241.00 | \$ 386.58 | \$ | (145.58) | | \$ | 241.00 | \$ | 386.58 | \$ | (145.58) | |
| Love Fund | \$ 990.46 | \$ 1,115.37 | \$ | (124.91) | | \$ | 990.46 | \$ | 1,115.37 | \$ | (124.91) | |
| World Hunger Fund | \$ 1,031.34 | \$ 1,402,61 | Ś | (371.27) | | \$ | 1,031.34 | \$ | 1,402.61 | Ś | (371.27) | |
| Building Fund | \$ 4,977.20 | \$ 5,910.03 | \$ | (932.83) | | \$ | 4,977.20 | Ś | 5,910.03 | Ś | (932.83) | |
| General Fund | \$ 16,181.31 | \$ 17,820.66 | \$ | (1,639.35) | | \$ | 16,181.31 | \$ | 17,820.66 | \$ | (1,639.35) | |

| Annual | - 1 | Remaining | February |
|------------------|-----|------------|-----------------|
| Budget | | Budget | Budget |
| | | | |
| \$ 227,350.70 | \$ | 209,530.04 | \$ 16,902.16 |
| \$ 75,398.48 | \$ | 69,488.45 | \$ 5,605.42 |
| \$ 16,831.31 | \$ | 15,428.70 | \$ 1,402.61 |
| \$ 13,384.48 | \$ | 12,269.11 | \$ 1,115.37 |
| \$ 4,639.00 | \$ | 4,252.42 | \$ 386.58 |
| \$ - | \$ | - | \$ - |
| \$ 4,800.00 | \$ | 4,800.00 | \$ 400.00 |
| \$ - | \$ | - | \$ - |
| \$ 342,403.97 | \$ | 315,768.71 | \$ 25,812.15 |
| | | | |
| \$ 227,230.04 | \$ | 209,604.20 | \$ 17,641.11 |
| \$ 70,146.44 | \$ | 64,300.90 | \$ 5,841.70 |
| \$ 16,831.31 | \$ | 15,428.70 | \$ 1,402.61 |
| \$ 13,384.48 | \$ | 12,269.11 | \$ 1,115.37 |
| \$ 4,639.00 | \$ | 2,389.00 | \$ - |
| \$ - | \$ | - | \$ - |
| \$ 4,800.00 | \$ | 4,400.00 | \$ 400.00 |
| \$ - | \$ | - | \$ - |
| \$ 337,031.27 | \$ | 308,391.91 | \$ 26,400.79 |

| Pro | ject | ed February, | 201 | 3 |
|-----------------|------|--------------|-----|-----------|
| Income | | Expense | | Ending |
| | | | | |
| \$ 16,902.16 | \$ | 17,641.11 | \$ | 23,416.94 |
| \$ 5,605.42 | \$ | 5,841.70 | \$ | 13,442.26 |
| \$ 1,402.61 | \$ | 1,402.61 | \$ | - |
| \$ 1,115.37 | \$ | 1,115.37 | \$ | 4,505.73 |
| \$ 386.58 | \$ | - | \$ | 2,027.11 |
| \$ - | \$ | - | \$ | 3,221.35 |
| \$ 400.00 | \$ | 400.00 | \$ | (321.62) |
| \$ - | \$ | | \$ | 13,509.40 |
| \$ 25,812.15 | \$ | 26,400.79 | \$ | 59,801.17 |

16,181.31 \$

Worship Services for March

March 3 3rd Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 55:1-9 Psalm 63:1-8 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 Luke 13:1-9

4 of 8: Liar, Liar, Hells on Fire: Lies About God

The lies about God are the ones that often can do the most harm, for these lies cut us off from the very one that can help us. Even worse, the liar about God disguises himself by pretending to be God. Because God is truth, however, lies about God eventually are revealed for what they are.





March 10 4th Sunday in Lent

Joshua 5:9-12 Psalm 63:1-8 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 Luke 15:1-32

5 of 8: Liar, Liar, Hells on Fire: Lies About Others

We see others wrongly. It is as simple as that. In part it is our human limitation to see either the full folly or the full glory of another person. It is also, however, our own sinfulness that distorts our images of others. We are particularly susceptible to believing lies about others.

March 17 5th Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 43:16-21 Psalm 126 Philippians 3:4b-14 John 12:1-8

6 of 8: Liar, Liar, Hells on Fire: Lies About Ourselves

Lies we tell ourselves are the most difficult to dislodge of all, for they are based on the experiences that we had and so we **know** them to be true. It takes the experience of Christ working within us to be able to replace the experience of the lie with the experience of truth.





March 24 Palm Sunday

Luke 19:28-40 Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11 Luke 22:14—23:56 **7 of 8: Liar, Liar, Hells on Fire: Lies About God's Ways**

Our ways are God's way. Perhaps that is the greatest lie of all. In the story of the Passion of Jesus we discover the truth: God's ways are not our ways. This Sunday which is both Palm Sunday and Passion Sunday we experience the dichotomy of lies and truth and we experience the great work of God.

March 28 Maundy Thursday, Agape Feast 6:00 Community Meal and Worship

Exodus 12:1-14 Psalm 116:1-2. 12-19 1 Cor. 11:23-26 John 13:1-17, 31b-35

The Greatest Truth: Love one another.

On this night we celebrate the institution of Holy Communion as we recall the Passover meal celebrated by our Jewish Ancestors and the Last Supper celebrated by Jesus and his disciples. Each of these meals that went before us laid the foundation upon which we become one with God and one with one another.





March 29 Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13-53:12 Psalm 22 Hebrews 10:16-25 John 18:1- 19:42

8 of 8: Liar, Liar, Hells on Fire: Bringing Lies to the Cross

The cross of Jesus is not an event that only happened in the past. It is a present reality into which we can pour all that distresses and destroys us. The destruction of Jesus destroys all that destroys us. Experiencing this deep reality brings us the greatest salvation.

March 31 Easter Day

Isaiah 65:17-25 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 1 Cor. 15:19-26 Luke 24:1-12

Resurrection: Truth Always Triumphs

Today we rejoice. God's perfect work was accomplished through Jesus' death on the cross, and our celebration of his resurrection is a victory celebration that begins now and lasts throughout all eternity. Rejoice, for today truth triumphs.



Message from Presiding Bishop Hanson: ELCA 25th Anniversary



Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. We are a church rooted in Scripture, tradition, the Lutheran Confessions and the rich histories of our congregations. It is through God's grace that we are made new day by day to proclaim Jesus Christ and boldly participate in God's work. As Luther said, this faith is a living, busy, active, mighty thing.

As we celebrate our 25th anniversary, we get to look back at the people and events that have shaped us as a church. We celebrate the stories that have made us vibrant and distinctive yet brought us together as nearly 10,000 congregations, 65 synods and numerous churchwide ministries freed in Christ to love and serve neighbors in our communities, our country and around the world.

What God has done through us is indeed worth celebrating. In 25 years, we have:

- Started 435 new congregations
- Ordained nearly 8,000 pastors
- Sent more than 2,000 missionaries to serve around the world
- Contributed more than \$350 million toward the alleviation of hunger and poverty

The year of our 25th anniversary begins Jan. 1, 2013, with the theme "Always being made new." I invite you to join me in celebrating these 25 years together in Christ.

In 2 Corinthians 5:17 Paul writes, "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"

In Jesus Christ we are not unchanged. It is through our willingness as a church to boldly participate in God's work in the world that we are made new day by day. I am grateful for your leadership, support and prayers in making the work of this church possible.

Thanks be to God!

In God's grace,

The Rev. Mark S. Hanson

Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Bishop's Letter: February 14, 20123



Lent has always seemed like a journey to me – to the cross, from the cross to the empty tomb, from winter to spring, from darkness to light. It is a time in the wilderness travelling from the old world to the new, from bondage to freedom. It is a journey that has the promise of changing me which makes it at once inviting and frightening. It is a liminal experience.

Wikipedia, the source of all knowledge, defines liminality this way, "The quality of ambiguity or disorientation that occurs in the middle stages of rituals, when participants no longer hold their pre-ritual status but have not yet begun the transition to the status they will hold when the ritual is complete...During a ritual's liminal stage, participants stand at the threshold between their previous way of structuring their identity, time or community, and a new way." It is a time of becoming.

Many of us give something up for Lent. Perhaps the deprivation will make our dependence on God clearer. Maybe we are just trying to simplify our lives. Clearing away the material, emotional and spiritual clutter could be refreshing – a Pneumatic spring cleaning! But what if Lent is actually a more focused and concentrated part of our life-long baptismal journey that leads ultimately to complete self-emptying so that we are filled with Christ? What if Lent makes us more mindful of our temporary nature, that we are "strangers and exiles on earth", that faithful life is a continual letting go? This is frightening.

Let me make my confession; I am earthbound. My confidence and hope is in the Resurrection – I just don't want it to happen to me right now. I'm not quite there with St. Paul when he says he is hard-pressed to choose between this life and the next. I like it here. I want to stick around to see my grandchildren (not an announcement). I like football and hot coffee in the morning and sitting in front of a fire with my husband. After all, God called the creation good. Life in this world is a gift.

But on Ash Wednesday we hear, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return". Yes, the created world is God's good gift and no, I am not advocating the false dualism between material and spiritual. We should beware, however, of being so attached to the creation that we cannot let go of it to cling to the Creator.

Lent is a journey through this liminal space. I notice the threshold between the previous way of structuring identity, time and community and a new way. I won't be able to let go this Lent, not completely. But I pray that that I might lighten up. Let me know how your Lenten journey goes.

Chyplical a. Cator

Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton, Northeastern Ohio Synod

Annual Meeting Minutes: January 27, 2013

The meeting was called to order by Lay Leader Chris Laux and opened with prayer.

Chris Laux motioned that the Annual Meeting procedure would follow Robert's Rules of Order and that any amendment to the budget which proposes an increase in spending in any line item would need to include an equal decrease in another line item. Mike Bing seconded the motion.

The 2012 Annual Meeting Minutes were adopted. Carol Cornell made the motion to approve the 2012 minutes. Sharon Smith seconded and the motion was approved by voice vote.

Paul Martin presented and reviewed the Financial Report for 2012. Nancy Snyder moved that the 2012 Financial Report be adopted, Carolyn Stoner seconded and the motion was approved by voice vote.

Mike Murray and Lisa Brooks each agreed to run for their second three-year term as Guardians (they have each completed one term and are eligible for one more). Chris Laux asked if there were any other nominations from the floor and there were none. Pastor Doug moved to close the nominations, Norbert Peiker seconded the motion and the motion was approved by voice vote.

The 2013 Proposed Budget was presented and explained by Paul Martin. After a general discussion and after questions from the floor were addressed, Mark Timberlake made a motion to close the discussion and vote. Larry Smith seconded.

The 2013 Budget was approved, 71 to 3, via written ballot.

Chris Laux asked for any new business from the floor. Pastor Doug discussed *the Journey Forward Initiative* that St. Paul Lutheran Church will be participating in and asked for support of the Ministry Body as we move ahead with this endeavor in 2013.

The Jerry Lang Memorial Scholarship Fund Recipients for 2013 were presented. The recipients: Alex Armstrong, Paul Harding and Madelyn Strickling, each received a scholarship of \$750.00.

Mark Timberlake moved to adjourn the meeting. Larry Smith seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned by consensus. Respectfully submitted, *Mindy Wood.* Secretary

| 1 | | | 7:30 Choir | | 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 Zumba 8:00 AA | 31 Easter 8:15 Arise! Worship 9:30 Generations Alive! 9:30 Easter Breakfast 10:30 Rejoice! Worship |
|--|--|--|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| Good Friday Bible Study Good Friday Ser | 29 Good Fridav 1:30 Bible Study 7:30 Good Fridav | 28 Agape Feast 6:30 Lions Club | 27 5:30 Zumba 6:15 Catechism 7 th 6:30 Prayer Gathering 7:00 Arise! Praise Team | 26 6:30 Yoga 7:00 Reunion Group | 25 5:30 Weight Watchers 6:00 Food Addicts 6:30 Reunion Group 7:00 Reunion Group | 24 Palm Sunday 8:15 Arise! Worship 9:30 Generations Alive! 10:30 Rejoice! Worship |
| 22 1:30 Bible Study 6:30 – 9:30 CR In Use | 22 1:30 Bib 6:30 – 9 | 21 4:00 Painter's Alive 7:00 Journey Forward | 20 5:30 Zumba 5:30 Simple Supper 6:30 Prayer Gathering 6:40 Lenten Service 7:00 Arise! Praise Team 7:30 Choir 7:30 Catechism 8 th | 19 6:30 Yoga 7:00 Reunion Group | 18 5:30 Weight Watchers 6:00 Food Addicts 6:30 Reunion Group 7:00 Reunion Group 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 Zumba 8:00 AA | 8:15 Arise! Worship 9:30 Generations Alive! 10:30 Rejoice! Worship 5:00 7 th Grade Cat. Class to Brenneman's |
| 15 1:30 Bible Study | 15 1:30 Bil | 14 4:00 Painter's Alive | 13 10:00 Elderberries 5:30 Simple Supper 5:30 Zumba 6:30 Prayer Gathering 6:40 Lenten Service 7:00 Arise! Praise Team 7:30 Choir 7:30 Catechism 8 th | 12 6:30 Yoga 7:00 Reunion Group | 11 5:30 Weight Watchers 6:00 Food Addicts 6:30 Reunion Group 7:00 Reunion Group 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 Zumba | 10 8:15 Arise! Worship 9:30 Generations Alive! 10:30 Rejoice! Worship 12:00 CR In Use 5:00 8 th Grade Cat. Class to Brenneman's |
| 8 1:30 Bible Study 6:30 Leave for Catechism Retreat | 8 1:30 Bib 6:30 Lea Retreat | 7 4:00 Painter's Alive 5:00 Community Dinner 7:00 Journey Forward | 6 5:30 Simple Supper 5:30 Zumba 6:30 Prayer Gathering 6:40 Lenten Service 7:00 Arise! Praise Team 7:30 Choir 7:30 Catechism 8 th | 5 6:30 Yoga 7:00 Reunion Group | 4 5:30 Weight Watchers 6:00 Food Addicts 6:30 Reunion Group 7:00 Reunion Group 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 D. View Bingo 7:00 Zumba 8:00 AA | 3 8:15 Arise! Worship 9:30 Generations Alive! 10:30 Rejoice! Worship 3:00 Bishop Nominating Meeting |
| 1 1:30 Bible Study | 1:30 B | | | 013 | March 2013 | Ma |
| Friday | | Thursday | Wednesday | Tuesday | Monday | Sunday |



Kate Schmidt gets into the party spirit at the Un-Birthday Party on Sunday, February 10th. *Photo by Coppersmith*



Nancy Teeter works on a quilt during the Fellowship Days while Rosemary Shirk looks on. *Staff photo.*

The St. Paul Epistle

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

Pastor Doug Pretorius

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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



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.