

The Courier



for the Orion United Methodist Church

August 2018

407 12th Ave. - P.O. Box 176
Orion, Illinois 61273
Office Phone: 309-526-8511
Parsonage Phone: 309-526-3721
Email: orionumc@frontiernet.net
Website: www.orionumc.org

Church Staff:
David R. Schultz, Pastor
Karl Bodenbender, Organist
Andrea Cooper, Choir Carrie McCunn, Bell/Chime Choir
Joy Seys & Amy Killion, Office
Peggy Crayne & Erin Herring, Custodians

"When Was I Saved?"

Every evening on our YouthWorks mission trips, the staff plans an activity for us. It may be educational, inspirational, fun, or it may support our host church. In St. Louis, we attended a midweek worship service which included an altar call. Some of our kids went forward to "ask Jesus into their hearts," which prompted some questions later that evening. I tried to answer their questions by briefly sharing a little of my own spiritual journey.

I was baptized as an infant in the Lutheran church and subsequently raised in that denomination. I'm told that when I was about five years of age, when asked what I wanted to be when I grew up, I replied, "A missionary," even though I am sure I had never yet encountered a missionary.

When I was twelve, I was confirmed in the Lutheran church. Two years later, I went to a Christian coffee house and asked Jesus into my heart. However, I only went back to that place two or three times. But I again asked Jesus into my heart a year later at Milwaukee Gospel Tabernacle. A few months later was baptized by immersion at M.G.T. With all that as a background, I asked our youth, "When was I saved?" They shuffled in their seats a bit, unsure of how to answer. Finally I said, "I really don't know when I was saved. But I know that I have been saved by the grace of God." Salvation is, after all, a mystery. We may not know the specifics of how or when we are saved, but we can know with certainty that we are saved.

Some folks treat salvation as if it were some sort of immunization: inject the blood of Jesus once to your life and you're set for eternity. In his book, *The Spirit of Disciplines*, Dallas Willard asks, "Why is it that we look upon our salvation as a moment that began our religious life instead of the daily life we receive from God?" (pg. 28).

Think of it: when Jesus walked among us, he never once asked someone to invite him into his heart. But he did say time and time again, "Follow me." Salvation seems to be a lifelong walk with God. Throughout that long journey, there will be many times when the Holy Spirit moves us in special ways. When that happens, we should never dismiss or minimize that grace of God.

In St. Louis, some of our teens went forward and prayed a sinner's prayer. Praise the Lord! That sinner's

prayer had the same content as the prayer they offered at their Confirmation. For that matter, it's the same prayer you've offered when you've participated in a service reaffirming your faith. We are in a lifelong journey of faith in which we strive to follow Jesus more closely every day. Throughout our lives, that journey will include many, many commitments, commitments and prayers.

I don't know if I really knew what I was doing when I was confirmed. But I do know that I had a desire to live for God and God met me at my point of need.

God will meet you at your point of need. We are all sinners, so our presenting need is forgiveness. God has promised that "if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). All we have to do is ask. And when we do, God responds with salvation. But as God saves us, God expects us to grow in his grace, and that is a lifelong journey because salvation is not a moment, but a lifelong adventure with God.

*Yours for the Mission,
Pastor Dave*



If you've never been on a Walk to Emmaus, I strongly encourage you to participate in one of our upcoming events. Walk to Emmaus is many things. While it is often billed as a weekend course in the basics of

the Christian faith, I found it to be a celebration of God's love. As a "mature Christian," I didn't think I needed a course in the fundamentals of the faith, but what I did need was the opportunity to experience God's love in a way unlike anything I had ever experienced before. If you would like that experience for yourself, please contact me or any of our Emmaus pilgrims. Upcoming dates are:

Men's Walk, Thursday, Sept. 20 – Sunday, Sept. 23

Women's Walk, Thursday, Sept. 27 – Sunday, Sept. 30

Pastor Dave

Prepare Your Hearts for Sunday

I'll serve communion on Sunday, August 5 and again on Thursday evening, August 9. Scriptures include 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a; Psalm 51 and Ephesians 4:1-16. My sermon will be drawn from John 6:24-35.

We'll turn to 2 Samuel 18:5-33, Psalm 130 and John 6:35, 41-51 on Sunday, August 12. My sermon will be drawn from Ephesians 4:25-5:2.

On Sunday, August 19, we'll hear from our YouthWorks missionaries and adult leaders during both services. Scriptures will be drawn from our trip journals and include Luke 19:1-10; Matthew 14:13-21; Matthew 25:14-30 and John 13:1-17.

Sunday, August 26 is Rally Day and I will draw my sermon from this year's Vacation Bible School theme, "Shipwrecked." Scriptures include Luke 15:1-7, Matthew 26:36-56; Luke 23:26-24:12 and Acts 3:1-26.

Once again, underlined scriptures will be read by the day's lay liturgist.

I'll see you in church,
Pastor Dave

OUMC Apparel

We will have order forms available beginning on Rally Day for OUMC t-shirts and sweatshirts. They will be the same design and colors as our previous sale. Forms will be available from teachers and in the narthex and office.

Sunday School Teachers

Plan to attend our lunch & workshop Aug. 12 following the late service as we plan for this year. RSVP to Deb Miller at 738-5582. The Education Team will also meet at this time.

Summer Projects

Thank you for your support of our activity center. We have completed it and paid the final bill.

We still have one project to complete, replacing the boiler in the education wing. If you would like to give toward the boiler, please mark your gift for the building fund.

If you'd like to give toward the upkeep of the activity center, please direct your offering to the General Fund.

Thank You

The family of Caleb Calhoun would like to thank Orion United Methodist Church for the support we received following the loss of Caleb. Pastor Dave, your home visits, prayers, phone calls, texts and your message during the service guided us and provided much needed comfort during such a difficult time. Thank you, Karl, for providing the beautiful music which is such an important part of our family's lives. We also appreciate the time and effort of the Orion Methodist Women's groups, especially that of Janet Marshall for organizing the delicious meal following the funeral service.

Finally, to all the church members who called us, sent us a card, prayed for us, came to the visitation, attended the services, or donated to Caleb's memorial fund, we thank you. Everyone's efforts demonstrate the power of love, which has been a blessing.

The Calhoun Family

Mission of the Month

Two ministries will benefit from our August Mission of the Month: Churches United of the Quad Cities Area and Christian Care. In the past, our church has supported each ministry with an annual gift of \$500 and that will be our goal for August.

Churches United of the Quad Cities Area is an ecumenical ministry sponsoring a number of food pantries as well as Winnie's Place which provides shelter for women and children who have been victims of domestic abuse. It is a cooperative association of over 136 churches representing over twenty Christian Faith traditions in the greater Quad Cities area. You may visit them at www.cugca.org.

Christian Care's services are available in the Quad Cities to a growing number of homeless men and abused women and children 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Through its two facilities—a domestic violence shelter for abused women and children and a rescue mission for homeless men—Christian Care provides safe shelter, food, clothing, counseling, referrals and guidance to anyone in need. They serve homeless individuals, victims of domestic violence, veterans, men and women coming out of prison and the mentally ill, all with the goal of offering to each the opportunity to start a new, more productive life. You may visit Christian Care at www.christiancareqc.org.

Please remember that your mission giving should be above your regular support of Orion UMC.

Thank You from the VBS Committee

Thank you to everyone who helped to make this year's Vacation Bible School a success by donating items and volunteering! The children had a wonderful week learning through crafts, games, and stories. VBS would not be possible without everyone's help. Thank you!

Thank You

July 21st, we held our 10th Annual Breast Cancer Salad Luncheon in Memory of Kathy Anderson. Thank you to all you attended and helped make this another successful year raising \$3,388. This year's proceeds will be split between Camp Kesem and Gilda's Club.

Thank you, Orion United Methodist Church, for allowing us to host our event here. Thank you to everyone in the kitchen for always making this event a huge success year after year! Thank you to the women of Orion United Methodist Church for the great variety of delicious salads.

Thank to our annual sponsors, Office Machine Consultants/Tom Pasmore for the printing services, BankOrion for the table settings, Aaron Tennant for cupcakes, MidAmerican Energy/Michelle Payne for the bags, and Betsy Catour taking the survivor picture.

With this year being a change for everyone, thank you for coming together, wearing pink, and supporting a great cause. As Kathy would have said, "Live for Today".



Sincerely,
Karen Myers



Orion Celebrates Illinois Bicentennial – August 4 & 5

Main Street Orion and the Village of Orion are teaming up to meld local and state history in this special year of the Illinois Bicentennial. Featured will be a Tea with Mary Todd Lincoln, a portrayal of Ulysses S. Grant, the history of corn and how Illinois became the 2nd largest corn producer in the U.S., a quilt show, Taste of Illinois, an Historic Ball, a walking tour in the business district with storytellers highlighting important historical figures and current businesses, music by the Orion Community Band and Orion High School Band, and much, much more.

If you can help make sandwiches, lemon pound cake, or scones or can help serve at the Tea, please contact Lori Sampson at 526-8139 or Candice Schultz 526-8299.

Quilts are needed for the Quilt Show. If you have some that can be displayed, please pick up a form at the Village Hall.

Tickets for the Ball and Tea are available at the Village Hall. Tea is \$10.00 per person and Ball is \$10.00 per person or \$15.00 per couple.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CO-TEACHERS NEEDED

The Education Team is looking for volunteers to help with our Sunday School classes. It is always nice to have co-teachers to share the teaching and in case one teacher needs to be gone. Please talk with Tara Miller for more information and to volunteer to be a part of this youth ministry.

Sunday School News

The kick-off to Sunday school begins on August 26 with our **Rally Day** activities in the Sanctuary at 9:15 a.m.

Regular classes begin Sept. 9 at 9:15 a.m. If you've never attended a class, this is the time to check them out. We have classes for our very youngest, the 2,3,4 year old class, through high school, and also two adult classes.

Gen XYZ meets in the nursery so if you have a little one too young to attend regular class, please bring them to class with you.

The Seekers adult class meets in Fellowship Hall.

As always, Pastor Dave will visit all classes a couple of times throughout the year.

If you have questions about any of the classes, please contact Pastor Dave, Deb Miller, or Tara Miller.

Orion United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 176
Orion, IL 61273

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ORION UMC & THE FALL FESTIVAL

Friday, August 31 – Sunday, September 2 the Orion Fall Festival comes to town. Once again it will be set up across the street from the church, giving us a wonderful opportunity to share the love of Christ with our community.

- Sunday morning we'll cancel our regular church services so we can participate in the 8:00 a.m. community-wide service held at Central Park's Band Shell. **This year's special guests will be The Chosen Ones.** Our church will be the rain location.
- We'll wrap up the Fall Festival at 5:30 pm with our **Fall Fiesta** featuring walking tacos by OUMC Youth Missions and dessert by TLC Pre-school.
- At 6:30 p.m. we'll welcome back **"Guys with Ties" from Comedy Sportz** in Rock Island. Please join us. It's free. It's funny. And it's sponsored by our youth.

Rally Day and All-Church Potluck – August 26

During the 9:15 **Sunday School** hour, youth and children will meet in the sanctuary. Promotion certificates will be given to all, and Bibles will be presented to 1st and 5th grade students.

Following the 10:30 worship service, join us for our annual **All-Church Potluck** in Fellowship Hall. Please bring a dish or two to pass. Education will provide meat, table service & drinks.

Women in Mission

The ladies of the church have been placed on one of the four serving group committees to donate food or help at church events. We serve at funeral lunches, birthday parties, etc.

We appreciate your help and donations of food when you are called by your serving group committee chairperson.

Thanking you in advance.

Blessings on Your Birthday!

8/2	Cheryl Stone	8/17	Tee Jae Bracy
	Alisha Terronez	8/18	Rhonda Gainey
8/4	Julie Doxstader		Jackson Bingham
8/8	Jeanine McGaughy	8/19	John Schenk
8/9	Dylan Nelson	8/21	Forrest Sawlaw
8/10	Willem Gustafson	8/22	Brandon Cooper
	Mike Peterson	8/23	Jane Meyer
	Jim McGaughy		Jolene Richardson
	Nevan Browning		Santana Terronez
	Jennifer Hirsch	8/25	Fran Riggs
8/12	Scott Mason	8/27	Michael Crayne
8/14	Emily Crayne	8/28	Kinsley Lough
8/15	Ashlee Amador		Chad Woolley
	Jared Carr	8/30	Darci Watson
8/16	Barb Cooper		
	Kelli Knox		

Contact the church office if we need to include your birthday.