

Covenant NEWS



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September 2014

President's Perspective

**Richard F. Ptak,
President of Congregation Council**



When I heard those words that Judy Hoshek, Assistant to the Bishop, said to Pastor Allende, "You are released from all duties at Lutheran

Church of the Covenant," the re-

ality hit me that he actually was leaving. Then with the ceremonies after the service for Pastor Allende and Linda, all the well wishes and comments from the Congregation, what a send-off! But still... a reality that he was leaving. I did get to see him at a lunch meeting a few days later to talk about things. A group of us also got to see him at Blossom's "A Tribute to the Beatles" concert last week; he is just as down-to-earth as always.

Not to let him get away without a final report for Council, I asked him to provide one. We received not only a report, but quite a message for all of us.

Even though we do have an agreement with Pastor Anderson to be our Interim Pastor, he will not start until September 1, since we cannot pay two Pastors in the same month. Pastor Werner and Pastor Persaud have led the Saturday and Sunday Services during August, and Pastor Groenke of Christ the King Church in Twinsburg has filled in as emergency pastor. All committees continued meeting, the Farmer's Market is continuing, and prayer groups have still met in this transition month. Our Office Secretary, Jennifer Garberich, has also had things well in hand during this transition time.

We continue to look at what God intends us do in the future. Let us look back and see all that he has had us do. We were the training site for a Bishop, and all the outreach things that Pastor had listed at our last Congregational meeting were many of the things that God had us do.

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The Lutheran Church of the Covenant

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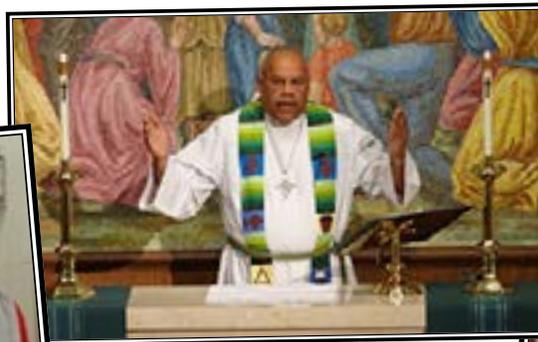
The Rev. Kenneth J. Anderson, Interim Pastor; E-mail: pranderson@sbcglobal.net

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We will now be looking for a new pastor as our spiritual leader. We are in the process of establishing a call committee. Please pray for that committee and Covenant in our search for a minister who can lead us to what God wants us to do. As Pastor Allende said, “we should look at what we have and not at what we don’t have.”

I will try to keep you informed on where we are in the call process. With Pastor Anderson, we can continue to “Reach Out, Reflect Christ, and Renew Lives” at The Lutheran Church of the Covenant.

Yours in Christ,
Dick Ptak, President



Installation of
Abraham Allende
4th Bishop of the
Northeastern Ohio Synod, ELCA
September 13, 2014
2:00 p.m.
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
1361 West Market Street
Akron, Ohio

The logo of the Episcopal Church, featuring a silver lamb standing on a red background, with a cross and a banner above it.

Contact the Church Office if you would like to carpool to the Installation Service.

NEWS FLASH: JESUS REPORTEDLY SUFFERING FROM ARTHRITIS

We are the body of Christ in the world, but our joints don't bend much to do Jesus' work! As the arthritis commercial warns: "When you are a body at rest you tend to stay at rest." The other part of the message is: once you are in motion you stay in motion.

Bishop Eaton has used the phrase: "God's work. Our hands." to focus all ELCA Lutherans on finding an activity to get us moving (specifically, on Sunday September 7). Just as with the arthritis commercial, hopefully once we get in motion we will stay in motion!

Jesus called his disciples to drop what they were doing and follow him, to proclaim the Good News. We need to ask ourselves if we contribute to Jesus' arthritis by not moving, or if can we drop what we are doing and proclaim the Good News no matter what our age or physical condition.

Find a way to proclaim!

Join us on Rally Day, September 7, to take your first steps on Jesus' path.

Covenant Board of Education

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. On **Sunday, Sept. 7, 2014**, the nearly 10,000 congregations of this church gather to serve communities in ways that share the love of God with all of God's people.

Whether it's 30,000 young people doing community volunteer work at an ELCA Youth Gathering, the passionate volunteers of the ELCA homeless ministry network or the devoted members of our congregations who fight for peace and justice in their communities every day, we are a church that boldly does God's work of restoring and reconciling communities.

"When one congregation or a group of congregations gather for service in their local communities, they are the church in that place, taking care of that part of God's vineyard. But this is all work that we do together. When one congregation works to feed people who are hungry, that is also the entire church coming together," says ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday reminds us that we are a church together for the sake of the world. Our lives have been changed by our relationship with God through Jesus Christ, and it's that encounter with Jesus that frees us to make a difference. As you participate Sept. 7, 2014, in the dedicated day of service, may you witness the love of God, who knows and loves each one of us."

You work every day to love your neighbors and make your community a better place. Now let's do it together!

See more at: <http://elca.org/dayof-service#sthash.bWngh4A8.dpuf>



Annual Rummage Sale

Sale Dates:
Friday & Saturday
September 5-6 and 12
9:30 AM - 1:30 PM
Sat. Sept 13, 9:30-Noon.

Set-up will be on
September 3-4.

Rummage donations can be
brought to the Parish Hall.

We need volunteers for
set-up, sale days, and clean-up!
Contact Janet Wilkens at
216-475-3499.

Roof Repair Fund

A Roof Repair Fund has been established to pay for the repair of a hole on one of the building roof areas.

Hoping to make the repair before the weather turns cold and further damage occurs, Council voted to establish this fund to raise the \$2300 needed.

We are close to meeting
this goal!

If you would like to make a donation to the fund, please label your envelope or check with "Roof Repair 2014."

Board of Evangelism & Social Ministry Reaching Out to Our Community



The Board of Evangelism & Social Ministry has been busy with several ventures, and we continue to look for more ways to reach out to the community.



We continue to work with Hope United Methodist Church serving community meals on the last Thursday of each month. The number of guests increases each month as the word has reached our neighbors about the delicious meals that are lovingly prepared by members of Covenant and Hope. This has been a wonderful opportunity to get to know and serve our neighbors. So mark this ongoing event in your calendar and join us for great food and fellowship. And, don't forget to bring a friend!

Pastor Harry Werner held two training sessions for new and seasoned eucharistic ministers so that we can be more present in the lives of our homebound and hospitalized members on a continuing basis.

Along with the Vision For The Future Committee, we continue to serve the community through the Covenant Farmers' Market. We have become a real presence in the community by providing fresh produce, home-cooked meals, salads, fresh bakery and the best, most economical lunch in town; not to mention fantastic opportunities for fellowship with our neighbors.

We hosted an extremely successful job fair in May in cooperation with the Maple Heights Lions Club, the Urban League of Greater Cleveland and Equipose Corporation. There were 200 attendees at our first venture. We are looking forward to having another job fair in the next few months to provide employment opportunities to the youth of Maple Heights and surrounding communities, as well as unemployed individuals, veterans and re-entry unemployed.

In addition, we are in discussion with Sister Sharon Steward, the director of Camp Covenant, to establish a youth/tutoring program for our young neighbors in the community. Watch for details in the near future.

We continue to look for ways of "Reaching Out, Reflecting Christ, and Renewing Lives" in and around our community.



Congratulations Pastor Harry Werner!

Please congratulate Pastor Werner when you see him because on October 3, at the Valley Forge-Parma football game, Harry will be inducted into the Valley Forge High School Hall of Fame.

For over thirty years, Pastor Harry Werner has served as the Director of Pastoral Care at University Hospitals Case Medical Center. In that capacity Pastor Werner has faithfully discharged this ministry to countless suffering patients in their greatest moment of need – when they are most vulnerable – with compassion and the skills garnered by over thirty years of practice.

During the many years of discussions at Sunday School, Harry has related instances where he has ministered to parents of children that have died either at birth or during critical illness. He has described numerous instances where he helped individuals come to peace with their spiritual lives during their last moments of life. He has been asked to pray in the operating room during critical surgery. He has witnessed what could be called both miracles and tragedy with extraordinary grace, calmness and compassion.

Harry never touts his accomplishments. Rather, he is in awe of how these life-and-death experiences have affected his life and his continual spiritual growth as he ministers to the sick, the dying, doctors, nurses and fellow clergy. He does this with a smile and eagerness to constantly improve his skills.

In addition, Harry lived to tell the tale of his own near-death experience. And as frightening as that may sound, Harry has used that experience to enrich his spiritual growth and ability to help others in need even more.

Because of Pastor Werner's exceptional contribution through his work and life (Did I mention that Harry is a devoted husband and father to four exceptional children?), I nominated him to be inducted into the Valley Forge High School Hall of Fame. This distinction can only be accomplished by being nominated by a fellow alumnus. However, since I worked at Valley Forge for a couple of years, and, more importantly, because of Harry's tremendous accomplishments, they accepted his nomination.

Mary Kaye Bernardo



*The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.
(Matthew 13:45-46)*

From Pastor Allende's 7/28/14 Blog: <http://pastorallende.com/2014/07/28/all-we-did-was-open-our-doors-2/>

On Sunday, July 27, nearly 60 kids from Camp Covenant along with their parents visited our worship service. Following the Hymn of the Day, Sharon Steward, camp director, gave a brief presentation to our regular worshippers as to what Camp Covenant's ministry is and what the kids experienced over the course of the seven weeks.

Then the kids came up to the chancel to sing a few camp songs. That's when the Holy Spirit went into high gear. Their performance was enough to win over even the toughest cynic. To watch the enthusiasm of these youngsters brought tears to the eyes of many of our mostly elderly congregation. If you weren't moved it was because you didn't have a pulse.

Shortly afterwards, as I walked down the aisle to share the peace, I heard more than once how wonderful the kids' program left people feeling. I came up with a response which I repeated several times during my walk, "All we did was open our doors."

Yes, all we did was open our doors.

Five years ago when I was called to Covenant, it was with the intent of building bridges between our mostly white and aging congregation, and the surrounding community, which in the past several years had transitioned into a mostly African-American neighborhood. All the previous efforts to connect had sputtered and eventually disappeared, and I didn't come with any real solid vision as to how to do anything different.

Then I was approached about using our building for camp ministry. I didn't hesitate for a moment. Camp Genesis, as it was then known, operated out of a neighboring Baptist church that was looking to expand the camp and needed a satellite location. We were the perfect spot. It was a no-brainer.

Our leadership gave its blessing when I proposed the idea. But although they were receptive, they didn't exhibit any tremendous enthusiasm about becoming involved. Other than allowing the camp to go on, there was not much interest in doing anything more. But a couple of our parishioners, one who still lives in the neighborhood, provided a glimmer of hope by coming around and teaching the kids about gardening.

For three years the camp grew. But for a variety of reasons, the director had to suspend the camp in 2013. I was personally devastated. I perceived it as another failed effort. But, oh me of little faith. I failed to realize that God wasn't done with us yet. Last November, Camp Director Steward approached me again, and again I didn't think twice about saying yes!

Camp Covenant, as it was renamed, is now no longer a satellite, it is THE primary site. Some 60 kids have shown up each morning since June 16 and take part in daily Bible stories, a weekly children's church, recreational activities, and field trips. This year, two more of our folks got involved in doing crafts with the kids. The children's art work [was hung] in the hall of our educational wing. Another member gave a generous monetary donation which allowed ten kids to attend camp. Yet another volunteered to help out in the kitchen. Like yeast in dough, the Spirit is rising.

And, of course, the kids eat. A state sponsored nutrition program provides the youngsters with a hot breakfast and lunch. But here's the best part. The meals are open to non-campers as well. So in addition to the campers, about two dozen or more neighborhood kids are also being fed. These kids don't make the connection between the meals and the camp—they see it as "the church."

As Sister Sharon told the congregation on Sunday, "This church is a light in the community. I see it when I stop by on Saturday and see the Farmers' Market, the rummage sale, and the [monthly] community meal. Little is much when God is in it."

What an affirmation of our church's outreach efforts!

So Sunday, all these little bodies invaded our space to help us learn about Jesus and to feel the love of Jesus. I preached on Pearls of Great Value from Matthew 13. But the kids were the sermon. The Word of God shone through them. We saw the kingdom of heaven in the faces of these little ones.

And all we did was open our doors.



Blessed Birthday

Wishes to...

each of the following Covenant members born in September:

- 9/2 Pauline Hrivnak,
William Mendat
- 9/3 Devonna Hobson
- 9/8 Hazel Scheller
- 9/10 Phyllis Treichel
- 9/11 Doris Akerley
- 9/13 David Cibella
- 9/16 Barb Gaglione
Jason Lanese
- 9/17 John Lanese
- 9/19 Rosemary Linert
- 9/22 Madeline Ptak
- 9/26 Allan Treichel
- 9/27 Belinda Arnold
- 9/28 Nancy Werner
Ethan Lockmiller
- 9/29 Evan Bernardo



Happy Anniversary

Wishes to...

- 9/8 Carolyn & Ken Frajter
- 9/21 Phyllis & Richard Nemeth
- 9/23 Jane & Stan Skowronski
- 9/24 Pr. Abraham & Linda
Allende
- 9/30 Bernice & Frank Novak

(if any important dates have been omitted, please notify the church office so records can be corrected!)



Bible Study Sessions

The Bible Brunch returns from summer break on September 18 at 9:30 a.m. in the kitchen overflow area. We gather around a meal and then are fed by the word of God.

All are welcome! Come and share with your brothers and sisters in Christ as well as deepen your faith in the study of Holy Scripture.

We will continue to meet on the third Thursday of each month through May. Mark the following dates on your calendar to remind yourself through the end of 2013: October 16, November 20, and December 18.

We look forward to gathering together in faith, fellowship and study. See you at brunch!

The Women's Bible Study group meets on the first Wednesday of each month (except January & February). The next meeting is September 3.

Please join the discussion at 11:30 a.m. in the kitchen overflow area. Come join us and grow in God's Word!

Retirees Luncheon!

The next Retiree's Luncheon is set for Thursday, October 2 at noon. Mark your calendars!

If you have an idea for a guest speaker, or a topic you would like to learn more about, please talk to Pastor Anderson about it.

Thank You...

We would like to just take a moment of your time and give Jen Garberich and Nick Rohaly a Big Thank You for the great job they do. Even though we have not had a commander-in-chief all month, everything just seems to be moving along, just like a fine-tuned watch.

A lot of times we take people for granted, but we know personally that both Jen and Nick go above and beyond. Jen runs the office with precision and takes care of the services. Nick not only does his job, but if asked, or sometimes you don't even have to ask, he is right there for you, even if it is not his regular work day.

Steve & Claudia Senderak

Dear Lutheran Church of the Covenant,

Thank you for your recent gift of \$378.00 to ELCA World Hunger. Your faithful support makes a difference for families and communities in need all around the world.

Your generous gifts make it possible for ELCA World Hunger to: educate members about root causes; promote advocacy and social justice for those who cannot speak for themselves; provide food for families in times of greatest need; and implement sustainable development for secure futures. Thanks to you, ELCA World Hunger continues to build on the 40-year history of this ministry through partnerships and programs in nearly 60 countries including the U.S.

As the ELCA, we do more together than any one of us could ever do alone. Now as a major component of the *Campaign for the ELCA*, we are privileged to work with you in an endeavor to expand these programs for greater impact on hunger and poverty during the next five years. Thank you for your support.

In Christ's service,

The Rev. Daniel Rift

Director, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE COVENANT

SEPTEMBER 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day Office Closed	2 7:00 pm Bd. of Worship & Music Mtg Pastor's Office	3 11:30 am Women's Bible Study in Kitchen Overflow Rummage Sale Set-Up in Parish Hall	4 Rummage Sale Set-Up in Parish Hall	5 9:30-1:30 Rummage Sale in Parish Hall	6 9:30 - 1:30 Covenant Farmers' Market / Rummage Sale 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Eucharist
7 9:00 am Sunday Eucharist 10:30 am Rally Day: "God's Work, Our Hands."	8	9 7:00 pm Council Mtg. in Parlor	10	11 7:30 Lion's Club Meeting in Parish Hall	12 9:30-1:30 Rummage Sale in Parish Hall	13 9:30 - Noon Farmers' Market / Rummage Sale 12:00-2:00 Living Witness Ministry in Parlor 2:00 Bishop Installation 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Eucharist
14 9:00 am Sunday Eucharist 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Altar Guild Meeting in Conf. Room	15	16 7:00 pm Evangelism & Social Ministry Mtg. in Parlor	17	18 9:30 am Bible Brunch in Kitchen Overflow	19	20 9:30 - 1:30 Covenant Farmers' Market 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Eucharist
21 9:00 am Sunday Eucharist 10:30 am Sunday School Hour	22 7:00 pm Mutual Ministry Mtg. in Pastor's Office	23	24	25 6:00 pm Covenant-Hope Community Meal in Parish Hall	26	27 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Eucharist
28 9:00 am Sunday Eucharist 10:30 am Sunday School Hour	29 11:00 am Bd of Managers Mtg in Conference Rm.	30				

Covenant NEWS

The Lutheran Church of the Covenant
19000 Libby Road, Maple Heights, Ohio 44137



Help the Church avoid additional postal fees; please notify us of your address change

Covenant Farmers' Market

9:30 - 1:30 every Saturday through Sept. 20.

(Closing at noon on 9/13)

Stop by for lunch and pick up your week's produce and desserts!

RUMMAGE SALE

Fri./Sat/ September 5-6 and 12, 9:30-1:30;
9:30-Noon on Sat. 9/13.

Set up will be on September 3-4.

Donations can be brought to the Parish Hall.
Please contact Janet Wilkens at 216-475-3499
to volunteer for set-up, sale days and/or clean-up.

FALL HARVEST FESTIVAL

Saturday, October 11, 9:30-1:30

Autumn-Themed Activities Pumpkins Fresh Produce
Baked Goods Handmade Crafts & Goods
Grilled sausages and hot dogs with a can of pop

Potential vendors may obtain more information
at 216-662-0370 or covenantlc@sbcglobal.net
(This market does not qualify for the Maple Heights
market voucher program)

Covenant Recycles!

Bring your paper & cardboard each time
you come for worship or events.
Covenant earns \$ for each ton we collect.
And we help the Earth too!

Did you know? An average tree can yield 2,700 copies of
an average-sized daily newspaper.
Be sure to recycle all those copies!

Items accepted:

* Newspapers * Mail * Phonebooks * Magazines*
*Office & School Paper * Catalogs * Brown Paper Bags*
* Hard & Soft Bound Books * Cardboard*
(Please put shredded paper in a tied bag
so it doesn't blow away in the wind.)

Items not accepted:

* Any type of Plastic (bottles/bags) * Styrofoam * Glass *
* Trash * Aluminum * Metal *

Take your recyclable paper to the green dumpsters
at the back of the parking lot any time!