



Blackberry Beacon

*“let your light shine before others,
so that they may see your good works
and give glory to your Father in heaven.”*

Matthew 5:16

August, 2019

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From the Pastor's Desk

A Call to Discipleship

"Follow me, and I will make you fish for people" (Mathew 4:19) Jesus invited his disciples. It was more than simply a call for them to follow Jesus on the road, it was an invitation to life-long discipleship. That requires continued growth: learning, listening, and sharing Jesus directly through his Word. Diakonia (pronounced dee-ak-on-ee'-ah) means *servant* in Greek. It is a call to discipleship. The invitation is to live our lives for Christ, to commune with other Christians, and to undertake learning that will mature our understanding of the Word and carry that learning to others in love and service.

The Diakonia Program is a two year process of theological education hosted in local congregations. The Diakonia curriculum consists of twelve courses (6 each year). Each course has five weekly sessions (3 hours each session). Each course is taught by a different local pastor or deacon and students gather from many different congregations. There are weekly reading assignments, and short written reflections for each topic, along with great discussions. Tuition is \$60 per course. Scholarships are available for all those in need of assistance.

Four years ago it was brought to our synod by the SE Conference. It has been thriving there ever since. This fall, Diakonia is expanding to four [more sites](#), as well as [online through Zoom](#).

If you long to grow in faith and be better equipped to answer the call to live as a disciple of Christ, we invite to you to explore more about the program at: <http://www.diakoniausa.org> & <https://nwos-diakonia.weebly.com> or contact the Eastern / North Central Conference Pastor Chris Young – pastorclyoung@yahoo.com for questions.

Pr. Rita has more information too! Just ask!

Happy August

Below we have a wonderful testimony from Marcia Foss. We often learn about faith-filled living through stories; it is how Jesus taught the crowds and his disciples. Marcia's mom was hard-working and generous. She would no doubt approve of this new use of her beloved furniture and china set! If you have a story to share about faithful living, let me know!

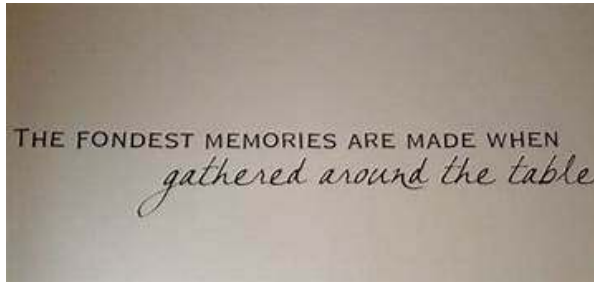
Blessings – Pr. Rita

Recently, I once again looked out into the family room where my Mother's dining room table and hutch have been collecting dust for almost 15 years. My mother (Marjorie J. Foss) graduated in 1945 and worked for 11 years before she married my Father in 1955. According to her, the moving in with Grandma Foss on her farm was supposed to be temporary. I guess Dad pulled a bait and switch. I was born in 1956 and around 1958 my Grandma Foss died and my parents purchased the farm. It was then that my Mother began to make the big farm house on Stange Road a home by removing wall paper, painting and lobbying my Father to replace Grandma's old furniture. When I was in grade school, my mother began her campaign to purchase a dining room set and hutch.

My mother was one class act when it came to entertaining. Almost all of at the family gatherings on her side of the family took place at our house. The Foss side only celebrated Lutheran confirmations and graduations. I believe that the dining table, chairs and hutch were purchased from the Lion Store. Years later mother told me that Dad didn't just 'let loose' of the money to purchase the set. She had to agree to feed his cattle throughout the year while he worked at the factory. Did I mention that my mother hated animals? She finally acquired the dining room set, and it was very important and precious to her. I remember listening to a card game between my parents and Uncle Fred and Aunt Mayme. Apparently, someone played the wrong card and Uncle Fred got upset and pounded on the table. My mother picked up the cards and said to my Uncle Fred, "I worked too hard for this table and you are not going to ruin it for me!"

My mother continued to entertain the family right up until her death in November of 2004. Throughout the spring and summer, my Mother was planning a big family gathering which was held in October of 2004, even though she was not well. Gathered together that day were my mother's sisters and brother, and other surviving spouses and cousins from the eastern part of the state. I don't believe that her sisters completely understood how ill my mother was; I really don't know how she pulled it off. On Nov 9th my mother entered the hospital and she passed away on Nov 17th.

When I looked at that dining room table, I knew it had to find a new home. When I first contacted Pr. Mike Hanck, I thought it might be used at Salem. But Pr. Mike told me about one of the underprivileged neighborhood families where he had been invited for dinner. The mother liked to entertain, but she only had card table where she served Thanksgiving dinner. When the woman's son came out to pick up the dining set (and mothers 12 place setting china set), I was able to tell him the beginning story of the dining room set. I think my mother would be happy that her beloved set continues to give joy to a new family.



THE FONDEST MEMORIES ARE MADE WHEN
gathered around the table

Stewardship Devotion Expressions of Love

*Jesus said, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.
Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."*

John 13:34

Each morning one of my co-workers goes to each office or cubicle and greets each person with a smile and asks, "How are you? How are things going with you?" If someone is absent, he inquires about them. I consider this friendly habit an expression of love. Our fast-paced, anxious society can minimize the importance of expressing love in our interpersonal relationships. It can be easy to forget the impact of simple actions like a warm greeting or a smile expressing care for someone.

As Christians, we are called to live by the fruit of the Spirit and to love one another. Jesus modeled the love we should show one another in practical, simple, and daily ways: he shared meals with the disciples and with people on the margins of society; he addressed the needs of women and lepers when no one else would. Jesus then showed us the ultimate expression of love by dying on the cross. Imitating such an example is a challenge, but even small actions can make a difference.

Thought for the Day

I follow Jesus' example when I love others!



North Central Conference Water Summit

*"The water that I give will become in them a spring
of water gushing up to eternal life."*

(John 4: 14b)

On *Saturday August 24, 2019* Calvary Lutheran Church will host the North Central Conference Water Summit. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the possibility of the parishes of the North Central Conference coming together to raise the funds necessary to dig a well for a village in Tanzania. Pastors and Lay Leaders of all congregations are invited. An overview of the water situation in several villages along with related costs for the dig will be discussed. The time of the event is *10:00 am until 12:00 noon*. Lunch will be provided.

Please RSVP to Pastor Bob Noble 419-215-5394



1 - Lane Kapp
3 - Autumn Kalbfliesh
4 - Joshua Meinke
8 - Makenzi Jones
Erik Reif
Deloris Siefke
10 - Zachary Bolen
Kelli Lacer
Dale Zunk
12 - Kelsey Lacer

14 - Henry Denning
Greg Diefenthaler
Carolyn Sleek
15 - Brenda Fisher
Linda Sigurdson
16 - Tori Allen
Stacey Martin
19 - Cindy Bench
Mary Foss
Carrie Sankey
20 - Jordan Gnepper
Dawn Herr

21 - Lisa McQueary
22 - Rachel Lohner
23 - Easy Haas
25 - Bob Amonette
Becky Cuthbertson
Elizabeth Kalbfliesh
26 - Steven Sabin
31 - Robert Foss
Brooklynn Starkey

4 - Zach & Erica Wolff
8 - Jeff & Lisa Diekman
10 - Mike & Katie Larson
11 - John & Maria Beamer
- Jason & Sarah Domina
15 - Arik & Beth Bench



16 - Tom & Linda Sigurdson
18 - Joe & Jody Kapp
19 - Ron & Pam King
Levi & Jenna Peeler
21 - Josh & Jaime Overmyer
26 - Glen & Jane Tank

Abigail Circle

Will not meet in July

Hannah Circle

Will not meet in July

Sew Group

ALL Tuesdays in August @ 9:00 AM

Bible Discussion Group

Monday, August 26

@ 10:00 AM and 6:30 PM

Book Discussion Group

Wednesday, August 14 @ 9:30 AM

The quilters are looking to expand their group.
Anyone interested in quilting is encouraged to check them out.
They meet the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month.
Needed: sheets for the quilt backing



Congratulations!

On Sunday, July 21st
we celebrated the
10th Anniversary of
Pastor Rita Bair's Ordination.

Salem's Just Pancakes

Thank you to all of our Just Pancake helpers. It was a "Super Hot" morning so SUPER challenging. Thank you for your great spirits and caring hearts.

You made a difference!

God's Work Our Hands

September 8th, 12 noon - 2pm



The Stewardship Ministry is putting together a list of projects that can be completed in a 2-hour time frame. Details TBA. [Mark your calendars!!!!](#)

School Supply Collection

July 28th - August 11th

Help us fill the backpacks which have been provided by funds from Thrivent's Action Grants. The list of needed supplies is on the narthex bulletin board. Backpacks will be distributed to the elementary schools of Genoa and Benton-Carroll-Salem. Watch for sales to get the most bang for your buck.

Phillip the 'Blue Barrel'

Month of August - Kleenex

Helping Hand of St. Louis

We will be assembling lunches to be distributed to the neighborhood in East Toledo.

We will pack - **October 25th**

Pass them out - **October 26th** (11am-12pm)

Camp Creation

St. Peter/St. Luke VBS

Pre-K thru 5th

St. Peter Lutheran Church

17845 W. St. Rt. 579

Wed. August 7, 4-9 pm

Meal Snacks Crafts

Invite your friends!



DATES TO REMEMBER

September 8, 2019

Sunday School Classes Begin – 10:00 AM

Catechism Meeting – 4:30-7:00 pm

Note... to peruse through past Fellowship of Families interviews, there is a green flowered notebook located in the library. Some interesting history of many members (past and present) of our congregation. A good read!



Log Cabin Summer Concert Oak Harbor

Sunday, August 11 6:30 – 7:30 PM

Praise Hymn Band – Christian music featuring eclectic instrumentalists

The Sunday Street Fair begins at 4:30 PM.

The Oak Harbor Softball Team will be serving up **Chicken BBQ** at St. John's.

Grab a bite to eat and enjoy the concert!

Worship Assistants

August 4

Greeters: Lisa Diekman, Brenda Shaneck
Ushers:
Reader: Marcia Foss
Communion: Desi Behlmer, Lisa Diekman
Comm.Setup: Hannah Circle
Fellowship:

August 11

Greeter: Bonny Ottney
Ushers:
Reader: Bonny Ottney
Communion: Kim Reif
Comm.Setup: Hannah Circle
Fellowship:

August 18

Greeter:
Usher:
Reader: Kim Reif
Communion:
Comm.Setup: Hannah Circle
Fellowship:

August 25

Greeter:
Ushers:
Reader: Marcia Foss
Communion:
Comm.Setup: Hannah Circle
Fellowship:

Nadine Reinhart Obituary... Sadly, on July 3, 2019, at the age of 88, Nadine Reinhart (Martin, Ohio), born in Longton, Kansas passed away. Leave a sympathy message to the family on the memorial page of Nadine Reinhart to pay them a last tribute. You may also light a candle in honor of Nadine Reinhart.

A Note from the Reinhart Families... She was loved and cherished by many people including : her parents, Robin R. G. and Emma C. Bucher (Foote); her husband Thomas E. Reinhart, Sr.; her children, Thomas E. Reinhart, Jr. (Cindy), Kenneth L. Reinhart, Donald J. Reinhart (Mary), David A. Reinhart (Alan), Linda S. Miller (Mark) and Robbin L. Large (Jeff); her siblings, Donna B. Jess (Robert), Deloris M. Rarig (Ted), Peggy L. Woodlee (Ligbe), Sharon I. Gosch (Craig) and Howard F. Bucher (Joanne); her brother-in-law Rod Seiple. She was also cherished by 11 grandchildren, 23 great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild. In lieu of flowers, the family would like memorials for Nadine to be given to St. Peter Lutheran Church, 17877 W. St. Rt. 579, Martin, OH 43445; or Hospice of Northwest Ohio, 30000 E. River Rd., Perrysburg, OH 43551.

To all who donated food for our mom's funeral and served it; the Reinhart family wants to thank you! It was a perfect ending to her life. Every one of you has touched her life in some way and she loved you. She would have been proud!! We love you too!!



A Note from Janet Radsick... I would like to personally thank Pastor Rita for her taking time to come out and visit with me. It was so nice receiving cards in the mail from family and friends and my fellow congregation. Thank you for thinking of me in my time of healing. Your thoughts and prayers mean a lot to me. **GOD BLESS YOU ALL!**

ST. PETER CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
July 8, 2019

Present: W Gahler, J Gahler, C Bench, B Ottney, K Reif, M Cuthbertson, J Schneider, J Vermilyea, K Schanke

TREASURER'S REPORT: The ending checkbook balance was **\$(-2,893.62)**. Kim made a motion seconded by Mark to approve the June Report. It was requested that the balance on roof/boiler loan be included on monthly reports.

PASTOR RITA: on vacation

PRESIDENT: concerned about finances.

VICE-PRESIDENT: expressed thanks to everyone who helped with cleaning up the church yard.

CHRISTIAN LIFE: Money for Mud Hens game on August 10 needs to be in by July 21. Tickets are \$14; Having breakfast buffet on Sunday, July 21 when Bishop Dan Beaudoin is here – please sign up to bring food; Flyers for chicken BBQ on July 28 are available for distribution and road signs need to be put up; Donating money to weekly kids meals in Genoa & Oak Harbor.

EDUCATION: Plans for Vacation Bible School on August 7 were discussed.

EVANGELISM: discussing topics for a fall seminar; visitors on our “guest sheet” have been sent a note.

MANAGEMENT: routine discussion on normal monthly matters was held; since sign project is completed, need ideas for new memorial projects; preparing yearly propane negotiation; working on way to make everyone aware of the financial situation and the need for continued giving when away for a Sunday.

PROPERTY: yard clean-up completed; drainage project completed when weather & time permit.

STEWARDSHIP: Phillip blue barrel item for August is *tissues*; Earth Day clean-up scheduled for **July 20 at 9:00 am at Salem**; Just Pancakes at Salem on July 6, had good turnout with 11 helpers; Salem Block Party is July 27 from 1-3 and volunteers are needed; school supply collection will be held July 28 – August 11 – lists for Genoa and Oak Harbor school are available; God's Work Our Hands will be September 8 and projects are being lined up; fall focus on Stewardship will be in October; packing lunches for Helping Hands will be October 25 at 6:30 with distribution on October 26 from 11am-noon.

NEW BUSINESS: request received to transfer Derrick & Mary Ann Siefke to St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Gilbertsville, PA (request granted), as well as transfer Frances Cranfield to St. John Lutheran Church, Williston.

Jim made a motion to send out a special letter to our active membership list inviting them on Sunday, July 21 Bishop Daniel Beaudoin presiding at the Eucharist, honoring Pastor Rita on her 10th anniversary of ordination, and mentioning the breakfast buffet. Karen will write the letter and Shirley will mail this week.

After discussion, it was decided to keep copying the placemats for use at funeral luncheons. A donation basket will be put out on July 21 for NW Ohio Synod special projects and to put a notice in the bulletin.

<p>Ending June Balance was a negative -\$2,893.62 Our most current balance is at a negative -\$3,778.00 The Roof/Boiler balance is currently \$92,967.96</p>

Can you find your way to the Promised Land?

