



The Voice



July 2017

NOTES

We would like to thank everyone for their cards, prayers, and support of us as we were confirmed. We look forward to growing even more in our faith over the years as official members of St. John's.

Sincerely,

Jaiden, Amber, Katelyn, Ryan, Libby, and Lauren

Thank you, St. John's for the gas card!

-Tristin Stangel

A big thank you to the ladies on the social ministry committee for the wonderful work they do, for the Mother's Day luncheon and the Father's Day luncheon. Everything was so nice. Thank you to Ted and Kris Davis for the wonderful food they provided. We are so blessed at our church.

Thanks to each of you,
Roger and Norma Colby

Happy Birthday

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| 3 - Linda Gephart | 20- John Molesky Jr. |
| 5 - Logan Adams | 22- Krista Davis |
| 6 - Opal Holfinger | 24- Connie Adams |
| 6 - Luella Roeth | 24- Jim Schmidt |
| 7 - Bob Althoff | 26- Roland Kellar, Jr. |
| 9 - Jenna Hagan | 27- Rachel Larson |
| 13- Jennifer Davis | 31- Laura Schmidt |
| 15- Judy Fletcher | |

Member Spotlight: Elsie Smith



Elsie M. Treon Smith was born on January 26, 1921 on a farm to Mary and Henry Oerthman Treon in Willowdell, Ohio. All work was done with draft horses pulling machinery and cows were milked by hand. She had two older brothers, Russell and Odus Treon, and two younger sisters, Adeline Treon Worley and Elfreda Treon.

Elsie attended St. Paul's Lutheran church in Willowdell where she attended catechism twice weekly for two years. In order for her to finish her catechism at St. Paul's, she lived with her grandparents for a year while her family moved to Covington when she was twelve years old. After joining her family on the Covington farm, she has attended St. John's since 1934.

Even though he was Catholic, her father made sure his wife and children attended either St. Paul's or St. John's by driving a team of horses with a sleigh in the winter or an open vehicle pulled by a horse when the weather permitted until a car was purchased.

Elsie graduated from Covington high school in 1939 and worked in Dayton at Leland Electric, by taking a trolley to work until she married Marion Smith on July 22, 1943. He joined the Army and was stationed in California for his tour of duty during World War II where she joined him for two years until the war ended. While in California, as a young wife, she worked in a laundry.

Elsie and Marion came home and started a life-long career in farming. She worked alongside her husband in plowing, planting, and harvesting crops. They also fed out market steers. They retired to the family farm on Rakestraw Rd. Over the years, they served on altar guild, polishing crosses and candelabras. Then, Marion passed away on December 8, 1996.

Elsie's and Marion's two daughters, Karen Smith Gearhardt and Kathy Smith Short, gave them four grandchildren: Lisa Gearhardt Wesner, Mindy Gearhardt, Michael Short, and Staci Short Kirker. They have blessed her with five great grandchildren: Michael, John and Caroline Wesner, and Cameron and Taylor Kirker.

Elsie has enjoyed her life as wife, mother, and grandmother, and always wants to know what her great grandchildren are doing in school and sports. If you ask her to eat out, her usual reply is, "What time are you picking me up?"

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 Margaret Morrow
Mary Sampson Charlie Horman
Brian Olson, Jr. (cancer)

IN EXTENDED CARE and SHUT-INS

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

FRIENDS & RELATIVES OF MEMBERS

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

SCRIPTURE FOR SUNDAYS IN



Sunday, July 2, 2017

First Reading: Jeremiah 28:5-9
Psalm: Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18 (1)
Second Reading: Romans 6:12-23
Gospel: Matthew 10:40-42

Sunday, July 9, 2017

First Reading: Zechariah 9:9-12
Psalm: Psalm 145:8-14 (8)
Second Reading: Romans 7:15-25a
Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Sunday, July 16, 2017

First Reading: Isaiah 55:10-13
Psalm: Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13 (11)
Second Reading: Romans 8:1-11
Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Sunday, July 23, 2017

First Reading: Isaiah 44:6-8 or
Wisdom 12:13, 16-19
Psalm: Psalm 86:11-17 (11)
Second Reading: Romans 8:12-25
Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Sunday, July 30, 2017

First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5-12
Psalm: Psalm 119:129-136 (130)
Second Reading: Romans 8:26-39
Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

“Living in the moment brings you
a sense of reverence for all of
life's blessings.”

-Oprah Winfrey

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“Wireless communication is nothing new.
I've been praying for 75 years!”



HAIR TEASED MOMENT TURNED INTO SOMETHING WONDERFUL

Three women were discussing getting older. One said, “Sometimes I catch myself with a jar of mayonnaise in my hand, while standing in front of the refrigerator, and I can’t remember whether I need to put it away or start making a sandwich.” The second lady chimed in, “Yes, sometimes I find myself on the landing of the stairs and I can’t remember whether I was on my way up or on my way down.” The third one responded, “Well, ladies, I’m glad I don’t have that problem. Knock on wood,” as she rapped her knuckles on the table. Then she said, “That must be the door; I’ll get it!”

As we grow older, we become a bit more forgetful. One Sunday morning in confirmation class, we were talking about some of the great mysteries of the Christian faith, but I couldn’t think of the overall descriptive word. We Christians teach, experience, and the Bible testifies to: one God in three persons; Jesus Christ is 100% human and 100% the same substance as God the Father; we are saved by grace. When two seemingly contradictory statements express a truth which makes sense after deeper consideration, it is called a paradox. One of the students mentioned the word paradox since I couldn’t bring it to mind.

As we grow older, we imagine ourselves in the future less. Being the youngest, watching my brothers march out the front door to school, I couldn’t wait to go myself. When in high school, I imagined what college would be like, and when in college, I imagined what seminary would be like. In my thirties, I thought of what life in my forties would be like, and in my forties, I thought of what life in my fifties would be like. Once I reached my fifties, I stopped imagining myself in the future. I guess I figured that once I reached 55, I would stop aging. (Denial is not just a river in Egypt.) We do grow older one day at a time. So, life after 60 can come as a shock because we haven’t thought about it much.

A young man arrived unannounced at a certain young lady’s house. She came to the door with her hair “teased” in about six million directions. Her hair looked as if she had put her finger in a light socket. When she answered the door, she tried to lighten the situation. “How do you like my hair?” she asked good-naturedly. The young man stood there for a moment and then replied, “It looks as if it’s about to become something wonderful.”

As we grow older, we will finally reach a “hair teased” moment, a disease from which there is no recovery. At that point, we are out of options, but God isn’t! Just as the young man in the doorway said, “It looks as if it is about to become something wonderful.” God takes our terminal illness and turns it into eternity. Jesus said in his farewell discourse to his disciples, “In my Father’s house, there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also” (John 14:2-3). Life after 59 can come as a shock because our ability to recall words isn’t what it used to be, and we simply don’t think about life after 59 much. But, that “hair teased” moment is coming for all of us. Don’t worry. God has thought about it, and God’s promise in John 14 is all we need.

In His Service,
Pastor Nierman



Melody Men

We welcome the Miami County Melody Men who will perform the service for us on July 30th while Pastor Nierman is on vacation. This will be a treat for the ears as well as the soul, so don’t miss it!



Have you HEARD the news?



After conducting a survey and dutiful research (thanks to Rick L.) as well as much discussion, Council voted to install an audio loop system. With this new system, anyone wearing a hearing aid can set it to a certain channel and hear everything that comes through the microphone. It will not matter where you sit in church. The wireless signal will transmit the sound directly to your hearing aid. This will also cut down on background noise. The best thing is that any number of people can use it without the need for a headset. It’s completely inconspicuous. We will let you know when the loop system is installed so that you can start taking advantage of it.

Youth!

The youth collected \$250 in coins for the ELCA Good Gifts opportunities. A check and accompanying letter are going out at the beginning of July allocating the funds as follows:

25% to the ELCA Refugee effort = \$62.50

35% to God's Global Barnyard = \$87.50

40% to the Immunization Program = \$100.00

Thank you to the Congregation for all the support of this youth outreach!

The Annual Pool Party will be Sunday, July 23rd at 12:00 pm at the home of Jim and Linda Larson, 795 N. Pearl Street. Please bring a side, dessert, or salad to share, your bathing suit and towel, and the desire to have a great afternoon of fellowship! The main dish, drinks, and ice cream novelties will be provided. Hope to see you there!

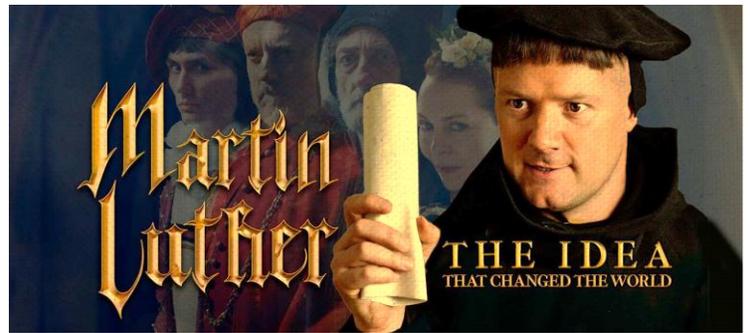
The next Youth Coffee Hour will be July 9th after service. If you are able to bring an item to share, that would be great!

Thirty-five members of St. John's traveled to LaComedia to see Beauty and the Beast. This youth tradition is enjoyed year over year. Thank you to all who participated. We found out that next year's summer production will be Annie. Hope you can join us!



Thank you to all who supported our graduate celebration for Landon Flory and Tristin Stangel. I am sure they will put the gas cards that St. John's gave

them to good use. We wish them all the best as they start college and the next phase of their lives. Thank you to Betty McKibben for making the delicious cake for our celebration.



Martin Luther triggered a seismic upheaval that rocked the western world in the 1500s—with an impact that continues to reverberate to this day. This film tells the great adventure story of his life. At the same time, it examines his quest for truth—questions we all must face—including "Who am I?" "What is my purpose" and "How do I get right with God?"

Now, in a new movie created for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, your congregation can further explore Luther and the impact of his teachings. "Martin Luther: The Idea that Changed the World" is a feature-length film that revisits the dramatic moments that shaped Luther's life while examining his quest to share the good news of the freeing love of Jesus Christ. The film, sponsored by Thrivent and in collaboration with the ELCA, is available for use as a Reformation anniversary activity.

In a quest for authenticity, the movie was filmed in the castles, monasteries and cobblestone streets of eastern Europe. Luther scholars were involved in all aspects of the production to further ensure historical accuracy, including ELCA theologians. Every sentence Luther speaks in the film is taken from his writings, talks and sermons.

Now you can see this compelling new movie at a special screening at your local movie theater.

"A powerful work that makes the Reformation come alive"

Presented by Epiphany Lutheran Church
Wednesday, September 13, 2017 6:30pm–8:23pm
at Rave Cinemas Dayton South 16 —
195 Mall Woods Dr, Dayton, OH, United States, 45449
\$11.00 General

—OR—

Presented by Lutheran Saints in Ministry
Thursday, October 26, 2017 7:30pm–9:38pm
at Cinemark Huber Heights 16 —
7737 Waynetowne Blvd, Dayton, OH, United States, 45424
\$10.00 General Admission

PENDING

These events will only take place if a minimum of 100 tickets are reserved in advance.

Ever wondered, "Why the colors?"



In the Christian tradition, colors are used for vestments and paraments, serving to adorn the worship space and to call attention to the nature of the season or festival being celebrated. Today, the ELCA provides a system of colors for use by its congregations and for the most part, the same system is also used by Roman and Anglican churches, at least in the United States.

Colors have different associations across the globe, just as they have had different associations over the course of the church's history. For example, white is the color North American and European Christians typically associate with Christmas and Easter, the color white signifying the purity of Christ, light or joy. In many Eastern cultures, however, white connotes mourning. Red, associated with energy, blood or fire among other things in Western culture, is the color associated with purity in India.

The colors serve to adorn the worship space, and to call attention to the nature of the season or festival being celebrated.

Advent: Blue is associated with Advent, suggesting hope. This association originated in Scandinavia, probably because purple dye was too expensive for churches to use. Some assemblies use purple in Advent, a color associated with royalty as the church awaits the newborn king. (Different meaning when used in Lent; see below).

Christmas: White, calling to mind the purity of the newborn Christ, and to our light and joy in him. Some also use Gold.

Epiphany of Our Lord: White (see Christmas).

Baptism of Our Lord: White (see Christmas).

Time after Epiphany: Green is used for its symbolism of our growth in Christ. Green, in a sense, is a "neutral color," used when more festive or more somber color is not appointed.

Transfiguration of Our Lord: White (see Christmas).

Ash Wednesday: Purple is the preferred color as this is the first day of Lent. Historically, black has also been used on this day, since it is the color of the ashes to which we will all return.

Lent: Purple is typically associated with Lent, suggesting repentance and solemnity.

Sunday of the Passion: Scarlet is the preferred color of this first day of Holy Week, as it suggests the deep color of blood. (Scarlet is to be distinguished from the brighter color of red, which is appointed for the Day of Pentecost, martyrs' days, and certain church celebrations). If a parish does not have scarlet vestments, purple may be used.

Days of Holy Week: Scarlet or purple may be used for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Holy Week.

Maundy Thursday: For this fourth day of Holy Week, celebrated as the institution of the Lord's Supper, scarlet or white is used.

Good Friday: No vestments or paraments are used on this day, after the stripping of the altar on Maundy Thursday night.

Vigil of Easter: White or Gold suggests of joy in the Resurrection is used on this night. Easter Day: Gold or white is suggested for this day. The gold color symbolizes that this day is the "queen of feasts," unique in the entire church year.

Sundays of Easter: White suggests the joy of the resurrection.

Day of Pentecost: Red as the color of fire is used on this day when we remember the tongues of fire descended on the crowd in Jerusalem. In contrast to the color of scarlet, Pentecost's red is a bright color.

The Holy Trinity: White is suggested, the expression of joy in the mystery of the Triune God.

Time after Pentecost: Green is used, to indicate our growth in faith as we follow the teachings and ministry of Christ. Some assemblies use differing shades of green throughout the Sundays after Pentecost, a lighter green in summer and a darker green in fall.

Christ the King: The final day of the church year uses white, a festive color suggesting light, joy, and the celebration of our Lord.

Lesser festivals and commemorations are white, unless a martyr is celebrated, in which case bright red is suggested.

The New Website is LIVE!!

St. John's Church Council Meeting
May 10, 2017

We are excited to announce that St. John's has a new and improved website. We hope to increase our communication and evangelism opportunities with this improvement. Several members of the church worked with students from the Upper Valley Career Center's Multi-Media class to develop our new site. The students did this as part of their real-world experience and helped us develop an awesome communication tool. The website can be located at:

<http://www.stjohnscovington.org/>



Our new site provides the church with great contemporary tools for sharing information. We will have recent pictures and videos of services and activities, share upcoming events, electronic access to *The Voice*, and links to pertinent information from the ELCA and the greater Covington community.

We also hope to increase our presence on social media through the St. John's Facebook page. We want our new website and increased social media use to serve as a communication tool to support our current members both logistically and spiritually. We also see the website and social media as a method to reach out to individuals and families who are looking for a new church experience.



As we embark on this new and exciting journey, there are a couple of important logistical issues we need to consider. It is important to church council that we have the permission of our members and visitors to use your pictures in photos and videos. We will address this in two different ways. We will require a consent release from guardians to use the pictures of anyone under the age of 18 years old. Laura Schmidt will provide a form for parents to sign in order to provide authorization to display pictures and videos on the website and through social media. For adults, the process will work a little differently. This process is considered an opt-out process. **If you do not want your picture used on the website or social media, please contact Dave Larson (937-570-0197 or davidlarson8031@gmail.com).** We will also share this information through the Refrigerator Notes and the OneCallNow message system.

Once again, we are extremely excited for our enhanced website. Thank you to all of the people who helped throughout this process, especially the students and staff from UVCC. Please take a moment and visit the new site. There are changes that we already have planned, but if you have suggestions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Dave Larson with your feedback.

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

1. Devotions were led by Pastor
2. Secretary's Report – Last month's minutes were reviewed. Motion to approve minutes by Holly, 2nd by Jerry, motion carried.
3. Pastor's Report was reviewed. Kate moved to accept the Pastor's Report, 2nd by Jerry carried.
4. Financial Report – Financial report was reviewed and discussed. Dave moved to accept, 2nd by Briana, motion carried.
5. Committee Reports
 - a. Christian Ed/Youth- May 21st will be our end of year bowling party. Laura and Kate are discussing how to structure the classes for next year. Vacation Bible School will be June 19th-23rd from 9 am to noon daily. Registration will be at 8:30 am on June 19th.
 - b. Social Ministry- Father's Day social will be June 11th immediately after church. Covington Care Center service will be June 19th.
 - c. Property- The cross is falling off the exterior of the church. It's plastic, and it is warping from the heat of the sun. Also, the vinyl strip on the freestanding letter sign in front of the church has deteriorated. These two items are being quoted together as one project.
6. Old Business
 - a. Web Site progress – we need to finalize our policies. This will be worked on this summer.
 - b. WiFi progress – we now have WiFi in the church. The signal is strong throughout the church including the basement.
 - c. Hearing assistance project will offer up a survey to be included in every bulletin. We want to know if people can hear and if they use a hearing aid. If they can hear the service with a hearing, then we don't need to do anything. If they use a hearing aid, but they can't hear the service, then we have to tweak our system because there could be some interference. Also, we could offer devices that would loop into our sound system to those who do wear hearing aids.
 - d. David has spoken with Wanda Stacy about communicating our church goings-on to the media. Wanda has done it in the past, but is no longer able to do so. David asked Stephanie to take over this responsibility, and she agreed. We just need to clarify exactly what events need to be communicated and when.
7. New Business
 - a. No new business
8. Motion to adjourn by Holly, 2nd by Kate, motion carried.
9. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.