

April 2016

The Epistle / Monthly Newsletter

St. Paul Lutheran Church

106 Maple Street

Reading, OH 45215-4811



## **The Resurrected Life**

She was never the same again.

Cindy (whom we will call her for the sake of her identity) and her parents had been waiting for the news of remission for so long that she had a hard time believing what she was hearing.

Three years of chemotherapy, radiation, and long stays in the children's ward in the hospital, had finally paid off. The bone marrow transplant had been successful. She was now free of childhood leukemia.

She was never the same again.

Her life, once bound by impossibilities, was now full of possibilities.

Once under a death sentence, now she was free to live.

From then on, Cindy's whole life was shaped by the experience of deliverance from childhood leukemia. It shaped how she saw herself, others, and the world. She had not just been delivered for her own sake, but for others'. Cindy discovered that God would take her life and use it to bless others. She spent the rest of her days standing in solidarity with those living with leukemia; her mission thereafter was to be the voice and presence of Christ to leukemia patients. From then on, Cindy lived a resurrected life; a life marked by joy, hope, and purpose.

He was never the same again.

In our second reading on the third Sunday of Easter (April 10), we will hear the conversion story of the Apostle Paul. Saul thought that he had everything figured out; he would fulfill the law perfectly and prove his love for God by putting a stop to the Christians who blasphemed the name of God. Jesus stopped him dead in his tracks on the road to Damascus.

Saul had been waiting for the Messiah who would rescue all the Jews for so long that he had a hard time believing what he was hearing.

Jesus was in fact the one promised to him and to all of Israel and he offered not just rescue from sin and death, but a real relationship with the Triune God in which he, Paul, would never go wanting.

He was never the same again.

His life, once bound by sin, was now full of possibilities.

Once under a death sentence, now he was free to live out of joy and freedom in Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus' encounter with Saul changed him forever--and not just his name! From then on, Paul's relationship with the crucified and risen Lord shaped how he saw himself, others, and the world: everything and everyone had been redeemed through Christ who made all things new. Paul had not just been delivered for his own sake, but for others'. Paul discovered that God would take his life and use it to bless others. He spent the rest of his days bringing the good news throughout the Mediterranean of Jesus crucified and risen for all. His mission thereafter was to be the voice and presence of Christ to the gentiles. From then on, Paul lived a resurrected life; a life marked by joy, hope, and purpose.

We will never be the same.

Our lives, once bound by sin, are now full of possibilities.

Once under a death sentence, now we are free to live out of joy and freedom in Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit.

In the season of Easter, we celebrate that the crucified and risen Lord has changed everything. Our own relationship with Christ should shape how we see ourselves, one another, and the world. We see Christ in all, for he is all and in all (Colossians 3:11). We have not been delivered for our own sake, but for others'. We will discover that God will take our lives and use them to bless others. We, too, are called to spend the rest of our days being the voice and presence of Christ in the world. From now on, we live a life marked by joy, hope, and purpose. That is the resurrected life.

In Christ,

Pastor Emily Beckering

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## **Congregational Meeting**

**Please plan to attend the 2nd quarter meeting after worship on Sunday, April 3rd. We will review our first quarter financial data, receive updates on our local ministries, and elect members of the nominating committee.**

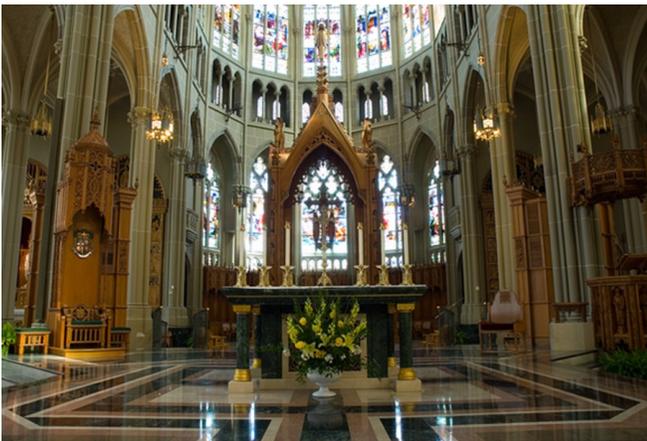
## Seniors Flying Solo

On Wednesday, April 27th we will be given a guided tour of St. Mary's Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption in Covington. This is a tour you will not want to miss! Among the outstanding stained glass windows, murals, and other beautiful pieces of art is the majestic transept window. At 67 feet by 24 feet, it is one of the largest stained glass windows in the world.

The tour is scheduled for 11:00am on April 27th. We will meet at St. Paul and carpool, leaving no later than 10:15. The tour costs \$5 per person and lasts one hour. We can stop for lunch upon our return to the church. If anyone would like to volunteer to drive, please let me know.

Please sign the form in the narthex or let me know if you want to join us.

—Elinor Schieman



## Dorcas Circle

The ladies continue to work hard on the quilts and have good-natured fun at the same time. Hopefully we will see some new faces joining us in April! Next meeting date is Wednesday, April 20th, from 9:00am until 2:00pm.



There has also been discussion regarding a Quilt Raffle this Fall, probably in September. There will be more information later. -Elinor Schieman

## Mission Fair and Potluck

On Sunday, April 17th, following worship, the Social Concerns Committee will host a Mission Fair featuring displays of all the agencies and missions that St. Paul supports. The Evangelism Committee is sponsoring a potluck lunch as part of the event.



Whether or not you are able to bring a dish to share for the lunch, please come to lunch for fellowship. Come to the Mission Fair in order to learn how we are participating in the Triune God's mission

of restoring all of creation and how your gifts might be uniquely suited to serve in one of these ministries.

## Machu Picchu Slide Show

On Sunday, April 24th, after worship, Ron & Carole Replogle will present a slide show on part 3 of their trip to South America. The program will be about Machu Picchu. Sandwiches will be provided and attendees are asked to bring a salad or dessert. Lunch will begin at approximately 11:45 and the program will start about 12:30. The show will last about 1 hour and 10 minutes. If you are interested in attending, please sign the sign-up sheet in the Narthex so that Ron and Carole will know how many sandwiches are needed.



## WELCA Spring Gathering

Women of the ELCA Lutheran women (WELCA) gather for service, study, advocacy, and fellowship to learn about justice, discipleship, and stewardship. This



year's WELCA spring gathering in the Southern Ohio Synod will be held at Christ the King in West Chester on Saturday, April 23, from 9am to 12pm. The key speaker will be discussing the intersection between the issue of human trafficking and Jesus' call to feed his sheep (John 21). Pastor Emily will lead the Bible study sessions during the day.

All women of St. Paul's are invited to attend this day of growing in discipleship and connecting with our sisters in the Southern Ohio Synod. No prior participation in WELCA is required. The cost for the day is \$10.00 and includes lunch. If you are interested in attending, please contact Pastor Emily so that we might coordinate a carpool.

## Intergenerational Service Project for May

Our final Sunday School intergenerational Sunday School service project for the 2015-2016 school year is sending care packages to family, friends, and members of St. Paul who are serving in the military. We will assemble these packages on Sunday, May 15th. To be successful, we will need help from all of you.

First, any information that any of you who have sent items to armed service personnel would be very much appreciated. Please contact Leslie Willet or Terri DeAngelis.

Second, once we have a list of appropriate things to send, we will need donations; for example, hard candy, gum, breakfast bars, nuts, snacks, magazines, puzzle books, wipes, etc.

Third, monetary donations will also be helpful for postage and packaging, or for purchasing additional items.

Join us in assembling the care packages at 9:00 am on Sunday, May 15th. Any assistance is accepted gratefully. Thank you in advance for your support.

~Christian Education Committee

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I very much appreciated the help of all the prayers after my recent accident. Thank you one and all for your care and support. ~Barry Prince

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## CELEBRATIONS IN APRIL

### Birthdays

- 3 Adam Pirrman
- 8 Bus Faulkner
- 9 Spencer Lohmeier
- 23 Nancy Erbeck  
Logan Pirrman
- 30 Nick Pirrman



*Is your birthday or anniversary missing from the list? Please contact the office. Don't be shy! Celebration is part of fellowship!*

### Anniversaries

- 4 Cindy and Allan Sieckman
- 16 Janet and Dennis King
- 29 Jane and Lee Erbeck
- 29 Linda and Jim Miller



### Valley Interfaith Ministries

This local ministry provides goods and services to meet short-term emergency needs. Along with many other churches, synagogues and community groups, we donate goods which are distributed to those served by VIM. Our gifts mean a lot to this all-volunteer organization. Currently we are asking for items that cannot be purchased with food stamps. For April, please bring **deodorant**. Place them under the giving tree in the narthex. We'd love to be able to donate 100 items per month!

## DeFeet Hunger!

It's almost here. . . . Registration opens on March 1st for DeFeet Hunger 5K to Benefit Valley Interfaith.

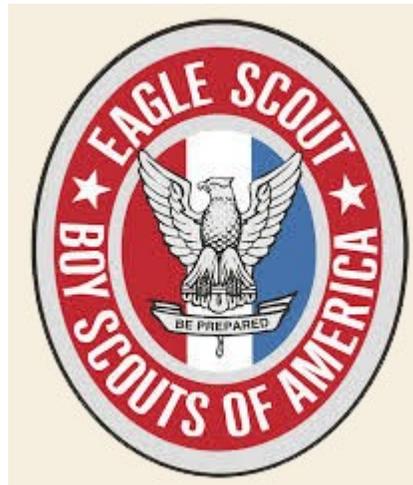
When: April 16th, 2016

Where: Glendale Gardens at 10397 Springfield Pike, Cincinnati

Time: 9:00 Runners, 9:30 Walkers

How: Register online at <http://www.vifcc.org/defeet-hunger/>

Why: Families face an increased burden over the summer when children have to go without school-provided breakfasts and lunches. Participation in the DeFeet Hunger race/walk allows Valley to turn each of your dollars into 13 dollars' worth of food. Lace up those shoes, enjoy the spring air, and provide assistance for the folks in neighboring communities. Valley Interfaith serves 12 different neighborhoods and is a member of the Freestore Foodbank.



John & Jeni Cathcart  
Proudly invite you to attend  
Eagle Court of Honor

For

Ian Thomas Blair Cathcart

&

Patrick Rilzy Cathcart

On

April 9th, 2016 at 1:00

Wood Badge Bead Ceremony for John will follow

At

R.G. Cribbet Fairfax Recreation Center

5903 Hawthorne Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45227

*Snacks and Refreshments will be provided after the ceremonies*

## Our Life Together

**For emergency pastoral care**, please call Pastor Emily Beckering, 513-760-5884.

**If you have requests for the Prayer Chain**, call Penny Huber, 513-931-6420. To remove people from the list, contact the office.

We pray for **Jerry Begley** (friend of Kathy Hirt); **Berkeley** (great-grandson of the Curlesses); **Jimmy Bertheaud** (friend of the Portmanns); **Bill and family** (co-worker of Faith Pirmann); **Cameron** (great-grandson of Rita Edwards); **Amberly Derby** (friend of Molly McDowell); **Jeremy Doan** (Jean Winkle's grandson); **Jerry Doan** (Jean Winkle's son-in-law); **Kathy Downie** (Sieckman's neighbor); **Bus Faulkner**; **Larry Faulkner** (Bus and Freda's son); **Mark Ford** (brother of Jeff Ford); **John Gill** (son of a co-worker of Holly Ford); **Debbie Heinz** (cousin of the Portmanns); **Les Helmich**; Les Helmich's children **Bruce and Elaine**; **Dick Hibeler** (Elinor Schieman's brother); **Clara Hoffman** (Cindy Mayhugh's mother); **Matt Huber** (Penny Huber's son); **Jay King** (son of Jamie King, who cleans the church); **Linda Kole** (friend of the Sieckmans'); **Charlotte Langefeld**; **Doug Meyers' Family** (friends of the Portmanns);

**Samantha and Rob Mersch** (family of Cindy Mayhugh and Sara Papin); **David Oaks** (son-in-law of Bus Faulkner); **Anne Ohr** (cousin of Barb Moorhouse); **Craig Olsen** (friend of the Sieckmans); **William Pratlley** (friend of Pastor Emily); **Sarah Rupert** (Carolyn Koehl's sister); **James Savory** (Jean Winkle's great-grandson); **Pauline Schauer** (cousin of Cindy Sieckman); **Michael Schmitt** (Jean Winkle's son-in-law); **Allan Sieckman**; **Kim Sieckman**; **the Silva Family** (daughter and son-in-law of Tammy Trees); **Jason Simpson** (grand-nephew of Bus and Freda Faulkner); **Speedy Sizemore** (friend of Marie Calhoun); **Dot Smith** (friend of Marilyn Portmann); **Melissa Smith** (friend of Holly Ford); **Scott Songer** (friend of Jean Winkle); **Crosley Spelman** (grandson of Jack and Joyce Spelman); **Audrey Stuart** (sister of Rita Edwards); **Britney Jean Teems** (Jean Winkle's granddaughter); **Irene Waddle**; **Debbie Willet** (co-worker of Holly Ford); **Anna Louise Witker** (Carolyn Koehl's mother).

We pray for those with ongoing health concerns who are unable to come to church every week: **Ann Christiansen, Norm Dageforde, Pat Edwards, Bus Faulkner, Mary Jane Flege, Ken Garber, Carol Leonard, Marge Malin, Jack Moorhouse, Jean Nolte, Heather Segar, Edna Willet.**

We pray for our armed forces members: **Paul Cordes** (grandson of Elinor Schieman); **Jared Forst** (grandson of Jim and Loretta); **John Garbrecht** (nephew of Carolyn Koehl); **Beau Glenn** (son-in-law of Karen Koehl); **Kylie Hahn** (granddaughter of Gretta Hahn); **Donald Hosea** (son of Karen Koehl); **Kyle Murdoch** (friend of Holly Ford); **Jobeth Ramirez** (friend of Karen Koehl); **Joshua Rodriguez** (friend of Karen Koehl); **Mack Thompson** (grandson of Freda and Bus Faulkner); **Mylan Watkins** (friend of the Ford family).

# April Ministry Schedule

*If you are unable to serve as scheduled below, please arrange for a replacement. Thank you!*

- 3**                    **2nd Sunday of Easter**  
Assisting Minister: Doug Lohmeier  
Reader: Kathy Hirt  
Acolyte: Spencer Lohmeier  
Communion Ministers: Ron and Shirley Harbaugh; Terry McDowell
- 10**                   **3rd Sunday of Easter**  
Assisting Minister: Leandra Hawkins  
Reader: Sherry Bronner  
Acolyte: Jared Isaacs
- 17**                   **4th Sunday of Easter**  
Assisting Minister: Terry McDowell  
Reader: ***Volunteer needed!***  
Acolyte: Olivia Lohmeier  
Communion Ministers: Dennis King; Elinor Schieman
- 24**                   **5th Sunday of Easter**  
Assisting Minister: Doug Lohmeier  
Reader: Terri DeAngelis  
Acolyte: Matthew McDowell

- Greeters:            Steve Headley and Linda Lawson  
Bulletin Folders:   Penny Huber and Jean Winkle  
Altar Guild:        Cindy Sieckman, Linen  
  
                          Penny Huber, Set Up  
  
                          Cindy Sieckman, Clean Up



## Planning an Event or Meeting?

Property Committee asks every committee and group to sign in and out of the building when you meet. Also, please write all activities into the schedule book. Or just let the office know, and the schedule book will be updated for you. Include a note about what part of the church you will use. Not only does this avoid double-booking, but it also prompts the office to publish your event on the calendar. Free publicity! --Dennis King

THE EPISTLE April 2016

St. Paul Lutheran Church  
A Congregation of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
106 Maple Street \* Reading, Ohio 45215-4811

[www.stpaulreading.org](http://www.stpaulreading.org)

Phone: 513/821-0987 Email: [mail@stpaulreading.org](mailto:mail@stpaulreading.org)

9:00 am Intergenerational Sunday School

(All ages, September—May)

10:30 Worship Service

Reverend Emily Beckering, Pastor  
Barry L. Prince, Director of Music  
Janet King, Sacristan  
Dennis King, Financial Secretary  
David Hill, Drama Director  
Holly Pratt, Administrative Assistant

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<u>Church Council</u>		<u>Term</u>
<b>President</b>	<b>Nancy Erbeck</b>	<b>2015-2017</b>
<b>V.P. &amp; Education</b>	<b>Joyce McDowell</b>	<b>2015-2016</b>
<b>Secretary &amp; Evangelism</b>	<b>Diana Hawkins</b>	<b>2015-2017</b>
<b>Treasurer &amp; Finance</b>	<b>Chris Geiger</b>	<b>2015-2016</b>
<b>Stewardship</b>	<b>Jim Forst</b>	<b>2015-2017</b>
<b>Social Concerns</b>	<b>Penny Huber</b>	<b>2015-2017</b>
<b>Property</b>	<b>Dennis King</b>	<b>2015-2016</b>
<b>Worship</b>	<b>Janet King</b>	<b>2015-2016</b>