

The Epistle

On the Lookout for Jesus



When it feels like God is silent, distant, or absent, one gets weary very quickly. As we make the final leg of our journey through Lent, we acknowledge that there are times, even great stretches of time, when it

feels like God is far away. But this Easter, we will be reminded that Christ is with us. The Gospel for Easter morning is Matthew 28:1-10. In verse 7, the angel tells the women at the tomb, "Go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.'" Then in verse 10, Jesus tells the disciples, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me." Jesus goes ahead of us, calls us into his preferred future for us, and promises to be with us all along the way.

This promise comforts us and gives us a special calling. We are comforted in that while God might feel distant, he is always with us, constantly trying to give us glimpses of himself and experiences of his presence.

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On the Lookout for Jesus cont'd

Our special calling is to live our lives on the lookout for Jesus in worship, in each other, in our neighbors. This Easter, we will hear and see Jesus in a special way: through one of Martin Luther's sermons on the meaning of the Resurrection for our daily lives, preached by Carroll Mayhugh. We will also seek to look for and listen for Jesus in our neighbors as part of our Visioning work leading up to the adult forum on the 5th Sunday of the month. On April 30, we will hear feedback from city leaders and business leaders in Reading during the forum, and we will consider de-

Jesus goes ahead of us, calls us into his preferred future for us, and promises to be with us all along the way.

Valley Inter-faith Donation Item of the Month:

Deodorant



mographics of the surrounding communities so that we might discern the needs of our neighbors. After worship, we will listen to our Christian brothers and sisters during the Faith Chat conversation and potluck.

Please plan on attending both of these events on April 30th so that we can listen for and look for Jesus in our neighbors and sisters and brothers in Christ. Though we do not know what the future holds for St. Paul, we know one thing for sure: we do not need to be afraid because Jesus has been raised from the dead and he is going ahead of us so that we will see him.

In Christ,
Pastor Emily
Beckering



Holy Week at St. Paul

Maundy Thursday, April 13 @ 7:00 pm

Good Friday, April 14 @ Noon and 7:00 pm

April 15, the Great Vigil of Easter @ 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday @ 10:30 am

A Warm Thank-You Note

To the People of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church,

With truly grateful hearts, we thank you for your generosity, prayers, and love in getting a new furnace for our home and for providing gift cards for our family. Finding ourselves suddenly without heat, with very low temperatures, was a very scary time for us. We were panicked and despondent. Feeling like you can't take care of your family is a terrifying place to be. It was a very low time for us and we cried out to God. We are so thankful to God for His wonderful plan in bringing so many different people together to bless us so abundantly. We are very grateful to you all, dear friends, for your love, prayers, and generosity. Through you, we have been able to show our children that God really does see our pain and hears our cries and that He really does take care of us and that He makes the impossible possible. And that lesson of faith is a precious gift they will keep with them forever. You have touched our family deeply and we hold each and every one of you in our thoughts and prayers. May God bless the entire St. Paul family!

In Christ's Love,
A very thankful family

We apologize for our delay in expressing our gratitude and thanks. Our family has continued to face challenges in the last few months and we would appreciate and be grateful for your continued prayers.

Free Thrivent Workshop Sunday, April 23

It's better to give *and* receive. Learn how.

Are there people and organizations in your life that you care about and want to help sustain financially? If so, be sure to attend this complimentary one-hour presentation, "Your Legacy—Family, Church, Charity," on Sunday, April 23, 2017 at 9:00 am at St. Paul Lutheran. Thrivent Financial representative Mark N. Wilkins, FIC, CLTC®, will introduce you to ways to unleash your generosity and ensure your legacy lives on. RSVP to the church office by Apr. 14.

No products will be sold at this event.

From Chris Geiger: Thanks for supporting World Vision!

Church family,

Thank you so much for all of your support and donations for my first marathon in support of World Vision. I finished the Los Angeles Marathon in a mere 5:09:26. I would be lying if I said that it was easy. In fact it was quite the opposite.



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Dorcas Circle

Our next regular workday is Wednesday, April 19, 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. If you can wield a scissors or tie a knot, we can use you. Satisfaction is guaranteed! There is a lunch break at 11:30. You can either bring your lunch or order a sandwich or soup or salad from Lucy's. So consider a day of "fun" work and lots of good

companionship. And a good night's sleep is guaranteed!



Seniors Flying Solo

Wednesday, May 24 we plan to go to the Krohn Conservatory. The Butterflies are in. It has been several years since our group saw the butterfly exhibit. Now the Monarch Butterfly is here, and we will be able to see them up close and maybe even have a few perch on us.

We will meet at the church at 11:30, lunch somewhere nearby, and then carpool to the Conservatory.

Name Contest: We have used this SFS name for our group since the group was initially started—when there were several widows and a few widowers in our church. However, over time several couples and friends of members have participated in our activities. So, we want to change our name to one that is more inclusive of singles, couples, and friends.

We are having a new name contest. Anyone can participate, and we may even offer a small prize. Deadline is Easter Sunday to submit your entry. Please write the new name on a paper along with your name and give it to Elinor. It will be fun to see a big variety of entries, but be nice! (Old Fogies won't do!)

Party With Your Favorite Ex-Monk



**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY
MARTIN LUTHER!**

The year 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. In 1517 Martin Luther posted his “95 theses” challenging many of the medieval Church’s practices. He inadvertently unleashed a storm of change, kicking off the most

important religious event of the last thousand years – the Protestant Reformation.

Here at St. Paul we are planning many events throughout the year to examining Luther’s actions and the Church’s reactions. These events will include several opportunities for the congregation to come together as a group, we will have movie events, discussion groups, biblical study focusing on Luther’s teachings, etc.

There is also an opportunity for a much more intimate experience. In the early days of the church groups came together in individual homes and discussed the faith. This practice has essentially disappeared in today’s Church. Let’s revive this practice and have “Luther Parties” in our homes. Rick Steves has produced an excellent documentary, [Rick Steves’ Luther and the Reformation](#), and has made it available to us along with a [viewing party toolkit](#) to help facilitate these parties.

Imagine being in the intimate setting of your home with your friends watching this excellent explanation of the Reformation and Luther’s role and discussing and affirming your faith in Christ! It may also be enlightening to include some friends from other congregations or denominations.

The Reformation Commemoration Committee will provide the DVD, discussion materials and, if you like, a discussion leader. Sign up by contacting the office at 513-821-0987 or mail@stpaulreading.org.

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However, despite all of the pain and suffering (which there was ample amounts of) I took heart in the very worthy cause that we were supporting, clean water projects for villages in Africa. I’m doubtful that I could have done it without the support of other Team World Vision runners, Annika and all of you who supported me from far away. Thanks again!



WELCA Gathering: Planning Meeting Apr. 30



all anew
WOMEN OF THE ELCA
TENTH TRIENNIAL GATHERING
Minneapolis, Minnesota
July 13–16, 2017

Diana Hawkins will lead a brief meeting after worship on April 30 to plan for a group from St. Paul to attend the WELCA Triennial Gathering in Minneapolis this summer. Please attend the meeting, or visit www.welcatg.org, to learn more about this exciting national event.

Focus on the Forum: April 30

GOD IN THE WORLD, PART I

The last Sunday in March, we learned from the 2010 census data that the majority of the population in Hamilton, Butler, and Clermont counties is UNCLAIMED, meaning that they have no religious or denominational affiliation! To understand this phenomenon, we shared why we come to church and why belonging to St. Paul is important to us as well as what we have heard others say about why they don't participate actively in a congregation. This was very important work for discerning how to reach those who do not have a church home or those who do not yet know Jesus. We will continue this work at the Forum on Sunday, April 30, at which we will consider demographic data and feedback about the needs of Reading from business leaders, public works officers, government officials, and educators in Reading. Please come at 9:30 am on Sunday April 30th for powerful discussion about how God might be calling us to tend to our neighbors' needs.

Lutheran Marriage Encounter

Does God care about your marriage? You bet!

Find out how much on a Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend! If you'd like greater depth, growth, and enrichment in your marriage, you'll be amazed at the difference a Marriage Encounter can make. The next Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend is April 28-30 at the Fairfield Inn & Suites, Beachwood, Ohio (outside of Cleveland). Cost: \$100 registration fee, plus a freewill donation for lodging and food. ASL interpretation available on request. For more information or to register, contact Duffy & Nan Guthrie, 440-599-9090, or visit www.GodLovesMarriage.org.

Faith Chat with Reading Churches

SCRIPTURE, SALVATION, & THE CHURCH

As part of our partnership with the Reading Council of Churches in commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, we are hosting a potluck and conversation on Sunday, April 30th. The potluck begins at noon. Please bring a main dish of your choosing to share. The other congregations will provide desserts and sides. The conversation will begin at 1pm. We'll discuss similarities and differences between Catholic, United Church of Christ, Presbyterian, and Lutheran beliefs about the Bible, the Church, and eternal life. The goal is not to convert each other, but to understand one another and our own faith convictions better so that we can appreciate how God works through the whole body of Christ.

2017 FAITH CHATS: CELEBRATING OUR UNITY, EDUCATING ON OUR DIFFERENCES

Sunday, Feb. 12
at St. John UCC

“Songs of our Faith”:
Hymns and songs in
worship

Sunday, Apr. 30
at St. Paul Lutheran

“Scripture, Salvation, and
the Church”: The Bible, the
Church, and eternal life

Sunday, June 25
at Voorhees Park

Hymn Sing and
Potluck

Sunday, Sept. 10
at Mt. Notre Dame

“One Bread, One Body,
One Lord”: Holy
Communion

Holy Spirit Sighting: A Thank-You from the Youth Group

Thank you for your generous support of the blankets and Bibles drive. The youth group is extremely appreciative. The 39 blankets and 30 Bibles were donated to the Anna Louise Inn, which provides shelter for women who are struggling financially. The Inn also has programs to aid women leaving the streets to assimilate back into society. Furthermore the Anna Louise Inn provides preschool to children whose parents cannot afford this education on their own. The blankets and Bibles were well received and the Inn showed immense gratitude. Thank you so very much for your generosity.

Special Events in April



WOMEN OF THE ELCA SPRING GATHERING

APRIL 22, 2017

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH
7333 PFEIFFER RD., CINCINNATI, OH

THEME: "REFORMATION REVISITED"

BIBLE VERSE PHILLIPIANS 4:13

"I CAN DO EVERYTHING THROUGH HIM WHO GIVES ME STRENGTH"

OUR SPEAKER WILL BE PASTOR ALICE CONNOR

REGISTRATION IS AT 8:30 WITH COFFEE
AND BREAKFAST TREATS
GATHERING AT 9; LUNCH AT 12
COST \$10

IN KIND GIFTS TO SUPPORT VEIL MINISTRY

VEIL is Vida Eterna Iglesia Lutherna (Eternal Life Luthernana Church), a local and synodical ELCA Hispanic Ministry. Items needed: disposable diapers (size 3,4,5), juice boxes (real fruit juice), crackers, applesauce, pudding cups and granola cereal bars

Please RSVP to Kathy DeLong 513-893-0069 or
rkdelong71@aol.com

Or Jean Mueller 513-755-0481 or jmueller29@cinci.rr.com

WE NEED A COUNT FOR LUNCH! THANKS



Special Events in April

VALLEY INTERFAITH COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER



Walk 5K Run
2017

Valley Interfaith De-Feet Hunger 5K Walk/Run

April 8th, 2017

Runners begin at 9:00

Walkers begin at 9:30

Location: [Glenwood Gardens,
10397 Springfield Pike, Woodlawn](#)

Dinner followed by 2 shows for only \$15.00

April 21 7 PM, April 22 7 PM, April 23 12:30 PM

Reservations 513-426-6504 or

email stpaulplayers@gmail.com

106 Maple St. Reading, OH 45215

Visit <http://stpaulplayers.com>

PASSING GRANDPA

BY SARAH PAPUN



ST. PAUL PLAYERS

It's a Bird, It's a Plane

IT'S CHICKENMAN

By Tim Kelly



Special Events in April

Experience the Passion
With The Centennial Performance Of
the st. john passion play

Established 1918 ♦ Cincinnati, Ohio



Performance dates, times and location:

Saturday, April 1 at 7:00pm — Lockland Christian Church, 231 Mill Street, Cincinnati, OH 45215
Sunday, April 2 at 3:00pm — Lockland Christian Church, 231 Mill Street, Cincinnati, OH 45215
Friday, April 7 at 7:00pm — Mt. St. Joseph University, 5701 Delhi Road, Cincinnati, OH 45233
Saturday, April 8 at 7:00pm — Mt. St. Joseph University, 5701 Delhi Road, Cincinnati, OH 45233
Sunday, April 9 at 3:00pm — Mt. St. Joseph University, 5701 Delhi road, Cincinnati, OH 45233
Friday, April 14 at 7:00pm — Lockland Christian Church, 231 Mill Street, Cincinnati, OH 45215

For reservations and information call: 859-392-0129

Walk-ins welcome! Free will donations graciously accepted! www.stjohnpassionplay.org

Friends of St. Paul perform in Passion Play

If you attend this year's St. John Passion Play, be sure to watch for St. Paul Players members Randy Blake and his daughter Rachel! Randy is playing the role of the corrupt High Priest Annas this year. Rachel plays Herodias and Randy's son-in-law is playing Judas—making the Passion Play a family affair.

Randy and Rachel have acted with the St. Paul Players several times, most recently as Nunzio and Emma in *Over the River and Through the Woods*.

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 **Mary and her granddaughter Kyra** (friend of Paul Pieper); **Jim Barry** (Kathy Hirt's dad); **Berkeley** (Carol Curless's great-grandson); **Jimmy Bertheaud** (friend of the Portmanns); **Bill Corbett** (Kings' neighbor); **Debbie, Steve, Jessica Davis** (friends of Holly Ford); **Jeremy Doan** (Jean Winkle's grandson); **Jerry Doan** (Jean Winkle's son-in-law); **Kathy Downie** (Sieckmans' neighbor); **Rita Edwards; Bus Faulkner; Larry Faulkner** (Bus and Freda's son); **Justin Feldman** (Bess Sturgill's father); **Skip Flowers** (Tracy Sieckman's stepfather-in-law); **Jim Forst; Ron Harbaugh; Steve Headley; Les Helmich and his daughter Elaine; Greg Hershey** (Steve Headley's cousin); **Sandy Hill** (David Hill's sister-in-law); **Matt Huber** (Penny Huber's son); **Jay King** (son of Jamie King, who cleans the church); **Loretta Kombrink** (Marilyn Portmann's aunt); **Charlotte Langefeld; Cindy Mayhugh; Doug Meyers' family** (friends of the Portmanns); **David Oaks** (Bus Faulkner's son-in-law); **Craig Olsen** (friend of the Sieckmans); **Ray Pape; Faith Pirrmann; William Pratley** (friend of Pr. Emily); **Ron Harbaugh; Ron Replogle; Sarah Rupert** (Carolyn Koehl's sister); **James Savory** (Jean Winkle's great-grandson); **Pauline Schauer** (Cindy Sieckman's cousin); **Kim Sieckman; Jason Simp-**

son (Bus and Freda Faulkner's grand-nephew); **Speedy Sizemore** (friend of Marie Calhoun); **Leland Smiley** (Marie Calhoun's uncle); **Scott Songer** (friend of Jean Winkle); **Crosley Spelman** (Spelmans' grandson); **Joyce Spelman; Walter Sprenger** (Portmanns' friend); **Britney Jean Teems** (Jean Winkle's granddaughter); **Randy Thaman** (friend of Marie Calhoun); **Richard Thompson** (friend of Marie Calhoun); **Sherman and Mike Waddle; Susan Winkle** (Jean Winkle's daughter-in-law).

We pray for those with ongoing health concerns who are unable to come to church every week: **Bernice Baglien, Dottie Bangert, Pat Edwards, Bus Faulkner, Mary Jane Flege, Ruth Jones, Carol Leonard, Jack and Barbara Moorhouse, Jean Nolte, Heather Segar, Edna Willet.**

We pray for our armed forces members: **Paul Cordes** (Elinor Schieman's grandson); **Jared Forst** (Jim and Loretta's grandson); **John Garbrecht** (Carolyn Koehl's nephew); **Beau Glenn** (Karen Koehl's son-in-law); **Kylie Hahn** (Gretta Hahn's granddaughter); **Chad Harris** (Donald Harris's cousin), **Donald Hosea** (Karen Koehl's son); **Andy Langefeld** (Nelson and Charlotte's grandson); **Jobeth Ramirez** (friend of Karen Koehl); **Joshua Rodriguez** (friend of Karen Koehl); **Trent Schwegman** (cousin to the Erbecks and Fords); **Dustin Silvey; Mack Thompson** (Freda and Bus Faulkner's grandson).

Celebrations in April



3 Adam Pirrmann
8 Bus Faulkner

9 Spencer Lohmeier
16 Janet & Dennis King
20 Teagan Cathcart
23 Nancy Erbeck, Logan Pirrmann
27 Bridget Cathcart
29 Lee & Jane Erbeck
29 Jim & Linda Miller
30 Nick Pirrmann

April Ministry Schedule

<p>Month-Long Ministries</p>	<p>Altar Guild: Cindy Sieckman, Linens & Cleanup; Penny Huber, Setup Bulletins: Penny Huber and Jean Winkle Greeters: Ron & Shirley Harbaugh</p>
<p>April 2 5 Lent</p>	<p>Assisting Minister: Donald Harris Reader: Kathy Hirt Acolyte: Olivia Hedges Communion Minister: Susan Bardes</p>
<p>April 9 Palm Sunday</p>	<p>Assisting Minister: Taylor Beckering Acolyte: Cole Isaacs Book Bearer: Maci Lawson Reader: Sherry Bronner Communion Ministers: Chelsea King, Carolyn Koehl</p>
<p>April 13 Maundy Thursday</p>	<p>Assisting Minister: Doug Lohmeier Reader: Carroll Mayhugh Acolyte: Jack Baumiller</p>

April Ministry Schedule cont'd

<p>April 14 Good Friday Noon</p>	<p>Reader: Carroll Mayhugh</p>
<p>April 14 Good Friday 7 p.m.</p>	<p>Assisting Minister: Terry McDowell Readers: Carolyn Koehl, Carroll Mayhugh, Sarah Papin Acolyte: Molly McDowell</p>
<p>April 15 Easter Vigil</p>	<p>Assisting Minister: Doug Lohmeier Readers: Carroll Mayhugh, Cindy Mayhugh, Joyce McDowell, Linda Miller, Sarah Papin, Carole Replogle Acolyte: Patrick Cathcart</p>
<p>April 16 Easter Sunday</p>	<p>Assisting Minister: Leandra Hawkins Acolyte: Olivia Lohmeier Book Bearer: Matthew Lawson Reader: Carroll Mayhugh, Joyce McDowell</p>
<p>April 23 2 Easter</p>	<p>Assisting Minister: Taylor Beckering Acolyte: Katie Sturgill Reader: Kathy Hirt Communion Ministers: Donald Harris, Susan Bardes</p>
<p>April 30 3 Easter</p>	<p>Assisting Minister: Donald Harris Acolyte: Bridget Cathcart Book Bearer: Alanna Cathcart Reader: <i>Volunteer Needed</i> Communion Ministers: Ron & Shirley Harbaugh, Elinor Schieman</p>

St. Paul
Lutheran Church

Mission
Statement

“As a community of Christian believers, we are called by God to use the many gifts He has given us, within the church and the community, so others may come to know Him.”

View photos of Martin Luther’s church

As part of the Lutheran Church’s 500-year anniversary celebration, the Worship and Music Committee is placing photos of All Saints’ Church, Wittenberg, in the narthex.

All Saints is more commonly known as Castle Church (*Schlosskirche*) and is the site where, tradition holds, Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the church door in 1517. Martin Luther is buried in the church, as are Philipp Melanchthon and Frederick the Wise.

These photos depict how Castle Church looked in the 1980s.

Please enjoy the photos as a part of our Lutheran history!

St. Paul
Lutheran Church

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513-821-0987

E-mail:
mail@stpaulreading.org
Website:
www.stpaulreading.org



PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE