

The Announcer

The Monthly Newsletter of Pilgrim Lutheran Church

September 2010

Musings

In this space we've been talking about communication skills – ways to speak and work with one another to minimize misunderstanding and maximize understanding. We discovered that in order to be good communicators, we need to become good listeners. Last month, we explored how these skills fit together constructively for those times when we disagree. This opens up still another important thought: how can we be *assertive* in our communication without being either passive or aggressive. Let's begin with that word “assertive.” Assertive does not mean aggressive. I have found no finer definition for assertiveness than this:

Assertiveness - A positive and constructive way of relating to other people that respects their needs, wants, and rights as well as one's own needs, wants, and rights. (Stephen Ministry Training Manual, p. 97)

This is a definition of assertiveness that I believe speaks well what it means to be a Christian, especially as we share our faith with others. We are to think of others and ourselves in how we relate to the world. Jesus said, "Love your neighbor as yourself." And Jesus gives us a wonderful model as Paul uses and crafts these words in Philippians 2:1-11. Paul was trying to give an example of positive Christian living, which is assertive. This is what he says in verse 4, "Let each of you look not only to his own interest, but also to the interests of others." This is a balancing act of our own needs, wants and rights as well as those of others. This requires maturity - a maturity that comes through growing in Christ.

What often happens in our sinful selves is that we drift to the two extremes rather than be balanced in relating to others (assertive). What are the two extremes? They are aggressive and passive (and even a third - passive-aggressive). Being aggressive often means being hostile to others, or at the very least not caring about others needs, wants or rights. Aggressive behavior is very self-focused and believes that it is right and others need to learn that. It does not care who gets hurt in the process-- only that its own needs get met. Passive behavior often fails to express any desires, needs or wants. Passive behavior is afraid to assert any authority and doesn't know when to say yes or no to any demands. Passive behavior is content to be ignored or to accept what someone else wants, even though they really have other opinions, needs, visions. They will not speak up, so they spend a lot of time brooding in silence, and building resentment.

Passive-aggressive behavior is a pattern of expressing your negative feelings in an indirect way — instead of openly addressing them. People who are passive-aggressive appear to agree with the requests of others. They may even seem enthusiastic about them. But they don't perform a requested action on time or in a useful way, and may even work against it. In other words, they use nonverbal behavior to express anger or resentment that they can't express verbally. An example is showing up very late to a meeting that you didn't really want to attend and then making up excuses for your lateness that deflect attention from the real reason you were late. (MayoClinic.com) They do act on their feelings. It is just never clear that this is what they are doing, or what is really bothering them. You may even think they are working with you, when secretly, beneath the radar, they are undermining you at every turn.

To be a child of God means that we have been transformed from our sinful self, that is selfish, into a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17). If this is true then the new self will express itself in an assertive way - looking after the interests of others, while also taking care of ourselves. What does this mean? Loving others so much that we want to speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15) and finding ways for ourselves to continue to grow in God's love and be nurtured by His Word.

Being assertive is not natural - we want to be selfish. Being assertive requires practice, knowledge and the strength that God gives to His people. Being assertive requires a change of heart and attitude in this world - moving from a "what's in it for me" to "how can I grow to help others." That is an attitude change that only God can truly give to us, and cultivate in us as we grow to be more Christ-centered in our lives.

How can you be more a more assertive Christian?

- Do you tend to be more aggressive, passive, or passive-aggressive in in your communication patterns?
- Think of an example of someone being assertive with you while respecting your needs and opinions...
- Confession and Absolution in our worship is a very assertive behavior, it speaks the truth of our sinfulness and how we have failed on our own (selfish) to love God and neighbor. And it calls us to action, not only hearing the forgiveness that God gives us but also the action of living a forgiven (assertive) life. Next time you are in worship and go through the Confession and Absolution think about ways to be more a more assertive Christian.

BACK TO
CHURCH
SUNDAY



September 12 – Back to Church Sunday at Pilgrim! Invite! Celebrate!

Trustee Report

Have you noticed the brick patio? It isn't complete yet, but isn't it a really good use of the former "steeple cross"?

We are looking for a list of the charter members from when the congregation was first started. If you can help with some information or guidance on where to find such information, please let Pastor Ruff know.

Windows in the narthex have been washed, the building power-washed. There is still some painting to be completed.

Pilgrim Staff and Officers

Pastor - The Rev. Daniel J. Ruff
Phone: (740) 587-0345
Office Hours: T-F 10:00 - 1:00

Executive Committee

- President - Robert Warner
Phone: (740) 587-1059
- Elder, Treasurer(protem) - Einar Groething
Phone: (740) 587-1377
- Financial Secretary - Douglas Andrews
Phone: (740) 924-2161
- Recording Secretary - Lee Ruff
Phone: (740) 587-3453

Deacons: Fellowship - Bonnie Lamvermeyer
Phone: (740) 924-2161

- Education - Lee Ruff – pro-tem
 - Evangelism – Einar Groething
 - Trustees:
Ruth Burdette (740) 928-6788
Douglas Andrews (740) 924-2161
Debra Warner (740) 587-1059
- Custodian – Bonnie Lamvermeyer (740) 924-2161

Guild News

The next guild meeting will be on **Monday, September 13 at 7:30 p.m.** at the church. Bonnie Lamvermeyer will be the hostess.

The meeting still needs a devotion leader. Won't you consider it?

This is an important meeting – the first since the beginning of summer – and we ask that you put it on your calendar and plan to attend. Important discussion regarding the Fall Bazaar will take place, and we need everyone's input.



September 21 Visioning Meeting

What is a "visioning" meeting? It is the next step in our *Transforming Pilgrim* process. One of our identified concerns was a lack of a unified vision for ministry. We have a lot of worthwhile activities that we do, but they are unconnected; we have no focus to guide us in our planning. This visioning meeting will put together about six of our members who will work with Pastor Stephens in formulating a congregational vision that will reflect Christ's vision, but will also be unique to us in our situation. If you have interest in serving in this unique role, please talk with Pastor Ruff. We will be naming the group members very soon.

September Anniversaries

Sean and Ingrid McLane 9
Tom and Margaret Jolley (50) 10
Bill and Gloria Hanby 11



September Birthdays

Maria Hall	1
Mikey Blaha	2
Tom Jolley	7
Leah Starkey	10
Donna Buckingham	10
Beth Pheneger	13
George Traicoff	14
Valerie Starkey	16
Nathan Milleman	16
Karen Harris	16
Christine Paublos	22
Danielle Hemmerly	23

Jared Starkey 30



Let's support our Soldiers!

The Burdette-Frase Family will be sending weekly boxes to Iraq in support of our military personnel. If you would like to participate let Ruth or Lisa know. John and Lisa want to share items with fellow military personnel who may not be receiving any "home boxes."



MINISTRY TO THE ARMED FORCES
Serving Those Who Serve



JOYFUL VOICES, *helping hands.*



The Third Annual Gospel Celebration

Sunday, November 7
3:30 p.m.

At the Historic Midland Theater

Tickets:\$20 on sale September 7

(proceeds benefiting the Licking County Coalition of Care)

Call the box office at 345-LIVE or online at www.midlandtheatre.org

BACK TO
CHURCH
SUNDAY

COME JOIN US



Back to Church Sunday

Come celebrate with us!
Sunday, September 12

Bring
a
Friend

9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship –
11:45 a.m. a light lunch and Ice Cream!

Pilgrim Lutheran Church
309 W. Broadway (at Cherry St. – Granville, Ohio)

Featuring performances by the



and our own **Pilgrim Voices** choir
during the service

The Folk Legends will also give a concert at the close of the social hour.

Let us be your place where you can...

- connect with friends (both old and new!);
- find a place where you can belong, and do things that matter;
- let God's Word help you rediscover how to live life with purpose;
- and most importantly, realize that God loves you, and you are his beloved child!

Join us for worship. Enjoy some great, old-timey music. Invite a friend!

There will be ice cream...need we say more?



The Folk Legends here during the Granville Candlelight Walking Tour

Bible Readings for the Month

Sunday, September 5 – Pentecost 15

Psalmody: Psalm 1
First Lesson: Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Second Lesson: Philemon 1-21
Gospel: Luke 14:25-35

Sunday, September 12 – Pentecost 16

Psalmody: Psalm 119:169-176
First Lesson: Exekiel 34:11-24
Second Lesson: 1 Timothy 1:5-17
Gospel: Luke 15:1-10

Sunday, September 19 – Pentecost 17

Psalmody: Psalm 113
First Lesson: Amos 8:4-7
Second Lesson: 1 Timothy 2:1-15
Gospel: Luke 16:1-15

Sunday, September 26 – Pentecost 18

Psalmody: Psalm 146
First Lesson: Amos 6:1-7
Second Lesson: 1 Timothy 3:1-13 -or- 6:6-19
Gospel: Luke 16:19-31



From the Education Deacon

We look forward to Back to Church Sunday, September 12th when we begin a new Sunday School year and look for new students in class! Bring your children, ages 3 through sixth grade. If you have a two-year-old, they are welcome if you come along too and help with his or her participation. Most children are not able to come every Sunday so you would feel comfortable to enroll even if you know they cannot be there every time.

Lessons prepared are saved if sometimes they do not get used on a Sunday.

In the summer months we have been studying themes from the worship service's scripture readings of the day. We make the Bible lessons relevant to the children's lives through role-play, games, crafts, song and things that are in their lives that the lesson teaches about. The Parable of the Rich Fool helped us look at our lives and see what is real treasure. There are so many valuable gifts we have that God has given us. Each of us recognized a treasure God gave us or made in us and wrote it on a coin. Some examples were: talents, caring, love, friendship, patience, generosity, and faith. We put these coins in a treasure chest on a bulletin board titled, "I am Rich Toward God." Be sure to see it in the Martin Luther Room (where we hold social hours!)

Kieschnick closes convention – HOUSTON--In his final comments to the 64th Regular Convention of

The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod, Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick related a story told to him by a leader in the Gutnius Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea, who described how his family had come to faith in Christ. A young LCMS missionary and his wife, Rev. Otto and Jill Hintze, came to the country in 1948 and shared the Gospel with the leader's father, one of 18 tribal chiefs in the Enga Province. "After hearing the Gospel from Otto Hintze, he came to faith in Christ, his life changed, and he freely gave his witness to the Gospel," Kieschnick said.

"My dear friends in Christ, that's what this Synod is all about: Changing lives for eternity."

Kieschnick said the highlights of the convention for him "are those that have focused on real mission and ministry accomplished locally, regionally, nationally and internationally." These highlights included:

- The Synod's response to crisis in Haiti.
- The stories from the dog tags of three military chaplains.
- The retiring missionaries who received an extended, standing ovation from delegates.

The "incredible announcement" from the Board for Mission Services that after many years of trying, an LCMS international school is about to begin in Hanoi, Vietnam.

Kieschnick said that through the accomplishments of the convention, he hoped many people would be "brought to faith in Christ, by the work of the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacrament. I pray that your experience as a delegate to this convention has strengthened your faith and has given you great encouragement for the work that awaits you in your congregation and Christian vocation back home.

Kieschnick concluded his remarks by thanking the "entire LCMS for the opportunity to serve among you for the past nine years.

"I leave you with these words from St. Paul: 'I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy and every one of my prayers for all of you because of your sharing in the Gospel from the first day until now. I am confident that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.' Go in peace and serve the Lord. Thanks be to God," Kieschnick added.

Rev. Matthew C. Harrison will succeed Kieschnick as president of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod Sept. 1. Harrison was elected president of the church body July 13.



Remember to check us out on Facebook at:
www.facebook.com/pages/Granville-OH/Pilgrim-Lutheran

and our website at www.pilgrimlutheranchurch.net

