

Covenant NEWS



Pastor's Perspective

Rev. Kenneth J. Anderson, Interim Pastor

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The moon, interestingly enough, has influenced the Church Calendar in determining the date of Easter. The rules that determine the date of Easter trace back to the First Council of Nicaea convened in 325 CE (Christian Era) by the Roman Emperor Constantine. Accordingly, Easter Sunday is the first Sunday following the first full moon following the vernal equinox. This year, with the vernal equinox, the first day of spring, being March 20 and the first full moon after March 20 being April 4, Easter Sunday is April 5. In 2016, Easter will be celebrated on March 27, only five days after the earliest possible date.

The Western Churches—Roman Catholic and Protestant—use the Gregorian calendar (established in 1582 by Pope Gregory XIII) in determining the date of Easter Sunday, whereas the Eastern Orthodox Churches use the Julian calendar (established during the reign of Julius Caesar, 1st century BC). As a result, Easter Sunday in the Western and Eastern Churches is celebrated on two different Sundays.

Although we say Easter is the great high feast of the Christian year, most of us would have to admit that we prefer Christmas. Since we know what a baby is, the birth of the Son of God as one of us is more tangible than to grasp the resurrection of the man, Jesus, and his transcendence over the mortality of humans. Besides, it is more satisfying to sing about the little town of Bethlehem on that silent night than to sing about Golgotha, the cross and the tomb.

I can assure you, as a pastor, the Easter Day sermon is perhaps one of the most difficult sermons to prepare. Why is that? It is due, in part, to the awareness that for many in the congregation that day will be one of two times they will hear the gospel message all year. That awareness, plus the message of Easter is so much more than mere words, creates a great deal of anguish while preparing for those few minutes of communication.

Continued on Page 2



April - May 2015

The Lutheran Church of the Covenant
19000 Libby Road, Maple Heights, Ohio 44137 Phone: (216) 662-0370 Fax: (216) 662-0371
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Continued from Page 1

The Easter message of resurrection -- however firmly we may believe -- is extremely difficult to communicate. The reason is that resurrection is completely outside our human experience. The scriptural accounts of the events of Easter never try to explain anything. They simply state what happened: *that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures* (1 Cor. 15:4). They offer no explanation; it is simply a fact.

The resurrection of Jesus means that he remains forever one of us, for he is raised not as a disembodied spirit, an ex-human being in the flesh, different to be sure but recognizable to his friends and enemies. The risen Christ did not abandon his human body but glorified it. The crowning image of Easter is the joining together of the human and the divine, the promise that *this mortal body puts on immortality* (1 Cor. 15:54).

Easter is about reconciliation: God reconciling the world to Himself through Jesus Christ. Easter is our coming to terms with being reconciled and redeemed, and our moving into a new relationship with Jesus who was crucified and is risen. Human life has become infinitely more valuable, because the fact is that the Lord is risen! He is risen, indeed!

May the seven weeks of the Easter Season be a time for each of us to think deeply about what and who and why we celebrate Easter.

Kenneth J. Anderson, Interim Pastor



Rite of Confirmation

May 31, 4:00 p.m.

On Sunday, May 31, Holy Trinity Sunday, Katie Garberich, along with classmates from Christ the King (Twinsburg) and Advent (Solon) Lutheran Churches, will affirm her baptism in the rite of Confirmation. The ceremony will be held at Covenant at 4:00. The pastors from each church will participate in the Eucharist service, and the sermon will be preached by Bishop Abraham D. Allende. A reception will be held in the Parish Hall after the service.

Like other confirmands before them, these students now takes personal responsibility for living out the promises their parents made at their baptisms.

As adult members of Christ's family, confirmands express their intentions to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

They also vote at congregational meetings and are encouraged to worship and serve in the church and beyond. They are greatly supported by family and the church community in their walk of faith and in fulfilling the promises they make to God at their rite of confirmation.

Please keep Katie and her classmates in your prayers as they prepare to take this step along their journey of faith, and pray for the confirmands that will come after them, that they grow and develop as followers of Christ.

YOUR COUNCIL IN ACTION

The Congregational Assembly meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, May 17, beginning at 10:45 a.m., following the Eucharist. The highlight of this meeting will be the election of council members. Discussion on the budget and the Call Committee's progress will also be featured.

The board positions with terms expiring this year are: Chairperson of the Board of Education; Chairperson of the Board of Worship & Music; Chairperson of the Board of Finance; President and Vice President.

If you would like to nominate someone, please contact Vice President Ted Lockmiller, who is leading the Council during Council President Dick Ptak's hiatus.

The next Parish Council meetings will be held on Tuesday, April 14 and May 12.

A Reminder from The Board of Finance

It is almost April, the days are getting longer and hopefully warmer, and for some time away on vacation(s).

We would like to remind you as you pack your bags to include Covenant on your "to do" list and make arrangements to manage your offerings to Covenant while you are away.

Being current in your commitment to Covenant will ensure that Covenant does not fall behind in its financial obligations.

We wish you sunny days ahead and a *bon voyage* to all who will be traveling in the near future.

Maud Wright
Board of Finance Chairperson

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE:

Communications with Synod regarding pastoral candidates are progressing. Church council is reviewing our present financial status to ensure that any candidates understand clearly what we as a congregation can manage. Since the draft of our Ministry Site Profile our budget has been more challenging.

We ask each member to pray for Covenant, Council and the Call Committee as we try to discern God's will for Covenant.

Chuck Dickey
Call Committee Chairperson

Potluck & a Movie:

Sunday, June 7, 10:45 a.m.

The next Potluck and a Movie event hosted by the Board of Education will be on June 7, beginning after the Sunday Eucharist.

This is the last event of the Sunday School Year.

There will be a sign-up sheet available in May. Please be sure to put your name on the list!

The movie selection is still being finalized. If you know of a film which would be thought-provoking and relevant for our Potluck & Movie Days, please let Chuck Dickey know.



Spring Flower Sale

The Covenant Lutheran Women are sponsoring a plant sale. Orders must be placed with payment by Sunday, April 26. Orders can be picked up at the Church on Saturday, May 16 from 9AM-Noon.

The annuals can be ordered by the flat or by the 1/2 flat. Vegetables can be ordered by the flat, 1/2 flat or tray. All flats are 36 plants. No single plants will be sold this year.

You might also wish to donate flowers to the church by adding extra money to your payment. If you need a form, contact the Church Office or Arlene Lasher at 216.662.1939.

Holy Week Schedule

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: 6:00 a.m.
Pancake Breakfast: 7:30 a.m.
Festival Eucharist: 9:00 a.m.



*Soup Supper
Offerings for
ELCA
World Hunger*

During the Lenten Soup Suppers this season, we remembered those who are hungry and living in poverty.

The combined offerings collected at the soup suppers, which alternated between The Lutheran Church of the Covenant and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Master, totaled \$480.50!

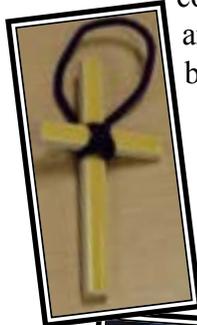
Lent is a time of prayer, service, and self-examination. During this time, many of us choose to live simpler lives, remembering those who do not have the food, money, or resources to simply live.

What a perfect combination: joining together for a meal and helping fight hunger at the same time! At the suppers, we enjoyed global cuisine while learning about the world and how gifts to ELCA World Hunger are making a difference.

If you were unable to attend the suppers, you are welcome to make a donation to support ELCA World Hunger. Designate "ELCA World Hunger" on the check or envelope.

Palm Saturday Children's Event - March 28

The annual Palm Saturday children's event on March 28 offered fun for children (and their parents, grandparents, or aunts & uncles) in the congregation and community. Crafts and games were fun, and the story of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem was brought to life.



Covenant Farmers Market

This is the fifth year for the Covenant Farmers' Market! Plans are under way for this year's program. We ran a strong business last year thanks to the bakery that was donated and all the volunteers that helped out. We made our Church known in the community with people coming back to buy and share their recipes. We waved at every vehicle passing the Church during our market and a lot came in. We were able to contribute profits to the general fund and to the Covenant-Hope Community Meals.

We will start the Market on June 27, when the produce becomes available. The Market will run from 9:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. every Saturday through October 3. We will have our big Harvest Festival on October 10 to finish the year. With our faithful vendors and the produce and bakery we sold last year, we did well. We are looking at getting more vendors including one for bakery and getting produce grown locally or at our own homes. We are also brainstorming on more things to encourage customers to stay for a while, like the hot dogs and pop for \$1.

Our devoted customers are looking forward to this year's market. If you know of any people that have things suitable to be sold at our market please let them know. We look forward to an even better Farmers' Market this year and hope that you will visit and take advantage of fresh produce right from our own backyard.

*Dick Ptak
Director of Covenant Farmers' Market*

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, returned 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 featured fabulous German music outlining Bach's influences, his music, and the legacy he influenced.

After the concert, attendees were treated to the Art of the Covenant Gallery opening featuring our own Marge Buettner's rug hooking pieces.



Blessed Birthday Wishes to...

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

April:

- 4/2 James Gradert
- 4/3 Rebecca Fridley
- 4/5 Bruce Constant, Markese Gay
- 4/6 Matthew Fridley
- 4/7 Dorothy Devorak, Gary Edler
- 4/10 Helene Egley, Jackie Blogna
Ted Lockmiller
- 4/17 Markiira Gay
- 4/20 Bob Franz, Tom Susanek
- 4/22 Annie Copeland
- 4/27 Charlotte Zaranka
- 4/28 Marion Lick



Happy Anniversary Wishes to...

- 4/9 Deb & Chuck Dickey
- 4/15 Toni & Robert Ridgell
- 4/15 Sheila & Harry Werner

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



The present condition of our physical plant as it relates to the future plans of the Lutheran Church of the Covenant in 2015 & 2016

The original church building was built and dedicated in the early 1950s. The large educational wing with all the classrooms was built and dedicated about 10 years later in the early 1960s. When we had the fire in 1981 the entire shingled roof over the sanctuary was replaced with insurance proceeds. That roof is now 34 years old and in the next few years will need to be replaced. The flat roofs over the kitchen and education wing were replaced about 20 years ago, so we could expect in about 10 years or so we will need major repairs to these flat roofs.

The boiler heating system was installed in 1975 (40 years ago). While the burner system and boiler seem to be in fairly good condition, we are seeing some failures in the electrical control system. We are hopeful that components are still available after 40 years.

To save the parking lot surface from further damage and instead of replacing it, the lot needs a major crack filling project.

In inspecting the outside brick veneer, I see many areas where tuck-pointing is needed; this is replacing the mortar that has deteriorated from the joints. Over the course of the next 20 years I see these projects as concerns of our physical plant.

In late February I obtained a budgetary quote to repair the flat roof over the education wing since this roof is giving us the most problems at this time. This is the same roof area that had major leakage onto the hallway by the Library Room in 2013. There were other leaks that occurred on February 10 and 21, 2015 during brief warm spells, also in the same hallway. The quote from Ruffo and Company is for approximately \$9,800.00 because it is felt the old roof has to be removed and some wood rafters replaced due to the previous leakages. This is just a budgetary quote, an actual quote can only be made after a visual inspection and even then not until after the rafters are exposed.

Perhaps with careful planning, working together and with God's help we can fund and complete this current project

*Alex Hohenstein
Board of Managers*



Bible Study and Retirees Club

After a winter break, Bible study is set to resume. **The Bible Brunch and Women's Bible Study are merging.**

The Bible Brunch will now meet on the third Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. in the kitchen overflow area. So mark your calendar for April 21 and May 19.

We gather around a meal and then are fed by the word of God with the Pastor's Bible study.

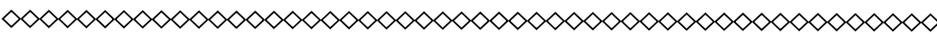
All are welcome! Come and share with your brothers and sisters in Christ

as well as deepen your faith in the study of Holy Scripture.

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

The next Retirees Luncheon is set for Thursday, April 9 at noon in the Parish Hall. 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.



Let's Head Back to Camp! Camp Covenant

Covenant is again hosting a summer day camp for local children. "Camp Covenant" is designed to enrich your child academically, spiritually, physically and socially. The camp operates from June 15 to July 31, 2015. Doors are open from 7:30 to 3:30 p.m. Extended day is NOT offered this year.

Enrollment packets are available by email at campcovenantkids@yahoo.com or from The Lutheran Church of the Covenant. You may also get an enrollment packet from the camp director, Sister Sharon.

REGISTRATION IS FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED! We anticipate full enrollment, so don't delay! Registration dates are Saturdays April 18 and May 16; 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

The following items are due at the time you turn in your camp application:

- * The registration packet, which is available upon request.
- * \$295 camp activity fee PER CHILD. This is a one-time fee for the entire summer and must be paid in full PRIOR to the start of camp. The supply/activity fee covers reading/math materials, spiritual lessons, educational supplies, games, crafts, playground equipment, snacks, treats, stipends for our teen volunteers and compensation to adult staff.

We look forward to a wonderful, spirit-filled summer with your child at CAMP COVENANT 2015!!

For registration packet or more information, contact:
Sister Sharon Steward, Camp Covenant Director:
216-235-9920 campcovenantkids@yahoo.com



Blessed Birthday

Wishes to...

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

May:

- 5/2 Christopher Dickey
- 5/3 Phyllis Welker
Christy Hambleton
- 5/11 Judy Freeman
- 5/14 Lynn Fridley
- 5/19 Frank Novak, Bernice Novak,
Arlene Lasher, Steven Kobella
- 5/21 Joan Garvin
- 5/22 Jennifer Pekar
- 5/23 Don Schirmer
- 5/25 Ron Schirmer
- 5/26 Chuck Welker
- 5/28 Lois Gerstenberger,
Tracy Scheller
- 5/29 Ken Leonhardt
- 5/30 George Lautanen,
Jayden Kyle
- 5/31 Barbara Gerstenberger
Matthew Kobella

Happy Anniversary

Wishes to...

- 5/4 Douglas & Michelle Pekar
- 5/11 Karen & Raymond Zack
- 5/13 John & Shirley Ingham
- 5/22 Jen & Larry Garberich
- 5/25 Daralynn & Bruce Constant

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



Server Schedule - April & May

Date/Time	Asst. Min	Lector	Crucifer	Ushers	Altar Guild	Greeters
4/2 7pm Maundy Thurs.	Alex Hohenstein	None	Katie Garberich	M. Garvin, S. Senderak	Team 1: J. Rusher, C. Senderak, J. Skowronski, G. Susanek; Team 2: C. Frajter, J. Garvin, P. Treichel, M. Zahn **[Book Bearer: K Garberich; Torch Bearers: E. Garberich & A. Lockmiller]	
4/5 6am Easter Vigil	None	Daralynn Constant	Jody Bernardo	M. Garvin, B. Zahn		
4/5 9am Easter Day	Nel Lanese	Maud Wright	E Lockmiller; **	M. Garvin, B. Zahn		Arlene Lasher
4/12	Alex Hohenstein	Madeline Ptak	Katie Garberich	D. Schirmer, K. Frajter, S. Dobush	C. Frajter, J. Garvin, P. Treichel, M. Zahn	Alex and Paula Hohenstein
4/19	Allan Treichel	Ted Lockmiller	Ethan Lockmiller	M. Garvin, B. Zahn	S. Werner, H. Scheller, A. Copeland, P. Hohenstein	Don and Ron Schirmer
4/26	Madeline Ptak	Steve Dobush	Jody Bernardo	S. Senderak, V. Besednjak	S. Werner, H. Scheller, A. Copeland, P. Hohenstein	Janet Wilkens
5/3	Maud Wright	Nel Lanese	Katie Garberich	A. Treichel, B. Treichel	M. Ptak, N. Lanese, L. Bewsey	Bob and Donna Franz
5/10	Bert Zahn	Marie Zahn	Katie Garberich	D. Schirmer, K. Frajter, S. Dobush	M. Ptak, N. Lanese, L. Bewsey	Lois Gerstenberger
5/17	Alex Hohenstein	Ted Lockmiller	Ethan Lockmiller	M. Garvin, B. Zahn	J. Rusher, C. Senderak, J. Skowronski, G. Susanek	Barb Gaglione
5/24	Madeline Ptak	Steve Dobush	Jody Bernardo	A. Treichel, B. Treichel	J. Rusher, C. Senderak, J. Skowronski, G. Susanek	Annie Copeland
5/31	Marie Zahn	Bert Zahn	Katie Garberich	S. Senderak, V. Besednjak	C. Frajter, J. Garvin, P. Treichel, M. Zahn	Harry and Sheila Werner
6/7	Nel Lanese	Maud Wright	Ethan Lockmiller	A. Treichel, B. Treichel	C. Frajter, J. Garvin, P. Treichel, M. Zahn	Bert and Marie Zahn

Remember When....



We couldn't resist sharing these Church Picnic photos. Recognize these folks?

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE COVENANT

APRIL 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thurs. Service at Covenant with Master and South Haven	3 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service at Master with Covenant and South Haven	4 NO Saturday Evening Eucharist
5 6:00 am Easter Vigil 7:30 Breakfast 9:00 am Sunday Eucharist	6	7 7:00 pm Bd. of Worship & Music in Kitchen Overflow	8	9 Noon Retirees Luncheon 7:30 Lion's Club Meeting in Parish Hall	10	11 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Eucharist
12 9:00 am Sunday Eucharist 10:30 am Sunday School Hour 5:00 Confirm. Class at Master	13	14 7:00 pm Council Meeting in Parlor	15 8:30 - 5:30 Lifeline Screening in Parish Hall	16 7:00 pm Board of Education Mtg. in Parlor	17	18 12:00-1:00 Camp Covenant Registration 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Eucharist
19 9:00 am Sunday Eucharist 10:30 am Sunday School Hour	20	21 10:00 am Bible Brunch in Kitchen Overflow 7:00 pm Evangelism & Social Ministry Mtg. in Parlor	22	23	24	25 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Eucharist
26 9:00 am Sunday Eucharist 10:30 am Sunday School Hour	27	28	29	30 6:00 pm Covenant-Hope Community Meal	***** ECOI TESTING April 27 - May 1 & May 4-8 9:00-2:00 *****	

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE COVENANT

MAY 2015

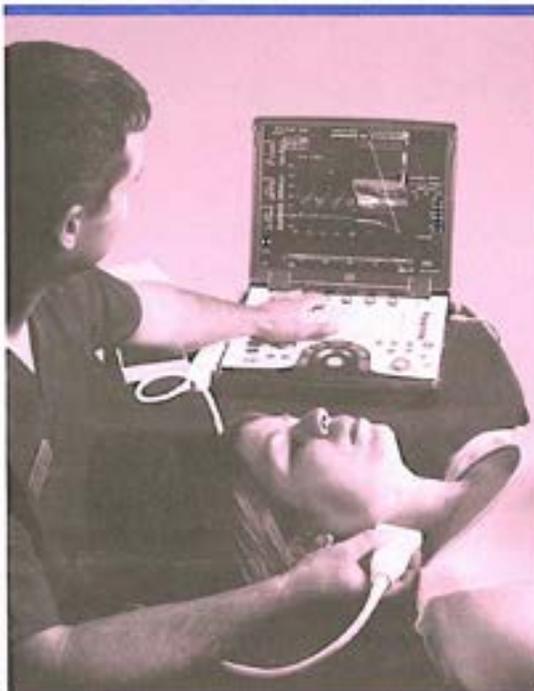
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 9:00-2:00 ECOT Testing	2 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Euch.
3 9:00 am Sunday Eucharist 10:30 am Sunday School	4 *****	5 7:00 pm Bd. of Worship & Music in Pastor's Office	6	7	8 9:00-2:00 *****	9 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Eucharist
10 9:00 am Sunday Eucharist 10:30 am Sunday School Hour 5:00 Confirm. Class CTK-Twb	11	12 7:00 pm Council Meeting in Parlor	13	14 7:30 Lion's Club Meeting in Parish Hall	15	16 12:00-1:00 Camp Covenant Registration 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Eucharist
17 9:00 am Sunday Eucharist 10:30 am Congregational Assembly Mtg. in Parish Hall	18	19 10:00 am Bible Brunch in Kitchen Overflow 7:00 pm Evangelism & Social Ministry Mtg. in Parlor	20	21 7:00 pm Board of Education Mtg. in Parlor	22	23 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Eucharist
24 9:00 am Sunday Eucharist 10:30 am Sunday School	25 OFFICE CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY	26	27	28 6:00 pm Covenant-Hope Community Meal	29	30 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Eucharist
31 9:00 am Sunday Eucharist 10:30 am Sunday School 4:00 Rite of Confirmation and Reception						

STROKE

DIABETES

HEART DISEASE

Early Detection is Key to Prevention



Life Line Screening ultrasound technician performing a carotid artery screening to look for fatty plaque buildup.

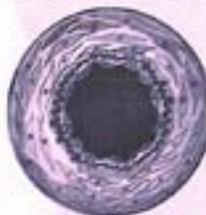
PREVENTIVE HEALTH SCREENINGS CAN DETECT YOUR RISK FOR SERIOUS DISEASE

A stroke occurs in the US every 40 seconds, yet 80% of strokes can be prevented.¹

1 in 3 with diabetes don't know they have it.²

Heart disease is the #1 killer among adults in the US, but heart disease is preventable and controllable.³

What's Inside Your Arteries?



NORMAL
Blood flows easily.



MODERATE
Blood flow reduced.



SIGNIFICANT
Blood flow is halted.

¹Source: National Stroke Association

²Source: US Department of Health and Human Services

³Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

A Stroke Screening is Coming to Your Neighborhood:

Join the nearly 8 million people who have been screened. Appointments are limited, register today.

Where: Maple Heights - Lutheran Church of the Covenant
Western Reserve Hospital Sponsored By: **Western Reserve Hospital**
Proudly Physician Owned

Proudly Physician Owned

When: Wednesday, April 15, 2015

Pre-registration is required. Call: 1-888-653-6450

To register for your appointment and to receive a special \$10 discount, please call 1-888-653-6450 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners

First+Last Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Package 1 Package 2 Screening site, zip code and date: _____

To sign up call 888-653-6450 or fax this form to 866-628-4857.

Covenant NEWS

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

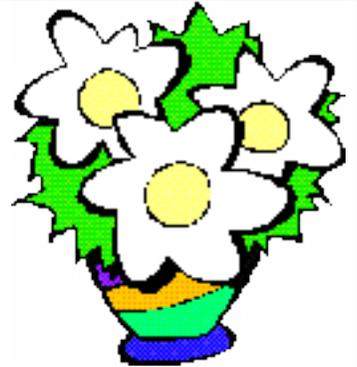
Help the Church avoid additional postal fees; please notify us of your address change.

If you would prefer to receive the newsletter online instead, contact covenantlc@sbcglobal.net.

The newsletters are always available our website CovenantMapleHts.org.



**Covenant Lutheran Women
is again sponsoring a plant sale.**



**Orders must be placed with
payment by April 26.**

Pick-up is scheduled for Saturday, May 16 from 9AM-Noon.

Full details inside on page 3.