

March, 2011

# The St. Paul Epistle

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

## **Special Interest Articles:**

- Norbert's childhood story, p. 6.
- The Fellowship Days make many gifts, p. 3.
- Rummage Sale, Pancake Breakfast coming in April, p. 2.

## **Regular Features:**

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## **Lenten Worship & Meals**

Lent begins with an **Ash Wednesday Worship Service** at 7:00 PM on Wednesday evening, March 9. This hour long service begins our Lenten journey with an invitation to consider how we might be more faithful to God. We will receive the imposition of ashes, which is the sign of the cross (ashes & oil) on the forehead of each person who desires it. The purpose of it is to remind ourselves of our mortality and the promise of God's resurrection.

Because Lent is a time to refocus our attention on God and to take away our pre-occupation with ourselves, we will also have **Wednesday Evening Worship Services** all the Wednesdays in Lent (except the last one). Those worship services will begin at 6:40 and end at 7:15. There will be a time of singing, prayer, and reflection upon some of the great stories of the Bible. The dates are March 16, 23, 30, and April 6 and 13.

A **Simple Supper** will be held each of the Wednesdays in Lent, March 9 – April 13. It will be served from 5:30 PM until 6:30 PM. A donation will be received towards the cost of the food.

Ruth Lindsey is coordinating the cooks for the suppers, and she will be glad to have anyone volunteer. Call her at 419-886-2073 or email her at [ruthandkaren2@neo.rr.co](mailto:ruthandkaren2@neo.rr.co)

## **Annual Meeting Actions**

At the annual meeting the Ministry Body voted to:

- Elect Stacy Wright and Mindy Wood as Guardians,
- Elect Paul Sakala and Judy Harding to the Endowment Committee,
- Change the name of the Scholarship Fund to the Jerry Lang Scholarship Fund,
- Approved the 2011 Budget,
- Acknowledged with gratitude outgoing Guardians Mike Bing and Nancy Snyder, and outgoing Lay Building Resource Provider, Jeff Hammett, and,
- Acknowledged the Guardian appointment of Norbert Peiker to be the Building Resource Provider.

## Rummage Sale to Send Youth to Work Camp

The Rummage Sale is April 10<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>. This is when we transform the Community Room into a showcase of amazing treasures!! You won't want to miss it!! We will begin receiving your

treasures at noon on April 10<sup>th</sup> until 8:00 pm on Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. We need help sorting, pricing and selling. We have a job for everyone!! The money generated from this rummage sale supports

the workcamp trip. Clean out your closets, attics, garages and sheds. Questions or comments, see Diane Hammett.

### Rummage Sale Workers

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

The rummage sale needs helpers? Are you able and willing? If so please check all the boxes that show when you are available. You will be contacted to let you know when we need you.

Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>

- Set up sale: Noon - 4:00 p.m.

Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup>

- Set up sale: 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- Will provide light dinner

Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>

- Set up sale: 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- Will provide light dinner

Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>

- Set up sale: 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- Will provide light dinner

Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup> - Work the Sale

- 8:30 a.m. - noon
- noon - 3:00 p.m.
- Will provide a light lunch
- 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup> - Work the Sale

- 8:30 a.m. - noon
- noon - 3:00 p.m.
- Will provide a light lunch
- 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> - Work the Sale

- 8:30 a.m. - noon
- noon - 2:00 p.m.
- Will provide a light lunch
- 1:45 p.m. to clean up

I will donate **PEPSI** products to sell.

I will donate **Baked Goods** for Friday's Bake Sale.

## Rosie's Pancake Breakfast

### Fights Hunger, Cancer

On April 16<sup>th</sup> Rosie's Hope Garden, Relay For Life Team, will hold our annual Pancake Breakfast. Serving will start at 7:00 a.m. and continue through to 11:00 a.m. We will have pancakes, bacon, sausage, fruit and beverages all for a donation to the American Cancer Society.

All money goes for education research and advocacy of cancer.

## Tour to visit Nation's Capital

**"Where are we going on our next trip?"**

This is the question that the Tour Team gets whenever it begins or ends a trip.

The answer: Washington, DC

It will be Friday, September 23 to Tuesday, September 27. We will see as much as possible in those days. More information later. Cost is about \$485. If you are interested please call: Marge Armstrong, 740-694-0817 or Darlene Lee, 419-886-4711.




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## The Numbers

15 Quilts for LWR

13 Linus blankets

9 Fleece Blankets

42 School Bags for  
LWR

3 Baby Quilts

? Cheer Baskets

2 Knitted Scarves

2 Throws

## Fellowship Days Make Quilts, Etc.

In spite of dreadful weather these past few weeks, even with two cancellations, Fellowship Days were well attended and most enjoyable as usual. We welcomed some new faces to our Wednesday work days which boosted our output of various projects.

Rosemary continued a large number of double fleece blankets which her parents had knotted together; this had proved to be great therapy for both of them.

Several diligent ladies made cheer baskets from old Christmas Cards which they sorted by color and subject, cut and pasted before crocheting together.

This year we made our own cloth bags for school kits because our regular supplier could not keep up with the increased demand. Marcella Rock and her husband, from Wadsworth, usually make over a thousand bags a year to hand out to Northeastern Ohio Synod congregations!

The 'Highlight' of the year was a visit from the Stitch-A-Way Sewing Club to which Nancy Teeter belongs. There was such bustle and chatter that morning and a great many knots tied. Then fourteen of us came round the lunch table with a wonderful variety of food, a lot of which was brought by the visitors. We asked Nancy to please invite them again.

These gloomy Wednesdays of January and February were brightened by lots of laughter, especially when a quilt came together inside out and when coffee was spilling all over the kitchen floor! We heard of a few heartaches and tried to give our support, but most importantly we found great peace in working together knowing that all our endeavors would bring others a measure of love.

Thanks 'guys',

*Pam Hartley*

## Thank You, Your Generosity Helped Feed Many!

Record-Level Giving to ELCA World Hunger in December

CHICAGO (ELCA) -- The generous response by members and congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) to a World Hunger appeal resulted in gifts of \$3.3 million in December 2010, the highest ever recorded for that month.

100% of your giving to [ELCA World Hunger](#) goes directly to hunger needs (administrative costs are covered by your mission support). This claim cannot be made by other organizations such as Food for the Poor. Please remember to make your hunger dollars count!

*St. Paul Lutheran  
Church members  
donated \$15,765 to  
World Hunger in  
2010.*

**THE MITTEN TREE** is up again. Each year we collect gloves and hats for both Bellville and Butler Elementary Schools. Our teachers tell us that quite often children arrive on very cold mornings without gloves, hats or scarves, and they are most grateful for our donations.

**SOS FROM BNOG:** Our food pantry needs flour, sugar and cooking oil. Although *The Cleveland Food Bank* supplies thousands of pounds of meat and canned goods, flour, sugar, laundry detergent, mandarin oranges, pineapple, mayonnaise, Kleenex, catsup, oil, and personal items are always in demand. Please place in chest as usual.

## Alice Pittenger Dies

Alice M. Gaddis Pittenger, age 91, of Miami Ave., Fredericktown, Ohio passed away on Friday, January 28, 2011 at Knox Community Hospital surrounded by her loving family. She was born on October 12, 1919 in North Liberty, Ohio to the late Percy and Effie (Gower) Crunkilton. Alice worked as a cook for 13 years in the Fredericktown school system. She was a member of the Lexington Senior Citizens and the St. Paul Lutheran Church in Bellville. In her free time, Alice enjoyed cooking and baking. She will be sadly

missed by her loving family.

She is survived by a daughter, Vivian (Charles) Hill of Fredericktown, four sons, Harmon (Rita) Gaddis of Mount Vernon, Delmis (Terry) Gaddis of Fredericktown, Donley (Deborah) Gaddis of Cardington and Randy (Lisa Pierce) Gaddis of Albany, Missouri, a stepson, Chet (Jeannie) Pittenger of Bellville, two step-daughters, Sheri (Carl) Bricker of Mansfield and Leslie (Lowell) Balliett of Bellville, nine grandchildren, nine step grandchildren, twenty-one

great grandchildren, 17 step great grandchildren and a brother, Donald (Helen) Crunkilton of Mount Vernon.

Besides her parents she was preceded in death by her first husband, Clark Gaddis, her second husband, Carlos "Curt" Pittenger, four brothers, Dale Crunkilton, Sterl Crunkilton, Virgil Crunkilton, Percy Crunkilton, two sisters, Dorothy Stone and Vera Richert.

Her funeral service was held on February 2 at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Burial was in Lexington Cemetery.



**Maria Joyce Knight**, daughter of Clint and Carrie Knight, born on March 21, 2010, was baptized on December 26, 2010. The photo was taken by her proud grandmother, Connie Barr.

## Lutheran Marriage Encounter

### What is Marriage Encounter?

Marriage Encounter begins as a weekend experience designed to help married couples communicate more intimately with each other in order to deepen and enrich their relationship. The weekend is orderly, informative, and structured. Couples are given an opportunity to look into themselves and their relationship with each other and with God, while enjoying time away from the usual responsibilities.

### For whom is Marriage Encounter intended?

A Marriage Encounter weekend is for married persons who love each other and desire to better their communication and

marriages – for those with good communication to deepen it; for those with poor communication, to improve it. The Weekend is not for therapy or major problem-solving agendas.

### What happens on a Weekend?

A team of 4 couples (one Lutheran clergy) presents a series of talks related to various aspects of marriage to a group of 12-20 married couples from Friday 8 pm to Sunday 4 pm. Each talk is followed by focus questions to enable personal reflection. Then, in the privacy of the bedroom, couples dialogue in an effort to better understand each other and build new patterns of listening. You

will be invited to concentrate on your spouse to such an extent that you will hardly be aware of the others. Although presentations are given in a group, there is no group discussion. Personal sharing is private. Clergy couples and other professionals are encouraged to leave collars, portfolios and job titles at home, attending just as husband and wife.

### What is the cost?

A \$45 non-refundable fee makes the reservation. During the Weekend, each couple will be invited to make a confidential contribution. No one has ever been refused the opportunity to attend due to lack of funds. There is no paid staff in LME. It is a

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*A Weekend of Discovery ....*

*A Lifetime of Love*

labor of love, and entirely self-supporting.

### Find out more:

Go to [www.GodLovesMarriage.org](http://www.GodLovesMarriage.org) for more information or to download a video and registration form, or contact Ohio registrars Duffy & Nan Guthrie, 440/599-9090

## March Gift of the Month -- Operation Gratitude

### The Community Dinner

is in need of

- spaghetti sauce,
- noodles,
- apple sauce,
- Parmesan cheese
- and salad dressings.

Please put your donations in the kitchen.  
Thank you

We will be participating in Operation Gratitude to assist our soldiers during the month of March. In addition to collecting items to ship, a major need at this time is for personal letters. A personal letter of appreciation, good wishes, love, and support puts smiles on the troops' faces! Hand written and signed letters and children's drawings (5" x 7") are great. Envelopes are not necessary but if you choose to use one, please do not seal them, as they will be screened

first before sending. They love hearing about "Life Back Home"; sports, weather, pets, music, or movies. Express gratitude and respect for their personal sacrifice. Make them smile! Another current need is for Beanie Babies, Webkinz, or trolls that they can give to the local children.

Any questions, please see Pam Hartley or Debbie Bing. Thank you again for your continued support and response to the gift of the month!

Other items we would like to provide are:

- Energy bars, Beef Jerky
- Lip Balm, toothpaste, toothbrushes
- Hand and foot warmers
- Individual packets of trail mix, nuts, sunflower seeds, candy
- Ready to eat tuna or chicken salad kits
- Packets of powdered hot or cold beverages
- Individual packets of moist towelettes

## Thank You Notes Received

St. Paul Lutheran Church,  
Thank you for paying our water bill. We appreciate the help.  
Please keep my husband in your prayers during his tour in Iraq.  
Thank you,  
The \*\*\*\*\* Family

Dear St. Paul Lutheran Church,  
Thank you very much for the scholarship. The money will help me with my college tuition. I am about to finish my fourth six week session at the University of Northwestern Ohio. I really enjoy UNOH and have learned a lot in the short time that I have been here. Thank you again.  
Steven Broeske

Dear Diane & Sr. Youth,  
Thank you for remembering our family with the *Twelve Days of Christmas* gifts. I was so sad that I wasn't home yet from work when you brought the packages and sang Christmas carols for the rest of my family. But I was so touched by your thoughtfulness. This was a very tough Christmas for us and the daily readings and gifts helped to ease our pain immensely! Amanda and I would open our gifts together each day. She would patiently hold her gift as I read the daily message, then she would open it after I would read "Please open your gift marked...." I know I felt the words of each daily message soothing my soul. Just hearing a

daily reminder that someone loves you and truly cares about you does help to get through the season. We are very blessed to have you as part of our church family.  
With love and  
Sincerity,  
Denise Lang & Family

Dear Members of St. Paul Lutheran Church,  
I would like to thank you so much for the generous scholarship of \$ 500 dollars! It will very much help out towards college tuition in pursuing my goal in the Biology field.  
Thanks for all your help and support, as it is much appreciated!  
With thanks,  
Erika Garn

Dear Friends at St. Paul Lutheran,  
Thank you so much for the lovely basket that was filled to the brim and beyond. It was a treat to get into.  
We also appreciate Pastor Doug's visits and Carolyn Stoner for her many, many trips to give us communion.  
Don has so many problems and can't do a lot so it is great to be included with communion.  
Your Friends in Christ.  
Don & Judy Snavely

St. Paul Lutheran Church,  
Thank you for the lovely flowers you sent. We appreciate your thoughtfulness.  
The Family of Alice Pittenger

## “The Little Spark, Lying Dormant,” By Norbert Peiker

*This story was given by Norbert at the 2010 Christmas Eve Service.*

It was February 1945. A cold night in Germany. Papa was away working at Messerschmidt, four miles north of our home.

Sirens went off. Air raid! Mama grabbed Eberhard and Hermenegild, the babies. I woke up Klaus, one year younger and deaf. Down to the basement shelter, Mama sat on the cot, holding the little ones. Klaus and I shared the other cot.

We heard the planes coming... E-e-e-e... Boom, e-e-e... Boom, Boom! All shook.

Klaus, feeling the vibration, jumped up, hung on my chest. Fear. Oh God. My whole body shook.

“Mama, are we dying?” “Mama?” Both babies in one arm Mama kneeled in front of Klaus and me, one hand on my head. Her face stoic... A little spark in her eyes... “Jesus loves you, he protects, don’t be afraid, he has plans...,” she smiled. I calmed.

“Mama, did Papa get to the bunker?” “No, he is hiding in the woods.”

The next morning Papa and I went through the woods to see whether the bombardment left a job for Papa. The bunker

had received a direct hit. The stench...unbearable. God had plans for us.

At my Via de Cristo weekend, while awake in bed trying to catch some sleep, I finally understood that in a cold February night of 1945, I saw Jesus, comforting me, protecting me, and calling me to life-long actions. And I wept. For 60 years I was blind...

After going through ups and downs most of my years the little spark, lying dormant for so long, coming from Mama’s soul, and so vital for the rest of my life, allowed me to finally find Jesus and become his recruiter...



Augsburg, Germany following the bombing.

## Easter Flowers

On Easter Sunday, April 24, we will be decorating our church with Easter flowers. You are invited to purchase a flower and then to take it home with you to decorate your Easter table. Orders must be in by **March 14<sup>th</sup>**.

Name of Donor:

\_\_\_\_\_ *(As you want it to appear in the bulletin.)*

Circle one:

Given in honor of (Or) Given in memory of:

\_\_\_\_\_ *(As you want it to appear in the bulletin.)*

Flower	Color	Quantity
<b>Lilies</b>	White	_____
<b>Pot Mums</b>	Lavender	_____
	White	_____
	Yellow	_____
<b>Tulips</b>	Purple	_____
	Orange	_____
	Pink	_____
	Red	_____
	Yellow	_____
<b>Hyacinths</b>	Blue	_____
	Pink	_____
	White	_____
Total Flowers Ordered		_____
		x \$9.00 = \$_____

## News from Children's Ministries

Happy *green month* everyone! Isn't it wonderful? Spring will arrive this month (green) and St. Patrick's Day arrives in March (green) **AND** we are planning a **GREEN activity** for all church members to get involved: GREEN DOODLE pads.

This spring the 4th and 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be making Green Doodle pads from **re-used paper** that is *blank* on one side or *partially blank*. Our 4th and 5 graders will then cut the paper to size and make *scribble pads* out of them for our young children to enjoy on Sunday mornings in the sanctuary. In this way we honor God's creation and take *seriously* our responsibility to take care of it.

HOW CAN **YOU** HELP? Could you please collect partially used paper from the church, your work place or home and bring them in to the Children's Ministries office. There will be a box placed outside the office wrapped in green paper in which you can place the reusable paper. THANK YOU!!

### 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Graders:

How can **you** help? Tell everyone to collect partially used paper and give it to you. You can then bring it to church and put it in the *green* box outside my office. When we have *enough* collected, we will have a special time to assemble the pads and then do a fun activity after. **So....the sooner the better!!!**

**What else is new?** The 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders went to the annual **Youth Quake** on Feb 18<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup> with Ginger and Pastor Doug. There were excellent speakers and workshops and the music was awesome. Our youth particularly loved raiding the vending machines at various times and had wonderful late night swims with P.D. The St. Paul youth got to know each other better and experienced many new things. It was a great weekend during which we all grew!

**Thank you EVERYONE....** For helping to make such experiences possible for our youth.

May March be filled with *many blessings* for you all,

*Ginger Pflueger*



Lost bedding from the last Lock-In. It is sleeping bag, blanket, & pillow. Retrieve it from the library.



The **Captive Free** musical group led the music for the **YouthQuake** with lots of enthusiasm, volume, flashing lights, and great musicality. This publicity photo of them is quite appropriate because they spent a lot of time jumping up and down while they were singing their fast songs.

**Captive Free** also put on a family concert here at St. Paul Lutheran church the night before the **YouthQuake**. The kids had a chance to meet them and eat with them. About 35 people showed up for the concert. Even some of the "old" people got into the singing and dancing. Who would have believed it!

**The Path to the Cross** is the title of the study that the Monday Evening Bible Study group will focus on during Lent. The study starts March 14 and ends April 11. The group meets at 7:00 pm every Monday evening. Please contact Janis Marhenke (419) 524-8432 for more details.

## Worship Services for March

### March 6 Transfiguration of Our Lord

*Exodus 24:12–18*

*Psalm 2*

### If I Just Had a Vision...

*2 Peter 1:16–21*

*Matthew 17:1–9*

Today is Transfiguration Sunday. This is the end of Epiphany, the season in which we discover that Jesus reveals God's will to us. The lessons today reflect those who have seen a vision of God. We often wish that would happen to us. If we could just see God for even a moment, we would know how to live. But it doesn't happen. So how then do I live?



### March 9 Ash Wednesday Worship Service

7:00 PM

**Mortals & the Immortal God**

We begin our observance of Lent on this Wednesday in which we call Ash Wednesday. The Pastor will make the sign of the cross on your forehead and say, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." We are uncomfortable with this, as with all remembrances of our mortality. And yet it is here that we make our greatest connections with the immortal God.

*Psalm 51:1–17*    *2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10*    *Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21*

### March 13 First Sunday in Lent

*Genesis 2:15–17; 3:1–7*

*Psalm 32*

### Know Your Enemy

*(Romans 5:12–19)*

*Matthew 4:1–11*

The great switch occurs today. Throughout the previous season of Epiphany we have been hearing the glorious news that we are the delight of God's eyes, we are God's beloved sons and daughters, and God fills us with the Spirit of God. But where is the delight, who really is beloved, and how is the Spirit filling us? Throughout Lent we explore what keeps these declarations of God from becoming our reality.

### March 20 Second Sunday in Lent

*Genesis 12:1–4a*

*Psalm 121*

*(Romans 4:1–5, 13–17) John 3:1–17*

Children's Choir

This is the first of four Sundays of hearing great stories out of the Gospel of John. Today we hear the story of Nicodemus' discussion with Jesus on the nature of the kingdom of God. Jesus speaks in the language of poetry and metaphor as he describes the kingdom as being like a birth from above, like wind in the trees, and like a serpent on a pole.

### March 27 Third Sunday in Lent

*Exodus 17:1–7*

*Psalm 95*

### A Burning Thirst

*(Romans 5:1–11)*

*John 4:5–4*

We are a thirsty people. We drink and drink and drink and yet our thirst is never quenched. We guzzle soda and alcohol, energy drinks and vitamin water, exotic experiences and great loves. The more we drink, the thirstier we get, and the more we drink. What quenches our thirst?

## Pastor Doug's Letter: February 24, 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

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

I am starting to get a complex. It is only Thursday. Carol, my wife, preached at both worship services while I was assisting the Middle School Youth as a chaperone on the **YouthQuake** event last Sunday. In the four days since my return I have had – as of 5:31 p.m. today – nineteen people tell me what a great job Carol did preaching.

Not that I am surprised about Carol's ability. I experience her preaching practically every day, and I am not talking about wifely lectures. I am talking about the saying popularly attributed (incorrectly) to St. Francis of Assisi, "Preach the Gospel always, and if necessary, use words." Her life preaches the Gospel to me. She loves God, and she loves me. (The second is harder than the first.) In addition, she is an enthusiastic teacher with great stage presence.

Finally, I know how hard she worked on the sermon for it was a difficult text. Practically everyone knows that it was Jesus who said, "Love your enemies," but it is the rare person who actually tries to live it out.

What surprises me is the nineteen times. I count it a good Sunday if three people say to me, "I liked your sermon," and especially if they do not add the words "because it was short." I count it a great Sunday if two people say to me, "Isn't God great!" I am fired up for a month if one person says to me, "Could we talk and pray? What you said made me aware of a need for God in my life."

Before Sunday was over someone contacted Carol and said just that!

Next Sunday it is my turn again. And the Sunday after that. Then comes all those Sundays in Lent! Do you know how hard it is to come up with sermon themes and titles when your wife has set the bar so high?

*"Any one of us can be blessed when God takes our work and uses it for God's glory."*

Of course I write with tongue in cheek, mostly, because I know it is not really about her or me. Yes, there is a great deal of work that goes into the art of preaching and the sensitivity of leading worship, but ultimately it is God who shows up and does the work. It really is all about God, and any one of us can be blessed when God takes our work and uses it for God's glory.

Thanks be to God the Gospel was preached and the Gospel was heard. Carol was the vessel but the Holy Spirit was the preacher.

Peace,

*Pastor Doug*

## 125th Celebration Booklets

The 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Paul Lutheran Church ends with the publication of the Anniversary Booklet. In it you will find a brief history of the congregation as well as reflections of several members about their experiences in the life of the congregation. These were printed in the bulletins during November and December but now they are all gathered into one place. The booklets will be available on the usher stands at the church.

In addition Luarie Boone compiled an extensive selection of historical photos of the church. She put them in a Powerpoint program, and a copy of it is available for one dollar each. You will need a computer that can read PowerPoint in order to view them.

## Kairos Cookies

Mike Murray is serving on a *Kairos* prison ministry team and needs 200 dozen chocolate chip cookies. These are used to help make the weekend a success. You can help by making cookies and also by praying for the weekend. Contact Mike for a prayer time slot.

### Guidelines for Making Cookies:

- Cookies must be home baked.
- Cookie mixes or pre-mixed cookie are easy,
- Cookies should be 2 – 2 ½ inches in diameter.
- Cook cookies completely before packaging.
- Package 2 dozen cookies (preferably stacked) in a zip-lock bag.
- Put the cookies in the Social Room freezer by March 24<sup>th</sup>.

## Bishop Liz Eaton's Letter: February 10, 2011



A billboard caught my eye as I was driving on the inner belt in Cleveland. It had the logo of one of our professional sports teams – I can't remember which one – and it boldly proclaimed, THERE'S ALWAYS THIS YEAR! Ah, my dear Cleveland. Ever faithful, ever hopeful, even during our interminable winter of sports discontent. Truly St. Paul had the Cleveland sports fan in mind when he wrote "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." The remarkable thing about my home town is that, though every year is a rebuilding year, every year also holds the promise of a championship. If the Indians win one game in a row we get pennant fever.



What if every congregation in our synod would boldly proclaim, "THERE'S ALWAYS THIS YEAR!?" Why not? We know that the Christian movement is in a time of transition. We know that the fastest growing religious preference is "None." We know the economy is tough. We know we are in a rebuilding year or two or three. So what? We are here in this place at this time. We are the church in this place at this time. We need not look to the past with nostalgia nor need we sigh for the future with resignation saying, "There's always next year".

Dr. Martha Stortz of Augsburg College has observed that God is always breaking and re-making. She talks about this process in creation – light being broken off from darkness, sun from moon and stars, dry land from seas and sky, Eve from Adam – and always God makes something new. One can see this pattern continuing in the history of salvation – Abraham and Sarah broken off from their homeland to be made into the ancestors of a multitude, Moses and the Israelites being broken out of bondage to be made into the people of God, the disciples breaking ties with families and trades to be remade as apostles, Jesus breaking bread, Jesus'

broken body remade as new life and a new community. None of this was without pain or without cost. It was likely disorienting and frightening. But it was certainly necessary.

We are in a time of breaking and remaking. Ways of being the church that used to work are being broken. Our efforts to find new ways to be the church might get broken. Some days I find that I am disoriented and frightened. If I am honest I confess that I do not always find comfort in the promise that the breaking and re-making are the action of God. But, here we are. We are in a rebuilding year and at the same time there is always this year. That's where the church lives -in the now and the not yet. But even if it is built on one-game winning streaks, we need to catch pennant fever. We need to try and fail and try again – that's the rebuilding year part – but we have to believe and act as if it will happen in our time. THERE'S ALWAYS THIS YEAR!

Peace,

*Elizabeth A. Eaton,*

Bishop Northeastern Ohio Synod,  
ELCA

You do to pray on the golf course!  
Especially on the 18<sup>th</sup> green in Florida.

Photo by Norm Beal

## March Celebrations

### Happy Birthday

1 Barbara Hoover  
 2 Pat Goss  
 2 Larry Fenton  
 3 Lisa Boyd  
 3 Josie McCue  
 4 Samuel Sharp  
 5 Abbie Albert  
 5 Nancy Martin  
 6 Amy Frontz  
 6 Darrell Banks  
 7 Madge Peters  
 7 Molly Strickling  
 7 Janis Marhenke  
 9 Chris Laux

9 Cyndie Murray  
 10 Don Snavely  
 13 Jack Harsch  
 14 Callan Pugh  
 14 Jean Reed  
 15 Edward Hartley  
 17 Kristi Miller  
 17 Larry Smith  
 19 Tyler Ousley  
 19 Kylee Helinski  
 21 Lauren Cook  
 21 Nancy Snyder  
 21 Paige Hicks  
 21 Maria Knight

23 Joshua Jolin  
 24 Rosemary Shirk  
 25 Kim Harsch  
 26 Nick Worner  
 26 Aaron Woodward  
 26 Nathaniel Price  
 27 Romota Ridenour  
 27 Sarah Nickoli  
 28 Robin Klenk  
 28 Eileen Miller  
 29 Luke Jolin  
 30 Luke Beal

### Happy Anniversary

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

## 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  
 Ruth McKinnon, Ed Mazur

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

**She just moved here on 3-1-11 to be closer to  
 community/church visitors**

**The Laurels**  
 13 Avalon Road, Mt. Vernon, OH 43050  
 Jean Spohn (for a few weeks)

**Homebound Church Family:**  
 Rubert Hill  
 Ann Ackerman  
 Dr. Betty Reed

## Guardian's Minutes: February 10, 2011

Present for the meeting were: Lisa Brooks, Chris Laux, Mike Murray, Stacy Wright, Mindy Wood and Pastor Doug.

Mike Murray opened the meeting with devotions. After reflection and discussion, the devotional time was ended with prayer.

### INITIAL BUSINESS:

- Mindy Wood was appointed secretary by general consensus.
- New Guardians, Stacy Wright and Mindy Wood, were oriented as Chris Laux and Pastor Doug explained the function, role and operative procedures of the Guardians. This was followed by personal introductions and recognition of gifts by Pastor Doug.
- Each of the Guardians answered the question: "What do I want St. Paul Lutheran Church to be and what do I want St. Paul Lutheran Church to do?" A discussion followed and the general consensus was for the need to be growing spiritually as disciples of Christ and as an outcome, to do more outreach, both locally and globally.

### REPORTS:

- The minutes from the January 13<sup>th</sup> Guardian's meeting were reviewed. Mike Murray moved to accept the minutes, Lisa Brooks seconded, and the motion was approved.
- Chris Laux reviewed the Treasurer's report for the period ending January 31, 2011. Stacy Wright moved to accept all, Mindy Wood seconded and the motion was approved.

### OLD BUSINESS:

- It was decided that the Guardians and Ministry Leaders Retreat will be April 8 and 9 at Camp Otyokwah.
- Pastor Doug and Chris Laux reported that staff evaluations were complete and that these went well. They reported that they were pleased with the everyone's performance.
- A discussion of the Covenants (purpose and evaluation of) was postponed for a future meeting.
- The Lay Ministry Coordinator position is vacant and needs to be filled. The process for election was discussed and it was decided that a list of possible candidates would be compiled with a deadline of Friday the 18th of February. Pastor Doug listed qualities that this position requires:  
regular church attendance, maturity of faith, ability to make phone calls and ask people to serve, organizational skills, and a sense of what it means to be "gifted".

### NEW BUSINESS

- The ELCA Malaria Campaign was discussed. Pastor Doug will present this to the congregation on February 20, 2011 to ask the church to be involved and to look for a volunteer to lead the campaign.
- Pastor Doug moved that 46 persons be removed from the roles due to inactivity. Mike Murray seconded and a brief discussion followed in which the pastor stated that we do not send notification or letters of removal so that persons who want to become involved again will feel comfortable doing so.
- Thrivent has changed how they distribute money to churches. The Guardians agreed that the Finance Committee should handle this. Pastor Doug will ask the Finance Committee to make a policy recommendation on how this money should be spent.

The Guardians next meeting will be Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00. Stacy Wright volunteered to do the devotions. The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mindy Wood*

## Ministry Body Annual Meeting Minutes: January 30, 2011

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

The following motion on rules of procedure for the annual meeting was presented by the Guardians:

- i. Robert's Rules of Order shall be the order of procedure.
- ii. Any amendment to the budget which proposes an increase in spending in any line item will need to include an equal decrease in another line item.
- iii. The Sunday school teachers will be allowed to vote in abstention.

Norbert Peiker seconded the motion and it passed by voice vote.

The actual minutes of the 2010 Ministry Body Annual Meeting were not available. Larry Smith moved that since the Guardians have reviewed those minutes and approved them, that the Ministry Body accept that approval. Alwine Stull seconded the motion and it was approved by voice vote.

The 2010 Financial Reports were presented to the Ministry Body. Jeff Gottfried moved that the 2010 Financial Reports be approved, Dick Brenneman seconded the motion and the motion was approved by voice vote.

The proposed church budget for 2011 was presented to the Ministry Body and the two level budget was explained. The Ministry Body was given time to study the budget.

Three church members agreed to seek election to one of two Guardian positions, each for a three year term. The three church members are: Brenda Gerhart, Mindy Wood and Stacy Wright. Chris Laux asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There were none. Mike Bing moved to close nominations, Nancy Snyder seconded the motion and the motion was approved by voice vote. Ballots were distributed to all eligible voters.

Two church members agreed to seek election to the Endowment Committee. There were two positions open, each for a three year term. The two church members are: Judy Harding and Paul Sakala. Chris Laux asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There were none. Charlie Dome moved to close nominations, Sheila Pifer seconded the motion and the motion was approved by voice vote. Pastor Doug moved and Carol Pretorius seconded, that the two candidates for the Endowment Committee be elected unanimously by applause. The Ministry Body approved the motion.

Discussion of the 2011 budget was held. The following motion was brought to the Ministry Body by the Guardians:

The 2011 General Fund Budget is approved with the following provisions:

- 1) The allocation of money from the money given to the General Fund will be distributed according to the column entitled Proposed 2011 Budget.
- 2) If more money than anticipated is received, the Requested Not Funded budget allocations can be made.
- 3) The Finance Team will meet in July, October, and December in order to determine if the Requested Not Funded budget allocations can be made and they will recommend to the Guardians which unfunded requests can now be fully funded. The Guardians will then approve or revoke the suggested allocations.
- 4) If the Requested Not Funded budget allocations can be fully funded, they will be. If not, Requested Not Funded budget allocations will be made according to the ranking assigned each line item in the Requested Not Funded column.

After discussion and prayerful consideration, the Ministry Body was allowed to vote by written ballot both for the motion to approve a two tier budget and for the 2011 General Fund budget.

Mindy Wood and Stacy Wright were elected as Guardians.

The vote for the Motion to Approve a Two Tier Budget was passed with 75 yes and 8 no votes.

The 2011 budget was approved with 82 yes votes and 2 no votes.

Steve Leedy, chair of the Endowment Committee, announced the Scholarship Recipients for 2010. They are: Steven Broeske, Erika Garn, and Sarah Laux. Each of these students received five hundred dollars.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mark Timberlake moved that up to ten thousand dollars of Building Fund money be set aside for possible repair and or replacement of the roof to the educational wing. Jeff Wright seconded the motion. After discussion, the Ministry Body voted by a show of hands and the motion failed.

Steve Leedy moved and Bob Coppersmith seconded, that the St Paul Scholarship Fund be renamed the Jerry Lang Scholarship Fund. The motion was approved unanimously.

Sheila Pifer moved to adjourn the meeting, Nancy Snyder seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned by consensus.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mike Bing*

Secretary

-----January 2011-----			
	Actual	Budget	Over (Under)
<b>Giving</b>			
General Fund	18,202	18,046	156
Building Fund	4,814	4,975	-160
World Hunger Fund	1,456	1,468	-12
Love Fund	1,219	1,389	-170
Scholarship Fund	233	426	-193
Endowment Fund	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	25,924	26,303	-379
<b>Expenses</b>			
General Fund	17,505	18,132	-627
Building Fund	4,579	4,293	286
World Hunger Fund	1,456	1,468	-12
Love Fund	38	1,389	-1,351
Scholarship Fund	1,500	426	1,074
Endowment Fund	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	25,077	25,707	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>March 2011</h1>						
		1 2:00 Reunion Group 7:00 Reunion Group	2 9:30 Fellowship Days 6:30 Children's Choir 7:00 Arise! Praise Team 7:30 Choir 7:30 Catechism	3 4:00 Painter's Alive 5:00 Community Dinner	4 1:30 Bible Study	5
6 8:15 Arise! Worship 9:30 Generations Alive! 10:30 Rejoice! Worship	7 5:30 Weight Watchers 7:00 Bible Study 7:00 D. View Bingo 8:00 AA	8 2:00 Reunion Group 7:00 Reunion Group 7:00 Finance Team 7:30 Catechism	9 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> 10:00 Elderberries 5:30 Lenten Supper 6:30 Children's Choir <b>7:00 Ash Wed. Worship</b> 8:15 Arise! Praise Team 8:15 Choir	10 4:00 Painter's Alive 7:00 Ministry Leaders	11 1:30 Bible Study 6:15 Leave for Middle School Retreat	12 6:30 Men's Breakfast - V&M 8:00 Return from Middle School Retreat
13 8:15 Arise! Worship 9:30 Generations Alive! 10:30 Rejoice! Worship CR In Use	14 5:30 Weight Watchers 8:00 AA	15 2:00 Reunion Group 7:00 Reunion Group	16 5:30 Lenten Supper 6:30 Children's Choir 6:40 Lenten Worship 7:00 Arise! Praise Team 7:30 Choir 7:30 Catechism	17 4:00 Painter's Alive 6:00 Cr In Use	18 1:30 Bible Study	19 CR In Use
20 8:15 Arise! Worship 9:30 Generations Alive! 10:30 Rejoice! Worship CR In Use <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	21 5:30 Weight Watchers 8:00 AA	22 2:00 Reunion Group 7:00 Reunion Group	23 5:30 Lenten Supper 6:30 Children's Choir 6:40 Lenten Worship 7:00 Arise! Praise Team 7:30 Choir 7:30 Catechism	24 4:00 Painter's Alive	25 1:30 Bible Study	26 6:30 Men's Breakfast - V&M CR In Use
27 8:15 Arise! Worship 9:30 Generations Alive! 10:30 Rejoice! Worship CR In Use	28 5:30 Weight Watchers 8:00 AA	29 2:00 Reunion Group 7:00 Reunion Group	30 5:30 Lenten Supper 6:30 Children's Choir 6:40 Lenten Worship 7:00 Arise! Praise Team 7:30 Choir 7:30 Catechism	31 4:00 Painter's Alive		

## Company Name

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Pastor Doug Pretorius

CHURCH PHONE:  
419-886-3521

FAX:  
419-886-2584

E-MAIL:  
StPaulBell@aol.com

PRAYER REQUEST:  
419-886-3987  
or  
Pray4usplc@aol.com

We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.splc-bellville.org](http://www.splc-bellville.org)

## *The St. Paul Epistle Has a New Look*

Our church newsletter has a new look to it. The church office has recently changed its word processing program, and in doing so is taking advantage of the new possibilities.

Tell us what you think of it. We will be trying it out and adapting it as we deter-

mine what works best for us. Pastor Doug and Barb are interested in knowing what you like and what you do not like about it.

The newsletter can be received electronically simply by requesting it. Email the church (look left) and tell us that you

want it. The photos will be in color as well as some of the graphics.

We must mail out at least 200 copies in order to get the best postal rate. So if you continue to receive a mailed copy it is because you are part of the minimum number.

### *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:**  

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**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.

## ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

48 Church Street  
Bellville, OH 44813

Mailed: **March 2, 2011**  
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