

# Covenant NEWS



## Table of Contents

Pastor's Perspective .....	1-2
Congregation Council .....	3
Call Committee .....	3
Lenten Soup Suppers .....	4
Save the Date .....	4
Easter Lily Dedications .....	4
Palm Saturday Registration.....	5
Bible Study & Retirees .....	6
Birthdays & Anniversaries.....	6
Feb & March Calendars .....	7-8
Organ Recital .....	9
Potluck & a Movie .....	9
Daylight Savings .....	9
Thank You .....	9
Journey Forward (ELCA) .....	10
Board Reports .....	10-11
Christmas Pictures .....	11



February-March 2015

## Pastor's Perspective

Rev. Kenneth J. Anderson, Interim Pastor

### A TIME TO PLANT, A TIME TO REAP

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under the heaven:  
a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to reap.  
Ecclesiastes 3:1-2*

The United States has been in a war status since September 11, 2001, both directly and indirectly. With the war in Afghanistan supposedly having ended, we cannot help but wonder how long our military will be involved with that nation. The war in Iraq ended and what do we have to show for that? ISIS has come into being and now controls a large portion of Iraq and Syria. The recent terrorist murders in Paris remind us of our vulnerability to others' actions. In the US in recent months, we have seen the clash between citizens and the police in several cities.

As I reflect on these horrible events and how quickly life's situation changes, I have thought about the two Greek words for time: *chronos* and *kairos*. *Chronos* refers to measured time—the tick-tock of the clock, the markings of days and weeks on the calendar. *Kairos* refers to time God marks off and fills with meaning.

Our culture is obsessed with *chronos* time: the years of a person's life; the months of the school year; the hours of the work day; the length of a TV program, the minutes of a football game and, for some, the length of the worship service. Because our lives are oriented around the 24/7 hours/days, we are constantly aware of *chronos* time.

Merchandise advertisers are most adept in the use of *chronos* time. There is the urgency in the voice promoting the merchandise, the ads for the "best bargains of the year," this Thursday through Saturday only "buy one and get two free."

*Kairos* time is very different from *chronos* time. In addition to creation, a dramatic example of *kairos* is the birth of Jesus: *and the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory,*

Continued on Page 2

The Lutheran Church of the Covenant

19000 Libby Road, Maple Heights, Ohio 44137 Phone: (216) 662-0370 Fax: (216) 662-0371

CovenantLC@sbcglobal.net Web site: www.covenantmaplehts.org

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

Continued from Page 1

*the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth* (John 1:14). In the *kairos* of Jesus, God acted freely by giving a sure word which honors and intensifies life. It makes a difference to us to know of this *kairos*.

With the senseless atrocities we have witnessed in our country and many foreign lands, I am certain many of us have sought, and continue to seek, the heart of God—the place where *chronos* and *kairos*, time and timelessness, meet. Unable to comprehend the reason for murderous acts, we ask God to help us to bear the *chronos* event as an aberration of evil within God's *kairos*. These atrocities show us we cannot control what happens in *chronos*, but we can become more aware and open to God's *kairos*.

Jean Blomquist, a writer of contemporary religious issues and spirituality, writes about her attempt to balance the personal, professional and spiritual aspects of her life in an article, *Holy Time, Holy Timing* (in *Weavings*, Vol. VI, No. 1): "I've discovered at least two things, neither of which I yet fully comprehend. First, there is a holy timing that deals with the larger order and rhythm of our life events. Second, each moment, regardless of what we are doing, can be a *kairos* moment. The long stretch of holy timing and the immediate *chronos* moment link our lives with God. The challenge that continually confronts us as people of faith is to incorporate God's holy timing into our lives. We seek to discover the meeting place of *chronos* and *kairos* and to open our hearts to the holy within each *chronos* minute." Blomquist advises that we must strive for a continuous, centered interaction with the Holy Spirit who will reveal to us (perhaps not in our impatient *chronos* time, however) the holy timing of God.

We live, in varying degrees, with fear and anxiety from the hideous acts of murder in our own homeland and others' homelands. We as a nation and we as Christians are aware of our vulnerability, in terms of physical life. Media reporters constantly remind us about the potential harmful acts that might be inflicted upon us. There is only one source of surety for us—that is God's gift to us in Jesus Christ.

As I think about the atrocities in both the US and elsewhere, I have found Paul's letter to the Church in Rome provides me with some feeling of well-being and peace, and I pray this Scripture may provide you with some feeling of well-being and peace. Romans 8:38-39 present a compelling statement as the basis for Christian confidence during these uncertain times. *For I am convinced that there is nothing in death or life, in the realm of spirits or superhuman powers, in the world as it is or the world as it shall be, in the forces of the universe, in heights or depths—nothing in all creation that can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.* (The NEW ENGLISH BIBLE translation) We can be assured there is nothing that we can imagine, including people with assault weapons that have no place in civilian society, that have the power to frustrate God's care and love for us, in this life and the next.

As you seek peace of heart for yourself and others, ask the Holy Spirit to keep you in close contact with God. Set aside some *chronos* time--10 to 20 minutes--each day to "center" yourself on God. "Seek first God's rule and God's okaying of you," Jesus said, "and then the other things will fall into place" (paraphrase of Matt 6:33). When we become aware of God's presence in our lives, *kairos* moments may occur when least expected.

Regardless of the external circumstances over which we have no control, the rhythmic pulse of living is felt in that well-known passage from Ecclesiastes 3:1-2: *For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to reap.*

As we live with uncertainty, may your *chronos* time realize the blessings of God's *kairos* time.

Kenneth J. Anderson, Interim Pastor

## YOUR COUNCIL IN ACTION

January 13 was a long meeting for the Council from 7:00 P.M. until after 10:00 P.m. Why such a long meeting? Well, there was a lot of important business to be taken care of.

First, extending the contract of our Interim Pastor, which was to terminate on February 28, 2015, and leave us without a spiritual leader. Yes, Pastor Anderson's contract was extended until we have a permanent pastor or either gives 30 days' notice.

Also there was the 2015 Budget that was extended from the last Assembly Meeting. Mike Davis, knowing that it would be a long discussion, asked that it be done as the last item of the meeting. Mike, in his usual thorough way, used information from the last several years to create as accurate a budget as possible. That, along with the fact that the total pledged amount remained the same even though we had several members pass away over the last few years, helps to keep our challenge smaller.

These matters were presented at the Assembly Meeting on January 25 and passed unanimously. We did have to extend the monies we borrowed from ourselves until the end of June because of several bills that had to be paid in January. Everyone is looking at ways of cutting costs and even though they are small, these efforts will add up to make a big difference.

There was a good turnout for the meeting. We celebrated Janet Wilkins' birthday with cupcakes even though she was not there because of the slippery weather. She makes so much food for all in the congregation that we wanted to celebrate her on her birthday.

Written reports were presented by Pastor Anderson and the various board chairs. Chuck Dickey gave a verbal report on the Call Committee and where they are in the call process. Information from those reports is included in this newsletter.

Please keep Council and your Call Committee in your prayers. They are working hard to do the best for Our Church and what the Lord would have us do with Covenant. Don't forget our Interim Pastor who is carrying on the spiritual work of Covenant and says he is glad to continue, but not for a long, long, long.... time. May God Bless us All!

*Dick Ptak, President*

## Call Committee Update

The Call Committee has now completed the Ministry Site Profile and submitted it to the Synod office. While we wait for them to complete the matching process with pastors seeking calls, we have set up a practice interview session with Pastor Lewis of Advent Lutheran for February 4. Each member of the call committee has chosen a specific area of interest to them to compose questions for the interviews.

Judy Hoshek reminded us that to be fair to all candidates our interview process should be as similar as possible for each candidate. The call committee is planning to provide a meal for the candidates before each interview to casually introduce ourselves and make the candidates feel as comfortable as possible. Right now the call committee is planning on doing potluck meals for each interview, but would very much appreciate any congregational support to defray costs or provide some cooking.

As we set up interviews we will keep the congregation informed, but the candidate names must remain private. We would appreciate your continued prayers as we take our next steps, and with the Holy Spirit's guidance we will once again find God's solution to our pastoral needs.

*Chuck Dickey, Call Committee  
Chairman*

Events During Lent

**Faustnacht Party for Shrove (Fat) Tuesday**  
February 17, 5:30-7:00  
at Master

**Ash Wednesday Eucharist**  
February 18  
Noon at Covenant  
7:00 p.m. at Master

**Mid-week Lenten Soup Suppers & Holden Evening Prayer services**

Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.  
Feb. 25, March 4 & 11  
at Covenant  
March 18 & 25 at Master

**Palm Sunday**  
Sunday, March 29 at 9:00 a.m.

**Maundy Thursday**  
at Covenant with  
Master and South Haven  
April 2 at 7:00 p.m.

**Good Friday**  
at Master with South Haven  
April 3 at 7:00 p.m.

**Easter**  
Sunday, April 5  
Easter Vigil at Sunrise:  
6:00 a.m.  
Pancake Breakfast: 7:30 a.m.  
Festival Eucharist:  
9:00 a.m.

*Dedicating Easter Lilies*

If you would like to purchase and dedicate an Easter altar lily, sign up on the list at the back of the sanctuary or contact the Church Office at 216-662-0370 no later than Monday, March 16. The cost is \$7 each for a 6" pot, with checks payable to the Altar Guild.

Please indicate to whom it should be dedicated.

Plants can be picked up after the Easter service.



**Mid-Week Lenten Soup Supper & Worship**

This year we will join again with the people of Lutheran Church of the Master during the Wednesday evenings of Lent for soup supper and worship with the Holden Evening Prayer, beginning February 25 and continuing through March 25. The theme for this year's worship will be The Tree of Life in Lent. The Lenten devotions will focus on the biblical use of the tree of life, based on the Scripture in Genesis 2:8-9, 15-18; 3:22-24. For Christians, that tree is the cross. Each week a biblical passage and a hymn cast some light on the cross of Christ as our tree of life.

Week 1, February 25: The tree of life in Eden is given, and then denied.

Week 2, March 4: God transforms the low tree into the tree of life.

Week 3, March 11: We hold fast to wisdom, as if it were the very tree of life.

Week 4, March 18: The mustard bush is a tree of life only in a hidden way.

Week 5, March 25: Love, joy, peace, patience...are fruits of the tree of life.

The mid-week Lenten observance begins at 6:00 p.m with the soup supper, followed by the Holden Evening Prayer at 6:45 p.m. The service will end at approximately 7:30 p.m. Due to a pastor's schedule, Lutheran Church of the Covenant will host the first three Wednesdays supper and worship instead of alternating location each week, as in past years. The fourth and fifth Wednesday supper and worship will be at Lutheran Church of the Master, 860 Northfield Road, Bedford.

The five Lenten mid-week soup supper and worship provide each of us with the opportunity for community fellowship with the people of our sister ELCA congregation and share with them the beauty and quiet time of the Holden Evening Prayer. These events will help us to prepare our minds and our hearts for the sacrifice of Christ's life for our salvation that we observe during Holy Week. Members and visitors are welcome for supper and worship each of the five weeks.



Lent is a time of prayer, service, and self-examination. During this time, many of us choose to live simpler lives, remembering those who do not have the food, money, or resources to simply live. During the Lenten Soup Suppers, we will remember those who are hungry and living in poverty this season.

Why not join together for a meal and help fight hunger at the same time? Enjoy global cuisine while learning about the world and how gifts to ELCA World Hunger are making a difference. Instead of charging for the meal, LCC and COTM will collect donations to support ELCA World Hunger.

The Lutheran Church of the Covenant presents

# PALM SATURDAY CHILDREN’S EVENT

## Saturday, March 28, 9:30 a.m.

for Children ages 3 thru 8th grade.

This event for children will be held at

The Lutheran Church of the Covenant, 19000 Libby Road, Maple Hts., OH 44137, 216-662-0370

**Holy Week and Easter are the heart of the church year. Palm Saturday prepares children for the whole range of the church’s experience from Palm Sunday through Easter.**

**The day will include storytelling, crafts, and an Easter Egg Hunt.**

Children must be accompanied by an adult. (Space is limited to the first 40 children that enroll, so please register early!)

-----  
**Registration:**

Children’s Names \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_

Food allergies \_\_\_\_\_

Special Needs \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Chaperone’s Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this form to the church office by Friday, March 20 so that Covenant will have adequate supplies for the activities on Sat., March 28. Lunch will be provided (Sub sandwiches, chips, cookies and beverage).**

## Blessed Birthday

### Wishes to...

A blessed birthday to each of the following Covenant members born in

#### February:

- 2nd - Aubree McPherson
- 4th - Nel Lanese
- 11th- Kenneth Schuetz
- 14th- Rich Nemeth
- 15th- Hildegard Schulz
- 17th- Bill Scott
- 23rd- Jody Bernardo,  
Harrison Werner
- 25th- Bryan Gaglione
- 27th- Jen Garberich,  
Markeya Gay
- 28th- Rita Eitel, Deborah Dickey



#### March:

- 3/2 Claudia Senderak,  
Alexandra King
- 3/4 Scott Spychola
- 3/5 Maren Dickey
- 3/11 Harry Werner
- 3/16 Deena Gaglione-  
Hernandez
- 3/19 Christopher Gaglione
- 3/24 Daralynn Constant,  
Avery Lockmiller
- 3/30 Toni Ridgell
- 3/31 Vanessa Besednjak

## Happy Anniversary

### Wishes to...

- 2/14 William & Jacquelyn  
Blogna
- 3/6 George & Eleanor  
Lautanen
- 3/12 Christy & Mark  
Hambleton



## Adult Education and Bible Study Sessions

Sunday morning, following our worship service, there are two options for adults, members and visitors, to participate in an adult Sunday School class. One group, known as "Harry's Class," meets in the Lounge and is led by Rev. Harry Werner. We have lively and fun interactions with each other as we discuss each Sunday's lessons in light of our day to day experiences. We would certainly welcome any and all who would like to join us. Oh, and we do provide the Lutheran third sacrament-coffee-and, occasionally, Marie Zahn's fabulous baked goods.

The other group, functioning for many years as the Berean Bible Class is currently led by Pastor Anderson. This group meets in the kitchen overflow area adjacent to Parish Hall. Coffee and refreshments are provided by participants.

The Berean Bible Class on Sunday, February 8, will begin reading and discussing the book, Remembering Your Story, by Richard L. Morgan, a retired Presbyterian pastor with extensive experience in older adult ministry. We will be reading and discussing a way to create our own spiritual autobiography during a ten-week period (or longer) that includes a wide range of topics, including Life Stories, Childhood Stories, Family Relationships, Stories that Connect the Generations, and Healing of Memories.

Morgan provides well-developed illustrative material that aids in producing productive thoughts about how we became who we are and where we are going. There is the Four Ages Questionnaire that provides questions to arouse memory of one's life: Childhood and Teen Years, birth to age 25; Second Age (26-50); Third Age (51-75), and the Fourth Age (75+). While the class participants will be encouraged to enter the world of spiritual autobiography, there will be opportunities to share spiritual stories, if one is so inclined.

If you wish to participate in Remembering Your Story, please speak to Pastor Anderson or Alex Hohenstein to reserve a copy of the book that costs \$10.00. If the cost is difficult for you, we will make provision for you to have the book.



After a winter break, **the Bible Brunch** will meet on Thursday, March 19 at 9:30 a.m. in the kitchen overflow area. We gather around a meal and then are fed by the word of God. The Pastor's Bible study will be comparing the four Gospel texts regarding Jesus' final week in Jerusalem.

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 meet on the third Thursday of the month through May. Mark these next few dates on your calendar: April 16, May 21.

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, resuming on March 4, and again on April 1, and May 6. 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 Retirees Luncheon is set for Thursday, February 12 at noon in the Parish Hall. Mark your calendars!

After a party tray lunch, a documentary about Euclid Beach Park. 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.

# THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE COVENANT

## FEBRUARY 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 am Sunday Eucharist 10:30 am Potluck & Movie	2	3 7:00 pm Bd. of Worship & Music - Pastor's Office	4 6:30 pm Call Committee Mock Interview	5	6 5:00 Confirm. Retreat Begins	7 3:00 Confirm. Retreat Ends 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Eucharist
8 9:00 am Sunday Eucharist 10:30 am Sunday School Hour	9	10 7:00 pm Council Meeting in Parlor	11	12 Noon Retirees Luncheon 7:30 Lion's Club Meeting in Parish Hall	13	14 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Eucharist
15 9:00 am Sunday Eucharist 10:30 am Sunday School Hour	16	17 5:30 Faustnacht (Fat Tuesday) Pancake Dinner at Master 7:00 pm Evangelism & Social Ministry Mtg. in Parlor	18 Ash Wednesday Services: 12:00 Covenant 7:00 Master	19 7:00 pm Board of Education Mtg. in Parlor	20	21 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Eucharist
22 9:00 am Sunday Eucharist 10:30 am Sunday School Hour	23 11:00 am Bd of Managers - Conf. Rm.  *****	24	25 6:00 Lenten Soup Supper at Covenant	26 6:00 pm Covenant-Hope Community Meal	27	28 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Eucharist
***** ECOT TESTING FEB 23 - MAR 6 9:00-2:00 *****						

# THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE COVENANT

## MARCH 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 am Sunday Eucharist 10:30 am Sunday School Hour	2  *****	3 7:00 pm Bd. of Worship & Music - Pastor's Office  ECOT TESTING FEB 23 - MAR 6	4 6:00 Lenten Soup Supper at Covenant	5  9:00-2:00	6  *****	7 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Eucharist
8 9:00 am Sunday Eucharist 10:30 am Sunday School Hour 5:00-8:00 Confirmation Class at CTK - Twinsburg	9	10 7:00 pm Council Meeting in Parlor	11 6:00 Lenten Soup Supper at Covenant	12 7:30 Lion's Club Meeting in Parish Hall	13	14 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Eucharist
15 9:00 am Sunday Eucharist 10:30 am Sunday School Hour	16  *****	17 7:00 pm Evangelism & Social Ministry Mtg. in Parlor  ECOT TESTING MARCH 16 - 25	18 6:00 Lenten Soup Supper at Master	19 7:00 pm Board of Education Mtg. in Parlor  9:00-2:00	20  *****	21 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Eucharist
22 9:00 am Sunday Eucharist 10:30 am Sunday School Hour	23  *ECOT TESTING MARCH 16-25	24	25 6:00 Lenten Soup Supper at Master  9:00-2:00 *	26 6:00 pm Covenant-Hope Community Meal	27	28 9:30 a.m Palm Saturday 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Eucharist
29 Palm Sunday 9:00 am Sunday Eucharist 10:30 am Sunday School Hour	30 11:00 am Bd of Managers - Conf. Rm. 7:00 pm Mutual Ministry - Pastor's Office	31	April 1	April 2 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thurs. Service at Covenant with Master and South Haven	April 3 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service at Master with Covenant and South Haven	April 4 No Saturday Evening Eucharist



## *Patrick Parker Returns to Covenant for an Organ Recital Featuring J.S. Bach*

On March 7, 2015 at 7 P.M. Patrick Parker, who served as our Organist from April 2010-June 2011, is returning to Ohio to play a solo organ recital before departing for Leipzig, Germany where he will be an exchange student at the University of Leipzig and guest student at the Mendelsson Conservatory.

The candle-lit concert will feature fabulous German music outlining Bach's influences, his music, and the legacy he influenced, in Covenant's sanctuary, which he describes as "a wonderful acoustic" and "an organ perfect for the repertoire".

The program will be in preparation for the Ninth International Taraverdiev Competition, and will be his last concert before heading to Germany.

In addition to the concert, there will be an Art of the Covenant Gallery opening featuring our own Marge Buettner's rug hooking pieces. There will be a reception after the concert.

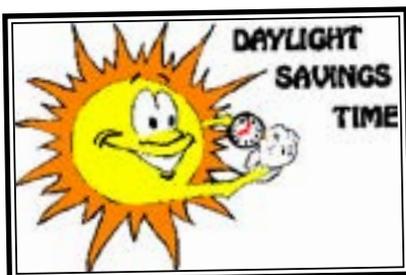
### *Program*

I. Bach's Influences: The North German Baroque  
 Passacaglia d-moll BuxWV 161-D. Buxtehude (1637/9-1707)  
 Nun komm der Heiden Heiland BuxWV 211  
 Magnificat Germanice -H. Praetorius (1560-1629)  
 Nun bitten wir den heiligen Geist BuxWV 209  
 Fuga in G Minor-Reincken (1643-1722)  
 Erhalt uns, Herr, bei deinem Wort BuxWV 185  
 Praeludium in G major-N. Bruhns (1665-1697)

II. J.S. Bach: The Central German Baroque  
 Praeludium et Fuga in c, BWV 546-Bach (1685-1750)  
 Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland BWV 659  
 Sonate VI G-Dur BWV 530  
 Praeludium et Fuga in b, BWV 544  
 III. Bach's Legacy: The German Romantics  
 Andante in D Major-F. Mendelssohn (1809-1847)  
 Sechs Fugen über den Namen Bach, op. 60-Schumann  
 VI. Mässig, nach und nach schneller (1810-1856)

THANK YOU from Southeast Clergy Hunger Center. Everyone's generosity has allowed the Hunger Center to provide over 30,000 days of food in 2014 for needy individuals in our community. Over half of those individuals are either senior citizens or children, the most vulnerable in the community.

According to statistics from the Cleveland Foodbank (provided by all of the over 300 hunger centers in northern Ohio), our hunger center provides almost 2 pounds more food per person per visit than the average hunger center, thanks to the generosity of all who contribute to our center. Please continue to help us do God's work for those in need.



## *February 1: Potluck & a Movie/ Pre-Pre-Super Bowl Party*

The quarterly "Potluck and a Movie" originally scheduled for Jan. 18 has been rescheduled for Sun., Feb. 1, which happens to be Super Bowl Sunday. So we're calling it a PRE-PRE-SUPERBOWL PARTY.

Join us during the Sunday School hour (plus another hour) for potluck and a movie! The feature film is an "Oprah Winfrey Presents: *For One More Day*" written by Mitch Albom (the author of *Tuesdays with Morrie* and *The Five People You Meet In Heaven*).

Synopsis: A suicidal former baseball player is granted one more day with his deceased mother. It is inspiring, thought-provoking, and heart-warming.

Everyone is invited! Sign up at the back of the Sanctuary or call the Church office.

Don't forget to "SPRING FORWARD" and set your clocks ahead one hour on the morning of Sunday, March 8. You won't want to miss the Eucharist service for the 3rd Sunday in Lent!

# Board Reports

### Board of Education

The Board of Education sponsored the annual Christmas pageant on December 28. Over 20 people attended and participated in the play “Too Many Shepherds” where we revisited the story of Jesus birth and recognized that the shepherds were the first ones to spread the Good News about Jesus and that we are modern day shepherds whose important job it is to continue to spread the Good News!

### Board of Managers

The faucet in the small bathroom off the sacristy office has been replaced. It was constantly leaking and all the fittings were badly corroded. Kevin Cutlip of KLC Plumbing donated the faucet and his labor. He also had to replace the 2 shut off valves and the P-trap. I directed the Council Secretary (Paula) to write a thank you note to Mr. Cutlip from the congregation.

### Board of Finance

The 2015 Stewardship drive yielded 41 pledges totaling \$100,276.00. In addition to the Stewardship Committee, a big thank you goes to all the members who assisted with the drive.

Offering envelopes for the year 2015 have been distributed. The few that have not been collected will be mailed. 2014 Giving statements were available for pickup on Sunday, January 18, 2015. Contact the Church Office if you did not receive yours.

### Board of Worship & Music

The Palm Saturday Event, which has been held the last three years is coming up on Saturday, March 28. Volunteers will be needed as usual.

## Journey Forward: Northeastern Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America God’s Work. Our Hands

The Journey Forward is a process that groups of individuals in the cluster churches are engaging in in an effort to discover where God is calling us to tend the Gospel and love God by serving our neighbor.

The cluster (community of churches) through training and support is working to find out God’s will for our group of churches. Our individual congregations will be gathering information, developing spiritual practices and building relationships in an effort to find out God’s will for our congregation’s future.

The participants of The Journey Forward at Covenant have been gathering information about members of Covenant. We have been conducting individual interviews in order to really get to know who we are and what it means to be a member of Covenant. We must learn to know each other and discover where we want to be as a congregation as well as where we want our congregation to be in relation to our community. It is not enough to come to church once a week, share the peace and go about our lives for the rest of the week without making a difference in each other’s lives and the lives of the members of our community. We must continue to strive to build relationships so that we can become closer to each other. Then, together we can work to bring others closer to God through our collective efforts.

We are now venturing on to the next phase of the process. We are beginning to gather information about members of the community. We will be meeting with individuals who live in Maple Heights and discussing their concerns and getting to know them. In addition we will be interviewing city and school officials and key member of the community.

In order to reach out, reflect Christ and renew lives, we must venture out of our four walls and get involved with our community. We must get out of our comfort zone and be disciples of Christ willing to make a difference. We need to do God’s work with our hands and hearts.

Mary Kaye Bernardo



Northeastern Ohio Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God’s work. Our hands.

### Board of Evangelism & Social Ministry/ Vision for the Future

The Career/Jobs Fair in May of last year -- first joint effort with Maple Heights Lions Club/Urban League of Greater Cleveland was a tremendous success. There were 200 in attendance. There were over 15 vendors, including four that work with re-entry individuals toward employment. This was a much needed service to the greater community. We are planning another Career/Jobs Fair to take place in early spring.

The monthly community dinners continue with a gradual slow increase in attendance. This cooperative venture with Hope United Methodist has been a wonderful experience for those involved. It is a great way for the two churches to reach out to a community that is much in need of a place to gather to discuss concerns and connect with people who really care. The only missing ingredient is attendance by members of Covenant. This is one way to serve Christ with little effort—and you get a delicious meal while you are reaching out, reflecting Christ and renewing lives.

The committee is also discussing ways that we can reach out to members of Covenant that are not able to attend church on a regular basis. In addition to taking communion to these shut-ins, we hope to plan regular visits and include them in the good things that are happening at Covenant.

St. Nick Night was a tremendous success this year. Attendance was up from the past few years. The families that attended seemed to really enjoy the activities and were more involved. Parents were very appreciative of our efforts and willing and eager to help with activities and clean up.

We are looking forward to Palm Saturday. Sharon Steward is working on Camp Covenant 2015.

## Christmas 2014



Above: United Handbell Choir.  
Below: Crooked River Brass Quintet.



Candlelight photos by Elaine Knerem



# 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.**

If you would prefer to receive the newsletter online instead, contact [covenantlc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:covenantlc@sbcglobal.net).

The newsletters are always available our website [CovenantMapleHts.org](http://CovenantMapleHts.org).

## Patrick Parker Returns to Covenant for an Organ Recital

Featuring J.S. Bach

March 7, 2015 at 7 P.M.

Followed by an

## Art of the Covenant Gallery

opening featuring our own

Marge Buettner's  
Rug Hooking pieces.

See page 9 for details.

## Covenant Recycles!

Bring your paper & cardboard each time  
you come for worship or events.

Covenant earns money 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 \* Phone Books \* 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!