

# Covenant NEWS



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## *Pastor's Spin*

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

In a few weeks we'll begin the journey of Lent with Ash Wednesday, when the cross will be marked on our forehead with ashes, a reminder of our mortality. It always varies from person-to-person how long they leave that dark mark. Do you use the restroom before you even leave the church? Do you immediately wash it off when you get home right after the service? Of course, it's a bigger question if you go to worship earlier in the day. Regardless, no matter how quickly we get rid of the cross of ashes on our foreheads, our mortality remains a reality.

However, lest we forget, there's a cross that was made on our forehead long before ashes ever came along. It was done so with oil at our baptism, and no matter how quickly it may have faded to the eye, it remains on us, with us: "marked with the cross of Christ forever." At that time, we were marked into a journey of life and death, not only for our own, but to experience the life and death of others. We were marked into the ministry of the cross: not a ministry of telling people how to feel, or to be a living self-help book of clichés, but to, at times, do absolutely nothing but listen. To be part of a ministry that empowers us to accompany one another through all the hills and valleys of a lifetime.

Ash Wednesday is a renewal of sorts, where we can renew our acceptance of our own mortality and still manage to live in spite of it. That's why we celebrate Holy Communion that night as well, the meal that manages to bring life out of death. After all, Ash Wednesday is a new beginning, not just into a forty-day spiritual cleansing, but a re-commitment to the life of the cross: into sacrifice, humility, and death-defying dedication. And, as we will hear on this journey we call Lent, we do not take this on alone, but with Christ right by our side, even into death and beyond. Thanks be to God indeed! Amen.

*In Christ,  
Pastor Brad*



**February - March  
2018**



*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

## Events During Lent

Ash Wednesday falls on February 14th this year and begins the Lenten season. Many events are planned between now and Easter, on April 1. Some of these events are in conjunction with, or hosted by, Lutheran Church of the Master, 860 Northfield Road, Bedford. Please mark your calendars. We hope to see you!

### Ash Wednesday Eucharist:

February 14, 7:00 p.m. at Covenant

### Mid-week Lenten Soup Suppers & Holden Evening Prayer:

See article on this page.

### Palm Saturday Children's Event:

Saturday, March 24, 9:30 a.m.

See article on page 5.

### Palm Sunday:

Sunday, March 25 at 9:00 a.m.  
at Covenant

**Maundy Thursday:** March 29  
at 7:00 p.m. at Master.

**Good Friday:** March 30  
at 7:00 p.m. at Covenant

**Easter:** Sunday, April 1  
Easter Vigil at Sunrise: 6:30 a.m.  
Pancake Breakfast: 7:30 a.m.  
Festival Eucharist: 9:00 a.m.

## Annual Flower Sale

The Covenant Lutheran Women's group is again sponsoring a plant sale. It's a great way to order your vegetable and floral plants for the year while supporting CLW. You are also welcome to make a donation to buy plants for the Covenant grounds.

Orders must be placed with payment by Sun., April 22. Pick-up is scheduled for Sat., May 19 from 9AM-Noon.

The order sheet will be available from the Church Office, in the sanctuary or from Coordinator Arlene Lasher. Contact her for a form or with questions at 216-663-1939.



## Schedule for the Lenten Season:

### Mid-Week Lenten Soup Supper & Worship

This year we will join again with the congregation of Lutheran Church of the Master during the Wednesday evenings of Lent for soup supper and worship with the Holden Evening Prayer, beginning February 21 and continuing through March 14.

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. Lutheran Church of the Covenant will host the first three Wednesdays supper and worship dates, February 21 & 28 and March 7. The fourth and fifth Wednesday supper and worship dates, March 14 & 21, will be at Lutheran Church of the Master.

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 hearts and minds for Christ's death-defying love that we observe during Holy Week. Members and visitors are welcome for supper and worship each of the five weeks.

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## Covenant Farmers' Market

We have not made any contributions to the General Fund of our Church in 2017 because we, Covenant, were meeting budget and there wasn't a need. We did, however purchase two LED signs for the front of the Church and paid for security cameras for our Church.

We also sent a donation to the ELCA Good Gifts fund, which funded a community vegetable garden, purchased farming tools and seeds, and paid a scholarship to send a woman to farming field school. We felt this fits with the spirit of our Farmers' Market.

With the additional funds we have, we will be looking for various project for the future. Not only did the Farmers' Market provide funds for the Church and various other items, but provided the neighborhood with good, healthy food at a reasonable price. We were being noticed by those waving out front, getting to know our customers better, and supplying hot dogs and pop for a steal. We will continue to look for ways of using our money for ways of helping those in need.

*Dick Ptak, Director of Covenant Farmers Market*

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## Potluck & a Movie

The Board of Education is once again planning a potluck and movie. This time, just as football has ended, we bring back a true football story from 1973 Alabama. The movie is "Woodlawn," about segregation in a southern high school, all the tensions involved, and how faith turned around a town. A community is moved by words of faith and overcomes prejudice. This is so timely, given the modern day gun violence in schools across our country today! Please join us during the Sunday School hour on February 25 at 10:15 for potluck and a movie, and inspiration.

*Chuck Dickey, Board of Education Chairperson*



*Christmas  
2017*

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Vigil featured a children's sermon and joyful music performed by the Cleveland Brassworks quintet, flautist Ann Droste, guitarist Benjamin Al-Doory, and organist Robin Crawford.



St. Nick Night

The United Handbell Choir's performance at Gallery One in Mentor on December 4 included some audience participation.



Don't forget to "SPRING FORWARD" and set your clocks ahead one hour on the morning of Sunday, March 11. You won't want to miss the Eucharist service for the Fourth Sunday in Lent!



## 60th Anniversary of the Education Wing

As the tenth anniversary of the 1947 founding of The Lutheran Church of the Covenant approached, a building committee was established to plan the education wing. The original building, dedicated in 1951, ended with the west wall of the current parlor and nursery on the upper level, and, on the lower level, the current parish hall and bump-out of the kitchen which was only about half of its current size (you can still see a scar on the wall behind the freezer where the old cinder block and new cinder block was patched together with bricks). This is the time when more residential lots on what had been the extension of Oakwood Avenue between Maple Heights Boulevard and Libby were converted into additional parking and driveway area.



After his installation as pastor of Covenant in October 1953, Rev. Cyril Wismar's leadership helped the congregation grow quite rapidly. Records in the church archives dated

November 14, 1956 refer to the \$100,000 goal adopted for Covenant's Expansion Program, which was apparently successful by springtime. The ground breaking ceremony was held on May 29, 1957. You might recognize on the right edge of this photo (*right*), our friend George Lautanen, who was a member of the building committee.



Then, on December 15, 1957 Covenant hosted the consecration of the Auping-Oehlschlaeger Memorial Wing. The honorees named in the dedication are our two founding pastors. Rev. Walter A.W. Auping was the pastor of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church of Cleveland when it was founded in 1912. Under his leadership, that congregation grew and reached out to the suburbs, building a mission church, Trinity Lutheran Church, in Maple Heights in 1920.

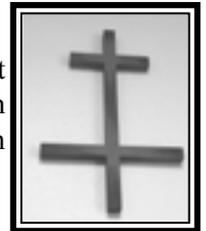
Rev. Auping installed Rev. Richard P. Oehlschlaeger as the presiding pastor of Trinity. After World War II, the congregations of St. Andrew's and Trinity decided to merge together and in 1947, the merger formed the congregation of The Lutheran Church of the Covenant. Pr. Oehlschlaeger continued to lead this new congregation until he retired in 1949.



This photo (*left*) from the dedication ceremony includes Victor Oehlschlaeger (son of the pastor), William Auping (son of the pastor) and his wife, Barbara, and Rev. Wismar.



When the education wing was opened for use, eight different types of crosses were hung in the classrooms. They were a gift from Pastor and Mrs. Cyril Wismar. This St. Peter cross still hangs in Room 6 (*right*).



This dedication occurred at a time when the congregation was inspired to add decorations to the sanctuary as well. On March 30, 1958 the Baptismal Candelabra was given in memory of Rev. & Mrs. R.P. Oehlschlaeger. This decade was also the time when members were contributing to the stained glass window fund. The four windows near the altar were installed with original construction, but the others were dedicated in 1964. And the carillon bell installation was completed in 1961.



On Easter 1958, the tradition of dedicating Easter Lilies was initiated "to beautify the sanctuary." The poinsettia tradition began five years later. When we observe these traditions this year, we can reflect on their 60th and 55th anniversaries.

## In Memoriam



It is with a heavy heart that we share the news of the passing of two members of the Covenant family. Lois Gerstenberger passed away on January 8, 2018 at the age of 92 (*left*). Two and a half months shy of her 101st birthday, Helene Egley passed away on January 23, 2018 (*right*).



Both of these ladies lived lives devoted to family and community. During their so-called “retired” years, they were active at Covenant, in retirees groups and in service to others. Lois worked many years on the Bedford Hospital volunteer guild and Helene worked tirelessly for the Southeast Clergy Hunger Center. Their strong work ethics and generous spirits were rewarded with remarkable longevity, surrounded by loved ones.

We thank God for having given Lois and Helene 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.

The Lutheran Church of the Covenant presents

### **PALM SATURDAY CHILDREN’S EVENT Saturday, March 24, 9:30 a.m.**

for Children ages 3 through 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 CovenantLC@sbcglobal.net

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!)

**Please register by Thursday, March 22** so that Covenant will have adequate supplies for the activities on Saturday, March 24.

Lunch will be provided (Sub sandwiches, chips, cookies and beverage).

### **Berean Bible Class & ELCA Good Gifts Program**

The Berean Bible Class has purchased another goat for the ELCA Good Gifts program. “They can go where other animals can’t, surviving in some of the world’s harshest environments – rocky terrain, drought-prone areas and small plots of land. Fresh milk from a goat provides daily nutrition for children and their families”.

During the past year the Berean Bible Class supported various ministries through their collection each Sunday morning; Lutheran Disaster Relief, The Hunger Center, Meals on Wheels, World Hunger and the Hunger Walk, to name a few. If others in the congregation would like to contribute to the Good Gifts program see Pastor Harry Werner or me. Thank you!

*Alex Hohenstein, Treasurer, Berean Bible Class*

### Blessed Birthday Wishes to...

A blessed birthday to the following Covenant members born in

#### **February:**

- 2nd - Aubree McPherson
- 4th - Nel Lanese
- 8th - Katlyn Knerem
- 11th - Kenneth Schuetz
- 14th - Rich Nemeth
- 17th - Bill Scott
- 23rd - Jody Bernardo,  
Harrison Werner
- 25th - Bryan Gaglione
- 27th - Jen Garberich
- 28th - 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
- 3/12 Christy &  
Mark Hambleton



# The Lutheran Church of the Covenant February 2018

Sunday Servers	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>** Ash Wed. Servers:</b> AM: Bert Zahn Cruc: Emily Garberich Ush: Senderak & Besednjak AG: Rusher, Senderak, Skowronski, SusaneK Greet: Mary Kaye Bernardo					1	2	3 5:00 Saturday Eucharist at Covenant
AM: Nel Lanese Cruc: Jody Bernardo Ush: A & B Treichel AG: Ptak, Lanese, Bewsey Greet: Don & Ron Schirmer	4 9:00 Eucharist 10:30 Sun. School	5	6 7:00 Worship & Music Meeting	7	8	9	10 5:00 Service at Triune
AM: Allan Treichel Cruc: Avery Lockmiller Ush: Schirmer, Frajter, Dobushes AG: Rusher, Senderak, Skowronski, SusaneK Greet: Janet Wilkens	11 9:00 Eucharist 10:30 Sunday School 5:00-8:00 Confirmation class	12	13 7:00 Council Meeting	14 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> 7:00 Ash Wed. Eucharist at Covenant **	15 7:00 Bd of Ed Meeting	16	17 5:00 Saturday Eucharist at Covenant
AM: Ted Lockmiller Cruc: Jody Bernardo Ush: Garvin & Zahn AG: Rusher, Senderak, Skowronski, SusaneK Greet: Barb Gaglione	18 <b>1st Sun. in Lent</b> 9:00 Eucharist 10:30 Sunday School	19	20 7:00 Ev. & Soc. Min. Meeting	21 6:00 Soup Supper at Covenant	22 5:00 Cov.-Hope Community Meal	23	24 5:00 Service at Triune
AM: Steve Dobush Cruc: Katie Garberich Ush: Senderak & Besednjak AG: Frajter, Garvin, Zahn Greet: Harry & Sheila Werner	25 <b>2nd Sun. in Lent</b> 9:00 Eucharist 10:15 Potluck & Movie	26	27	28 6:00 Soup Supper at Covenant	March 1	2	3 5:00 Saturday Eucharist at Covenant

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

# The Lutheran Church of the Covenant

## March 2018

Sunday Servers	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>** Good Friday Servers:</b> AM: Steve Dobush Cruc: Katie Garberich Ush: Sanderak & Besednjak AG: Ptak, Lanese, Bewsey Greet: Zahn					1	2	3 5:00 Saturday Eucharist at Covenant
AM: Nel Lanese Cruc: Avery Lockmiller Ush: A & B Treichel AG: Frajter, Garvin, Zahn Greet: Donna Franz	4 <b>3rd Sun. in Lent</b> 9:00 Eucharist 10:30 Sunday School	5	6 7:00 Worship & Music Meeting	7 6:00 Soup Supper at Covenant	8	9	10 5:00 Service at Triune
AM: Marie Zahn Cruc: Emily Garberich Ush: Schirmer, Frajter, Dobushes AG: Werner, Copeland, Hohenstein Greet: Mary Kaye Bernardo	11 Daylight Savings Time <b>4th Sun. in Lent</b> 9:00 Eucharist 10:30 Sun. School 5:00-8:00 Confirmation	12	13 7:00 Council Meeting	14 6:00 Soup Supper at Master	15 7:00 Bd of Ed Meeting	16	17 5:00 Saturday Eucharist at Covenant
AM: Ethan Lockmiller Cruc: Jody Bernardo Ush: Gerwin & Zahn AG: Werner, Copeland, Hohenstein Greet: Bert & Marie Zahn	18 <b>5th Sun. in Lent</b> 9:00 Eucharist 10:30 Sun. School	19	20 7:00 Ev. & Soc. Min. Meeting	21 6:00 Soup Supper at Master	22	23	24 9:30 AM Palm Sat. Children's event 5:00 Service at Triune
AM: Allan Treichel Cruc: Emily Garberich Ush: Sanderak & Besednjak AG: Ptak, Lanese, Bewsey Greet: Sanderaks	25 <b>Palm Sunday</b> 9:00 Eucharist 10:30 Sun. School	26	27	28	29 7:00 Maundy Thursday at Master	30 7:00 Good Friday at Covenant **	31 No Saturday Eucharist
<b>4/1 9:00 AM Service:</b> AM: Nel Lanese Cruc: Avery Lockmiller Ush: Garvin & Zahn AG: Ptak, Lanese, Bewsey Greet: Annie Copeland	<b>April 1: Easter</b> 6:30 AM Sunrise Vigil 7:30 AM Breakfast 9:00 AM Easter Festival Eucharist	2	3 7:00 Worship & Music Meeting	4	5	6	7 5:00 Saturday Eucharist at Covenant

4/1 6:30 AM Easter Vigil: Asst. Min: Daraynn Constant; Crucifer: Jody Bernardo; Usher: J. Dobush, Garvin; Altar Guild: Ptak, Lanese, Bewsey;

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# *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).

The Lutheran Church of the Covenant  
proudly presents its annual

## *Palm Saturday Children's Event*

**Saturday, March 24, 9:30 am**

The Palm Sunday Festival is free and open to all children of the community along with their parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents and friends, who are welcome to assist the children with crafts and activities.

**All children MUST be accompanied by an adult.**

**See page 5 for more information.**

**Covenant Lutheran Women  
Annual Plant Sale:  
Orders must be placed  
with payment by April 22.  
Pick-up is scheduled for  
Saturday, May 19  
from 9AM-Noon.**



**Full details on page 2.**



*The Lutheran Church of the Covenant*  
**February 2018**

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