

The Epistle

Lent—Letting Go, Listening Closer, Leaning In



Did you ever or do you now practice the spiritual discipline of giving something up during Lent? Many Christians around the world find that doing so helps them feel closer to God. Giving up something like chocolate,

alcohol, caffeine, TV, or even cutting out something in the daily schedule works for some people because every time they think of that thing which they gave up, they are reminded that Christ gave up his life for them. Every time they desire that thing which they gave up, they pray that God will help them desire *him* instead with their whole being. If you have found this discipline helpful or would like to try it, then God bless you in your practice this Lent.

In addition to letting go of things, habits, or items in our schedules which are not healthful for us, it is also a practice in the history of the church to engage more deeply in study during Lent. In the early church—back in the days when most baptisms were adult rather than infant baptisms—Lent was the time of preparation for new converts to learn Scripture and the key elements of the Christian faith and life before they were baptized at the Easter Vigil. Following in this tra-

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Valley Inter-faith CRC
Donation Item
of the Month

The donation item for February is **all-purpose cleaners**. Thank you for your generosity!

Lent—Letting Go, Listening Closer, Leaning In

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dition, there will be many opportunities at St. Paul's during Lent to help us let go of everything that holds us back from obeying God, listen closer to God, and lean in to more intentionally to seek his will for us as individuals and as a congregation.

As part of our Lenten discipline of letting go of unhealthful patterns, we will seek to be better stewards

Let go of everything that holds us back from obeying God, listen closer to God, and lean in to more intentionally to seek his will.



of the creation and the financial resources God has entrusted to us by shortening the length of our bulletin. In an age of illiteracy, and before Scripture was assembled into the books of the Bible that we have today, Scripture was originally written to be *heard* rather than read by Christians when they gathered together to worship. By not printing Scripture passages and some of the words that pastor alone says, we hope not only to reduce the amount of paper and ink we use, but also to hear God's Word for us in a new way. You are invited to bring your own Bible or to borrow one from the church library if you would like to read along on Sunday mornings.

As part of our Lenten discipline of listening closer to God, we will gather together for midweek worship services and Bible studies during Lent. If driving at night is difficult, but you would like to participate in midweek worship, then please share this with Pastor Emily and we will arrange for another member to pick you

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Lent—Letting Go, Listening Closer, Leaning In

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up. Please see the calendar for details. Men's Bible study, Tuesday morning Bible study, and Bible study for parents and guardians during Children's Choir rehearsal continue. The Bible study series during Lent will focus on Heaven and Hell so that as we prepare to celebrate Christ's death and resurrection during Holy Week, we may understand more fully just what his death and resurrection mean for us! The Lenten devotional series written by our own members will help us listen to God every day this season.

As part of our Lenten discipline of leaning in to what God asks us to do, we will love each other and our neighbors. The community breakfast on February 11 and March 11, as well as the midweek potluck meals give us opportunities to know one another better and to listen to one another's joys and struggles. The retreat on bereavement will help those grieving the death of a loved one to support one another. The free exercise classes this month allow us to follow God's command to take care of the bodies he has given us. Be on the lookout each day during Lent for ways that you can love, listen to, serve, and lead others like Jesus.

There are many opportunities at St. Paul's this month to grow in discipleship. Make use of them! As we listen closer to God in prayer, the Bible, and each other, lean in to tasks or experiences that might be difficult but that help us obey God, and let go of the things and behaviors that separate us from God, God will draw us closer to him and to each other this Lent.

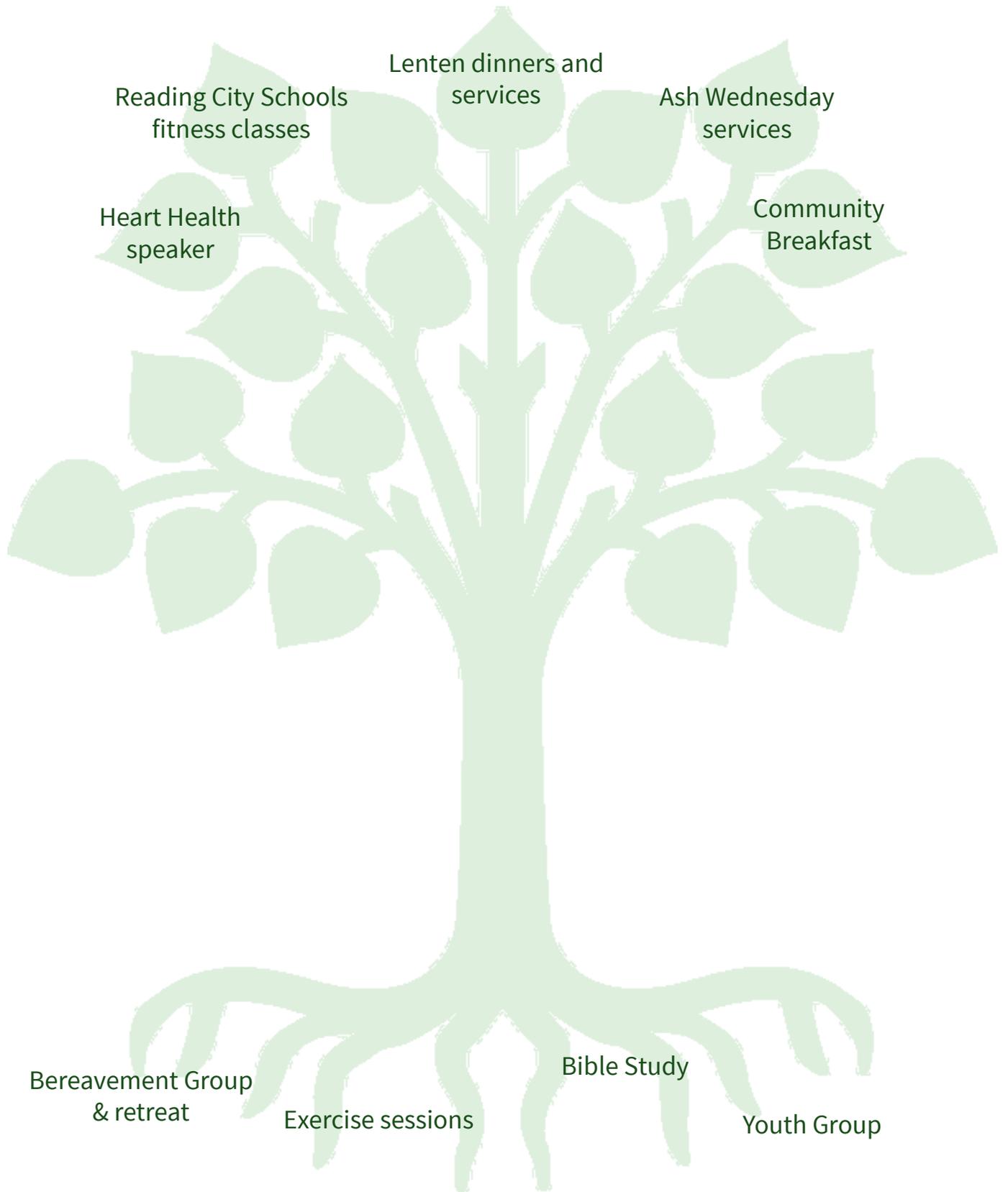
In Christ,

Pastor Emily Beckering

Youth Group
Games, Bible
Study, Wor-
ship: Feb. 3

All junior and senior high and older youth are invited to come play games, to study God's word, and to worship God on Saturday February 3 from 6-9 p.m. Snacks will be provided. Bring your own Bible, or one will be provided. The fun and new friendships await!

Sowing, Reaping, Rebirth, and Joy This Month



Lenten Midweek Worship & Meals

February 21

Dinner Theme—Appetizers

Set-up and Clean-up—Evangelism Committee

Worship—Compline: From the Latin, “complete,” Compline is the last of the traditional hours of the Daily Prayer of the Church, prayed before going to sleep. Come complete your day well by making worshipping God the last thing you do before you sleep.

February 28

Dinner Theme—American

Set-up and Clean-up—Social Concerns Committee

Worship—Vespers: This service is an opportunity to let God realign you to his will and peace after a stressful day or week. From the Latin, “evening,” Vespers is a service which helps us to entrust ourselves and the world to God at the close of day.

March 7

Dinner Theme—Italian

Set-up and Clean-up—Christian Education and Stewardship Committees

Worship—Holden Evening Prayer: This service comes from Holden Village, a Lutheran renewal center in the Northern Cascades. It is also a service designed to help us pray at the end of the day, and the music in this service is easy to learn and very moving.

March 14

Dinner Theme—Mexican

Set-up and Clean-up—Worship and Music Committee

Worship—Holden Evening Prayer: We’ll sing it two weeks in a row so that we can get used to it and see if we’d like to use Holden Evening Prayer more frequently for evening services.

March 21

Dinner Theme—European. German, French, Swedish

Set-up and Clean-up—Finance and Property Committees

Worship—Play: The St. Paul Players present *The Lower Room*, the story of the effect of Jesus’ ministry as told by women who served the Last Supper.

Free Bereavement Retreat



Many of our beloved sisters and brothers in Christ at St. Paul's have passed away in the last several years. We are hosting a free retreat for those grieving on Saturday, February 24, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Pastor Emily will lead a Bible study on God's Word to those experiencing grief. Guest speaker David Schwarz, retired Clinical Pastoral Education Supervisor and Chaplain at Twin Towers Senior Living, will present on tools for grieving, adjusting to life after one you love

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Stewardship Highlight: Step! Dance! Sweat! Give God the glory!

Stewardship is the management of *all of life* with Christ at the center. To respond to what we learned in the adult forum in January on caring for our bodies, the Stewardship Committee is offering several chances this month to faithfully steward the bodies God has given us. All classes are free. Carole Replogle will lead a very gentle, low-impact step class (no actual steps) following two Tuesday Bible studies. Pastor Emily will lead a dance aerobics class prior to Bible study on Mondays. Adults are welcome to participate in the boot camp classes with Reading Schools faculty and staff in our fellowship hall. Guest speakers from the American Heart Association, Diabetic Association, and a dietician will come and present during adult forums in February. See the enclosed calendar for class and event details. Come *lean in* to discipleship by obeying God's command to take care of our bodies, and give him the glory!

Bereavement Support Group Coming Soon

The St. Paul's Lutheran Congregation Bereavement Group assists participants as they journey through their grief. The group offers a safe place for people to do the work of mourning and grieving through a support group that encourages participants to reconcile their losses and go on to find continued meaning in life and living. Terri DeAngelis has gone through facilitator training and will lead this group beginning in March. If you're interested in this group, then please consider coming to the Bereavement Retreat on February 24, at which the support group will be launched.

LOMO Camps Hiring for the Summer

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NOW HIRING SUMMER STAFF

APPLY ONLINE // INTERVIEWS BEGIN SOON!



about

- Weekly Salary
- Food & Lodging Included
- Lead small groups of campers and/or family programming
- Lead Activities such as: Challenge Course, Swimming, Archery, Bible Studies, Campfires...
- 24 hours off each week and at least 1 hour off a day.
- 3 camp facilities in Ohio
- Stay in cabins with children or families a majority of the day with breaks and time-off

qualifications

- 18 Years Old (Prefer one year out of high school)
- Staff Training (End May - Early June)
- Summer Season is 8 Weeks (June - Early August)

how to apply

- Go to lomocamps.org
- Select "employment"
- Create an account by selecting summer staff application.
- When it is submitted, staff will review after 3 electronic reference forms have been received.
- Interview will be scheduled after everything is completed.

Questions?

Contact info@lomocamps.org or visit us online www.lomocamps.org

www.lomocamps.org/employment

has died, and living into God's preferred future for you. Terri DeAngelis and David will lead a session in the afternoon allowing participants to share their own experiences of grief for mutual support and consolation. The retreat will close with worship led by Barry Prince and Pastor Emily to entrust our loved ones and ourselves to God's care. To register, please email mail@stpaulreading.org or call the church office at 513-821-0987. If you can't come to the retreat, but are yearning for healing as you grieve, then consider coming to the Bereavement Support Group sessions starting in March.

Worship and Sunday School Volunteer Schedule

	During the Service (10:30 a.m.)	Education Hour (9:00 a.m.)
Month-Long Ministries	<p>Bulletins: Penny Huber and Jean Winkle</p> <p>Greeters:</p> <p>Altar Guild: Elinor Schieman (Linens), Janet King (Setup), Kathy Hirt (Cleanup)</p> <p>Counter: Stanley Kline</p>	<p>Teacher, Ages 3-7: Jane Erbeck</p> <p>Teacher, Ages 8-11: Nancy Erbeck</p> <p>Teacher, Jr/Sr High: Donald Harris</p>
February 4 5 Epiphany	<p>Assisting Minister: Nancy Erbeck</p> <p>Lesson Reader: Kathy Hirt</p> <p>Acolyte: Katie Sturgill</p> <p>Communion Ministers: Chelsea King, Ron & Shirley Harbaugh</p> <p>Nursery: Shirley Lathrop, Maggie McDowell</p> <p>Activity Time: Bess Sturgill</p>	<p>Assistant, Ages 3-7: Sarah Papin</p> <p>Assistant, Ages 8-11: Kim Coulehan</p> <p>Assistant, Jr/Sr High: John Cathcart</p>
February 11 Transfiguration of Our Lord	<p>Assisting Minister: Donald Harris</p> <p>Lesson Reader: Carroll Mayhugh</p> <p>Acolyte: Bridget Cathcart</p> <p>Book Bearer: Teagan Cathcart</p> <p>Communion Minister: Carolyn Koehl</p> <p>Nursery: Jeni Cathcart, Maggie McDowell</p> <p>Activity Time: Penny Huber</p>	
February 14 Ash Wednesday (Noon)	<i>Lesson Reader Needed</i>	

	During the Service (10:30 a.m.)	Education Hour (9:00 a.m.)
February 14 Ash Wednesday (7 p.m.)	Assisting Minister: Leandra Hawkins Lesson Reader: Sarah Papin Acolyte: Grant Lohmeier Book Bearer: Maci Lawson	
February 18 1 Lent	Assisting Minister: Doug Lohmeier Lesson Reader: Sherry Bronner Acolyte: Katie Sturgill Communion Ministers: Ron & Shirley Harbaugh Nursery: Joyce McDowell, Bess Sturgill Activity Time: Linda Lawson	Assistant, Ages 3-7: Chelsea King Assistant, Ages 8-11: Sarah Papin Assistant, Jr/Sr High: John Cathcart
February 21 Lenten Service: Compline	Worship Leader: David Hill Lesson Reader: Sarah Papin	
February 25 2 Lent	Assisting Minister: Nancy Erbeck Lesson Reader: Carroll Mayhugh Acolyte: Grant Lohmeier Book Bearer: Matthew Lawson Communion Minister: Elinor Schieman Nursery: Linda Lawson, Bess Sturgill Activity Time: Joyce McDowell	Assistant, Ages 3-7: Jeni Cathcart Assistant, Ages 8-11: Steve Headley Assistant, Jr/Sr High: John Cathcart
February 28 Lenten Service: Vespers	Worship Leader: Chrissy Harris Lesson Reader: Carroll Mayhugh	

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); **Berkeley** (Carol Curless's great-grandson); **Debbie Brooks** (friend of Elinor Schieman); **Merle Buck; Kathy Curless; Debbie, Steve, Jessica Davis** (friends of Holly Ford); **Katie Demopoulos** (Diana Hawkins's niece); **Julie Dietrich** (Ginny Pape's daughter); **Jeremy Doan** (Jean Winkle's grandson); **Jerry Doan** (Jean Winkle's son-in-law); **Rita Edwards; Larry Faulkner** (Freda's son); **Justin Feldman** (Bess Sturgill's father); **Jim Forst; Hannah; Bill Harris and Cheryl Harris** (relatives of Donald Harris); **Matthew Harrison** (Seals' neighbor); **David Hill; Les Helmich; Doug Hibbeler** (Elinor Schieman's nephew); **Matt Huber** (Penny Huber's son); **Jay King** (son of Jamie King, who cleans the church); **Loretta Kombrink** (Marilyn Portmann's aunt); **Richard Lane** (Elinor Schieman's nephew); **Charlotte Langefeld; Barbara and Jack Moorhouse; Jean Nolte; David Oaks** (Faulkners' son-in-law); **Ray Pape; Don Pflieger** (Kings' brother-in-law); **Linda Perin** (Moorhouses' cousin); **Paul Pieper; Faith Pirrmann; Nick Pirrmann; Sarah Rupert** (Carolyn Koehl's sister); **James Savory** (Jean Winkle's

great-grandson); **Shawn Schnetzer** (Sturgills' cousin); **Keith Shupe** (father of Kelly Shupe); **Jason Simpson** (Freda Faulkner's grand-nephew); **Scott Songer; Judy Songer** (friends of Jean Winkle); **Crosley Spelman** (Spelmans' grandson); **Swafford family; Britney Jean Teems** (Jean Winkle's granddaughter); **Randy Thaman** (friend of Marie Calhoun); **Richard Thompson** (friend of Marie Calhoun); **Sherman and Mike Waddle; Jane Weatherford** (Donald Harris's mother); **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, Louise Barry, Mary Jane Flege, 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); **Donald Hosea** (Karen Koehl's son); **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 Faulkner's grandson); **Alex Wisecup** (son of Nadine and Barry Wisecup).

Dorcas Circle

Out of necessity (undesirable weather conditions) we cancelled our meeting in January. But never fear, we will make up that day in the spring! In the meanwhile, we will meet as usual on Wednesday, February 21. We hope to see you at 9 a.m. or shortly after!

Celebrations in February



		16	Shirley Lathrop
		18	Kris Kreiner
		19	Rachel Bronner
		20	Penny Huber
		21	Bryana Bronner
1	William Harrison, Matthew Lawson, Jim Miller	22	Diana Hawkins
2	Kathy Crosby	24	Erika Ford, Jillian Ford
8	Les Eckerle	26	Jack Spelman
10	Jeni Cathcart	26	Jack & Mary Wag- ner
11	Ron & Shirley Har- baugh		
12	Joyce Spelman, Eric Bardes		
13	Kyle Kreiner		

Jean Dowell and Friends Concert

Sunday, February
11, 2018 at 3:00
p.m.

Trinity Lutheran
Church (1553 Kin-
ney Avenue, Cin-
cinnati, 45231)

A freewill offering
will be collected to
support Kate's
Cupboard, a Trinity
ministry that helps
moms and babies
in need

([trinitycincy.org/
katescupboard](http://trinitycincy.org/katescupboard)),

and Tikkun Farm, a
3.5 acre farm in the
neighborhood of
Mt. Healthy that
intends to be a
place of healing,
restoration, and
repair cultivated
through meaning-
ful work and spir-
itual practices
(tikkunfarm.com)

Refreshments will
be served following
the concert.

St. Paul
Lutheran Church

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.

Lenten Devotional Series



Written by members of St. Paul Lutheran Church, the devotional series begins February 14 (Ash Wednesday) and ends Easter Sunday. The series focuses on

each of the readings and some of the hymns for the upcoming Sunday. As such, this devotional will let us dwell in the Scripture and hymn texts all week so that worship on Sunday morning will be an even richer experience for us. The devotional will be emailed to the whole email list. To request a print copy, please email mail@stpaulreading.org or call the church office at 513-821-0987.

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE