



from **Pastor Beck**
Pastor's February Notes

Dear Saints of Saint Paul's, we're well into a new church year. Where are we going? What is our direction, our destination? It is out of this world! In fact, oh believer, we've entered the kingdom of heaven. The Lord called us through water and the word in a flood of regeneration and daily renewal (see Titus 3). He sustains us as we hear the power of God for salvation (Rm 1), and strengthens us as we receive Christ's true body and blood for forgiveness of sins (I Corinthians 11). Is there anything more important than the Christian faith, the one true faith?

Is there anything more important for you, your family, and your neighbor? Not everyone will enter eternal life. Scripture presents a bleak picture, and yet our Lord bids us with open arms, stretched wide in sacrificial love. He calls us to enter the narrow door, Jesus Himself the door. On one hand, His cross is utterly unappealing, but it is the way God comes to us in grace, mercy, and peace (I Corinthians 1). In Christ crucified God the Father sees us as righteous in His sight; and through Jesus, He brings us to share in Divine life. We're not only citizens of heaven, but will sit with Jesus our elder brother, sharing his reign.

Where are we going? We're going to experience a life like we can't imagine (Revelation 21). We get bogged down with images of harps and clouds, or a celestial rock-concert that raises the fourth firmament. We just can't conceive how glorious it will be. On the other hand, as we grow in Christ our eyes open wider. As we understand, not only

intellectually, but through the sufferings we share in union with our Savior, we see further (Romans 5, 2 Corinthians 4). As we endure we experience the faithfulness of our God and Saviour. He promises to work eternal life into us through the forgiveness of sins.

What is our direction? This year we direct our thoughts to the past. Our emphasis is the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. The past gives us a perspective on today. We'll hear over and over the central articles of the faith (Scripture alone, grace alone, faith alone, and Christ alone). The repetition helps. (At least it does me. After hearing something the sixth or seventh time, I say, "ah, now I get it!") As we travel the Reformation story we'll see its impact on the centuries that followed. We'll also see the source of what Luther taught as the teaching of the apostles and prophets, our premier guides on our pilgrimage to a better country (Hebrews 11).

Finally, where are we going? We're going to prepare an answer for those who ask us about what we believe and why (I Peter 3:15). Not only will the example of the Reformation give us an example, we have Christ's pattern in the Scriptures. Better yet, we are assured that people come to faith not through technique, but by the Holy Spirit applying the gospel. And that's out of this world. So take advantage of the opportunity to learn, study, and review. Take advantage of the many opportunities here to invite friend, family and foe to find fellowship with us in Christ. That's where we're going. In Christ,
Pastor Beck

The Epistle



Sanibel Island, FL
2016 Seashell Show
- R. Mercer

John 13:34-35

"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

Dates to Remember

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Saturday, February 4 th | Women's Ministries | 10:00 ^{am} |
| Saturday, February 18 th | Men's Group | 9:00 ^{am} |
| Sunday, February 19 th | Chili Cook-off | Noon |

- 5433 Madison Road
Cincinnati, OH 45227**
- 271-4147 - Church
271-4152 - Fax
www.stpaulcinci.org
- Sunday Worship**
9:00 a.m.
Sunday School
10:30 a.m.
- Rev. Timothy Beck**
Pastor
- Deaconess Sara Smith**
Human Care
- Kris Beck
Church Secretary
- Winston Vaughn**
Organist
- Voice Choir
- Bell Choir
- Nathan Broman**
President
- Al Pleasant**
Vice President
- Bobbie Conour**
Secretary
- John Miller**
Financial Secretary
- Harold Smith**
Financial Treasurer
- Ken Wichman**
Board of Elders - Chair
- Emily Wichman**
Board Of Education - Chair
- Emily Wichman**
Sunday School Super.
- Gary Brown**
Trustee - Chair
- Dave Luppert**
Mission Board - Chair
- Denise Brown**
Women's Ministries - Chair

Elder Board

As we enter February and exit the long cold month of January, 2016 has now become a memory. It is still the dead of winter but there are a lot of things that take place in February that make it a short month besides the 28 days on the calendar. We start out with Ground Hog Day with the hope of an early spring which usually does happen but only lasts a week. The first Sunday in February is the Super Bowl and of course February is sweeps month if you are into T.V. The first big car racing event; the Daytona 500 is at the end of the month. The most popular day of February though is the 14th, Valentine's Day.

St. Valentine of Rome or VALENTINUS is believed to have been martyred in 269 A.D. was added to the calendar of saints by Pope GALESIUS in 496 and the Feast Day of St. Valentine is also given in the calendar of saints of the Lutheran Church. One legend of St. Valentine is that he would cut out heart shapes from parchment and give them to soldiers and persecuted Christians to remind them of their vows and God's love. Roman Emperor Claudius



He tried to convince Valentine to convert to paganism to save his life but of course Valentine refused and attempted to convert the Emperor to Christianity. This resulted in Valentine being thrown in jail and he was executed on February 14th. During Valentine's time in prison it is said that he brought sight to his jailer; ASTERIUS blind daughter JULIA. On the day of his execution he wrote her a note and signed it YOUR VALENTINE.

There are stories and legends of other St. Valentines in other times and places but the meaning of the day remains the same. It is a day we can share our love for family and friends as Jesus Christ our Lord shared his love and shed his blood for us.

Mark Brown



Board of Elders

Ken Wickman (Chair), Mark Brown, John List, Russ Moody, Al Pleasant, Gates Smith, Harold Smith, and Paul Tomes

Women's Ministries

Saturday, February 4

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES PROGRAM

"All the King's Daughters"

Heirs to a Heavenly King



"The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ"
Romans 8:16-17

10 am until Noon ~ Lunch provided

We will be playing cards after lunch!

Uno, Phase 10, Racko, Rummy

Bring your cards and learn a new card game!

RSVP—Denise Brown 520-8586 or
Grammabrown53.710@gmail.com



Women's Ministries

Denise Brown - Chair, - Sally Helton Vice-Chair, Kris Beck- Secretary, Suson Moody - Treasurer

Congregation President

The 500th Anniversary Is Being Celebrated At St. Pauls!

The 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation is THIS year! St. Paul's will be celebrating this amazing historical event all year long! The Reformation has been identified through many sources as one of the top 10 most significant historical events OF ALL TIME! A special committee has convened to plan events specific to the Reformation, and we wish to capitalize on the Reformation celebration and help lead us into the 150th anniversary of St. Paul's Church here in Madisonville in 2018. The Reformation kickoff already began with the sale of Reformation swag from Concordia Publishing House featuring the synodically-endorsed Reformation logos and gear. You can order items online and more swag will be available in the near future. The first order was substantial and most of the samples available for display sold out! Some smaller events have already kicked off as congregation members enjoyed a special, well-attended Bible class the first two weeks of January that included the viewing of the movie, "Luther". Yes, Martin Luther, the courageous rebel who stood against improper policies and practices of the church, such as the sale of indulgences. Martin Luther shared his disdain for the actions of the church during



that time and posted his 95 theses on the door of a church in Wittenberg, Germany. The invention of the Gutenberg Press and the distribution of the material helped spawn the Reformation, which ultimately impacted and guided the church toward the unadulterated Word and Luther's focus on Scripture alone "Sola Scriptura", faith alone and grace alone. The Gutenberg Press also made the distribution of the Bible to God's people in the German language possible, thanks to the translation of the Word into the German language by Luther.

St. Paul intends to have several significant events throughout the year to celebrate the Reformation, while additional smaller events will also bring attention to this historic achievement in history. Bachfest will be returning in March 2017 to show the impact of the Reformation on the music of the day, and in the music of Johan Sebastian Bach, in particular. In addition, a float commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation will be entered in the Cincinnati community's Findlay Market Parade on April 3rd to welcome the baseball season back to Cincinnati. Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in the downtown area has reserved an entry for a float, and St. Paul is helping to coordinate the shared cost among numerous congregations to



Congregation President - continued

benefit the Federation of Lutheran Churches in Cincinnati. More to come on that!

Bulletin inserts are also being added twice per month throughout 2017 into the weekly worship service bulletins to raise awareness of the Reformation. Luther Servant of God curriculum will be used in both the teen and adult Bible Study classes beginning in January. The Course material will run through most of the spring. Pastor will also be looking into the possibility of using special Luther-themed services provided by the LCMS. The 2017 Holly Follies could be Luther-themed. The committee is considering possible German-themed fellowship events, such as a return of former Oktoberfest event, likely including a German-inspired dinner. We are also considering bringing in a guest speaker from one of the seminaries to talk about the Reformation. We also plan to develop Reformation-themed slogans for the Church sign servicing the traffic on Madisonville Road.



As the Reformation celebration is in full swing and St. Paul eyes its forthcoming 150th anniversary, we will celebrate with a Federation Reformation service at St. Paul on October 28, 2018. Planning is under way to bring in a speaker from the seminary to talk about the history of Lutherans in the United States. Other exciting events such as a possible reunion are peaking the interest of the committee members! A possible event/display featuring old St. Paul photos with the goal of obtaining information

about people and events depicted could also happen! Members are doing some great historical research in preparation for the 2018 St. Paul Anniversary, which will "dovetail" nicely into the Reformation celebration, as well! Work is already in progress on developing and organizing a St. Paul Archive to preserve our historical documents. The background and historical information is very interesting, noting that the Reformation has substantially shaped the world in which we live today and who we are as God's people.

Now you know that St. Paul Church will be holding these upcoming, unique events, so plan to attend them and enjoy the fellowship of your like-minded friends and co-believers! Interest is quickly gaining and there is room for those wishing to join the fun. The momentum is REALLY starting and it is great to see the excitement on the faces of our members who are participating. There are many ways to get involved, so don't be shy about stepping up! God loves a servant heart!

Regards,

Nathan Broman
Congregational President





Human Care

Deaconess Sara Smith

PEACE, HOPE AND JOY

Romans 5:1-11



Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— 8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. 11 More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The theme in Romans 1-4 is justification by faith, how believers are brought to a place where they are standing in grace. Romans 5 begins with a transition. The focus now turns from how

they got there to how those who are justified now live, our current circumstances. The truth just established, that by faith sinners are made righteous, is followed by a section on the connection between justification and sanctification.

In Romans 1-4, Paul shows that justification by faith is necessary, real and scriptural. Now in the following chapters, he shows that it is also effective and fruitful. Romans 5:1-11 focuses on peace, hope and joy.

“Perseverance in struggle through affliction, hope of future glory, and present joyful pride are the evidence in the lives of Christians that the gospel (as Paul preaches it) is the power of God . . . unto salvation.” It is God’s work of reconciling us to Himself in Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit that sustains us in faith, perseverance, passing of tests, hope and joy as we struggle through afflictions to future glory. Our perseverance is sustained by daily hearing of the Word and remembrance of baptism. “No wonder Dr. Luther taught that the Christian should, upon rising in the morning, make the sign of the cross, pray the creed and Lord’s Prayer, and embark with confident cheer upon another day of the pilgrimage (SC VII 1-3)”

“We will not be disappointed in our hope, for in Christ, God loves us so deeply that

Human Care - continued

the Savior died for us while we were still sinners. If, then, we were justified by that death – or that blood – of Christ, much more shall we be saved from any future outpouring of God’s wrath.”

The sacraments are the place where reconciliation is consummated. Christ died for us so that He could be with us; so we could be together. In baptism we are incorporated into Christ’s body. In Lord’s Supper, Christ is incorporated into our body. Lord’s Supper unites us together. We go to church to receive God’s gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation, but also to be together with Christ in communion. We are together with Christ in communion in addition to coming away with His gifts.

Our peace and our joy come from God in Christ Jesus, who brings us into the presence of God’s grace through the Holy Spirit.

Deaconess Sara Smith
(adapted from a paper written while at Concordia Theological Seminary)

¹ Grothe, Jonathan F., The Justification of the Ungodly, 272

² Grothe, Jonathan F., The Justification of the Ungodly, 272

³ Hendriksen, William, New Testament Commentary, 174



from the Office

Those at Home

**Clark Anstaett
Florence Beaber
Betty Crawford
Hilde Crossley
Mary Ann Haupt
Janet Hicks
Larry Leudke
Ruby McCudden
Kay Packer
Preston Lee
Doris Rathel
Kathy Rook
Elsie Roosa
Kathy Smith
Pat Stoecker**

The Finance Report is only in the print version. To Get a copy contact the church office

**‘The Lutheran Hour’ -
WLW/700 AM - Sunday at 7:00 am**

Outreach Groups

Outreach Group Updates:

Happy 2017! Plans through the Outreach Groups continue faithfully, and some of those efforts are even headed toward a culmination. Here is the latest from each group:

Witness: Sara Smith

Christmas Dinner was once again a blessing. Around 150 meals were served, and 71 tickets were used by guests to receive a gift bag upon leaving. Each guest received the gift bag and a warm clothing item, and children received a toy in the toy raffle. Leftover food was donated, as were leftover warm clothes.

A big thank you to Marjorie List for running the kitchen for us this year, with another yummy meal!

And a big thank you to Sara for organizing this annual serving event.

Morning Prayers continue Monday through Friday at 9am. Flyers mentioning our Morning Prayer services were included in the Christmas Dinner gift bags.

Mercy: Sara Smith

Shut-in visits and other mercy care continue.

Marketing: Sandy Eisele

Denise designed a flyer for Advent. A database of 3000 names and addresses in surrounding zip codes has been developed, (recent movers in the past year) and contact with Fed ex printing and delivery services has been made in the event we want to use some or all of these names in the future. We were not able to discern that any visitors were the direct result of the flyers, though we did have some new visitors at the Christmas Day dinner who indicated interest in worshipping with us on Sundays.

Progress has been made to begin to enter new and topical messages on the church electronic sign ...basically attention getting as well as humorous and thought provoking. Watchfire Corp, the sign manufacturer, will give us a training session so we can have a group to back-up the sign manager in his/her absence.

Continued discussions are happening with a local marketing company to consider other action steps to reach out to the community. There is a need for developing a more coherent and specific intake of visitors (gathering info, inviting visitors to use pew cards as well as pedestal welcome log). This could involve specific assignments of

Outreach Groups

Fellowship: Leah Bromen

duties for each Sunday Service, including a follow up schedule to be developed to contact ALL visitors.

Technology: Emily Wichman

We are purchasing the calendar plug-in we need for the website, and then we will have a new calendar on the website.

If you have items to submit for the calendar - news or events - please send them to Jeff Gladish, at jeffreygladish@gmail.com, for the website posting. Items for Facebook should go to Deaconess Sara at dcs.sara3@gmail.com, and items for the Epistle go to Bob Mercer at rmerc@zoomtown.com.

There is more "About Us" content being planned for the website, also.

Welcome: Denise Brown

The area below the electronic screen just outside the sanctuary is now more of a "Welcome and Visitor Center." There is a sign there, as well as gifts bags for both adults and children. The bags have simple gifts like mustard seeds, small devotionals, bookmarks, etc., along with information about the church and flyers about upcoming events such as the Chili Cook-off and Women's Ministries.

Additionally, there is a large cork bulletin board for above the coffee station for announcements.

The 2nd annual chili cook-off and cards will be held 2/19th. Start planning your secret recipe and join the competition for the 'blue ribbon' in the categories of "crowd favorite", "hottest", and "most original". We will also be playing cards - so bring your favorite - Pinochle, Euchre, Uno, Go Fish, whatever it might be!

We are also planning a movie night in April. Save the date of April 26th, in the evening. More details to follow.

Please connect with Sandy, Sara, Denise, Emily or Leah to share your ideas for these outreach efforts. It is still a great time to jump in and share your ideas and participate in these outreach efforts!

Leah Bromen



Chili Cook-off



Fire up your chili recipe and enter the St Paul Chili Cook-off.

Sunday, February 19th

Win amazing prizes



MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

Saturday
February 18th
9:00^{am} to 10:30^{am}

WE WILL BE STARTING A NEW STUDY

join us

coffee, donuts and conversations.



For information contact Gates Smith at 513-315-5722 (call or text), or to G88smith@mac.com, or church mailbox or even in person to Gates.

**All St Paul men,
and friends are welcome.**

Mercy Care Fund

(FORMERLY "PASTOR'S PANTRY")

To Donate

To donate to the **Mercy Care Fund** place a check in the offering plate with the words "Mercy Care Fund" in the memo line. See Deaconess Sara with any questions.

This is the fund that Pastor and Deaconess Sara use to extend mercy care to our neighbors. Thanks to everyone for your support in caring for those in need.



New Lutheran Service Books (LSB)

We have purchased another twenty LSB hymnals. They're in the adult classroom and the front of the nave. The hymnal is an amazing resource for Christian faith and life. It is a prayer book, a Scripture-reading program, a catechism, and contains the rich heritage of worship and song gathered over nearly 2,000 years.

The weekly bulletin is copied from the LSB, but having hymnals in hand allows you to sing the harmonies, or quietly prepare for worship using the Psalms and prayers.

We recommend owning some hymnals for your home—devotional use. Concordia Publishing House has a discount offer for the LSB a little longer.

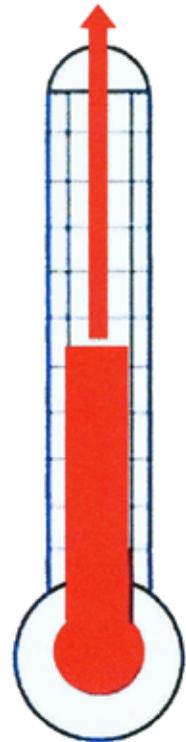
Lutheran Worship (LW) blue

If you see a blue cover hymnal in the narthex with a sign, "Take me Home" feel free to do so. The LW is also a fine resource.





It's a New Year!
 Mission Grants are waiting.
 Keep the excitement going.
 Encourage Mite giving.
 Let's end this Biennium strong!
 The biennium ends March 31st.



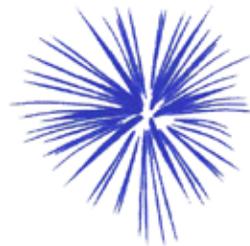
Mite Box Song:

I'm a little mite box
 Here's my slot.



Money goes in, a grant comes out,
 With a little prayer, it's in God's sight
 And He will bless your every mite!

Engage
 Encourage
 Equip
 Enjoy



Jesus Loves the Little Children
LWML Cincinnati Zone



Servant's Event
Saturday, March 25, 2017
9:30AM

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN - CINCINNATI
 Children often have the greatest needs of all, both spiritually and physically.
 Join us, as we gather together to serve the children!

During the month of February,
 St. Paul will collect socks for this servant event.
 Our goal is to collect 100 pair of socks
 for children ages 1 to 18 years.
 There will be a box in the Narhex
 to collect the socks.

Consider youth ages: **1-5 years, 6-12 years and 13-18 years**
 All are invited to come and help!

Immanuel Lutheran Church
544 Rockdale Ave. – Cincinnati, Ohio 45229

Continental breakfast will be served as we pack 100 bags with healthy essentials.
 Afterwards we will distribute the items to the local community.

Cincinnati Zone Board Meeting
 Immediately afterwards – all are welcome!