

The Courier



for the Orion United Methodist Church

April 2017

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The Prince of Peace

The world has suffered yet another act of terrorism, this time in London. One American, Kurt Cochran, was killed, on the final day of a vacation in which he and his wife Melissa were celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary.

Acts of terrorism such as the London attack are committed by religious zealots who believe they are acting in obedience to their god. Yet I am reminded of a fascinating little verse in Jeremiah 7:31 in which God, through the prophet, describes some of the horrific religious practices which were carried out by idolatrous Jews. Then the all-knowing God makes the shocking declaration that the idolaters had found a way to sin that was so profoundly evil that their practices had never even entered the mind of God.

I do not believe our God is a violent God. Rather, Jesus entered our world as the Prince of Peace. Indeed, he presented himself as the Prince of Peace when he entered Jerusalem so dramatically on Palm Sunday.

Jesus wants us as his followers to follow in his footsteps as purveyors of peace. Early in his ministry among us, Jesus declared, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" (Matthew 5:9).

Jesus doesn't say, "Blessed are the peace *lovers* for they will be called the children of God." Rather, those who *make* peace—not just *want* peace—will be called the sons and daughters of God. That means this beatitude is really a call to action—a call to make peace, and not simply *long* for peace or pray for peace.

If this beatitude is a call to action, then where are we to make peace? The answer is *in our relationships*. And our first and most important relationship is our relationship with God. We are sinners and our sin puts us at enmity with God. Thankfully, God has sent Jesus Christ into the world so that we through him might find true peace and reconciliation with God. That's the message of Good Friday. And it's possible because of Easter.

Making peace with God follows what Jesus described as the first and greatest commandment: to love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. However, that first commandment does not stop there; it dovetails with the second greatest commandment,

which is to love your neighbor as yourself. That means that the second most important arena for peacemaking is with your neighbor—whether it's your neighbor at home, at school, at the office, or down the block from you.

If you voted for Hillary Clinton that means you should make peace with your neighbors who voted for Donald Trump. And if you voted for Donald Trump, that means you should make peace with your friends and family who voted for Hillary Clinton. And please, keep the peace on Facebook and on Twitter! We can be different from one another and still be children of God. After all, the Prince of Peace calls for us to make peace with God and neighbor.

I'll see you in church!
Pastor Dave

Special Holy Week Worship Services

Good Friday, April 14

7:00 pm Good Friday Worship Service

Easter Sunday, April 16

7:00 am Youth-led Sunrise Worship Service featuring "Easter Jeopardy" an original play by Pastor Dave and Communion followed by a family-style breakfast

9:15 am Sunday School for All Ages

10:30 am Traditional Worship Service
(No Communion)



Eastward, Ho!

With the completion and dedication of our Activity Center, we'll soon focus our work to the space just east of the MAC. Our trustees will be working with King Landscaping to build up a retaining wall along the east side of the building as well as pour sidewalks and a parking lot. Depending on the weather, work should begin in mid-April.

This is the kind of project that once it's begun, it will be difficult to stop because of a lack of funding. The leadership of our church remains committed to completing the work without incurring debt, so your support will be greatly appreciated. Thankfully, we have received three generous grants from the Wyman Coulter Trust totaling \$30,000 which is designated for this phase of the project. Coupled with other generous gifts, we've received over half the funds needed to complete our walks and parking lot.

You can help with a gift marked for our Activity Center. As always, your special offerings should be above and beyond your regular support of the church

DON'T BE LEFT OUT!

Have you made your appointment to have your picture taken for our new church directory? If you haven't, please sign up to be included. Photo session times are 2-9 pm Tues. April 11-Thurs. April 13. Times on Fri., April 14 & Sat., April 15 are 10 am-5 pm. You may sign up at church, by calling the church office, or through a link on our website. All families will get a free 8 x 10 photo plus a directory, and you'll have the opportunity to purchase other pictures. Senior and military discounts are available, too. Please call to reserve your spot!

Mission of the Month

April's Mission of the Month is a life-changing ecumenical ministry in our own backyard. YouthHope, a ministry of Christian Friendliness, ministers to low-income youth weekly through after school activities, a Christian youth camp and other youth services.

Although their primary focus is the underprivileged areas of our community, their mission encompasses the community as a whole. YouthHope believes that sharing Christ with people is the main ingredient in meeting their needs.

YouthHope/Christian Friendliness maintains two centers in the Quad Cities, one in Rock Island and the other in Moline. It also maintains Camp Summit, a Christian camp in New Windsor.

TLC Preschool Open House – April 8, 9 to Noon

Children are invited to see the classroom. Children must be 3 by Sept. 1, 2017 for the Cubs class and 4 by Sept. 1 for the Bears class. For more information, call 526-8993.

During the month of April, we are collecting items for the Orion Area Food Pantry. All donations are welcome, but items especially needed include canned fruit, cereal, crackers, brownie & muffin mixes, helper mixes, ravioli, rice/pasta mix packets, ketchup, mayonnaise, jello, and instant pudding mixes. Thank you for your support!

Prepare Your Hearts for Worship

We'll continue our journey to the cross this month until we reach the promise and glory of the empty tomb. We begin Sunday, April 2 by looking at the trials of Jesus. Our scriptures will be drawn from long passages in Matthew 27 and John 18. Other scriptures include Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130 and Romans 8:6-11. I will be serving Holy Communion.

Palm Sunday is April 9 and it begins by celebrating Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem just a few short days before his crucifixion. The Liturgy of the Palms includes Psalm 118 and Matthew 2:1-11. Midway through the service, the mood will shift to the Liturgy of the Passion of the Christ. Scriptures will include Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31; Philippians 2:5-11 and Matthew 26:14-27:54.

There will be a 7 pm Good Friday service on April 14. Scriptures include Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25 and John 18:1-19:42.

April 16 is Easter Sunday with services at 7 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. The youth will be presenting, *Easter Jeopardy*. This is an original play which I wrote in 2011. I will be serving Communion at the 7 a.m. service only. I will be preaching at the 10:30 service. Scriptures include Acts 10:34-43; Colossians 3:1-14; Matthew 28:1-15 and John 20:1-18.

The Sunday after Easter has unofficially become known as "Holy Hilarity Sunday." This year it falls on April 23 and some preachers will tell jokes. The reason is that the joke's on the devil because through his resurrection, Christ has defeated sin, death and the devil. Scriptures include Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9 and John 20:19-31.

We wrap the month up on Sunday, April 30. Scriptures include Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116; 1 Peter 1:17-23 and Luke 23:13-35.

As always, scriptures for lector/liturgists are underlined.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Dave

Vacation Bible School

June 26 – June 30 9:00 a.m. – Noon
At St. Paul Lutheran Church

To attend VBS, children must be age 3 by Sept. 1, 2016 through those entering 6th grade in the fall. Registration forms are available on the information table in the narthex.

The cost is: \$5 per person before May 26, \$10 after that date prior to VBS, or \$20 on the first day of VBS. Checks should be made payable to Orion Community VBS

Completed registration forms with payment must be mailed or brought to St. Paul Lutheran Church, Orion Community VBS, P.O. Box 187, Orion IL 61273. For registration information, call the St. Paul church office at 526-8406.

Bakers Needed

Main Street Orion's Daddy/Daughter dance is April 23 at Orion High School, and MSO needs bakers to help make this event a success for the many girls who attend. The girls love to get dressed up and feel like they are at a fancy event.

MSO would like to have donations of fancy, tea-type cookies. Please contact Candice Schultz to volunteer at 526-8299 or by email at director@mainstreetorion.com.

Women of Joy is coming to Indianapolis Aug. 11 & 12. Performers and speakers include Natalie Grant, Candace Cameron Bure, Charles Billingsley and more. Go to womenofjoy.org for more details, and talk with Shelley Atkinson for information.

Coming up....

Confirmation Sunday is May 7
Graduation Sunday is May 14

Contact the church office by May 5 if you have a family member graduating. We'd like to honor them for their achievements and include their name in the bulletin.

ORION UMC SCHOLARSHIP

The deadline to apply for the OUMC scholarship is April 13. Applications must be in the office by 3 pm or postmarked by April 13. Senior and college undergraduate members may apply. Applications are in the office and on the website. If you've applied in the past, but didn't receive a scholarship, you may re-apply.

Pastor Dave's April Sunday School Classes

April 2 – 1st & 2nd grade April 9 – 3rd & 4th grade
April 16 – unassigned April 23 – Pre-K & Kind.
April 30 – Confirmation

Perfect Sunday School Attendance for February

Sophia Seys
Cullen Langley
Diane McCunn
Jane Meyer

Riley Knox
Devin Nelson
Tara Miller
Jack & Nancy Poust

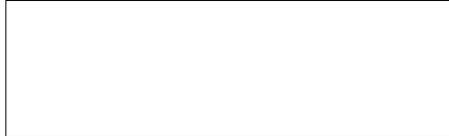
Thea Seys
Noah Seys
Barb Cooper
Keli Knox

Pastor Dave
Leah Manning
Rachel Girotti
Don & Marilyn Berns

Micah Knox
Hope Seys
Joy Seys
Autumn & Rob Manning

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Multi-media Trivia Night for YouthWorks
Saturday, April 8 – 6:00 pm
Doors open at 5:00

Join us for a night of full of fun, food, and fellowship! Get a group together and reserve a table for Trivia Night. Soft drinks and walking tacos will be available for purchase, and you may bring snacks. Tables of eight are \$80. Questions will cover a wide range of topics.

To reserve your table, call the office at 526-8511
or email orionumc@frontiernet.net.

Proceeds will benefit Orion UMC Youth Mission Trips

RUMMAGE SALE, PIE SALE
BAKE SALE, COFFEE

Saturday, April 22 – 9 a.m. to noon

Come and check out the great bargains! There will be something for everyone.

Be sure to visit the coffee area and the bake sale -
Rebecca Circle will be selling pies!

Please bring sale items beginning April 17. In order to help the set-up go smoothly, no items will be accepted after 10:00 a.m. on Friday, April 21. *Thank you for your help and understanding.* Items for bake sale and help with set-up/take-down are also appreciated and needed!

TVs and computers will not be accepted.

Blessings on your Birthday!

4/01	Savannah Faulkner	4/15	Pat McKnight
	Amy Killion		Rachel Girotti
4/02	Rachel Wright	4/16	Greyson Weaver
4/03	Candice Schultz	4/18	John Fisher
	Joshua Peshek		Betty Jo Versluis
4/05	David Anderson	4/21	Chris Kosek
	Sharon Schnowske	4/24	Ann Haars
4/07	Janet Marshall		Lena Haars
	Samantha Parks	4/25	Peggy Crayne
4/08	Malia Bigus		Jason Blade
	Nancy Wigant	4/29	Dan Lees
	Drew Amador	4/30	Dawn Coe
4/09	Chuck Dykeman		Laura Stark
4/10	Benjamin Woolley		
4/12	Michelle Dodson		
4/13	Don Bielema		
4/14	Nathan Walker		
	Nicholas Walker		

Call the church office if we need to add your name.

We will serve the **Hope Meal Site** May 7. Please watch for a sign-up sheet in the lower narthex to help with food donations and to volunteer that evening. Thank you for helping!