

The Epistle

Adding to Those Being Saved

One of the gifts of the size of our congregation is that I was able to have the pleasure of visiting each of you in your homes when I was first called as Pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church (there are some of you with whom I still have that pleasure to look forward to—you know who you are! Let’s get a date on the calendar!). I asked you about your

faith stories, your experiences of church, and your hope for the future of St. Paul. What was truly astonishing is that every one of you had essentially the same



answer to the final question. It seems we have consensus: our shared hope for the future is that *more people will come to know Jesus and grow in relationship with him through life in the Body of Christ at St. Paul.*

What is even more amazing is that this shared dream for St. Paul is also God’s dream. We will hear this dream each week from the first reading, the Book of Acts, throughout the season of Easter this month. Through the Book of Acts, God calls us to devote ourselves to him and his vision of drawing all people to him. As we will hear the first Sunday in May from Acts 2:42-47 the early believers devoted themselves to the Lord by sharing their possessions, breaking bread together with glad and generous hearts, and praising God. And day by day,

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ADDRESS CHANGE

Carolyn's new address:

Carolyn Koehl
9802 Timbers Drive
Blue Ash, OH
45242-5534

Adding to Those Being Saved

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the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. Just as the Holy Spirit worked through the early believers to reach people in Judea, Samaria, and throughout the Mediterranean, the Spirit is at work in us to reach those who have not yet heard the Gospel.

This is why we have spent the whole year in a visioning process: to determine how the Holy Spirit is moving among us to add to the number of those being saved.

And day by day, the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

VALLEY INTER- FAITH: MAY DO- NATIONS

The Item of the Month to donate for Valley Interfaith Community Resource Center is toilet paper.



This month, we will launch the following final elements of the Visioning process for the year:

- A Business Fair Featuring the Reading Bridal District. Come at 7:15 pm on Thursday, May 4, to show hospitality to our business neighbors. Bring a dessert to share. Free giveaways from The Knot. If you or someone you know is planning a wedding, come to this free Bridal Fair! We will listen to our business neighbors for the Holy Spirit.
- A congregation-wide survey in electronic and hard-copy form will be distributed in early May so that we may listen to each other for the Holy Spirit. Submit answers to the office by May 31.
- A neighborhood survey: on Saturday, May 20, come to church at 10 am. We will have a brief training session and then knock on the doors of our neighbors so that we might listen to them for the Holy Spirit. For those for whom this sounds terrifying, do not be afraid. The training will prepare us for

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Adding to Those Being Saved

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these conversations. We will simply be trying to live out Jesus' call to be good neighbors, and the Spirit will go with us and before us. We will ask three simple questions:

- What's the biggest issue in the neighborhood?
 - What could be done to address that issue?
 - Is there anything that we can do for you?
- Stay after worship on Sunday, May 21 or May 28 to give a brief video interview about your dreams for our congregation. Nick Pirmann will record our interviews and edit them into a video that we will watch together at a special viewing when it's complete.
 - The whole month of May, stop down into the Fellowship Hall to use Legos, paint, Play-doh, or journals to share your answer to the following question: If money were not an issue and we could do anything as a congregation, what would you dream of doing? This will free up the creative spirit which we sometimes stifle; think of it as practicing a childlike faith.
 - Come to Intergenerational Sunday School on May 21 at 9:30 am to help with a neighborhood trash pick-up for Service Sunday.

We will have a final Adult Forum sometime in June to hear the results of the surveys and other activities so that we might listen together for the Holy Spirit. Then we will entrust the task of naming what the Holy Spirit is up to among us to the Council.

In order for these endeavors to be successful, every one of us needs to participate. We need the whole Body of Christ at St. Paul to listen for Christ. These events are new and may be uncomfortable, but this is

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COUNCIL ELECTIONS



The election for the 2017-2019 term will be held after worship on Sunday, May 21. We give special thanks to Nancy Erbeck, Jim Forst, Penny Huber, and Diana Hawkins for the last two years of faithful service. We will elect four candidates from the following slate and thank them for their willingness to serve: Sherry Bronner, Marie Calhoun, Nancy Erbeck, Donald Harris, Carolyn Koehl, Elinor Schieman.

Dorcas Circle

The ladies are adding an extra work day in May. We will meet on Wednesday, May 3, as well as Wednesday, May 17—9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

If you are replacing any of your bed sheets this Spring, we would appreciate any donations of your “old” sheets. We use colored or print sheets, full, queen, king size and, if they are wide enough, even some twin size. We prefer flat sheets that are not stained and not too worn. Thank you in advance for your donations!

FYI: The Dorcas Circle is not an exclusive group of ladies. If you are looking for something to do on the third Wednesday of the month, the ladies invite you to join them. No special talents are needed. We work hard and leave tired at the end of the day, but we leave happy and thankful for what we have been able to do.

Seniors Flying Solo

On Wednesday, May 24, we will go to the Krohn Conservatory Butterfly Show, *The Majestic Monarch*. One wall at the show will be dedicated to programs that aid in preserving the monarch, such as garden practices. In addition to the monarchs, we will be able to see more than 75 different kinds of butterflies. Cost for the exhibit is \$7 (\$1 discount coupons available).

We plan to meet at the church at 11:30 a.m. and eat lunch somewhere before carpooling to the Conservatory. If you do not plan to join us for lunch, meet us at the church at 12:15. Also, if you are willing to drive in the carpool, please let me know. Sign up on the paper on the bulletin board if you want to join us.

Have you thought of a new name for our group that is inclusive of married, single, “youngish,” and old people? The naming contest ends Sun., May 14, when we will choose the winning name. Please write your name and suggestion on a paper and give it to me ASAP.

HOLY SPIRIT SIGHTING



The Holy Spirit gives us gifts for the building up of the Body of Christ. The Holy Spirit has called Terri DeAngelis to use her gifts for interpreting the Word of God by preaching and leading worship while Pastor Emily is on vacation the last Sunday in May. Come to worship ready to see the Holy Spirit at work in Terri and to feel the Holy Spirit through the sermon. Thanks be to God!

Pastor Emily

COMMUNION MINISTRY TRAINING

Ministry to the homebound is a vital link between not only your congregation and the homebound member, but also with the greater Church. When you bring communion to those who are unable to physically be present at a worship service, you bring the body and blood of Christ and all that it represents with you.

To make sure this vital ministry is available to all homebound members of your congregation, the Southern Ohio Synod will host a training and commissioning service for

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Evangelism Workshop May 13

'Fishing for People—Evangelism for all the Baptized' workshop May 13, led by Pr. Katie Kerrigan

'Evangelism' can be such a scary word until we get to the root where we find 'evangel,' which simply means 'good news.' We all like to share good news: a job promotion, a high turn out for an event, a clean bill of health, a wedding, a long-awaited grandchild. No one would have trouble sharing these tidbits of good news, so why should the Good News of Jesus be any different? Come to the May 13, 2017 workshop led by Pr. Katie Kerrigan and find out how easy sharing the Good News really can be. It can even be fun! Really.

'Fishing for People' is designed for all baptized members of our congregations and of other denominations, not just the ordained or specially trained. You'll receive real-world, hands-on training and tips you can take back to your congregation to share, plus meet others from our mission territory who also want to share the Good News in their communities. You'll walk out of this workshop excited and prepared to 'fish for people' and will have made new friends in the process.

'Fishing for People, Evangelism for all the Baptized' is scheduled for Saturday, May 13, 2017 from 11am – 2 pm at Fellowship Lutheran Church, 7350 Sawmill Rd., Columbus, OH. Lunch is provided. A \$5 donation to cover lunch is requested.

This workshop is open to people of all denominations. You're encouraged to invite friends, family, co-workers and neighbors for this special evangelism event!

Please RSVP to Fellowship Lutheran Church by Monday, May 8. The church office phone number is (614) 889-0113 or email at f lc7350@gmail.com.

Bridal District Event May 4

Reminder from the Stewardship Committee: After the success of St. Paul's Business Recognition Evening in March, we are hosting a second public event for businesses and clients on May 4. This time we will host the businesses in the Bridal District.

As with the March event, we will discuss our city's strengths and needs, and find out how best St. Paul can work in our area to serve God and our neighbors.

Please be sure to stop by and welcome our Reading friends and neighbors. The event will be from 7:15 p.m. to 8:30. If you wish, please bring a dessert to share.

If you know anyone who is engaged, please invite them to attend the event and meet prospective wedding vendors.

Celebrations in May

- 2 **Kris & Rhonda Kreiner**
- 3 Ron Replogle
- 4 Jane Erbeck, Marie Calhoun, Barry Prince
- 13 Annie Lohmeier, Grant Lohmeier, Cindy Sieckman
- 15 Kevin Harbaugh
- 18 Jean Winkle
- 23 Jack Baumiller
- 25 Chloe Ford
- 26 Kayla Kreiner



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Communion Ministers on Saturday, June 3. Below are the full details.

I invite as many members from your congregation who are willing to be a part of a Communion Ministry to join us.

Date: June 3, 2017

Place: Providence Lutheran Church, 11475 Providence Rd., Brookville, OH

Time: 10 am until 2 pm, with lunch

Cost: \$5 (for lunch)

Please RSVP by May 26 if you are able to attend: jwick@southernohiosynod.org

In Christ,
Suzanne D. Dilla-hunt, Bishop

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); **Ethan Bronner; Bill Corbett** (Kings' neighbor); **Debbie, Steve, Jessica Davis** (friends of Holly Ford); **Julie Dietrich** (Ginny Pape's daughter); **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); **Ginny Pape; Ray Pape; Faith Pirmann; William Pratlley** (friend of Pr. Emily); **Ron Harbaugh; Ron Replogle; Sarah Rupert** (Carolyn Koehl's sister); **James Savory** (Jean Winkle's great-grandson); **Paul-**

ine Schauer (Cindy Sieckman's cousin); **Kim Sieckman; Jason Simpson** (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).

May Ministry Schedule

<p>Month-Long Ministries</p>	<p>Greeters: Linda Lawson & Steve Headley Bulletins: Ron & Carole Replogle Altar Guild: Shirley Harbaugh, Linens & Cleanup; Carole Replogle, Setup</p>
<p>May 7 4 Easter</p>	<p>Assisting Minister: Nancy Erbeck Reader: Sherry Bronner Acolyte: Grant Lohmeier Communion Minister: Chelsea King</p>
<p>May 14 5 Easter</p>	<p>Assisting Minister: Sarah Papin Reader: Carroll Mayhugh Acolyte: Cole Isaacs Communion Minister: Elinor Schieman</p>
<p>May 21 6 Easter</p>	<p>Assisting Minister: Terry McDowell Reader: Kathy Hirt Acolyte: Maggie McDowell Communion Ministers: Donald Harris, Carolyn Koehl</p>
<p>May 28 7 Easter</p>	<p>Assisting Minister: Taylor Beckering Reader: Carroll Mayhugh Acolyte: Donny Cathcart Book Bearer: Maci Lawson Communion Ministers: Terri DeAngelis & Leslie Willet</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.

Reformation Anniversary Concerts

Saturday, May 6 at 3:00 p.m. there will be a free concert celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation at Trinity Lutheran Church (1553 Kinney Avenue, Cincinnati). There is a second performance on Sunday, May 7, at 4:00 p.m. at Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Beavercreek, Ohio. Note: Trinity's nursery will be available at the May 6th concert.

The concerts are presented by the choirs of Trinity Lutheran Church, Christ the King Lutheran Church of West Chester, and Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church of Beavercreek.

A freewill offering will be collected for ELCA Good Gifts, to help supply Bibles around the world in the language of each community.

St. Paul

Lutheran Church

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

