

Covenant NEWS



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Pastor's Perspective

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

Sarah and I have been living in Cleveland over six months now, and I still don't have plenty of things figured out. I don't know many of the roads. I know several around our house. I know about the interstates of 480, 77, and 271. I still have to figure out the right people to go to for a variety of house-related issues that may come up. We haven't checked out all the "best kept secret" restaurants or places to walk with our dog. We still have a bit of "outsider" feeling in comparison to all those who have called this place home for decades and talk with this "insider" tone.

So I wonder how much of that applies to the church more than we care to admit. Now, granted, we as the church have made massive strides in trying to connect with an ever-changing culture with technology and a variety of ministries geared toward those "outsiders." We even hope that all of it will somehow convince them to at least check us out for a weekend service. And when they don't we'll blame it on that "ever-changing culture" that doesn't value going to church like our generation cherished. Or we'll blame it on scandals from other denominations that have plagued organized religion as a whole. Or it's the mega-churches. Or it's previous members, who have since died, who weren't as nice as they should have been when some random visitor sat in their pew. We'll blame anything and everything and everyone as long as it isn't us.

But I still wonder about that "insider" language that's so much a part of our specific-congregation identity that it has even become subconscious now. I wonder about words like sanctuary and sacristy and narthex that who knows how many of those "outsiders" have any idea of whatsoever. And if those "outsiders" ever do come and they have no idea whatsoever, we'll just chuckle and say to ourselves, or to them directly even, that they'll learn them eventually once they get into our "inner sanctum." The kicker, I think, has now become beyond them not knowing the insider language; it's that they don't

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September 2017

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

Congregational Assembly Meeting

Sunday, October 22, after the 9:00 worship service, we will gather in the Parish Hall for a Congregational Assembly Meeting. At that time we shall present the proposed budget for 2018, and discuss other matters of building maintenance and congregation concerns.

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, 9/10, 10:15:

Potluck & Movie (see page 5)

Thursday, 9/28, 5:00:

Covenant-Hope Community Meal

Saturday, 10/7, 9:30 - 1:30:

Fall Harvest Festival & Covenant Farmers' Market

Saturday, 10/7, 5:00:

Blessing of the Animals at Saturday Evening Eucharist

Thursday, 10/12, Noon:

Retirees' Luncheon
Speaker: Mary Ferfolia regarding Funeral Planning

Sunday, 10/22, 10:15:

Congregational Assembly Meeting

Thursday, 10/26, 5:00:

Covenant-Hope Community Meal

Sunday, 11/5, 9:00:

All Saints Day service honoring loved ones who passed this year

** Continued from page 1 **

care to know. It's as if those words that somehow shape and define the inner-workings of a congregation don't matter anymore. And for many of us that is a gut-wrenching blow to our "Give Me that 'Ole Time Religion" soul.

So over the recent years I find myself not using such words, and being perfectly fine with doing just that. Now, granted, the actually-powerful words like grace and faith and Resurrection are still up for conversation-enriching grabs. But what we feel are the nearly just-as-sacred words of sanctuary and whatever else that name our cherished places inside the walls of a building...those will not make or break our faith journey. It's just another way how those "outsiders" are showing us what's so much more incredibly valuable in this life, as if Jesus Christ can be fully active beyond a sanctuary or a narthex. They might actually know about completely different roads that Jesus has been traveling on this whole time: roads we have been avoiding or having no need to go to because they weren't part of our routine for decades. Just another way of those "outsiders" revealing to us the Gospel truth: there are no lines between insiders and outsiders with this Savior beyond our wildest imagination, because He evidently loves us all just the same. Thanks be to God indeed! Amen.

Pastor Brad

Confirmation

Confirmation classes will be kicking into gear in a few weeks with several youth from Covenant and Christ the King (Twinsburg) coming together for a few hours on a Sunday evening to help them prepare to publicly affirm their baptismal vows. This year we will be immersing ourselves into some of the highlights throughout Scripture: from the Creation to Paul along with some prophets, kings, Psalms, and the Savior, for good measure.

What's different about Confirmation today in comparison to years ago is that this will not be about memorizing the books of the Bible in order or specific verses to recite in front of the class and their entire congregation on a Sunday morning. This is more so about learning how these stories are still true for us, including for teenagers. This isn't about drilling into them what God did for people thousands of years ago, but what God is doing for them still today. God is still creating new life in each of them. God knows mistakes will be made as even the greatest of kings did long ago, and yet God responds with mercy and love time and time again. Many of the Psalms will not let them forget that. And we will not let them affirm their baptism until after they realize Jesus had each of them in mind when He died on the cross and rose out of the empty tomb. Jesus also knows they have so much to offer, not only to the church, but to all of God's Creation. This Confirmation journey is about making sure they never forget that either. So we ask you keep all the Confirmands in your prayers, including our own Avery Lockmiller and Emily Garberich.

ELCA Commitment to Confronting Racism and Anti-Semitism:



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), stands against all forms of hatred and discrimination. The church believes that cultural, ethnic and racial differences should be seen and celebrated as what God intends them to be—blessings rather than means of oppression and discrimination.

The ELCA's social statement "Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity and Culture" states: "Racism—a mix of power, privilege, and prejudice—is sin, a violation of God's intention for humanity. The resulting racial, ethnic, or cultural barriers deny the truth that all people are God's creatures and, therefore, persons of dignity. Racism fractures and fragments both church and society."

The social statement, adopted by the ELCA 1993 Churchwide Assembly, calls on the church to make confession for complicity, name the spiritual crisis at the roots, commit to change and make pledges to public witness, advocacy and action to confront racism.

"We recognize that the kind of violence we witnessed in Charlottesville last weekend is very real and affects all of us," said ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton. "We need to stand up firmly against racism and anti-Semitism, show up for and advocate with others. Jesus, who makes visible those who are invisible, is already there. We need to show up, and we need to listen in each of our communities."

The ELCA is a church that belongs to Christ and Christ's church universal, where there is a place for everyone. The job of Christ's people today is to celebrate the diversity of God's creative work and embrace all people in the spirit of love, whatever race or ethnicity, economic status or gender.

Read the Social Statement: <https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements/Race-Ethnicity-and-Culture>.

In Memoriam

In the past several months, we have mourned the passing of three active members of the Covenant community. In April, Frank ("Fritz") Novak passed away, survived by his wife Bernice and his daughters Kim and Debra. Fritz's handiwork can be found all around this church, as he was on the Board of Managers for many years.

Chuck Welker passed away in May. His presence in Sunday School, Retirees Luncheons and other activities is missed by many.

Most recently, Bernice Lambrecht passed away in July. Bernice was a loving matriarch to a blessedly large family, and a friend to many at Covenant.

We thank God for having given Fritz, Chuck and Bernice to us to know and to love as a companion in our pilgrimage on Earth. We share with their families in their sorrow, and we rejoice in the hope of the Resurrection, that we all may rise to new life in Jesus Christ.

Sunday School Classes & Retirees Luncheons Resume

Sunday School classes resume on September 17. The year's kick-off is the potluck described on page 5. 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 12 at noon. Mark your calendars! The featured speaker this month is Mary Ferfolia who will share advice about pre-planning funerals. If you have an idea for a guest speaker, or a topic you would like to learn more about, please contact the church office.

Meals on Wheels Needs More Volunteers!

You're invited: Let's Do Lunch!! Friday, September 22, or Thursday, October 19, 2017. South Haven United Church of Christ, 415 Northfield Road, Bedford.

If you want to learn more about being a volunteer serving residents in the 44146 zipcode area, please plan to attend.

Go for a ride with our volunteers as we deliver meals to our clients, meet other volunteers, and enjoy a free lunch on us. Meet us at 10:30; lunch served at 12:30 when the routes are complete.

RSVP: 440-439-0302

Southeast Clergy Meals on Wheels, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit, all-volunteer program founded in 1976.

Blessed Birthday

Wishes to...

the following

Covenant members:

- 9/2 Pauline Hrivnak,
William Mendat
- 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
- 9/22 Madeline Ptak
- 9/26 Allan Treichel
- 9/27 Belinda Arnold
- 9/28 Nancy Werner
Ethan Lockmiller
- 9/29 Evan Bernardo

Happy Anniversary

Wishes to...

- 9/8 Carolyn & Ken Frajter
- 9/21 Phyllis & Rich Nemeth
- 9/21 Gwen & Tom Susaneck
- 9/24 Bp. Abraham & Linda Allende

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

WOOF, MEOW, CHIRP, TWEET...

God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind.

And God saw that it was good.

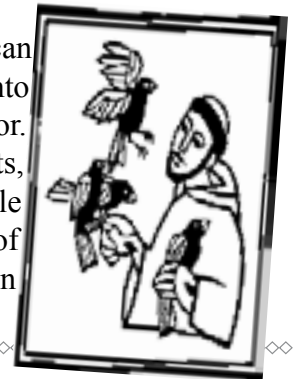
Gen. 1:25



Those are just a few of the sounds you may be hearing at our fourth annual Blessing of the Animals on Saturday, October 7th as we celebrate the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi at our Saturday Evening Eucharist beginning at 5:00.

The custom of blessing the pets is conducted in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi's love for all creatures. Francis, whose feast day is actually October 4th, loved the larks flying about his hilltop town. He and his early brothers, staying in a small hut, allowed themselves to be displaced by a donkey.

The love we give to a pet, and receive from a pet, can draw us more deeply into the larger circle of life, into the wonder of our common relationship to our Creator. So bring your pets, invite your friends and their pets, and worship outdoors with us. In case you're not able to bring an animal, you may wish to bring a picture of an animal you love. In case of rain, we will gather in the Parish Hall.



Busy Board of Managers

The Board of Managers always work hard to keep the building in great condition and to make improvements as needed.

Recently a tree trimming company was called in to take care of some large branches on several trees on the property. These efforts help protect our roof and our stained glass windows.

The two offices will be getting new, more efficient air conditioners installed this month, taking advantage of end-of-season prices.

Plans are also in process to replace the large cross situated at the corner of Libby and Maple Heights Boulevard. The fixture was originally was dedicated on May 3, 1955, and has reportedly been a welcoming beacon of hope and comfort in the community for generations.



Sunday School Begins with Rally Day on September 10: "Potluck & a Movie"

Is everyone ready for the start of Sunday School? Once again Sunday School will begin the Sunday following Labor Day on September 10 at 10:30. The Board of Education is inviting everyone to forget the time of year and bring their "food offerings" to another pot luck and movie. The movie is about Easter (even though it's September). "Risen" is the recent movie about Christ's crucifixion and resurrection as experienced by a Roman centurion. It gives us fresh eyes to how Jesus indirectly affected others with his life, death and resurrection. Please join us in this new look at the resurrection as we "resurrect" Sunday School for another year.

Rally Day in Days Gone By

Last September's "throw-back" photos of Covenant's Rally Day tradition were such fun, we dug up more. We always had a balloon launch where we attached a letter to each balloon explaining to the finder who and where we were. We asked them to contact us to let us know where the balloon was found. Some of our balloons traveled amazingly long distances!



Rally Day 1987. Pastor Heckmann, John Bosiacki, Ron Chumat and Erica Blogna are easy to recognize here. It looks like John Lanese is behind the balloon and Chuck Welker is on the right.



Rally Day 1986 or 1987(?). Robert Malherek chatting with Pastor Israel. Jennifer & Arlene Lasher tying balloon knots (is that Heather's arm holding a balloon?) with Steve and Kris Senderak stapling notes to the strings. On the right are Paula Hohenstein and Donna Franz.



Rally Day 1980: Here we have David Hohenstein handing out balloons to Vicki Maji(?), JoAnn Chumat, and the ever-fashionable Jenny Garvin with her favorite bordeaux "pleather" purse.



Rally Day 1980. Jenny, Joan & Mike Garvin in back. Research suggests it is Renee Zack, Jody Clare, and Jolie Kleintop in the foreground. Also, Peggy Smith, Eleanor Lautanen, and Lorna Brown in the distant right.



The Cleveland West Cluster Meeting
Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America



Fall Gathering
Saturday, September 23, 2017

500th Anniversary of the Reformation
“Katie Luther - Mother of the Reformation”
portrayed by Pastor Kari Lankford

Registration & Fellowship 8:30 am
Meeting & Program 9:30 am Lunch 11:30 am

Offerings: 50% for NEOSWO & 50% for Domestic Violence & Child
Advocacy Center in Cleveland

In-Kind Gifts for Redeemer Crisis Center, Near West Side, Cleveland:
Paper products — Toilet Paper, Kleenex, Paper Towels, Hand Soap,
Laundry/Dish Detergents, Shampoo, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Toiletries

Registration: \$8.00 includes lunch Deadline: Sunday, September 17
Reservations: Donna Hammond 216-749-5585 or
Beatrice Grega 440-885-1481

Dr. Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church
4470 Ridge Rd.
Brooklyn, OH 44144
Handicapped accessible

From I-71 N. Merge onto I-480 E via EXIT 238 toward Youngstown. Take Exit 15 onto Ridge Rd. Turn left onto Ridge Rd. 1 mile. Church is on the left, 0.1 miles past W 66th St.

From I-90 E. Take the West Blvd exit, EXIT 167, toward OH-10/Lorain Ave. Turn right onto West Blvd. Take the 1st left onto Lorain Ave/OH-10. Turn slight right onto Denison Ave. Turn right onto Ridge Rd. just past W 73rd St. Take Ridge Rd. for 1.9 miles; church is on right just past Outlook Ave.

The Lutheran Church of the Covenant

September 2017

Server Schedule	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1	2 9:30-1:30 Cov. Farmers' Market 5:00 Saturday Eucharist at Covenant
AM: Nel Lanese Cruc: Jody Bernardo Ush: A. Treichel & B. Treichel AG: Rusher, Senderak, Skowronski, Susaneck Greet: Steve & Claudia Senderak	3 9:00 Eucharist	4 Office closed for Labor Day	5 7:00 Worship & Music Meeting	6	7	8	9 9:30-1:30 Cov. Farmers' Market 5:00 Service at Triune
AM: Allan Treichel Cruc: Katie Garberich Ush: Schirmer, Frajter, Dobushes AG: Frajter, Garvin, Zahn Greet: Annie Copeland	10 9:00 Eucharist 10:30 Rally Day	11	12 7:00 Council Meeting	13	14	15	16 9:30-1:30 Cov. Farmers' Market 5:00 Saturday Eucharist at Covenant
AM: Steve Dobush Cruc: Emily Garberich Ush: Garvin & Zahn AG: Frajter, Garvin, Zahn Greet: Arlene Lasher	17 9:00 Eucharist 10:30 Sunday School Hour	18	19 7:00 Ev & Soc Min	20	21 7:00 Bd of Ed Meeting	22	23 9:30-1:30 Cov. Farmers' Market 5:00 Service at Triune
AM: Bert Zahn Cruc: Ethan Lockmiller Ush: Senderak, Besednjak AG: Werner, Copeland, Hohenstein Greet: Nancy Langry	24 9:00 Eucharist 10:30 Sunday School Hour	25	26	27	28 5:00 Cov.-Hope Commun. Meal	29	30 9:30-1:30 Cov. Farmers' Market NO Saturday Eucharist

10/1/2017: AM: Nel Lanese Cruc: Jody Bernardo Ush: A. Treichel & B. Treichel AG: Werner, Copeland, Hohenstein Greet: Dick & Madeline Ptak

* "Master" = Lutheran Church of the Master, 680 Northfield Road, Bedford. * "Triune" = Triune Lutheran Church 4810 W. Mill Road, Broadview Hts. *

Calendar orientation for ease of use online. Full-sized and properly oriented version for printing is located on page 9.

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 through October 7, 9:30 - 1:30

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 7

Scarecrows, Hayrides for Kids, Fall Treats

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)

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