



The Voice



September 2017

NOTES



Tyrus Drew Hahn was born on July 18, 2017 at 5:48 am. He was 8 pounds 4 ounces, 20.75 inches long to proud parents, Brandy and Levi Hahn. His first week was rough as he was in the hospital for jaundice with lots of lab work, but since then he has been thriving. He has experienced lots of feedings, sleeping, crying, and playing on his

activity mat. Mommy and Daddy could not be happier to have Ty in their lives!

Happy Birthday

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 2 - Annie Fletcher | 21- Jerry Catterlin |
| 5 - Norma Colby | 23- Matt Weikert |
| 9 - Ryan Rohr | 23- Dale McKinney |
| 10- Leon Hollopeter | 24- Tara Hagan |
| 11- Dawn Flory | 27- David Larson |
| 11- Marjorie Simmons | 27- Sophia Shaffer |
| 12- Sharrel Sellman | 28- Adam Gephart |
| 21- Audrey Stacy | |

Member Spotlight: Holly Rohr



Holly is a life-long member of St. John's. Her parents, Scott and Linda Gephart, met each other at St. John's and were married here forty years ago this year.

During her youth, Holly fondly remembers lock-ins, first Communion, and getting confirmed. She enjoyed having Eric and Dawn Flory as youth directors and going to Mission, South Dakota for a work camp. Those memories of meeting people from all over the country while helping people in need is something she will forever treasure.

Holly currently teaches kindergarten at Piqua City Schools. Previously, she was a preschool intervention specialist teacher (special education teacher) with the Miami County ESC. She worked in Milton-Union schools for half of a year and the rest of the time she was in Piqua.

Holly is a mom of two busy boys. Ryan is in seventh grade, and Cody is in second grade. Her favorite St. John's memories are Ryan's and Cody's Baptisms. Most of Holly's hobbies are also her boys' hobbies, which include football, soccer, basketball, and baseball. During the summer, Holly enjoys playing sand volleyball.

Over the years, Holly has been very active in the church. She has served on church council as secretary and vice president (currently). She has also taught Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. She enjoys shopping with her family for the Back to School and Christmas programs for the Covington Outreach Association.

When asked what she loves most about St. John's, Holly said, "I love how St. John's feels like home. Everyone is nice and greets you with a smile. We encourage each other and pray for each other. I love singing familiar hymns on Sundays and especially during the Epiphany/Christmas season! I also enjoy that my grandparents attended church at St. John's and my family continues to worship at St. John's."

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

Kennedy Kraft (granddaughter of MaryAnn Francis)
 Phillip Connell (son-in-law of Viola Beaver)
 George T. Burelison (friend of Jim Perry)
 Mary Colby (mother of Roger Colby)
 Thelma Archer (friend of Jim Perry)
 Ethel Besecker (friend of Colbys)
 Linda Davis (wife of Fred Davis)
 Mike Simon (friend of Jim Perry)
 Nelson Dohm (friend of Jim Perry)
 Owen Gauntt (friend of Dawn Flory)
 Bridget Simon (friend of Jim Perry)
 Mary Littlejohn (friend of Jim Perry)
 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)
 Joanne Schmidt (mother of Jim Schmidt)
 Shirley Sheffer (friend of Dawn Flory)
 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)
 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- Middle East (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, September 3, 2017

First Reading:	Jeremiah 15:15-21
Psalm:	Psalms 26:1-8 (3)
Second Reading:	Romans 12:9-21
Gospel:	Matthew 16:21-28

Sunday, September 10, 2017

First Reading:	Ezekiel 33:7-11
Psalm:	Psalms 119:33-40 (35)
Second Reading:	Romans 13:8-14
Gospel:	Matthew 18:15-20

Sunday, September 17, 2017

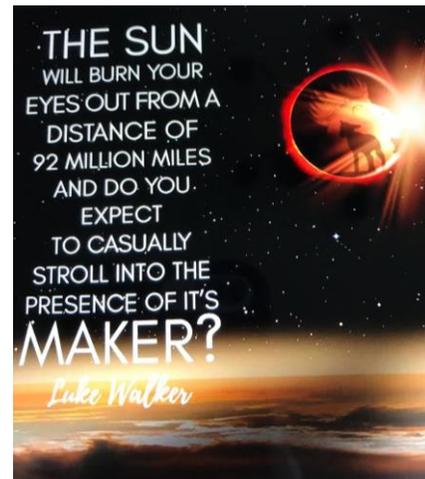
First Reading:	Genesis 50:15-21
Psalm:	Psalms 103: [1-7] 8-13 (8)
Second Reading:	Romans 14:1-12
Gospel:	Matthew 18:21-35

Sunday, September 24, 2017

First Reading:	Jonah 3:10-4:11
Psalm:	Psalms 145:1-8 (8)
Second Reading:	Philippians 1:21-30
Gospel:	Matthew 20:1-16

"It is easy to love the people far away. It is not always easy to love those close to us. It is easier to give a cup of rice to relieve hunger than to relieve the loneliness and pain of someone unloved in our home. Bring love into your home for this is where our love for each other must start."

-Mother Teresa



**Thanks to Jackie Kiehl for this submission. **



CHILDREN WATCH AND LEARN FROM US

A frail old man went to live with his son, daughter-in-law, and four-year-old grandson. The man's hands trembled, his eyesight was blurred, and his steps faltered. The family ate together at the table. The elderly grandfather's shaky hands and failing sight made eating difficult. Peas rolled off his spoon onto the floor. When he grasped his glass, milk spilled on the tablecloth. The son and daughter-in-law became irritated. "We must do something about grandfather", said the son. Grandfather's spilled milk, noisy eating, and food on the floor were more than irritating. So, they set a small table in the corner. Grandfather ate there alone. Since he had broken a dish or two, his food was served in a wooden bowl. He sometimes had a tear in his eye as he sat alone. At dinner, the only words the couple had for him were criticisms when he dropped a fork or spilled food. The four-year-old watched it all in silence. One evening before supper, the father noticed his son playing with wooden blocks on the floor. He asked the child what he was making. The boy responded that he was making a little bowl for you and mama to eat your food when I grow up. The parents were speechless. That evening the husband took Grandfather's hand and gently led him back to the family table. For the remainder of his days, that's where Grandfather ate every meal with the family.

Children are remarkably perceptive. Their eyes ever observe, their ears ever listen, and their minds ever process the messages they absorb. Parents realize that every day the building blocks are being laid for the child's future. Concerning unchurched households, if a child becomes a Christian, there is a 3.5% probability that everyone else will follow. If the mother is the first to become a Christian, there is a 17% chance that everyone in the house will follow. But, if the father is first, there is a 93% chance that everyone will follow. Our children are watching us and learning from us. **COME TO SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CHURCH!** Our lifestyle patterns speak volumes to our children, good or bad. Rally Day is Sunday, September 10th with Sunday School beginning for the fall at 9am, choir practice at 9:30am, and worship at 10am followed by an on-site Ice Cream Social/ Sundae Bar. **COME!**

In His Service,
Pastor Nierman



Church announcement . . . Getting in the loop!

People with hearing loss often struggle to catch the words and softer sounds during the worship service. With the echo in church, even people with normal hearing may have trouble understanding the spoken word. The new hearing loop system will give users a distinct advantage in during the service. It will give users a system that works with the individual's telecoil (t-coil) equipped hearing aids. A hearing loop system is to hearing aids what a wi-fi is to a computer.

The sound is broadcast through a loop wire installed in the church. The t-coil is a small coil of wire in the hearing aid that works like an antenna to receive the signal emitted from the loop wire. While the user is located within the sound field created by the hearing loop, the t-coil will receive the signal, transform it to sound, and broadcast it to the user through the hearing aids.

Individuals with t-coil equipped hearing aids and cochlear implants can take advantage of the hearing loop technology. Background noise and echo are no longer a problem. The user will hear a clear, concise, and customized sound.

We have informational handouts for you to take to your hearing healthcare professional. They will provide information about hearing aid operation with a hearing loop system. If you have additional questions about the new hearing loop system, please talk to Rick Longenecker or send an email to Loop America: info@loopamerica.com or call (248) 783-1104.

Youth!

Next youth coffee hour is Sunday, September 17th. Anyone who is able to bring baked goods would be much appreciated.

Attention all youth grades three through six. There is an all-day Junior Jam at Cedarville University on Saturday, October 14th If you are interested in attending this fun and spiritual day, please contact Laura Schmidt by September 17th.



Sunday School starts up again on Sunday, September 10th. If you are interested in teaching, please contact Laura Schmidt. It is not an every-week commitment; there is a good rotation. The high school youth will meet upstairs, elementary in the nursery, and pre-communion with Pastor in the back of the fellowship hall.



Save the date!!! Sunday, November 19th is our annual Skating Party at Skate 36 from 5:30-7:30 pm. Please plan on joining us and bringing your friends!

Thanks, Melody Men!

The Miami-Shelby Melody Men led our worship on Sunday, July 30th. We are fortunate to have many current and past St. John's members in this wonderful group!



What did Martin Luther say in his 95 Theses?

The first thesis has become famous. It states, "When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, 'Repent,' he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance." In the first few theses Luther develops the idea of repentance as the Christian's inner struggle with sin rather than the external system of sacramental confession. Theses 5–7 then state that the pope can only release people from the punishments he has administered himself or through the church's system of penance, not the guilt of sin. The pope can only announce God's forgiveness of the guilt of sin in his name. In theses 14–29, Luther challenged common beliefs about purgatory. Theses 14–16 discuss the idea that the punishment of purgatory can be likened to the fear and despair felt by dying people. In theses 17–24 he asserts that nothing can be definitively said about the spiritual state of people in purgatory. He denies that the pope has any power over people in purgatory in theses 25 and 26. In theses 27–29, he attacks the idea that as soon as payment is made, the payer's loved one is released from purgatory. He sees it as encouraging sinful greed, and says it is impossible to be certain because only God has ultimate power in forgiving punishments in purgatory.

Theses 30–34 deal with the false certainty Luther believed the indulgence preachers offered Christians. Since no one knows whether a person is truly repentant, a letter assuring a person of his forgiveness is dangerous. In theses 35 and 36, he attacks the idea that an indulgence makes repentance unnecessary. This leads to the conclusion that the truly repentant person, who alone may benefit from the indulgence, has already received the only benefit the indulgence provides. Truly repentant Christians have already, according to Luther, been forgiven of the penalty as well as the guilt of sin. In theses 37 and 38, he states that indulgences are not necessary for Christians to receive all the benefits provided by Christ. Theses 39 and 40 argue that indulgences make true repentance more difficult. True repentance desires God's punishment of sin, but indulgences teach one to avoid punishment, since that is the purpose of purchasing the indulgence.

In theses 41–47 Luther criticizes indulgences on the basis that they discourage works of mercy by those who purchase them. Here he begins to use the phrase, "Christians are to be taught..." to state how he thinks people should be instructed on the value of indulgences. They should be taught that giving to the poor is incomparably more important than buying indulgences, that buying an indulgence rather than giving to the poor invites God's wrath, and that doing good works makes a person better while buying indulgences does not. In

theses 48–52 Luther takes the side of the pope, saying that if the pope knew what was being preached in his name he would rather St. Peter's Basilica be burned down than "built up with the skin, flesh, and bones of his sheep." Theses 53–55 complain about the restrictions on preaching while the indulgence was being offered.

Luther criticizes the doctrine of the treasury of merit on which the doctrine of indulgences is based in theses 56–66. He states that everyday Christians do not understand the doctrine and are being misled. For Luther, the true treasure of the church is the gospel of Jesus Christ. This treasure tends to be hated because it makes "the first last", in the words of Matthew 19:30 and 20:16. Luther uses metaphor and wordplay to describe the treasures of the gospel as nets to catch wealthy people, whereas the treasures of indulgences are nets to catch the wealth of men.

In theses 67–80, Luther discusses further the problems with the way indulgences are being preached, as he had done in the letter to Archbishop Albert. The preachers have been promoting indulgences as the greatest of the graces available from the church, but they actually only promote greed. He points out that bishops have been commanded to offer reverence to indulgence preachers who enter their jurisdiction, but bishops are also charged with protecting their people from preachers who preach contrary to the pope's intention. He then attacks the belief allegedly propagated by the preachers that the indulgence could forgive one who had violated the Virgin Mary. Luther states that indulgences cannot take away the guilt of even the lightest of venial sins. He labels several other alleged statements of the indulgence preachers as blasphemy: that Saint Peter could not have granted a greater indulgence than the current one, and that the indulgence cross with the papal arms is as worthy as the cross of Christ.

Luther lists several criticisms advanced by laypeople against indulgences in theses 81–91. He presents these as difficult objections his congregants are bringing rather than his own criticisms. How should he answer those who ask why the pope does not simply empty purgatory if it is in his power? What should he say to those who ask why anniversary masses for the dead, which were for the sake of those in purgatory, continued for those who had been redeemed by an indulgence? Luther claimed that it seemed strange to some that pious people in purgatory could be redeemed by living impious people. Luther also mentions the question of why the pope, who is very rich, requires money from poor believers to build St. Peter's Basilica. Luther claims that ignoring these questions risks allowing people to ridicule the pope. He appeals to the pope's financial interest, saying that if the preachers limited their preaching in accordance with Luther's positions on indulgences (which he

claimed was also the pope's position), the objections would cease to be relevant. Luther closes the *Theses* by exhorting Christians to imitate Christ even if it brings pain and suffering. Enduring punishment and entering heaven is preferable to false security.



Taken from Wikipedia:
Ninety-five Theses