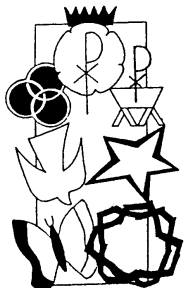


The St. Paul Messenger



A lawyer asked [Jesus] a question to test him: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets (Matthew 22:34-40).

If you watched the Olympic gymnastics competition, you know that there's basically two ways to fall off the balance beam: to the left and to the right. As Christians, we must keep in balance every day the two basic commandments which Jesus teaches. We fall into trouble when we lose one (*Love God*) or the other (*Love your neighbor*).

FROM THE PASTOR

Beware of the worldly opinion (proclaimed by shrewd morticians, government and hospital chaplains, lodges of a religious nature, and Oprah) which ignores the first commandment! It is not loving to spread lies about God. We dare not tell others or believe for ourselves: "You can believe in any kind of god or deity as long as you are sincere and live a life of love." What a slap in the face to God and His Son, Jesus Christ! (The death of Jesus on the cross would be irrelevant and so would faith in Him.) God has spoken in the Bible: I AM the Lord. The Lord is One God yet three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. To say or confess a different God is unloving to Him. Doubting God or neglecting to listen to Him in the Bible and worship is unloving, too.

But as Christians, we dare not fall off the other side of the balance beam either. As individuals, we can focus so much on MY faith and MY salvation and MY heavenly home, and MY church that we lose sight of the 2nd great commandment: Love your neighbor as yourself. We could end up focusing so much on MY God that I lose sight of living out my faith in God--the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit--**as I love my neighbor**. After all, God Himself commands us to love our neighbors according to commandments 4-10.

That's where the Epistle of James comes in. Much of this book focuses on how our life as Christians--as individual members of the body of Christ (a.k.a. the Church)--should look like. During the month of September, we will be hearing and learning from this marvelous book of the Bible. May God increase in all of us our need for Christ's love and forgiveness! May God increase in us repentance and faith in Christ! May God increase in us a sincere love for others! I am confident that the Holy Spirit will do all these things **as we hear and learn and take to heart God's Word in the Book of James**.

*Where charity and love prevail there God is ever found;
Brought here together by Christ's love by love are we thus bound.
Let strife among us be unknown; let all contention cease;
Be God's the glory that we seek: be ours His holy peace.
Let us recall that in our midst dwells Christ, His only Son;
As members of His body joined we are in Him made one. (LSB 845; 1,4,5)*

The LORD bless and keep you,

Pastor Witte



September Birthdays



Heather Seiler—2
 Tom Smotherman—3
 Darlene Babcock—4
 Mike Elling—4
 Amy Meyer—5
 Cheryl Mann—5
 Sue Lanzer—6
 Angela Chapa—6
 Andrea Zacharias—6
 Emily Pippin—7
 Loretta Seedorf—7
 Levi Anderson—7
 Peg Vollmar—7
 Johnathon Smith—8
 Brandon Smith—9
 Jack Sexton—9

Michael Engler—10
 Alexa Knipp—10
 Donjean Smith—11
 Troy Overmier—12
 Reagan Zeiter—12
 Amber Phillips—14
 Dan Hefflinger—14
 Anthony Oberhaus—14
 Carol Carpenter—16
 Dorothy Frankforther—16
 Jared Feffer—16
 Andrew Woods—16
 Brenda Baker—17
 Patrick Oberhaus—19
 Hunter Vanderveer—19
 Myrna Gibson—20

Wayne “Tree” Wineland—20
 Tony Lanzer—20
 Vivian Oberhaus—21
 Ryan Baker—22
 Taylor Sexton—22
 Tyler Bergstedt—23
 Kenna Cordes—23
 Joan Hardesty—25
 Amanda Burmeister—25
 Katie Zeiter—26
 Cynthia Davis—26
 Madison Meienburg—27
 Mariah Bostelman—28
 Ashley Kinder—28
 James Sidell—30



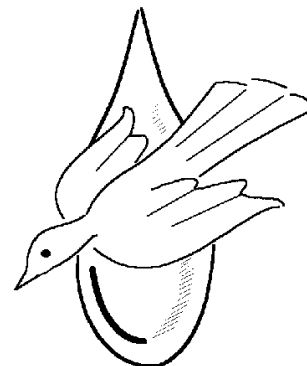
September Anniversaries

Derek & Amy Meyer—4
 Kent & Jamie Snyder—6
 Terry & Melissa Studer—9
 Brad & Teresa May—10
 Tim & Amy Smith—14
 Millard & Jody McCowan—15
 Kevin & Tabitha Bergstedt—18

Kent & Karen Wolcott—20
 Rex & Bridget Knipp—22
 Kirk & Shanda Rumsey—22
 Lee & Jean Sonnenberg—24
 Deloy & Geraldine Hartman—27
 Keith & Heather Seiler—27
 Brian & Brenda Baker—28

Baptismal Birthdays

Georgia Ross—4
 Nathan Smith—10
 Kevin Myles—21
 Eli Phillips—23
 Lauren Phillips—26



MARK YOUR CALENDARS:



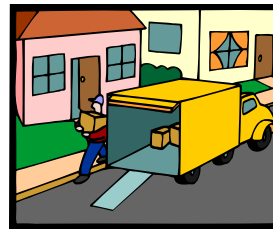
- September 2: Labor Day Weekend Worship: “Laborers Among Us: Firefighters”
- September 5: 5th-8th Grade Catechism Kick-off Dinner, Parents’ Meeting and Acolyte Training
- September 9 at 9:00am: Sunday School Begins

REMINDER

Items for the bulletin need to be received by Thursday morning.

Newsletter articles should be in the church office by the fourth Sunday of the month.

Articles can be dropped off, mailed or e-mailed to: stpaulc@embarqmail.com



Have you moved recently?

Remember to notify the church office with your new address. (419-533-3041) (stpaulc@embarqmail.com)

★ Bus Trip to The Boar’s Head and Yule Log Festival in Fraser MI, on
★ Sat. Dec. 8. Arrive at church by 2:00pm. Should be back at 11:00pm
★ Count us in!

★ We want to go on the bus trip to The Boar’s Head & Yule Log Festival
 ★ Enclosed is our payment—\$50 Adult, \$40 Senior, \$35 Youth.
 ★ (This includes the bus ride and a meal at the Golden Corral)

★ Our contact information is:

★ Name: _____ Included in our group is: _____
 ★ Address: _____
 ★ City, State, Zip: _____
 ★ Phone: _____

★ Return registration form and payment to St. Paul by **November 4, 2012**

Stewardship For August



DATE	ATTENDANCE	COMMUNION	S. SCHOOL	OFFERINGS
7/29	80	53		\$ 1,682.01
8/05	90	74		\$ 2,541.15
8/12	118			\$ 1,851.14
8/19	77	61		\$ 2,147.22
8/26	77			\$ 1,507.00
TOTAL	SUNDAY AVERAGE	SUNDAY AVERAGE	SUNDAY AVERAGE	OFFERINGS
442	88	63		\$ 9,728.52

Special Projects/Memorials for Aug.—\$ 674.97
 Mission Door Offering for July & Aug.—\$379.00 I give.com—\$56.97
Parsonage Imp. Fund received for Aug.—\$ 325.00
Total received in donations for Parsonage Imp. Fund - \$ 76,316.60

Gifts and Memorials

Missions
 Anna Lammers

THANK YOU !

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Wanting more and more, especially of the material things of this world, can lead us into all kinds of spiritual traps. God promises to provide for our —needs but not necessarily our —wants. Maturing stewards know the difference!

NEWS and NOTES

HAITI MISSION TRIP PRESENTATION

A group from those who went on a mission trip to Haiti from St. Luke, Wauseon will give a short presentation before church on September 23, starting at 9:50am. Our congregation supported this endeavor with our mission door offerings.

Reminder: To all church leaders (current and former) who received a questionnaire from Pastor Witte — Please complete and return your questionnaire by September 16th!

Thank you for all your prayers, gifts, cards, and words of encouragement regarding the birth and the new birth of Zoe Christine Witte.

Pastor Witte & Family

LWML FALL RETREAT

Defiance/Napoleon Zones

St. John Lutheran Church Family Center, Stryker, OH
(Corner of Rts 6 & 66)

Saturday, September 15, 2012

9:00 am to 12:00 noon

\$12.00 Registration fee includes lunch

Free child care provided

Speaker: Dr. Timothy Quill, Professor at Concordia Seminary, Ft. Wayne

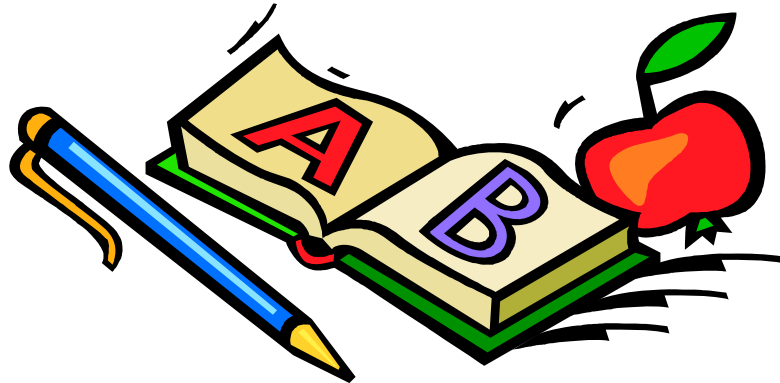
Ingathering: Financial Support for scholarships for International Students

Offering: Ohio District Mites

Also, bring used Christian books that you are done with that others may buy.

(Registration forms are available in the narthex)

PRESCHOOL HAPPENINGS



Preschool begins on September 4th for the four year old class and September 5th for the three year olds. We are excited to have a new three year old class this year with 13 children registered! We want to send out a big welcome to the new teacher for this class, Lisa Schimizzi from Defiance, OH. Bridget Knipp will be assisting Mrs. Schimizzi with this class. Pat Fetterman and Bridget Knipp will continue to teach the four year old classes, which have 21 students registered.

We'd like to thank the women who stripped and waxed the preschool floors. They look great! The storage shed has received a new coat of paint, too. Thanks goes to Tom Kern! Another big thank you to Lee Sonnenberg for keeping the grounds and playground in tip-top shape!

We are looking forward to a fun and exciting school year!





Music Department Back to Work

Little by little you will be hearing more special music from the various groups of the St. Paul Music Department. We have been taking a break for the summer, but we are going to be ready for some special occasions coming up.

The Little Lambs and Cherubs are practicing before their Sunday School classes so that they can share their joyful voices to the glory of Jesus their Savior. Expect to hear from them in the near future.

Our youth have a lot of talent, but need some guidance. If anyone of your Senior or Junior Youth would like to sing or play instruments, please talk to Dan Seedorf or Deb Nash. We'll line you up for rehearsal and place you on the Special Music Schedule.

The Senior Handbell Choir will get back to their schedule of practicing on Saturdays at 8:30 a.m. and Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. Their first rehearsal will be Thursday, September 13. John Swearingen, Jr., is the person to speak to if you are interested in helping with this group. They are preparing for our Reformation Observation.

The Senior Choir will be preparing for special services in the coming months. Dan Seedorf is the director and Carol Carpenter is the accompanist for this group. Their rehearsals are going to be on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 beginning September 12. Talk to Dan, or just come to the church, if you are interested in singing. What a blessed way for us to offer our anthems of praise.

Perhaps you have other musical talent that you would like to share with the congregation. Talk to Dan Seedorf to get things moving your way. He'll gladly help you in anyway that he can to help you offer your talent for the glory of the Lord.

We praise God that He has blessed us with so much talent. We are a singing congregation and we love to rejoice through our music.

Senior Handbell Choir rehearses on Saturday at 8:30 a.m. and Thursday at 7:00 p.m. beginning Saturday, September 13.

Senior Choir resumes rehearsals on Wednesday, September 12 at 6:00 p.m.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS SCHEDULE September, 2012

DATE	ACOLYTES	CRUCIFER	DEACON	USHERS
Sept. 2	Jillian Knipp Madison Meienburg		Erv Sonnenberg	LeVerne Gerken Lee Sonnenberg Ray Carpenter
Sept. 9	Emily Pippin Tyler Conmay	Kody Woods	Tom Mohler	John Swearingen, Sr. Dan Meyer Rex Knipp
Sept. 16	Garret Seiler Shannon Rumsey	Matthew Pippin	Brian Baker	John Overmier Brad Meister Tree Wineland
Sept. 23	Nathan Smith Taylor Snyder		Ken Glanz	Bill Zeiter Leo Rabe Ryan Baker
Sept. 30	Olivia Zacharias Claudia Wittenmyer	Brandon Smith	Erv Sonnenberg	Larry Weirich Harold Smith Jeff Nash

September Greeters Selected

The Board of Evangelism has selected the greeters for September. Greeters are requested to greet for Sunday morning worship service. Greeters are asked to be on hand by 9:30 a.m. If there are handouts for that day, they will be labeled as such. Greeters should welcome all who come to worship, and request visitors to sign the Registration Book. If a person is unable to greet, please call Dan Seedorf at 419-265-2798, and he will see that a greeter is in place. A big **“Thank You!”** goes out to all who help to make our worshipers feel more welcome.

September Greeters are:

September 2:	The Leo Rabe Family
September 9:	Sign-Up Sunday
September 16:	The Tom Kern Family
September 23:	The Dan Meyer Family
September 30:	The Harold Smith Family



Preparing communion for September are Patsy Mohler and Brenda Bartels

Providing flowers for September is Delores Atkinson.



September is a busy month...

Catechism Kick Off Family Dinner:

September 5, 6:30pm

This is an informational meeting with Pastor Witte for ALL 5th—8th grade students, parents and siblings. Information and schedules for catechism and acolytes/crucifers will be handed out. If your child or grandchild did not receive an invitation for the Catechism Kick Off Dinner on Wednesday, Sept 5, and would like to be included in 5-8th grade catechism instruction, please contact Pastor/church office ASAP! Instruction will begin on September 12 at 6:30pm.

Sign Up Sunday:

September 9th

It will be time again to sign up for many different committees that are needed through out the church year. Sign Up Sunday is a time to offer your time, talents & treasures to our Lord by signing up to assist with your choice of opportunities. There will be posters to sign up for:

- *Helping with the Panera Bread program
- *Working or donating for the Food Auction
- *Donating Altar flowers
- *Setting the Altar for Communion
- *Serving as an Usher
- *Singing in choir, playing bells or playing an instrument
- *Sunday School teachers
- *Fall Soup & Pie donations and committees
- *Youth group assistants
- *Children's Christmas program helpers
- *Serving on a Quarterly committee (these committees are for **men and women** interested in serving our church for 3 months at a time, fulfilling our church needs from fundraisers to funeral luncheons.

By *you making your choices and signing the posters* it saves someone hours of telephoning to fill the committees. **If you have a preference to a certain date or month for donating flowers or setting up communion, please contact us *before* Sign Up Sunday, or come early to get your choice.** Also, if you have a committee you would like to add to the tables, prepare your poster and let us know ; we will make table space for you.

Rally Day Sunday:

September 9th

Rally Day Sunday is the first Sunday back to Sunday School. Sunday School starts at 9:00am. Our three year old children will be coming to Sunday School for the very first time! It's a new beginning of the Sunday School year with many plans to set in place. If you are interested in helping teach Sunday School, please contact: *Deb Nash, Heather Seiler, Mara Pittman or the church office.*

Adult Bible Study during September:

The Book of James, Epistle of Straw

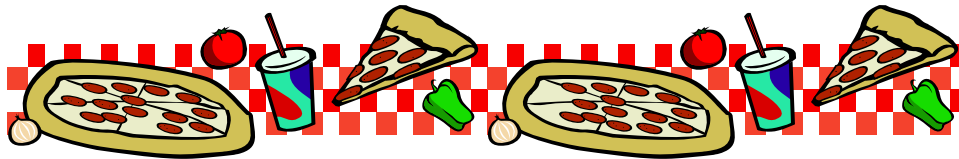
9:00 am Sundays in the church basement





High School Youth

Wednesday Night Fellowship



What: Pizza Night!!
Where: Pisanello's
Cost: \$2:00/person

When: Wednesday, September 19
 6:00ish
 Meet at Pisanello's

**Come and eat pizza, hang out with friends,
 and get information about 2 upcoming trips!**

Questions: See or call Brenda Baker (419)533-6567 or Alison Witte (419)613-7027

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ohio District Youth Gathering



Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1 & 2

Nov. 16-18
 Dublin, OH

More details at Wed. Sept. 19 meeting



Leader's Corn Maze

October 27