

*Friends in Christ. Serving Together with Love*

# Saints Alive!

October 2024 | Volume 22, Issue 8

## ***Worship & Spiritual Life***

*Submitted by Marcy Uhl on behalf of the WSL Committee: Lee Lohr, Sherry Spenzer, Rick Fortney, Cris Till, AmyLynn Kasper, Janet Parker*

Now that the program year has been kicked off on Rally Day, we enter the season of Fall with the theme "Preparing for New Beginnings." Lamentations 3:23 tells us, "They are new every morning, great is your faithfulness." And what an exciting new beginning we'll be sharing this month as we begin our relationship with our new pastor, Rev. Dr. Kristian Bendoraitis. We had the pleasure of meeting him on September 22 and accepted him into our church family that very day. We will be using the "New Beginnings" theme until our pastor takes the reins on October 21.

During the month of September, we were very capably lead in worship by Rev. Kurt Walker and Rev. Eric Dillenbeck. Their messages were both thought-provoking and inspiring. This

month, for the first two Sundays, we welcome Rev. Luke Choi back to the pulpit. Rev. Kurt Walker will complete the time of guest pastors on the third Sunday of the month.

October 6 will be World Communion Sunday, when we celebrate the Lord's Supper with the Church around the world. The Peacemaking offering will also be taken that day.

As you can see as you step into the sanctuary, we have welcomed the fall season with beautiful decorations. Thanks to those who assisted with bringing the warmth of the harvest season into our place of worship. The fall harvest season will remind us of our gratitude as we enter our Stewardship season in November.

November 3 will be All Saints Sunday, when we honor those who have passed during the past year. If you have a picture of a church member or friend of the church, or even a close loved one, please share

it by dropping it off or emailing it to the church office ([alpresby@avonlakepc.org](mailto:alpresby@avonlakepc.org)) by October 13 and we will display it in a memorial slideshow.

As always, you are invited to provide floral arrangements for the front of the sanctuary to celebrate special moments or to commemorate loved ones. Please contact Kenzi in the church office in order to arrange a date to do so.

We are striving to begin each worship service with beautiful, reflective music to prepare our hearts for worship. A gentle reminder to quietly spend this time contemplating our time with the Lord and the Holy Spirit.

The Worship & Spiritual Life Committee would welcome new members with interest in any facet of our worship planning. These include sanctuary decorating, scheduling of worship volunteers, technology and carpentry skills, and more!



thank you

With a broken wrist in January and two broken ankles in June, it's been a lost year for so many of the things I love to do. And yet, I feel extremely lucky in other ways. Bones heal eventually and I have been blessed with many warm expressions of concern and prayers for healing. I am so grateful for all of you at ALPC. Thank you for the offer of meals, the many cards that have brightened my day and all of the prayers that have helped me to heal. Also, a special thank you to Marcy for picking up the Financial Secretary tasks in my absence. I look forward to being back soon.

Lynn Morway



Perk up with a cup of joe at our Coffee House! Sundays at 10 a.m., worship services are live-streamed so you can watch from the comfort of the couch while enjoying a hot beverage, a donut, and of course, fellowship. If you prefer worshipping in the sanctuary, coffee and tea are always available after the service.

## Mission Statement

In awe, we Receive God's Grace and Gospel.  
In gratitude, we Respond with Worship and Servanthood.  
In love, we Represent Jesus Christ as we minister to transform lives in family, community, and the world.

*If you would like to be a worship service volunteer, please contact the head organizer of the position you're interested in.*

**Worship Assistants:** Sherry Spenser, sherryspenser@hotmail.com

**Greeters:** Lee Lohr, LeelaAnn60@gmail.com

**Ushers:** Kathy Hamilton, kmhamilton228@gmail.com

**Communion Servers:** Lee Lohr, LeelaAnn60@gmail.com

**Coffee Servers:** Cris Till, b.cristill17@gmail.com

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*The grass  
withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God  
will stand for ever.*

Isaiah 40:8



# Deacons' Report

*Submitted by Sybil Wendling*

The Deacons kept busy in August and September helping with Rick Stein's retirement party as well as Rally Day. Many thanks to all the folks, Deacons or not, who stepped up to move tables, set up chairs, or serve food. Rally Day was such a wonderful opportunity to get to know some of our preschool families as well as Cornerstone staff! Deacons also put together a basket of treats for our Cornerstone staff at the start of the school year.

As we're heading toward a season of more challenging driving conditions, please remember that the Deacons are happy to provide rides to and from church services. If you need a ride, contact the church office at 440-933-6240 or Sybil Wendling at 440-453-

1265. Don't let a lack of transportation stop you from getting to know our new pastor!

Our Deacons also deliver Bill Till's delicious home-cooked meals on the fourth Sunday of each month to ALPC members who don't get out as much as they used to, who are having health challenges, or who would just enjoy a meal and a smile. If you'd like a meal, don't hesitate to mention it to Kenzi in our church office, Deb Reichlin, or the Hamiltons or Tills. Deacons can always use help delivering meals, too. If you'd enjoy being part of this ministry, please let Sybil know.

If you're looking for a way to keep active this fall, remember that Sandi Seib is continuing her yoga classes on Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. No

matter where you are in your fitness journey, you're always welcome. Donations support our Guatemala missions.

In October, Deacons will be handing out candy at Cornerstone's Trunk-or-Treat event. Feel free to join us — it's always a great time! Other October events include supporting events sponsored by the Christian Education committee to help members get to know each other as well as our new pastor. Further down the road, Deacons are putting together a couple of holiday movie afternoons in late November and early December and gearing up for another delicious Christmas breakfast. It will be here before you know it!

## Missions

*"My socks do match. They're the same thickness."  
Steven Wright*

*Submitted by Beth Janis, Mission Committee Chair*

It's officially the beginning of the Socktober season! Pastor Charlie coined the term Undie Sunday when we first gave this a try. Well now, we need a clever phrase for socks and pajamas. Sock-o-Jamie?

Socks of all types and sizes are needed. New and gently used. Assorted socks will go to Haven Center and Men's socks will go to Valor Home in Lorain. Pajamas and nightgowns are for children staying at Blessing House in Lorain; They need preschool sizes, girls' sizes 12-18, women's small and medium (for teens), and boys' 12-18. We will also accept gently used pj's and barely used socks for the Great Lakes Clothing pantry. Drop off

donations in the narthex near the cross.

The PCUSA annual Peace and Global Witness special offering is October 6. Our portion of this offering will go to The Valor Home for veterans in need. Please take a moment to read the flier from the Presbyterian Church USA. You might enjoy looking around the entryway for the peace pole and ask the Mills family the significance.

Thank you for all the donations toward our monthly Brown Bag lunches and Monday dinners for Haven Center. We have heard that our desserts are always a success and that everyone enjoys Bill Till's semi-homemade dinners. We welcome help with the lunch packings and baking or buying dessert items.



Coming up...

November: Food drive for Thanksgiving dinners for some Lorain County families. Start watching for sales on canned fruits, vegetables, crunchy onions, stuffing mix, mac 'n' cheese, rice mixes, spices, etc.

December: Help some foster kids have a merrier Christmas. Details soon.

All are welcome to join the Mission meetings. We usually meet on the first Thursday of each month.

# Session Highlights

*From the regular meeting held on September 16, 2024.*

*Submitted by Elizabeth Shoemaker,  
Clerk of Session*

- ◆ The Deacons gave the Cornerstone teachers appreciation packets.
- ◆ The Deacons' ride service can be arranged by calling the Deacons Moderator, Sybil Wendling, instead of the church office.
- ◆ A preliminary schedule of Deacons events has been planned through March.
- ◆ The church budget at the end of August was in the red by over \$4,000, with receipts below budget by \$11,000. It is hoped giving picks up in the fall to correct the shortfall.
- ◆ Materials to help plan the Stewardship campaign are being gathered.
- ◆ Human Resources is putting together a welcome binder for the new pastor.
- ◆ A calendar with staff schedules will be displayed in the church office.
- ◆ Kicking off the Revival Youth Group is a priority this year for the Christian Education Committee.
- ◆ The youth room is being renovated and new furnishings and technology are needed for it.
- ◆ A confirmation class will be offered this year.
- ◆ Repairs were made to the front playground.
- ◆ The Cornerstone Advisory Committee will be providing Session with regular financial reports.
- ◆ The leaking roof with the skylights will be repaired for about \$1,700.
- ◆ Frequent maintenance of that flat roof will be needed to prevent future leaks.
- ◆ Donations this Christmas will go toward gift cards for foster children.
- ◆ The local portion of the Peace and Global Witness Offering will go to the Valor Home.
- ◆ Pajamas, as well as socks, will be collected for Socktober.
- ◆ A new member informational packet is being prepared for future new members, with a team ready to help integrate new members into the life of the church.
- ◆ TrueNorth was approved to use our sanctuary for their December concert.
- ◆ The purchase of a new, lit wreath for the front of the building was approved.
- ◆ The Nominating Committee will be seeking four new deacons and four new elders.

*Your Elders of Session*



# Financial Report

Submitted by Cheryl Dean, Finance Committee Chair

While we are anticipating the start of our newly elected pastor, I need to call your attention to our financial situation. At the end of July, we were at essentially a breakeven point with income only slightly above expenditures. In August, our expenses exceeded income for the first time in a long time. While we had projected a

deficit budget, this is the first month where we have fallen behind and had to use savings to cover our expenses. If you have fallen behind with your giving over the summer, please try to catch up. If you can give a little extra, that would also be greatly appreciated.

Simple Give (QR code below) can be used for general giving or for giving to a specific fund. If you would like to

designate a contribution to a specific fund, please contact Marcy or Cheryl to specify the fund and we will make sure it gets to the correct place.

Any financial questions may be addressed to Marcy Uhl, Treasurer, or to Cheryl Dean, Finance Committee Chair.

	Aug. YTD Actual	YTD Budget
<b>Income:</b>		
Congregational Giving	\$173,876.48	\$186,666.67
Other Income	18,153.46	16,533.33
Total Income	\$192,029.94	\$203,200.00
<b>Expense:</b>		
Staff Expense	\$133,181.59	\$156,882.96
Worship & Spiritual Life	4,248.25	5,433.34
Christian Education	1,734.65	2,733.33
Stewardship & Mission	3,328.67	3,433.34
Property	27,533.27	33,333.34
General Expenses	17,211.23	15,733.32
Per Capita Expense	8,968.00	8,968.00
Total Expense	\$196,205.66	\$226,517.63
Net income (loss)	-\$4,175.72	-\$23,317.63



Using the camera app on your smart phone, aim your camera at this QR code. A link for SimpleGive will pop up; click the link and you will be taken directly to ALPC's online donation platform. You can scan the code from anywhere - paper bulletins, wall projections during worship, even right here as you read!

# Christian Education

By Emilee Oliva, Director of Christian Education

The Christian Education Committee is delighted to announce the election of our new Pastor, Rev. Dr. Kristian Bendoraitis. We eagerly anticipate collaborating with him and exploring the contributions he will make to our community. We firmly believe that unity will pave the way for a promising future for ALPC, establishing a foundation that glorifies God.

It is essential for us, regardless of age, to continue growing in our faith and nurturing our relationship with our Heavenly Father. By deepening our understanding of Him, we can foster a vibrant community of faith that draws

others closer and showcases the beauty of knowing Him. We encourage everyone to engage with a class at ALPC and to volunteer in our expanding children's ministries or within our exceptional program at Cornerstone Preschool. Opportunities to make a difference include reading to children, assisting during recess and lunchtime, delivering educational presentations, or leading chapel sessions.

If you feel called to become more involved in Christian Education or with Cornerstone, please do not hesitate to contact Emilee at E.Oliva@avonlakepc.org or Julie at director@cornerstonepreschoolal.com. Let us unite to cultivate a beautiful

community dedicated to serving one another and sharing God's everlasting love.

Rally Day was a remarkable event held in collaboration with Cornerstone Preschool. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone involved in organizing this occasion, as well as to those who volunteered their time to make it a success. The day was infused with a palpable sense of joy and the presence of God, and we were truly inspired by the outpouring of community support that made the event possible providing an attendance of almost 200 guests. We cherish these moments shared with all of you and eagerly anticipate the upcoming program year.

## **The Chosen: Volume 2**

Presented by Elizabeth Shoemaker.

Join us every Sunday after worship in the church library.

You are warmly invited to participate in this group discussion, which focuses on the years of Jesus' disciples — specifically, the individuals He called to follow Him and the reasons behind those choices. This remarkable series offers a fresh perspective on that era, vividly bringing these biblical figures to life. It fosters a deeper emotional connection and understanding by exploring their experiences and challenges through both their eyes and Jesus' as they navigate obstacles together.

Season 2 of "The Chosen" is a powerful continuation of the series, offering an insightful and inspiring look at the early days of Jesus' ministry and the lives of those who were chosen to follow Him. Whether you are a long-time fan or new to the series, this season provides a meaningful and enriching viewing experience and the small group study is nothing short of that. You're diving into a deeper meaning and understanding of the biblical characters that offer the opportunity for us all to feel what it was like walking in their shoes. We can all easily relate to one or more characters in this series which allows us to connect to these stories on a deeper emotional level.

## **Letters of John**

Presented by Lee Lohr.

Join us Tuesdays in the Session Room, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

In his letters, John expresses delight at believers who are "walking in the truth" — behaving with that integrity which reflects the gospel. This involves not just correct doctrine and proper outward behavior, but also love for God and fellow believers. It's this love, John writes, that shows that the truth of the gospel has really been grasped, not as an abstract idea, but as what it is, the very life of God himself at work in his people. These nine studies from Tom Wright help us become believers who are "walking in the truth" in our own day — people in whom the very life of God is at work for all to see. The Letters of John, found in the New Testament of the Bible are a set of three epistles traditionally attributed to John the Apostle. These letters are known as 1 John, 2 John, and 3 John. They are rich in theological insights and offer guidance on Christian living, community, and the nature of God.

*1 John Themes: Love and Fellowship, Light and Darkness, Truth and Deception*

*2 John Themes: Truth and Love, Hospitality*

*3 John Themes: Hospitality and Support, Leadership and Authority*

## Revival Youth

We are thrilled to launch our Revival Youth program on Sunday, September 29, tailored for our 5th to 12th graders. We have received encouraging feedback regarding attendance and eagerly anticipate providing our youth with a supportive environment to learn and grow in their faith.

Initially, until we gain a clearer understanding of the Revival program's trajectory, we will hold sessions every second and last Sunday of each month from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. During these gatherings, participants will engage in prayer, worship, and the study of God's word, fostering an understanding of mutual support and personal growth in faith.

Moreover, the youth will have opportunities to serve and minister within our community, experience God's love through missions and faith-building camps.

We can't wait to see what God has in store for our youth and we are looking forward to watching these kids grow, building friendships, and growing in their relationship with God.

A church youth group is a gathering of young people, typically teenagers, who come together to explore their faith, build community, and engage in various activities that promote personal growth and social responsibility. These groups are often organized by local churches and provide a safe and supportive environment for young individuals to connect with their peers and deepen their spiritual understanding.

### Benefits of Joining Revival Youth Group:

1. **Spiritual Growth:** Youth groups offer an opportunity for members to explore their faith through Bible Studies, worship sessions, and discussions about spiritual topics. This helps young people develop a stronger relationship with their beliefs and gain a deeper understanding of their faith.
2. **Community Development:** Being part of a youth group allows teenagers to build meaningful relationships with others who share similar values and beliefs. These connections can provide a strong support system and foster a sense of belonging.
3. **Life Skills Development:** Youth groups often engage in activities that promote personal development, such as leadership training, volunteer opportunities, and team-building exercises. These experiences help young people develop important life skills that will benefit them in the future.
4. **Positive Role Models:** Youth group leaders and mentors serve as positive role models for young people. They offer guidance, support, and encouragement, helping teenagers navigate the challenges of adolescence.
5. **Community Service:** Many youth groups participate in community service projects, allowing members to give back to their communities and make a positive impact. This fosters a sense of social responsibility and compassion for others.

## Bible Study

Presented by Jeff Spenzer

Join us Wednesdays at noon, currently in the Pastor's office.

Each Wednesday at noon, we meet to read the Bible and comment and discuss the passages and how they relate to us and current events. Everyone is welcome! Last year, we started in Genesis. We are now reading Exodus and watching the movie "The Ten Commandments."

Bible study is a journey, not a destination. It's about growing in your understanding and relationship with God, and there's always more to learn and explore. We highly recommend you join in on this study if you're interested in the historical culture of the Bible and evaluating this beautiful love letter from God and all its glory.

### Benefits of Bible Study:

1. **Spiritual Growth:** Helps deepen your faith and understanding of God's word.
2. **Moral Guidance:** Provides ethical and moral guidance for life's challenges.
3. **Community Building:** Strengthens bonds with others through shared learning and faith experiences.
4. **Personal Reflection:** Encourages introspection and personal growth.

### Applying What you Learn

1. **Reflect on Lessons:** Think about how the teachings of the Bible can be applied to your life.
2. **Share Insights:** Discuss what you've learned with friends, family, or a study group.
3. **Live out Teachings:** Strive to incorporate biblical principles into your actions and decisions.



Our worship services begin at 10:00 am every Sunday.

Live streaming of our services is available on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/avonlakepc](http://www.facebook.com/avonlakepc)

Our Sunday services will air on ALC-TV beginning the following Wednesday, and continue every day throughout the week at 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

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