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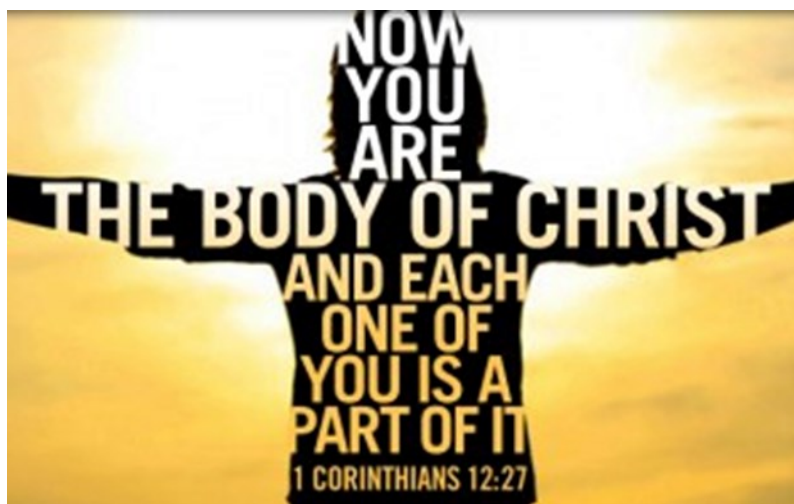
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## See You at the Fair?



### Ministry Fair

Sunday, September 8th

9:30 am

Community Room

## Details About the Fair!

Just as the season is upon us to celebrate with the community the Bellville Fair, on Sunday September 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am in the Community Room we will celebrate with our church community the St. Paul Lutheran Church Ministry Fair. Much like the Bellville Fair, it is a time to come together and see people we haven't seen or meet new friends. We will browse displays of the ministry ac-

tivity of the church and of course there will be food.

The Ministry Fair is not about finding more volunteers to do "stuff" at the church. It will instead be an opportunity to ask yourself:

- ◇ How do I live out the vision of the church in my life?
- ◇ How do I *trust* God with all my heart?

- ◇ How am I *learning* God's desire for my life?
- ◇ How I do I *tell* others about God's love?
- ◇ How am I *caring* for others using the gift's God gives me?

Come to the Ministry Fair to discover the ways we share our mission of **Living and Sharing God's Love** and where God might be calling you.

# Camp Mowana Festival



## and BENEFIT AUCTION

Sunday, September 29

12:00 – 5:00 pm

at

Camp Mowana

Between Mansfield and Ashland off US 42 on Fleming Falls Rd.

- Fresh roast pork, pumpkin pie, beef stew and other great food!
- Hayrides and Games
  - Pumpkin Carving and Crafts
  - Pony Rides 12:30-3:30 pm
  - Petting Zoo

**Benefit Auction begins at 3:00 pm**

Rain or Shine!

Free Admission and Parking!

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT SUMMER CAMPERSHIPS  
FOR DESERVING YOUTH

Financial support provided through the *Care Abounds*  
in Communities program of *Thrivent Financial*



# Marhenke Children Baptized



## Outdoor Worship Photos



Joel and Janis Marhenke's children were adopted on July 14th and baptized on August 11th. The children are: Cara Ann Marhenke (born December 18, 2006), Tyler Andrew Marhenke (December 22, 2007), and Skyler Kristin Marhenke (July 12, 2010). Their sponsors are Ralyne Hall and Chris Marhenke. Their grandfather, Pastor Larry Marhenke, performed the baptism. *Top Photo: Skyler being baptized. Second Photo: Asking the Holy Spirit to fill them.*

*Photos by Carol Pretorius.*

### Donation Requested

### Large Screen TV

We could use a large, flat screen TV in our educational ministry. This is a wish not a necessity. If you are upgrading your TV and have such a TV available for donation, please call the church office.



# NEOS Bishop Elizabeth Eaton elected ELCA presiding bishop



PITTSBURGH (ELCA) - The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Northeastern Ohio Synod, was elected Aug. 14 presiding bishop of the ELCA at the 2013 ELCA Churchwide As-

sembly. She was elected on the fifth ballot. There were 889 votes cast, and 445 votes were needed for an election. Eaton received 600 votes and the Rev. Mark S. Hanson, ELCA presiding bishop, received 287. Eaton is the ELCA's first woman presiding bishop-elect.

The churchwide assembly, the chief legislative authority of the ELCA, is meeting here Aug. 12-17 at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. The theme for the triennial assembly is

"Always being made new." This year marks the 25th anniversary of this church.

We are a church that is overwhelmingly European in a culture that is increasingly pluralistic. We need to welcome the gifts of those who come from different places, that is a conversation we need to have as a church," Eaton told the assembly shortly after the election.

Prior to becoming synod bishop, Eaton served as pastor for ELCA congregations in Ohio.

She earned a Master's of divinity degree from Harvard Divinity School in Cambridge, Mass., and a Bachelor's degree in music education from the College of Wooster in Wooster, Ohio.

## Choir Practice

### Begins

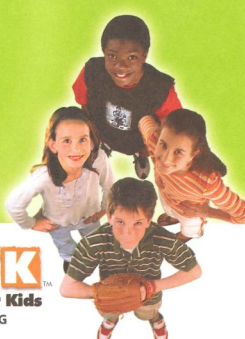
Wednesday Nights

7:30—8:30

Starting September 18th

# Divorce Care Groups for Kids/Adults Starting in Fredericktown

## Divorce support group for children




**I**f you know a child hurting because of divorce, bring him or her to DivorceCare for Kids, a special place for kids ages 5-12 to find help and healing. At our weekly DC4K group, kids make friends with other kids who understand what it feels like when parents get divorced.

Our DivorceCare for Kids group combines games, crafts, activities, music and DVD dramas to create a fun atmosphere where children feel comfortable and accepted. At DC4K, kids find joy and hope built on God's love!

*Designed for children whose parents are separated or divorced*

For children ages 5-12




**For grades K thru 5**  
**Group Sessions begin in September and January on Wednesday evenings.**

- \* Dinner (no charge)
- \* 90 minute group

\*Adult DivorceCare also available  
 \* Child care for children under 6.


**Fredericktown United Methodist Church**  
 Please call for times and information.  
 740-694-5806  
 Registration fee: \$15  
 Scholarships available.




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## Divorced? Separated?

Find Help | Discover Hope  
Experience Healing





DivorceCare is a special weekly seminar and support group for people who are separated or divorced.

**Group Sessions begin in September and January on Wednesday evenings.**

**Fredericktown United Methodist Church**

- \* Dinner (no charge)
- \* 90 minute groups for adults and
- \* DivorceCare for Kids grades K-5.
- \* Child care provided for children under 6.

Please call for times and more information.  
 740-694-5806

© MMVI DivorceCare. Not for reproduction.

## Gift of the Month

Please give suet blocks for the Bird Sanctuary and pet food for animals who are faithful companions to our homebound members, and to those who find the expense difficult to cover. Canned or dry food is most welcome, as well as kitty litter, and treats.

## Chicken Barbecue Time Again!

The Chicken BBQ is on Saturday, September 14th, from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Sign up to help by calling or texting Chris Laux (419-564-8900), or email Chris at [lauxcolt@aol.com](mailto:lauxcolt@aol.com). At least half of the money is earmarked for youth projects (work camps, etc.) and for scholarships to college students from St. Paul Lutheran Church.



## Catechism Class to Begin

Pastor Doug and Dick Brenneman invite all parents of 7th and 8th grade students to come to a catechism orientation session on Tuesday, September 3 at 7:40 in the Social Room. Catechism is a two year period of instruction for Junior High Students where each of them is invited to understand the basic teachings and practices of the Christian faith. Classes will begin Wednesday, September 18th.

## Thank You Notes Received

My husband and I can not thank you enough for your kindness and gratitude,

We are humbled by the outreach of our community and are truly appreciative for the gift certificate your church supplies to us.

May God bless you abundantly

In Christ,

Richard & Connie Osborn

*(Flood victims)*

John Pifer, holding a basket filled with cards, said to Pastor Doug, "Please tell everyone how deeply grateful I am for all their card of remembrance in my illness. Tell them how thankful I am for their prayers. I cannot respond to everyone and I want them to know how much I appreciate it."

## World Religion Discussion Group

If you want learn more about other religions and what they believe compared to Christianity join us on Sunday morning as we meet in one of the adult classrooms upstairs at 9:30.

Judy Harding is interested in finding somebody to share in the responsibility to prepare for the class. If interested please call Judy at 419-886-1904.



The Richland County Health Department will be holding a Flu Immunization Clinic here at St. Paul Lutheran Church on Monday, September 23 from 2:00—4:00 p.m. Please bring your insurance card. The charge is \$10 for 6month through age 18 and \$22 for adults 19 & up. They accept Medicare/Medicaid, Anthem Blue cross Blue Shield and Medical Mutual. They also accept cash or checks. If this date doesn't work for you and you want to check out other times there is a listing on the bulletin board above the chest.

## Harvest Pot Luck Dinner

For our combined services

- Sunday, October 13, 2013
  - Community Room
  - Beginning at 11:45

Ham loaf, dessert, beverages,  
and table service provided

Hosted by The Meet and Greet Team

## Sunday Morning Adult Classes

### Coffee Cup Class



The adult Sunday school class that meets in the community room is open to adults of all ages. This is an informal class that meets with tables pushed together to have more of a connected feeling. Currently, we are using the Serendipity Bible to study the book of Luke. We usually have a “coffee cup” question about our lives that relate to what we will be studying and then we read the passage. There are questions for us to think more deeply about the message. Finally, there is a “heart” question that asks us to think about how the message in the passage applies to our lives. The discussions have been rich and helped us to grow closer together as we study God’s word. We pray and support each other on our Christian journeys. Anyone who has graduated from high school is welcome to join us.

Carol Pretorius

### Library Class

The Sunday school class held in the Library is currently studying the Book of Romans using a free study guide found on the Internet. We read a passage, then discuss the questions provided in the study guide. This class is open to children of God of ALL ages.

Mark Timberlake



### Learning to Pray for Others

Pastor Doug will begin teaching a six week class on *How to Pray for the Spirit to Bring Healing* on Sunday morning September 29 at 9:30. The participants will learn a simple prayer model that will enable them to pray for the Spirit to bring a blessing to the ones for whom they pray. By the end of the six week sessions, the participants will be trained to pray in the worship service during Holy Communion for anyone who requests prayer. You must be able to come to all six sessions in order to participate.

**Fifteenth Biennial Convention of the NE Ohio  
Synodical Women’s Organization of the Women  
of the ELCA**

**October 11-12, 2013 held at  
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Bellville**

## Young Adult Class Begins

A-Oak-ay is a new Sunday school Class for adults! We will be meeting in the Sunday School Class beside the Senior High Room. Our first study will be the **DVD series Liquid**. Hope to see you there! Questions? Call Katy Lang (567-274-3634)

Also, HELP WANTED! Saint Paul is under construction! A young adult ministry is forming right here and we need help! Even prayer will do! The young adult ministry will be held Sunday nights from 8:00—9:30 p.m. in the social room. Kick-off is Sunday, September 29. If you are interested in attending or helping please contact Katy Lang (567-274-3634).

## Week Day Bible Studies

### Monday Night Bible Study Begins

Come one Come All as we read the greatest story of all. God’s Story! Adults and even teenagers are welcome to come study **The Story!** They meet Monday nights at 7:00 p.m. in one of the upstairs Sunday School room. They will start meeting September 16. Questions? Call Katy Lang (567-274-3634)

### Genesis Bible Study Begins

Where do we come from?

Who are we?

Why are there problems?

And, most importantly, who is God?

These are the questions that the book of Genesis asks. The answers come through some of the most profound and perplexing stories ever told.

Pastor Doug will be leading a Bible discussion of the book of Genesis on Friday afternoons from 1:30 to 3:00. Through discussion and media, the participants will hear the stories of faith that have inspired followers of God for millennium.

The sessions begin on September 20 and will be every Friday through the third week of November. The cost of the participant book is \$15.00.

You may sign up at the Ministry Fair on September 8 or by leaving a message for Pastor Doug.

## Pastor Doug's Letter: August 22, 2013

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Grace to you and peace from God whom we know as Father, Jesus and Spirit, and who knows us as beloved children.

I am sensing a Spirit Change.

The phrase “sea change” refers to the moment before the movement. The crew of a ship traveling on the seas needs to be prepared for the change in the waves and the wind so that before the change happens the crew can be prepared to adjust the sails and the steering. The most experienced of seaman can sense the change before it actually happens.

In our church I sense a sea change. That change is not, however, the winds of the world but the wind of the Spirit blowing us in new directions with new force and new possibilities. Now is the time to spread our sails, to be prepared to catch the Spirit's breath blowing us to new destinations.

The Spirit is blowing and asking us the question:

Which direction are you facing?

There are really only two responses to Jesus. Are you facing in his direction and journeying towards him, or are you facing away from him and journeying away from him? Both the direction and the movement matter.

The direction refers to what is most important to you. Are you setting as the focus of your life what God wants or what you want? What do you value the most? Where do you spend your spare time, your spare money, and your spare energy?

The Spirit is blowing and asking us the question:

Which movement are you making?

Are you becoming more like Jesus? The process of being transformed into his image is life long and is brought to completion only upon our resurrection. We all begin at different starting places, and we all have been given different supports and opportunities to be transformed? So really, the question is not: How are you more like Jesus than your neighbor? The question is: How much have I taken advantage of the gifts and the opportunities God has given me? This is what Jesus means when he said, “To those whom much has been given, much is required.”

The freedom—and the challenge—in this is that we do not and cannot compare ourselves to others. Instead we compare ourselves to where we were before. We do not look into the eyes of another and, for example, see their sin of needing to be in control, but instead look into the mirror of Jesus and see our

own sin of needing to be in control. Are we taking that “plank” out of our own eye?

The Spirit is blowing and asking us the question:

How are we—St. Paul Lutheran Church—making disciples of our children, our teenagers, and our young adults?

When Jesus had completed his earthly ministry, before he empowered them with the Spirit, he commanded his closest followers to: **Go** and **Make Disciples** of all nations, **Baptizing** them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit and **Teaching** them to observe all that he had commanded them. He told them - paraphrasing his instruction to the disciples just prior to his ascension— “After the Spirit has filled and empowered you, bring my message to your families, your communities, your nation, and finally to all the world.”

There are signs among us of those who are taking seriously his instruction to begin with our families and to pass on to our children the faith that means so much to us. While conversation and teaching and instruction are all important means by which we pass on that faith, what is most critical is who we are. Children are the best lie detectors that there are. They observe our behavior far more than our words.

That is why our own personal growth in becoming more Christ-like is so important. It is also why we quote the proverb: *Faith is caught, not taught*. The habits—for good or for ill—that you do in order to keep you connected to Christ will become the habits that your offspring will also do.

The Spirit is blowing and asking us the question:

Will you pray?

There is an increasing attention among us to the importance and the power of prayer. More of us are encouraging one another to pray. More of us are praying. This is the critical, foundational piece, for ultimately prayer is about direction, movement, and discipleship. Every prayer is turning towards God and every prayer is at its center saying, “Your will be done, not my will.”

This, of course, makes all the difference, for when our lives and our church are seeking God's will instead of our own, we are allowing the wind of the Spirit to blow us to the place God wants to take us instead of exhausting ourselves rowing against the waves of the world.

Peace,

*Pastor Doug*



## Happy Birthday

## Happy Anniversary

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Jeff Schaefer     | 14 Ryan Leedy       |
| 2 Janet Frontz      | 15 Alwine Stull     |
| 3 Lynn Ousley       | 17 Alex Armstrong   |
| 4 Darcy Boyd        | 17 Jerry Shasky     |
| 5 Jean (Clint) Dill | 20 Alison Burkhart  |
| 5 Norbert Peiker    | 20 Brooks Craw      |
| 6 Brenda Gerhart    | 22 Darian Gottfried |
| 6 Ella Jane Fry     | 22 Cindy Pearce     |
| 6 Hannah Wilson     | 22 Jeff Hammett     |
| 7 Audrey Wilt       | 23 Mark Armstrong   |
| 8 John Frank        | 24 Carrie Knight    |
| 9 Jackie Boyd       | 25 Shane Klenk      |
| 9 Kellie Timberlake | 25 Kilee Stoner     |
| 9 Ian Price         | 26 Hallie Gottfried |
| 12 John Harsch      | 28 Gail Laux        |
| 12 Seth Wilson      | 30 Amy Wilson       |
| 14 DeLee McNaul     | 30 Emily Zimmerman  |

- September 1, 2001 Matt & Erin Craw  
 September 8, 2007 Lance & Susan Dill  
 September 9, 1978 Jim & Lisa Boyd  
 September 10, 1982 Jeff & Stacy Wright  
 September 10, 2011 Rob & Katy Lang  
 September 12, 1986 Dennis & Denise Tenison  
 September 16, 1972 Charlie & Julie Dome  
 September 20, 1952 Bob & Irene Cromer  
 September 29, 1984 Dave & Debbie Jolin  
 September 29, 1979 Mark & Kellie Timberlake

## Remember Our Shut-Ins

**Wedgewood Estates**  
 600 South Trimble Road,  
 Mansfield, OH 44906  
 George Ridenour, Bea Tawse

**Country Meadow Care Center**  
 4910 Algire Rd,  
 Bellville, OH 44813  
 Barb Noblet


**Oak Grove Manor**  
 1670 Crider Road,  
 Mansfield, OH 44903  
 Jean Reed

**Homebound Church Family:**  
 Ella Jane Fry

## July Financial Report

-----July 2013-----			-----January 1 through July 31, 2013-----			Annual Budget	Remaining Budget	August Budget
Actual	Budget	Over (Under)	Actual	Budget	Over (Under)			
\$ 14,812.74	\$ 17,686.52	\$ (2,873.78)	\$ 124,579.92	\$ 128,626.18	\$ (4,046.26)	\$ 227,350.70	\$ 102,774.73	\$ 16,902.16
\$ 4,258.70	\$ 5,865.55	\$ (1,606.85)	\$ 35,309.00	\$ 42,408.71	\$ (7,099.71)	\$ 75,398.48	\$ 40,089.48	\$ 5,605.42
\$ 1,141.34	\$ 1,402.61	\$ (261.27)	\$ 10,423.88	\$ 9,818.26	\$ 605.62	\$ 16,831.31	\$ 6,407.43	\$ 1,402.61
\$ 864.52	\$ 1,115.37	\$ (250.85)	\$ 7,424.02	\$ 7,807.61	\$ (383.59)	\$ 13,384.48	\$ 5,960.46	\$ 1,115.37
\$ 397.00	\$ 386.58	\$ 10.42	\$ 2,194.00	\$ 2,706.08	\$ (512.08)	\$ 4,639.00	\$ 2,445.00	\$ 386.58
\$ 20.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 40.00	\$ -	\$ 40.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	\$ -	\$ 3,605.00	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 805.00	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 1,195.00	\$ 400.00
\$ 1,777.87	\$ -	\$ 1,777.87	\$ 15,185.36	\$ -	\$ 15,185.36	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
\$ 23,672.17	\$ 26,856.64	\$ (3,184.47)	\$ 198,761.18	\$ 194,166.85	\$ 4,594.33	\$ 342,403.97	\$ 158,872.10	\$ 26,339.24
\$ 18,010.70	\$ 19,207.02	\$ (1,196.32)	\$ 128,457.10	\$ 131,430.54	\$ (2,973.44)	\$ 227,230.04	\$ 98,772.94	\$ 17,635.15
\$ 5,339.20	\$ 5,132.19	\$ 207.01	\$ 36,618.41	\$ 36,694.06	\$ (75.65)	\$ 58,834.18	\$ 22,715.77	\$ 5,132.20
\$ 1,141.34	\$ 1,402.61	\$ (261.27)	\$ 10,423.88	\$ 9,818.26	\$ 605.62	\$ 16,831.31	\$ 6,407.43	\$ 1,402.61
\$ 683.10	\$ 1,115.37	\$ (432.27)	\$ 7,768.04	\$ 7,807.61	\$ (39.57)	\$ 13,384.48	\$ 5,616.44	\$ 1,115.37
\$ -	\$ 386.58	\$ (386.58)	\$ 2,250.00	\$ 2,706.08	\$ (456.08)	\$ 4,639.00	\$ 2,389.00	\$ 386.58
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 132.00	\$ -	\$ 132.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
\$ 354.70	\$ 400.00	\$ (45.30)	\$ 3,837.60	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 1,037.60	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 962.40	\$ 400.00
\$ 1,035.45	\$ -	\$ 1,035.45	\$ 14,765.69	\$ -	\$ 14,765.69	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
\$ 26,564.49	\$ 27,643.78	\$ (1,079.29)	\$ 204,252.72	\$ 191,256.56	\$ (1,769.53)	\$ 325,719.01	\$ 136,863.98	\$ 26,071.91
Beginning Balance			Ending Balance			Projected August, 2013		
	Income	Expenses				Income	Expense	Ending
\$	25,107.91	\$ 14,812.74	\$	18,010.70	\$ 21,909.95	\$ 16,902.16	\$ 17,635.15	\$ 21,176.96
\$	14,317.95	\$ 4,258.70	\$	5,339.20	\$ 13,237.45	\$ 5,605.42	\$ 5,132.20	\$ 13,710.68
\$	-	\$ 1,141.34	\$	1,141.34	\$ -	\$ 1,402.61	\$ 1,402.61	\$ -
\$	4,013.79	\$ 864.52	\$	683.10	\$ 4,195.21	\$ 1,115.37	\$ 1,115.37	\$ 4,195.21
\$	3,196.53	\$ 397.00	\$	-	\$ 3,593.53	\$ 386.58	\$ 386.58	\$ 3,593.53
\$	3,109.35	\$ 20.00	\$	-	\$ 3,129.35	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,129.35
\$	156.63	\$ 400.00	\$	354.70	\$ 201.93	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 201.93
\$	13,336.64	\$ 1,777.87	\$	1,035.45	\$ 14,079.06	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,079.06
\$	63,238.80	\$ 23,672.17	\$	26,564.49	\$ 60,346.48	\$ 25,812.15	\$ 26,071.91	\$ 60,086.72
	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expense</b>		<b>Difference</b>		<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Difference</b>
	\$ 14,812.74	\$ 18,010.70		\$ (3,197.96)	YTD	\$ 124,579.92	\$ 128,457.10	\$ (3,877.18)
	\$ 4,258.70	\$ 5,339.20		\$ (1,080.50)	YTD	\$ 35,309.00	\$ 36,618.41	\$ (1,309.41)

Please note that the General Fund and the Building Fund area a currently running a deficit. Although this is not a cause for alarm it is a cause for concern.



# Worship Services for September

**September 1**     **15th Sunday after Pentecost**     *Blessing of occupations and labor*  
 Proverbs 25:6-7     Psalm 112     Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16     Luke 14:1, 7-14  
**Different Fruit for Different Folks**

Fig trees bear figs. Apple trees bear apples. Pear trees bear pears. Trees that do not bear fruit are cut down. Jesus describes the patience of God with non-fruit bearing people. Everyone gets a second chance. However, eventually you run out of chances. Fruit is expected.



**September 8**     **16th Sunday after Pentecost**     *Ministry Fair Day*  
 Deuteronomy 30:15-20     Psalm 1     Philemon 1-21     Luke 14:25-33  
**The Cost of Discipleship**

In Deuteronomy we hear the call to choose life and prosperity instead of death and adversity. Those who choose obedience to the commandment of God will find that life while those who choose disobedience will find death. We are both called and commanded to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. Central to that call is to carry the cross of Christ. Christianity is a paradox in that the way of death is the way of life and the way of life is the way of death. On this day of the Ministry, each of us are asked how will I live out this discipleship? What ministries will I do in Jesus' name? What cost will I bear to be Jesus' disciple?

**September 15**     **17th Sunday after Pentecost**  
 Exodus 32:7-14     Psalm 51:1-10     1 Timothy 1:12-17     Luke 15:1-32

Rick Jensen is a candidate for ordained ministry in the ELCA. He will be our preacher today while Pastor Doug will preside at Holy Communion. The theme for the lessons this day are stories of the call of God. From the book of Exodus we hear Moses and God arguing about who has called whom. The Hebrew people are worshipping a golden calf and neither God nor Moses want to take responsibility for their actions. Paul tells Timothy in his first book to him about how God called Paul – the worst of sinners – to be a prime example of God's mercy. And finally in the gospel we hear three parables describing the call of the lost.



**September 22**     **18th Sunday after Pentecost**     *Install Teachers*  
 Amos 8:4-7     Psalm 113     1 Timothy 2:1-7     Luke 16:1-13  
**Choose This Day Whom You Will Serve**



Every show before the Radio City Rockettes would perform, a stage hand would need to pass through their dressing room in order to get to another side of the stage. As he entered he would call out, "Close your eyes ladies; I'm coming through!" One Rockette admitted ruefully, "I did it for six weeks." Of course, there are many Christians who pray, "Close your eyes God; I'm coming through."

**September 29**     **19th Sunday after Pentecost**  
 Amos 6:1a, 4-7     Psalm 146     1 Timothy 6:6-19     Luke 16:19-31  
**The Pursuit of Godliness**

Godliness is not much in fashion today. Few Christians make their life goal to be godly. Yet, Paul, Timothy's mentor, invites him to do just that. Hear Paul speak in a thunderous voice, But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life..." What Paul calls us to shun is what is one of the chief hindrances to the godly life.





## Church Sign



Matthew Kochheiser contacted the church about earning his Eagle Scout Award. He is replacing the signs at all 4 entrances to the village and asked if we would be interested in putting one up for our church. The Ministry Leader's discussed it and thought it was a good idea and asked the Endowment Committee for memorial money to pay for it.

The sign will be round with the **Living and Sharing God's Love** logo and at the top it will have our church name. It should be placed sometime in September.

## Groups That Meet to Improve Your Health

- **Weight Watchers** meet in the Community Room each Monday evening starting at 5:30 p.m.
- **Food Addicts Anonymous** meets in the Social Room each Monday night at 6:00 p.m.
- **Yoga** class with Mindy Wood in on Tuesday nights starting at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room. Beginning-level yoga and exercise group with a worshipful focus on strength, flexibility, fellowship and a quiet time to slow-down and breathe. Anyone interested is welcome to come. Wear comfortable clothes, and bring a mat or towel.



## Ministry Leaders Minutes: 8-20-13

The Ministry Leaders met on Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. Present were Pastor Doug, Nancy Martin, Janis Marhenke, Doug Shirk, Chris Laux, Paul Martin, Paul Garn, Judy Copersmith, and Barb Hoover.

Pastor Doug led devotions and prayer.

Doug Shirk and Paul Garn reported that they re-upholstered 20 of the folding chairs that were in bad shape. They are waiting to hear back from Skip Hursh on the roofing before we decide what way to go. Skip had several options and we had questions. The parking lots across from the post office will be sealed after the fair and the parking lot next to the church will be ground up and replaced. The alleys will be replaced and we want a letter from the Mayor stating it is alright for us to do that. Chris will contact the Mayor for the letter.

Janis Marhenke and Pastor Doug discussed what needs to be done for Sunday School. Pastor Doug will be teaching Sunday School classes on Sunday morning. They will be short series and if you are interested in attending you must commit to every week. There is a class for adults that has a new topic every week, but Pastor Doug's will be a continuing series for a few weeks at a time.

Paul Martin talked about the budget and how summer months giving is always down. He hopes the giving picks up in September, but doesn't think it is anything to worry about right now.

Chris Laux brought to our attention a young man that is trying to earn his Eagle Scout and is putting new signs at all four entrances to the village. The church has not advertised this way previously, but we felt it would be a good idea. Barb Hoover will call Dick Brenneman and ask him to release \$300.00 from the Memorial Fund to pay for them. Barb will also contact Sign Graphix to order the signs.

Barb passed out calendars for the next year. Our next meeting will be October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 p.m. Chris Laux will lead devotions.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Barb Hoover*

## MINISTRY GUARDIANS MEETING OF August 21, 2013

Present for the meeting were: Pastor Doug, Lisa Brooks, Michael Murray, Stacy Wright, and Mindy Wood. Chris Laux was out of town on business.

Mike Murray opened the meeting with devotions, reading from Romans 12:14-21. After reflection and discussion, the devotional time was ended with prayer

### REPORTS:

The minutes from the Guardian's meeting of July 1, 2013 were reviewed; Mike Murray moved to accept the minutes, Stacy Wright seconded, and the motion was approved.

The review of Treasurer's Report generated considerable discussion since the July report showed that SPLC has a negative balance in both the general and building fund; attendance is also down. The Guardians decided that Chris Laux will make an announcement on Sunday August 25, 2013, to inform the Ministry Body that: (a) giving is down in the General Fund by 6%, (b) giving is down even more in the Building Fund, (c) that this trend is a cause for concern but not for panic and (d) that the Ministry Body give this prayerful consideration. Mike Murray moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, Mindy Wood seconded and all were in favor of making the announcement to the Ministry Body on Sunday.

### OLD BUSINESS:

The Guardians discussed the roof situation and briefly reviewed Skip Hursh's proposal. In light of the apparent financial challenges, there was no consensus on whether or not a Capital Fund Appeal was advisable at this time. The sticking point was that it did not seem wise to ask for capital money when operating money is insufficient at this time.

### NEW BUSINESS:

The Guardians had considerable discussion regarding salary and budget considerations for 2014. It was decided that the Guardians will pray over, think over, and get some input from the Finance Team regarding the following principles:

Salaries will be set by the Guardians during the budget process based on normal and customary wages, and with some consideration given to cost of living, and some consideration given to merit.

The goal will be to have the General Fund and the Building Fund have a carryover balance at the end of the fiscal year equal to two months expenses. If there is any surplus above and beyond that, the Ministry Body in assembly will decide how to distribute it.

It was decided that Pastor Doug and Chris Laux will appoint a Stewardship Team for a Stewardship Campaign if the Guardians decide this is necessary

The Guardians approved Pastor Doug's request to attend the second training for Formational Prayer, September 4-7, 2014

The Guardians approved pastoral candidate, Rick Jensen to preach at St. Paul on September 15

The Journey Forward Team has lost Lane Leedy, due to her move to Bowling Green.

**Tabled until next meeting or later date:** Sunday School Curriculum update, Ashley's Youthquake request, debriefing of Work Camp experience/concerns about funding of Work Camp, a possible Ministry Team debriefing, the need for a Budgeting Process change and setting the fall calendar for evaluations, meetings and budget.

The Guardian's next meeting will be September 11 at 7pm to primarily discuss Youth Ministry and Journey Forward concerns. Lisa Brooks volunteered to do devotions.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Mindy Wood

Secretary

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## Bishop's Letter: Written August 8, Prior to her election

I have a friend who occasionally uses a story to describe his ongoing struggle to recognize and use time and space effectively.

Many days when he is trying to make it to the next item on his extensive to-do list, he looks up and imagines himself a turtle, on a racetrack. (The Indianapolis 500 racetrack. On race day. And the starter has just been activated.) A chicken would have a better chance of getting to the other side of the road. In such situations he often feels that his only chance of getting across the track is a crash that stops the race. He wonders why too often, it is the suffering of others that actually forces him to stop long enough so that he can cherish moments, remember history, recognize the importance of space and seek community, all of which allow him to make sense of the events taking place all around us, right now.

In our contemporary economy of time and space, we can find ourselves not just distracted, but overwhelmed, by people to whom we are accountable and by work for which we are responsible. We can miss the precious moments and sacred spaces that reenergize us, reestablish our sense of purpose, reaffirm that we value truth, freedom, love, forgiveness and grace. We can forget that we need time and space to help us remember that God is here.

The George Zimmerman trial and the illness and birthday of Nelson Mandela have demanded that I take some precious moments and find some sacred space to discern God's presence and power right now. I yearn to see something different. I want to remind myself of, and relearn something from our history. I want to assess my relationships and check assumptions about others. I want to remember God's continuing activity in human history, discern something about where God has been and what God is doing right now.

I share with you something that has helped me recognize God's presence and has helped me glimpse precious time and holy space in the midst of the chaos. These are excerpts from reflections on the life of Nelson Mandela by South African pastor and anti-apartheid activist, Allan Boesak.

### THE ONE WHO LINKS US TO ALL WHO SUFFER

*By Allan Boesak, penned December 21, 2012*

As Nelson Mandela sits in the village of his boyhood, ... he dreams dreams for his country, his continent, and the world. As with the biblical Joseph at the end of his life, those dreams are neither reminiscences nor grudges, they are hopes for South Africa, the African continent and for the world. Mandela hopes for and dreams of freedom, and for him freedom is not a grandiose idea

or a magnificent ideal. It is the simple needs of God's little people to live in peace in their own homes, not to go hungry, to have dignity. It is their dreams of having dignity, worth, hopes, security, peace and belonging. Mandela turns his mind...to the simple dreams of those whom the world does not regard; those of unimpressive proportions who have no strength or permission to speak, but whose wounds speak for them. In doing this he reminds us that the shape of a just world lies in the fulfillment of the hopes of the poor and powerless, the silenced and the downtrodden...

Mandela might be the revered "father of the nation", the first democratically elected president of a free South Africa. He might have seen the dawn after the long night of oppression, and he has indeed seen power wrested from the hands of the apartheid oppressor. But with clarity of mind and integrity of heart he knows his people are not yet free from hunger, fear and the indignity of an unfulfilled life.

Nearly at the end of his life, he sees his nation and the world through the eyes of those whose suffering has still not ended...he looks at the world...as a hope-filled captive of ubuntu. My humanity and my human well-being is caught up in your humanity. I cannot be what I want to be until you are what you need to be.

As he grows old, he does not look back in self-satisfaction. He does not wallow in or claim merit for his suffering those 27 years he spent needlessly in prison. He does not bemoan the fact that his eyes have grown weak because of the dust of the stones he was forced to break on Robben Island. He does not cuddle the grudges he may rightfully hold: He does not curse apartheid's cruel rulers who forced him into a choice for violence when all peaceful efforts were crushed, or vent his anger at the white judges who condemned him as a terrorist when he fought for the freedom of his people. He does not begrudge nor regret the fact that he offered white South Africans forgiveness even if it now looks as if they did not all deserve it. ...His love remains constant for all his people.... He knows it is now time for greater, purer things. As he grows ancient ...There is a wideness in his gaze that takes in all the world as he hopes for freedom from fear, from hunger, from indignity for all God's children in all of God's world.

He hopes for "a cadre of leaders" who will work for freedom, security and justice, ... And as he speaks he



## ***Bishop's Letter Continued***

remembers in the only way that is authentic: "As we were..." ...The words recall the brave youth of Soweto who marched in 1976, inspired a whole new generation across the country and forever changed the shape of the struggle. With the words, "as we were", Mandela places himself and the people of South Africa in the midst of the global community - wherever there is injustice, pain, struggle, and wherever people still seek hope and find her in their stride toward freedom.

...So, instead of mindlessly deifying Mandela, as the world has so consistently done, thereby making his acts of magnanimity and justice unattainable and his words of hope meaningless for "ordinary" human beings, the world might simply try to learn from the life of this man who now refers to himself as "ancient as the hills of Qunu," that old hatreds do not pass of their own volition. They have to be challenged and overcome by the power of love and the resilience of reconciliation. The lines of tribe will not dissolve on their own: they have to be overcome by our belief in and work for our common humanity. A new era of peace will not be ushered in on the wings of historical inevitabilities, but through the hard work for the ending of war, aggression, terror and the idolatrous worship of violence as the solution to all our problems.

...Perhaps as well, we shall do well to remember that in all this work we shall not look for approval from the powerful or even for admiration from the powerless, but humbly accept that what we are doing is for the humanization of the world.

And that, after all, is why we are here.

*Allan Boesak holds The Desmond Tutu Chair of Peace, Global Justice and Reconciliation Studies at Christian Theological Seminary and Butler University and serves as Theologian in Residence at the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On February 26, 2012 Trayvon Martin was shot and killed. On July 13, 2013 George Zimmerman was acquitted of second degree murder. Of all the events related to this case these are probably the only two that all Americans can agree upon. In the year and a half that this case has been in the news it has become clear to me that white Americans and black Americans have a very different experience of the country we both call home.

Some would say that George Zimmerman followed Trayvon

Martin because he was acting suspiciously. Some would say what made Trayvon Martin seem suspicious was the color of his skin. We may never agree. If we set aside the Martin – Zimmerman case, which has become inflammatory, we still have examples of people of color being profiled - the president reported being profiled when he first came to Washington DC as a new senator. The Tanzanian companion synod bishop, while a guest of Northwestern Ohio Synod bishop Marcus Lohrmann was picked up by the local police as he walked in Bishop Lohrmann's neighborhood. Store personnel and the police are not evil people. They are ordinary people. But somehow we all find ourselves in a society of suspicion. I am white. Being profiled is not part of my experience. Wondering if I am being judged by "the content of my character and not by the color of my skin" is not part of my experience. But it is the experience for people of color. We, in the white majority, need to acknowledge that our reality is not a universal reality. As forgiven sinners all of us need to be willing to risk an open and honest dialogue about the realities of race in America.

I want to introduce you to the Rev. Terrance Jacob who will begin serving as our synod's director of evangelical mission on August 19. Pastor Jacob comes to us by way of (most recently) California and Minnesota where he has served as DEM and parish pastor, respectively; and before that, South Africa where he served as director of the Gamaliel Foundation SA office and as a parish pastor. He is fourth generation South African, his ancestors, Christians, having come from India 150 years ago as indentured servants. He is married to Crystal Jacob, an educator. Their son, Kemuel is 18 and their daughter Sharai is 16.

In his own words, here is how Pastor Jacob describes his calling: As a person passionate about the church and its role as a vehicle for God's grace to the world, both to call the world to salvation in Christ and to proclaim God's justice; with my experience in community building and developing strategies for transformation, coupled with my passion for the church to be leaders in the world (being salt and light), I feel called to serve as a transformational leader.

Please welcome Pastor Jacob as he takes on leadership of our Journey Forward process, as he works with congregations to strengthen stewardship practices, and helps us reinforce the understanding that every congregation is a mission station.

Peace,

*Elysiak A. Eaton*

# September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 8:15 Arisel Worship 9:30 Generations Alive! 10:30 Rejoice! Worship	<b>2</b> 5:30 Weight Watchers 6:00 FAA 6:30 Reunion Group 7:00 Reunion Group 7:00 D. View Bingo 8:00 AA	<b>3</b> 6:30 Yoga 7:00 Reunion Group	<b>4</b> 7:00 Arisel Praise Team	<b>5</b> 4:00 Painter's Alive 5:00 Community Dinner 6:00 Prayer Gathering	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 6:30 Men's Breakfast - V&M 7:30 Men's Reunion Grps.
<b>8 Ministry Fair</b> 8:15 Arisel Worship 9:30 Generations Alive! 10:30 Rejoice! Worship	<b>9</b> 5:30 Weight Watchers 6:00 FAA 6:30 Reunion Group 7:00 Reunion Group 8:00 AA	<b>10</b> 6:30 Yoga 7:00 Reunion Group 7:00 Finance Team	<b>11</b> 10:00 Elderberries 7:00 Arisel Praise Team	<b>12</b> 2:30 Reunion Group 4:00 Painter's Alive 6:00 Prayer Gathering	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Men's BBQ
<b>15</b> 8:15 Arisel Worship 9:30 Generations Alive! 10:30 Rejoice! Worship	<b>16</b> 5:30 Weight Watchers 6:00 FAA 6:30 Reunion Group 7:00 Reunion Group 7:00 Bible Study 8:00 AA	<b>17</b> 6:30 Yoga 7:00 Reunion Group	<b>18</b> 6:15 Catechism 7 <sup>th</sup> 7:00 Arisel Praise Team 7:30 Choir 7:30 Catechism 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>19</b> 4:00 Painter's Alive 6:00 Prayer Gathering	<b>20</b> 1:30 Bible Study	<b>21</b> 6:30 Men's Breakfast - V&M 7:30 Men's Reunion Grps.
<b>22 Kid's Alive Kickoff</b> 8:15 Arisel Worship 9:30 Generations Alive! 10:30 Rejoice! Worship	<b>23</b> 12:00 Hlth Dept. Flu Clinic 5:30 Weight Watchers 6:00 FAA 6:30 Reunion Group 7:00 Reunion Group 7:00 Bible Study 8:00 AA	<b>24</b> 6:30 Yoga 7:00 Reunion Group	<b>25</b> 6:15 Catechism 7 <sup>th</sup> 7:00 Arisel Praise Team 7:30 Choir 7:30 Catechism 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>26</b> 2:30 Reunion Group 4:00 Painter's Alive 6:00 Prayer Gathering 6:30 Lions Club	<b>27</b> 1:30 Bible Study	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 8:15 Arisel Worship 9:30 Generations Alive! 10:30 Rejoice! Worship	<b>30</b> 5:30 Weight Watchers 6:00 FAA 6:30 Reunion Group 7:00 Reunion Group 7:00 Bible Study 8:00 AA					

# 2013

**The St. Paul Epistle**

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**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.