

# Covenant NEWS



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*Fun at Camp Covenant*

**September-October 2015**

## Update from Congregation Council

During this period without a permanent minister, we have Pastor Paul Stork ministering over the Saturday and Sunday services. When he is not able to do a service, Pastor Harry Werner will minister over that service. We have the Sunday school hour covered with Pastor Harry leading a combined Adult Bible Class. For our special pastoral needs, Pastor Roberta P. Davis-Newhouse (Rev. Bobbie) agreed to be on call. All this is until we get a permanent minister. Council also wanted a minister to attend their meetings and Pastor Stork agreed to do this.

Our Call Committee is back in action and its chairperson, Chuck Dickey, has provided an article for this Covenant News to fill you in on their activities. We have had a Saturday service where neither Pastor could minister, so we tried a new method. We used the consecrated wine and wafers, and since we do not have a pianist, spoke the words. What about the sermon? Well, we had now-Bishop Allende give it. Not in person, but we played a recording of the sermon he did three years ago for that Gospel reading. All enjoyed hearing his voice and his message. We have been recording the services for a number of years.

Jennifer Garberich as Parish Administrator has been keeping busy with her normal secretarial jobs as well as the many other things that need looking after. Ted Lockmiller, as President, and I, as Vice President, along with Council officers and chairpersons, have been performing the duties that are necessary to maintain our Church and keep things going. However, we look forward to calling a minister to spiritually challenge us to increasingly do GOD'S WILL. We have been very blessed in the past and I am sure GOD will bless us in the future..

*Dick Ptak*  
*Vice President of Congregational Council*



*The Lutheran Church of the Covenant*

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## Congregational Assembly Meeting

Sunday October 18, after the 9:00 worship service, we shall gather in the Parish Hall for a Congregational Assembly Meeting. At that time we shall present the proposed budget for 2016, and discuss the status of the Call Process.

Please plan to attend. This church cannot function without your help and prayers as plans are made for the coming year.

### Save the Date!

**Sunday, 9/13, 10:30:**

“God’s Not Dead”

Potluck & Movie (see page 3)

**Tuesday, 9/15 10:00 AM:**

Bible Brunch

**Thursday, 9/24, 5:00 PM:**

Covenant-Hope Community Meal

**Monday, September 28, 6:30-8:00**

**Foreclosure Prevention Program**

open to the public

**Thursday, 10/8, Noon:**

Retirees’ Luncheon

Speaker: Bishop Allende

**Saturday, 10/10, 9:30 - 1:30:**

Fall Harvest Festival &

Farmers’ Market

**Sunday, 10/18, 10:45:**

Congregational Assembly Meeting

**Tuesday, 10/20 10:00 AM:**

Bible Brunch

**Thursday, 10/30, 5:00 PM:**

Covenant-Hope Community Meal

**Sunday, 11/1, 9:00 AM:**

All Saints Day service honoring loved-ones who passed this year

## Call Committee Update as of August 5, 2015

Dear Covenant Congregation,

The Call Committee is returning to action. We had recommended a candidate to Council but then the candidate withdrew her name from consideration. This should clarify comments heard that a candidate was “called” and rejected the call.

The Call procedure is as follows: When a candidate is recommended to Council, and the Council meets with the candidate and approves, a congregational meeting will then be called to approve the candidate and give permission to council to extend a call.

A few changes in Covenant since the Call Committee first started its duties include decreased attendance and decreased giving. On the Ministry Site Profile we checked the lowest Synod recommended salary range for a “full-time pastor.” At present, Covenant’s budget does not even allow for that range. We are changing our affordable salary range on the Profile to what Covenant’s present budget will allow, but that puts us in the category of churches seeking a part-time pastor.

For those concerned, Covenant is financially solvent, as reported by our treasurer, Mike Davis, at our last congregational meeting. We even have pledged funds for needed repairs on the church. What is important to understand is that individual giving at present only allows Council to recommend a pastoral salary which is in the part-time range in order to be fiscally responsible to the congregation. There are churches who successfully function with part-time pastors, but that requires more active congregation participation in place of pastoral responsibilities. We hope and pray that each member of Covenant will find it in their hearts to support Covenant as best as they can to ensure continuation of our mission in the community and the world. Synod promises to inform us if and when pastors seeking part-time positions become available.

Sometimes we tell God what we want and He provides. Other times He has a different plan, but always a wise one. It seems as if God is asking Covenant to search our hearts and evaluate our mission in the world, especially in our community. The parable of the pruning in the vineyard comes to mind. Are we, Covenant, bearing fruit to nourish God’s kingdom? What more would God have us do? Do we love God enough to each find ways to be Christ’s hands and feet in the world, or will we wait for the pruning and hope we are doing enough? Please pray for Covenant and the wisdom to make wise choices for Covenant’s future.

Respectfully,

*Chuck Dickey*  
Call Committee Chairman

## Raise the Roof!

### Roof and Parking Lot Repair Fund

On Sunday, August 16, our Council President, Ted Lockmiller, presented a Temple Talk outlining the financial challenge for repairing the roof over the Sunday School wing. The estimate for the roof repair is \$18,600 and does not include potential work needed on the roof decking once they pull away the existing roof.

We currently have \$12,000 available in the church accounts to address the roof issue, and we are looking to raise the remaining funds through donations from the congregation. To offset a sizable portion of the remaining cost (\$6,600), we have a donor willing to match funds from what we collect, so the balance we need (\$3,300) from the congregation is certainly not beyond our reach.

In addition to this project, our parking lot is in need of crack sealing, which is a periodic maintenance task which helps lengthen the asphalt's lifespan. Two families of the congregation are willing to donate the entire cost of this crack sealing project. We thank them for that important donation!

Covenant's congregation has historically accepted challenges enthusiastically and found ways to meet goals to preserve our beautiful building. Please give thought to this fund and send in extra offerings (please make a note on the memo line that the amount is for the roof fund). We are also brainstorming on other ways to generate funds. If you have any ideas, please contact a council member or the church office.

## Get to Know Pastor Stork

Rev. Paul Stork is serving Covenant as a long-term supply pastor until we hire a new pastor, so we should get to know him better. He was born in Baltimore, MD, and his grandfather was also a Lutheran Pastor. He attended Valparaiso University from 1970-74 and earned a degree in Psychology. Paul and Sharon (photo below) were married in May, 1974. They have two daughters, Jessica and Rachel, who are both married and live in Arlington, VA and Chicago, IL respectively.

Paul attended ELTS Seminary in Columbus, OH 1974-78 in the last graduating class before it became Trinity. From there, he became pastor of North Valley Lutheran Church in Milltown, Wisconsin, serving from 1978 to 1983, and then served at Bethany/St. Paul Lutheran parish in Aniwa, Wisconsin from 1983-1988. In the fall of that year, Pastor Stork left the full time ministry to pursue a career as a Personal Computer/Network Analyst but continued to be a supply pastor in various churches for 3 years.

In Fall 1990 the Storks moved to Cleveland to be closer to family and work at Society (now Key) bank. They joined Bethlehem Lutheran, Cleveland Heights. Pastor Stork accepted part time call as Associate Pastor of Education and Youth at Bethlehem in 1997, and then left Bethlehem when Pastor Genszler retired. He

has continued to do weekend interims at a variety of churches both before and after his call at Bethlehem. Along the way he also earned his MBA at Case and taught there as an adjunct professor for 5 years and as a full time professor for another 5 years.

Somehow he has found time and energy to spend time with us, and for that we are grateful! Welcome Pastor Stork!



### "GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS"

*"God's Not Dead" - or is He?*

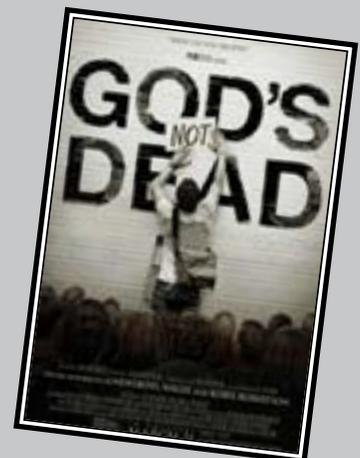
A discussion and movie with a potluck meal to answer the question in each of our lives and for Covenant.

Each year for the Sunday after Labor Day, Bishop Eaton asks churches to devote themselves to activities that represent God's work in the world. Once again, Covenant finds itself at the point of asking the question, "How can I be God's hands and feet in the world when I have so many limitations?"

As the Board of Education facilitates the discussion, we are once again offering a potluck and movie experience to help on Sunday September 13 during the Sunday School hour.

During lunch everyone will be encouraged to discuss questions posed at the tables, followed by the movie "God's Not Dead" where a young college student responds to his professor's challenge to prove God is not dead, and others in the movie wrestle with challenges to their faith.

Do we have the faith and wisdom to prove to someone else that God is not dead in our life? Come join us for a new start to a year of challenge for each of us and Covenant.



**Blessed Birthday Wishes to...**

the following Covenant members:

- 9/2 Pauline Hrivnak,  
William Mandat
- 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
- 10/1 Jane Schuetz
- 10/6 Elaine Knerem
- 10/7 Marquise Lane
- 10/11 Eleanor Lautanen
- 10/17 Katie Garberich
- 10/23 Sara (Kobella) Rittmeyer
- 10/24 Jennifer Lasher-Dobush
- 10/26 Steve Dobush
- 10/28 Bert Zahn
- 10/31 Bishop Allende,  
Ryan Spychola

*Happy Anniversary  
Wishes to...*

- 9/8 Carolyn & Ken Frajter
- 9/21 Phyllis & Richard Nemeth
- 9/23 Jane & Stan Skowronski
- 9/24 Bp. Abraham & Linda  
Allende
- 9/30 Bernice & Frank Novak
- 10/10 Donna & Steven Kobella
- 10/12 Jennifer & Steve Dobush
- 10/16 Nell and John Lanese
- 10/18 Bert & Marie Zahn  
Nancy & John Werner
- 10/22 Madeline & Dick Ptak
- 10/24 Erica & Geoffrey  
Sansavera

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

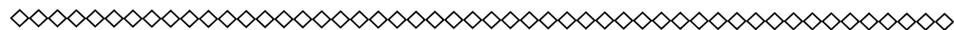
**In Memoriam**



Audrey Etling, a founding member of Covenant, entered the church triumphant on August 31 at the age of 90. Born to Harry and Emma Mandat, with sister Elaine Conlin, Audrey was baptized by the St. Andrew Lutheran congregation which later merged with Trinity Lutheran to become The Lutheran Church of The Covenant. The wedding of Audrey and Richard Etling in 1948 occurred between the official merger date of the congregations and the groundbreaking of our current building.

Audrey and Richard lived in Bedford while raising their daughters, Kimberly Cashman-Gelbke (Jim Gelbke), Cindy (Duane) Martin and Kathy (Jim) Bissler. She was so proud of her grandchildren, Erik (Maureen) Cashman, Kelley Cashman (fiancé - Eric Doppes), Bret Gilbert, Meghan (Tim) Kohout and Michael (Lauren) Bissler; and adored her great-grandchildren, Mikayla Cashman, Trevor and Evelyn Kohout and Nicholas Bissler.

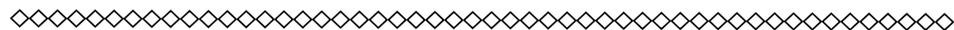
We thank God for having given this gentle, loving soul to us to know and to love as a companion in our pilgrimage on Earth. We share with Kim, Cindy and Kathy, and the rest of the family in their sorrow, and we rejoice in the hope of the Resurrection, that we all may rise to new life in Jesus Christ.



**Thank You...**

...to our hard-working guest author, Linda Wright, for all the time and thought she puts in to her Bible reflections each week for our weekly email newsletter, Wednesday's Word.

If you haven't been receiving it in your email inbox, please contact the church office. You can also find it on Facebook (The Lutheran Church of the Covenant fan page) or on Twitter (Covenant\_LC).



**Bible Study & Retirees**

**The Bible Brunch** meets again on September 15 at 10:00 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 Tuesday of each month and would love to see you! Mark the following dates on your calendar to remind yourself through the end of 2015: October 20, November 17, and December 15.

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

**Sunday School classes resume on September 20.** The year's kick-off is the potluck described on page 3. Until we hire a pastor, Rev. Harry Werner will be teaching a unified class for all of the adults. Chuck Dickey and Jody Bernardo look forward to leading the teens and younger students.

**The next Retirees Luncheon** is set for Thursday, October 8 at noon. Mark your calendars!

The featured speaker this month is a guy you might have heard of before... Bishop Abraham D. Allende!

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 - September, October, November

Date	Asst. Min	Lector	Crucifer	Ushers	Altar Guild	Greeters
9/6	Maud Wright	Nel Lanese	Katie Garberich	A. Treichel, B. Treichel	J. Rusher, C. Senderak, J. Skowronski, G. Susanek	Lois Gerstenberger
9/13	Alex Hohenstein	Ted Lockmiller	Jody Bernardo	D. Schirmer, K. Frajter, S. Dobush		Barb Gaglione
9/20	Madeline Ptak	Dick Ptak	Ethan Lockmiller	M. Garvin, B. Zahn	C. Frajter, J. Garvin, P. Treichel, M. Zahn	Annie Copeland & Hazel Scheller
9/27	Bert Zahn	Marie Zahn	Katie Garberich	S. Senderak, V. Besednjak		Harry and Sheila Werner
10/4	Nel Lanese	Maud Wright	Emily Garberich	A. Treichel, B. Treichel	S. Werner, H. Scheller, A. Copeland, P. Hohenstein	Mary Kaye Bernardo
10/11	Alex Hohenstein	Ted Lockmiller	Jody Bernardo	D. Schirmer, K. Frajter, S. Dobush		Bert & Marie Zahn
10/18	Allan Treichel	Steve Dobush	Ethan Lockmiller	M. Garvin, B. Zahn	M. Ptak, N. Lanese, L. Bewsey	Claudia & Steve Senderak
10/25	Dick Ptak	Madeline Ptak	Katie Garberich	S. Senderak, V. Besednjak		Dick & Madeline Ptak
11/1	Maud Wright	Nel Lanese	Emily Garberich	A. Treichel, B. Treichel	J. Rusher, C. Senderak, J. Skowronski, G. Susanek	Joan & Mike Garvin
11/8	Marie Zahn	Bert Zahn	Jody Bernardo	D. Schirmer, K. Frajter, S. Dobush		Arlene Lasher
11/15	Allan Treichel	Ted Lockmiller	Ethan Lockmiller	M. Garvin, B. Zahn	C. Frajter, J. Garvin, P. Treichel, M. Zahn	Alex and Paula Hohenstein
11/22	Alex Hohenstein	Steve Dobush	Katie Garberich	A. Treichel, B. Treichel		Don and Ron Schirmer
11/29	Madeline Ptak	Dick Ptak	Jody Bernardo	S. Senderak, V. Besednjak	S. Werner, H. Scheller, A. Copeland, P. Hohenstein	Janet Wilkens
12/6	Nel Lanese	Maud Wright	Emily Garberich	A. Treichel, B. Treichel		

# THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE COVENANT

## SEPTEMBER 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:00 pm Bd. of Worship & Music in Parlor	2	3	4	5 9:30-1:30 Farmers' Market 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Eucharist
6 9:00 am Sunday Eucharist	7 Board of Elections Set-Up in Parish Hall	8 Elections in Parish Hall 5AM-9PM  7:00 pm Council Meeting in Parlor	9	10 7:30 Lion's Club Meeting in Parish Hall	11	12 9:30-1:30 Farmers' Market 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Eucharist
13 9:00 am Sunday Eucharist 10:30 God's Work, Our Hands -- Potluck & Movie "God Is Not Dead"	14	15 10:00 am Bible Brunch in Kitchen Overflow  7:00 pm Evangelism & Social Ministry Mtg. in Parlor	16	17 7:00 pm Board of Education Mtg. in Parlor	18	19 9:30-1:30 Farmers' Market 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Eucharist
20 9:00 am Sunday Eucharist 10:30 Sunday School Hour	21	22	23	24 5:00 pm Covenant-Hope Community Meal	25	26 9:30-1:30 Farmers' Market 5:00 pm Saturday Evening Eucharist
27 9:00 am Sunday Eucharist 10:30 Sunday School Hour	28 6:30 Community Foreclosure Prevention Program	29	30			

# THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE COVENANT

## OCTOBER 2015

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

# *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).

## Covenant Farmers Market

**Every Saturday 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!**

## Fall Harvest Festival

**Saturday, October 10**

**Scarecrows, Hayrides for Kids, Fall Treats**

Potential vendors may obtain more information at 216-662-0370 or [covenantlc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:covenantlc@sbcglobal.net)

(This market does not qualify for the Maple Heights market voucher program)