

The Courier



for the Orion United Methodist Church

May 2018

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Peggy Crayne & Erin Herring, Custodians

Thursday Worship

I've been concerned about our worship attendance over the past year as the passages of life continue to have an impact on our congregation. Some of our faithful members have passed away while others have moved away or gone to college. For others, sports or other important weekend activities have limited their ability to participate in Sunday worship.

In response, I am going to conduct an abbreviated worship service on Thursday evenings at 6:30. This will be a shortened version of the previous Sunday service and it will conclude by 7 pm which is when our choir rehearses.

This is a trial run only and will be held during May and June. May is typically a busy family month, so I believe it is an ideal time to see if this experiment works and is a blessing to our congregation. June, of course, marks the beginning of summer, so once again, a Thursday worship experience should be quite beneficial.

If our limited trial run is successful, then regular Thursday worship at 6:30 pm will become a permanent part of our church schedule. Your attendance will determine the success of this worship opportunity. Our first Thursday worship will be held on Thursday, May 3. I hope to see you there...unless I see you first on Sunday!

Summer Projects

Our Board of Trustees in consultation with our Administrative Council have accepted two bids for projects to be completed this summer. The first is from Superior Asphalt to finish the parking lot adjacent to our Activity Center. The second is from Myers Plumbing to replace the boiler system in the Wesley Center. The estimate for both projects is \$71,150.

The good news is that we have already raised or set aside \$56,500 toward these two projects, leaving a balance to be raised of \$14,500. However, that number should come down as we are anticipating a \$2,700 rebate for our new boiler system. Funding has come from general giving to the building fund, the Wyman Coulter Trust, an estate gift from Helen Carlson, and proceeds from our Endowment II which is designated for building needs. However, one of the restrictions we have on that endowment is that the proceeds

cannot be used for new construction. Therefore, we cannot use those proceeds on the parking lot, but we can use them for the boiler system. That is one reason why these two projects are being presented together.

Our existing boiler was installed in the mid-1960s and has become increasingly prone to failure and more expensive to maintain. Additionally, it was designed to run at 66% efficiency, which was typical for that era. We will begin seeing the benefits of our new boiler system this fall as it will run much more efficiently than what we have now.

We invite you to invest in the future of our church by giving to these projects. When you give, please designate your gifts to the **Building Fund** rather than naming either project. This will give our finance committee the most flexibility in paying our contractors.

I realize that these two projects aren't as exciting as renovating the MAC was in 2015 and 2016. However, paving the parking lot will address a growing need in our congregation. As more people utilize our facilities throughout the week, finding suitable parking has become more difficult. As for our boiler, well, we've known for several years that it's been running on borrowed time and the grace of God.

Our treasurer has expressed a willingness to take out a small, short-term loan, if necessary, to complete both projects this summer. I hope that we will not have to do that. However, it does speak to the timeliness of these projects. This summer is the time to complete both of them. Together, they will position us for a blessed future for many years to come.

Yours for the Mission,
Pastor Dave

You Are Invited

The Finance Committee will host a fellowship breakfast on Sunday, June 3 at 9:00 a.m. 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.

Everyone is welcome! We hope to see you!

Prepare Your Hearts for Sunday

Sometime this month, I will wrap up my series of sermons on the Lord's Prayer. That means my sermon text throughout the month will be Matthew 6:9-13. Additional scriptures for each Sunday as suggested by the Revised Common Lectionary are listed below.

We will celebrate communion on Sunday, May 6 and again on Thursday evening, May 10. Sunday is also Confirmation Sunday and will be celebrated at the 10:30 worship service. Scriptures include Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98, 1 John 5:1-6 and John 15:9-17. Thursday is also Ascension Day; scriptures for the Ascension of Jesus include Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47; Ephesians 1:15-23 and Luke 24:44-53.

Mother's Day is May 13; it's also the day on which we will honor our graduates. Scriptures include Acts 1:15-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13 and John 17:6-19.

Pentecost Sunday is May 20 and marks the birthday of the church. Scriptures include Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104; Romans 8:22-27 and John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15.

We wrap up the month with Trinity Sunday on May 27; it is also Memorial Sunday. Scriptures include Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17 and John 3:1-17.

As always, scriptures for liturgists are underlined.

I'll see you in church!

Pastor Dave

Join us at Six Flags

As part of this summer's mission trips, our youths will be spending a day at Six Flags. You are welcome to join us and take advantage of group rates:

- ☞ Six Flags St. Louis on Saturday, July 7. Caravan from Orion UMC at 5:30 am. Group rate is \$34 (regular \$66.99). Make checks payable to Orion UMC by Sunday, June 10. You must provide your own transportation, parking and supervision.
- ☞ Six Flags Great America, Gurnee, on Saturday, June 16. Caravan from Orion UMC at 6 am. Group rate is \$38 (regular \$74.99). Make checks payable to Orion UMC by Sunday, May 20. You must provide your own transportation, parking and supervision.
- ☞ After a day at Six Flags, YouthWorks missionaries will spend the night near either Milwaukee or St. Louis where they will be in ministry the following week. All other participants may return to Orion at a time of their choosing.

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 for those 60 and older. 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.

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!

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: Human Relations Day, One Great Hour of Sharing, Native American Ministries Sunday, Peace with Justice Sunday, World Communion Sunday, and 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.

MMDC Collection at Annual Conference

We are collecting the following items for the Midwest Mission Distribution Center to be delivered to Annual Conference in June. Please leave your donations in the tote at the front of the church. These "Tornado Tote" items contain the basic necessities for persons whose homes have been affected by tornados or floods.

- \$9 Donation for 2 Totes
- 2 pairs of work gloves
- 2 boxes of gallon-size plastic bags
- 2 permanent markers (i.e. Sharpie)
- 1 roll of duct tape (prefer colored) (to label household items)
- 2 dust masks (no surgical)
- 24 heavy duty trash bags rolled (33-45 gallon)
- 24 clear trash bags (20-33 gallon) (for larger, personal items that need containment)
- 1 canister disinfectant wipes

Annual Conference

The Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference will be June 7-9 in Peoria. Pastor Dave will attend along with lay members Jill Kosek and Don Berns.

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

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

Thank you to everyone who helped to make our rummage and bake sale a success! We appreciate all who donated baked goods and items for the sale. Thank you to everyone who helped with set-up, clean-up, and thank you to those who shopped!

Thank you to everyone who helped with and participated in our Trivia Night for YouthWorks missions. We raised \$1,395 will support our youth mission trips.



Special Days in May

May 6 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 13 we will celebrate **Graduation Sunday** during the 10:30 service. Plan to attend to congratulate the graduates on a job well done!

Contact the office by May 4th if you have a family member graduating so their name may be included in the bulletin.

SUMMER SCHEDULE - SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our last day of Sunday school for children & youth is May 27. Thank you to our teachers for their dedication throughout the year!

The adult classes will meet as a combined group in the summer beginning June 10 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 July 23-27) Please contact Tara Miller (309-738-5583) if you are interested in helping.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PERFECT ATTENDANCE FOR MARCH

Annmarie Haars
Tara Miller
Dylan Manning
Lonnie Catour
Diane McCunn
Rachel Girotti

Rose Haars
Barb Cooper
Thea Seys
Derek Nelson
Rob Manning
June Rettig

Lena Haars
Deb Miller
Peggy Crayne
Jon Ditzman
Lanie Nelson

Noah Seys
Nevan Browning
Dylan Nelson
Leah Manning
Sandy McCready

Devin Nelson
Pastor Dave Schultz
Adam Browning
Hope Seys
Shelley Atkinson

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Vacation Bible School
July 23-27 9:00 a.m. – Noon
at St. Paul Lutheran Church

To attend VBS, children must be age 4 by Sept. 1, 2018 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 31, \$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.

Loving Stitches Quilt News

Do you have a quilt you would like to have made, but you aren't able to do it yourself? Loving Stitches can help!

The ladies are looking for quilts to complete. Please contact Peggy Crayne (522-5879) for information or stop by one of their Monday morning meetings to talk with her. Loving Stitches meets at 9:00 every Monday morning. If you are interested in learning how to quilt, please stop by!

Blessings on Your Birthday!

05/02	Laurie Lao	05/23	Justin Schultz
05/04	Debbie Straub	05/24	Karen Magee
	Haylee Welch	05/25	Tim Garrity
05/05	Jill Kosek	05/26	Nancy Gainey
	Dylan Watson		Jessica Downing
	Kara Matzen		Rodney Cashman
	Jerry Meyer	05/29	Michelle Amador
05/06	Judi Heller		Carrie McCunn
	Katie Terronez	05/30	Elaine Addis
05/07	Jake Johnson		Andrea Cooper
05/09	Elliott Langley	05/31	Joann Gannon
05/11	Jean Combites		Tanner Williams
05/14	Traci Bosold		
	Steven Fuller		
05/15	Fred Goodnight		
05/17	Jordan Larson		
05/18	Brian Doxstader		
05/19	Cody Welch		
05/20	Kramer Matzen		
	B.J. Rynor		

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

