

Messenger

Rev. Richard R. Gordon, Pastor
Rev. Lisa Arledge, Pastor
Don Kirbawy, Urban Missionary
Justin Edenhofer, Urban Missionary
Ann Streharsky, Office Secretary

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Friends in Christ,

We are all called every day to “new life in Christ.” St. Paul writes these guiding and motivating words:

“So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on the things that are above, not on things that are on the earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.” (Colossians 3: 1-3)

Recently Lolly and I realized that we needed to revise our “Last Will and Testament.” As we went through this process we were also reminded by counsel that it would be wise to also create a legal “Medical Power of Attorney” for each other. We have on occasion shared with each other our wishes for “end of life” issues. We are in agreement that neither of us wants to have to go through, or to put others through, a drawn out situation of medical machines when there is little chance of a return to quality living. It just seemed time to give these wishes some real legal substance.

As I thought about what we together chose to do with these issues, it came to me that Lolly and I were purposely choosing the way of resurrection over survival. Yes, the idea of surviving just for the sake of surviving was not and is not appealing to Lolly or myself. Survival here seems to refer to the idea of being kept alive just to be kept alive,.. eating, drinking and breathing just for the sake of eating, drinking and breathing. In these blunt terms I am sure this does not sound all that appealing to any of us.

Resurrection sounds much more exciting, joyful, meaningful and lively. Resurrection carries the idea of new life and vitality after something has died and given up purpose. Resurrection opens up every manner of transition and transformation. Resurrection gives rise to ultimate healing, purpose, hope, well being, creativity and motivation. Resurrection is to rise up, step up, get up, move up and be up for new life. So, I am very pleased to know that Lolly and I have chosen resurrection over survival.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Altar Flowers	3
Birthdays	4
Anniversaries	4
Ministry News	5
Thank You	5
Schedules	10
Calendar	11-12

MISSION STATEMENT

St. John/St. Paul Lutheran Church is a community of Christians bound together in joy and thanksgiving by God's saving grace in Jesus Christ. Our mission is to grow in faith, love, and obedience to God as we are empowered through the Word and Sacraments by the Holy Spirit.

To carry out this mission, we:

- Nurture one another in the Faith,
- Evangelize all people,
- Worship God, and
- Serve those in need.

This is a time in which the Church and many congregations face the issues of survival or resurrection. These are tough economic and cultural times for congregations. Three of the old and historic main-line congregations right here in Akron are facing extinction and many, many more are in full “survivor mode.” Perhaps this is a time for the Church and congregations to make some decisions about survival or resurrection.

We at St. John/St. Paul also have many decisions coming our way. We all know that Children’s Hospital has shown great interest in buying our building and property. We know that we have parking problems, an old building that needs maintenance and upkeep, huge heating bills because of Akron Thermal, for the most part an aging congregation and a location without any real neighborhood. Yes, these are formidable challenges. To address these challenges and others we have formed a Futures Committee to research and study obstacles and opportunities.

At the same time I realize that I am turning 60 this year. It would be easy for me to think, “I am going to retire in the next five to ten years so I might as well just try to survive until then.” But, I CANNOT THINK NOR ACT THAT WAY!!! I refuse to go into “survival mode.” I want to be in and stay in “resurrection mode.” I am hoping that you too want to stay in RESURRECTION MODE.

The great Lutheran Theologian, Jaroslav Pelikan, has said (or written), “If Jesus Christ has been raised from the dead, nothing else matters. If Jesus Christ has not been raised from the dead, nothing else matters.” That pretty much says it all and also demands a simple either/or decision.

If Jesus has not risen from the dead then “survivor mode” is agreeable for the Church. “Survivor mode” would be stay alive to stay alive like:

be what we think we are,.. not what we need to be
 take care of our own first and last
 feed the building and starve the outreach
 practice maintenance over mission
 practice management over ministry
 make decisions out of fear instead of faith
 trust opposition over proposition

If, however, you believe that Jesus has really risen from the dead and lives in, with and under his church now the “resurrection mode” is the only stance His church can take. “Resurrection mode” would allow things to die so that new and needed things could come alive like:

rest transformed to risk
 to step back changes to step up
 conserve is transitioned into serve

protect gives way to proclaim
 opposition is negated by proposition
 obstacles give way to opportunities
 debits do not count as much as assets
 hanging on is replaced by moving on
 resuscitation is out and resurrection is in

Without RESURRECTION there is no Christianity. Without RESURRECTION there is no Gospel. Without RESURRECTION there is no spiritual life. Without RESURRECTION there is no Christian living or mission. Without RESURRECTION there is no hope.

I am choosing the way and the hope of resurrection for my life and my ministry. I am inviting all of us to enter into the way and hope of resurrection. May we together expect and prepare for resurrection at St. John/St. Paul Lutheran Church. May we live faithfully in “resurrection mode.”

I conclude with St. Paul’s words in I Corinthians 15: 19,.. “If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.”

Let the resurrection begin in Christ,

Pr. Rick



ALTAR FLOWER SIGN UP sheets are available on the bulletin board by the front doors of the Church Building. You may sign up to provide one or both vases on the altar. You may also request side table flowers for any given date. **PLEASE**, let the office know if the flowers are provided in memory or honor of some person(s) or event(s). **A contribution of \$20 per each vase is required prior to the flowers being ordered.** Envelopes to pay for the flowers are directly beneath the sign-up sheet. Checks should be made payable to “St. John/St. Paul Lutheran Church.” Envelopes may be placed in the offering plate or brought/mailed to the Church Office. Please check the sign-up sheets for available dates or call the Church Office.

Fall Birthdays



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

09/05	Matthew Rafferty
09/06	John Henry
09/07	Thomas Barnett
09/07	Kristin Six
09/08	Marian Tall
09/09	Grace Consolo
09/10	Steven Bell
09/10	Dawn Dietz
09/10	Larry Herrick
09/11	Kelly McHugh
09/12	Stanton Phelps
09/14	Eric Lehman
09/15	Edward Bracey
09/15	Nancy Fortunato
09/17	Patrick Czerwony
09/17	Brian Six
09/18	Rachel Rafferty
09/20	Luna Raczko
09/23	Kelsee Barnett
09/24	Kathryn Hilbert
09/26	Maria Cervoski
09/29	John Coch

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/01	John Coch
10/01	Larry Lyle
10/01	Edna Wake
10/07	Leslie Claar
10/08	Alfred Hunsicker
10/08	Jared Mullen

10/10	Florence Rapp
10/13	Don Kirbawy
10/15	Gina Bennett
10/15	Kimberly Bennett
10/17	Alex Balas
10/18	Jamie Gellner
10/19	Jessica King
10/20	Kristine Coch
10/24	Abigale Porter
10/24	Sally Rinninger
10/25	Curtis Miracle
10/26	Andrea Schoolcraft
10/28	Linda Thompson



09/01	James & Alma Yutzy
09/06	Betty & Alex Balas
09/14	Gary & Carol Whidden
09/15	Larry & Mary Lyle
09/20	Rick & Rebekah Barzal
09/28	Mark & Ann Marie Williams
10/08	Lenny & Melissa Szentes
10/17	Arthur & Sarah Kaufman
10/19	Darrell & Eli Cooper
10/27	Gary & Patti Nagy

If anyone's birthday or anniversary is missing or incorrect, please call the Church Office so we may update our records.



Lisa Arledge Called as Pastor, Ordained and
Installed!

Lisa Arledge would like to offer a heartfelt THANK YOU to the congregation of St. John/ St. Paul Lutheran Church for calling her as Pastor and for all of your support along the way. Thanks to all of you who were able to worship at the ordination service at Faith Lutheran Church in Fairlawn. The installation service here at St. John/ St. Paul, the music, and reception were phenomenal. A special thanks to Darrell Cooper and Bev Gorman and all of the other help to make the reception so wonderful. Also, a warm thanks to Lolly and Pastor Rick for all of their encouragement in the past four years. I sincerely thank you for your cards, gifts and hugs and look forward to serving God alongside of you all.

Grabbed by Grace, Pastor Lisa

PASTOR RICK AND PASTOR LISA are developing a new Confirmation Program for St. John/St. Paul. We are hoping to begin this program in October and it will be a part of "THE WAY" program outlined in this newsletter. This instruction will be offered for 6th, 7th & 8th graders and we are looking at Wednesday afternoons 4:45pm-6 pm. We are considering inviting this group to stay for suppers with the older youth in The OASIS outreach at 6:30pm. Further details and scheduling will be forthcoming. This will also be an entry point for all younger kids into the overall Youth Outreach at SJSP.

The **Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)** was enacted by the [U.S. Congress](#) in 1996.

Because of this Act, pastors and church workers cannot automatically put a person on the prayer board, prayer chain, or pray for them out loud on Sunday morning unless the individuals in need or their family members have indicated that it is okay to do so. If you have a need, please feel free to fill out a slip for the prayer board, call the church office or ask a pastor or church worker to put you on the prayer board or prayer chain. Members and visitors may also fill out slips and ask pastors and church workers on behalf of themselves or family. Thank you for your understanding of this delicate matter.

SeniorFest 2009 will be held on September 19, 2009 at Royal Redeemer Lutheran Church, North Royalton. 8:30 am - 3:00 pm. Cost: \$15, lunch included. The keynote presenter is Dr. Rich Bimler, Wheat Ridge Ministries and the music leader is Dr. Michael Burkhardt. Fifteen workshops will be offered on a variety of topics focusing on the issues and challenges of aging. RSVP by September 10th.

SeniorFest 2009 is sponsored by the Association of Lutheran Older Adults (ALOA), Lutheran Home at Concord Reserve in Westlake and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. For [information](#) or [brochures](#) contact Pastor Jim Kulma, Lutheran Home at Concord Reserve, at 440-871-0090, ext. 2145 or at jkulma@concordreserve.org.

OASIS OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY, INC.

Our mission is to be an open outreach to the youth of Akron and their families, accepting to all, providing a safe place to instruct in the ways of Jesus as we all surrender to Christ and become a community grabbed by grace.

We have received a generous donation to begin a way to motivate our youth to fully participate in their education and allow them to have hope for their dreams. Below is a presentation that we made to our youth this past month:

The Way

We're going to outline a plan today that may allow you to set a path to achieve a better-life...so listen up.

- Your SJSP/OASIS family wants to help you develop and reach your goals.
- We have developed a program that could help you grow up to become more than you thought by:
 - working with you to establish a plan
 - helping you to stay on that plan, and
 - allowing you to potentially have support credited that may be used during a time that you are pursuing education or training after high school.
- The main parts of the plan are:
 - You apply. You need to want to achieve...so your application is you saying "I want to do what is necessary to achieve a better life, and I want your help."
 - The OASIS family assigns an adult guide, who will work with you to outline goals and requirements.
 - Being part of the Way will not be easy and it will not be guaranteed.
 - The goals and requirements will be different for each person. Some People may have it tougher than others. One thing that life teaches is that everything is not fair.

The requirements may include things like attendance at school, attendance on Wed nights, attending our new homework house, church participation, achievement of certain grades, volunteer work, staying away from drugs, etc.

-Those who have satisfactorily completed the planned requirements and who are enrolled in some program beyond high school approved by Oasis will join a pool of students who may receive support.

-You need to understand that we have received funding for this program for the 1st year. We will work hard to continue and grow the program, but we will need significant funding to continue, so you can only be sure of the program for the 1st year.

-You also need to understand that we are going to make some mistakes as we implement this program. It may be modified at times to make it better.

The main thing that you should see is that this OASIS family truly cares about you and wants to help you succeed in life. Your OASIS family is here to help you, spiritually, educationally, and financially. You need to step up, say that you want to succeed, and accept the challenge.

All information provided in The Way is provided for information purposes only and does not constitute a legal contract between St.John/St.Paul Lutheran Church or Oasis Outreach Opportunity, Inc. and any person or entity unless otherwise specified. Information on The Way is subject to change without prior notice. Although every reasonable effort is made to present current and accurate information, St.John/St.Paul Lutheran Church and Oasis Outreach Opportunity, Inc. make no guarantees of any kind.

THE WAY

I WILL FOLLOW JESUS

I am the way and the truth and the life. John 14:6

MAKE ALONE TIME WITH GOD

ATTEND CHURCH

POSITION YOURSELF TO SERVE OTHERS

I WILL FOLLOW THE PLAN

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Jeremiah 29:11

MAKE APPLICATION

AGREE TO MEET REGULARLY WITH GUIDE

PREPARE FOR CHANGES

I WILL FOLLOW MY DREAMS

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Philipians 4:13

MAKE POSITIVE CHOICES

AVOID RISKY BEHAVIOR

PARTICIPATE IN SCHOOL COMPLETELY

We are also launching a Homework House:

HOMEWORK HOUSE

At BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth and the life." John 14:5-6

A POT OF SOUP.

WARM COOKIES.

COMPUTER ACCESS TO INTERNET.

PRINTING CAPABILITY.

ADULTS WHO CARE.

HELP WITH MATH, SCIENCE, WRITING, READING.

MIDDLE SCHOOL, HIGH SCHOOL, COLLEGE STUDENTS.

BEGINNING: TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 1, 4:00 TO 6:00PM



**Breakfast
Buffet**

Breakfast Buffet Schedule:

September 6	Lisa
September 13	Carol
September 20	Lolly and Lorna
September 27	Jeanne
October 4	Susan and Geoff
October 11	Darrel
October 18	Lisa
October 25	Carol

Schedule for YOUth!

September

Sept. 1	Tuesday	HOMEWORK HOUSE 4-6
Sept. 2	Wednesday	Prayer Support night - 6:30 at Arledge house
Sept. 6	Sunday	Bible study 10:00, Worship 11:30
Sept. 9	Wednesday	Youth Night – 6:30-8:30
Sept. 13	Sunday	Bible study 10:00, Worship 11:30
Sept. 15	Tuesday	HOMEWORK HOUSE
Sept. 16	Wednesday	Youth Night -- 6:30-8:30
Sept. 20	Sunday	Bible study 10:00, Worship 11:30
Sept. 22	Tuesday	HOMEWORK HOUSE
Sept. 23	Wednesday	Youth Night – 6:30-8:30
Sept. 27	Sunday	Bible study 10:00, Worship 11:30

October

Oct. 4	Sunday	Bible study 10:00, Worship 11:30
Oct. 6	Tuesday	HOMEWORK HOUSE
Oct. 7	Wednesday	Youth Night – 6:30-8:30
Oct. 11	Sunday	Bible study 10:00, Worship 11:30
Oct. 13	Tuesday	HOMEWORK HOUSE
Oct. 14	Wednesday	Youth Night -- 6:30-8:30
Oct. 18	Sunday	Bible study 10:00, Worship 11:30
Oct. 20	Tuesday	HOMEWORK HOUSE
Oct. 21	Wednesday	Youth Night – 6:30-8:30
Oct. 25	Sunday	Bible study 10:00, Worship 11:30
Oct. 27	Tuesday	HOMEWORK HOUSE
Oct. 28	Wednesday	Youth Night – 6:30-8:30

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:15 AM.....Traditional Worship
 10:00 AM.... Traditional Worship
 Sunday School– Rise-Up, Wise-Up, Size-Up
 11:30 AM.... Creative Worship

SACRAMENTAL SERVER SCHEDULE

DATE	Set-Up Communion	Server Early Service	Server Late Service
09/06/09	Pete Peterson	Pete Peterson	Pete Peterson
09/06/09			Art Kaufman
09/20/09	Beth Haas	Tim Lewis	Judy Harrison
09/20/09			Eli Cooper
10/04/09	Linda Schoolcraft	Linda Schoolcraft	Judy Harrison
10/04/09			Eli Cooper
10/18/09	Tim Lewis	Greg Stickel	Tim Lewis
10/18/09			Art Kaufman
10/25/09	Beth Haas	Ann Streharsky	Pete Peterson
10/25/09			Beth Haas

MINGLER SCHEDULE

DATE	Mingler Early Service	Mingler Late Service
09/06/09	Chris Allen	Art Kaufman
09/13/09	Beth Haas	Jeanne Gardner
09/20/09	Donna Schoner	Elma Roush
09/27/09	Lori Kreitler	Audie Dascoli
10/04/09	Chris Allen	Art Kaufman
10/11/09	Beth Haas	Jeanne Gardner
10/18/09	Gary Nagy	Elma Roush
10/25/09	Lori Kreitler	Audie Dascoli

READER SCHEDULE

DATE	Reader Early Service	Reader Late Service
10/04/09	Bob Streharsky	Lolly Gordon
10/25/09	Greg Stickle	John Coch
09/27/09	Jody Rupright	Gerald Allen
09/20/09	Kevin Dwenger	Elaine Futrell
09/13/09	Linda Schoolcraft	Charmaine Streharsky
10/18/09	Martha Mazak	Judy Harrison
09/06/09	Mike Herchenroeder	Michael Schoolcraft
10/11/09	Sue Harman	David Six

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**St. John/St. Paul Lutheran Church
Congregational Council
Committee Assignments, 2009/2010**

Committee	2008/2009	2009/2010
Fellowship	Lori Kreitler	Lori Kreitler
Property	Gerald Allen	Gerald Allen
Evangelism	Karl Demuth	Karl Demuth
Youth	Lisa Arledge	Lisa Arledge
Worship & Music	Rick Gordon	Rick Gordon
Mutual Ministry	Art Kaufman	Greg Stickel
Social Concerns	Lori Kreitler	Lori Kreitler
Communications	Elaine Futrell	Elaine Futrell
Parish Education	Linda Schoolcraft	Pastor's Rick/Lisa
Endowment	Sue Harmon Art Kaufman	Sue Harmon
Stewardship	Geoff Whidden	
Young Adult	Josh Gordon	Josh Gordon
Future	N/A	

2009/2010 Council Members

Term Expires June 2010	Term Expires June 2011	Term Expires June 2012
Lori Kreitler	Gerald Allen	Beth Haas
Josh Gordon	Carl Demuth	Martha Mazak
Elaine Futrell	Sue Harman	David Six
Melinda Rinehart	Kevin Dwenger	Greg Stickel

St. John / St. Paul Lutheran Church

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*A congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America*



September/October

2009

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