



The Voice



August 2017

NOTES

Margaret L. Morrow, 93, of Covington, Ohio, passed away Friday, June 23, 2017, at the Covington Care Center. Margaret was born in Covington, August 23, 1923, to the (late) Lowell and Pearl (Feitshans) Rhoades. She was a graduate of Covington High School, Class of 1941; a homemaker and worked on their farm and a member of St. John Lutheran Church, Covington. Preceded in death by her parents; husband Paul E. Morrow, in 1991; son Rex Morrow and sister Dorothy Warner. Margaret is survived by her children: Allan and Pamela Morrow, of Covington; Joyce Morrow, of Troy; four grandchildren: Dale and Kristy Morrow, Greg and Amy Morrow, Daniel Morrow, Katie and Chris Guinn; great-grandson Graham Morrow; brother and sister-in-law George and Louise Rhoades, of Versailles; nieces; nephews; other relatives and friends.

Happy Birthday

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 2 - Angie Besecker | 19- Marjorie Mutzner |
| 12 - Linda Larson | 25- Chelsea Forsythe |
| 13 - Darrell Kiehl | 31- Lena Stangel |

Member Spotlight: David Larson



David Larson has attended St. John's since about 1983 when he was three years old. He was baptized that same year. One of his first memories is attending Vacation Bible School. David's parents, Jim and Linda Larson, always made church a very important part of their family, so he has been very active in the church for his entire life.

As a child, he attended many youth events including small mission experiences. When David was in high school, Dawn and Eric Flory were the youth directors, and they were both extremely formative in the growth of his faith. During college, David began visiting shut-ins. That was when he and his future wife, Rachel, formed a very special friendship with former member, Naomi Kelch.

Having earned his Bachelor's Degree in secondary social studies education from Bowling Green State University and his Master's Degree from the University of Dayton, David now works as the director of curriculum, instruction, and professional development for the Miami County Educational Service Center. David has also taught eighth grade social studies, coached varsity cross country and track, served as principal, superintendent, and assistant superintendent at various schools. He is currently working toward a doctorate in educational leadership at the University of Dayton.

David and Rachel were married by Pastor Nierman at St. John's in 2003. They have two daughters. Eight-year-old Mary is going into third grade, and six-year-old Alice is headed into first. He loves that church for them is such a family affair and that they attend with his parents as well as his sister's family: Kate, Andy, Libby, and Sophie Shaffer.

David is still very active in church. He enjoys working at Fort Rowdy and other outreach events. He serves on church council and as assisting minister. He has taught junior high and high school Sunday school classes for over ten years. He also helped develop the Covington Youth Breakfast Club for Covington High School students alongside Ron and Judy Schultz from the Covington Presbyterian Church.

Outside of church, David is a pretty avid distance runner. He enjoys spending time with his family, listening to audio books, and cooking. He says that he has countless wonderful memories of his life here at St. John's, but nothing compares to the Baptisms of his daughters, Mary and Alice. David feels that the members of St. John's are also part of his family. He feels extremely blessed with such a caring and loving congregation.

PRAYER LIST

HOSPITALIZED, RECOVERING AT HOME, and OTHER PRAYER CONCERNS

Bill McKibben	Ruth Subler	Phyllis Drieling
Jim Perry	Leon Hollopeter	Roger Colby
Jack Besecker	Erica Hollopeter	Judy Fletcher
Sally Griffin	Linda Larson	Mary Sampson
Charlie Horman	Brian Olson, Jr. (cancer)	

IN EXTENDED CARE and SHUT-INS

Nola Hines	Linda Morrow (Cincinnati)
Viola Beaver	Bill & Francis Leistner (Brookdale-Troy)

FRIENDS & RELATIVES OF MEMBERS

Phillip Connell (son-in-law of Viola Beaver)
 George T. Burelison (friend of Jim Perry)
 Mary Littlejohn (friend of Jim Perry)
 Fran Maynard (friend of Colbys)
 Mike Simon (friend of Jim Perry)
 Ethel Besecker (friend of Colbys)
 Linda Davis (wife of Fred Davis)
 Neil Stackhouse (cancer)
 Nelson Dohm (friend of Jim Perry)
 Mary Colby (mother of Roger Colby)
 Owen Gauntt (friend of Dawn Flory)
 Tammy Elliott-Geyle (former member)
 Shirley Sheffer (friend of Dawn Flory)
 Bridget Simon (friend of Jim Perry)
 Joyce Gilbert (friend of Jim Perry)
 Marilyn Helke (friend of Colbys)
 Donna F. Sowders (cancer)
 Larry Laub (friend of Jim Perry)
 Joel Miller (Connie Adams' brother-in-law)
 Elizabeth A. Nierman (Peace Corps, in Ukraine)
 Thelma Archer (friend of Jim Perry)
 Steve Petijean (friend of Jim Perry)
 Joanne Schmidt (mother of Jim Schmidt)
 Kennedy Kraft (granddaughter of MaryAnn Francis)
 Jesse Slankas (cancer, nephew of Joey Armstrong)
 Leslie Slankas (sister of Joey Armstrong)
 Lester Smith (friend of Jim Perry)
 Megan Wagner (friend of Jim Perry)
 Bruce Whited (friend of Jim Perry)
 Joan Will (cancer-aunt of Laura Schmidt)



FAMILY & FRIENDS IN THE ARMED FORCES

Troy Cron- grandson of Phil & Linda Iddings
 Brandon Moyer – Navy, in Washington state
 Jon Osterman- National Guard (DeAnn nee' Kiehl's husband)
 Cory Purvis- Army, at Ft. Bragg, NC (Pattie Perry's grandson)
 LTJG Mary Strade-Ships Gnnr- USS John C. Stennis (sister of Laura Schmidt)

SCRIPTURE FOR SUNDAYS IN



Sunday, August 6, 2017

First Reading:	Isaiah 55:1-5
Psalm:	Psalms 145:8-9, 14-21 (16)
Second Reading:	Romans 9:1-5
Gospel:	Matthew 14:13-21

Sunday, August 13, 2017

First Reading:	1 Kings 19:9-18
Psalm:	Psalms 85:8-13 (8)
Second Reading:	Romans 10:5-15
Gospel:	Matthew 14:22-33

Sunday, August 20, 2017

First Reading:	Isaiah 56:1, 6-8
Psalm:	Psalms 67 (3)
Second Reading:	Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Gospel:	Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

Sunday, August 27, 2017

First Reading:	Isaiah 51:1-6
Psalm:	Psalms 138 (8)
Second Reading:	Romans 12:1-8
Gospel:	Matthew 16:13-20

"If people concentrated on the really important things in life, there'd be a shortage of fishing poles."

-Doug Larson





GREAT IS GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

My wife, Pastor Alicia Nierman, tells this story. "When I was a child, my sister, my father and mother, and I would travel every other Saturday to my Uncle Pete's farm. Pete was born with cerebral palsy. It affected his gait in that he would drag one leg, and his speech was only understood by those who

were around him fairly often. Still, he was able to farm the few acres on which he lived. He grew corn and had some chickens and hogs. We would clean his house, and my mom would dress chickens and cook food for the two weeks until we returned. To get to Pete's farm, we took old Indiana State Highway 100 past Carmel, Noblesville, Avon, on up to Tipton, and then onto country roads. Pete's was gravel. When I was about 12-years-old, they turned Highway 100 into Interstate Highway 69. We could then make the trip in about half the time. At the time Interstate 69 was built, it had two lanes on each side. It now has three and in some places, four. During one trip, I remember distinctly my father saying that by the time the interstate was finished being built, the highway would be outdated. He called what they were doing, 'planned obsolescence.' That means that the highway department built it knowing that it would need to be replaced in the not-too-distant future."

In this day and age, planned obsolescence seems to be the rule - especially with appliances. In the time Alicia and I have been married, 18 years last May, we've bought two washing machines, three clothes dryers, two chest freezers, two refrigerators, three stoves, and a dishwasher. The dishwasher we purchased a week ago from the time of this writing.

We actually thought the next one to go would be the clothes washer. It's one of those high-efficiency top loading jobs. We've had it about eight years. A couple of weeks ago, I went into the laundry room and heard a noise. It had turned itself on. I kid you not - and with the lid up! So, we started unplugging it when it wasn't in use. A week later I was in there again and heard "drip, drip, drip." Water was leaking into the tub - so we turned the water off when it wasn't in use. Two nights ago I was in there, and it was drip, drip, dripping again - this time with the water off. I swear, I think the thing is possessed. Then, the dishwasher quit working. Sigh. Every time Alicia thinks we can afford those new kitchen countertops she has wanted for six years, another appliance rolls over and dies.

Our friend, who has sold us several appliances, says the average lifespan of major appliances is now 6-8 years, and they get more and more expensive every time we buy one. Planned obsolescence: it's not just a sin, such wastefulness, and in an age during which people are making a real effort to use, reuse, and recycle trying to conserve natural resources, but it's also just a crime. Highway robbery. It leaves me wondering how low-income families manage at all.

In such a world, it also makes me wonder what, if anything, does not eventually become obsolete, or break down, or rust and fall apart. Of course, the answer is the love of God. God planned eons

ago for all of God's beloved children to always have an abundant supply of God's love, care, mercy, and forgiveness. God never fails us, even when we fail God. God never abandons us in times of sorrow, loss, or crisis. God has made a way, through the cross of his Son, Jesus Christ, that we might have salvation to eternal life. It is free of cost. It is perfect, and will remain so for all time. No planned obsolescence with our ever-faithful, never-failing God. No obsolescence at all.

I'm reminded of an old but wonderful hymn that we all know and love, [Evangelical Lutheran Worship #733](#).

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my father; there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided; Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me. (*Hope Publishing.*)

In His Service,
Pastor Nierman



COA

The Back-to-School Program began on Sunday, July 30th. The apples, with information about the supplies needed, are available at the back of the church. Since we only are responsible for six students, the book bags/backpack and supplies have been separated to allow more people to help. Tax free days for school merchandise are August 4, 5, and 6. Book bags/backpacks and school supplies will be due to the church on Sunday, August 13th. Please be sure the identifying information is on the supplies.

If you are unable to shop for school supplies or a book bag/backpack, you may still help by making a monetary donation for school fees or to help with extra supplies that may be needed. Please make checks payable to the Covington Outreach Association (COA) and write "Back2School" on the memo line. Any amount you wish to give will be much appreciated. You may give checks to Linda Gephart or send to the Church of the Brethren. Thanks!



Youth!

If anyone is interested in teaching Sunday School, please contact Laura Schmidt at 937-570-0034. If it is the youth Sunday School that piques your interest, it is just a rotation, and you will not have to instruct every Sunday. This is the same for the nursery during church. We are excited about the new curriculum for youth and high school this fall! Sunday School begins September 10th. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

If anyone is aware of small, local community projects or non-profits in need of the help of our youth, please let Laura Schmidt know so we can explore how St. John's could serve. Thank you.

Although the weather was iffy, our Lutheran determination to swim was strong! We had great food, terrific fellowship and pool fun! Thank you to Jim and Linda for opening your home once again for our annual outing!



Have your picture taken with Martin Luther!

Visit the Germanfest in Dayton on August 11, 12, and 13. The theme of this year's Culture Display at the Germanfest Picnic at RiverScape MetroPark is the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. The German Embassy in Chicago has been kind enough to send us an amazing set of posters entitled "Here I Stand," which examines Luther's life and the impact of the Reformation from many angles. The German Embassy in Washington, DC has sent a life-sized Playmobil figure of Martin Luther for photo ops. The Southern Ohio Synod looks forward to sharing this experience with the Lutheran Community in Dayton, and the public at large.



St. John's Church Council Meeting- June 14, 2017

Present: Pastor Nierman, Holly Rohr, Betty Hollopeter, Rick Longenecker, Kate Shaffer, Dave Larson, Briana King, Sally Griffin, Eric Flory

Absent: Jerry Schroeder

1. Devotions were led by Pastor
2. Secretary's Report – Last month's minutes were reviewed. Motion to approve minutes by Kate. It was seconded by Holly. It carried.
3. Pastor's Report was reviewed. David moved to accept the Pastor's Report. It was seconded by Eric. Motion carried.
4. Financial Report – Financial report was reviewed and discussed. Briana moved to accept. It was seconded by Sally. Motion carried.
5. Committee Reports
 - a. Christian Ed/Youth- Vacation Bible School will be June 19th-23rd from 9 am to noon daily. Registration will be at 8:30 am on June 19th. There will be a program on Friday night. A dinner will be served at 5:30 pm, and the program will begin at 6:30 pm.
 - b. Evangelism- the breakfast club had a very successful year and is planning to move the baccalaureate program to an evening or afternoon so that students don't have to miss their own church service.
 - c. Social Ministry- Father's Day social will be June 11th immediately after church. Covington Care Center service will be June 19th.
 - d. Property- The motion detector failed on the front porch of the parsonage. It has been replaced and is working well. Also, first aid kits have been supplied in each bathroom so that they are available when needed.
6. Old Business
 - a. Web Site progress - The group working on the project over the summer includes Laura Schmidt, Brooks King, David Larson, Kevin Marten, and Rick Longenecker.
 - b. Hearing assistance project- Rick has researched the options and presented them as follows:
 - i. A headset could be given to anyone who requests it. It would be worn with headphones or earbuds. Anyone with hearing aids would have to remove them, and anyone without hearing aids could still use this option. One concern with this option is cleaning the earpiece. Another concern is that it could be embarrassing.
 - ii. The other option is a hearing loop that would be transmitted through our existing sound system and sent wirelessly and picked up by any hearing aid in the church. We could also purchase headsets that would work with this system for anyone who is not wearing a hearing aid.
 - iii. Holly moved to go forward with the hearing loop option. Eric seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - c. The cross on the outside of the building needs to be replaced. We have quotes for replacing it with half inch acrylic (twice as thick as the current one) or aluminum. Briana moved to accept the quote from KAP Signs for the aluminum cross, and Kate seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - d. The password for the wifi is coolcomet165 and will be posted in the back of the church.
7. New Business
 - a. Landon Flory applied for a scholarship. He will be attending Wright State University in the fall. Meredith Flory also applied for a scholarship. She will begin her third year at Kent State University. Betty motioned to grant both scholarships, and Kate seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - b. Pastor's fifteenth anniversary is coming next year. He has now been our longest serving pastor. Because this is such a special and rare thing, we would like to celebrate. The bishop will come and preach for us on December 17th, 2017. We will have a nice meal afterwards.
8. Motion to adjourn by David, seconded by Eric. Motion carried.
9. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.