

The Epistle

Church Picnic (Oktoberfest Theme) September 17th

(following Sunday School/Bible class)



*Sign up is in
 the narthex.*

Dates to Remember

Sunday, September 3 rd	LWML Sunday	
Saturday, September 9 th	Women's Ministry Tea Party	10:00-Noon
Saturday, September 16 th	Men's Group	9:00-10:30 ^{am}
Sunday, September 17 th	Church Picnic (Oktoberfest)	11:30 ^{am}
Saturday, September 23 rd	LWML Retreat	9:00 to 2:30 ^{pm}
Friday, October 6 th	Fall Rummage Sale	9:00-4:00 ^{pm}
Saturday, October 7 th	Fall Rummage Sale	9:00-Noon
Sunday, October 15 th	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

Elder Board

Here it is already, September and we close out the summer with the celebration of Labor Day. It is a day we honor the American Worker; men and women who's hard work has created the world's greatest country and strongest economy. Going to work every day to earn a pay-check to support their families. Paying those taxes; providing revenue for our state, local and the federal governments and of course putting whatever is left in the collection plate at church.

There is another group of people we should celebrate on Labor Day. The countless people who not only donate a portion of their income to the Church, but more important provide their time and talents to the Church and the helping of others. Historically the Christian Church has always looked after the poor and the sick following the example of our Lord Jesus Christ. Feeding the hungry and healing the sick and dying. Most of our great institutions such as hospitals, orphanages and charities that exist today were established by churches and the members and volunteers who labored to help others.

Labor Day as well as every other day of the year is a time we can be thankful for our own church members who provide their time and talents to support our church and community. For example; the church council, the volunteers who set up and run the rummage sale, Angel Bazaar and holiday community dinners, and

all the people who help out with the general maintenance of the church buildings and grounds. Let us not forget the folks who help out every Sunday with the worship service; the Ushers, Elders, Altar Guilds and the ones who provide snacks and refreshments for after the service.

As we celebrate on Labor Day Weekend we all must realize that no one works for the church and community for a pat on the back.

Remember:

"What ever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the LORD, not for human masters" (Colossians 3:23)

In Christ

Mark Brown



Board of Elders

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

from Pastor Beck

A Tale of Two Worlds

What institutions are a microcosm of our nation? What about politics, the press, higher education, brawls on courthouse steps, or role-models portrayed in the movies? If one or more of these birds is a canary in a mineshaft, is that a song the Church can sing?



Recent epistle articles followed our Sunday texts, advocating transformation, that is, renewal through the Word and Sacraments. The Church is formed through Christ's gifts. Through them, our Lord brings us to spiritual maturity. It's what our Lord does, even if it feels like work to us. For example, we actively listen to Christ's teaching in the Divine Service. We receive the means of grace. We then leave the Nave to swim in the sea of a world. We dive in as those built up in the faith in whom the Holy Spirit works fervent love for our neighbor. That's very different from the songbirds of this age.

When you depart the Divine Service you encounter very different values, goals, and foundations. Our age begins with "me." The church begins and ends with Christ. Our age worships changeable values. The church has one eternal foundation. The world thrives on self-assertion. The Christian takes up his cross and follows Jesus. The world achieves identity by experience. The Church's identity is outside our experience, given us from the Triune God. The world lives by sight. The Church lives by

faith. The world finds truth by searching inwardly, sipping the nectar of self. The Church is given truth from above, regardless of how it tastes. These contradictory starting places take us to different ends.

For example, if values are invented as situations arise, what may follow? An analyst complimented a political bigwig: "There is no (name), but he's one heck of a campaigner!" He excited the crowds. But if his self-interest was endangered, he'd change his tune as easily as sacrifice his closest friends. Compare that to Jesus Christ, whose message was never popular; who did the will of the Father and humbled Himself to death on a cross (Jn 17, Phil 2).



The Church is in the world but not of the world. That means a Christian rejects values that are opposed to Scripture's witness. This is no easy task, since we all grow up in the ethos of our age, trained by a rule book of how to think and act with those around us. To undo the world's training takes prayer, study and contemplation and testing sent by God (Rm 12:1-6, 2 Cor 1:3-5).

The early church understood the difference between the values of the world and Christian faith, the gulf between paganism and Christianity. When adults asked to become Christians they entered a three year period

from Pastor Beck

of intensive catechesis and exemplary living - before baptism. Christian education is no less important today. Infants who are baptized need the Divine Service regularly in addition to being taught by parents at home. When a child is confirmed, it is not graduation, but preparation for lifelong learning. And adults strive to have the faith of a little child.

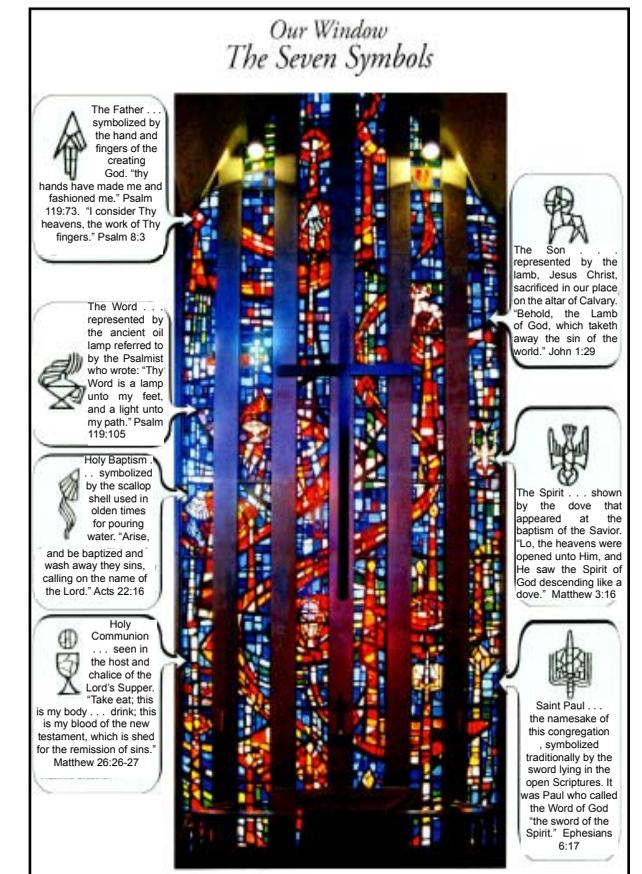
As society's hostility toward the faith increases so too should catechesis. Christ instituted the office of the ministry for a reason. The Word and Sacraments are central to a believer's life, where we learn not only the content of the faith and how to communicate it to your neighbors, we receive from our Lord.

Christian values are disappearing in the Western world. State churches in Scandinavia have imprisoned pastors and church members who refused to compromise what Scripture teaches about morality. In North America, many children grow up in ignorance of the real Jesus. But we can take a clue from the early church. A robust catechesis helped Christians survive in an antagonistic climate. And, Christians shared the faith with their neighbors so that in 300 years Christianity permeated the Roman Empire by the mercy of God.

The answer to dwindling church numbers is not accommodation to the world. Conforming to the values of the world mutes the Church's voice in the world. Eventually, it results in not being able to tell the difference between Christ's teachings and popular sentiment. Our identity is a given, given in baptism where we

were named by the Triune God. There we were freed from our former captivity to be God's people for eternity, a people transformed by His Word. The Church has a song to sing. It is well expressed in our liturgy and hymns. The melody is Christ crucified for the world's sins. It is the song with the power to give eternal life, the power of our Lord's resurrection and ascension to rule.

In Christ,
Pastor Beck



Congregation President

Nathan Broman

Congregation President
continued

So You Think The Solar Eclipse Was Something, *Well Check This Out!*

Yes, many of us enjoyed the solar eclipse (The moon blocking the light from the sun onto the earth) on Monday, August 21st, but here is something even more spectacular than that display of astronomical timing. What happened in the sky on the day of Christ's crucifixion? (... I'll tell you why this is even more amazing at the end...)

First, let's go back in time to understand a bit more about the stars and how they move (actually, it is the planets that move). Planets have always moved consistently since God created them, but the world didn't prove this until Johannes Kepler (a brilliant mathematician and scholar) completed the calculations for the movements of the planets in the early 1600's. Amazingly enough, one of the first things he did when he completed the calculations and confirmed the accuracy, was to look for the Star of Bethlehem (which has intrigued scientists and others for quite some time). Kepler was so intrigued that he wrote two books on the topic; unfortunately, he was unsuccessful in finding it and proving it mathematically, because he was using the inferred date of the death of King Herod as his guide. He looked at the writings of Josephus, who said Herod died in 4 BC, but it turns out Josephus was wrong because errors in later manuscript versions showed 4 BC, but at least one earlier text from other scholar(s) showed 1 BC.

So, before we get into some pretty amazing stuff in the stars, know that this shouldn't bother you if you think this is astrology, because the Bible is our source for information. He [God] is the maker of the bear and Orion, the Pleiades and the constellations in the south (Job 9:9). Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls them each by name (Isaiah). God even tells us about what to expect in the sky when our savior died for us on the cross... Peter, who is quoting Joel, is speaking to the heckling crowd at Pentecost, and to prove his point to the crowd that they should believe, he quotes: I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood (the crucifixion) and fire (Pentecost) and billows of smoke (the darkness on the day of the crucifixion). The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood (a lunar eclipse) before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord (the resurrection) (Acts 2:19-22). Yes, there was a lunar eclipse on the day of the crucifixion! This is referred to as a blood moon. (Counting from 9 a.m.) Mark tells us that Jesus was crucified at the third hour, there was darkness at the sixth hour (noon) until the ninth hour when Jesus died and there was a blood moon (about 3 p.m.).

Extrapolating known celestial movements can be used to verify certain historical events. There is a difference between the calendar that Caesar authorized and the Jewish calendar (lunar calendar), but each have calendar dates that fall on different days of the week. In orthodox Jewish tradition, preparation day is Friday (the day of the week when food was prepared for the Sabbath, which is Saturday). All four gospels tell us that Jesus was crucified on a Friday (preparation day). Several indicators limit the potential dates that Jesus was crucified, including the documented 10-year term of Pontius Pilot. The only Friday with a date that coincides with Passover during the term of Pontius Pilot is April 3, 33 AD. This is the date that Jesus died on the cross for your sins, and mine!

The software used at virtually every planetarium was also used by Mr. Rick Larson to search these dates (in his video, The Star of Bethlehem), using the correct dates instead of the Josephus dates. Mr. Larson uses his computer to generate the positions of the stars on these dates, and he has shown the night sky on the date of the birth of Jesus (the moon rising in the constellation Virgo – the Virgin), as well as the blood moon at the foot of Virgo on the day of his death (showing a life fully lived).

Amazingly, if you were looking from a different perspective while on the moon, looking back at the earth at the time of Jesus' death, the solar eclipse you would see of the earth fully blocking the sun from the position of the moon, the sun would be in the location of the heart of the ram (in the constellation Aries – the Pascal Lamb)! Absolutely stunning!

Wow! That is much more amazing than a simple, solar eclipse. But the really amazing thing is that God placed each and every named star in the sky and totally planned and orchestrated the positions of the planets, the sun, and our moon to tell the world of His one and only Son, who died for you and me. What a loving and caring God! So I didn't know this information until about 5 years ago, but I share it with others as a tool to introduce the good news. Please take the opportunity to watch this AMAZING movie with me this coming Christmas season. It will fill your heart! I hope you enjoyed the solar eclipse, but this certainly takes the cake and provides us with an opportunity to share the good news with others!

For His glory,
Nathan



Human Care

Deaconess Sara Smith



WHAT FLOWS FROM US?

Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. (1 Timothy 4:12)

God's Word in 1 Timothy says:

7 Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; 8 for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. 9 The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance. 10 For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe. 11 Command and teach these things. 12 Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. (1 Tim 4:7-12)

These are St. Paul's words to Timothy, speaking to him with counsel on his service to his church. These words are good for us, too.

Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness . . . godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. As children of God, we recognize our Father's voice and learn to disregard the irreverent, silly myths of this world. We hear His voice in His Word, the promise for our present life and for the life to come.

For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe. How do we strive for this? How do we train ourselves for godliness? We remain in Christ, strive to be in His presence. We read God's Word. We come into His presence in the Divine Service, where He comes to us in His Word and in His Sacrament.

Without this hope in the living God, without Christ, we are filled with wretchedness. Apart from Christ, nothing good is poured into us and nothing good will flow from us.

What we then receive is the mercy of Christ, flowing from Him to us, saving us from our wretchedness and bringing us into His body. We are filled with Christ, actually overflowing with His mercy. We pour that mercy out on those around us.

Our speech and conduct reflect the mercy we receive in Christ. We share that mercy in what we say and do when serving our brothers and sisters and our neighbors. As Christians, we represent Christ to others. Our speech and our conduct is a witness. What we receive from God, we pour out on others.

As the faithful we conduct ourselves with the certainty of the hope of salvation resting in Christ Jesus. We are overflowing with the good gifts that God gives us and we pour out his love toward our neighbors in what we say and do.

MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

Saturday
September 16th

9:00^{am} to 10:30^{am}



Bible Study
"We The People"

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 it's 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?



Ladies of St. Paul Lutheran Church, you are cordially invited -

Saturday, September 9, 2017

**Women's Ministries
3rd Annual Tea Party**

10 am until Noon

*Yummy Specialty Teas
Luncheon and Dessert*

Sign up sheet in Narthex of Church or
R.S.V.P. Denise Brown 520-8586

You are welcome to bring a friend. Please let me know!



Fall Rummage Sale

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Friday	Oct. 6	9 – 4:00
Saturday	Oct. 7	9 – 12 noon

Items may be placed on the stage beginning September 30th. Set up October 2-5 beginning at 9 am each morning. ALL and ANY help will be greatly appreciated.

LWML SUNDAY

September 3, 2017

St. Paul Lutheran Church

BE READY



IN SEASON AND
OUT OF SEASON



LWML 59th Annual Fall Retreat - 2017

with Dr. Phillip Penhallegon
presenting his study of

LUTHER, THE BIBLE AND REFORMATION



Date: Saturday, September 23rd (1-day Retreat)

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location: Jesuit Spiritual Center

5361 S. Milford Rd.

Milford, OH 45150

Servant Event – Our church is in charge of bringing *fruit or pudding cups*

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.



Memorials

Debbie Etlinger
(Harold Smith's sister).

from Russ and Susan Moody

2017 Voters Meetings

October 15th
November 19th
(Budget)

Church Picnic (Oktoberfest Theme)

September 17th

(following Sunday School/Bible Class)



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



Bring your German side dish
or dessert.

Sign up in in the
narthex.

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



10th Anniversary Community Celebration
August 5
2-5PM

MADISONVILLE STREETFEST 2017

WEED & SEED

Armstrong CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

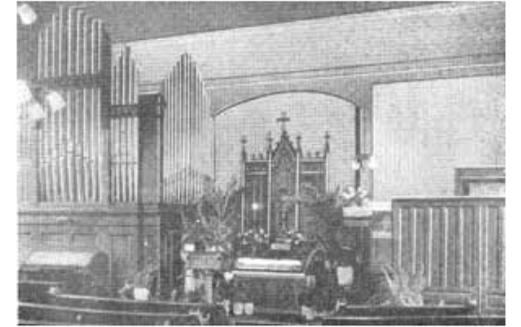
WORKING TOGETHER WORKS



Church History Buildings



Church Building 1897



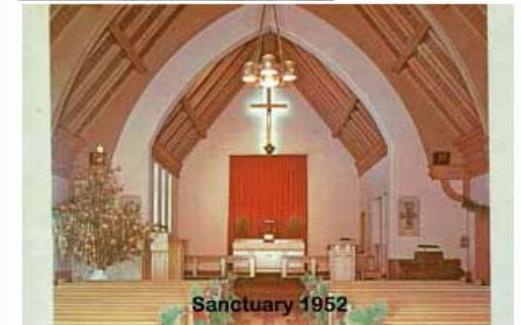
St Paul School Dedicated 1906



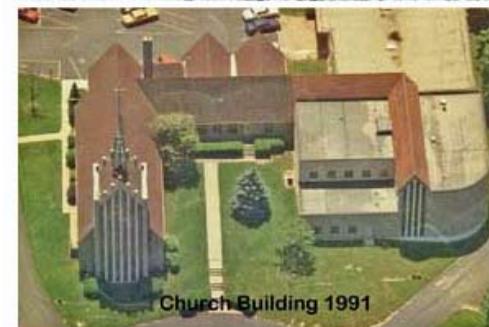
Church Building 1868 - 1951



Church and Parish Hall 1952



Sanctuary 1952



Church Building 1991





September 23 & October 14 RSVP by September 19 or October 10

Saturday,
September 23 & October 14
9:00 AM – Noon

Madison Road
&
Whetsel Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45227

For questions or more information,
please contact Lauralaura.
wellerding@uwgc.org.

Like many Cincinnati neighborhoods, Madisonville has a rich and unique personality. From its people to its landscape. Help us add to it!

United Way of Greater Cincinnati's major initiative, Place Matters, along with the Madisonville Beautification Committee and LISC, need volunteers like you. Together we will transform three underutilized spaces in Madisonville into lively and engaging "Pocket Parks" in just two days.

Join us to create thriving community spaces during a fun day of transformation. There are two great opportunities to pitch in. Volunteer on either one or both project days.

- Saturday, September 23: Help clear out and prepare the spaces for the "Pocket Park" designs.
- Saturday, October 14: Help bring the "Pocket Park" designs to life!



Please Pray

- † For pastors and seminarians in French-speaking West Africa and Haiti, who never before have had good Lutheran theology books in their own language. Now, sets of French theological books are on their way from LHF!
- † In thanksgiving for good news in the court case of David, the Iranian immigrant in Germany who is helping to translate LHF's Farsi edition of A Child's Garden of Bible Stories. David recently was notified that he will be allowed to remain in Germany instead of being deported back to Iran, where he would have faced intense religious persecution.
- † For Ethiopian immigrants making their home in the United States, who are searching for solid Biblical teachings and finding them - in LHF books!
- † In thanksgiving for the national LWML, who recently awarded LHF a \$100,000 mission grant to translate and publish Lutheran children's books for families around the world.

