

The Epistle

Confirmation
Arielle Gladish
June 24, 2017



Dates to Remember

Saturday, August 5th	Madisonville Street Fest	2 - 5:00^{pm}
Saturday, August 19th	Men's Group (We the People)	9 - 10:30^{am}
Sunday, September 17th	Church Picnic (Oktoberfest)	11:30^{am}
Sunday, October 15th	LHF Sunday (a return, thank-you visit)	

**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
Church Secretary

Winston Vaughn
Organist

Grace Beck
Voice Choir

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

Church History Pastors



Pastor
Gottlieb Dietz
1868-1869



Pastor
J. G. Theiss
1869-1886



Pastor
William Theiss
1886-1889



Pastor
R. F. Kunchick
1889-1893



Pastor
C. P. Schulz
1893-1905



Pastor
W. C. Meinzen
1906-1912



Pastor
M. C. Baade
1912-1922



Pastor
Walter Littmann
1922-1954



Pastor
Robert H. Wind
1955-1962



Pastor
Carl W. Bretscher
1963-1965



Pastor
Walter H.
Roschke
1966-1994



Pastor
David P.
Lampman
1995-2002



Associate Pastor
Peter Kelm
2000 - 2002



Pastor
Kevin Popp
2003-2007



Pastor
Steve Schave
2008 - 5/2013



Pastor - Interim
Hilbert Kamps
5/2013 - 12/2013



Pastor
Timothy Beck
1/2014 -



from **Pastor Beck**

Transformed Minds

Ever hear, “We no longer think like that and it’s impossible to go back.” Sociologists, philosophers and theologians say it. It refers to the current rules of the mind game, how society thinks. Long ago the game masters were Plato and Aristotle. Then Descartes, Kant, and Nietzsche won Monopoly. Their rules can determine what you believe without even knowing how you got there. For example, if you’re under 50 you grew up hearing, “There is no absolute truth.” That’s a conclusion drawn from the philosophers rules about what people can know. And if you object, the idea masters say you can’t return to an earlier rule-book. “The new edition is how we understanding each other, the world, and... and God.”

It’s true that we can’t go back in time to ancient Rome; although, if you wish, you can listen to Mozart wearing a powdered wig. You can’t travel back to the old rugged cross, but you can see it on its own terms. But you can remove the latest fashion in spectacles that changes the focus of far off things – not that it’s easy.



On one hand, “you can’t go back” has a point, because today’s rules for thinking, behaving, communicating, sinning, living and dying have marked us. On the other hand, oh Christian, God has made a far more profound mark on you, a holy mark of water with the word, a mark that united you to Christ. That mark transcends today’s mind-game rules.

The Church is called to be in the world but not of the world. While we travel around the latest game-board we don’t conform to all the rules, we simply can’t.

The Church is called to something much bigger. Despite living in this world we are commanded to not be of a thought-culture opposed to God. Oh Christian, you have been united to someone who transcends the moment. Although we grew up in a way thinking is done, we are not chained to our age. We have the ultimate rule book (and the book is not just law).

We, the Church, entered eternity when baptized into the one who has all authority in heaven and earth, the one who will never leave us nor forsake us (Matthew 28:16-20). We belong to Him. And look what is already yours (by faith). Scripture says believers have been seated with Christ in heavenly places (Eph 2:6, Col 3:1). That has some significance for this passing moment. For example, the Apostle says, ***I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect*** (Romans 11).

We are born into a way of thinking opposed to God. But the Father sent His Son to restore us through the forgiveness of our sins, seating us with Him in heavenly places. Then He began a transformation called renewal. Read Titus 3:5 and see how God our Savior, because of Christ’s justification, sends the Holy Spirit in baptism to work regeneration and daily renewal. You



from **Pastor Beck**

received the life of Christ. It happens because we were forgiven. It happens because the Holy Spirit brought us to faith hearing that good news. It happens as we hear the Word and receive the Sacrament. Receiving the word and sacraments is how we present our bodies not to the world, but to the Lord (think about that!). Strengthened by our Lord’s gifts of renewal, He also sends testing that drives us to prayer and meditation on the Word that results in a faith which transcends every transient era.



So when you hear, “you can’t go back,” remember that you are united to the eternal. So you can go to Christ’s 1st century teaching, or Martin Luther’s return to those teachings. You can go to the promises of our Lord including His future return and say, “Here I stand. So help me God.” Jesus Christ remains. Therefore it remains for the Church to make disciples by baptizing and teaching all that our Lord commanded. For in receiving His word we participate in the eternal. In receiving His body and blood we rejoice with angels, archangels, and all the host of heaven. We participate in what transcends time as we are being transformed by the renewal of our mind, a restoration to the image of God.

What a glorious reason to run to the Divine Service, a place that transcends time and space. Hearing Christ’s word, receiving His body and blood, we receive forgiveness, life and salvation! We worship with the saints above, angels, and archangels in timeless and unchanging glory. This is where the Church dwells while we simultaneously live in this passing world. United to Christ, we’re freed from the mind-games that would bind us and keep us from receiving God’s kingdom.

In receiving the eternal word, we meet the same God that transformed Saul into Paul. We join Luther’s grasping what it meant to be justified by God. And we go forward to receive all that our Lord shall do until His return. Oh Christian, you have already entered the life of Christ. You were forgiven through Jesus’ death in your stead. The Holy Spirit worked faith in you, and you entered the restoration of righteousness that will be complete when Christ returns in glory. Therefore, you endure the testing of your faith, receiving the Word that transforms your mind by the mind of Christ.



The Church plays a different mind-game than the world. We see all things through Christ’s eyes. We see things with the vision of God. That vision will be despised by the world. And because sin still dwells in us, we will not have 20-20 heaven-vision in this life. Yet we are being transformed. We are being renewed through Christ’s gifts. We receive the word and sacraments and are seated with Christ in heavenly places. That’s more than reason enough to gather in worship, receiving the Divine Service. It’s reason to rejoice in the study of God’s word where we share holy things, even Sabbath Rest.

In Christ,
Pastor Beck



Congregation President

Nathan Broman

A Visit From The President!

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior,
Jesus the Christ!

No, President Trump is not coming to St. Paul, and no I, as congregational president, am not coming to your house (unless it is for a Dinner for 8 – I'm always in for food...), but yes, we had a visit from Ohio District President Terry Cripe on Tuesday, July 18th! He has a goal to visit all 147 (or so) Ohio District congregations during his current 3-year term. Actually, it is a requirement in the job description from the District, and President Cripe takes that very seriously. He travels every Monday and Tuesday evening to visit our district congregations. During his visits, he delivers a Power Point presentation and answers questions. The Power Point actually has different versions for the different sizes of the congregations, and the presentation outlines common challenges going on within the churches across the District, with a commentary on what to do and what NOT to do for each scenario.

President Cripe “hit the nail on the head” with his presentation, and the challenges we are facing as a congregation are amazingly very similar to those of our sister churches throughout our District. As he showed the slides and discussed the common issues, it was if he was talking about us specifically here at St. Paul. It was helpful to me to note that the issue of dwindling attendance was not isolated to just our congregation. President Cripe was very clear to point out that trying to change “who we are” by introducing a fundamental change in what we are doing, such as having a contemporary service, changing the time of service, or changing our communion policy is NOT the answer to the issue. This echoed the feedback we received from Rev. Kevin Wilson two years ago when we held our



strategic planning session. President Cripe said congregations often think, “if we just do this, or if we change that, or if we try this”... What is it within that sentence that stands out? The word “WE”. It is not what we do, but what God does through our collective faith within the Church. That made me reflect back on the guidance and wisdom shared from and with the church council not too many months ago. We could easily be too reactionary and try to change things in an effort to just get more people in the pews, but as Council said, God has a plan and those who are here and why they are or are not here are all part of God’s plan. The message I took from President Cripe’s presentation was to turn our focus from the issues that are distracting us and causing us worry (which is fear), to focusing on God. He explained that the focus is often an inward toward us, ourselves, or our church, rather than on serving others (an outward focus)! One could say that is just a perspective, but I think we can all agree that an attitude or philosophy can drive our disposition. God works through Faith, which I famously once heard is an “action” word.

With that guidance, an outward direction and focus of “serving others,” and noting we are at a clear transition point in our strategic plan after completing the Outreach Group action items, we will be starting our next phase of our strategic plan for God’s church here at St. Paul. Two specific things come to my mind, which certainly may grow into more items in the future. We are very blessed to have a unique opportunity within our immediate community, and even more specifically our own backyard, that new residents will soon be coming into our neighborhood. We should be “others focused” and be very intentional about inviting these new neighbors to come to worship in church with us! We have

tried several types of marketing in the past, and some approaches have worked a bit, and others not so much. A widespread mailing seems less personal than a “face-to-face” invitation, and we want to give a more personal, neighborly-minded approach. Visiting our neighbors and giving a personal invitation is consistent with the loving, caring character of the members at St. Paul, as well as with Jesus. Events at the church have also been successful in the past, as well (and thanks once again to those on each of the outreach groups). We should continue to offer events and activities that welcome others to the church.

With that said, we will proceed with two new “faith-in-action” groups. One group will be involved in personal invitations to our neighbors (at St. Paul Village, the new apartment building nearing completion over by Red Bank Road, at the proposed residential development on the Medpace property right next door, and other locations, possibly including Madison Villa?). A second “faith-in-action” group will focus on the forthcoming St. Paul 150th Anniversary celebration, including the various events and the All-church Reunion for St. Paul.

Please see Nathan Broman or the upcoming sign up in the Narthex for either or both of these “faith-in-action” groups! These may involve those who were active in groups in the past, but are also open to those who are looking to help out in a small or different way. We look forward to having you join us!

May God continue to bless the members of St. Paul, our neighbors, and all who come in contact with us and God’s Church at large!

For His Glory,

Nathan

Congregation President continued

Madisonville Street Fest

St. Paul will have a booth again at the Madisonville Street Fest on Saturday August 5 from 2:00 – 5:00 at the corner of Madison Rd and Whetzel. .

This is always a great time and a wonderful opportunity to engage in our community.

Please see Deaconess Sara for more information. Attachment is the poster for Street Fest.

10th Anniversary Community Celebration August 5 2-5PM

MADISONVILLE STREET FEST 2017

WEED & SEED

Armstrong CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WORKING TOGETHER WORKS

The poster features a central graphic of a red cross-like shape formed by several thick, slightly irregular lines. The text is arranged around this graphic. At the top left, it says "10th Anniversary Community Celebration". At the top right, it says "August 5 2-5PM". In the center, the words "MADISONVILLE STREET FEST 2017" are written in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font, with "2017" being significantly larger than the other words. At the bottom left, there is a logo for "WEED & SEED" which includes a stylized house and plant icon. Below that is the logo for "Armstrong CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH", which includes a cross icon. At the bottom right, the words "WORKING TOGETHER WORKS" are written in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

Elder Board To Serve

Over the past few weeks the adult Bible class has been exploring the video series “Who Am I, and What Am I Doing Here?” presented by Dr. Joel Biermann, a professor of Systematic Theology at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO. When it comes to the “what am I doing here?” part, Dr. Biermann discusses Martin Luther’s theology of vocation. We each have many vocations: parent, child, employee, employer, gardener, couch potato; the list goes on.

**We each
have many
vocations**

Why is vocation important? Because it is the mechanism by which we serve others. In our serving we acknowledge the many ways in which God serves us. This service reached its climax in Christ’s suffering, death, and resurrection when He took upon Himself the punishment for the sins of all mankind for all time. This sacrifice makes us acceptable in God’s sight, and for Christ’s sake we become heirs with Him unto life eternal. Each Sunday, in the divine service, we receive from God the forgiveness of our sins, we receive in our ears the Word of Life, and we taste with our lips the true body and blood of our Savior.

In our many vocations, we each are to have a common purpose. We are to service one another. This service does not have to be a grand gesture. God places before each of us things to do. So do them to the best of your ability. Is it cutting the lawn, reading a bedtime story, finishing a report, holding elective office, setting a broken leg? One is not more important than another. It is the act of

service that is pleasing to God. These acts of service are not what get us into heaven. Christ has already taken care of that on the cross. These acts of service do however, help us to live out God’s Law, the Ten Commandments. Even though we live them imperfectly, these commands are still God’s expectations for each of us.

So the next time we are faced with a diaper to change; a broken window to repair; a heated discussion to calm; or the broken heart of a friend who has just lost a loved one; remember that this is God giving you an opportunity to serve.

**God gives
opportunities
to serve**

Many of you are serving your fellow congregants at St. Paul Lutheran Church. We are looking for another elder and half a dozen ushers. Consider if either of these could be an avenue of service for you. If you have any questions about the duties for either of these offices, just ask any one of the elders (Al Pleasant, Russ Moody, Mark Brown, Gates Smith, Harold Smith or myself). Most of us are also ushers to we can speak to either opportunity.

In His service,
Ken Wichman

Board of Elders

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

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.**

MEN’S DISCUSSION GROUP

The Men's Group has selected its Studies for the remainder of 2017. If you see something that interests you please join us.

We The People

The times they are a changing as Bob Dylan famously wrote and what was true in the 60’s is most certainly true 50 years later. We the people study is about our citizen role as Christians in the United States. With Dale Meyer 3 sessions totaling about 40 minutes of DVD.

Lost Books?

Lost Books 4 sessions about 12 minutes each. Gregory Seltz. Which texts qualified as divinely inspired, which didn’t make the cut, and which were deemed useful of instructive, though not canonical.

Books of the Bible

Can we be sure the correct texts made it into the Bible? Several scholars, books and articles, movies and television specials have raised that challenge recently. Since God never sent us a specific list of what to include, who actually decided the Bibles should contain the Gospels of Matthew Mark Luke and John, but not the Gospels of Judas, Thomas and Mary? Is there any truth to the charge that a Roman Emperor in the fourth century orchestrated the list of books that we have in the Bible?



Human Care

Deaconess Sara Smith

Love



We love one another. We love our neighbors. Love is an action, not simply an emotion. Read John 13:34-35, **“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”** This a command for us to do something. But first, love is an action done by Christ for us. We love because He loves us.

We love the unlovable. Just as Christ loves and gives his life for unlovable us, we love our neighbors even when they are unlovable. Matthew 22:37-39, **“And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”**

Love is an action. We care for our neighbors, body and soul. Read Matthew 25:35-40. These are actions. **“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?**

And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you? And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’ “

Welcoming and visiting are among the actions mentioned in Matthew 25:35-40. People have a need to talk, even lament. We need to listen. This is the ministry of presence. Be present, listening and pointing to Christ. Even when we don't have the resources to meet every physical need, we have something better. We show mercy. We are present for those who are suffering, meeting them where they are, seeing Christ in them (Matt 25:40). We bring Christ, His Word, His Presence.

Christ is present in his church. **“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. (John 6:68)”** He comes to us in the divine service, in his word and sacrament. We are present for each other and present in our community.

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. (John 4:7-8)”

Deaconess Sara Smith

Church Picnic (Oktoberfest Theme)

September 17th

(following Sunday School/Bible Class)



If you plan to help please see:
Leah Broman
Kris Beck
Sandy Mercer



Be thinking about what German food you would like to make as a side dish or dessert.

Sign up will be in the narthex soon.



Baptism

Alexander William, baptized into the body of Christ.
June 18, 2017

"The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, with His grace to life everlasting." Amen. We welcome you in the name of the Lord. who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you



MEAC May Dinner

Seminary Student

St. Paul hosted, prepared and served the Monday Night Community Dinner at Madisonville Education and Assistance Center. St Paul is a willing helper in many of the community activities of MEAC.

In June St. Paul Women's Ministries enjoyed a wonderful visit with seminary student, Miguel Barcelos, from Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne.



Wanda Dogget, RJ Mercer, Sara Smith, David Luppert, Robert & Sandy Mercer



St Paul Game Day (July)



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

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.



Women's Auxiliary Blanket Brigade

...making baby blankets for University Hospital

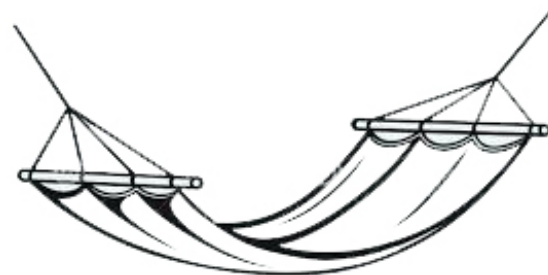


September 27, 2017 at 10:00 am

(Registration at 9:45 am)

2017 Voters Meetings

October 15th
November 19th
(Budget)



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

Messiah Lutheran Church

10416 Bossi Lane, Cincinnati OH 45218

LUNCH PROVIDED

Bring scissors and pins; and if you wish, sewing machine with thread.

Jobs include pinning, machine stitching and ironing

Seminarian

Miguel Barcelos.

Pastor Gerald Scheperle of St. John's Lutheran Church from Jefferson City, MO, first met 16 year old Miguel Barcelos in the spring of 2007. Pastor Scheperle had become acquainted with Miguel's family through his daughter who worked at the U.S. Air Force base located on Terceira Island, Azores in Portugal. Miguel's parents were instrumental in preserving a remnant of Lutherans on Terceira. Miguel was highly involved in the Lutheran mission church held at his parents' home. During Pastor Scheperle's visit with the Barcelos family he found a faithful, humble, gracious, dedicated, hospitable, generous and hardworking Lutheran family. Miguel was spiritually fed by his parents and pastors who traveled from the mainland and ministered periodically. It was evident God had stirred the heart of this young man to enter the ministry. God has kept Miguel on this track through college at the University of Lisbon where he also worked to pay his tuition. Miguel arrived in the United States in August 2015 to begin his seminary training at Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. There are three congregations/preaching stations in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Portugal. Currently there is one Lutheran pastor serving all of Portugal and the Azores with a population of 11 million people. It is Miguel's desire to be trained and returned to Portugal as their first indigenous Portuguese pastor. Miguel will require a full-time job in Portugal to support his serving as a Lutheran pastor. His plans are to teach at The University of Lisbon while simultaneously serving as the pastor in Lisbon and to Lutherans across Portugal and the Azores.

For any questions concerning Miguel, please contact Pastor Scheperle at 573-395-4591.

Women's Ministries of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Cincinnati, OH is writing this letter with much excitement for what God is doing in the life of a young man. In August of 2015, Women's Ministries began sponsoring Miguel Barcelos. Through faithful correspondence between Miguel and Women's Ministries, we encouraged Miguel to come for a weekend visit. On June 1, 2017 Miguel arrived in Cincinnati to meet the women who had so faithfully supported him through prayer and funding. Miguel spoke to our Women's Ministries event held June 2 and on Sunday to the congregation of St. Paul Lutheran Church. It was then a true picture of his financial need became evident. Pastor Gerald Scheperle has been coordinating the funding from different sources to cover the first two years of Seminary instruction for Miguel and is working on funding his 3rd year. Due to visa restrictions, Miguel will complete his third academic year before his vicarage. Pastor Scheperle is also overseeing any needs for his time as Vicar and for the funding of the Masters of Systematic Theology. The acquisition of this degree will allow Miguel to procure a teaching position at the University of Lisbon sufficient to support himself while serving as pastor.

Please prayerfully consider this mission. We encourage support at any level. To ensure your gift is properly credited, please make your check out to St. John's Lutheran Church and mail it to:

Rev. Gerald Scheperle,
St. John's Lutheran Church (Schubert)
4409 St. Johns Rd., Jefferson City, MO 65101.

Please indicate that it is for Portuguese Missions.

Lifeline

A Lutheran Witness in the Azores

by Elizabeth Scheperle

A woman's adventure opens new relationships with fellow Lutheran Christians far from home.

Six months ago, I didn't know the Azores existed. Now am living in the small village of Fontinhas on the island of Terceira, Azores, Portugal. Wanting adventure, I accepted a job as a pediatric speech pathologist at the U.S. Air Force Base at Lajes Field. In May, I left my family and friends for the Azores! I had never traveled overseas or lived outside of Missouri. I knew no one. I had no place to live.

The minute the plane touched down on 'Terceira Island, I thought I had made the biggest mistake of my life! Yet had faith that God placed me for a reason on this 11 – by - 17-mile dot in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, 2,500 miles from Washington, DC., and 900 miles from Lisbon, Portugal.

I have been a Missouri Synod Lutheran my entire life. My father serves two LCMS congregations in central Missouri. But now, I was uncertain what worship opportunities were before me. I knew I was moving to a devout Catholic island, steeped in tradition and festivals. A Protestant, service was offered on the base, but it would be potluck as to the denomination of the current chaplain.

My first Sunday on the island, I attended the Protestant service. After worship, I walked to the temporary living facility (TFL) on base where I was staying until my house off base was ready. Standing next to the door, propped against the wall, was a middle-aged Portuguese man smoking a cigarette.

"You live here" he asked.
"Yes" I replied.
"Which room?"

Being a single woman, my guard went up immediately. But he seemed friendly enough. So, against my better judgment I replied, "Um, 301."
"You're the lady in 301?"
"Yes."
"I see in your room ... didn't mean to look... but it was on the table, so I see your Lutheran Witness magazine. It is from another Lutheran church."
"What?" I exclaimed. "You're Lutheran?"
"Yes."

My new acquaintance was Orlando --- one of seven Portuguese Lutherans on an island of 56,000 people.

Orlando is the head of the TFL and also the lay leader of the Lutheran congregation here on the island.

The day before I left the States, my Lutheran Witness arrived. I stuck it in my backpack. When I unpacked I pulled the Witness out of my bag and placed it on the table where Orlando, who just so happened to be the one cleaning my room, saw it. (For me, this adds a new dimension to the title of Lutheran Witness.)

The next Sunday I attended the Portuguese Lutheran church. Worshipping in an in-home church was a first for me. It reminded me of the New Testament Christians.

Only Orlando and one other member speak English; other members of the congregation speak only Portuguese. Orlando made me feel a part of the congregation. Silvia had translated the order of worship into English. Orlando alternated the responses and the Psalm verses in Portuguese and English. Before worship, he verbally translated the hymns and songs for me.

It was Pentecost Sunday. What an appropriate experience for me to sing in Portuguese some of the hymns I knew so well in English, accompanied by an acoustic guitar.

The Good Shepherd Congregation of the Portuguese Evangelical Lutheran Church on Terceira Island started in 1995. The members are served four times a year by a pastor from mainland Portugal. In the past, LCMS chaplains stationed on the base have also served as their pastor. They worship in the home of Antonio and Berta. They hope to build a small chapel on Antonio and Berta's property.

On an island where people value tradition above doctrine, life is difficult at times for this congregation of Lutheran Christians. But by holding onto the Bible's teachings and the uncompromising truth of the Gospel, their very existence is the true Lutheran witness in the Azores!

Elizabeth Scheperle is a member at St John Lutheran Church, Jefferson City, Mo.



Summer 2017 Newsletter

The Free to be Faithful Newsletter features information on important court cases and religious liberty issues at the forefront this year that have significant implications for the rights of Christians to live faithfully.

For example:

- Read about the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark ruling in Trinity Lutheran Church (LCMS) of Columbia, Mo. v. Comer (formerly Pauley) and its implications for religious liberty. Trinity's preschool was deemed ineligible for a state grant program solely because the preschool is operated by a church. Alliance Defending Freedom attorneys represented Trinity in this historic case, which resulted in a 7-2 ruling in favor of the church preschool.
- Read about the Rev. Dr. Gregory P. "Greg" Seltz, speaker for "The Lutheran Hour," who officially accepted the Synod's call to be the first executive director of the new Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty in Washington, D.C.
- Read the latest about religious liberty issues affecting Christian service members in our nation's military and how LCMS military chaplains, the Synod's Ministry to the Armed Forces and some religious liberty advocates are making a difference.

Prayer — Eternal Lord, ruler of all, graciously regard those who have been set in positions of authority among us that, guided by Your Spirit, they may be high in purpose, wise in counsel, firm in good resolution, and unwavering in duty, that under them we may be governed quietly and peaceably; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Listen on Worldwide KFJO — "Free to be Faithful" discussions are led by Kip Allen on the third Wednesday of each month beginning at 2:30 p.m. Central time. Past interviews also are available on-demand at kfjo.org.

If you would like to stay informed on upcoming news and issues related to marriage, life, religious freedom or the establishment of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty, please email your name, address and phone number to FreeToBeFaithful@lcms.org.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
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Read Free to be Faithful Newsletter >>

Two Familiar Voices to Take Over the Airwaves on The Lutheran Hour

In celebration of Lutheran Hour Ministries' 100th anniversary, LHM is excited to announce that the weekly broadcast of The Lutheran Hour will feature Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. Klaus and Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer beginning Nov. 5, 2017.

The regular appearances of the two distinguished speakers are part of a transition plan being implemented following current Speaker Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz's recent acceptance of a call to serve as executive director of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty. Seltz's last broadcast will be recorded in Wittenberg and aired Reformation weekend, Oct. 29.

"In a year where we celebrate the 100th anniversary of Lutheran Hour Ministries, we are extremely pleased to honor the legacy of The Lutheran Hour program by announcing that these two popular speakers have agreed to assist us while we search for the next individual who will share the Good News of Jesus Christ over the airwaves," says LHM President & CEO Kurt Buchholz. "Generations of people in our listening audience have been blessed to learn from and be strengthened in the faith by Dr. Klaus and Dr. Meyer. We look forward to their continued role in this important ministry that remains a critical part of LHM's focus on media outreach."



Klaus retired from the full-time speaker role in 2010 and has been recording one sermon a month for The Lutheran Hour and writing many of LHM's Daily Devotions. Meyer served as speaker from 1989 through 2001 (as well as host of LHM's On Main Street weekly television program) and currently serves as president of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis.

The Lutheran Hour airs on nearly 1,800 stations throughout North America and reaches more than one million listeners each week. The weekly broadcast can also be heard anytime online at lutheranhour.org or through a mobile app for iPhones and Android devices.

