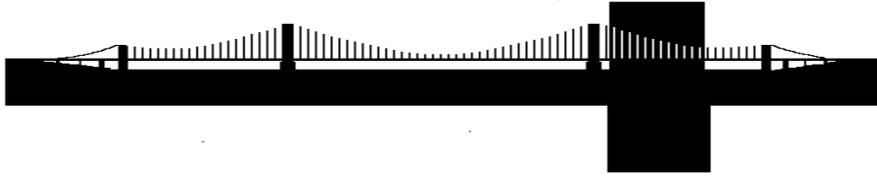


Building Bridges To God

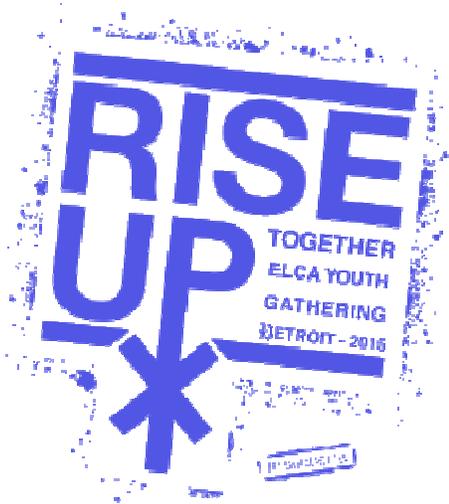


Through the Cross of Christ

The Newsletter Ministry of All Saints Lutheran Church JULY 2015

EQUIPPING
THE
SAINTS

Office will be closed
on Friday, July 3,
in observance of
the holiday.



**YOUTH GATHERING ~ DETROIT
JULY 15-19**

The Youth are still collecting diapers for their "Diaper Drive". They'll be taking these to Detroit to help families in need. Thank you for your donations!



Lucas County Thrivent Presents...
Mud Hens Baseball Game
Friday, July 17
Picnic Buffet, Game, Fireworks!

Must be Thrivent Member to purchase tickets
See inside for details...

In last month's pastor's letter I reflected about my 'start' at All Saints in 2009, and promised to devote this month's letter to my view of the *future* of our congregation. Since I care deeply and passionately about the future of All Saints, this won't be a difficult letter to write!

If All Saints were a business or civic organization, I'd be worried! Businesses in this country fail at an alarming rate; most often because they lose their client base. Civic organizations may hold on to their membership better, only because people join such groups (American Legion, Rotary Club, PTO's etc.) because they want to 'give' to something larger than themselves. They believe in a cause.

But the church is neither a business nor a civic organization. The church has never been expected to 'turn a profit' (but yes, it must pay its bills to survive). And while Christians definitely have a 'cause' (proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ), the church is more than a nice organization in which people can choose to participate (or not) according to their whims.

As Martin Luther points out in his explanation of the Third Article of the Apostle's Creed, "***I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him, but instead the Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, made me holy and kept me in the true faith, just as he calls, gathers, enlightens, and makes holy the whole Christian church on earth...***"

Think about that! "*The Holy Spirit,*" says Luther, is the motivating power behind the church. The Holy Spirit is what makes the church something other than a 'business' or 'civic group.' If the Spirit of God is at work in a people or congregation, then we'd better acknowledge that God can do more with that church than we might expect (certainly more than what we ourselves can do). God can raise the dead (John 11; Lazarus). God can breathe new life into old bones (Ezekiel 37).

If you've stayed with me this far, then bear with me a little longer. I've seen the Holy Spirit at work in this church. I've witnessed the power of God at work among us, building faith, empowering forgiveness, inspiring generosity. And I've witnessed you, the people of God in this place, giving glory to God through your witness and example.

Why would that not continue after my retirement?

But I also need to add this:

- **The church thrives when it is constantly changing.** Can All Saints remain open to change? Can we remain flexible, receptive to God's Spirit at work among us?

Continued on next page...

- The church thrives when ordinary people understand that **God always uses people to accomplish great things**. Can the members of this church continue to invest themselves in ministry here in this place?
- **The church grows when people remain in active, faithful partnership with God**, here in this place. One thing I've witnessed in every church I've served: when a pastor leaves, some in that congregation take his or her departure as an open door for them to leave, also. Perhaps they've been thinking about leaving for a long time; maybe they're just 'tired' of their life in that place and want to move on or drop out. But the reality is: ***each one of you is vitally important to the future of this church!*** Your presence and gifts are needed here. Please don't abandon this ministry!

I remain optimistic about the future of All Saints. This congregation has solid leaders and faithful members. We know how to welcome new people. We value worship and Bible study. We care about others, as Jesus commands. By the grace of God, this church will continue to be a powerful instrument of God's presence in this community for many years to come. Sue and I are pleased to be part of this ministry, and we look forward to the future of All Saints!

In Christ our Lord,

+ *Pastor Rick*



**West Lucas County Thrivent Financial
Chapter #30018 presents**



A Toledo Mud Hens Baseball Game

Friday, July 17, 2015

Picnic Buffet at 6:15 pm – 4th Floor Roost

Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Salads, Chips, etc.

Game at 7:00 pm

Muddy & Muddonna will visit – Fireworks too!

Only \$10.00 a person for a \$28.00 package

Must be a Thrivent member to order tickets - Limit of six per household...

Please contact Susan Merkel (419) 868-4844 or Bea French (419) 382-0796 by July 3

**Checks should be made out to WLC Chapter and mailed to Sue Merkel,
5924 Bridlewood Dr, Toledo, OH 43614**

**When ordering please have your name, mailing address,
and phone number.**

Do not contact the Thrivent Office

All Saints Youth hold "Diaper Drive"

For ELCA YOUTH GATHERING ~ Detroit

Detroit is in need of many things but apparently
diapers are a huge need. We are holding a
"Diaper Drive" at All Saints in order to take a
supply to the Youth Gathering this month.

If you'd like to help, we appreciate a donation or
package of diapers (any size). The Youth Gathering
is July 15-19.

Thank you,
All Saints Youth





We'd like to thank Carole Fletcher for cleaning up the side flower garden and also Amy & Sam Merkel for cleaning up the front gardens of church!

It looks great and we appreciate all your hard work!

FATHER'S DAY COFFEE HOUR

The Men of All Saints would like to thank the Lady Saints, especially Sue Merkel and Rosa Linda Brown, for providing us with the delicious Root Beer Floats and snacks for Father's Day.

What a wonderful treat!



On Sunday, July 5th, we will welcome new members:

James & Anna Perrin with their children, Charlene Green and Charles Green IV



VISIONARY WOMEN



All Saints will be hosting a six week series of workshops called "Visionary Women". These workshops are open to all church members and women in the surrounding neighborhoods. The workshops are going to be spiritually based and focused on empowerment of the mind, body and soul.

This community outreach program will hopefully be the start of many more programs to come. We want to meet our neighbor's needs by offering them a welcoming "bridge" of hope and fulfillment that is found in the Grace of the Lord" and in our congregation.

The workshops will be held from July 8th to August 12th at All Saints Lutheran with a closing ceremony to be held on August 19th. With an overarching desired outcome of short and long term goal setting, our aim is to challenge the women to take their dreams and visions to the first steps of fruition.

All participants will receive information and referrals to systemic agencies, current job market options, financial planning options, educational avenues and opportunities for entrepreneur business planning.

Co-sponsored by the "Lady Saints" and a Thrivent Financial "Action Team" grant; working together Anna Perrin and Rosa Linda Brown, both of All Saints Lutheran, took their "vision" and made it a reality.



**THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®**

Connecting faith & finances for good.™

**COFEE HOUR ~ SUNDAY JULY 12
HOSTED BY THRIVENT FINANCIAL**

Ken Meinecke & Greg Durivage of Thrivent Financial will sponsor a coffee hour on Sunday, **July 12, after worship**. Thrivent is a fraternal organization that has distributed more than \$170 million to churches and other nonprofit organizations across the country. All Saints has benefitted from Thrivent funds in the past.

Join Ken and Greg to find out more about how Thrivent funds can help support our educational and service activities.

**We welcome Guest Speakers,
Tim and Diane Sonnenberg ~ Sunday, July 19.
They will also lead worship.**



Tim and Diane Sonnenberg serve as Global Mission Volunteers with the ELCA. Tim retired in 2012 as senior pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Wauseon, Ohio. Diane also retired as a clinical Social Worker and Family Therapist with Lutheran Social Services of Northwest Ohio.

Since September of 2012, Tim and Diane have taught the Fall semester at Makumira Lutheran Seminary and University near Arusha, Tanzania in East Africa. They teach 2nd year students in the Bachelor of Theology Program. Tim teaches the Worship Class and Diane teaches an Introduction to Psychology course.

Their classes consist of approximately 30 students from many different tribes throughout Tanzania. Diane also teaches a Psychology course in the Bachelor of Counseling Program at the university. Much of the class discussion deals with topics such as ancestor worship, demon possession, and other traditional African cultural practices.

Tim and Diane will be returning to Tanzania this September to teach for their 4th year. You can learn more by going to Sonnenberg's blog of pictures and reflections of their experiences at www.sonnenbergsintanzania.blogspot.com

July

2015

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|-------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|--|
| | | | 1 8:30 AA (open) | 2 8:30 AA (closed) | 3 Office Closed | 4  |
| 5 8:30 Prayer 9:00 S.S. 9:00 Adult Forum 10:00 Worship New Members being welcomed today! | 6 8:30 AA (closed) | 7 8:30 AA (open) | 8 8:30 AA (open) | 9 8:30 AA (closed) | 10 | 11 |
| 12 8:30 Prayer 9:00 S.S. 9:00 Adult Forum 10:00 Worship Coffee Hour sponsored by Thrivent Financial | 13 8:30 AA (closed) | 14 7:00 Property 8:30 AA (open) | 15 ELCA 8:30 AA (open) | 16 7:00 Council Youth 8:30 AA (closed) | 17 Gathering | 18 In Detroit Thru Sunday |
| 19 8:30 Prayer 9:00 S.S. 9:00 Adult Forum 10:00 Worship Guest Speakers Tim & Diane Sonnenberg Youth return from the Gathering in Detroit | 20 7:00 S.O.S. 8:30 AA (closed) | 21 8:30 AA (open) | 22 8:30 AA (open) | 23 8:30 AA (closed) | 24 | 25 9:00  |
| 26 8:30 Prayer 9:00 S.S. 9:00 Adult Forum 10:00 Worship | 27 8:30 AA (closed) | 28 8:30 AA (open) | 29 8:30 AA (open) | 30 8:30 AA (closed) | 31 | |

JULY VOLUNTEERS

READER

July 5 Bob Krueger
July 12 Becky McCann
July 19 Jim Burkhardt
July 26 Donnajean Stockmaster

GREETERS

Bev Rose
Rick & Becky McCann
Wilma Lupe
Dorothy Henderson

COMMUNION PREP/ASSISTANT

July 5 Bob Krueger & Mary Lou Houle
July 12 Barb Mougie & Pat Toepfer
July 19 Jim & Diana Burkhardt
July 26 Chris & Donnajean Stockmaster

ALTAR

July Sue Merkel

COUNTERS

July 5 Rose Thomson & LaVerne Busddieker
July 12 Sue Merkel & Judy Reber
July 19 Mary Lou Houle & Pat Toepfer
July 26 Mary Lou Houle & Janet Caskey

OFFERING

July 5 Judy Reber
July 12 Rosa Linda Brown
July 19 Norm Merkel
July 26 Chris Stockmaster

USHERS

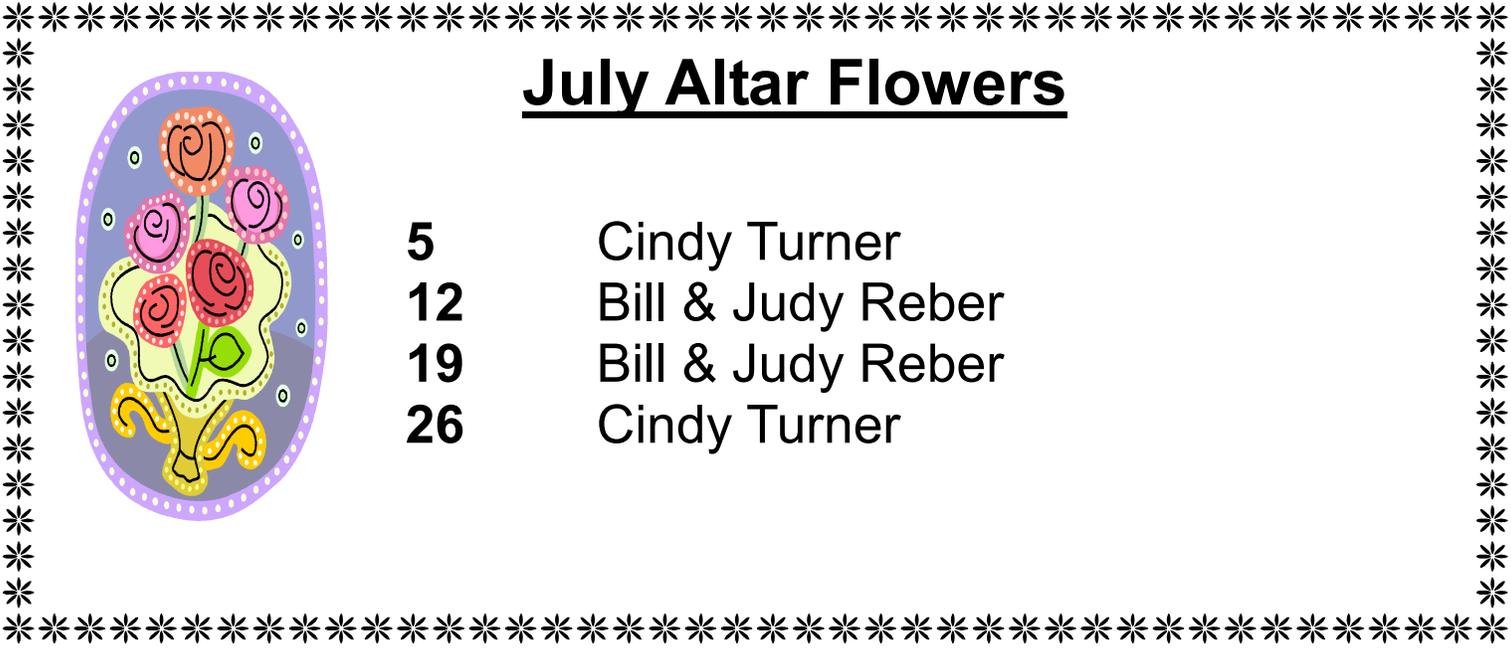
July 5 Chris Stockmaster, Hassan Brown Ralph Fritsch
July 12 Bob Krueger, Hassan Brown, Ralph Fritsch
July 19 Bill Reber, Hassan Brown, Ralph Fritsch
July 26 Chris Stockmaster, Hassan Brown Ralph Fritsch



- 7/3 Julie Beitelschees
- 7/6 Lori Case
- 7/7 Donnajean Stockmaster
- 7/17 Samantha Byram
- 7/20 Roger Mounjie
- 7/21 Chris Stockmaster
- 7/22 Tom Schultz

- 7/15 John & Irene Weygandt ~ 22 yrs
- 7/26 Gagne & Gail (*Burkhardt*) Seay ~ 1 yr

If we've missed your Birthday or Anniversary this month, please notify the office so we can correct our records.



July Altar Flowers



- 5** Cindy Turner
- 12** Bill & Judy Reber
- 19** Bill & Judy Reber
- 26** Cindy Turner

All Saints Lutheran Church
5445 Heatherdowns Blvd.
Toledo, OH 43614
www.allsaintstoledo.org
(419) 865-7701

July 