



Cincinnati Lutheran

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5433 Madison Road, Cincinnati, OH 45227

February 2017

Federation Seminar

Saturday, April 22, 2017

9 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

St Mark's Lutheran Church
5849 Buckwheat Road
Milford, OH

Topic:

Infant Baptism
"Before, During and After
the Time of Christ"



Dr. A. Andrew Das

Dr. Das received his Master of Divinity degree from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, and did his graduate work at Yale University, Duke University, and Union Theological Seminary.

Considered among the leading Pauline theorists of the last century, Dr. A. Andrew Das is the Donald W. and Betty J. Buik Chair and Professor of Religious Studies at Elmhurst College in Elmhurst, Illinois. He teaches in Biblical studies, early Christianity, and Second Temple Judaism.

Dr. Das was an invited member of the Society of Biblical Literature's Paul and Scripture Seminar and has presented at the Society of Biblical Literature; the African Society of Biblical Scholars; the Chicago Society of Biblical Research; the international Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas, of which he is an elected member; and the Evangelical Theological Society. He is also a member of the Catholic Biblical Association of America and serves on the Holman Christian Standard Bible revision committee. Dr. Das is a prolific writer, having authored several books and articles, including his major academic commentary on Galatians (CPH 2014).

Speaker:

Dr. A. Andrew Das

Please plan to attend
this very worthwhile seminar.

No reservations are required.
(but if you would call Dan Huss
at 385-6470 and leave a message
if you plan to attend,
this would help St Mark's plan
for the light refreshments
at the mid-seminar break.)

Parent Workshop

Saturday, April 1, 2017

3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Admission is FREE

Held at:

Zion Lutheran Church
1175 Birney Lane,
Cincinnati, 45230.

10 Ways To Stop Defiance, Disrespect & Yelling

Speaker:

Kirk Martin

Everyone is invited for this LIVE WORKSHOP with
national speaker Kirk Martin.

Free childcare will be provided.

Please sign up in advance by contacting Chris Graves
cgraves@zionlc.org

Over 600,000 parents have called Kirk Martin's live events "practical, life-changing and laugh-out-loud funny." Kirk will provide concrete, practical strategies to:

- Get your kids to listen the first time.
- Stop defiance, meltdowns, tantrums and arguing.
- Improve focus, attention, executive function, and organization.
- Get kids off video games/screens without a fight.
- Create stress-free mornings, homework time and bedtime.

Abiding Faith
Amazing Grace
Bethany
Christ
Good Shepherd
Grace
Immanuel-Cincinnati

p. 4
pp. 6-7
p. 5
p. 8
p. 11

Churches
Immanuel-Hamilton
King of Kings
Messiah
Peace
Prince of Peace
Royal Redeemer
St. John

p. 14
pp. 12-13
p. 15
pp. 16-17
p. 25
p. 30

St. Marks
St. Paul
St. Paul - Chathem
Trinity-Maysville
Trinity-Peach Grove
Zion

p. 22
pp. 18-19
p. 20-21
p. 20-21
p. 28
pp. 26-27

Schools
Immanuel School
St John School
St Marks School
Amazing Grace PreSch
Christ PreSchool
King of Kings
Royal Redeemer PreSchool

pp. 30-31
p. 29
p. 6

Fed. President
Auxiliary
Chaplaincy
Youth Ministry
LWML
Thrivent
ODCEF
Reformation Service

pp. 1&3
p. 9
p. 24
p. 23
pp. 9&32
p. 2

News

2016 Federation Joint Reformation Service

2016 Joint Reformation Celebration was held at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church downtown. The Joint Reformation Celebration was made even more inspiring by being held in the beautifully restored sanctuary of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. The service was excellent, especially the singing of the pastors and the Prince of Peace choir. Rev Tony Cook delivered an excellent sermon adding to the celebration. Attendance was over 200. The number of people was enhanced by many with old family connections to Prince of Peace, but there were also many young people there. Worship was followed by a reception in the undercroft.



Rev. Michael Poynter



Rev. Everette Greene

Kelly Jacob
Deaconess Intern

Rev Tony Cook



David Kelpe welcomed everyone to the restored Prince of Peace sanctuary and reviewed the progress made in the restoration of Prince of Peace.



Reception following service



Choir



Auxiliary

The Women's Auxiliary Comfort Pillows

Wednesday, April 26

10:00am

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Madison Road

The Women's Auxiliary April Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 26 at 10:00am at St. Paul Lutheran Church. We will have a business meeting and make Comfort Pillows for the Ohio District LCMS Disaster Relief. (see poster on page 1) A Lunch prepared by the ladies at St. Paul will follow. Please come join our fellowship and help make these pillows.

THE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY



Ingathering Hymn Sing

Lead by Pastor Etter
at
Prince of Peace



Annual Cookie Pack

Thank you to all who made, packed and distributed Christmas Cookies for our Cookie Pack. On December 5 at Christ Lutheran Church we packed 1260 boxes of cookies which were delivered to 16 Nursing Care Facilities, Campus Ministry, Prince of Peace Homeless Ministry and Shut-ins. 1071 Christmas Booklets with the Christmas Story in scripture and song, were also distributed to the facilities.



Little Bud School children sang for us all.



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Zion

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Rev. Robert Brockhoff

Abiding Faith Lutheran Church

859-379-5588

7841 Dream Street

Florence KY

Correspondent: Linnea Caldon

Federation Representatives
 Ed Mills
 Linnea Caldon
 Robert Brockhoff



Blessing Event

Sunday afternoon December 4th, 2016, Ed and Julie Mills opened their home to members of Abiding Faith for our annual Blessing Event. Members and friends gathered to remember how blessed we have been this year and to be thankful for all of the blessings of our Gracious God.

Once again we were blessed with an abundance of food provided for the pot luck from the guests and the meat for the meal provided by the Mills'. It was a lovely afternoon of fellowship. Thank you to Ed and Julie for their hospitality.

Operation Christmas Child

Once again we asked our members to take home a shoe box for the Operation Christmas Child charity and fill it with toys, toiletries, and other items for children. We were able to contribute 11 shoeboxes filled with items for the boys and girls. Thank you for your generosity.



Thanksgiving Food Distribution

The members of Abiding Faith gathered food to be distributed to needy families in our area during the month of November. Our congregation though small, is very generous. We were able to fill and distribute 11 boxes of food. The families who receive the donations are always very thankful.

Members also donated money for our Buy-the-Bird collection to help provide turkeys to needy families for Thanksgiving dinner.

Christmas Tree

During the month of December we also had a Christmas tree decorated with ornaments containing the wishes of a child in need. The members and friends of Abiding Faith purchased the needed items and wrapped them in festive ways so they could be distributed to the children for Christmas. What a blessing to put smiles on the faces of youngsters on the day of our Lord's birth.



Children's Christmas Service



What a beautiful service! What a joy! The children of Abiding Faith presented the story of the birth of our Savior Jesus on Sunday December 18th. We had Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus, Magi, lambs, angels and narrators and songs, lots of Christmas songs. Hearing the story told by the children is always a treat and shows us the faith of the children. Thank you to all the participants, and the leaders, it is a story that is new every year.

Game Night

Members of Abiding Faith and friends from Bethany Lutheran gathered together for fun and fellowship Friday evening October 21, 2016. After a delicious dinner of pizza, burgers, side dishes and dessert, the games began.



The children were having a good time playing Twister and the adults were giving Wits and Wagers a go. There was a lot of healthy competition taking place in both games. It was a fun evening for all and a special thanks to those who grilled the burgers, those who brought goodies to share and all who attended.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church



Building with the Lord
Building for His Mission

Rev. Bill Gauger

The New Year is well under way – and how many of us who made resolutions to be a “new me”- either physically or spiritually - have kept up those resolutions? How often do we fail, despite our good intentions? Every day we have is a precious gift from God, and it our 24 hour period to do with it what we will. Will we make a choice to help others? To be kind even when we don’t feel like it? Take time to pray? Study

His Word? God does not expect us to be perfect, only faithful. As Christians, we take action because we know that we are loved children of God, and each day we start anew. At Good Shepherd, we are able to look back on a year of blessings, and we look forward to a 2017 with more opportunities to serve our Lord and share His good news with others.

Sunday School - Christmas program

The Sunday School Christmas program was held on Sunday, December 18th. The program was based on the much-loved hymn “God Loves Me Dearly.” The children shared God’s love for us through readings and songs. The program was built around the familiar account of the Christmas story found in The Book of Luke. The children spent a lot of time preparing and practicing, and the program was a joyous success in proclaiming that “God loves me dearly, loves even me.”



859-746-9066
9066 Gunpowder Road
Florence, KY 41042

Correspondent: Patricia Block-Gage

Federation Representatives
Regina Bremer



www.goodshepherdlutheranky.org



Good Shepherd has sixteen students who are working with adult volunteers who are caring, sharing, and trusting role models in their lives. We work on reading, homework, and teach our Christian values in a fun and cooperative learning environment. In October, Andy Gawura showed his talent and skills with woodworking. The Whiz Kids watched him turn a block of wood into a snowman. Then the next week Andy presented each student with a wooden Christmas tree ornament to decorate and take home. Another talented member, Linda Kuhn, did crafts with the Whiz Kids for Halloween. December was a busy month for Whiz Kids. Beth Gully, the author of the book The Other Side of Christmas met with the Whiz Kids on December 14, 2016. The book is a flip book with Christmas shown for both its secular version and the Christ story. The book was given as a gift to each of the Whiz Kids for Christmas. Karen Hilvert directed the Christmas play which was performed on December 21, 2016.



Adopt-A-Family Christmas Giving Tree

Through the generosity of members of Good Shepherd, gifts were provided for 10 children who attend Yealey Elementary School and 2 children who attend Ockerman Elementary. These gifts brightened the holidays for the children and let them know that they are loved and remembered on this most special holiday. The gifts were presented to the Family Resource Coordinator at Yealey Elementary.

Northern Kentucky Chapter of Lutherans for Life

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod's President's Commission of the Sanctity of Life has proclaimed in an article "That They May Have Life" that "Human life is not an achievement. It is an endowment. It has measureless value, because every individual, at every stage of development and every state of consciousness, is known and loved by God. This is the source of human dignity and the basis for human equality. It must therefore be asserted without exception or qualification. No one is worthless whom God has created and for whom Christ died."

It is this belief, that no one is worthless, that motivated the efforts of the Northern Kentucky Chapter of Lutherans for Life throughout 2016. In January, we celebrated Sanctity of Life Sunday. We had a "Diaper Drive" collection to support the New Hope Pregnancy Center in Crestview Hills. In June, our Chapter was again a Rose Sponsor for the Cross the Bridge For Life event with our name on the back of the official t-shirt. This event has been drawing a large number of people from all denominations who believe that LIFE is a gift from God. Also, our Chapter has been very active in Outreach for other Lutheran churches in the Greater Cincinnati area to attend this wonderful event. Over the summer, our beautiful banner was put in place at the end of Good Shepherd's driveway near Gunpowder Road that demonstrates to the people driving by that Good Shepherd respects all stages of human life, from conception to natural death. In September, our Chapter was again invited to have a display table at the Northern Kentucky Right To Life Convention, which was held in Park Hills,

Kentucky. This convention was also very well attended, and each year people are amazed that Lutherans also care about life issues.

Our "Welcome to New Additions" Baskets were distributed year round to families in the congregation who had a new baby. Christmas cards were sent on behalf of our Chapter to local shut-ins letting them know that people care about them.

Caring for all LIFE is not just a once in a while thought, but an everyday event. Please keep our Chapter in your prayers. Please consider joining us. You are a child of God.





Rev. Andrew Norris
Pastor

Christ Lutheran Church

513-385-8342

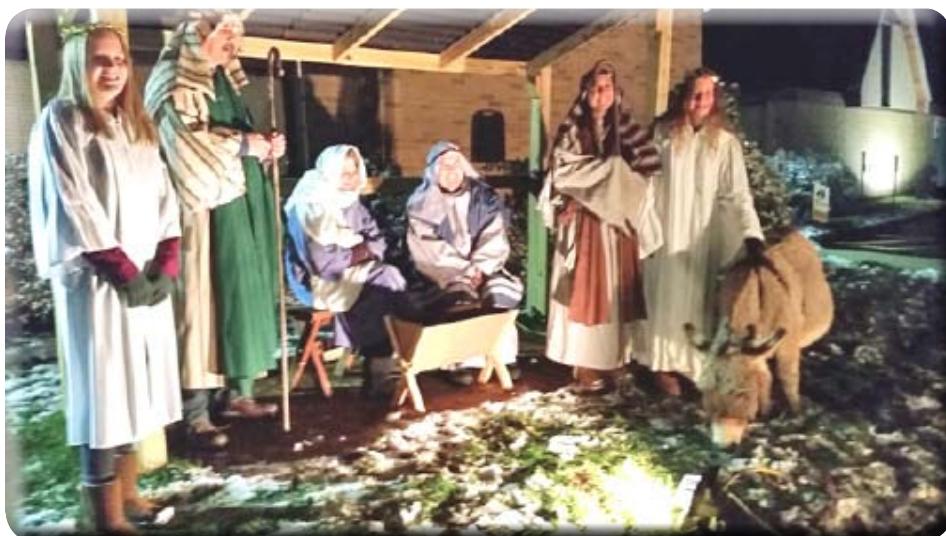
3301 Compton Road
Cincinnati, OH 45251
Correspondents: Gary Kelm

Federation Representatives
Gerald Hesse
Robin Hunt



www.christ-lcms.org

Christmas Activities



A Live Nativity was held Tuesday Night, December 13 for the neighborhood and in conjunction with the Little Bud Christmas Program. This event was started last year and was highly successful again this year with over 200 visitors.

Children's Christmas Program



The annual Children's Christmas Program was held in the CCC during the 11:00 am Service on December 18. It was followed by the Christmas Family Potluck and sing-a-long in the Fellowship Hall which included a visit by a heavyset man with a white beard dressed in red.



Christmas Eve Service

The Christmas Eve Service based on the Cambridge Service of Nine Lessons and Carols (surprise) was held at 5:00 pm this year which greatly facilitated family celebrations.

Nativity and Circumcision

The Nativity and Circumcision/Name Day of Jesus Services (also known as Christmas Day and New Year's Day) were both held at 10:00 am on December 25 and January 1.

Christmas Family Adoption – Prince of Peace

Prince of Peace Lutheran in Over the Rhine has begun a new program to help needy individuals called the Welcome Home Collaborative. In this program, homeless people are taught building skills as they work to renovate apartments in OTR. Once these apartments are ready, they are made available to other needy families on a subsidized program.

This year we provided Christmas gifts to all of the family members living in these apartments as well as food for Christmas dinner for these families .

Women's Guild

The Women's Guild Card Party and Game Night was held on Friday, November 4. A big thank you to all those who worked so hard to make the event a success, especially those who created the 48 fabulous baskets, the 29 talented crafters who donated items, and those who set-up, cooked and cleaned. The Guild was able to raise over \$4,100 and once again will be

able to donate \$1,000 to each of the four selected charities:

- † CLC Community Garden
- † S.O.N. Ministries
- † Prince of Peace Homeless Shelter
- † Northwest Local Schools "Friends of the Student Scholarship" providing food over the holidays for selected students.



Women's Guild Card Party
Friday, November 4

Little Bud Preschool

For Fall, we have painted with apples, ears of corn, leaf rubbings and turned ourselves into turkeys! October brought us the zoo, which is always special. The children got an up close and personal adventure with a screech owl and a spiny tailed lizard. They learned about animals that are nocturnal and diurnal.

On Saturday, October 29th many children from our church and the preschool families and friends came to the Fall Festival event here at church. Many games, face painting and treatng on the nature trail were enjoyed by all. Much fun was had by all!

November started with conferences for the teachers and parents. The teachers enjoyed talking with the families about their child's progress. The children have grown so much in just the short months they have been here.

December brought the annual Christmas program which coincided with the Live Nativity on December 13.

Clovernook Health Care Pavilion

Many thanks to the volunteers who assisted the residents at Clovernook Healthcare Pavilion on Wednesday, October 5, at 2:15 p.m. with Chaplain Ewell from The Federation of Lutheran Churches and Dale Renner playing the piano..



Servant Events and Outreach S.O.N. Ministries

During our Thanksgiving worship service, and on Sunday, November 27, the congregation brought food offerings to the altar for S.O.N. Ministries.

TOT GYM was open most Mondays and Thursdays in October and November and resumes on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons in January. This is a service provided to members and the community that permits toddlers to have some open indoor space to run and play during the fall and winter.

Christ Lutheran Church - continued

Bell Choir at Christmas Family Event



Winter-wear Collection for the Homeless

In addition to the specific gifts described above, we collect winter coats, hats, gloves, socks, and blankets for the homeless served at the Prince of Peace winter shelter.

Nate's Toy Box S.O.N. Ministries

S.O.N. ministries coordinates Christmas gifts for children in the families they serve via their food pantry. For this project provided gifts especially for middle school aged children or gift cards for high school aged students.

Hands Against Hunger



The Hands Against Hunger Meal packing event was held on November 12. Christ Lutheran Church members contributed \$4,395.91, and 24 volunteers worked to pack the high protein meals (over 119,000 of them) that are being shipped to Haiti.

Hands Against Hunger is the humanitarian relief arm of A Child's Hope International producing and distributing high protein food to children around the world. We are pleased to play a role in reaching 25 Million Meals packed and to be a part of the celebration!

Christmas Gifting Projects

Outreach Committee is organizing several different opportunities for members to share their Christmas blessings with others who are less fortunate.



Fellowship

CELT's

(Christians Enjoying Life Together)

The CELTs decorated and de-decorated the church in December and after the Epiphany Service in January. Both events were followed by dinner and libations as usual.

Senior Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch was back in Colerain Township at Snow's Lakeside Tavern in October and Pebble Creek Restaurant in November, and then enjoyed the Moerlein Lager House in December.

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20328 R6-16



Rev. Greg Enterline

Grace Lutheran Church

513-661-5166

3628 Boudinot Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45211

Correspondent: Sherry Smith

Federation Representatives
Linda Schusterwww.gracemin.org

Children's Christmas Play

The children of Grace and neighborhood children performed for the congregation on Dec. 18th. Special music by the Praise Team and choirs made for a memorable morning. Brunch was served following the service.



Ladies' Noel Dinner

The Ladies' Noel Dinner was a special way to celebrate the season with family and friends. A delicious meal, served

by the men of Grace, was followed by entertainment by the Taylor High School choir. Wonderful door prizes were awarded to many lucky women!



Basketball at Grace

Grace now has a basketball team! The team will play Immanuel in Hamilton, Prince of Peace and Immanuel, Avondale. First game was Jan. 21st at Grace. Be on the look-out for upcoming games.

Super Saturday

Once a month Grace will be having a mini VBS for children age 4-grade 5. The first day for this event will be Feb. 11th. Go to www.gracemin.org for all details.

Blankets for Prince of Peace Cold Shelter

Members of Grace sewed or tied fleece blankets to be donated to the Cold Shelter. This Action Team Project was subsidized by a Thrivent Grant.

Hispanic Thanksgiving at Grace

For the fifth year, Grace hosted a Thanksgiving for Hispanic families in the Price Hill area. Turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, corn and pumpkin pie were served. It was truly a beautiful evening.



Tiny Tot Tuesday

On the first and third Tuesday of each month, Grace welcomes children 5 and under to come play, dance, sing and listen to stories with their parent or caregiver. Time is 9:30-11:30 am. All are welcome to come to this free program.


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291660 N4-10

God is love

1 John 4:8



As we commemorate Valentines Day and think about loved ones and the blessings in life that bring us love and joy we can think of our local Lutheran community. Our Ohio District congregations, schools and service organizations work to spread the love of Jesus all year long.

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TERM	RATE	APY	MINIMUM DEPOSIT
3-5 months	.35%	.35%	\$100
6-11 months	.50%	.50%	\$100
12-23 months	.75%	.75%	\$100
24-59 months	1.00%	1.00%	\$100
60 months	1.50%	1.51%	\$100

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TERM	RATE	APY	MINIMUM DEPOSIT
1st 6-months	.75%	1.31%	\$100
2nd 6-months	1.00%	(AVG	
3rd 6-months	1.50%	for 24	
4th 6-months	2.00%	months)	

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Chaplency

"We need an exorcism!"

One of the favorite stories at the hospital was the night I was called to the 7th floor. The charge nurse who paged me cried out on the phone, "We need an exorcism!" For those of you who have heard this story, please bare with me. As I walked into the elevator, my mind was racing and if anyone needed prayer, it was me. I arrived on the 7th floor to find a large group of nurses holding the door so that a patient couldn't escape. Now I should mention that this was not a psychiatric unit but just a plain medical floor. As I approached, they again proclaimed, "We need you for an exorcism!"

I arrived at the door, someone was in that room, yelling, screaming, and trying to get out of the door. It was a woman's voice. The staff wanted me to go in and "fix" the situation.

**(Let's pause here).
I actually agreed to go into
the room.**

Back to our story. As I entered the room, I thought if this lady is crawling on the ceiling, "I am out of here." I

found a woman jumping up and down on her bed screaming. I called her by her name. She looked at me in a disgusting way and said, "Get out of here priest!" I said, "I am not a priest I am Lutheran." As if I shot with a bottle of Holy Water, she stopped jumping and quietly sat down on the bed and said, "What's a Lutheran?"

Yep, I have heard that question all my life. Here we are in the year of celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation and still having a hard time answering that question. Luther would probably weep if he saw the division within the church. Even within Lutheranism we have a great deal of division and differencing opinions. One can see the hermeneutical (ways of interpreting Scripture) difference of the ELCA, LCMS, and WELS.

So my task this year is to explore and explain Lutheranism. It is a task that I do day in and day out at the hospital. It is a task that I have had to do my whole life. There are days that I am an expert and days that I am a novice. However, I will share this journey with you.

Christification

Systematic Theology defines this word as, "Christification is the ontological union of God and man, initiated through the incarnation, which the Christian partakes in through faith. Through this union, that which belongs properly to Christ, namely divine incorruptibility and immortality, is transferred to the believer by faith. This union is increased and strengthened as one participates in the sacramental life of the church, and it is demonstrated through growth in personal holiness."

Thanks old boring systematic text book for that definition. Let's hear then from Chaplain Ron: "Christification is my journey to be more like Christ. Christ took our form in the Incarnation and conquered sin, death, and the devil. Because of this victory, God looks not on our Righteousness but on Christ's. Therefore, through Word and Sacrament ministry, I am strengthening to be more like Christ than the world." Of course this is a struggle for us as we are both sinner and saint. My plead to God is to be more Christ like. I can not do it by myself.

As Ephesians 2 reminds us, ***And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body[a] and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because***

of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Christification is a beginning point where we start being Lutheran. Next edition of the Cincinnati Lutheran I will continue this journey.

I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not recant anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. May God help me. Amen.

Martin Luther



Chaplain Ron Ewell

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The Cincinnati Lutheran

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Rev. Everett Greene

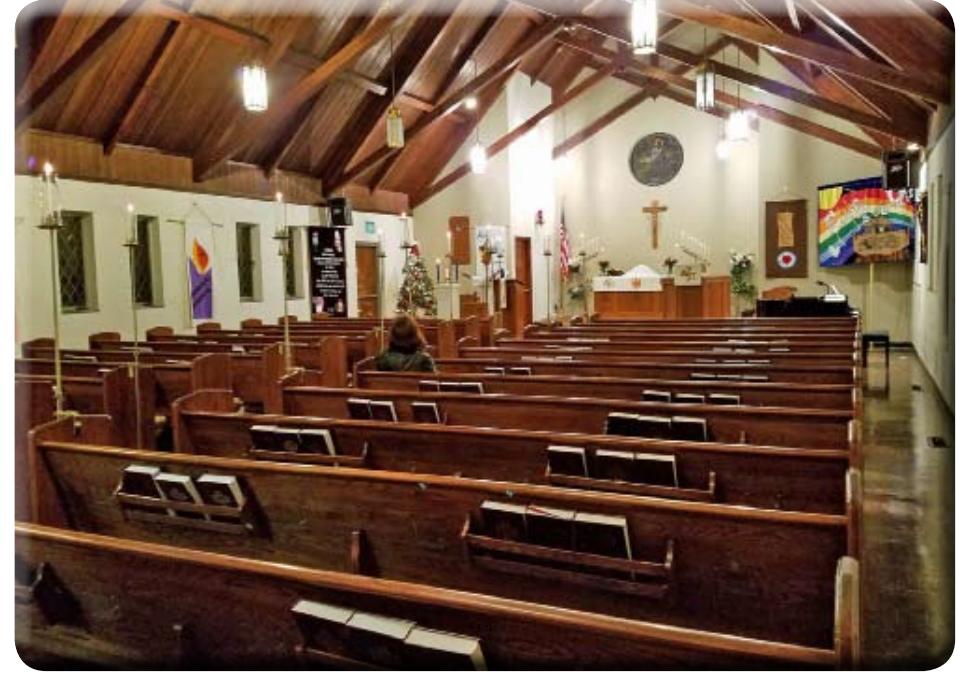
Immanuel Lutheran Church

513-961-3407

Rockdale & Washington Ave.

Cincinnati, OH 45229

Correspondent: Pastor Greene

www.Immanuelcincinnati.org

How silently the wondrous gift is given (Daily Devotional, 2016), Our Lord and Savior gave his only begotten son and whosoever believeth in him will have everlasting life! Hallelujah, He has risen indeed!

This is the season where Immanuel Lutheran Church's parishioners give thanks and celebrate all that has been given to us and our families this Christmas season. Our beloved pastor, Everett Greene has again delivered the messages we so longed to hear and need, to carry out the word. With Christmas Eve and Christmas on Saturday and Sunday, The Season of Advent was celebrated with the decoration of the church in the customary color of Blue. Did you know the color blue, which is associated with Advent suggests hope? This association originated in Scandinavia, it is reported "possibly because purple dye was too expensive for churches to use at that time, even though some assemblies use purple in Advent.

Parishioners guided by Marlene Moeller decorated the church with beautiful poinsettias and Arlene Brown and the Carrie Twyman's Kid church kids decorated the Christmas tree, candleabras were added to each pew adding to the beauty, celebrating the season of the church. The Marion Bowles



Liturgical Dance Team added to both worship services. On Christmas Eve, the dancers performed a moving interpretation to Silent Night, with the second performance by Mrs. Francene Bryant-Cunningham performing

her beautiful rendition to Ava Maria. The evening closed with a candlelight ceremony, each member was able to state, they were filled with the Holy Spirit.

Christmas Day was filled with members, friends and visitors, the atmosphere was alive with praise and thanksgiving, again The Marion Bowles performed the inspirational interpretive dance "Go tell it on the Mountain" and Pastor Greene delivered an inspirational timely sermon to apply to our modern day.



The Marion Bowles Liturgical Dancers of Immanuel Lutheran Church: (left to right) Beverly Williams, Francene Bryant Cunningham, and Arlene Brown.

The services culminated with coffee hour in the undercroft of the church where the celebration and fellowship continued. We thank Mrs. Jill Byrd for providing the refreshments. Lastly, the bricks have been ordered! And we are excited for their arrival; Once the weather gets warmer we will place them at the entrance to the church and look for a formal installation service.

In His Service,



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Rev. Allen Stuckwisch
PastorHailey Robertson
DCE

Messiah Lutheran Church

10416 Bossi Lane
Cincinnati, OH 45218

513-825-4768

Correspondent: Cheri Herron

Federation Representatives
Pastor Stuckwisch
Cecil Rahe


www.messiahgrh.org

Children's Christmas Service

December 14

The children presented the Christmas story during the Advent Service on December 14th. Prior to the service a spaghetti dinner was served to around 120 guests and then a cookie and punch reception was held after the service for all. Everyone received a Christmas goodie bag from our Outreach Ministry.



Thanksgiving Eve Service And Coffee



Practicing With The Bells For The Christmas Program-

Children's Message on Christmas Eve

Our DCE Hailey Robertson talked with the children about the people who gathered at the manger to see Jesus. Then all gathered around the manger scene to see Jesus because we were also there with the angels and shepherds to see the newborn King.



Progressive Christmas Party

Our annual Christmas Progressive dinner was attended by 45 people. Many wonderful appetizers were shared at the

Green's home and then we moved on to the Woracheck's home for delicious desserts and singing carols.



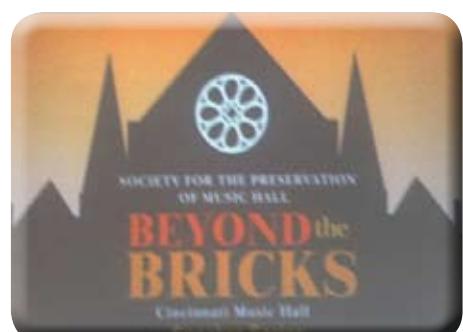
Messiah Lutheran Church - continued

OWLS

During our December gathering, we shared a delicious pot-luck lunch and were entertained by the Dixieland Band.



During the month of November the OWLS heard a presentation on Music Hall and the renovations being done on it.



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Outreach Ministry Event

We had an **Evening With President Lincoln** on January 13th. Mr. Stan Wernz, who will impersonate Lincoln, was presented with "The Best Lincoln of 2005". Mr. Wernz has appeared in two documentaries.

The first, entitled **Lincoln and Lee At Antietam: The Cost Of Freedom**, was awarded "The Best Documentary of



2006"(Houston Film Festival). The second was produced by The Smithsonian Institute and titled **The Fighting Irish**. This will be special evening for all ages followed by a dessert reception.

Lent and Holy Week Services

Join us for Lent and Holy Week Services
Before we know it, the season of Lent will begin.

Messiah's schedule for special services and dinners is:

March 1 – Ash Wednesday
5:30 pm Dinner in Fellowship Hall
7:00 pm Worship Service in Sanctuary

March 8
5:30 pm Dinner in Fellowship Hall
7:00 pm Worship Service in Sanctuary

March 15
5:30 pm Dinner in Fellowship Hall
7:00 pm Worship Service in Sanctuary

March 22
5:30 pm Dinner in Fellowship Hall
7:00 pm Worship Service in Sanctuary

March 29
5:30 pm Dinner in Fellowship Hall
7:00 pm Worship Service in Sanctuary

April 5
5:30 pm Dinner in Fellowship Hall
7:00 pm Worship Service in Sanctuary

April 13 – Maundy Thursday
7:00 pm Worship Service

April 14 - Good Friday
7:00 pm Worship Service

April 15 – Easter Vigil
5:30 pm Worship Service

April 16 – Feast of the Resurrection –
Easter Day
8:30 am Worship Service
9:00 – 10:30 am
Youth sponsored Easter Breakfast
10:45 am Worship Service



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28507A N8-15



Rev. John Mueller
Pastor

King of Kings Lutheran Church

513-398-6089

3621 Socialville- Foster Road

Mason , OH 45040

Correspondent: Tonya Mitchell



King of Kings 30 years of Advent Musicals

In 1986, King of Kings was a tiny place. The building consisted of the chapel, two offices, two restrooms, a utility room, a mechanical room, and a small narthex. Mark Press was our pastor. And for the first time, we decided to honor the coming Infant King with a worship service filled with music. Sunday, December 18 marked the 30th anniversary of our first celebration and we chose the

musical Agnus Dei: Lamb of God, Born for Us, featuring the music of Christian artist Michael W. Smith. 26 people, including choir members, sound technicians and narrators, worked together to offer this musical praise to our coming King. It was so much fun and a great morning of worship and praise.



King Of Kings Owls Christmas Luncheon

What better way to end the year for the King of Kings OWLS than to come together over good food and anticipate the "Annual White Elephant Gift Exchange". O'Charleys in Mason was a hubbub of conversation and curiosity over what precious treasure we

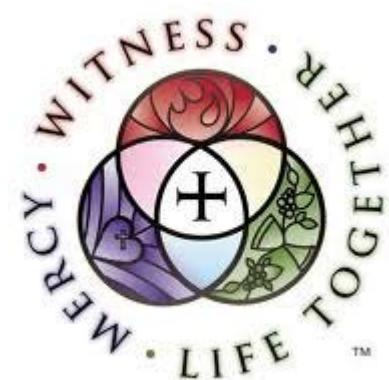
would take home. Or would our treasure make an appearance again in December of 2017!

We are thankful for God's blessing of sharing friendship in 2016. How wonderful to have such joy in one another.



The Mighty Messengers' Big Adventure

On Sunday, December 11 at the 11:00 service, 22 Sunday School students grades Pre-School through 8 worshipped the coming King with their presentation of The Mighty Messengers' Big Adventure – the story of Jesus' birth told from the perspective of angels Gabriel and Mikey, along with the heavenly host. They worked very hard and did a great job of singing and acting out the Christmas story.



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Rev. Larry Rodencal
Pastor

Peace Lutheran Women

Peace Lutheran Women held their annual Christmas Gathering on 3 December. A Christmas brunch, held in our Fellowship



Hall and assisted by Thrivent, brought together a large number of Peace ladies for a good time and a good cause. Many donated gifts were later taken to Ronald McDonald House for "Ronald's Workshop", a place where the families of ill children can secretly 'shop'. Pat Laaker, Karen Ringshauser, and Sandie Rodencal organized and hosted this festive event.



Defibrillator

Following the business agenda at the December Voters' meeting, Scott Somers gave a mini training session on the use of our defibrillator. Scott, an EMT with the Delhi Fire Department, and Bob Miller,



a DFD volunteer, through explanation and demonstration, gave a great 'how-to' to a very appreciative group of Peace members.



Annual Christmas Progressive Dinner

Peace's annual Christmas Progressive Dinner was attended by more than thirty members and friends. Tasty appetizers were enjoyed at the home of Scott and Shane Somers. A delicious candlelight dinner was served at church by Chuck and

Linda Ausman, and Garry and Pat Laaker. Brad and Emily Underwood opened their home for yummy desserts and the gift exchange. People at Peace enjoy food and fellowship!



The Children's Christmas program, "Come Around and See", was given at the Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve. The

Sunday School teachers and Sean and Amanda Kaufenburg prepared the children for this special presentation.



Peace "People in the News"

Wanda Rosenzweig and Eric Schuk, who celebrated octogenarian birthdays in December.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church



Rev. John Suguitan
Pastor



Kelly Jacob
Deaconess Intern

513-621-7265

P. O. Box 156

(1528 Race Street.)

Cincinnati, OH 45202

Correspondent: Katrina Lackey

Federation Representatives
David Kelpe



Kids Church Christmas Party "The Not So Silent Night"



Saegerfest

Building Hope In the City Servant Event at Findlay Park Playground.



Prince of Peace Choir at Saegerfest and Building Hope in the City Servant Event.



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

First, we'd like to welcome new members Curt & Sue Thiessen, to Prince of Peace. We accepted them as members on Sunday, Jan. 8, 2017. They transferred to us from St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Columbus, Indiana. It is such a blessing to have you join us Curt & Susan!

Whew! It has been a most blessed and tumultuous last few months here at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. Our street; the 15th block of Race Street, here in Over-the-Rhine continues to be in full-bore construction, as the entire block seems to be undergoing major change. The vacant lots across the street from our church are now occupied with new condos and retail stores. They are still vacant as they are not quite ready for occupancy as of yet. The empty lot, where our urban garden used to be now supports an impressive, four (4) story, multi-family structure. It is hard to believe that this is still Over-the-Rhine.

Over-the-Rhine is a strange mix of homeless & poor living side-by-side with affluent (mid & upper class) newly arriving residents. Now, you sprinkle in construction workers of all trades, and employees that are now working in the new retail and offices, and it makes up a very eclectic population. It is a strange mix of different cultures and economic classes. I pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us as we continue to serve the people that we've been serving for so many years; the homeless and poor, and at the same time, guide us to find ways to connect with the newly arriving residents of Over-the-Rhine.

It was such a blessing and pleasure to host the Reformation Service last October at Prince of Peace. It was good to be able to gather together as one body of Christ from so many different LCMS churches. And finally, it was great to hear Rev. Tony Cook preach again.

It was wonderful to be able to worship in our remodeled sanctuary during the Advent and Christmas seasons. It was a blessing to be able to worship in this beautiful space. We are now approaching our first year anniversary of being in the newly remodeled sanctuary (February 2017). Thanks to Dan Burns and Dave Kelpe for their leadership on the sanctuary project. And, I would also like to give special thanks and recognition to the courageous and supportive Church Council and Leadership at Prince of Peace for making this effort happen; Dave Kelpe, Sandy Crowell, Matt Suguitan, Dan Burns, Jerry Froehlich, Katrina Lackey, and Martha Okamoto. Also thanks to Ted & Sue Sippel, Dan Davis, Marsha Kelpe, Lisa Burns, Janelle Kelpe, Seth Harris, Laura Goodell, Todd Peck, Ben Peck, Andrew Peck, Rebecca Okamoto, Larry Grubbs, Curtis Jones, Tim Hawkins, Alex Allmon, Jeremy Kraft, Denny Odell, John and Vicki Mosley, Barb Suguitan, and Joshua Suguitan.

Prince of Peace participated in the Annual Saengerfest Concert Series this year. This is an Advent tradition in Cincinnati that goes back to 1849; where thousands of people from all over the United States would come to Cincinnati to listen to almost two thousand singers across 60 choirs. In 2016, we participated in the Saengerfest for the first time since we restored our sanctuary. And it was an incredible blessing! We were one of six (6) Saengerfest locations this year. We hosted over 1,000 visitors that attended eight (8) concerts we hosted over the Saengerfest weekend. Special Thanks Dave Kelpe for installing our new, vent-free heating units prior to the concerts.

Wednesday Dinners

If you would like to provide a meal for one of the Wednesday's in the coming year, please go to our website and email the selected date.
<http://poplcmscinci.org/wed-devotion-meal.htm>

Needs

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|-------------------|--------------------|
| Blankets | Bleach |
| Coats | Hand sanitizer |
| Gloves | Paper Towels |
| Hats | Pine Sol |
| Hoodies | Shopping Bags |
| Hygiene Kits | Spray Disinfectant |
| Socks | Vinegar |
| Cleaning supplies | |



Prince of Peace Lutheran Church - continued

New Members



Curt and Susan Thiessen became new members Sunday, January 8, 2017

Our tradition of Christmas gifting continued both on Wednesday evenings and for Kid's Church on Sundays. Thank you so much to King of Kings and St. Mark's (especially to Andy and Kathy Boedecker) for providing the Christmas gifts for Wednesday nights. And thank you to Zion Lutheran Church (especially Bob and Anita Kaston), for providing the Christmas gifts for Kid's Church.

Many thanks to Katrina Lackey for heading up the Wednesday night program at Prince of Peace. She does such a great job handling this wonderful ministry to the community. We've been providing this meal for over 30 years! The Holiday meals for both Thanksgiving and Christmas were well attended and a good time had by all the guests! In addition, we are looking for help providing meals at our 6pm Wednesday evening Devotion and Meal. Anyone interested in providing a meal, please contact Katrina Lackey.

And thanks to Sandy Crowell for heading our Kid's Church program. Sandy Crowell, our wonderfully talented Kid's Church director did her typically fantastic job of putting together this year's program "The Not So Silent Night." It was great to have this program performed upstairs in the sanctuary. We are always looking for more help with Kid's Church on Sunday mornings at 11:00am. Anyone interested in helping please contact Sandy Crowell.

Our Thursday afternoon tutoring program continues and is stronger than ever. Thanks to Lisa Burns for heading up this program. Her enthusiasm and ability to reflect Christ's love for the kids she tutors is an inspiration. The program is now being held at St. Francis Serif grade school every Thursday from 4:30pm to 5:30pm. We are in need of more tutors. Anyone interested, please contact Lisa Burns at Prince of Peace.

As I write this letter, the Prince of Peace Winter Shelter is in its 5th week of operation. We will run until the end of February. For those of you who are not aware, Prince of Peace opens our doors to the homeless during the coldest season, and actually allows the homeless to sleep in our undercroft. We are always looking for more funding for the Winter Shelter as typically cost around \$8 per person per night to run the shelter. Further, because of the tragic event that occurred at Our Daily Bread, which is just down the street from us, and serves the same people we do, will force us to increase our security efforts and therefore increase the cost of running the cold shelter.

Thank you to everyone that participated in the Rheingest "Charitable Suds" event last December. It was a great success. Our charitable suds coordinator, Matt Sugitan promises to try and re-schedule another even this summer if possible. Stay tuned.

Deaconess Intern Kelly Jacob continues to bless us with her service at Prince of Peace. She is very busy with helping at The Bridge Ministry, Life Coach Manager, Wednesday night meals, helping Kid's Church and leading Bible Study. Kelly is also interning at the Freestore Foodbank as she is enrolled in a dual program at both Concordia St. Louis and St. Louis University Masters in Social Work.

Finally, I wanted to recognize the wonderful leadership and volunteer team that runs The Bridge Ministry at Prince of Peace. They continue to do a fantastic job of serving the homeless in Over-the-Rhine. Julie Mills is our coordinator and she is the heart of the ministry seeking to reflect Christ's love to all the homeless and poor that enter into our doors. At the time of this writing, Julie and her husband Ed, are in Australia visiting their daughter and family. Julie's daughter is a Deaconess and has been called to Australia to serve.

Blessings,
Pastor John

Prince of Peace Volunteer Opportunities

513-621-7265 [www.poplcmscinci.org](http://poplcmscinci.org)

Wed. Night Devotion & Meal

In need of churches / volunteers to provide meals on Wednesdays at 6pm. Anyone interested call Prince of Peace and ask for Katrina Lackey. You can also submit a request on our website: <http://poplcmscinci.org/wed-devotion-meal.html>

Kid's Church - Sundays 11am

In need of volunteers to assist with Kid's Church. It is very similar to VBS on a weekly basis with an Inner-city twist. We are in need of volunteers in three (3) ways; 1) work with kids prior to service at the craft tables, 2) sit with kids during service, and 3) help cook or even provide lunch for the kids after Kid's Church is over. Anyone interested, please contact Sandy Crowell at Prince of Peace.

Kid's Church Van Driver - Sundays 10am to 1pm

Looking for a volunteer(s) to drive our 15 passenger van to pick up kid's before Kid's Church and to return them back home after Kid's Church / lunch is over. Drivers can drive once a month, twice month, or every week, whatever fits your schedule.

Anyone interested, contact Pastor John at Prince of Peace.

Tutors needed - Thursdays 4:30pm to 5:30pm

In need of tutors, every Thursday from 4:30pm to 5:30pm. This is one-on-one tutoring program for grade school kids at St. Francis Serif grade school which is across the street from Prince of Peace in Over-the-Rhine. Please note that all volunteers working with kids will have a background screen done on them. Anyone interested in tutoring, please contact Lisa Burns at Prince of Peace.

Thanksgiving and Christmas Dinners



Visiting With Pastor Dave and Sabra Horn.

They are a couple that travel around the country spreading God's word. They taught Kids Church that day.



Kids Church Gifting and Lunch





Rev. Timothy Beck
Pastor



Deaconess Sara Smith

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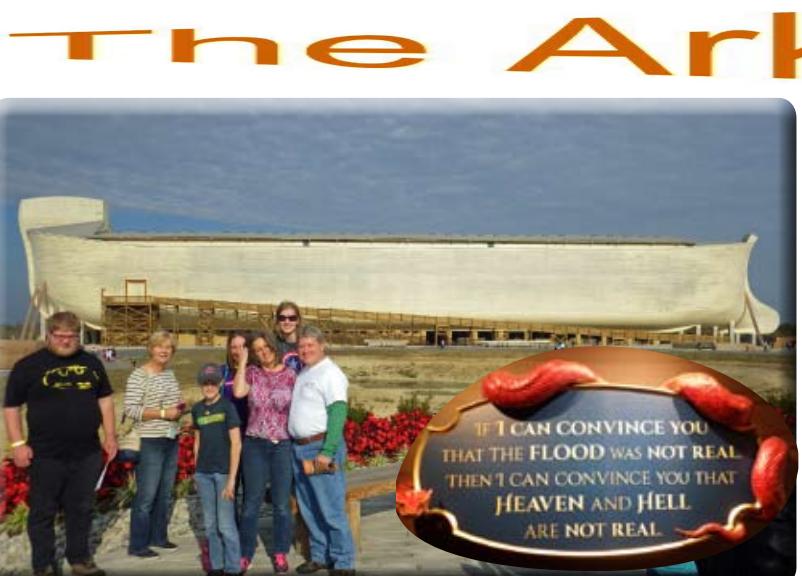
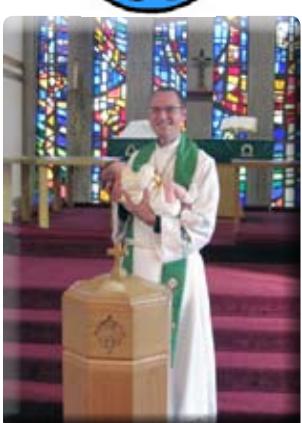
Holy Baptism of Ethan Paul Walter



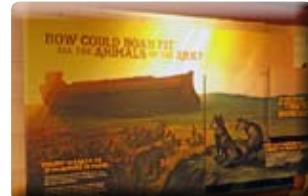
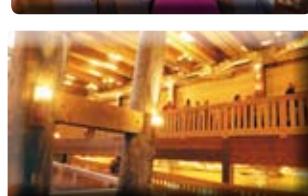
Pastor Mark Huff; Tony, Julie, Ethan Paul and Andrew Walter; and Pastor Tim Beck.(row two) Denise and Gary Brown - Sponsors



We have updated our Narthex, parlor, nursery and upstairs hallway! We had to excuse a lot of dust in these areas but in the progress we now have a more beautiful and inviting church for our visitors and prospective members! We have already repaired the mortar around the windows, replaced the windows, painted, and now have new carpet in all of these areas. In addition we have installed brighter Narthex lighting and the new coffee counter!



In October a group from St Paul visited the Ark. As you can see the Ark and its displays are very impressive.



Fall Rummage Sale

The fall Rummage Sale was held October 7th and 8th and as always was very successful. The Rummage Sale proceeds allow St Paul Women's Ministries to support many mission activities. One such mission outreach is their support of Seminarian Miguel Barcelos who is currently attending seminary at Ft Wayne. Miguel is a native of Portugal.



Seminarian Miguel Barcelos

St Paul Lutheran Church - continued

Bazaar and Turkey Dinner

Our annual Holiday Bazaar and Turkey Dinner was held Saturday, November 12, 2016. It was as always, great fellowship and a great fundraiser for St Paul Women's Ministries. All of the proceeds from the Holiday Bazaar and Turkey Dinner go to funding Seminarians, Missionaries and mission activities.

**Holly Follies**

St Paul's annual Holly Follies was held in December. Each year members have the opportunity to show off their musical and acting skills. As always this year's Holly Follies provided a very entertaining evening of fellowship, music and great food.

**Epiphany Open House**

Pastor Tim and Kris Beck welcomed the St Paul Congregation to an Epiphany Open House in January.



Trinity Lutheran Church & St Paul Lutheran

859-564-3566
621 Parker Road
Maysville, KY 41056
Correspondent: Karin Thiel



www.trinitylutheranmaysville.org.

Kevin L. Leidich
Pastor

Nativity Festival



This year marked the 13th year of the Nativity Festival, hosted by Trinity, Maysville and St. Paul, Chatham. The Festival is a display of nativities that is free and open to the public during the second weekend in December. Featured this year was the theme of Nativities from around the world, and a beautiful Lennox set from a family in the Maysville community. There were over 200 sets, of all different sizes, styles and genres. It is always amazing to see how a nativity can have so many beautiful ways in which it can be made and arranged. One was so small it required a magnifying glass; another was a life size nativity which was a restored historical set that was on display in the center of Maysville for many decades.



Other sets included interesting stories about the people who made them or how they were acquired. Children enjoyed the "seek and find" contest and received an Arch book about the birth of Christ and a Nativity craft. We received a lot of positive feedback from the people who attended. Many marveled over the variety of the sets and mentioned that it was a very touching way to keep Christ in Christmas. This event would not be possible without all the work of the many dedicated volunteers from Trinity and St. Paul; we are grateful for all who donated their time to sharing Christ with the community this Christmas.



Youth

In November the youth from both churches gathered to make hand-made Christmas cards which will be given with each Christmas ham. Also included is an invitation to the services of both congregations. We then went to the local grocery store and purchased about 14 hams for each church to distribute to families in need throughout the Christmas season. The hams were funded by the people of St. Paul, and from Thrivent project money from a member of Trinity. An anonymous donor also provided the funds for additional hams later in the

season. The hams are then distributed by the members of the church to people in the community, most of which are not members of our church. Hams have been distributed in three counties: Fleming, Mason, and Braken. We have been doing this mercy project for several years now and it has fed many people and brought the love of Jesus to the people of our area. Many of the members who have distributed the hams also have benefitted from the experience, having many heartwarming stories that encouraged their faith as well.



606-756-2353
180 Augusta-Chatham Road
Augusta, KY 41002

www.trinitylutheranmaysville.org.

Trinity Children's Christmas Program

On the Sunday of the Nativity Festival, the Sunday School of Trinity Lutheran had their Children's Christmas Program during the worship service. Many thanks to the children who practiced the program many times, and for all the parents and grandparents who brought them to the



St Paul

Children's Christmas Program

On Christmas Eve, St. Paul held its annual Children's Christmas program. The Children portrayed the events of the Nativity, scripture was read and special music was performed by members of the congregation. The children played three

songs on the handbells and sang Christmas carols. Many thanks to the children who attended the practices and the parents and grandparents who brought them. We thank you for sharing the Christmas message.



Wellness Group

Late in October, the wellness group of Trinity began a walking program. It followed the guidelines from the American Heart Association. The program was advertised in the paper and open to the public as well as members of the church. There were nine adult and nine children participants. Each person received a high quality pedometer that could be worn around the neck or in a

pocket. The purchase of the pedometers was with Thrivent project money. The group kept track of their steps for six weeks and there was a prize for the person with the most steps in each category. The group found it instructional to know what was an active day and what was a less active day, as they tried to meet their daily step goal.

2016-17 St Paul Trinity Confirmation Class



Women's Guild

The women's guild of Trinity have been busy all winter long making quilts and blankets. The material for the quilts was donated from various members and the community. The fleece blankets were purchased using Thrivent project money. The quilts are pieced and sewn; the fleece blankets are cut and ties. This allows us to have help from those who are able to sew and those who do not. The many quilts and blankets were then donated to "build-a-bed", an organization that provides beds and bedding to families that can not afford them. Thanks to the many hands that make the project possible.

//////



Christmas tree trimming

St. Paul's annual Christmas tree trimming event takes place shortly before Christmas. Though historically this has always been a tree that reaches the ceiling, this year's was a behemoth, at about 18 feet high and 12 feet wide. I suppose one could consider it to be the Rockefeller Center tree of Bracken county. Many thanks to the members who worked (very hard) to get this tree into the church doors and set it up and decorated it. It was a beautiful tree, and many who attended Christmas services marveled at it.



Hayride

It was a beautiful October day when the families of St. Paul and Trinity went on a hayride. We would like to thank our hosts, Mark and Anna of St. Paul for the hayride and bonfire. After a cheerful ride in the countryside, we sang Christian campfire songs and had a devotion. This was followed by a bonfire with all the campfire food you would expect: hot dogs, s'mores,

chips, and home made treats. The pond was a source of much cheer for the youth as many were successful fishermen, catching many fish, (and humorously, some of them, the same fish several times!) It is always a wonderful time of fellowship and fun, and creates wonderful life-long memories for all.



Congregations

Baptisms

Janet, pictured center, was welcomed into the Lord's family through the waters of Holy Baptism on the Sunday before Christmas. We rejoice with the angels at God's great love for us.

The baptism of Christian, welcomed into the loving hands of Jesus through the water of baptism this year. All glory be to God for his saving grace and love.



Youth of Trinity and St. Paul



The youth of Trinity and St. Paul gathered for a day of potluck, BBQ, devotions, swimming and minigolf. What a wonderful fellowship together in the park on the Indian summer days we've had this year.

Christmas Caroling



Members of St. Paul went Christmas caroling around the Augusta/Chatham area this December. The carolers spread Christmas cheer to people in the local nursing home and in the homes of shut-ins. How good it is to praise the Lord and to spread his love to others through song.

A Great Group of Thrivent Volunteers





Rev. William Fenker

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

513-575-0292

5849 Buckwheat Road

Milford, OH 45150

Correspondent: Cissy Carmical

Federation Representatives
Mary Ann Mangold

www.stmarksMilford.org

St. Marks Members

Members helped to spread warm cheer with our brothers and sisters who worship at Prince of Peace LCMS in Over-the-Rhine by lovingly purchasing gifts for the needy. With the help of King of Kings LCMS in Mason, we were able to give 165 gifts to the Prince of Peace members who celebrated our Lord's birth with a joyful worship service, a hot meal, and a gift that we helped provide. A special thank you to Kathy Boedecker, for organizing the spreading of good cheer and delivering the gifts.



Women's Guild

St. Marks was decorated beautifully for the Christmas season, with the new Christmas decorations, and a new Christmas tree purchased with proceeds from the Christmas in July Event, a live auction that featured items for bidding including a gorgeous hand made quilt. In December, Women's Guild sponsored a Cookie Walk to support their missions, and was able to raise \$916.22!

This year, The Women's Guild welcomes new president Becky Galt, and their focus this year will be on community service and spiritual enrichment. Right now they are working on preparing blessing bags for the Prince of Peace. The blessing bags are for the homeless and are filled with personal hygiene products, and items to keep them warm. The Women's guild will also sponsor a blanket drive, and they will be busy preparing meals for the homeless.

Young at Heart

Group members visit the La Soup restaurant to hear a presentation and learn about their charity supporting the needy of greater Cincinnati with soup meals and breads.

Mens Bible Study

Pastor Fenker is teaching a winter bible study: classes entitled "The New Testament Letter of First John", a study of the letter filled with encouragement for us Christians today.



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Financial Column

Contact: Mark N. Wilkins
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Life insurance 101: What you need to know

Life insurance; everyone says it's important but it can be a difficult topic to talk about and even more difficult to understand. However, it is a critical topic to grasp because of its importance when building a financial strategy.

Life insurance is a cornerstone of a sound financial strategy. It can help provide for the people and organizations you care about. Choosing the right life insurance solution makes a difference in the future of your loved ones, and gives you a sense of reassurance knowing they'll be taken care of. Here's a quick primer from Thrivent Financial on some of the most common types of life insurance.

Types of Life Insurance

- Term Life Insurance – Temporary life insurance that offers simply a death benefit and is generally less expensive than permanent insurance. It's ideal for short-term life insurance needs, like when you are raising a family, paying off a mortgage, or starting a business.
- Whole Life Insurance – Permanent life insurance that gives you a guaranteed death benefit, guaranteed level premiums, and guaranteed cash value that increases each year. The guarantees are contingent on all premiums being paid and no loans or changes being made to the contract.
- Whole Life Insurance – Permanent life insurance with added flexibility. It lets you "dial-in" your premium to the level of whole life and term insurance desired. Offers lifetime protection through a blend of whole life insurance plus term insurance and paid-up additional coverage.
- Universal Life Insurance – Permanent life insurance that allows you to increase or decrease your death benefit and your premium is flexible; subject to any limitations in the contract. Accumulated value in a universal life contract earns interest at a current rate, with a minimum rate stated in the contract.
- Variable Universal Life Insurance – Permanent life insurance that gives you a flexible premium and the potential to build accumulated value. However, death benefits and other values may vary, because you direct how the cash is invested among the investment portfolios offered. Do remember that the investment performance has no guarantees and could lose money and remember to review the prospectus offerings of any investment decisions you make.

How Much Life Insurance Should You Have?

When purchasing life insurance, think about your goals for your overall financial strategy, your economic value to your loved ones, as well as your wishes for your survivors.

First you'll need to calculate your economic value. To calculate your economic value- the value of your future earnings over your lifetime- consider the following factors:

- Your current annual earnings.
- The amount your annual earnings may increase.



A Child's Hope Int'l-Hands Against Hunger Meal Packing



American Cancer Society Real Men Wear Pink VIP Tent



YMCA Family Pool Party



Habitat for Humanity build day in Price Hill



Ronald McDonald House Taste of Hope Meal Program



St. Jude Walk to end childhood cancer

Blessed. That's how we feel to work for a company that encourages and supports generosity and volunteerism. These are just some of the amazing organizations we've had the privilege to work with in 2016. Also, we are happy to report that the Tristate Group's Thrivent members completed 167 Action Teams this year which equates to \$41,750 and around 1,500 volunteers making a positive change. Thank you to all our our members, partners and friends for a great 2016 and we look forward to serving you in 2017!

 www.facebook.com/tristategroup.thrivent/

- How many years you plan to work until retirement.
- The rate of return you expect your invested assets to earn.

You can use these numbers as a starting point when you sit down with a financial professional to determine the level of coverage you might need. Another key factor is the consideration of how much of your future economic value you want to replace in the event of your death. This will depend on the financial goals you set for yourself and your survivors.

Life insurance is an essential part of any healthy financial program. It is essential that you choose what's right for you and your situation and that you plan accordingly with a licensed professional.

This article was prepared by Thrivent Financial for use by West Chester, OH representative Mark N. Wilkins. He has offices at 8050 Beckett Center Drive, STE 117 in West Chester, OH and can also be reached at 513-942-0200.

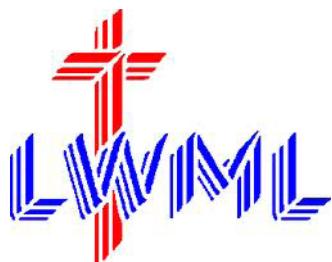
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"Jesus Loves the Little Children" Servant Event March 25

Children's items will be collected and packed at a servant event being organized for March 25 at Immanuel Lutheran, Cincinnati. Titled "Jesus Loves the Little Children," bags will be assembled for children to assist families in their area with physical and spiritual needs. Specific children's items fitting into age categories (1-5 years, 6-12 years, 13-18 years) will be collected at area churches in February and March to be brought to Immanuel Lutheran to be packed and distributed. This event will start at 9:30 a.m. with a continental breakfast to power up the volunteers. The Executive Board meeting will follow, which all are welcome to stay.

The area LCMS churches will be informed about the specific items to be collected before February/March, as well as the collection rotation for each church. All churches will have a chance to contribute, but such items as Bibles, small toiletries, undergarments, school supplies, powdered drinks (crystal lite etc), have been suggested.

It will be a busy morning, but worthwhile and fast-moving with many busy hands. All are invited to come and help at Immanuel Lutheran on 544 Rockdale Ave. Guests are always welcome.

Spring Rally

Sunday, April 30
St. Mark's Lutheran Church
2:00PM

Do You Know The Difference Between A Comfort Dog And A Service Dog?

By Anita Kasten, Vice-President

Come to the LWML Spring Rally on Sunday, April 30 2017 and find out! Who wouldn't be please to pet a soft, fuzzy, friendly, English Cream Golden Retriever K-9 dog, and look into eyes of love. You will be able to meet Rosie the Comfort Dog at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 5849 Buckwheat RD. Milford, Ohio. She and her handler will be there to inform and comfort us.

This mission was a highlight at the June 2016 Convention. Providing for such a mission is a huge undertaking for Atonement Lutheran Church in Columbus. Rosie was the first comfort dog in Ohio and is keep very busy traveling and reminding those people (especially children) in stressful situations that God has unconditional love, comfort, and compassion.

The Rally will start at 2 p.m., with the program first, followed by refreshments, then the business meeting with elections. Note this date is early, so mark your calendar now! Bring a friend!

MITES are the Backbone of the LWML

By Peggy Kelm

Mites define what LWML does. Mites are missions, gifting those projects with funding to succeed in sharing God's Love here in Cincinnati, in Ohio and the US, and around the world. It is hoped that all LCMS women turn in their saved Mites as soon as they fill a mini-box with coins from the prayers and blessings they have received. Often the boxes are placed near the laundry, dressing table, kitchen sink, and key caddy, i.e. somewhere to remind us that we have many blessings for which to thank our God. Turning Mites in is easy; bring in the box to church and get a new one, or use a sandwich baggie or write a check marked for Mites to place into the Sunday offering or large Mite box in your own church.

But that doesn't end the story. Mites add



up "like rabbits" when everyone contributes. The Ohio District Mites goal is \$92,500 with the ten grants approved at the 2016 Convention. Ohio District also sends 25% of our contributions onto the LWML National to fund their \$2,000,000 mission grant goal. With women across the nation saving Mites, it isn't a mystery that the blessings build the Mite totals higher and higher.

Need a new Mite box? Mite boxes and Mite envelopes needed by your church are available at each LWML event. Remember also that all Mites should be mailed into Ohio District by mid March to be counted towards this National biennium's goal. Judy Sonnenberg, newly elected Ohio District Financial Secretary tracks our progress. New remittance forms can be obtained at the LWML website (www.lwmlohio.org)

LWML Cincinnati Zone

Publicity Chairman: Peggy Kelm
(Christ Lutheran)
kelmpgr@fuse.net

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

"Empowering Women Through Faith"

Saturday, December 3

By Peggy Kelm



When Beverly Clayton introduced petite Beth Underhill, the audience didn't realize that they were facing a ferocious fighter. Beth is the owner of Bella Fitness on Red Bank Road, a women's fitness center, and she is a cancer survivor. Her moving presentation detailed how she fought her own demons before turning back to God for help and for hope. Looking back at her life, she feels it has been a learning curve to love herself with all her faults because God does.

This event was held at St. Mark's Lutheran in Milford on Saturday December 3 from 11:00 am to 1:15 pm. So lunch was planned, a potluck with the fried chicken and drinks provided. First however, everyone was treated to the "mocktail" of their choice: Cran Dandy Apple, Virgin Strawberry Daiquiri, Sour Lemon Drop, or a Red Apple Delight. An added treat for each woman was the hand crafted jeweled bracelet and bath scrub, as table favors. A drawing was held to give away the flowers and centerpieces. It was delightful to see so many women from the Ohio District Convention hosted in Cincinnati this past summer, and to enjoy being inspired by a fierce fighter and dedicated Christian.

LWML 75TH ANNIVERSARY

By Liz Underwood, Acting President

Did you know the 2017 LWML National Convention will be celebrating 75 years of service? The 37th Biennial Convention happens June 22-25, 2017 in Albuquerque, New Mexico! The theme for this auspicious event is "Jesus Christ Above All" based on the verse, Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name (Philippians 2:9). In celebration of this special anniversary, a special 75th Anniversary Diamond Dazzle event will highlight Saturday night and showcase our past and look toward our future. The Cincinnati Zone is currently seeking the two delegates to represent our zone. Let us embrace the convention goal: Empowered by the Holy Spirit, through Word and Sacrament, I will proclaim Jesus Christ above all.



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Rev. Allen Stuckwisch, Messiah Lutheran

Calendar

March 25, Saturday, 9:30 am

Servant Event "Jesus Loves the Little Children;"

Immanuel Lutheran Cincinnati;
continental breakfast;
Executive Board meeting
following servant event

April 30, Sunday, 2:00 pm

**Spring Rally,
"Comfort Dog Ministry,"**
St. Mark's Lutheran

June 22-25, Thur-Sun

**37th Biennial National Convention,
"Jesus Christ Above All,"**
Albuquerque, NM



Rev. Joel Morgan
Pastor



Rev. John Benham III
Executive Pastor

Royal Redeemer

513-779-4740

7127 Dutchland Parkway
Liberty Township, OH 45044

Correspondent: Lynne Joehnk

Federation Representatives
Lynne Joehnk



www.royalredeemer.org

Raskals

In October, our Ignite 5/6 and Confirmation classes spent the day raking leaves and cleaning up yards for senior citizens in our area.



Christmas Pageant

The children participating in the Christmas Pageant enjoyed a pizza party before the final rehearsal.



Vintage Royals Christmas Party

33 Royal Redeemer's Vintage Royals (over 50 group) celebrated Christmas with a party at Bob and Glenda Donnellon's house where they enjoyed good food, games and fellowship.



Woman of Excellence

On November 18th, 7 women were honored at the West Chester/Liberty Chamber Alliance's annual Women of Excellence Awards Dinner & Gala. One of these women was Jimmie Lee Cheek, a member of Royal Redeemer. Through their careers or volunteerism, these women have enhanced business, education, culture, philanthropy and provided outstanding service to the West Chester/Liberty Township region.

Christmas Caroling

Royal Redeemer members gathered in the church's café to enjoy hot chocolate and Christmas cookies prior to going caroling in the Dutchland Woods subdivision that is adjacent to the church. In addition to caroling they gave out invitations to attend our Christmas worship services.



Operation Christmas Child

Royal Redeemer filled 232 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. The kindergarten/preschool classes filled shoeboxes to be a part of that collection. The kindergarten children helped to fill the van so the shoeboxes could be taken to the collection center. God blessed us with a really nice day to transport the boxes.



Speaker

Dean Regas

host of the PBS series Stargazers

Saturday, March 4
from 7:00-8:00pm



Cincinnati astronomer and host of the PBS series Stargazers, Dean Regas will be speaking at Royal Redeemer Lutheran Church on Saturday, March 4, from 7-8pm. Tickets will be available through Eventbrite.

Eclipse Chasing: Heavenly Excuses to Travel

A total solar eclipse is the most spectacular natural event you can ever witness. The Moon glides slowly in front of the Sun and at just the right moment, in just the right place, the Moon completely covers the Sun. Dean Regas shares his adventures traveling around the world in search of solar eclipses, lunar eclipses, transits, and other astronomical events.

Neidermann Farm

For one of Royal Redeemer's Advent events, members of the congregation visited the Christmas display at the Neidermann Farm in Liberty Township. They walked through the lighted farm which displays

scenes from the Christmas Story. This was by hot chocolate and cookies in the barn. Royal Redeemer's Praise Team performed for those visiting the display that evening.





Rev. Jason Hoerth
Pastor



Chris Graves
DCE

Zion Lutheran Church

513-231-2253

1175 Birney Lane
Cincinnati, OH 45230

Federation Representatives
John Berndt

Correspondent: Donna Fenner



www.zionlc.org

Christmas Giving at Zion

"Operation Christmas Child" Pack Day for the Sunday School was an amazing event! With the abundant donations we were able to pack and ship 84 shoeboxes containing toys, school supplies, hygiene items, etc. That means 84 children will open a shoebox and receive God's message along with gifts.



This year 14 families (39 children and teens, and 23 adults) from Prince of Peace Church were helped with the "Giving Tree" gifts. Each family received a Holiday ham or turkey and other meal items, clothing, toys and a variety of gifts.



Choral Contata

On Sunday, Dec. 11th, in the 8:30 a.m. Worship Service, Zion's choir, directed by Harold Wiebe, presented the cantata "Shout the Good News", a Christmas Message in Scripture and Song, with words and music

by Lloyd Larson. Special thanks to Karen Vollbracht who so beautifully accompanied the choir on the keyboard and to Jack Hoerth and Jenny Wiebe for their excellent narration of the Cantata.

Family Christmas Program

On Dec. 18th in the 11 a.m. Praise Ablaze Service adults helped to present the Christmas story.

Families gathered together and created an animal or person to put in a manger scene while the Birth of Jesus was told. Teenagers read the scripture verses. The congregation sang Christmas hymns between each section and the children sang "Away In a Manger".



Zion members are collecting laundry supplies during the holidays. These items cannot be purchased with food stamps and are so desperately needed. Supplies will be distributed through the Clermont County Safety Net Alliance to families so they may have clean clothing for work and school.

Coats, hats and gloves were collected for the Freestore Foodbank's clothing assistance program.

Zion Women's Guild will hold a "Craft Day" on January 5th, where yards and yards of fleece will be turned into warm scarves and hats. These items will be taken to Prince of Peace where they can be distributed to people needing warm clothing this winter.

Many of the above events were made possible by using Thrivent Action Team Grants.



Zion Lutheran Church - continued

Hands Against Hunger

Thirty one members from Zion participated in the November 12th Hands Against Hunger packing and Zion members contributed \$1130 to the project. 119,592 meals were packed that day and sent to Haiti.



Adult Christmas Party

The party was held on Saturday, December 3rd. Chefs John Berndt and Jerry Grim prepared a wonderful dinner of Smokehouse Ham with delicious side dishes. Dessert was John's special bread pudding. This event is a fundraiser for Zion's senior high youth – they decorated the room, set up the tables, and helped with serving and cleanup to receive funds that help offset costs of youth trips.



Cookie Pack

Thanks to so many people from Zion who baked cookies for the annual "Cookie Pack". Five women from Zion took the cookies to Christ Church and helped pack the 1260 boxes for nursing home residents. We took cookies to the Salem Woods Nursing Home.

Congratulations Graduate

Jarod Berlier recently graduated from Mt. St. Joseph University, receiving a Bachelor's degree in Accounting. We heartily congratulate Jarod and wish him well as he returns to the Mount to obtain his Master's degree in Business Administration.



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7265 Kenwood Road
Suite 105
Cincinnati, OH 45236

Office: 513-713-7036
Cell: 513-873-5600

Youth Gathering

Seven high school youth and three adult counselors from Zion attended the Ohio District Sr. High Youth Gathering. The service project was spreading mulch and cleaning tables for a retirement home. Our group really "dug" the spreading mulch part.



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20328 R6-16



Rev. Richard Davenport

Trinity Lutheran Church

513-385-7024

Federation Representatives

5921 Springdale Road
Cincinnati, OH 45247

Correspondent: Louise Meyer


www.trinitylutherancincinnati.com

Annual Chili Cook-off



Jerry Schneider and Debbie with Annette and Conrad Schneider



Tim Stiles and sister Heather Miller in town visiting long time Trinity member Jane Stiles



Pastor Milton Berner enjoying the chili



Walter and Susan Roschke

Decorating the Church for Christmas



Keaton and Zach Hagins



December Coffee Hour



Tammy and Sheldon Smith visit with Trinity organist Laura Foley and Calvin and Annette Schneider.



Dawn Barrett and Pat Quinn



Hosts Rick and Leslie Schultz visiting with Dawn Barrett



Alan and Amy Viets

Members Signing Books For Tutoring Students And Cards For Shut-In's



Beverly Roschke



Trinity member Leslie Schultz gave a presentation at the Coffee hour on the "Santa Maria Community Services" program.

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St. Mark's Lutheran School

5849 Buckwheat Road,

Milford, OH 45150

513-575-0292

Correspondent: Tim Kollmorgen

www.stmarksMilford.org

Tim Kollmorgen, Principal

Mission Statement
Connecting Students
with Jesus while
Providing Excellence
in Education.

2016-2017 Theme:
"Joy"

2016 St Mark's Lutheran School 2017



St Mark's portrait of the student body wearing their JOY (our theme) t-shirts.

K-8 Christmas program



St. Mark's Lutheran School
A Christ-Centered, Academically Strong,
School of Excellence!

St. Mark's Lutheran School was founded to assist parents in bringing up their children in a Christian environment—but St. Mark's also provides many benefits that are not available at other schools.

Christ and His message of salvation is the heart and soul of everything that happens at St. Mark's. The love of Jesus is shared with each student every day through devotions, classroom instruction, and weekly chapel services.

We strive for excellence in all aspects of education. We are constantly upgrading technology and have achieved one device per student capability! Our text materials are reviewed and replaced on a rotating schedule to ensure that the most up-to-date information is taught and learned.

St. Mark's is an academically strong school that prepares students for high school and beyond. Each class tests significantly above expected grade level. Our 8th grade students consistently test in the post high school range!

Opportunities for extra-curricular participation exist in our theatrical productions and in our many after school clubs. Soon, we will add vocal and handbell choirs and interscholastic sports.

At St. Mark's Lutheran School, strong academics and excellent extra-curricular opportunities exist in a Christ-Centered environment...

***Everything your child needs ...
is right here!***

3rd and 4th Grade
Leading Chapel

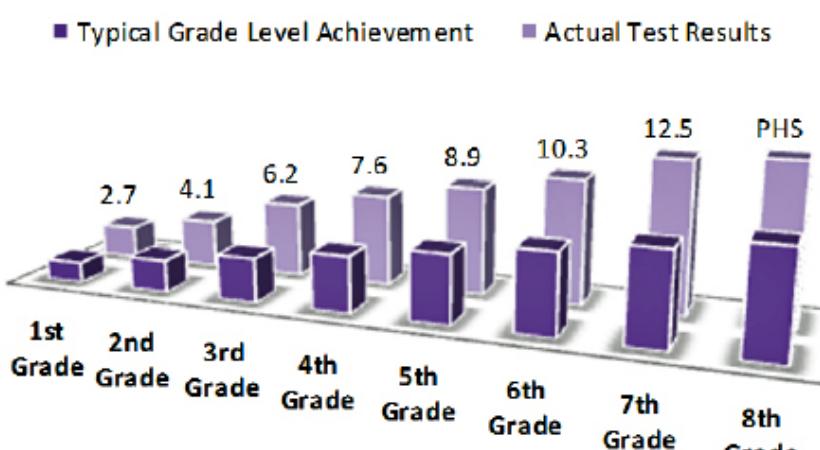


Come and Visit St. Mark's Lutheran School

If you are looking for a quality Christian Education – come look at us! We offer small class sizes, strong academics, and numerous extra-curricular activities. Call St. Mark's office at (513) 575-3354 to

schedule your personal tour of our school – mention that you read about us in the Cincinnati Lutheran and we will take 50% off of your enrollment fee!

St. Mark's 2008 - 2016 Average Standardized Test Scores



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20328 R6-16



Pastor
Rev. Edward Davis

Children's Christmas Worship Service

The entire student body of St. John Lutheran School participated in the annual Children's Christmas Worship Service on Sunday evening, December 18th. This year's service was entitled "Celebrate the

Gifts" and included many familiar Christmas carols as well as special music by several school singing groups and the handbell choir.



"Handbell students preparing to perform"



"St. John Alumni return to enjoy the children's Christmas worship service"

Children Sing During Christmas Season

On December 8th, the school choir, directed by Mrs. Crystal Powers, presented the Christmas story with several carols for St. John's Lutheran Women Missionary League (LWML). Then on December 18th, the school choir and Mrs. Crystal Powers, presented a very similar program for "Miracle on Main Street." This is a month long celebration presented by Main Street Aurora which promotes community involvement and promotion of the downtown business district.



Students in Grades 1 – 8 perform at "Miracle on Main Street" at the Lions Club Building under the direction of Mrs. Crystal Powers.

St. John Lutheran Church & School

812-926-3337

220 Mechanic Street
Aurora, IN 47001-1322

Correspondent: Terri Schmeltzer

2015-16 Theme:

"Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart"

November - St. John Holds Science Fair

Every other school year, St. John holds a Science Fair for students in grades K through 8. A Social Studies fair is held on the alternate year. This year's exhibits included a wide variety of displays and projects and ssroom. Participants had to earn money and then save it at the bank or spend it at different businesses set up throughout the gymnasium.



"Calvin Crawford and Andrew Shuter are experimenting side-by-side"



"Ellie Shuter pictured with her science project"



"Carissa Shuter with her science experiment"



"Adam Kunkel with his volcano project"

Andrea Shuter is "Heart of Gold" Recipient

Congratulations to Mrs. Andrea Shuter on being a "Heart of Gold" Honoree of the Dearborn Community Foundation. Andrea was honored at the foundation's recent annual dinner along with four other Heart of Gold recipients. Andrea was nominated not only for all of her volunteer time with St. John, but with the Aurora Little League, Hogan Township Fire Department, Mt. Sinai United Methodist Church and the Aurora Life Squad. Andrea Ewan, who nominated Mrs. Shuter wrote, "All of these attributes represent to me someone who puts others before herself, and has an open and beautiful heart. What I think

makes Andrea so special is that she does everything without asking for recognition, accolades, or acknowledgement."

As a result of being a Heart of Gold recipient, Andrea was asked to designate a recipient of a \$500 grant that accompanied her award. Andrea chose St. John Lutheran School and the Dearborn Community Foundation awarded \$500 to St. John Ev. Lutheran Church and School from the Heart of Gold Grant Program for Needs of the school only. We will be using the grant money to purchase a new laptop computer for the purpose of government reporting.

St. John Introduces Prayer Pals

The students of St. John Lutheran School are seeking "Prayer Pals" for the rest of the 2016-17 school year. What is Prayer Pal? Well, how about a combination of a "Prayer Partner/Pen Pal". As part of the recent visit, the NLSA accreditation team encouraged St. John to establish a "cohesive and active partnership" between the church and school. What better way to begin this partnership than pairing up a student with a member of the congregation!

Our goal is for ALL students in Grades Kindergarten through 8th grade to have a congregation member who is willing to pray for them on a regular basis (and vice versa), possibly establish written communication with them and join them in a special celebration to be held at the end of the school year.

St. John "Partners in Education" Annual Giving Campaign Update

As of December 31st, our annual giving campaign has raised over \$15,000! We are so thankful for everyone's support, however we still have a long way to go as we are at only 45% of our goal. We have extended

the deadline for the Partners in Education campaign until the end of January, 2017. All gifts are tax deductible and no gift is too small.

St John's Lutheran School - continued**SAVE THE DATE!!!**

Friday, March 10th
PTL Annual Fish Fry

Mark your calendars for the annual St. John Fish Fry, sponsored by PTL. Our special cod is hand-breaded and fried on site and is accompanied by macaroni and cheese, cole slaw and other side dishes, and of course, by a huge variety of handmade desserts. You can dine in or carry out. This year's Fish Fry will be Friday, March 10th from 4:00 – 8:00. Plan a trip to Aurora for a great dinner!

Chapel Offerings Raise Money for Dearborn County Clearinghouse

During the second quarter of the 2016-17 school year, St. John students once again decided to help our local clearinghouse through their chapel offerings, toy collection and hat and mitten tree. The students raised \$271 and collected a huge barrel filled with new toys for the Dearborn County

Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse is a community backed food pantry that strives to help individuals in basic need of food and clothing as well as financial need. The clearinghouse has been in operation for over 34 years and now serves 5 counties with four locations.



"7th and 8th Grade Students helped with this year's class Christmas parties"



"Mrs. Amt's 1st and 2nd grade students' Christmas art project"

**Additional Federation Churches****Amazing Grace Lutheran Church**

9961 New Haven Road
Harrison, OH 45030
513-367-5094

Bethany Lutheran Church
3501 Turkey Foot Road
Erlanger KY, 41018
859-331-3501

Immanuel Lutheran Church
1285 Main Street
Hamilton, OH 45013
513-895-9212

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God is love

1 John 4:8



As we commemorate Valentines Day and think about loved ones and the blessings in life that bring us love and joy we can think of our local Lutheran community. Our Ohio District congregations, schools and service organizations work to spread the love of Jesus all year long.

You can advance the mission of our congregations with a Church Extension Fund investment. When you choose to invest your savings with the Ohio District Church Extension Fund you are choosing to support the future of the Lutheran Church.

Church Extension Savings Programs pay investors compounded interest quarterly and help to provide low-cost loans for Ohio District congregations when they borrow funds for building, expansion or renovations. This program is vital for the success of today's congregations.

Please join us and share in the satisfaction of knowing your savings dollars are helping provide the facilities and opportunities for people to connect with Jesus Christ.

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6451 COLUMBIA RD BOX 38277 OLMSTED FALLS OHIO 44138
www.ohiocef.org 800-901-2297 440-235-2297

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FEBRUARY 1, 2017 TO FEBRUARY 28, 2017

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FIXED RATE CERTIFICATES

On fixed rate certificates you choose any term between 3 and 60 months and you earn up to 1.51% APY.

TERM	RATE	APY	MINIMUM DEPOSIT
3-5 months	.35%	.35%	\$100
6-11 months	.50%	.50%	\$100
12-23 months	.75%	.75%	\$100
24-59 months	1.00%	1.00%	\$100
60 months	1.50%	1.51%	\$100

STEP-UP RATE CERTIFICATES

A step-up rate certificate is a 24-month certificate that will earn you greater interest every 6-month term.

TERM	RATE	APY	MINIMUM DEPOSIT
1st 6-months	.75 %	1.31 %	\$100
2nd 6-months	1.00 %	(AVG	
3rd 6-months	1.50 %	for 24	
4th 6-months	2.00 %	months)	

SAVE-BY-MAIL

The Ohio District Church Extension Fund offers a savings program called Save-By-Mail. With minimum deposits of \$5.00, you can earn interest from .35-1.25% based on your average daily balance the previous quarter. Save-By-Mail is a savings vehicle with no penalty for withdrawals. Each time a deposit or withdrawal is made, a receipt is sent for your records. The bottom half of the receipt is used as a withdrawal and/or deposit slip.

AMOUNT ON DEPOSIT	RATE
LESS THAN \$999	.35%
\$1,000-\$9,999	.50%
\$10,000-\$24,999	.75%
GREATER THAN \$25,000	1.25%



I am interested in additional information about the Ohio District Lutheran Church Extension Fund.

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