

October, 2011

The St. Paul Epistle

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

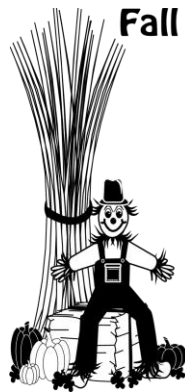
Special Interest Articles:

- Workcamp 2011, p. 2.
- Bishop Hanson coming to the NE Ohio Synod, p. 3.

Regular Features:

- Thank You's 5
- Ashley's Letter 6
- Sermon Titles 7
- Pastor's Letter 8
- Bishop's Letter 10
- Celebrations 12

Children's Fall Harvest Party



Fall Festival

An *old fashioned* **HARVEST PARTY** is being planned for children from pre-school age through 5th grade on Saturday, October 29th.

Apple dunking, pin the crow on the scarecrow, relay races, pumpkin painting and we would like to invite all our parents and grandparents to bring their children and grandchildren to our harvest celebration in which we celebrate God's creation and bounty with which God has so richly blessed us! Don't miss this fun, *relaxed* afternoon of old fashioned fun!

We will be looking for some donations to make the party possible. If you are willing to donate

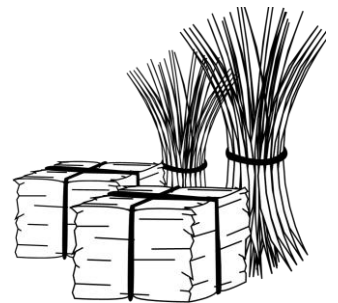
apples, cookies, cider, and any harvest decorations it would be much appreciated.

We are looking for volunteers who could help that afternoon with snacks and decorations with harvest flair. **We would love to have your help!!** Call Ashley if you are able to help out with the party.

Mowana Fall Festival and Benefit Auction

Sunday, October 2, is *your* opportunity to bring the entire family to Camp Mowana to enjoy autumn at its festive best! The day features great food, hayrides, crafts, live music by *Fiddle Tyme*, and the opportunity to meet Johnny Appleseed! There will also be games, pony rides, a petting zoo, and pumpkin-carving for the kids. The Benefit Auction will feature

handmade quilts, fine handcrafts, and many other unique items. All proceeds go to provide summer camperships for deserving youth. Come out and enjoy the fun! Hours are from 12:30 – 5:30 p.m. with the Benefit Auction starting at 3:00 p.m. Mowana is located between Mansfield and Ashland off US 42 on Fleming Falls Road.



Workcamp 2011

Our journey took us to East Bank, West Virginia. Attending workcamp this year were Katie Lang, Hannah Wilson, Callan Pugh, Madelyn and Meghan Strickling, Jack Harsch, Jonah Albert, Paul Harding, Matt Sharp, John Harsch, and Diane Hammett. Nick and Sara Hammett and Mark Albert went as Site Coaches.

Our week began on Saturday morning with a send off from our church family. Thank you to everyone who came!

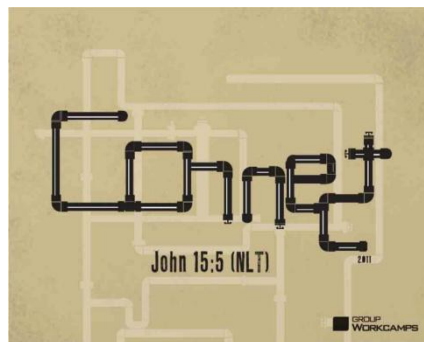
We drove five hours to Charleston, West Virginia, where we stayed the night in a hotel. We swam, ate pizza and spent some time getting to know each other.

Mark was a director in training at this camp so he had to be there on Friday night to get ready for the 'red shirt' staff. Nick and Sara were the 'red shirt' staff and needed to be there on Saturday. Together they prepared the school for our arrival on Sunday.

We stayed at Dupont Middle School, which wasn't in East Bank at all. The school in East Bank where we were supposed to stay didn't have air conditioning and their electric kept going out, so the camp that was there the week before us moved mid week to Dupont. Dupont was eight miles north of East Bank, and the school was air conditioned. If you remember, the temperatures those two weeks were in the mid and upper 90's with evening temps in the mid 80's. Having someplace to get out of the heat after a long day of working in it was important for our health.

The school was comfortable and the school staff was very friendly. There's always an adjustment period getting used to the living quarters but attitude is

everything and we adjusted well. If you saw the power point, the boys' showers didn't have any water pressure so by mid week John and the boys were showering in the loading dock with a hose. You do what you have to do! The girls' showers had its own issues but water pressure wasn't one of them. The best part was we didn't have to go far to find each other.



On Sunday afternoon we met our crews and found out what our jobs for the week were. Some replaced roofs, built wheelchair ramps, built decks, tore down and replaced rotted siding and painted entire homes. Some got to do all the above! Everyone seemed happy with their jobs and their crews.

Our days began at 6:45. We had the "Wake-e, Wake-e"! They served us a good hot breakfast before we gathered in the gym for our daily pep talk. Then off to the work sites where we'd work until 3:00 or later. As the week went on we'd generally stay a little later to be sure the job was going to be

done by Friday. Once back at the school there was time for showers, naps, writing Care Cards and dinner before the evening program.

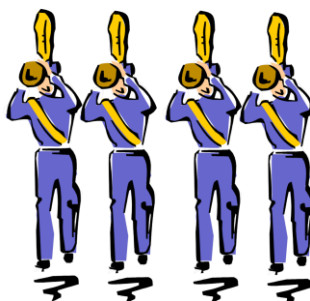
The evening programs were awesome. The MC was super, the music leader was good, the skits were great, the God Sighting stories were touching, along with the theme programming, made it a great experience for all. Our theme this year was CONNECT: How we stay connected to God while being connected to each other and the world. It was amazing to watch 400+ kids and adults worshipping and praising God together after a long, hot day of work!

Wednesday was our half day of work; we were ready for it. We went to a community pool in Charleston to swim, relax and spend the afternoon hanging out together.

During our week in East Bank we had 68 work crews and completed all 49 sites. Many of the homes had double crews because their needs were extensive. This was a 'challenge' camp which meant a possibility of extensive home repair. Paul and Madelyn ended up on the same site as a triple crew because their site needed so much work done.

Thank you to our church family for supporting our trip. This mission trip gave us the opportunity to experience God's love, grace and mercy through serving others. We collected \$700 to buy food for the local area food pantry. Even our trip to Kroger's was a chance to share God with people.

Next year's workcamp is slated for Rushville, Indiana on July 8-14. If interested please see John Harsch. It's definitely a 'Life enhancing' experience!



On October 27th we would like volunteers to dress up and walk in the Bellville Halloween Parade. If you are interested please contact Ashley at the church.

**Bishop Mark Hanson's,
ELCA's Presiding Bishop
Visits the Northeastern Ohio Synod**

Saturday October 8th

2:00 PM to 4:00 PM Open House with
Lay People, Holy Trinity, North
Canton
(55th and Middlebranch Rd.)

Sunday, October 9th

7:00 PM Synod Worship Service at
St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Alliance

August Financial Reports

	-----August-----			-----January 1 through August 31, 2011-----		
	Actual	Budget	Over (Under)	Actual	Budget	Over (Under)
Giving						
General Fund	\$ 15,566.37	\$ 18,092.22	\$ (2,525.85)	\$ 144,456.99	\$147,718.25	\$ (3,261.26)
Building Fund	\$ 4,162.20	\$ 5,386.73	\$ (1,224.53)	\$ 43,385.40	\$ 47,367.87	\$ (3,982.47)
World Hunger Fund	\$ 1,191.34	\$ 1,468.00	\$ (276.66)	\$ 11,650.62	\$ 11,744.00	\$ (93.38)
Love Fund	\$ 872.52	\$ 1,388.87	\$ (516.35)	\$ 8,638.21	\$ 11,110.93	\$ (2,472.72)
Scholarship Fund	\$ 281.00	\$ 425.67	\$ (144.67)	\$ 2,290.00	\$ 3,405.33	\$ (1,115.33)
Endowment Fund	\$ 10.00	\$ -	\$ 10.00	\$ 20.00	\$ -	\$ 20.00
Total*	\$ 22,083.43	\$ 26,761.49	\$ (4,678.06)	\$ 210,441.22	\$221,346.38	\$ (10,905.16)
Expenses						
General Fund	\$ 20,434.20	\$ 17,269.07	\$ 3,165.13	\$ 148,808.38	\$153,542.81	\$ (4,734.43)
Building Fund	\$ 14,578.87	\$ 4,293.20	\$ 10,285.67	\$ 46,630.96	\$ 34,345.61	\$ 12,285.35
World Hunger Fund	\$ 1,191.34	\$ 1,468.00	\$ (276.66)	\$ 11,650.62	\$ 11,744.00	\$ (93.38)
Love Fund	\$ 596.90	\$ 1,388.87	\$ (791.97)	\$ 5,253.70	\$ 11,110.93	\$ (5,857.23)
Scholarship Fund	\$ -	\$ 425.67	\$ (425.67)	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 3,405.33	\$ (1,905.33)
Endowment Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total*	\$ 36,801.31	\$ 24,844.80	\$ 11,956.51	\$ 213,843.66	\$214,148.69	\$ (305.03)
Fund Summary						
	Beginning Balance	Income	Expenses	Ending Balance		
General Fund	\$ 22,004.50	\$ 15,566.37	\$ 20,434.20	\$ 17,136.67		
Building Fund	\$ 32,932.59	\$ 4,162.20	\$ 14,578.87	\$ 22,515.92		
World Hunger Fund	\$ -	\$ 1,191.34	\$ 1,191.34	\$ -		
Love Fund	\$ 5,134.24	\$ 872.52	\$ 596.90	\$ 5,409.86		
Scholarship Fund	\$ 2,096.03	\$ 281.00	\$ -	\$ 2,377.03		
Endowment Fund	\$ 32.00	\$ 10.00	\$ -	\$ 42.00		
Designated Funds	\$ 16,355.50	\$ 1,784.97	\$ 3,413.16	\$ 14,727.31		
Total	\$ 78,554.86	\$ 23,868.40	\$ 40,214.47	\$ 62,208.79		

March Gift of the Month – Friendly House

It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Gift Of The Month For October is the Friendly House after school activities program for children in Kindergarten through 6th grade. Items they need are: glue

sticks, sticky back foam shapes, construction paper, craft sticks, paint, pencils, paint brushes, scissors, markers and coloring books.



Thank You Notes Received

To the St. Paul Family,
Thank you for all the well wishes and cards during Don's illness and passing.

Thank you to the ladies that prepared and served our meal and thank you also to the clean up crew. All was greatly appreciated.

Thank you to Pastor Doug for the wonderful service and his visits.

Family of Donald Snavelly

To my church family,
Thank you for the beautiful Pandora bracelet you gave me! I will treasure it!! I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with the youth of St. Paul and have appreciated your support with all our endeavors. God has taught me many things over the years working with the youth and I have been blessed and changed by the experience. Thank You!
Diane Hammett

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for your Mission Support. Thank you for making the beauty of God's creation real for a kid at Camp Mowana, for a family at Camp Luther, for a youth group at Luther Memorial Camp. Thank you for preparing candidates for ministry at Trinity Seminary. Thank you for giving a homeless man shelter and dignity through Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries Men's Shelter. Thank you for sending chaplains to pray with patients in crisis and to sit with families in hospital waiting rooms. Thank you for sending young adults to serve a missionary year in South Africa and England and Hungary and Malaysia. Thank you for supporting missionaries around the world. Thank you for starting new congregations in our synod and in 61 other places across the church. Thank you for feeding the hungry and clothing the

naked through ELCA World Hunger Appeal, Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster response. Thank you for helping congregations in conflict become healthy gospel communities. Thank you for making curriculum, print, digital and musical resources available from the synod resource center to every congregation. Thank you for training members of our congregations to knock on doors and invite their neighbors to church. Thank you for sending military chaplains to bring God's peace to our men and women in uniform serving in dangerous places. Thank you for making the gospel known. Thank you for your Mission Support.

Your Mission Support makes a difference in people's lives. Together we can change the world.

Sincerely,
Clyde G. Eaton
Bishop Eaton

Thanks to all who made the Chicken Barbeque a success. We raised over \$1,000. We could not have done it without you.

Thank You.

Children's Ministry Coordinator Letter: Shining God's Light

Growing up in Galion as a child I met one of my best friends in the first grade. Her family was the family in town who always had foster kids staying in their home. I would stay there often on the weekends (and maybe a few school nights) and got to know many of their foster children over the years. One in particular I will never forget. Her name was Sean, and she was a bit of a tomboy.

When I stayed at my friend's home I would always bring "my blanket" along with me. This blanket was special to me because my mom received it at a baby shower for me. It was a comfort to me; I always brought it with me if I was staying the night somewhere else. Well, Sean caught a glimpse of it one time, and from then on we had a nice laugh about it at school. My blanket had Winnie the Pooh on it, and Sean just loved to sing the Winnie the Pooh theme song whenever I passed her in the hallways in high school. Sean and I became friends. I was always kind to her at school, and at my friend's home. Sean had a troubled life and also had mental health issues. I didn't know her life story, but I could see she needed a friend. She soon was placed somewhere new, and I didn't see her again.

Then one day I got the news about Sean. On Sean's eighteenth birthday she rode her bike to visit the place she knew best, Children's Services. Her only family was Sean's caseworker at Children's Services. She went and said hello to everyone. Then when she left she must have felt like she had nowhere to go because, as an adult at eighteen she was forced to leave the foster care system. Sean got back on her bike and rode right in

front of a semi-truck. The semi-truck hit her, she was thrown in the path of an oncoming car and the car hit her. Sean died right in front of the building where she had just greeted everyone with a smile on her birthday. Sean knew in her short eighteen years of life that life was hard, harder than she could face. She had no hope.

Sean's short life has helped shape me into who I am today. I'm thankful for the short friendship I shared with her, even if it was my baby blanket that let us share a few good laughs. I feel my love for teaching children and sharing God's word with them comes a little from Sean's story. I want to share God's hope and shine his light on them. All children need to experience God's beauty, hope, and unconditional love. I thank God for placing Sean in my life.

Since 2009 I have worked at a group home as a tutor. The students I work with at the home are in foster care, are wards of the state, or are pulled from their homes for various reasons. I would like to share a few of their stories using false names due to confidentiality.

Julie is at the home due to her father sexually abusing her for a number of years. Her mother is a drug addict. She is a bright student, but emotionally unstable. She has difficulty with boundaries with boys at school, and often gets in trouble. The group home offers her the therapy she needs on a daily basis. Molly came to us because she was found on the streets in an abandoned home. She had a large amount of money on her so it was assumed she was selling herself. Because her mother had been

murdered she was sent to live with other family members, but she ran away. She has dreams of becoming a nurse one day. She is a very bright girl, and I can't wait to see her make her dream one day.

Tony is very bright and his teachers enjoy having him in class. He is with us because his mother is a drug addict and he was pulled from his home. He was in trouble at school because he was always late. We found out he was taking care of his younger sister and would walk her to school to make sure she was safe before he could make it to school himself. He has an older brother who is in prison. He works hard in school. I can see how he wants to better himself.

Sam has been placed with us due to being sexually abused by his father and brother. He is a very kind boy and does well at school. He always greets me with a hello and a smile. He has problems socially and other students at school make fun of him, but he is very sweet. Never does he show that he is hurting.

The issues that these students have been through have made their lives extremely hard. Children in our own neighborhoods are going through some of these same issues. I just have a passion for children who feel abandoned. My passion is to shine God's light into their world. We never really see the impact that we have on another. We plant the seeds; God gives the increase. My hope for my position here at St. Paul's is to plant God's seeds and watch our children grow in Him.

Peace,

Ashley DeFrancisco

Worship Services for October

October 2 **Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**
 Isaiah 5:1–7 Psalm 80:7–15 Philippians 3:4b–14 Matthew 21:33–46

Great Expectations, Part 1 of 3: What God Expects

Isaiah tells a parable about a vineyard and Jesus adapts that parable for his own use. The theme, however, is the same. Like the owner of a vineyard expects the tenants to care for it and pay the owner a portion of the harvest, so too God expects of God's people to care for God's kingdom. What is the harvest that is expected of us?

October 9 **Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**
 Isaiah 25:1–9 Psalm 23 Philippians 4:1–9 Matthew 22:1–14

Great Expectations, Part 2 of 3: When God Expects

God's timing is God's timing. In Isaiah we hear God calling us to wait for God. Paul writes to the Philippians and tells them that God is near. Jesus tells a parable that shows God comes on his own time not ours, and woe to the one who is not on God's time.

October 16 **Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost** Children's Choir
 Isaiah 45:1–7 Psalm 96:1–9 (1 Thessalonians 1:1–10) Matthew 22:15–22

Great Expectations, Part 3 of 3: What God Expects

"Render therefore unto Caesar what is Caesar's and unto God what is God's." (*KJV*) These words are one of the most well known quotes of Jesus. You can probably tell the story that leads up to this quote. But what does it mean? What is Caesar's? What is God's?

October 23 **Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**
 Leviticus 19:1–2, 15–18 Psalm 1 1 Thessalonians 2:1–8 Matthew 22:34–46

Of Urinals and the Least of These, by Pastor Walter Wangerin, Jr.

Jesus' summary of the law in today's gospel echoes our first reading from Leviticus. We are called not only to love God with heart, soul, and mind, but also to love our neighbor as ourselves. It is out of such deep care that Paul shares the gospel with the Thessalonian community. In the confession of sins, we acknowledge that we have not loved God, neighbor, and self; yet we gather to hear the word of forgiveness and to be strengthened by word and meal to be signs of God's love and mercy in the world.

October 30 **Reformation Sunday**
 Jeremiah 31:31–34 Psalm 46 Romans 3:19–28 John 8:31–36

On October 31, 1517 Martin Luther nailed to the door of Castle Church, Wittenberg, Germany, 95 Theses upon which Luther wanted to debate. These theses questioned the practice of selling indulgences - **Get-Out-Of-Hell-Free Cards** – and the whole question of how salvation is obtained. On this day we celebrate the heart of our faith: the gospel of Christ—the good news—that makes us free! We pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to unite the church today in its proclamation and witness to the world. In the waters of baptism we are made one body; we pray for the day that all Christians will also be one at the Lord's table.

Pastor Doug's Letter: September 21, 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace to you and peace from Father, Jesus and Spirit.

The Guardians and Ministry Leaders are meeting in retreat this Saturday September 24th to pray for our Ministry Body, to seek God's direction, and to discuss how we can better bring about God's kingdom here in this place. We invite you to pray for us as we pray for you.

We want to try to do things God's way. Too often in the church we say, "God we are going to do this... Please bless it." Instead we should ask God, "What are you doing? How can we be a part of your blessing?" Indeed, that is our prayer when we pray together, "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

Such a prayer invites us prayerfully to consider: What is God's kingdom?

Our use of language shapes how we understand God's kingdom. We hear that word "kingdom" and translate it in our minds to the word "nation." That makes us think of the various nations of the world and their boundaries. Our own nation has fixed boundaries, and we are presently building the boundaries higher and stronger so that those who are in are in and those who are out are kept out. Furthermore, we define ourselves as Americans as persons who are born citizens (or who were received into citizenship) and as those persons who hold to our values, beliefs and customs.

In the same kind of way we think of God's kingdom as being church.

We define church as those who are baptized into it and who hold to our values, beliefs, and customs. Those values, beliefs and customs are stated both explicitly and implicitly, and the implicit ones have the greater power. For example, we here at St. Paul Lutheran Church explicitly say that to be a member, to be "in," you must believe like us that the Apostles' Creed and Martin Luther's Explanation of it are the clear definition of what it means to be a Christian. We therefore regularly teach and preach in accordance with it. Implicit in our belief, however, is that this is a matter of right thinking more than right feeling. We view with suspicion anyone who shouts "Jesus is Lord!" during the worship service. It's just not done! And we would (probably) convey our disapproval to anyone who dared to do it. But is not that exactly what the Creed and the Explanation say?

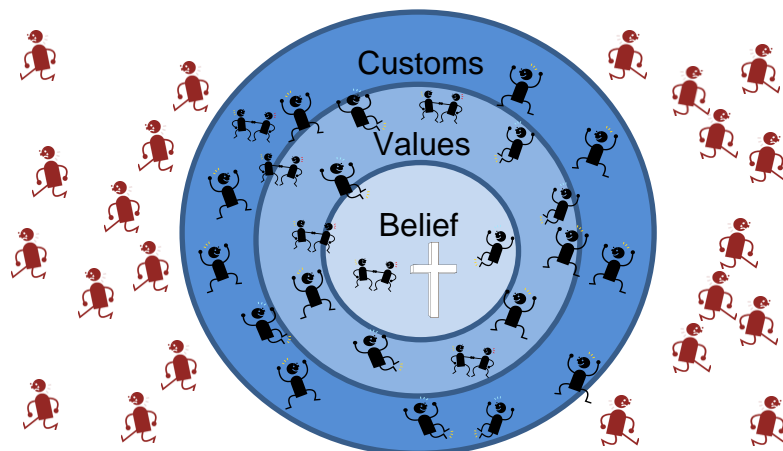
The point is that we conceptualize church as being "in" or "out." There are boundaries and if you are within the boundaries of our values, beliefs, and customs you are in and if you are without the boundaries you are out. It looks like this:

"The goal of the Bounded Church is conformation. The goal of the Centered Church is transformation."

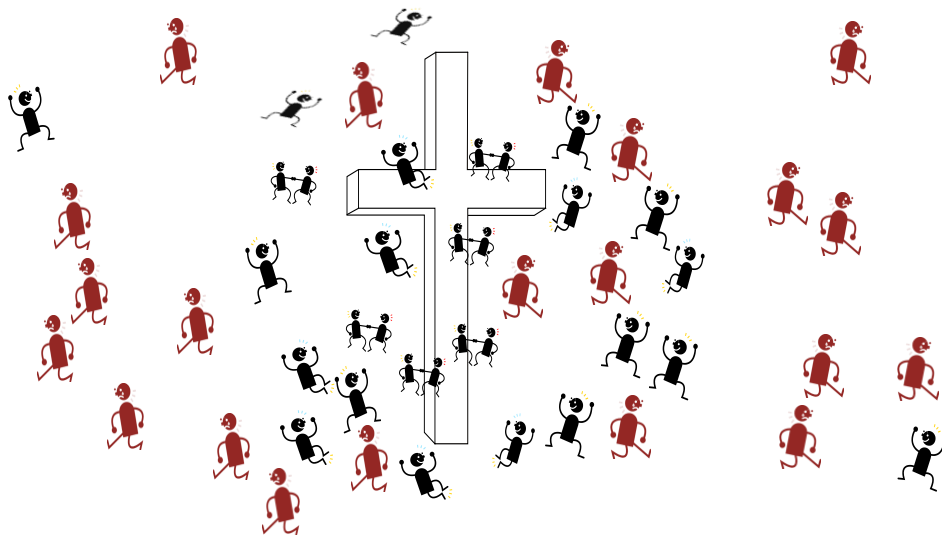
This is called the Bounded Church. This is a church defines itself by its boundaries.

However, there is another way to define the church and that is to conceptualize it centered on Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." The key understanding is whether or not a person is centered on Jesus. Here the attention is less on whether you are in or out and more on which direction are you facing. If your orientation is on Jesus and you are drawing closer to him, then you are part of the kingdom of God, no matter what your customs, values, and beliefs are. As you move closer to Jesus those customs, values, and beliefs will change and become more like his. This is called the Centered Church and it defines itself by orientation to Jesus.

The Bounded Church



The Centered Church



A Centered Church is a church that accepts people wherever they are on their faith journey towards Jesus. Note in my little drawing that the people who are in the Kingdom of God and those who are out are all mixed up together. There are some who are far away from Jesus who are moving toward him. Those are the persons who have customs, values, and beliefs that are far from Christ-like but they are not content to stay where they are. There are also those who are close to Jesus who are moving away from him. Some of them may indeed be quite moral and upright but they have nothing to do with Jesus. The key to the Centered Church is the direction you are facing and the movement you are making.

The Centered Church Model is a growth model. It presupposes that we all need to grow to become more like Jesus. None of us have arrived and are finished. Contrast that with the Bounded Church. A person is either in or out, and once you are in, there is nothing more to do. You can grow or not grow but it really does not make a difference if you are in and have the magic ticket.

The key difference between the Bounded Church and the Centered Church is how the church evaluates one another.

The Bounded Church asks,
"How much like us are you?"

The Centered Church asks,
"How much like Jesus are you?"

The Bounded Church asks,
"How much like us are your customs, values, and beliefs?"

The Centered Church asks,
"How much are your customs, values, and beliefs like the customs, values, and beliefs of Jesus?"

The Bounded Church compares itself to other churches, faiths, and religions. The Centered Church looks to see where Jesus is and then goes there.

The first time that I heard these two different conceptualizations of the church I did not understand it. I had to hear it presented several times before I could begin to grasp that the way that we see the church determines our expectations of God and others.

In one sense I prefer the Bounded Church. I like seeing the clear lines of in and out like the foul lines on a baseball field. But I have also

discovered that it is not that clear nor that simple.

One of the parables we heard this summer was about the weeds and the wheat. Jesus described a farmer who sowed good seed in his field only to have an enemy come in at night and sow weeds among the wheat. When they sprout both are growing together in such a way that the farmer informs his servants not to try and pull out the weeds for in doing so the wheat might be uprooted as well

As your pastor I see us having a mixed metaphor of the church. At times we act quite like the Bounded Church and define the ins and the outs. But we are also like the Centered Church in that we stress growing into the image and likeness of Jesus.

The challenge for the Guardians and the Ministry Leaders as they meet in retreat is to determine how we grow together to become more like Jesus. A Bounded Church has it simpler. It says, "This is the way it is, learn this, know this, do this, and act like this." The goal is conformation. As a centered Church we have a diversity of persons at various stages in their faith journey coming from a variety of perspectives seeking to become like Jesus. What works for one may be the exact opposite of works for another. The goal is transformation.

What we do know is that the Holy Spirit is the one who does the transforming and so our efforts are to be attuned to the Spirit's guidance in order that we might be wherever Jesus is.

Peace,

Pastor Doug

Bishop Eaton's Letter: September 8, 2011



The 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, *Freed in Christ to Serve*, has come and gone. Over 1,000 voting members from 65 synods across the United States and the Caribbean met in Orlando, Florida to worship, pray, deliberate, vote, study scripture, sing, eat and meet new friends. We heard reports from task forces, committees, units, WELCA, LMM, LDR, LWF, LWR, the presiding bishop, vice president, secretary and treasurer. We passed constitutional changes, a new social statement *Genetics, Faith and Responsibility*, approved the work of the LIFT task force, launched the ELCA Malaria Campaign (our synod presented a check which brought our total contribution to the campaign to \$141,287.23. To date we have raised just over \$146,000. We lead the ELCA!) We elected, and debated, and became acquainted with the finer points of Robert's Rules of Order – our own synod secretary, John Sleasman (Advent, Solon) was the parliamentarian and he was splendid.

The spare recounting of the work of the churchwide assembly cannot capture the experience. I asked our voting members to share

their reflections on the assembly. I think that their reflections will give you more of a sense of the church gathered in assembly. Here's what they said.

"As I walked away from my first churchwide assembly, I was in awe of the many ways that we, as a church, walk with those who suffer. As one of the speakers said, 'Lutherans show up when a disaster occurs and stay until the rebuilding of a community is complete.' When we are at our best, we are a church that draws on our collective resources and answers the sometimes overwhelmingly difficult call to serve. We are indeed a church that is freed in Christ to serve!

- Rod Sprang, St. Paul,
Sharon Center

"...today and evermore shall Jesus Christ be praised.' Can you imagine singing this with 1500 other people? Folks have asked me what the highlight of the churchwide assembly was. This was it. To know there are 77 million Lutherans around the world singing Jesus' praises. And not just Lutherans! During the assembly we were greeted by many other denominations who sing praises to Jesus Christ, too. Leaders from around the church and around the world affirmed our calling to be *Freed in Christ to Serve*. Thank you for the opportunity to serve the church during this assembly."

- Pastor Karen Ullestad,
Church of the Master, Bedford

"Attending the 12th ELCA Churchwide Assembly was a first time experience for me. The intentional effort to include ethnic and young adult representatives as voting members at the assembly was very impressive. What continues to resonate in my heart are these words spoken by

presiding bishop Mark Hanson, 'Because our unity is in Christ, as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we will be defined first by our relatedness to others, not by what sets us apart'. The churchwide assembly imparted spiritual liberation, clarity and joy that we are indeed called and freed in Christ to serve."

- Charlotte Dibbles, Euclid,
Euclid

"This was my second churchwide assembly. I continue to be amazed by (and thankful for) the calm, Christ-centered leadership of presiding bishop Mark Hanson. I am thankful for and encouraged by careful, thoughtful hard work of committees, especially those challenged with tasks to write social statements and the LIFT document. Their command of the subjects during debate was clearly helpful. I enjoyed the worship services, especially the music, and the Living Lutheran videos were a real treat."

- Don Palmquist, Salem,
Wooster

"I learned as much if not more from my interactions with fellow Lutherans. Whether they were my seat-mates during the plenary sessions, at lunch, at Bible study or at breakfast, I tried to interact with as many different people from different locations as possible. We have commonalities being Lutheran, but came to the faith in so many different ways.

During the week I sat next to an Ethiopian man from the Sierra Pacific Synod whose wife is a Lutheran pastor in the San Francisco Bay area. He is now studying to be a pastor as well, with plans to return to Ethiopia and continue his ministry. My other seat-mate came to the Lutheran faith by way of a Baptist upbringing and the search for a better parochial/private education for his

son. I ate lunch with a pastor from New Mexico and we shared a common passion as distance runners.

None of this diminishes the impact of social statements, the debates and discussions and thought provoking elements that I was exposed to, but it was the interaction with all of the individual people and seeing first-hand at the personal level what it truly means to be 'Freed in Christ to Serve'."

- David Miller, St. Jacob's, North Canton

"I was impressed by the numbers of women and minorities that hold positions of responsibility in the national church. I have a better understanding of what it means to be Lutheran with respect to the emphasis of service to others. I received confirmation that Bible study should leave one with more questions than answers which is one of the factors that influenced my conversion. I enjoyed speaking with the African-American clergy present and learning about their spiritual journeys. It is clear that there is a group of people who have a great deal of mistrust of the national church. I am curious as to why that is true or whether it is simply a part of the struggle between local and national control of the church. I was encouraged by both the numbers and the level of participation of the young people present."

- André Craig, Hope, Cleveland Heights

"I was last a voting member four years ago, and I was struck this time by the overall relaxed and unified feel of the assembly. Previously there's been much energy in the air, but it was typically accompanied by tension. In this assembly we gave careful attention to important matters – the Genetics Social Statement, Lutheran Campus Ministry, etc. – but the mood was thoughtful, not contentious. We know that the ELCA has gone through some changes in the last couple of years, but looking from this side of it, we seem to be moving forward in a more Spirit-filled, true-to-church atmosphere."

- Pastor Don King, Hope, Cleveland Heights

"It's not your ordinary conference or convention. The large Christ candle that burns on the stage reminds you of that. And even though the start-up business is all about rules of procedure and budgets, the presiding bishop, Mark Hanson pauses in the proceedings from time to time with a prayer or a hymn to keep us grounded in who we are and why we are here. 'Freed in Christ to Serve' is the theme and no decision is made based on what is best for us, but on what is best for those we serve."

- Kitty Burgett, Holy Trinity, North Canton

Many thanks to André Craig, Charlotte Dibbles, David Miller,

Debbie Gilbert (Good Hope, Youngstown), Don Palmquist, Ed Kirst (Messiah, Fairview Park), Frank Maenpa (Messiah, Ashtabula), Pastor Karen Ullestad, Kitty Burgett, Philip Hall (Good Hope, Youngstown), Rachel Fredrickson (St Jacob, North Canton), Pastor Art Cubbon (St Stephen, Stow), Pastor Bob Quaintance (Good Hope, Youngstown), Pastor Dee Emmert (Emmanuel, Warren), Pastor Don King and Rod Sprang (our synod's vice-president), who served as our voting members.

Congratulations and God's blessings to two seminary students from our synod! Kristina Heise, (Divinity, Parma Hts.) and Angela Storer (Celebration, Chardon) have been awarded fellowships from the Fund for Theological Education. They were nominated by their congregations and were selected from among other applicants preparing for congregational parish ministry. They must have the intellectual and interpersonal gifts for pastoral leadership. Their monetary awards will get matching support from their congregations for seminary tuition and living expenses. Good work!

Peace,



Bishop Northeastern Ohio Synod, ELCA

Bishop Eaton speaking for the ELCA Malaria Campaign:

"Elizabeth Eaton, the Northeastern Ohio Synod. I speak in favor of the ELCA Malaria Campaign. We are a pilot synod, the co-chairs are three young adults under the age of 30, Pastor Megan Elliott of Abiding Savior, Alliance, and Young Adults in Global Mission, Matt Bishop and Rebeckah Selnick. Our co-chairs set a target for each congregation based on average worship attendance. Our congregations have been creative in achieving their goals using Vacation Bible Schools, Wednesdays in Lent, Malaria in May, and a whole narthex filled with wire mosquitoes at Emmanuel in New Philadelphia. You can access this on [You Tube / clothes hanger mosquito](#).

"We were saddened by the drop in support that forced the painful reduction in work force at the churchwide organization and the resulting decision to withdraw from the Lutheran Malaria Initiative. Our Synod has also experienced a decrease in mission support which resulted in cuts in time and compensation for the entire staff. But in tough times, it is important to turn outward and not in on ourselves. The ELCA Malaria Campaign reminds us we are part of something greater than ourselves, and we are neither helpless nor poor.

"Therefore, the Northeastern Ohio Synod is committed to meeting its original goal of \$250,000. The Northeastern Ohio Synod thanks Bishop Hanson and the ELCA Malaria Campaign for the opportunity to make a difference in the world and presents this mosquito and a check, which, combined with funds already sent to the Malaria Campaign, brings our total to \$141,278.23."

October Celebrations

Happy Birthday

1 Charlie Dome
 2 Andrew Wood
 2 Kathy Beal
 3 Betty Barton
 3 Doug Leedy
 4 Jennifer Wright
 4 Geraldine Maxwell
 6 Randy Golden
 7 Mark Baker
 8 Ryan Jung
 8 Paul Frontz
 8 Lynn Hull
 8 Michelle Broeske
 8 Mary Wise

8 Owen Harsch
 9 Brian Lantz
 9 Joan Echelberger
 10 Denise Tenison
 11 Carroll Reed
 11 Marilyn Baker
 11 Larry Backensto
 12 Larry Dill
 12 Mary Meese
 16 Ron Broeske
 18 Dawn Armstrong
 19 Johnathon Boone
 20 Carol Pretorius
 20 Karen Lindsey

22 Lisa Weaver
 23 Ben Snyder
 23 Hallie Barr
 25 Steve Weaver
 26 Brennan Bartrum
 26 Robert Cromer
 26 Dave Jolin
 27 Lana Worner
 27 Hannah Beal
 28 Bert Bletner
 29 Luanne Dill
 29 Tim Teeter
 30 Ruth Brokaw
 30 Meghan Fellure

Happy Anniversary

October 3, 2009 James & Amanda Boyd
 October 14, 1993 Steve & Lisa Weaver
 October 15, 1983 Jeff & Diane Hammett
 October 21, 1961 Kenneth & Roberta Loescher
 October 25, 2008 Preston & Amberly Boyd
 October 26, 1996 Doug & Jean Leedy
 October 27, 1967 Larry & Nancy Backensto
 October 28, 1961 Larry & Monya Barr
 October 31, 1981 Mike & Debbie Bing

Please Pray for and Remember Our Shut-Ins

Please remember people in our congregation who have not been able to worship with us. Your cards, letters, and visits give them much joy. It is important that we help them remember they are part of our church family. *If you know of someone who needs added to the list, please contact the church office.*

Country Meadow Care Center
 4910 Algire Rd., Bellville, OH 44813
 Ed Mazur, Ethel Dudley

Homebound Church Family:
 Rubert Hill
 Dr. Betty Reed

Lexington Court Care Center
 250 Delaware Ave., Lexington, OH 44904
 Marsades Mast

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>October 2011</h1>						1
2 Pentecost 16 8:15 Pastor on WMAN 8:15 Arise! Worship 9:30 Generations Alive! 10:30 Rejoice! Worship	3 5:30 Weight Watchers 6:30 Reunion Group 7:00 Reunion Group 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 D. View Bingo 8:00 AA	4 2:00 Reunion Group 6:30 Healing Care Group 7:00 Reunion Group	5 6:15 Catechism 7 th 6:30 Children's Choir 7:00 Arise! Praise Team 7:30 Choir 7:30 Catechism 8 th	6 4:00 Painter's Alive 4:30 Health Screening 5:00 Community Dinner	7 1:30 Bible Study	8 6:30 Men's Breakfast - V&M 11:00 CR In Use 2:00 – 4:00 Open House with Bishop Hanson
9 Pentecost 17 8:15 Pastor on WMAN 8:15 Arise! Worship 9:30 Generations Alive! 10:30 Rejoice! Worship 6:00 Ultreya 7:00 Worship with Bishop Hanson	10 5:30 Weight Watchers 6:30 Reunion Group 7:00 Reunion Group 7:00 Bible Study 8:00 AA	11 12:00 Blood Drive 2:00 Reunion Group 6:30 Healing Care Group 7:00 Reunion Group 7:00 Finance Team	12 10:00 Elderberries 6:15 Catechism 7 th 6:30 Children's Choir 7:00 Arise! Praise Team 7:30 Choir 7:30 Catechism 8 th	13 4:00 Painter's Alive	14 1:30 Bible Study	15
16 Pentecost 18 8:15 Arise! Worship 9:30 Generations Alive! 10:30 Rejoice! Worship	17 5:30 Weight Watchers 6:30 Reunion Group 7:00 Reunion Group 7:00 Bible Study 8:00 AA	18 2:00 Reunion Group 6:30 Healing Care Group 7:00 Reunion Group	19 6:15 Catechism 7 th 6:30 Children's Choir 7:00 Arise! Praise Team 7:30 Choir 7:30 Catechism 8 th	20 4:00 Painter's Alive	21 1:30 Bible Study	22 6:30 Men's Breakfast - V&M CR In Use
23 Pentecost 19 8:15 Arise! Worship 9:30 Generations Alive! 10:30 Rejoice! Worship 12:00 CR In Use	24 5:30 Weight Watchers 6:30 Reunion Group 7:00 Reunion Group 7:00 Bible Study 8:00 AA	25 2:00 Reunion Group 6:30 Healing Care Group 7:00 Reunion Group	26 6:15 Catechism 7 th 6:30 Children's Choir 7:00 Arise! Praise Team 7:30 Choir 7:30 Catechism 8 th	27 4:00 Painter's Alive Halloween Parade	28 1:30 Bible Study	29 6:30 Men's Breakfast - V&M 2:00 – 4:00 Harvest Party
30 Reformation 8:15 Arise! Worship 9:30 Generations Alive! 10:30 Rejoice! Worship 12:00 CR In Use	31 5:30 Weight Watchers 6:30 Reunion Group 7:00 Reunion Group 7:00 Bible Study 8:00 AA					

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

48 Church Street
Bellville, OH 44813

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
Bellville, Ohio
Permit No. 4

Mailed: September 22, 2011
Address Service Requested



**St. Paul Lutheran
Church**

48 Church Street
Bellville, Ohio 44813

Pastor Doug Pretorius

CHURCH PHONE:
419-886-3521

FAX: 419-886-2584

E-MAIL:
StPaulBell@aol.com

PRAYER REQUEST:
419-886-3987

We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.splc-bellville.org

Get on Board:

- **EXPERIENCING THE HOLY SPIRIT**, Sunday mornings 9:30 a.m., Community Room, led by Pastor Doug.
- **WHEN GOD'S PEOPLE PRAY**, Small Group Study, Monday nights, upstairs in the Educational Wing from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- **THE GREATEST STORY**, Bible Introduction, Friday afternoons, 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Sunday Worship Services ...

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.