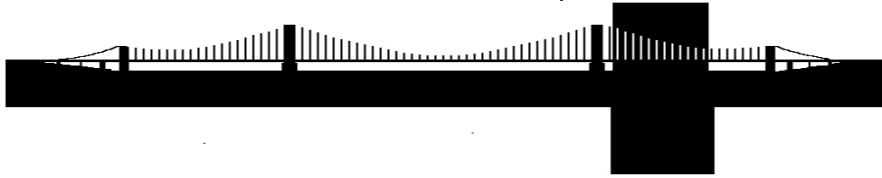


Building Bridges To God



Through the Cross of Christ

The Newsletter Ministry of All Saints Lutheran Church June 2015

EQUIPPING
THE
SAINTS

YOUTH GATHERING ~ DETROIT IN JULY

Did you hear about the
Diaper Drive?



YOUTH "DIAPER DRIVE"

Our Youth will be collecting packages of diapers to take to the Youth Gathering in July to help families in need. If you'd like to help, please bring them in and put in church lobby. All sizes are needed. Thank you



Father's Day Coffee Hour
Sunday, June 21



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...

I need to do something I've never done before. *I need to begin my transition to retirement.*

Many of you who faithfully read my monthly letters are retired...perhaps for many years. How did you know it was time? How did you adjust? Did you ever regret retiring? Has retirement been all you hoped it would be?

I'm now beginning that process, and I'd treasure whatever words of advice you might have for me. Plans call for me to officially 'retire' at the end of August. And while, after a short break of a couple months, I expect to be doing what we preachers call 'supply,' (filling in for other pastors who need a Sunday off), I won't have responsibility for all the things that now occupy my attention.

For the **August** newsletter, I'll have some things to say about what Sue and I plan to do in my/our retirement. Before that, in **July**, I'd like to comment on my vision for the future of this wonderful congregation...the church that has welcomed me and loved me for six-plus years.

And this month – June – I'd like to reminisce a bit about my introduction to All Saints.

You first interviewed me on December 23, 2008 – a day before Christmas Eve. You were anxious to find a new pastor, and I had been seriously considering a move for several months. I remember the first question the call committee put to me: "*What do you do to take care of yourself?*" No church had ever asked that question of me, but it's a great one! Every church deserves a healthy pastor...and while my health hasn't always been the greatest, I'm pleased to say that, right now, I'm probably healthier than I've been at any time in the last 10 years. And then there's the matter of *spiritual health*, and *mental/emotional health*. It's good for pastors (and congregations) to be concerned about all these things! You were...and *are!* Thank you!

You formally extended a call on February 1, 2009, and I took a week or so to prayerfully consider it. When I accepted, I said I would like to stay at my former church through Easter, out of respect for those wonderful people. You were disappointed that I wouldn't come right away, but you understood, and you seemed to appreciate my concern for that congregation.

I finished Holy Week and Easter in Adrian MI with a flurry of services and funerals, including a funeral on my very last day there. And the very next Sunday (First Sunday of Easter) was my first Sunday here. Ruth Freeman had passed away during Holy Week, and two days after my first sermon here, I preached at her funeral. My first hospital call was to St. Luke's, to visit Gordon Strand, who died on April 23.

We had six children of Sunday School age back then. Within a month or two, four of the six were gone (two moved to Phoenix with their parents, and the other two left with their parents to attend Cedar Creek Church). This was not a particularly auspicious start to my ministry!

(Continued on next page)

Yet while some said “*you’ll never have any children attending there!*” the truth is, we were graced by God with two confirmation classes, made up mostly of new kids. Some said we’d never have any young children there, but God has proved that sentiment wrong, also. Have you noticed how many babies and toddlers we have in worship now?

And along the way, while we never really had an old-fashioned Sunday School, we did have confirmation classes on Sunday mornings, and lively Adult classes, too. Still do!

When I arrived, we claimed one African-American as a member; *Hassan Brown*. Over the last six or seven years, we’ve welcomed a number of people of color, both as members and as regular guests/participants. Our Northeast Ohio Synod of the ELCA encourages congregations to reflect the racial composition of the neighborhood in which they are located, and we’ve tried hard to move that direction. At every step, you folks have graciously welcomed people of color to the full life of this congregation, and today, while we have lost some of our African American members, nevertheless we have a significant number of people of color here. We continue to reach out and welcome *everyone* who hungers for the gospel.

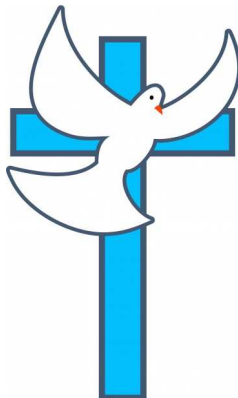
I’ve come to appreciate the uniqueness of this special little church, and I’ll fiercely defend its existence long into the future. It will be very difficult for Sue and me to leave here (we’ll be returning to our home in Tecumseh, MI), but you can count on seeing us often, at Quilt Shows, Neighborhood Parties, Drive-Thru Living Nativities, and probably other special events also.

As I wind down my ministry here, I’d like to invite you to submit questions you’d like me to address in future issues of our newsletter. They could be *theological questions...questions about the church and how it functions...or questions you may wish to ask me about my 39 years of ministry, here and elsewhere*. I’m open to all inquiries! Please put them in writing, and I promise to do my best to respond fairly and completely to them all.

Okay...next month, let me share with you my vision for the future of All Saints. I am optimistic, and I’ll tell you why next issue.

Thanks,

+ *Pastor Rich*



**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 in July.





If you'd like to help, we appreciate a donation or
package of diapers (any size).

Thank you,
All Saints Youth

Did you hear about the
Diaper Drive?



June 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 8:30 AA (closed)	2 8:30 AA (open)	3 7:00 Bible Study 8:30 AA (open)	4 8:30 AA (closed)	5	6
7 8:30 Prayer 9:00 S.S. 9:00 Adult Forum 10:00 Worship	8 8:30 AA (closed)	9 7:00 Property 7:00 Hymn Selection 8:30 AA (open)	10 7:00 Bible Study 8:30 AA (open)	11 8:30 AA (closed)	12	13  9:00 Lady Saints
14 8:30 Prayer 9:00 S.S. 9:00 Adult Forum 10:00 Worship	15 7:00 S.O.S. 8:30 AA (closed)	16 8:30 AA (open)	17 7:00 Bible Study 8:30 AA (open)	18 7:00 Council 8:30 AA (closed)	19	20
21 8:30 Prayer 9:00 S.S. 9:00 Adult Forum 10:00 Worship Father's Day Coffee Hour 	22 7:00 S.O.S. 8:30 AA (closed)	23 6:30 Ragan Woods Block Watch 8:30 AA (open)	24 No Bible Study 8:30 AA (open)	25 8:30 AA (closed)	26	27 9:00  1-4 Alesha Whitlock using preschool room for Baby Shower
28 8:30 Prayer 9:00 S.S. 9:00 Adult Forum 10:00 Worship	29 8:30 AA (closed)	30 8:30 AA (open)	July 1 No Bible Study 8:30 AA (open)	July 2 8:30 AA (closed)	July 3 Office Closed	July 4 

JUNE VOLUNTEERS

READER

June 7 Jim Burkhardt
June 14 Rosa Linda Brown
June 21 Sue Merkel
June 28 Chris Stockmaster

GREETERS

Judy Mizer
Rosa Linda & Devotion Brown
Pat Toepfer
Rex & Kathy Yarger

COMMUNION PREP/ASSISTANT

June 7 Norm & Sue Merkel
June 14 Roger & Lynda Meyer
June 21 Pam Hershberger & Sue Slater
June 28 Bill & Judy Reber

ALTAR

June Mary Lou Houle

COUNTERS

June 7 Rose Thomson & LaVerne Busddieker
June 14 Sue Merkel & Judy Reber
June 21 Mary Lou Houle & Pat Toepfer
June 28 Mary Lou Houle & Janet Caskey

OFFERING

June 7 Jim Burkhardt
June 14 Rosa Linda Brown
June 21 Chris Stockmaster
June 28 Rose Thomson

USHERS

June 7 Chris Stockmaster, Hassan Brown Ralph Fritsch
June 14 Bob Krueger, Hassan Brown, Ralph Fritsch
June 21 Bill Reber, Hassan Brown, Ralph Fritsch
June 28 Chris Stockmaster, Hassan Brown Ralph Fritsch



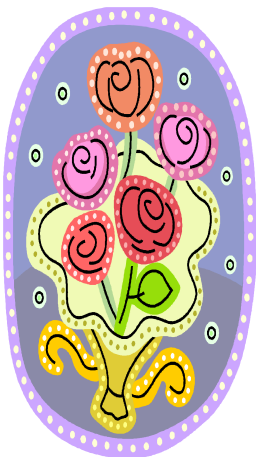
- 6/7 Esther Mauer
- 6/8 Donna Urie
Julia Sopher
- 6/14 Rex Yarger
- 6/15 Dean Roberts
- 6/16 Judy Mizer
- 6/23 Amy Merkel
- 6/24 Jim Burkhardt
Tim Merkel
- 6/27 Nancy Klawitter



- 6/2 Ted & Julie Beitelschees ~ 25 yrs
- 6/15 Roger & Lynda Meyer ~ 47 yrs
- 6/26 Don & Sharon Baacke ~ 39 yrs

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

June Altar Flowers



- 7 Cindy Turner**
- 14 Mary Lou Houle**
- 21 Judy Mizer**
- 28 Roger & Lynda Meyer**

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