

**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

Stephanie Harrison
Office Administrator

Winston Vaughn
Organist

Leah Broman
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.

Rich Baumgart
Trustee - Chair

Dave Luppert
Mission Board - Chair

Denise Brown
Women's Ministries - Chair

Kris Beck
College Outreach

The Epistle

Holy Baptism

MARTYRIA

Pastors are called on to administer the Sacrament of Holy Baptism and to spread the Gospel.

The Lord's Supper

God's word purely preached and taught.

Praise and thanksgiving

The holy cross

public use of the office of the keys

DIAKONIA

KONONIA

Dates to Remember

Saturday, June 3rd	Women's Ministries	10:00^{am}
Thursday, June 8th	Calendar Meeting	7:00^{pm}
Tuesday, July 18th	Ohio District President Cripe Visit	7:00^{pm}

Elder Board

Additional Spiritual Gifts

"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord". Cor. 12: 4-6

Some of our Parish Members are aware of the Lutheran Benevolent Society, Inc. (LBS) a 501c3 non-profit entity emanating from our Parish over thirty years past, with a distinctive charge to establish and bring into being a Senior Housing Project called St. Paul Lutheran Village (SPLV). The village allowed seniors (55 years and older) to be housed in a safe and secure living arrangement, to age-in-place. The Village was a plus for the city of Cincinnati and particularly our community of Madisonville. The Village has grown exponentially by LBS' alliance with Episcopal Retirement Services (ERS), who are now ongoing partners in the venture.

Having secured the future of SPLV the society's Board of Directors embarked upon an Initiative that would assist Senior Home Owners, who had City Building Code Violations against their property with no financial means to correct the violation(s); this became a joint venture with Madisonville Community Urban Redevelopment Corp. and People Working Cooperatively. The proposed (estimated) Budget for the Initiative was \$140,000. We applied for Grants both within LCMS and secular Agencies as well, to no avail. To jump start the Project LBS agreed to provide thirty thousand

dollars and the Madisonville Community Urban Redevelopment Corp. over a short period of time was able to provide another ten thousand. Within the past few weeks we were advised that The Fifth Third Bank would grant us \$100,000; which was more than surprising since they had rejected a Grant Application from us back in 2015.

We, as a Parish, will continue to reach out and embed ourselves into the revitalization efforts within our community by spreading the Good News as we go forward individually and collectively as the Body of Christ

Our (LBS) directive is encompassed in the publication, Theological Reflections on Lutheran Involvement in Neighborhood Renewal, by the Rev. Matthew C. Harrison, current President of LCMS; "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. Psalm 19:14. We will continue forward in His name!

Albert E. Pleasant, III
Elder, SPLC & Chair LBS

Board of Elders
Ken Wickman (Chair) , Mark Brown, John List, Russ Moody, Al Pleasant, Gates Smith, and Harold Smith

from Pastor Beck

How Do You Find a Good Church?

Ever hear, “I can’t find a good church?” By the sound of it, good churches are disappearing as fast as people are disappearing from church. It’s the trend – obviously the problem must be the church, unless it attracts crowds.

What makes for a good church? Is it a new building with comfortable seats? Will it have a big parking lot, a menu of activities, excellent coffee and fantastic music at 105 decibels? Will it have scads of noisy children or be quiet and meditative? Will the pastor mimic an entertainment host or a pop psychologist? And how should we rank our expectations, since no two people want the same thing?

The question is not only what people want, but how to know if goodness is there. Is the measuring stick our feelings of excitement or calm? Is the church good if we feel prepared to improve and go forward? Should a church satisfy us in the same way as ordering shoes on-line, navigating a grocery store, or the friendly manner of a doctor? Is a good church compatible with our consumerist culture?

We know what’s bad, the # 1 complaint. Churches are full of hypocrites. Christians are supposed to be good, but when people get involved with each other, things happen... like gossip, whining, arguments and dishonesty. It’s so much easier to approach church like going to the theatre, so you can avoid all that. People at church have problems, from the baby who cries during the sermon to the preacher who makes the baby cry. If we measure churches

by who attends there are no good churches. Why? The human race is born in sin (if you can believe it).

We’re by nature sinners who want what pleases our fallen nature. That presents a problem in discerning what makes for a good church. Even if we list dozens of things that make going to church a happy occasion, the real question is if Scripture defines a good church? For example, a good church, a real church, will not neglect dealing with our sin. And when it deals with sin, a good church will then give us the righteousness of Christ. In short, in a good church, Jesus Christ is there and not as icing on the cake, but as the cake, oven, and cook too.

In 1539 Martin Luther described seven marks of a good church in “On the Councils and the Church.” He highlighted what God gave to mark a true church, seven visible signs that promise our Lord is invisibly present. If the signs are there, so is the Living God, no matter how you feel. And, you can’t measure the effectiveness of the signs by how they make us feel. Nevertheless, God uses these signs to take a sinful people and make us holy. And that, at least in our Lord’s eyes, is what makes a good church.

from Pastor Beck

- † The first mark is God’s word. And may it be purely preached and taught. For our Lord promises that faith comes by hearing the Word of God.
- † The second mark is Holy Baptism, where our Lord promises to apply life and salvation by uniting us to Christ’s death and resurrection.
- † The third mark of the Holy Christian Church is the Lord’s Supper. Here we eat and drink Christ’s true body and blood for forgiveness of sin and all the benefits that gives.
- † The fourth mark of a holy Christian people is the public use of the office of the keys. That means, the law is applied for repentance, and forgiveness is declared to repentant sinners.
- † A fifth sign of a good church is that pastors are called to preach Christ’s word as it was given, and to administer the sacraments as Scripture commands. Christ gave the pastoral office to the Church so that the word and sacraments have free course.
- † The sixth mark of a good church is public prayer, praise, and thanksgiving. This includes praying the Psalms, the creeds, the liturgy, the catechism and hymns. Prayer sets things apart from common use for God’s use.
- † Finally, Luther contends, the seventh mark is recognized by the “relic of the holy cross.” He doesn’t mean venerating a splinter of wood. Rather, the holy Christian Church experiences suffering, misfortune, persecution and assaults from the devil and the world for the sake of Jesus.

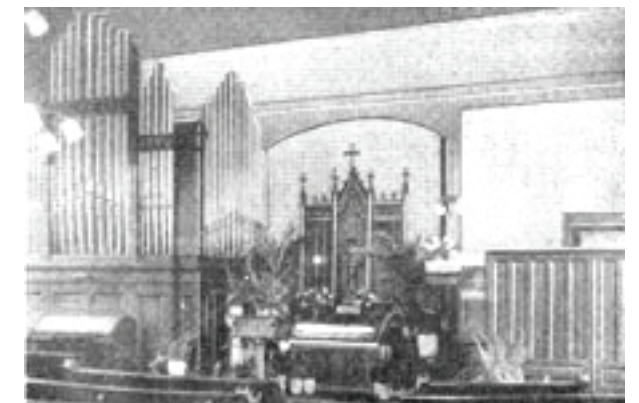
These are 7 signs that mark a good church, and are what Christians should look for in a church. It’s OK that we can’t measure the goodness of these things by our feelings, reason, or will. We trust that Christ will do what He says when it comes to using these signs. By these signs, we escape the trap of our sinful desires to shape church to our liking. By these signs we receive God’s promises. He makes the Church good through giving us His gifts. And that is some blessing! So the next time someone tells you, “I just can’t find a good church,” ask the person if they can recognize a good church. Then take them to these seven marks, and invite them to join us here.

In Christ,

Pastor Beck

St Paul Sanctuary

1868 - 1951



Congregation President

Future Church Calendar Planning Is In Full Swing!

The church has had a few big transitions over the past few years. Two years ago when I started as the chairman or president, we held a calendar planning meeting. I was absolutely flabbergasted by the amount of activities that are held by the various groups within the Church. I had no idea there were so many things going on at St. Paul. Sure, I had attended a number of them here and there, but was I in for a big surprise! This shows, among other things, the true servant hearts of our brothers and sisters at St. Paul!

This year, as we wrap up the Outreach Group achievements that were slated for completion in July, we are going to have another calendar planning session. We are inviting ALL members of every group, organization, formal meeting group, informal meeting group, Bible class, Outreach Group, staff, etc. to our planning meeting. This will be held on the normal Church Council meeting night, Thursday June 8, 2017, at 7 p.m. All attendees are strongly encouraged to bring a calendar or calendars that cover 2017 into 2018. We will plan through 2018, as this is our **150th anniversary** year, and the Events and Fellowship Outreach Groups, as well as the Historical Committee, have several items that have been in the planning stages for some time. Various events

for the 150th anniversary will highlight our year, and you should come to hear all about them! A few of the bigger events will likely have save the date cards to go out to specific mailing lists. This calendar planning session will be open to the entire congregation, so even if you don't belong to any specific group or affiliated organization of the church, feel free to come to listen, to participate, and to pass on your ideas about future events at St. Paul.

On another special note regarding calendars, we have learned that Ohio District President Cripe will be visiting St. Paul on **July 18th at**

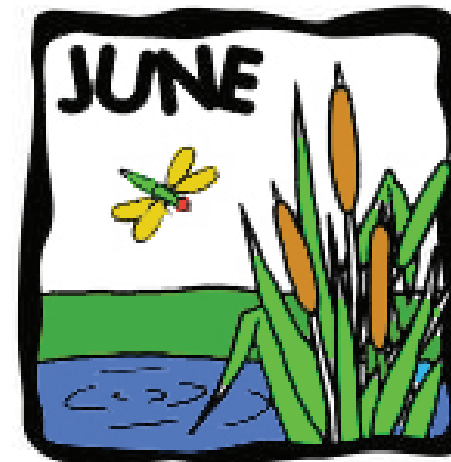
7:00 PM. Ken Wichman and myself will be specifically hosting him for his visit, but all congregation members are invited to attend this event, as well. We expect a brief "State of the Ohio District"-type presentation with an informal discussion to follow. Any congregation member (or visitor) can have an opportunity to forward a question or two on things related to the church, the Synod, etc. We think it will be a nice evening and hope you will attend.

We have exciting times ahead. With two new (and very large) residential developments (one literally in our back yard) being built, we will have the opportunity to share the gospel with some (very close) neighbors. We're not talking just a "hey stop by if you think of us"



approach, but a warm, welcoming invitation to join us in the love of our Savior, Jesus Christ, through being part of our wonderful family here. The question for you is, will your calendar fill up with the usual, routine and mundane activities, or would you like to join us for some fun, new events, where we meet new people, some old friends, and celebrate our common love for God and our lives together? See you soon at the Calendar planning meeting on June 8th at 7 p.m.!

Nathan Broman
Congregation President



MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

Saturday
August 19th
9:00^{am} to 10:30^{am}



join us as we start
a new study

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.***

Women's Ministries

Saturday, June 3, 2017

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES PROGRAM



"On Butterfly Wings"

New Life in Christ

*"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature;
old things are passed away; behold,
all things are become new."*

2 Corinthians 5:17

10 am until Noon ~ Lunch provided

Remembering:

Marjorie Strassinger, Joy Craver and Kathy Smith

Special Guest: Migues Barcelos, Ft. Wayne, IN seminary student

Women's Ministries

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

from the Office

Those at Home

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

Memorials

Kathy Smith

from: Joann Marksberry
Wesley and Dorrene Klein
Walter and Ruth Kroeger
David and Carole Luppert
John Miller
Eileen Stacy
Doris Rathel and Family

Joy Craver

from: Doris Rathel and Family
Clarke and Marlene Anstaett

Lutheran Witness

It is time to renew our subscriptions to The Lutheran Witness. If you wish to continue your subscription, you don't need to do anything. I will automatically renew your subscription. If you wish to DISCONTINUE your subscription please call the church office.

The deadline for The Lutheran Witness is June 1st. However, if anyone misses that date, they can order directly from--<https://www.cph.org/witness/features.aspx#subscribe>. The cost is \$15.96 per year.

TLW is also available online or on your mobile device. By using your subscription number you can view The Lutheran Witness online or on your mobile device. (Ed.: your subscription # is on your address label.)

Address Change

Bob and Wanda Doggett
1588 Cohasset Dr.
Cincinnati, OH 45255
New phone (513) 407-7471

'The Lutheran Hour' - WLW/700 AM - Sunday at 7:00 am



Human Care

Deaconess Sara Smith

Outreach God Working Through Us

"Outreach is the work we do to gather people who are outside of the church into the church through Word and Sacrament ministry." - Rev. Mark Wood, Director of Witness and Outreach, LCMS Office of National Mission

Are we qualified, fit for this work?

From Martin Luther's Small Catechism, "I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith."

If we can't save ourselves, we certainly can't save others.

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.
(1 Corinthians 3:6-7)

Outreach is the church inviting those on the outside to come in. We witness when we tell people of our Savior, and this is certainly part of outreach. Even though we witness and we invite, we have no control over who comes. That's the work of the Holy Spirit. Our role is to invite. We plant and water, but God gives the growth.

Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.' And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests.
(Matthew 22:8-10)

We invite all those we find, both the "bad and good", to the king's wedding feast, which is the altar of our Lord and ultimately the eternal heavenly banquet. Our role is to extend the invitation while proclaiming Christ through His Word.

As Christians, we invite our friends and neighbors, those we encounter as we go about our vocations. For effective church outreach we also create connections, opportunities to witness and invite. At these events, we are building relationships as we witness and inviting our neighbors to come into our church. Our neighbors should know we are here and why we are here. Our community should know we care and that it's the mercy of Christ we share with them.

"God plants, manages, extends, and sustains His kingdom not directly, but by means of men who are altogether unfit for this task.



continued - Human Care

This is proof of God's loving-kindness, love for humanity, and wisdom, which no human intellect can understand. For who can measure the greatness of God's love, revealed in the fact that He desires not only to save this apostate world but also even to employ human beings – that is, sinners – for this task? Who can plumb the depths of the wisdom of God, who knows how to accomplish the work of saving people by – of all things – using other people who are quite unfit and unqualified for this work?" - C.F.W. Walther, Law and Gospel, Thesis II

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. (1 Peter 2:9)

Deaconess Sara Smith

Mercy Care Fund

Needs Your Support

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.

Thank You

A big thank you from the office staff for our new phone system. Not only does the new system get rid of the annoying static and crackle, but it gives us new features for messages and voicemail.

Stephanie Harrison



St Paul youtube channel

Make sure to check our new youtube channel, which contains the Bachfest music: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBsFANvqFkDP-ndCOumS27A>

Jeffrey Gladish