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Covenant Night at Blossom

Covenant Night at Blossom will be on Sunday, September 6. Arlene Lasher will begin selling tickets in July, so stay tuned to the bulletin announcements or Wednesday's Word for your chance to get tickets.

The show this year is "The Music of John Williams" performed by The Cleveland Orchestra, Richard Kaufmann, conductor.



"A blockbuster tribute to Hollywood's most legendary composer. He needs no introduction — John Williams's film scores are instantly recognizable, and beloved across the world. Join The Cleveland Orchestra this Labor Day Weekend as we perform music from his movie classics, including Star Wars, Indiana Jones, E.T., Harry Potter, Superman, Jaws, Jurassic Park, Schindler's List, and many more!"



that provided excellent worship experiences for the people. Each worship service has been carefully planned in keeping with the five elements of worship: we gather in God's presence; we hear God's Word in Scripture and preaching; we respond to God's Word in professing our faith in the Creed, the Prayers, and Offering; we celebrate the Lord's Supper; and we depart to serve God's world.

The work of lay people in their many capacities, including the Congregation Council and Board participation, often go unnoticed and unrecognized. I assure you this congregation has very competent leadership. The abilities of our Parish Administrator, Jen Garberich, are truly a blessing in serving the pastor and the congregation in so many capacities. Nick Rohaly maintains the building and grounds in excellent condition.

At the recent Congregation Assembly, I presented worship attendance data and age-related demographic data of the congregation membership. Approximately 75 individuals can be regarded as active members based upon their participation in worship attendance and financial contributions. Fifty-three percent of the 75 active members are 70 years of age or older, with forty-seven percent of the members in the 40 to 69 years of age. These data present a challenge to the congregation's future operations and viability, requiring serious discussion and deliberations.

My three-time associations with you, the Covenant people, has encompassed a 17-year period. Although I have maintained my church membership with another congregation, as is the common practice among interim pastors, I have regarded the Lutheran Church of Covenant as a place of spiritual connection. During that first association in 1998, I developed a feeling of personal connection with the people here; that connection has been strengthened during the second and third associations at Covenant. When I have returned to serve as interim pastor in 2008 and 2014, I became very aware of the faces and voices of a number of good friends whose physical lives had ended during the times I was away. I am very grateful for the ability to maintain relationships with many of you over the past 17 years.

As I depart from you, my prayer is God will bless each of you, as individuals, and collectively, as a congregation, as you embark on a new era in this place, at this time.

Kenneth J. Anderson, Interim Pastor

Farewell to Pastor Anderson

On Pastor Anderson's last Sunday at Covenant, June 14, we will stay true to our Lutheran traditions and send him off with a Potluck "bruncheon." Please plan to join us beginning at 10:30 in the Parish Hall for brunch. We will celebrate Pastor's 17 year career in ministry.

Northeastern Ohio Synod Assembly

Report by Covenant Voting Member: Mary Kaye Bernardo



This was the first Synod Assembly that was coordinated by our new Bishop Abraham Allende. It was a particular challenge for him, not only because it was his first, but because this year there were many cut-backs at the Synod that resulted in a loss of staff and additional duties being assumed by the remaining staff. They did a wonderful job.

The best part of this assembly was that there were two bishops, Bishop Allende and Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, addressing the issues and answering questions about the challenge of their busy and important agendas. Together they presented the fantastic program and gave a great overview of all that the wonderful things the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is involved in throughout the world.

The theme of this year's assembly was "We are Church Together." Through that theme, our church addresses many needs whether it be controlling malaria, treating Ebola or refugees and internally displaced people in Syria, Cameroon, South Sudan, Ukraine, Iraq and many other places. In addition we are working with children from Central America who are dangerously making their way to the United States to escape the brutal conditions in their homeland. The ELCA is there, we are there. Your contributions play a big part in making a difference throughout the world.

In addition, the ELCA is developing a social statement on the social issue of women and justice. This is an issue you can add your voice by visiting <http://www.elca.org/womenandjustice>. We were also encouraged to create ways that we can help here in our own backyard by helping the poor and struggling in our own communities.

Preparing for Easter Sunday



Here's proof that they are able to clean!



Those butterflies don't just flutter up there on their own....



Congregation Council Board Reports

Board of Evangelism and Social Ministry/Vision for the Future

The Vision for the Future Committee is excited about the upcoming Fifth Annual Covenant Farmer's Market which begins June 27, 2015 and continues through October 3, 2015. The Annual Harvest Festival will take place on October 10, 2015. This year we will be opening the market to a greater variety of vendors so that we can provide more services to our regular and new customers.

Palm Saturday was a great success this year. We had good attendance and a good time was had by all.

The monthly Covenant-Hope Community Dinners continue on the last Thursday of each month. In the past couple of months we have invited the seniors from the Maple Heights Senior Center. They very much enjoy the food and plan to come on a regular basis. The attendance has been growing each month.

The Second Annual Job Fair in cooperation with The Urban League of Greater Cleveland, The Maple Heights Lions Club and Equipoise was held on Thursday, May 14, 2015. We had about fifteen employers and a good flow of job seekers.

Camp Covenant is still registering applicants for this summer. At this point she has about twenty, but expects to have about sixty.

We have expanded the garden so that we could plant more vegetables. An application for a Master Gardener's grant was submitted for our garden that Vince Besednjak plants with the children from the camp.

*Respectfully submitted,
Mary Kaye Bernardo*

Board of Managers

We are investigating the Education Wing roof-leakage problem. We have a plan in place to repair the outside sign which was damaged because of high winds. We are also repairing the brass railing next to the pulpit and tending to other minor issues around the building. The lawncare contract has been signed with the same contractor as in the past.

Please, contact me if you see anything that needs repair. I cannot take care of problems if I don't know about them.

*Respectfully submitted,
Alex Hohenstein*

Board of Worship & Music

We were busy during the Lenten and Easter seasons. The mid-week Lenten soup suppers with Church of the Master were well attended. The Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services with LCM and South Haven were well attended and a good experience.

The Palm Saturday event was well attended and a big thank you to all of our volunteer help with the crafts, lunch and the Easter egg hunt.

At our monthly meetings we choose hymns for the Saturday and Sunday services. A representative from the Saturday service will be joining the meetings to help choose the hymns and order of service when Pastor Anderson's interim position is ended.

A big thank you to all of our honorary board members who so faithfully help the board prepare the sanctuary; without their assistance, our sanctuary would be a much less adorned space on seasonal occasions.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jen Lasher-Dobush*

Board of Education

The Board of Education has once again been blessed with teachers for kindergarten to confirmation (Jody Bernardo), confirmation to age 18 (Chuck Dickey), "Young(er) Adults (Harry Werner) and Adults (Pastor Anderson). We want to thank them for their preparation and service.

Sunday School closing was originally scheduled for June 7, with a Potluck and Movie, but it has been postponed. Stay tuned to the bulletin announcements and Wednesday's Word for the new date for the Potluck & a Movie.

The Feature Presentation will be "God is Not Dead". The movie is a multi-story depiction of individuals coping with their belief or non-belief in God. It centers around a college student whose philosophy professor, an atheist, demands each student write and sign the statement that they believe God is dead. The young man cannot do it and goes on to try to convince his class God exists! (As Christians, a skill we should all have, but do we?)

The Board of Education will resume Sunday School on September 13, the Sunday following Labor Day. Bishop Eaton has been urging all ELCA churches on that Sunday each year to find community service projects to all participate in. We will be gathering information and possibly joining with nearby ELCA churches for activities on that Sunday. Look for more information during the summer!

*Respectfully submitted,
Chuck Dickey*

Congregational Assembly Meeting

The Congregational Assembly meeting was held on Sunday, May 17. Discussions on the budget and assets, and the Call Committee's progress were featured. The slate of new officers and board chairs was unanimously approved: President: Ted Lockmiller; Vice President: Dick Ptak; Chairperson of Board of Education: Chuck Dickey; Chairperson of Board of Finance: Gwen Susanek; Chairperson of Board of Worship & Music: Jennifer Lasher-Dobush. A special thank you to departing council member, Maud Wright, for your service as Chairperson of the Board of Finance. And thank you to new council member, Gwen Susanek, and to the re-elected council members for agreeing to give your time and talents to our congregation.

Call Committee Update

The Call Committee is in the process of interviewing candidates and should be finished with interviews by the end of May. We hope to be ready to present our recommendations to Council at their June 9 meeting and then to the congregation at a special congregational assembly meeting later in the month after the Sunday service. Please stay tuned to Wednesday's Word or to the bulletin announcements for updates.

Because of Covenant's financial concerns, each of the candidates was reminded of this when called to schedule an interview and asked if a lesser salary would be an impediment to their accepting a call. In each case the answer was no. Their calling was to serve God and they would find a way to supplement income if needed. Each of the candidates has gifts God has blessed them with which could help Covenant. We ask the congregation to continue their prayers to help us discern which will best serve Covenant's needs.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Chuck Dickey, Chairman*

United Handbell Choir's Spring Concert 2015

The United Handbell Choir Concert is June 7 at 3 p.m. at Hope United Methodist Church., 79 Center Road, Bedford.

The choir is comprised of members of Hope United Methodist Church, Covenant, and other talented friends.

Please come and support our combined bell choir for a wonderful concert.



Blessed Birthday Wishes to...

A blessed birthday to each of the following Covenant members:

- 6/1 Mike Garvin
- 6/16 Michelle Pekar
- 6/23 Paula Hohenstein
- 6/28 Rose Adams
- 6/29 Ken Frajter,
Samuel Reddig
- 7/1 Chuck Dickey,
Joyce Mihalek
- 7/2 Jeanne Kocher
- 7/3 Rosa Garnett
- 7/9 Bob Buettner, Linda Allende,
Emily Knerem
- 7/10 Keary Knerem Sr.,
Amber Gordon
- 7/16 Elizabeth Harpootlian
- 7/21 Audrey Etling
- 7/25 Mark Gabor
- 7/21 Kristine Sandor
- 8/8 Carolyn Frajter
- 8/10 Greta Kause
- 8/11 Ann Droste
- 8/13 Nealie Gage
- 8/14 Bill Balogh
- 8/16 Marie Zahn
- 8/17 Arlene Stoltz, Chris Constant
- 8/19 Douglas Pekar
- 8/21 Jane Skowronski
- 8/22 Bernice Lambrecht
- 8/28 William Blogna, Jeff Garvin
- 8/31 Alex Hohenstein



Picnic and Praise on Wednesdays

This summer we will again join Lutheran Church of the Master (COTM) for the Picnic & Praise series. This annual tradition is an exciting opportunity to be refreshed with a meal and God's word every Wednesday evening.

Starting June 10 we will gather at COTM, inside or outside (depending on the weather) at 6:30 p.m., for a potluck meal. Bring a dish to share and invite a family member or friend.

We close out the evening with a service of word and prayer. This includes the readings for the following Sunday, prayers and hymns. Communion is not distributed.

After the three weeks of June (10, 17 & 24) at COTM, our congregation will host all five Wednesdays in July, then we return to COTM for August 5 & 12.

If you would like this as an opportunity to worship, maybe because you are away on the weekends, or because you desire a midweek renewal, we invite you to gather for fellowship, good food and an additional time to be sustained by God's word.

Another Flourishing Flower Sale



Thank you to everyone who placed flower orders again this year, as well as some new-comers whose orders were happily added to our total. You all helped us to realize a VERY NICE profit of about \$625!

A special thank you to all those who made donations for Covenant's flowers. This enables us to place attractive planters at each of the church's entrances.

As always, my personal thanks to my dedicated volunteer crew of Paula & Alex Hohenstein, Steve & Claudia Senderak and Barb Gaglione. Even though working with a skeleton crew due to extenuating circumstances this year, they unloaded the delivery of 120 flats of flowers and vegetables, 81 hanging baskets, and 103 pots of various herbs and vines in record time. The the fun of filling the individual orders was undertaken. They didn't quit until all the orders were filled and ready for pick-up on Saturday. There's a garden bench in heaven waiting for all of you -- you guys are the best!

Thank you to Jen Garberich for seeing that the orders left behind on Saturday were picked up in due time after the weekend. Thank you, as usual, to our most willing and helpful custodian, Nick Rohaly, who came in on Saturday and swept the parish hall and got all the tables and chairs in place for the Congregational Assembly meeting on Sunday.

Lastly, a note to my personal assistant who could not be present on Friday and Saturday. I muddled through two *very long* days, sorely missing your company and assistance.

Again spring is a very slow starter this year, but I wish you all good luck and great success with your gardens.

See you next spring with an even bigger handful of order forms (same time, same station).

Arlene Lasher

Covenant Farmers' Market

This is the fifth year for the Market. We will start the Market on Saturday, June 27 and run for 15 Saturdays through October 3, and then go directly to our Harvest Festival on October 10. We found the best time is from 9:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. Please visit the Market on Saturday or better yet join in with the others who are having fun selling, or providing bakery, or just sitting around talking. You just can't resist our hot dogs and pop for a buck, or the fresh produce and the best sweet corn in Ohio (when it is available) from central Ohio.

Vendors are welcome. If you have items to sell or know of someone that has, please contact Dick Ptak or Mary Kaye Bernardo for a place at the Market. We have developed friendships with the people of the neighborhood and they look forward to our coming back. We have most driving by to wave and even some to stop in. There is a lot going on at the Market so why don't you join in and enjoy it with the others. See you there!!!

Dick Ptak

Director of Covenant Farmers' Market

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

...for all your prayers and cards. I had triple bypass surgery in February and with the long recovery, your prayers and cards really helped. All in the hospital and recovery facility were great. I have no complaints about anything. Looking back at the good part of this surgery, one, it was caught in time even though I had few symptoms. It made me look at all I was doing at 77 years old and cut back on some. One of the things was running for Vice President instead of President of our Congregation. Ted Lockmiller did a fine job taking over for me during my hospital stay and recovery and agreed to run for President. He will make a good President for the Congregation. I will still be your Vice President, on the Call Committee, and Director of the Farmers' Market; I will still be in some things.

On behalf of the Congregation, I would like to wish GOD'S BLESSING to Pr. Anderson on his retirement and new home. We thank him for being our Interim Pastor and being with us for three times. He had triple bypass surgery 15 years ago and said to me afterwards the great difference it made and I found that so, even if I have a ways to go with cardiac rehabilitation and time. Thank you Pastor for your encouragement. GOD'S BLESSING TO ALL!

Dick Ptak

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! 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

Happy Anniversary Wishes to...

- 6/11 Vimal & Kelly (Constant)
Bhatnagar
- 6/13 Steve & Claudia
Senderak
- 6/20 Joan & Mike Garvin
- 7/2 Chris & Jennifer Constant
- 7/12 Jeff & Nicole Garvin
- 7/19 Bill & Elsie Balogh
- 8/11 Jim & Jane Gradert
- 8/12 Barb & Chuck Gaglione
- 8/14 Ben & Deena (Gaglione)
Hernandez
- 8/20 Alex & Paula Hohenstein,
Arlene & Jim Stoltz

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



Bible Study and Retirees Club

The Bible Brunch meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. in the kitchen overflow area.

So mark your calendar for June 23, July 21 and August 17.

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

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

The next Retirees Luncheon is set for Thursday, June 11 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 contact the Church Office.

Server Schedule - June, July and August

Date	Asst. Min	Lector	Crucifer	Ushers	Altar Guild	Greeters
6/7	Nel Lanese	Maud Wright	Ethan Lockmiller	A. Treichel, B. Treichel	C. Frajter, J. Garvin, P. Treichel, M. Zahn	Bert and Marie Zahn
6/14	Dick Ptak	Madeline Ptak	Jody Bernardo	D. Schirmer, K. Frajter, S. Dobush	S. Werner, H. Scheller,	Steve & Claudia Senderak
6/21	Allan Treichel	Steve Dobush	Katie Garberich	M. Garvin, B. Zahn	A. Copeland, P. Hohenstein	Dick and Madeline Ptak
6/28	Alex Hohenstein	Ted Lockmiller	Jody Bernardo	S. Senderak, V. Besednjak	M. Ptak, N. Lanese,	Mike and Joan Garvin
7/5	Maud Wright	Nel Lanese	Ethan Lockmiller	A. Treichel, B. Treichel	L. Bewsey	Barb Gaglione
7/12	Bert Zahn	Marie Zahn	Katie Garberich	D. Schirmer, K. Frajter, S. Dobush	J. Rusher, C. Senderak,	Arlene Lasher
7/19	Madeline Ptak	Dick Ptak	Jody Bernardo	M. Garvin, B. Zahn	J. Skowronski, G. Susanek	Alex and Paula Hohenstein
7/26	Allan Treichel	Steve Dobush	Katie Garberich	S. Senderak, V. Besednjak	C. Frajter, J. Garvin,	Don and Ron Schirmer
8/2	Nel Lanese	Maud Wright	Ethan Lockmiller	A. Treichel, B. Treichel	P. Treichel, M. Zahn	Janet Wilkens
8/9	Alex Hohenstein	Ted Lockmiller	Jody Bernardo	D. Schirmer, K. Frajter, S. Dobush	S. Werner, H. Scheller,	Bob and Donna Franz
8/16	Dick Ptak	Madeline Ptak	Katie Garberich	M. Garvin, B. Zahn	A. Copeland, P. Hohenstein	Lois Gerstenberger
8/23	Marie Zahn	Bert Zahn	Jody Bernardo	A. Treichel, B. Treichel	M. Ptak, N. Lanese,	Barb Gaglione
8/30	Allan Treichel	Steve Dobush	Ethan Lockmiller	S. Senderak, V. Besednjak	L. Bewsey	Harry and Sheila Werner
9/6	Maud Wright	Nel Lanese	Katie Garberich	A. Treichel, B. Treichel	J. Rusher, C. Senderak, J. Skowronski, G. Susanek	Annie Copeland

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE COVENANT

JUNE 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 7:00 pm Bd. of Worship & Music in Pastor's Office	3	4	5	6 NO Saturday Evening Eucharist
7 9:00 am Sunday Eucharist 10:30 am Sunday School 3:00 Handbell Concert at Hope UMC Bedford	8	9 7:00 pm Council Meeting in Parlor	10 6:30 Picnic & Praise at COTM	11 Noon Retirees Luncheon 7:30 Lion's Club Meeting in Parish Hall	12	13 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Eucharist
14 9:00 am Sunday Eucharist 10:30 am Farewell Pastor Anderson Potluck Brunch	15	16 10:00 am Bible Brunch in Kitchen Overflow 7:00 pm Evangelism & Social Ministry Mtg. in Parlor	17 6:30 Picnic & Praise at COTM	18 7:00 pm Board of Education Mtg. in Parlor	19	20 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Eucharist
	***** CAMP COVENANT Monday - Friday 7:30 - 3:30 *****					
21 9:00 am Sunday Eucharist	22	23	24 6:30 Picnic & Praise at COTM	25 6:00 pm Covenant-Hope Community Meal	26	27 9:30-1:30 Covenant Farmers' Market 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Eucharist
	***** CAMP COVENANT Monday - Friday 7:30 - 3:30 ***** ***** ECOT TESTING June 22-26 9:00-2:00 Parlor and Nursery *****					
28 9:00 am Sunday Eucharist	29	30				
	CAMP COVENANT 7:30 - 3:30					

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE COVENANT

JULY 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:30 Picnic & Praise at Covenant	2	3	4 9:30-1:30 Covenant Farmers' Market 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Eucharist
			CAMP COVENANT 7:30 - 3:30			
5 9:00 am Sunday Eucharist	6	7 7:00 pm Bd. of Worship & Music in Pastor's Office	8 6:30 Picnic & Praise at Covenant	9 7:30 Lion's Club Meeting in Parish Hall	10	11 9:30-1:30 Covenant Farmers' Market 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Eucharist
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19 9:00 am Sunday Eucharist	20	21 10:00 am Bible Brunch in Kitchen Overflow 7:00 pm Evangelism & Social Ministry Mtg. in Parlor	22 6:30 Picnic & Praise at Covenant	23	24	25 9:30-1:30 Covenant Farmers' Market 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Eucharist
	***** CAMP COVENANT Monday - Friday 7:30 - 3:30 *****					
26 9:00 am Sunday Eucharist	27	28	29 6:30 Picnic & Praise at Covenant	30 6:00 pm Covenant-Hope Community Meal	31	
	***** CAMP COVENANT Monday - Friday 7:30 - 3:30 *****					

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE COVENANT

AUGUST 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 9:30-1:30 Farmers' Market 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Eucharist
2 9:00 am Sunday Eucharist	3	4 7:00 pm Bd. of Worship & Music in Pastor's Office	5 6:30 Picnic & Praise at COTM	6	7	8 9:30-1:30 Farmers' Market 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Eucharist
9 9:00 am Sunday Eucharist	10	11 7:00 pm Council Meeting in Parlor	12 6:30 Picnic & Praise at COTM	13 Noon Retirees Luncheon 7:30 Lion's Club Meeting in Parish Hall	14	15 9:30-1:30 Farmers' Market 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Eucharist
16 9:00 am Sunday Eucharist	17	18 10:00 am Bible Brunch in Kitchen Overflow 7:00 pm Evangelism & Social Ministry Mtg. in Parlor	19	20 7:00 pm Board of Education Mtg. in Parlor	21	22 9:30-1:30 Farmers' Market 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Eucharist
23 9:00 am Sunday Eucharist	24	25	26	27 6:00 pm Covenant-Hope Community Meal	28	29 9:30-1:30 Farmers' Market 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Eucharist
30 9:00 am Sunday Eucharist	31					

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 Farmers Market

Every Saturday June 27 through October 10

9:30AM - 1:30PM

Fresh Produce Baked Goods

Handmade Crafts & Goods

Grilled sausages and hot dogs with a can of pop

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

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)

Full details inside on page 7.