

DECEMBER 2014

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

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Pastor: Pastor Curtis Black E-mail pastorcurtisinky@gmail.com

Dear Friends,

We are entering into the season of Advent. This is a time of waiting and preparing. This is a time when we pray, "O Lord, come to us.

But if we think of ourselves as hosting Christ in the world we call home, we might be mortified. Do we really want Christ to come here? Our home is not clean enough! We are not prepared! If Christ comes now, Christ would see:

- The poverty in the world and our inability to care for everyone in need
- The wars between nations
- The lack of a middle ground between "the officer shot in self-defense" and "the officer murdered an unarmed teenager"
- The Church in America, which struggles to find its way as the culture around it changes
- A world in which violence is chosen too often as the best response to arguments or challenges.

Is this really the world into which we want to invite Christ?

Yes, it is. This is not the way the world was created to be. This is not the way we want the world to be. There are many things we can do to change the world for the better. But the world will not be perfect without Christ entering into the world and reconciling the world to himself.

During this season of Advent, we prepare for our next celebration of when Christ first came into the world. We look for the places where Christ is already present and active within our world. And we wait with anticipation for the day when Christ will come again to establish the New Jerusalem here on Earth and restore the world to what it was created to be.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor Curtis

The Children's Christmas Program will be held on Wednesday evening, December 24 at 7:00 P.M.

Carols and Candles Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion will be held at 11:00 P.M.

Confirmation Class in December will be held following worship on December 14.

Baptismal Birthdays

- 5 Gracey West
- 13 Aiden Salyer
- 17 Ellen Back
- 19 Darcie Diem

Senior Birthdays

- 1 Esther Boyles (96)
- 1 Alethea Jacobs
- 2 Louis DeBurger
- 4 Geneva Dick
- 11 Merrell Webster
- 14 Harold Stegemoller
- 17 Ruth Sellers
- 18 Ruth Hunger
- 19 Jerry Webster
- 28 Shirley Barth

Acolytes

- 7 Tyler Liming
- 14 Jayden Hunger
- 21 Lilli Hilton
- 24 Abby McCarty
- 24 Elizabeth Evans
- 28 Connor McCarty

Ushers

- 7 Carlie Darnold
- Jacob Moore
- 24 Chad Turner
- Derek Turner

SUNDAY SCHOOL SPECIAL OFFERING

The Sunday School Special Offering on the first Sunday in December will go to Fishes and Loaves Food Pantry.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

We remembered on Sunday, November 2, those who had departed from our midst since last All Saints Sunday: Lawrence Green, Jane 'Budke' Walker, Ruth Ann Howard, Paul Howard, Alan Eaton, Alta Diem, and Rev. John Halford.

PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE SERVICES

Jacob Menchhofer and his wife, Erin, are stationed in Virginia. Their address is: 1269 Braileigh 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: 7836 Shuttle Rd., Fayetteville, N.C. *Birthday: October 13.*

Matthew Vogel is back in the US.

Adam Thieman, son of Randy and Rhonda Thieman is stationed at Ft. Knox, KY.

Tim Cassidy, son of Tom and Rita Cassidy. 13103 Harrison Creek, Petersburg, VA 23803

Jessica Belt in Afghanistan

Tyler Hudson, grandson of Esther Gilliland, Marine Reserves, 3014 Plantation Dr. Sellersburg, IN.

Logan Hudson, grandson of Esther Gilliland, Air Force, Holloman AFB, New Mexico

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy birthday to Esther Boyles who will celebrate her 96th birthday on December 1. Her address is: Ripley Crossing, 1200 Whitlatch Way, Milan IN 47031.

CHERUB & JUNIOR CHOIRS

We just keep singing and singing! Thanks to Gracey West, Leah Tebbing and Clay Miller for singing "Pumpkin Patch" on October 26. Thanks also to Karter McIntosh, Rachel Evans, Clay Miller, Charlie Gardner and Leah Tebbing for helping Phyllis to carve our awesome pumpkins.

"Don't Dig a Hole" sounded great thanks to Gracey and Matthew West, Rachel Evans, Casey and Ellie Back, Clay Miller, Trey and Avery Feder, and Eli Hreno on November 16. Thanks for keeping the Gospel lesson stuck in our heads for the entire week.

MARY RICE HOPKINS & PUPPETS WITH A HEART

Did you enjoy hearing "Pumpkin Patch" on October 26 and "Don't Dig a Hole" on November 16? If so, tune in to Mary Rice Hopkins & Puppets with a Heart on TBN each Saturday at 11:30 a.m. for more great music. If your TV does not receive TBN, and you have high speed DSL, you can watch a live webcast on [TBN's website](#). Also, be sure to check out all the Mary Rice Hopkins CDs, DVDs and books in the educational building which are for sale.

SHOP LOCALLY

Looking for that perfect gift for your loved ones? Don't miss out on the Olean Cookbooks, Church Plates, Olean Note Cards, Olean "Hymns from Our Hearts" CDs, Organ Recital CDs, as well as Mary Rice Hopkins CDs, DVDs and books all for sale in the educational building. Don't miss out on this one stop shopping experience. Supplies are limited.

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

"5, 4, 3, 2, 1...Happy New Year!" Join us for the Second Annual New Year's Eve Party at St. Paul Lutheran Church Olean! Bring a beverage, and a snack or two to share. Let's eat, drink (non-alcoholic beverages only) and be merry! We can enjoy some card games, board games and fellowship together as we celebrate the end of the old year together. Many great things have happened to our congregation in the past 12 months. Let's relax, reminisce and begin 2015 refreshed! Everyone is welcome. Stay until midnight if you wish, or return home early. Festivities will begin at 7:30 p.m. and end at 12:30 p.m.

"BACK-DOOR FRIENDS OF FAITH"

Donations for "Back Door Friends of Faith" for December will include Cleaning Supplies. Items needed are Laundry Soap, Dryer Sheets, Fabric Softener, All Purpose Cleaner, Dish Detergent, and Toilet Cleaner. The next date for collection will be **Sunday, December 14**. 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 November. Items for January will be Personal Items.*
Ruth Green, Chairman

CAROL FEST

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

Join us at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 3 for caroling and the reading of the Christmas story across the road by the nativity scene. Dress for the weather and bring a flashlight. Following the singing, warm up with a cup of hot chocolate or coffee and enjoy a HORST doughnut – or two!! If you don't want to be out in the cold, you can even park your car in the driveway and sing (or listen) from there!! Cherub and junior choir kids will join us there. And senior choir "kids" will rehearse afterwards!

FLOWER CHART 2015

The 2015 flower chart is posted on the first bulletin board going into the Fellowship Hall. Pick your favorite Sunday to honor or remember someone. Sign your name and specify the reason for your giving. You may also make a donation to the flower fund for those Sundays when no one is signed up. Checks or cash may be given to Martha Blodgett, treasurer of the women's group, or to Martha Jarvis in the church office.

RELAY FOR LIFE DESSERT AUCTION

Another amazing Dessert Auction is in the record books! Thank you to everyone who donated items, purchased items, or simply joined us for the fun.

With your help, St. Paul's 2015 Relay for Life is off to a great start raising \$894! Our gratitude goes out to everyone who continues to support Team Olean!

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to John and Tina 'Rohrig' Mutz on the birth of their son Cooper Ray. Cooper was born on October 24, wt. 7lb. 9oz. and 20 1/2 in. long.

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR SALE

Christmas cards are available to purchase. A package of 10 cards is \$15. Two designs are available. Proceeds benefit the Luther League's 2015 trip to Detroit. Cards will be on sale in the educational building after church each Sunday until Christmas.

CHRISTMAS GIVING

Safe Passage in Batesville will be the recipient of the Women of the ELCA annual giving project. Check out the bulletin board display for information. You can choose to support a family or just contribute to the everyday needs of the shelter. Items should be returned to the church by Thursday, December 12.

THANKS

To my dear friends at St. Paul's – to say “Thank you” seems so inadequate to express my appreciation for all the love and support you gave us in such a difficult time. It was so wonderful to have his service in your beautiful church and the meal was just perfect (and so many of my friend are asking me for recipes!) The family and I cannot than you enough. With lots of love, Pat Halford and family

Thank you to everyone who helped with the November Turkey Dinner. The food donations were delicious. A special thank you to those who cooked, served the food, washed dishes, and all who stayed for food and fellowship. God's Blessings, Deanna Thomas, Teresa Lawrence, and Vicki Diem.

Thanks very much for all the nice birthday cards with the good messages that I received. I really appreciated everyone thinking of me. God Bless You all. Louis Sellers.

St. Paul, Olean: Thank you for your recent gift to Wernle Youth & Family Treatment Center.

Dearest Ladies: Thank you so very much for the prayer shawl. It worked! I kept it with me all throughout my stay in the hospital, as well as when I got home. It has been 3 weeks and I am officially off all medications; and they say I will be fine, thanks to you and all the prayers wrapped up in that shawl. I have to admit, it really hit me, when I opened the shawl, that I must be really sick, if I was given such a powerful gift of healing. It was then that I knew that I was not in control as much as I thought. I knew it was time to let go and let God take care of me. It was a very humbling point in my life. Thanks to you, ladies, and all my family and friends, and of course, doctors, I am going to be okay! Keep doing what you're doing. It works! With profound gratitude, Carol 'Rohls' Dilk

W.O.W.-(WOMEN OF WEDNESDAYS)

DECEMBER 10, 2014

Over 90 years of service make the **Kopper Kettle Inn** in Morristown a Hoosier tradition! We'll travel north to enjoy a delicious lunch on **Wednesday, December 10**. Meet at the church at 9:50 a.m. or the Versailles IGA parking lot at 10:00 a.m. Sign up by Sunday, December 7. Our November outing took us to Rookwood Pottery in the Over-the-Rhine section of Cincinnati. Founded in 1880 by Maria Longworth Nichols, Rookwood is the first female-owned manufacturing company in the U.S. Eleven of us enjoyed the tour followed by a delicious lunch at A Taste of Belgium. The crepes and waffles were amazing!!!

Our monthly lunch outings have been going strong for over four years. Join us any time for a fun-filled, relaxing day with good food and even better fellowship!! It's great to have a girls' day out!!

CANS, CANS, AND MORE CANS!

Thanks to everyone who has brought aluminum cans to recycle. A load was recently taken to Schneider's in Osgood for a **\$60** deposit to the VBS Fund!!! We'll continue to collect them as long as you bring them! (Please include ONLY aluminum cans – no aluminum foil or pans.) If you want to crush them, that would be great! But it's ok if you don't. Just drop them off on the porches on either side of the education building. Bring them in a plastic grocery bag or the largest trash bag you can find! Bring them when you come on Sunday or Tuesday or Wednesday or whatever day finds you here. If you have a LOT of cans, we will even pick them up! Just call the church office and leave a message.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA



The WELCA held their turkey dinner on Sunday, November 2. The meal was delicious!!! Thanks to our committee of Vicki Diem, Deanna Thomas, and Teresa Lawrence. Also, a Thank You to everyone who helped out. Everyone working together makes the work lighter for all and IT'S FUN!!! Though I don't have all the totals, the meal brought in over \$1,200. As stated previously, the proceeds will be divided equally among our church's teams: Relay for Life, The Heart Walk, and the Crop Walk.

Thankoffering Sunday, was held on November 23, 2014 Thanks to our readers; Becky Turner, Mary McCarty, and Jenny Darnold. To our cross carrier Abby McCarty and to those who took up offering, Cheryl Tebbing, Linda Cutter, and Peggy

Mix.

The officers are working hard to fill our committees, and we are in need of a couple of women to step up and take over the organization of the 689 funeral dinners We want to thank Kaye Hunger for her service. Ruth Green has graciously said she will call for donations, however, is unable to do the actual meal. A big thank you to Ruth for her service and help. If you are able and willing to help please let Jennifer Miller know.

Please make a note....ALL WELCA General meetings will be held on the first Sunday of every quarter next year, immediately following service. This change is due to officers work schedules. This is a trial, the officers will re-evaluate the schedule at the end of the year. Let us all remember, CHANGE CAN BE GOOD!!! Sunday, January 4, 2015, March 1, 2015, June 7, 2015, September 6, 2015, and the Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, December 6, 2015.

Hope to see everyone in December for our Christmas event!!

May God continue to bless our organization and its work.

Jennifer Miller, President

Visiting Committee for December: Kaye Hunger and Ruth Green

WELCA Christmas Party December 4 at 7:00 P.M.

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

OCTOBER 19, 2014

The Church Council met on October 19, 2014 in the Education Building. Those present were Pastor Curtis Black, Paul Obendorf, Phyllis Armbricht, Peggy Mix, Cheryl Tebbing, Teresa Lawrence, Steve Althoff, Linda Cutter and guest David Sabella.

Pastor Black opened the meeting with prayer. Teresa Lawrence then led with devotions.

David Sabella, Thrivent Financial Associate, spoke with council on how Thrivent can work with the church to extend the life of the church through endowments, trusts and insurance policies in estate planning. Mr. Sabella would like to meet with council on how to proceed with details of the plan. Council will meet with Mr. Sabella on October 28, 2014 at 7:00 in the Education Building.

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

General Fund	\$4,011.46	Relay for Life	\$77.75	Improvement	\$4,107.12
RCCF Grant	\$2,500.00	Music	\$2,592.42	Sofianos	0.00
Luther League	\$2,004.75	Vinup Trust	\$5,251.36	Bible School	\$759.59
Trust	\$13.00	Cont. Education	\$.05		

Pastor Black gave his monthly report and shared some scheduled events on his November calendar.

Pastor spoke on **Freed to Lead**. It is a grant program from the Synod in coordination with the Lily Foundation to help first call pastors with repayment of student loans. As part of the program he will be going through financial counseling and would receive a grant from the fund helping Pastor and Mandy deal with the burden of paying off \$50,000.00 in student loans for his seminary education. As long as he is receiving grant money he would be committed to stay within the Synod, in the state of Indiana and in all probability at St. Paul up to the next three years. He is applying for the grant and the next deadline for applying is December 1, 2014, he has sent a one page form for the grant to Phyllis for a congregational pledge saying that we know our Pastor is applying for the grant and we offer our support. Also on the form is a place where the congregation can show their offering support to the **Freed to Lead Fund**. After discussion- Pastor has council approval to approach the congregation to ask for their approval to apply for the grant at the next Quarterly Meeting on October 26, 2014. Mutual Ministry Committee will be tabled to until the November meeting.

There is no update on the pouring of concrete and railing installation.

Nominating Committee was discussed.

Meeting was closed by praying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, *Linda Cutter, Secretary*

