

NEIGHBORLY

By Sherry Lucas

The Rev. Steve Koenig has called Clinton home since April 2001, when he arrived as pastor at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. He moved here from Reynolds, Indiana.

Retired since 2015, Koenig and his wife, Pat, are able to travel a good deal, but still embrace Clinton as their comfortable home base.

“We enjoy the closeness of the people, and just the whole atmosphere of the community,” Koenig says.

Their children — Beth Zeller in Talbott, Tennessee, with their two grandchildren, and Jill Koenig of Wesson and Alex Koenig of Covington, Kentucky — grew up in Indiana. “We visit the grandkids and our children every once in a while, or they come here,” he says.

“We continue to be active in the church, and participate in the things that go on there.” A couple of Sundays a month, he fills in at a church in Meridian that’s waiting for its next pastor to come. “That’s a new thing for me,” says Koenig, who also fills in for pastors on vacation.



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flexibility to get to know other destinations, too. They’ve enjoyed a number of Caribbean cruises out of New Orleans and have gone to Alaska twice. Last summer, the Koenigs went to Germany for the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.

Recently, in their second trip to Europe, the Koenigs took a Viking river cruise in Russia. Architecture and history were high points.

“You learn about those things and the rulers. They take you way back, even to the czars’ time, historically,” Koenig says. Visiting the Kremlin and learning about churches and cathedrals were highlights.

“Pat wanted to see the colorful, onion-domed churches. We both really did,” he says.

At home in Clinton, he enjoys reading. “I have quite a library of books.” Activities in town mostly center around shopping and eating. In Clinton, “We enjoy the pace of life, and that it’s a safe town to live in and progressing well into the future.

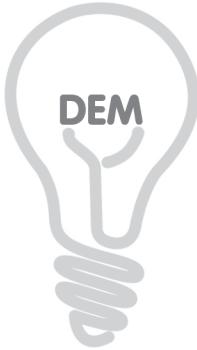
“I’m looking forward to what the place looks like after Continental Tire comes in.”

MEET STEVE KOENIG

new people and finding out what different churches are like. “With forty-plus years in ministry, I’ve had the chance to find out about many different congregations.”

Highlights of that work include meeting

Retirement has brought the time and



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Sweetheart Formal set for Feb. 9

Special to The Clinton Courier

The City of Clinton Therapeutic Recreation Department will host the 7th Annual Sweetheart Formal on Saturday, February 9, at the Wood Activity Center. The formal will be held for individuals of all ages with special needs in and around the City of Clinton. Each year, the program brings out record numbers in attendance, making this the largest special event held for the Abilities Program.

The event will bring back our Glam Shop this year. It will be set up at the Clinton Public Works Department located at 525 Springridge Road and will open at 5:30 p.m. Ladies from Southern Salon in Clinton will help attendees prepare for the night by do-

ing hair and makeup completely free of charge. The men will also be able to touch up their hair and receive shoeshines that will make their suits pop!

Once at the Wood Center, participants will be greeted with boutonnieres and red roses and escorted down the red carpet by volunteers from Hinds Community College and Clinton Chamber Youth Leadership. The best part is that the photos will be given to all participants before they leave for the night at no charge.

There will be plenty of food and drink for everyone to enjoy while there. The event is open to anyone with special needs, his or her families and friends. For more information or to RSVP, call 601-924-6387.

