



The Voice



October 2017

NOTES

Member Spotlight: Barbara Besecker

Thank you, St. John's, for the beautiful bracelet in acknowledgement of my graduation from Indiana Wesleyan University! It is a great conversation piece and a reminder to do good everywhere.

*Blessings to all of you,
Laura Schmidt*



Donations to Hurricanes Harvey & Irma totaled \$340! Thank you to all who contributed!

Barb grew up in Covington and has been a lifelong member of St. John's. She was baptized and confirmed at our church. She attended Sunday school and participated in the Luther League and the choir.

Happy Birthday

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 3 - Aimee Allen Tidwell | 20- Belinda Perry |
| 5 - Jeff Shively | 21- Andy Shaffer |
| 9 - Francis Leistner | 24- Deb Weikert |
| 11- Carlene Kiehl | 25- DeAnn Osterman |
| 13- Bill McKibben | 26- Carl Holfinger |
| 17- Bryce Gephart | |

She met her husband, Jerry, who went to Bradford High School, at the Miami County Dairy, right around the corner from the church, where they both worked during high school. They were married at St. John's in 1957 by Rev. Sam Hoeflich. At the time, the church was between pastors, so Rev. Hoeflich of Greenville came over to Covington to marry them because he had grown up in Covington and was well known. They had four children: Dennis, Deborah, Patrick, and William who were all baptized at St. John's.

THERE IS ALWAYS SOMETHING TO BE *thankful* FOR.

Over the years, Barb has helped with Fastnacht, altar guild, Fort Rowdy, and church council, and, of course, choir. Her favorite memory of St. John's is of her sister Kate playing the organ.

When asked what is her favorite thing about St. John's, Barb says, "I love the music. I loved the Luther League. I just think that all of our people are so wonderful and friendly. I feel so comfortable and happy when I'm there. It's a good feeling."



PRAYER LIST

HOSPITALIZED, RECOVERING AT HOME, and OTHER PRAYER CONCERNS

Bill McKibben	Ruth Subler	Phyllis Drieling
Charlie Horman	Kathie Molesky	Mary Sampson
Jim Perry	Leon Hollopeter	Roger Colby
Jack Besecker	Erica Hollopeter	Judy Fletcher
Sally Griffin	Linda Larson	Marge McKinney
Viola Beaver (Koester Rehab)		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

Kennedy Kraft (granddaughter of MaryAnn Francis)
 Phillip Connell (son-in-law of Viola Beaver)
 Mary Colby (mother of Roger Colby)
 Mary Littlejohn (friend of Jim Perry)
 Thelma Archer (friend of Jim Perry)
 Ethel Besecker (friend of Colbys)
 Linda Davis (wife of Fred Davis)
 Nelson Dohm (friend of Jim Perry)
 Mike Simon (friend of Jim Perry)
 Owen Gauntt (friend of Dawn Flory)
 Bridget Simon (friend of Jim Perry)
 Shirley Sheffer (friend of Dawn Flory)
 Tammy Elliott-Geyle (former member)
 Joyce Gilbert (friend of Jim Perry)
 Marilyn Helke (friend of Colbys)
 Larry Laub (friend of Jim Perry)
 Fran Maynard (friend of Colbys)
 Joel Miller (Connie Adams' brother-in-law)
 Elizabeth A. Nierman (Peace Corps, in Ukraine)
 George T. Burelison (friend of Jim Perry)
 Joanne Schmidt (mother of Jim Schmidt)
 Lori L. Schoentrup (Pastor Alicia Nierman's sister)
 Jesse Slankas (cancer, nephew of Joey Armstrong)
 Leslie Slankas (sister of Joey Armstrong)
 Lester Smith (friend of Jim Perry)
 Donna F. Sowders (cancer)
 Neil Stackhouse (cancer)
 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- Army, Middle East
 Cory Purvis- Army, at Ft. Bragg, NC (Pattie Perry's grandson)
 LTJG Mary Strade-Ships Ginner- USS John C. Stennis (sister of Laura Schmidt)

SCRIPTURE FOR SUNDAYS IN

November

Sunday, November 5, 2017

First Reading:	Micah 3:5-12
Psalm:	Psalm 43 (3)
Second Reading:	1 Thessalonians 2:9-13
Gospel:	Matthew 23:1-12

Sunday, November 12, 2017

First Reading:	Amos 5:18-24 or Wisdom 6:12-16
Psalm:	Psalm 70 (5) or Wisdom 6:17-20 (17)
Second Reading:	Thessalonians 4:13-18
Gospel:	1 Matthew 25:1-13

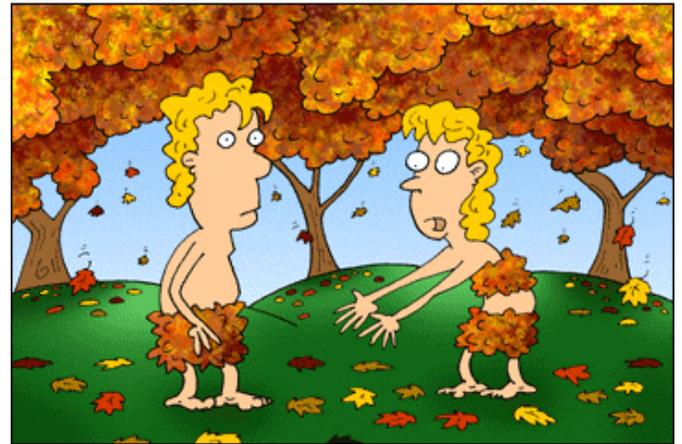
Sunday, November 19, 2017

First Reading:	Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
Psalm:	Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12 (12)
Second Reading:	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Gospel:	Matthew 25:14-30

Sunday, November 26, 2017

First Reading:	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm:	Psalm 95:1-7a (7)
Second Reading:	Ephesians 1:15-23
Gospel:	Matthew 25:31-46

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WILL YOU PLEASE PICK UP ALL YOUR CLOTHES?

"I'm a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work the more I have of it."

-Thomas Jefferson



THANKSGIVING AND OIL

My father always drummed into my head, "Always check the oil. The oil is the life of the engine." To this day, I check the oil in my car, snow blower, and lawn mower. Did you ever think of saying thanks to God as a lubricant? It makes life run better and keeps it from grinding in complaint. Envy may start its grating in our hearts when we look at what our neighbor has and what we do not have. Self-righteousness may whistle in our ears when we contrast our efforts at church to that of others. Anger may burn in our belly when we think we have been wronged. Complaining can only make life bitter.

It is time to check the oil! We need to inventory what God has given us. First of all, we have been saved by Jesus. "Even when we were dead through our trespasses, (God) made us alive together with Christ- by grace you have been saved- and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:5-6). God continues to forgive us when we repent. Second, our forgiving God is also a providing God. "God daily and abundantly provides shoes and clothing, food and drink, house and farm, spouse and children, fields, livestock, and all property-- along with all the necessities and nourishment for this body and life...For all of this I owe it to God to thank and praise, serve and obey him" (Luther's Small Catechism in our [Lutheran Book of Worship](#), page 1162).

Thanksgiving to God for all the good gifts of mind, body, and soul that we receive from God lubricates our envious hearts, our self-righteous minds, and our angry tempers. My father said, "Always check the oil." This November, with our Covington Community Thanksgiving worship on Wednesday, November 22nd, we have an opportunity to thank God for all He has given us. As we sing and say the thanksgiving to God that overflows from our hearts, our lives are lubricated with the oil of gladness (Psalm 45:7).

In His Service,
Pastor Nierman



Youth!

Annual Skating Party!!!

Please plan to join us on Sunday, November 19th from 5:30-7:30pm at Skate 36 for our Annual Skating Party. We have invited our Covington Outreach Association friends again this year. We will provide pizza, pop, cookie, skate rental, and skating. We need you to provide FUN, FRIENDS, FAMILY, and FELLOWSHIP! Please bring guests! Sign up is on the bulletin board to help us get a number for pizza.

Coffee Hour

The next Youth Coffee Hour will be Sunday, November 26th. If you are able to bring an item to share, we would love that!

Coin Money

The Youth have unanimously decided that the amount collected through our Coin Jar will be donated this year to ELCA Domestic Disaster Relief to help our neighbors in the United States who have been affected by hurricanes, floods, and fires so far this year. Our coin drive runs through May, and the amount collected will be sent to the ELCA in June 2018. Thank you, as always, for your support.

Junior Jam!

Preston and Lily King and I had the privilege to attend Junior Jam on Saturday, October 14th at Cedarville University. This was an all-day celebration of our God of Wonders! The kids were able to participate in faith



forming activities that stretched their normal comfort zone in a safe and spirit filled place. Complete with live music, crafts, scripture and juggling, the day was jam packed with

junior fun! I was fortunate enough to be able to watch their journey first hand and attend a couple of workshops that provided resources for our youth. A great day was had by all!

DATE CHANGE

The 2017 Youth Christmas Program will be performed on Sunday, December 10th at 10am. As usual, this is not a Sunday you want to miss! See you there!



Rally Day ice cream social.

Fanny Crosby

Frances Jane van Alstyne (née Crosby; March 24, 1820 – February 12, 1915), more commonly known as Fanny Crosby, was an American mission worker, poet, lyricist, and composer. She was one of the most prolific hymnists in history, writing more than 8,000 hymns and gospel songs, with more than 100 million copies printed, despite being blind from shortly after birth. She is also known for her teaching and her rescue mission work. By the end of the 19th century, she was a household name.

Crosby was known as the "Queen of Gospel Song Writers" and as the "Mother of modern congregational singing in America", with most American hymnals containing her work. Some of Crosby's best-known songs include "Pass Me Not, O Gentle Saviour", "Blessed Assurance", "Jesus Is Tenderly Calling You Home", "Praise Him, Praise Him", "Rescue the Perishing", and "To God Be the Glory". Some publishers were hesitant to have so many hymns by one person in their hymnals, so Crosby used nearly 200 different pseudonyms during her career.

Crosby also wrote more than 1,000 secular poems and had four books of poetry published, as well as two best-selling autobiographies. Additionally, she co-wrote popular secular songs, as well as political and patriotic songs and at least five cantatas on biblical and patriotic themes, including *The Flower Queen*, the first secular cantata by an American composer. She was committed to Christian rescue missions and was known for her public speaking. She was the first woman to speak in the United States Senate when she read a poem there.

**from Wikipedia entry "Fanny Crosby" *

O heart bereaved and lonely,
Whose brightest dreams have fled.
Whose hopes like summer roses,
Are withered crushed and dead.
Though link by link be broken,
And tears unseen may fall.
Look up amid thy sorrow,
To Him who knows it all.
O cling to thy Redeemer,
Thy Savior, Brother, Friend.
Believe and trust His promise,
To keep you till the end.
O watch and wait with patience,
And question all you will.
His arms of love and mercy,
Are round about thee still.
Look up, the clouds are breaking,
The storm will soon be o'er.
And thou shall reach the haven,
Where sorrows are no more.
Look up, be not discouraged;
Trust on, whate'er befall.
Remember, O remember,
Thy Savior knows it all.

St. John's Church Council Meeting September 13, 2017

Present: Pastor Nierman, Holly Rohr, Betty Hollopeter, Rick Longenecker, Kate Shaffer, Dave Larson, Sally Griffin, Jerry Schroeder

Absent: Eric Flory, Briana King

1. Devotions were led by Pastor
2. Secretary's Report – Last month's minutes were reviewed. Kate moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Betty. Motion carried.
3. Pastor's Report – Last month's report was reviewed. Dave moved to accept the Pastor's Report, seconded by Jerry. Motion carried.
4. Financial Report – Financial Report was reviewed. Sally moved to accept the Financial Report, seconded by Dave. Motion carried.
5. Committee Reports
 - a. Christian Ed/Youth – The 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering will be in Houston, TX. There are four youth (Jaiden Flory, Leah Stangel, Amber Stangel, and Kaitlyn Reece) and 3 adults (Pastor Nierman, Laura Schmidt, and Dawn Flory) attending. Laura will be registering for the Gathering soon. Due to the distance they will be flying. Kate moved to sponsor the four youth and three adults to the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, TX at an estimate of \$8000.00, seconded by Betty. Motion carried.
 - b. Evangelism – Ft. Rowdy was successful. There were lots of volunteers and the addition of snow cones was a success. We profited approximately \$2300.00. Dinner and a Mission will be held right after the Fall Congregational Meeting held on October 29.
 - c. Financial – Eric has received a first draft of the budget. We will look more closely together at the October meeting.
 - d. Property – A new faucet was installed in the parsonage replacing a leaky faucet. The double spotlight on the church will be replaced soon. It was noticed that it was on when it shouldn't have been on and upon further investigation it needs to be replaced.
6. Old Business
 - a. Office roof replacement – The roof has been replaced and it looks good. Rick has been checking for leaks and will continue to do so over the next several months.
 - b. Hearing Loop – The hearing loop has been installed. Rick has spoken with several members who are using the system and they are enjoying the service. The church has two units for anyone that needs assistance to hear the service if they do not have the correct hearing aid for the hearing loop.
 - c. Blue spruce removal – The tree is gone and the stump has been dug out. Grass has been planted. The other trees have been trimmed as well.
 - d. New council members – A list was compiled and potential new members will be contacted.
 - e. Annual Meeting – The annual fall congregational meeting will be held on October 29, 2017. The congregation will vote on the 2018 budget and new council members.
7. New Business
 - a. No new business.
8. David moved to adjourn, seconded by Holly. Motion carried.
9. We closed with the Lord's Prayer