



# The Disciple's Connection

St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Painesville, OH 44077

October 2020

## Seasons Change, but not God

### Worship Services

Saturday 6:00pm  
Sunday 9:30am  
Adult Bible Study 8:30am & 10:45am  
Sunday School 10:45am

### Staff

Paul D. Sundbom, Pastor  
Marlyss Sekki, Director of Music  
Peggy McDonnell, Admin Assistant

### Church Website

[www.splcpainesville.org](http://www.splcpainesville.org)

### Church Office

(440)354-3000  
[office@splcpainesville.org](mailto:office@splcpainesville.org)

### St. Paul's Preschool

Amy Marizek, Director  
[preschool@splcpainesville.org](mailto:preschool@splcpainesville.org)

### St. Paul's Preschool Website

[www.stpaulspainesville.com](http://www.stpaulspainesville.com)

The well-known Byrds song, "Turn, Turn, Turn" is adapted from these verses from Eccl. 3:

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:  
a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;  
a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;  
a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;  
a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and  
a time to refrain from embracing;  
a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;  
a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;  
a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.*

Each year, the earth God made goes through 4 seasons each with a different look and feel. Life itself goes through seasons. In our younger years we dream of what we will be when we grow up. We come up with what we think are wonderful plans. We enter college years and find those plans have changed slightly. What was once a childhood dream now looks like something else. We reach the middle years of life and wonder if what we did was worth it, if it made a difference. We may sense the need to go a different direction. Life is filled with many events, all of which happen at their proper time.

If you were to look back over life and look at what has transpired, can you see some of these times listed in Ecclesiastes? Some seasons in life are painful; times of mourning, war, casting away, weeping. Yet there are two things certain about seasons of life: 1) New seasons bring change. You find in life that you don't often stay in one place your whole life. God's plans for you bring you to different places and people. Each new season in life brings new excitement and challenges. Variety certainly can be a spice in life. Embrace each season in life God lays before you. Which brings me to the second certain thing about season in life: 2) God will be there and be the same in any season of life. The whole world around is nothing but change & chaos, worry & anxiety. In the midst of this, God reminds us he is with us to the end of the age. He says be still and know that He is God. As each season of life come upon you, count on God seeing you through. Each season has a reason and a proper time for you because they are from His hands.

Earth's season is changing from summer to fall. Maybe you are experiencing a change in seasons in life. Or maybe you feel like you're stuck in constant winter. Remember there is a season for everything and a time for everything under heaven. God tells us these truths and he will be with you in all seasons and times.

In Christ

*Pastor Sundbom*



## Serving with Varied Grace

*by Erin Mackenzie*

Variety is the spice of life. And of the mission field.

In fact, it's *essential* to the mission field. The variety of gifts that your LCMS missionaries and their networks embody is more than a dash of cayenne to lend a certain *je ne sais quoi* or some basil straight from the garden for a pop of freshness. The Gospel goes forth not in spite of, but through the diverse gifts of the individuals that serve the Lord on the foreign mission field, and those who sustain them by prayer and generosity.

A few weeks ago, a friend and fellow missionary asked to borrow my “banana bread tin” (read: loaf pan).

When I dropped off said pan, my friend informed me that she was, in fact, mixing up a loaf of banana bread. She shrugged off my question about a Plan B if I hadn't come to her rescue with the pan and proceeded to rave about the gluten free mix she'd found at the store, to which she'd added one more banana than the back of the box called for, plus some chocolate chips for good measure. I, a stickler for following directions, drove away bewildered at how someone could be so lackadaisical about something as precise as baking.

Her method caused me to reflect on my own experience from a couple of weeks prior. It also called to mind 1 Corinthians 12:4: “Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.” I detest making banana bread. Produce evades precision. Just how ripe is “ripe?” How big is a “medium” banana? If a recipe calls for 2–3 bananas, do I use two or three? Hence, my interest was piqued by an America's Test Kitchen recipe for the bake sale standby. Developed based on a battery of tests engineered to generate the ideal final product, it was quirky. It started with microwaving the bananas to extract their juices, which were later reduced to concentrate flavor and control the moisture content of the batter. My friend was equally bewildered at how someone could get so technical about a stir-together quick bread.

**SERVING WITH VARIED GRACE continued**

Varieties of gifts. Varieties of service. Varieties of activities. Missionary pastors likely come to mind when you think of “missions.” And indeed, there is no mission where the Word is not preached and the Sacraments not administered in truth and purity. But there are also deaconesses. Teachers. Nurses. Photographers. The past few months have seen a recent accounting grad and a dental hygienist grace Latin America & the Caribbean’s regional office for a few weeks each.

Everything else about us varies as much as our vocations. We are ordained, commissioned and lay. We have doctorates and bachelor’s degrees. We are one-man bands and people who can’t carry a tune in a bucket. We are retirees and twenty-somethings. Singles and families that could practically field their own baseball teams. Straight-laced suits and free-spirited creative types. Obsessive recipe followers and people that ad-lib it with whatever’s in the pantry.

We’re all identical, though, in that we share the same Spirit, Lord and God, who orchestrates our varied gifts in His perfect harmony for the mutual benefit of our fellow man and so that every knee might bow and every tongue confess His name. We’re a living testament to 1 Peter 4:10–11: “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies — in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

It’s not about us. It’s about Him, and His mission, and the Spirit with which He endowed each of us so that we might become participants in that mission. With our varied gifts, we share His Good News throughout all the world. We are a spectrum of Enneagram types, a lexicon of love languages, and an alphabet soup of Meyers-Briggs personalities united in “the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good” (1 Corinthians 12:7). And it is the Spirit and the Spirit only that can create and nurture faith — a gift which is not merely good, but the best we could ever receive!

For the record, both iterations of banana bread were worth repeating; this “obsessive recipe follower” might even throw in some chocolate chips next time!

*Erin Mackenzie is a career missionary in the Dominican Republic. When she’s not traveling around Latin America overseeing the regional short-term team program — too often, according to her cat, Freddy — Erin enjoys reading, trying new recipes and challenging anyone who claims they can beat her at English or Spanish Scrabble*

Mackenzie, Erin, “Serving with Varied Grace.” *The Lutheran Witness*. Concordia Publishing House October 2019. Web., 14 October 2019



## Life Quotes for

**October 4** "Whenever I read Scripture that talks about how much God loves each of us, that He has created us, and that He wants us to share His love, I am always struck by the lack of qualifiers. I do not see where God makes distinctions about who He loves and calls into His family. He loves and calls all—each and every one of us." *Mona Fuerstenau, Bethesda Lutheran Communities – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)*

**October 11** "Laws of the State clearly matter, and the message they send affects the mindset of society. But, if our battle cry for life begins on the abortion table, then we've waited too long to speak. If our efforts to model life end in the courtroom, then we've already lost our children. God help us; it's time to ask ourselves if we speak life or whisper death." *Tawnia Hoehne, Frazee, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)*

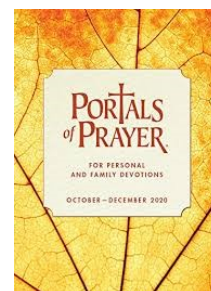
**October 18** "The Church has confessed from the beginning that each life is created by God, that human life is the supreme gift of the Creator. Human life is not given unconditionally but is given under the condition that we will be responsible for preserving it. The testimony that God respects life above all else is contained in the words of the Gospel: 'For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life' (John 3:16)." *Abbot Tryphon, Vashon Island, Washington – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)*

**October 25** "I pray that the love of Christ emboldens you to rejoice in the Word and to speak it without fear of consequence ... may future generations speak of us like we do of David, Josiah, Luther, and our forefathers. May our children say of you and me, 'Our forefathers stood their ground on Christ alone, on His Word of truth alone.' The truth has set you free. Enjoy your own personal reformation. Then let your freedom in Christ be contagious! Let your life continue to shout: Thank Jesus Christ my Savior! I'm free at last ... and so are you! Amen." *Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)*

## Announcements

### ***October—December 2020 Portals of Prayer Now Available***

The October—December 2020 Portals of Prayer daily devotions are now available. Copies can be found at the back of the sanctuary by the double doors, on the resource area table, or on the coat rack shelf by the kitchen.



### ***Time and Talent Surveys***

It's Time and Talent Surveys time! By filling out a survey you will be letting St. Paul's know the areas in which you would like to volunteer. The surveys are located on the table next to the bulletins. Please fill one out for each family member 8<sup>th</sup> grade and above and place it in the bin next to the surveys.

### **2021 LWML Convention**

**Running the Race?** Your plans to attend the convention and be a worker (runner) in Lexington, Kentucky, from June 24-27, 2021, will assist the 39<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention Host Committee in "Running the Race...Looking to Jesus," the convention theme. The gates will open soon in Lexington, Kentucky, at the Rupp Arena at Central Bank Center. The runners are keeping a "steady state" (pace), running with endurance toward their goal. There will be so many uplifting experiences as we hear the inspiring proclaimer, keynote speaker, mission speakers, Bible study leader, sing in the choir, worship and sing HIS praises. You will attend business meetings where delegates will select mission grants and officers for the next biennium and there will be opportunities for fellowship with many LWML women. Prayerfully consider assisting the host districts, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio. Help them reach the finish line! Check the LWML Indiana District web-site at [www.lwmlindiana.org](http://www.lwmlindiana.org) for the Call for Workers form and choose to volunteer now. Don't let us lag behind with not enough workers. Help us step up the pace as we continue "Running the Race...Looking to Jesus."







## SOME LWML FACTS

There are 40 LWML districts which make up the national LWML. Each district is made up of zones. The LWML Ohio District is made up of 12 zones. St. Paul's is one of 18 churches that make up the Northeast Zone of the LWML Ohio District?

The national LWML has a mission goal of \$2,100,000.00 to support the spreading of the Gospel throughout the world and that the LWML Ohio District has a mission goal of \$200,000.00 to support missions within our state as well as Haiti and several out of state missions. When you give to mites, 25% goes to national LWML and 75% stays within our district.

You can learn about national LWML and its mission work at <http://lwml.org> and you can learn about the LWML Ohio District at <http://lwmlohio.org>. Both of these sites have an abundance of information.

Since the new LWML Ohio District biennium began (April 2020) - \$382.60 has been sent to the district from St. Paul's. Praise God for cheerful giving.

Mite giving within our district has fallen far short – As of August 31, 2020 only \$10,794.93 has been received. In other years this would represent a month's giving – not 5 months. Many reasons can be cited for such low giving, here are a few:

1. The district convention and most in person zone events which include special mite offerings were canceled due to COVID
2. Churches which have only recently re-opened for in person services have had smaller attendance, fewer people are bringing in their mite boxes on a regular basis
3. Many people are using cash less and paying with credit cards. There is a coin shortage
4. Until recently, bank lobbies were closed making deposits of coins impossible.

## Noisy Mite Weekend



We will have a mite collection on LWML Weekend (October 17/18). Our colorful buckets will be sitting at the back of the church for your donations. Please consider making a special donation to mites at this time. Noisy and quiet money, given to God's glory, will help to fund the mission work of the LWML. (If you choose to write a check – make it out the Friendship Circle). As you cheerfully give to the LWML, please remember to include its work in your prayers.



## September Meeting Notes

- Pastor: Pastor reported that this year's Confirmation class has 4 returning and maybe 1 1<sup>st</sup> year students, classes to begin Sept. 13 or 20. Sunday school and Adult Bible study will begin in-person on Sept. 13. Brian and Kathy Herder were accepted as members by confirmation of faith.
- President: Seeking members for a Communication Committee
- Treasurer: We're still in fair financial shape with a decent August contribution.
- Education: Preschool will begin as scheduled on Sept. 14. Sunday school will resume on Rally Day, Sept. 13 with Star Graziadei as Director/sub, Eric West/Rich Szoradi-High school, Erin Cardina-Middle & Early Childhood and Pastor-Adult Bible study. Also, we will sponsor Adopt-a-Family for Project Hope & UH families in need.
- Preschool: Preschool will begin on Sept. 14 and there will be 34 students (10 in a 3 yr. olds class and 2 Pre-K classes with 12 each), with staggered start times. About 25 Bibles are to be handed out. There is a Donation board in the rear of the chapel of things the Preschool needs.
- Elders: A review is needed to address time(s) for Adult Bible class--to take place during service on Sept. 13.
- Stewardship: Time & Talent survey to begin Sept. 12/13 to be picked after services. We will again set up Giving Tree during the months of Nov. & Dec. for Project Hope, Hope Chest, Christ Child Clothing Center, and Salvation Army--Donations include hats, scarves, mittens, and coats. We will also work with Zion to see what the needs are for its Food Bank.
- Outreach: Boxes of books for Pastor May were picked up on Aug. 11 and are in Houston, shipping paid by committee. A church in Arizona has raised funds to ship books to Africa. It was decided a Bubbles-to-Bibles car wash wasn't practical, so funds to purchase bibles for jail ministry, cost \$3.99 each. The chaplain said he may need up to 200. Several door-tag logo designs were presented--council will review and decide at its Oct. 7 meeting.
- Building & Grounds: Garage doors, parking lot side of church overhang and windows have been scraped, primed, and painted--Tiered classroom windows will be finished this month. The refrigerator needs to be replaced, Joe has estimate of \$1,750. Fire alarms to be tested on Sept. 3. Crash bar to be installed on side door to chapel.
- Membership Secty: With a decent increase in giving in August, Contributions are down only 1% YTD from last year.
- Old Business: Eric Drake, Star & Joe Graziadei, John Doeing, and Pastor Sundbom are on a committee to review Disaster response guidelines.
- New Business: Dennis Concoby made a motion to authorize up to \$1,750 to replace the refrigerator, John 2nd. Motion passed.
- Next meeting: Oct. 7 @ 6:30pm.

## LEAF ANNUAL APPEAL 2020

Friends and Supporters of Our Shepherd,

The year 2020 has certainly been a confusing, frustrating, and challenging year, with COVID-19 bringing about fears and concerns over personal and public health, and how government and health officials are to respond. Economic shutdowns, business closures, and lay-offs, political bickering and election posturing, devastating wildfires, hurricanes, and floods, senseless and brutal shootings, protests, and violence in our cities, fill the news everyday--and the year isn't over. Our churches and schools, including Our Shepherd Lutheran School, were forced to close in-person operations in mid-March for several months. Hopefully, things are starting to return to more normal as churches, schools, are businesses reopen in-person. Principal Barb Riley, teachers, and staff, following state and CDC guidelines for the safety of staff, students, and families, have reopened in-person classes in August. However, many challenges (including financial) remain as only about 108 students have returned (down from the about 150 in recent years). And that is where LEAF (Lutheran Endowment and Aid Fund) helps provide financial assistance for the school in lean or challenging years.

The Lutheran Endowment and Aid Fund (LEAF) was established in 1987 to provide financial assistance to Our Shepherd. In years when the school's revenue doesn't meet its expenses, LEAF helps fill the gap. A board manages and oversees this fund. St. Paul's is represented on the Board by Terry Wakelee and Russ Walton, if you have any questions. Gifts we receive from your generosity are invested in stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and CDs, which produce interest and dividends that we turn over to OSLS as they have need. Every year since 1987, this fund has produced income and will every year in the future. That is how endowments work.

Our Shepherd is an outreach mission into our community, providing in many cases students' first or only exposure to the Gospel and God's many blessings. Its quality education meets and exceeds state requirements in a safe and caring environment--some local schools do not. Parents in failing schools can choose to send their kids to passing schools, like Our Shepherd. For these reasons, LEAF comes to you for your support, as this is our only source of income. No gift is too small and all are truly appreciated. We ask that you prayerfully consider a gift to LEAF. We thank you for your past support and hope you will keep LEAF and OSLS in your prayers.

God's richest blessings,

The LEAF Board





## October Birthdays

Paul Sundbom	2nd	Eleanor Fischbach	12th	Eric West	25th
Kathleen Pennell	8th	Claire Hines	18th	Al Grechar	26th
Judith Kerver	9th	Erin Cardina	20th	Cheryl Dewit	27th
Carol Cannonie	12th	Pavel Lindrose	23rd		



## October Anniversaries

Eric and Debbi Davis	25 years on October 14th
Ed and Kelly Hines	15 years on October 15th
Kevin and Diana Kiel	25 years on October 15th
Rory and Laurie Srebernak	16 years on October 15th
John and Rosemary Galayda	40 years on October 17th
Dana and Sylvia Hendricks	37 years on October 20th
Donald and Suzanne Luther	15 years on October 20th
Norm and Donna Salminen	57 years on October 26th



## Altar Flowers



Is there someone special, a special date, or a special event you would like to honor. A great way to do that is with Altar Flowers. The Altar Flower Chart is posted on the wall next to the double doors leading out of the sanctuary. All you have to do is sign up next to the appropriate weekend. Be sure to print clearly what occasion is being honored and who the flowers are given by. Altar flowers are \$30.00. This can be placed in an envelope labeled "Altar Flowers" and the date of the weekend, then place in the collection plate.

## Those Who Serve: October 2020

### ELDERS:

6:00 P Saturday John Doeing  
9:30 A Sunday Dale Kerver & Rich Szoradi

### LECTORS:

10-03-20	6:00 P	Saturday	Frank McVan
10-04-20	9:30 A	Sunday	Ken Chaffe
10-10-20	6:00 P	Saturday	Pastor Sundbom
10-11-20	9:30 A	Sunday	Craig McConnell
10-17-20	6:00 P	Saturday	Frank McVan
10-18-20	9:30 A	Sunday	Kathleen Pennell
10-24-20	6:00 P	Saturday	Pastor Sundbom
10-25-20	9:30 A	Sunday	Jack Lelle
10-31-20	6:00 P	Saturday	Frank McVan
11-01-20	9:30 A	Sunday	Eric West



### COUNTERS:

Terry Wakelee, Dennis Concoby,  
Connie Concoby

### GREETERS:

6:00 P Saturday  
9:30 A Sunday Diane Wayner

SIGN UP IN OCTOBER TO WAVE YOUR  
GREETING TO YOUR FELLOW DISCIPLES.

Sign-up sheet located on the double  
doors at the back of the Sanctuary

# October 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div> <div>COMMUNION</div>  <div>SERVICE</div> </div> <p>October Flower: Calendula</p>	<div> <div>WORSHIP SCHEDULE</div> <div>           Saturdays - 6:00pm            Sundays - 9:30am            Adult Bible Study - 8:30am &amp; 10:45am            Sunday School - 10:45am         </div> </div> <p>October Stone: Opal &amp; Tourmaline</p>		<div>Office Hours Monday-Friday 9:00am-2:00pm</div>	<p>1</p> <p>Virtual Bible Study 7:00pm</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Household Hazardous Waste Collection - Lake County Fairgrounds</p>
<p>4</p> <p>World Communion Day</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Preschool Chapel</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Preschool Chapel Choir Practice 7:00pm</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Council Meeting 6:30pm Weekly Bulletin Announcements Due</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Virtual Bible Study 7:00pm</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> 
<p>11</p> 	<p>12</p>  <p>Columbus Day</p> <p>Preschool Closed</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Choir Practice 7:00pm</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Elder's Meeting 6:30pm Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Weekly Bulletin Announcements Due</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Virtual Bible Study 7:00pm</p>	<p>16</p> <div>November Newsletter Articles Due</div>	<p>17</p> <p>LWML Weekend</p>
<p>18</p> <p>LWML Weekend</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Outreach Meeting 7:00pm</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Choir Practice 7:00pm</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Weekly Bulletin Announcements Due</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Virtual Bible Study 7:00pm</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>  <p>Reformation Week- end</p>
<p>25</p>  <p>Reformation Week- end Confirmation Class 4:30pm Youth Group 6:00pm</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Choir Practice 7:00pm</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Weekly Bulletin Announcements Due</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Virtual Bible Study 7:00pm</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>All Saints Weekend</p>  <p>Halloween</p>