

The Courier



for the Orion United Methodist Church

May 2017

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Saving Scars

I stepped out of the shower and once again caught a glimpse of my scar. I had major surgery in May, 2006, two months before we moved to Orion. I don't especially like my scar; I was supposed to have had a less invasive procedure. Instead, the more invasive procedure I had messes with my "six-pack abs." And yet, I remember lying on my hospital bed as one of the medical professionals explained to me that had I not had that procedure, I wouldn't have lived much longer.

Although I don't especially like my scar, I also realize that that scar saved my life.

Shortly after Jesus rose from the dead, he appeared to his disciples. However, Thomas wasn't there. When the other disciples explained to him that Jesus had risen from the dead and had appeared to them, Thomas expressed his doubts.

"Unless I see his scars for myself—and touch them—I will not believe.

A week later Jesus' disciples had another gathering and this time Thomas was a part of the group. Jesus singled out Thomas, showed him his scars and invited him to reach out and touch those scars.

Why? Because Jesus knew that those scars had saved Thomas' life.

In that very moment Thomas realized the same truth—that Jesus' scars had saved his own life—so Thomas famously declared, "My Lord and my God!"

Thomas' life is not the only life that was saved by those scars. Jesus died for the salvation of the world. All we have to do is go to him for help—much like I (finally) went to a surgeon in May, 2006 to receive the help I needed. Had I not done so, well, I probably wouldn't be writing this article right now.

Speaking through the prophet Isaiah, God describes his love for his people by stating, "See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands" (Isaiah 49:16 NIV). No surgical scalpel was used; we were engraved on his palms with rugged nails. The result? Those nails left behind the most beautiful scars you'll ever find. Why? Because those scars saved my life. And, hopefully, yours.

Pastor Dave

The Next Phase

By the time you receive this newsletter, Justin King of King's Landscaping will likely have begun work outside east of our Activity Center. The job is quite extensive and will include the construction of a retaining wall, new sidewalks and the foundation for our parking lot. Cost for the project will be roughly \$61,000 plus millings for the surface of the parking lot.

Unlike much of the work which was done in the MAC, once this project has begun, we really won't be able to stop it and wait for more funds to come in. Fortunately, we have set aside over half the money for this project, thanks in part to three generous gifts from the Wyman Coulter Trust. The Trust granted us \$10,000 in 2015, 2016 and again this year for a total of \$30,000.

In a pinch, we can cover any shortfall in this project by drawing from our investments. However, if we draw too much from our investments, it may make it more difficult to meet future general fund expenses. So far we've been able to renovate the MAC without incurring any debt—praise the Lord! Now as we embark on this next phase of construction, we hope—with your help—to do the same.

Your gifts designated for the MAC and given above and beyond your regular tithes and offerings will help us to stay on track. We hope to complete the job by mid-July, depending on weather. Your gifts given before Sunday, July 16 will help us to remain debt-free.

Special Days in May

May 7 will be **Confirmation Sunday**. Those 8th graders who have completed the second year of studies and have met the requirements will make their confirmations of faith at the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Please plan to attend and welcome them into our congregation.

May 14 we will celebrate **Graduation Sunday** during the 10:30 service. Plan to attend to congratulate the graduates on a job well done!

If you have an 8th grade, high school or college student graduating, please call the church office by Tuesday, May 9, so we may include them in the bulletin.

Prepare Your Hearts for Sunday

We begin May with Confirmation Sunday on the 7th. Scriptures will include Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25 and John 10:1-10. Communion will be served.

Moms and graduates will both be recognized on Mother's Day which falls on Sunday, May 14. Scriptures include Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31; 1 Peter 2:2-10 and John 14:1-14.

May 21 is Heritage Sunday, celebrating when John Wesley's heart "was strangely warmed." Scriptures include Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66; 1 Peter 3:12-22 and John 14:15-21.

On Sunday, May 25 the church recalls the Ascension of Christ by directing its attention to Acts 1:1-11. Other scriptures include Psalm 47; Ephesians 1:15-23 and Luke 24:44-53.

We wrap up the month of May with Memorial Sunday, May 28. Scriptures include Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68, 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11 and John 17:1-11.

Unless otherwise announced, scriptures for the day's liturgist will be underlined.

I'll see you in church!
Pastor Dave

FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

The Finance Committee will host a breakfast on Sunday, June 4 during the Sunday school hour.

Plan to stay following the early service, or come a bit early to the late service and enjoy this time of fellowship.

SENIOR CITIZENS' MEALS

Our church hosts a Senior Citizens meal every Tuesday at noon in our fellowship hall. This service is provided by Henry County, and it's a great opportunity for those 60 and older to receive a hot meal here or delivered to their homes. Cost is \$2.75 for a meal at the church. To have a meal delivered to your home, the cost is \$3. After the meal, there is a time for fellowship and playing cards if desired.

For seniors who have not yet participated, your first meal is FREE. For Henry County to bring enough meals, your meal must be reserved by Monday for dine-in and carry-out. Call Iris Swanson at 309-278-2510 or John Schenk at 309-737-6161. Please pass this information on to those who would benefit. We'd love to have more people attend!

Annual Conference

The Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference will be June 8-10 in Peoria. Pastor Dave will attend along with lay members Jill Kosek and Marilyn Berns.

Please remember them and other church and conference leaders in your prayers as they gather together.

Thank you to everyone who donated items or helped with the rummage and bake sale in April.

Mission of the Month

Part of being a United Methodist is supporting concerns that are uniquely Methodist. Our denomination asks us as a church to financially support "Six Special Sundays." However, when we adopted our Mission of the Month program, we eliminated all those extra envelopes which were previously stuffed into bulletins, including Six Special Sundays:

- Human Relations Day
- One Great Hour of Sharing
- Native American Ministries Sunday
- Peace with Justice Sunday
- World Communion Sunday
- Student Day

Additionally, we've traditionally sent an offering from our church for each of the special offerings collected at Annual Conference:

- John Kofi Asmah School, Monrovia Liberia, for furnishings. The school was built several years ago by IGRC laity.
- Ordinands' Holy Land Pilgrimage.
- Tom Brown Scholarship, Wiley College. Our Conference has had a long-standing relationship with Wiley College and the offering is held annually in memory of the late Rev. Tom Brown, a former trustee of the school who hailed from our Conference.

Our mission team will divide your Mission of the Month offerings among our Six Special Sundays as well as our Annual Conference Offerings.

Various supplies are also being collected this month for the Midwest Mission Distribution Center and are listed below.

Collections for the Midwest Mission Distribution Center

We are collecting the following items for the Midwest Mission Distribution Center to be delivered to Annual Conference.

- Kitchen dishwashing gloves
- Insect repellent spray, 6 to 14 oz. (ex. Off, Cutter)
- Scouring pads
- Pens -- no advertising
- Protractors

We will also be collecting the following items for Fair Hope Ministry, a Danville-area agency in the Iroquois River District. Again, the Midwest Mission Distribution Center is coordinating this much-needed collection for youth in need.

- Socks -- Infants 0-3 months to boys and girls large (4-10 girls and 3-9 boys).
- Onesies
- Underwear -- All sizes from 2T-3T to girl's size 16 and boys 18-20

Please place your items in the box marked "Annual Conference Donations." Thank you in advance for helping.

The **Masonic Blood Drive** for the Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center will be in Fellowship Hall Wed., May 31 from 4 – 6:30 p.m. Contact Marvin Whitaker at 309-737-9231 to give or if you have any questions.

PASTOR DAVE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

May 7 – Confirmation May 14 – TBD
May 21 – TBD May 28 – Unassigned

Thank you to everyone who helped and participated with our Trivia Night for YouthWorks missions. We raised \$1,403 will support our youth mission trips.

SUMMER SCHEDULE - SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our last day of regular Sunday school for children & youth will be May 28. Thank you to our teachers for their dedication throughout the year! We are so blessed to have such faithful volunteers.

The adult classes will meet as a combined group in the summer beginning June 11 at 9:15 in Fellowship Hall. Pastor Dave will lead.

All adults and teens are invited to support children's ministry by volunteering for VBS (hosted at St. Paul Lutheran Church this year June 26-30) Please contact Tara Miller (309-738-5583) if you are interested in helping.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PERFECT ATTENDANCE FOR MARCH

Peggy Crayne
Leah Manning
Lanie Nelson
Rachel Girotti

Dylan Manning
Tara Miller
Beth Carlson
June Rettig

Jon Ditzman
Pastor Dave
Jane Meyer
Jack & Nancy Poust

Diane McCunn
Deb Miller
Margaret Johnson

Devin Nelson
Barb Cooper
Rob & Autumn Manning

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Vacation Bible School
June 26 – 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 info, call the St. Paul church office at 526-8406.

Watch for a supply sign-up sheet in the lower narthex for items that are needed during the week of VBS.

Thank you in advance for your help! We appreciate your assistance in putting on this program for our youth.

VOLUNTEER WORKERS

Youth who are attending this summer's YouthWorks mission trips will work to help pay for their trip. They are willing to do odd jobs around your house or yard work. Please see the volunteer form located on the usher's table for details of how to contact the youth directly.

Checks should be payable to Orion UMC, and it will be credited to your volunteer's account.

Blessings on Your Birthday!

05/02	Laurie Lao	05/23	Justin Schultz
05/04	Debbie Straub	05/24	Karen Magee
05/05	Jill Kosek	05/25	Laurel Dean
	Dylan Watson		Tim Garrity
	Kara Matzen	05/26	Nancy Gainey
	Jerry Meyer		Jessica Downing
05/06	Judi Heller		Rodney Cashman
	Lindsay Calhoun	05/29	Michelle Amador
	Katie Terronez		Carrie McCunn
05/07	Jake Johnson	05/30	Elaine Addis
05/09	Elliott Langley		Andrea Cooper
05/11	Jean Combites	05/31	Joann Gannon
05/14	Traci Bosold		Tanner Williams
	Steven Fuller		
05/15	Fred Goodnight		
05/17	Jordan Larson		
05/18	Brian Doxstader		
05/20	Kramer Matzen		
	B.J. Rynor		

Call the church office if we need to add your birthday!

