

NOVEMBER 2013

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Olean, Indiana

"The Church with the Glad Heart and Hand"

"Faithful to Our Lord Through Changing Times" – Our Mission Statement

5869 S. State Road 129 Versailles IN 47042-9102

Church's website: www.stpaulolean.org

Church – (812) 689-6989 AND (812)667-6989 Parsonage – (812) 667-6989 Church E-mail olean@seidata.com

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dennis Zimmerman e-mail: przim380@yahoo.com

Dear Friends,

There is an old saying we all know too well: "The more things change, the more they stay the same." As I noted in my most recent newsletter article, there have been many good changes here at St. Paul, Olean over the past year, many of which I listed. Now *"the more they stay the same"*.

I was honored to be asked to re-contract with Church Council for another year as your interim minister. It has been a good year just ended October 13 under my former contract. I anticipate another good year ahead. Some clarity might help at this point.

I am delighted the Call Committee is actively seeking to **call** (not "hire") a new pastor to this congregation. The new pastor will by virtue of being new, bring more change to this congregation when she or he is called. This is part of the "more things change" from the old chestnut mentioned above.

Meanwhile I am under a *new* contract with the St. Paul, Olean Church Council. This is different from a *called* position. As an interim, like all other interim pastors, I am "hired" (contracted) by Church Council. The terms of the contract are at the discretion of the Church Council. You might like to know, for example, that while my duties as your interim pastor remain essentially the same, (the "more they stay the same" part), I have agreed to work without an increase in pay for the next twelve months (the more they change part). Typically interims are given a pay increase in accordance with the government cola (cost of living allowance). Noting the financial strain St. Paul, Olean is facing, I am happy to continue on at last year's rate.

Another important point about being under contract with the St. Paul, Olean Church Council; while the contract is for the period of one year, the contract can be terminated with 30 days' notice by the Church Council, the Bishop or the interim pastor. Otherwise, the point at which the newly called pastor starts at St. Paul, Olean my contract is effectively ended.

Well, the weather is changing and the leaves are falling. We are all anticipating the exciting times of the holidays ahead and the call committee remains actively searching. I pray that during this change of season, you will remain the same faithful congregation I have known since I was here six years ago. Peace, *Pastor Z*

Baptismal Birthdays

13 Cole Obendorf
24 Tanner Gerth
27 Leah Tebbing
30 James Mutz

Senior Birthdays

1 Louis Sellers
15 Polly Hunger
15 Marilyn Jefferies
20 Leland Cutter

Acolytes

3 Lilli Hilton
10 Elizabeth Evans
17 Austin Darnold
24 Tyler Liming
28 Jayden Hunger

Ushers

3 Carlie Darnold
Austin Darnold
24 Jayden Hunger
Jacob Moore

Worship Schedule

1 Holy Communion
24 Holy Communion
10 & 17 Holy Communion at 8:00 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SPECIAL OFFERING

The Sunday School Special Offering on the first Sunday in November will go to Lutheran Indian Ministries (formerly LAMP).

PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE SERVICES

Drew W. Mix in Afghanistan. His address is: 1438th TC, Camp Phoenix, APO, AE 09320 *Birthday: June 19.*

Jacob Menchhofer and his wife, Erin, are in Virginia. Their address is 1269 Braleigh Lane., Virginia Beach, VA 23455. *Jacob's Birthday: January 24, Erin's August 7*

Lt. Col. Whit Wright and family: 6320 N. Nevada Ave., Parkview, MO 64152

Matthew Tinker's address is: 7336 Kestrel Trail, Hanahan, SC 29410 *Birthday: October 13.*

Matthew Vogel in Afghanistan. His address: CPL. Matthew W. Vogel, 2D Bn. 8th Marines, Fox Co./LNO Cell, 1st Platoon, Unit #13933, FPO, AE 09510-3933

Adam Thieman, son of Randy and Rhonda Thieman is in Afghanistan.

Tim Cassidy, son of Tom and Rita Cassidy is back in the USA.

THANKS

Thanks to everyone for their thoughts and prayers for my ongoing medical issues. *Donetta Benham*

Thanks to everyone for the phone calls, cards, and gifts on my birthday. *Martha Jean*

A special thanks to Tim and Jennifer Huntington for all of their extra hard work in buying and transporting all of the items needed for the Sale Committee to serve the auctions this Fall. The use of their trailer made serving so much easier! Thank you also to Tim and Jennifer for donating the gasoline needed to fuel the generator so we could have unlimited electricity and hot water, what a luxury!

Thanks to David and Ruth Green, Jerry Smith, Ralph and Jennifer Miller, Becky Turner and anyone else that has been helping on the remodeling of the church kitchen.

Thanks to everyone who helped clean church and the education building.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Curtis Althoff and Rachel Davies who were united in marriage on October 8.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Scripts were passed out on Sunday, October 20 to all those who are involved in the Sunday School Christmas Eve Christmas Program. If you haven't received yours yet, please see Teresa as soon as possible. Practices will be held following Worship Service on: November 3, 10, 24, and December 1, 8, 15, and 22. Dress Rehearsal will be held on Monday, December 23 at 6:30 p.m. Thank you to the Sunday School Children who agreed to be a part of the program this year. You can't have a Sunday School "Children's" Christmas Program without children!

The Junior High/High School Sunday School Class remains puzzled. If that sentence leaves you "puzzled" and you are a Junior High or High School Student, you may be a missing piece. Whether you're a corner piece, a straight edge or a part of the middle, come take your place at Sunday School!

“BACK-DOOR-FRIENDS OF FAITH”

Donations for “Back Door Friends of Faith” for November will include Paper Products. Items needed are Toilet Tissue, Paper Towels, Paper Tissue (Kleenex, Puffs, etc.), and Trash Bags. The next date for collection will be **Sunday, November 10**. Again, **THANKS**, for your support of this special ministry sponsored by Tyson United Methodist Church. *A big Thank You to all who donated items in October. Items for December will be Cleaning Supplies.*
Ruth Green, Chairman

CHERUB AND JUNIOR CHOIR NEWS

We are off and singing! We hope the Congregation enjoyed one of our favorites, “Pumpkin Patch”, on October 20. What a great song! Thanks to: Abby McCarty, Elizabeth Evans, Rachel Evans and Landon Jolly for blending their voices so wonderfully.

Please keep in mind that standing in front of your Congregation can be a scary experience. Don’t forget to always put the kids at ease by smiling at them as they perform. They enjoy your applause, but also, take the time to tell them how much you appreciate them. Everyone likes to know they are appreciated.

Be on the lookout for a little something different from the Junior Choir in November. We will be trying a new twist on a popular old hymn. (Hint: Don’t forget to count your blessings.)

It’s not too late to join the choirs! If you are between the ages of 2 and Sixth Grade, we have a singing opportunity for you.

CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE – DISCOVERING HOPE

There will be another Rummage Sale at Olean in September, 2014. Over the next several months, as you begin gathering your donations, please make sure any donated electronics or electrical items are in good working order. If you are donating shoes and clothing, please be sure the items are clean, stain and hole free. Also, if the clothes will be stored for several months, it’s a good idea to tuck a fabric softener sheet or two in with the clothes and shoes so that they remain fresh smelling. If you have large pieces of furniture to donate, we can pick those up for you the week of the sale.

While preparing for the Rummage Sale, we “discovered” that some members of our congregation have a wonderful ability to reuse and repurpose items that the rest of us are prepared to discard. If you have a use for something the rest of us might consider garbage, submit an article to the newsletter letting us know what you need, or talk with Martha Jean, Linda Cutter or Teresa. We will pass the word along for you in the newsletter.

FREE CONGREGATION COUNCIL WORKSHOP

There will be a free congregation council workshop on November 9, from 9:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m. at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Crestview Hills, KY. Breakout sessions on Financial Matters and Stewardship. Lunch free, but we do need a count, so please contact Pastor Z if interested in going. Everyone is invited to attend whether or not you are serving on council.

RESULTS OF CONGREGATION MEETING ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

Council President asked what limit the General Fund debit to be allowed before any corrective actions are taken. Council President mentioned property and parsonage could be looked at to be sold.

Further discussion may be taken at the election meeting on the last Sunday in November.

Any suggestions, please feel free to contact any church council member.

REPORT FROM THE RIPLEY COUNTY CROP WALK

On a rainy Sunday afternoon with the help of everyone here at St. Paul's and St. Peter's, Dillsboro, we sent 6 walkers and raised \$720.00 to feed the hungry in Ripley County and the world. Praise the Lord.

Your brother in Christ, *Gary Landwehr*

WOMEN OF THE ELCA



Lots of exciting things are happening with the Women of the ELCA here at Olean!!

You may have noticed the new tile, countertops, sink and paint in the kitchen. Thanks to the women's group for moving ahead with this exciting facelift!! It should be finished just in time for our annual turkey dinner on Sunday, November 3. Proceeds from this year's dinner will benefit the South Ripley Schools in providing coats, shoes or other necessities to children who otherwise might not have those important things to be productive students. Please invite your friends and neighbors to join us as we fill our tummies AND our hearts!

The auction committee has been busy with serving food at two auctions this month.

Thanks to everyone who helped out in any way to make these VERY successful.

Five women along with Pastor Zimmerman attended the Fall Cluster Gathering at Emanuel Lutheran Church – Greendale on Saturday, October 19. What a blessing to join together with our sisters of the Southeast Indiana Conference in worship and communion. Jane Yorn, from Safe Passage in Batesville, gave a very moving and powerful presentation about domestic violence in Southeast Indiana. She noted that statistics show 1 in 4 women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime. Safe Passage provides a place for help, healing and hope. Our Christmas giving project this year will be directed to the families served by Safe Passage. Watch the bulletin board for your opportunity to share the love of Christ through your gifts to these families.

The traditional Thankoffering Service will be Sunday, November 24. Many of us remember the Thankoffering boxes our mothers (or in many cases, we ourselves!) placed in the window sill or on the kitchen table to put coins in as a sign of thankfulness. Thankofferings have always been, and still are, our opportunity to say thank you to God in both significant and ordinary moments. So whether you place coins in a box on a daily basis or make a contribution at the service, your gifts help the Women of the ELCA fulfill their purpose statement. In this season of Thanksgiving, and every season, may we remember to thank God for the gifts he has given to us.

Blessings~Phyllis

November Circle Meetings: Martha Circle, November 14 – 1:30 - Ripley Crossing. Hostess: Linda Cutter

Mary Circle, November 14 – 7:00 - Hostess: Linda Cutter

Visiting Committee for November: Irma Rohls and Phyllis Armbrecht

W.O.W.-(Women of Wednesdays)

Join the Women of Wednesdays lunch bunch for a day out to treat yourself!! Invite a friend to come along.

Watch the bulletin board for details about the November outing! Or you can also be first to know by adding your email address to the "list." Send a request to be part of the email notifications to phyllisarmbrecht@hotmail.com.

Tell us about somewhere fun that you've been or even somewhere you'd like to go! Add your suggestions for places to go to the list on the bulletin board. We will get to as many of them as we can!!

DESSERT AUCTION**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2013**

St. Paul Relay for Life Team will hold their 6th annual Dessert Auction in the Fellowship Hall after service Sunday, November 17, 2013. Anyone wishing to donate a dessert or any other item to auction for Relay for Life, please bring them to the Fellowship Hall before service on Sunday, November 17.

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES**SEPTEMBER 24, 2013**

The Church Council met on September 24, 2013 in the educational building. Those present were Pastor Zimmerman, Ralph Miller, Paul Obendorf, Ed Armbrecht, Teresa Lawrence, Connie Hunger, Peggy Mix, and Shirley Smith. The meeting opened with prayer by Pastor Zimmerman.

Secretary's report was read. Motion made, seconded, and carried to accept minutes as read. Financial Secretary and Treasurer's reports were presented.

General Fund	\$ (6915.08)	Cont. Ed	\$ -0-	Improvement	\$18896.53	Relay for Life	\$ -0-
Music	\$ 2632.42	Vinup Trust	\$ 5251.36	Luther League	\$979.55	Trust	\$835.00
Bible School	\$ 846.37	Sofianos	\$ 3337.86				

Motions made, seconded, and carried to accept the reports as presented.

A list of needed repairs at the parsonage was presented with some having been completed by David Green. Martin Luther Scholarships for \$80,000.00 from Wittenberg College is available.

Teresa reported \$1574.86 was made from the rummage sale. She also reported eleven (11) members of Team Courage participated in the Heart Walk in Columbus Indiana.

Pastor's report was submitted.

Paul gave an update on the computer

Ed provided information on Health Insurance. Motion made, seconded, and carried to follow Synods recommendation to purchase the Gold Plus Plan that is as close to what we currently have.

Pastor Zimmerman's current contract ends October 15, 2013. Following a discussion, motion made, seconded, and carried to offer a one year contract with no vacation until after the first of the year, and with the understanding that the contract becomes null and void with the hiring of a new pastor. The call committee will be meeting with a prospective pastor on October 1, 2013.

The next council meeting will be October 22 at 7:00PM. The quarterly meeting will be October 27, 2013. The November council meeting will be November 17, 2013. The meeting for election of church council officers will be November 24, 2013.

Connie Hunger and Shirley Smith will be outgoing officers serving on the nominating committee as appointed by President Miller. A special council meeting will be held following services on September 29, 2013 to discuss the contract for Pastor Zimmerman and possibly signing.

The meeting closed with praying The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, *Shirley Smith, Secretary*

HOW IS GOD LEADING US TO REACH OUT TO OTHERS AND SHARE THE RESOURCES AND TALENTS HE HAS GIVEN US?

Website: www.stpaulolean.org

Trunk or Treat

Thanksgiving Eve Service

Junior Choir

Christmas Caroling at the Nativity

Easter Egg Hunt

Agape Meal

Rogation Sunday

Weekly Lenten Services

Good Friday Service

Vacation Bible School

Ladies Christmas Party

Rally Day

LWR Blanket Making Ministry

Relay Dessert Auction

Eucharist Service

Easter Sunrise Service

Penny War

Heart Walk

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Rummage Sale

Sunday School Classes for all ages

Auction Food Service

Agape Meal

Cradle Roll

Cherub Choir

Turkey Dinner (free will offering)

Ladies Circle Meetings

Adult Choir

Fellowship Evening at YMCA

Soup Dinner (free will offering)

German Dinner (free will offering)

Childrens' Hospital Blanket Ministry

Maundy Thursday Service

Crop Walk

Ladies Banquet (free will offering)

Relay for Life

Sunday School Picnic

Christians Got Talent

Christmas Caroling

Women of Wednesday Outings

Discovering Hope

Easter Breakfast (free will offering)

Back to School Blessing

Confirmation Instruction

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Christmas Eve Sunday School Program

Prayer Chains

Senior Quilts

Please ask the Lord and yourself, in what ways can I fill in the blanks?