

**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



*"For to us a child is born,
to us
a son is given"*
Isaiah 9:6

Dates to Remember		
Saturday, December 2 nd	Women's Ministries	10:00am
Monday, December 4 th	Cookie Pack at Christ Lutheran	
Sunday, December 10 th	Holly Follies	Noon
Saturday, December 16 th	Men's Group at The National Exemplar	9:00am
Sunday, December 17 th	Caroling	11:30am
Monday, December 25 th	Christmas Dinner	Noon

Voters:
1/21/18
4/15/18
7/15/18
10/21/18
and
11/15/18

December Worship: see page 5

Congregation President

Nathan Broman

Christmas Is About Christ

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

Yes! It's getting to be Christmas time once again! By the time you get this article, we will have celebrated Thanksgiving already.

The Angel Bazaar and Turkey dinner was a success (it had no crazy rush for dinners at the beginning, but was good and steady flow of attendees – Sandy Mercer and Denise Brown may have more information to share under Women's Ministries). So, it is wonderful to celebrate the blessings God has provided to us.

We can easily be distracted by the busyness of business. I almost messed up and nearly wrote this article on only the church finances – what a mistake to talk about the worry of money instead of the great message of Christ as the gift from God! I'll cover the finances briefly somewhere else in the Epistle, but for now, here is what really matters: God loves us so much, that he wanted to restore our relationship by having Jesus take our sins to the cross.

He understands the daily issues we face because of our sin, and he planned, from before time existed, to have Jesus and his passion to the cross, restore us so we can be with him for all eternity!

So yes, I love the Christmas season (and my wife has to allow me to sing and hum those Christmas carols I love to sing all year 'round), but it is because I know the true meaning of Christmas! Yes, we all love the nostalgia, the childhood memories, the lights, the activities, the family gathering, but it is all simply to remind us that GOD LOVES US!

Don't get caught up in the presents, the commercials, the (OH my goodness!) shopping, but instead, pause... and know that God is there.... God is here, God is with YOU! Jesus died for us all, and we believers can help give the best gift ever given... Share the true meaning of Christmas! God loves you!

For His Glory,

Nathan



from **Pastor Beck**

Where Have We Been, Where Are We, and Where Are We Going?

To start out of order: Merry Christmas! We are in the blessed season of the Incarnation. I can't wish you happy New Year. That's where we've been, since the Church's New Year began Dec. 3rd with Advent. Where shall we be? Epiphany is just around the corner, and that's big because the Epiphany reveals that Jesus is the Christ, our Savior.

Now, back to where we have been. We've been going back 500 years to celebrate the Reformation. Where are we going? We're going to go back to Walnut Hills School, February 16, 1868. There, presiders W. Melcher, chairman, and W. Stegemoeller, secretary, were appointed to "secure subscriptions for the building of the church;" namely, "The German Evangelical St. Paul's Church."



By going back there we'll see that this congregation's heritage is more than bricks and mortar. It is about Christ working through His body for the good of our neighbors; including immigrants and diverse ethnicities. Thank God for the many years the word has been faithfully preached and the sacraments rightly administered in this corner of the world. St Paul's has had, has, and shall have a part in the Church's story. And it all started a long time ago...

Where did it begin? Our personal story began in a garden somewhere in the Middle East. It floated through flood and walked through fire. After the Messiah came, died, rose and ascended, our story continued as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles. The story grew among all peoples despite persecutions, heresies, suppression and times of joy. Just 500 years ago Luther posted the 95 Thesis. Who would have guessed that putting up a bulletin board announcement would create such a stir?

And 150 years ago this congregation's founders built a church so that Christ's story, our story, would continue. How many of St Paul's members were immigrants escaping religious persecution? How many already had a history in the United States, in a country raw from the Civil War? And how many times did the congregation struggle with following the spirit of the age or remaining faithful to the Christ revealed in Scripture?



from **Pastor Beck**

We share in that history as we embrace the Reformation and rejoice that Saint Paul Lutheran Church continues in her mission. That's why we'll celebrate this year with an Oktoberfest, reunions, Bach-fest, movie nights and our 2018 Reformation weekend guest. Rev. Dr. Larry Rast, the president of Concordia Theological Seminary (and a scholar of 19th century Lutheranism in America), will treat us to insights about our history. We'll continue learning what it means to be Evangelical Lutherans. And we'll talk about passing on the grand message of the Reformation, of Christ crucified. That's where we are going in the immediate future.



Rev. Dr. Larry Rast

Lord willing, the future will look like the past in this way: We'll continue to receive the Word and Sacraments. Advent and Lenten mid-week Vespers will enrich our spirits. Opportunities for spiritual refreshment will be offered throughout the week, including individual confession/absolution. We will respond in thanksgiving, sharing our faith and caring for our neighbors. After all, we know where we are going. We go to be with Christ on the Last Day. Until then, we are on pilgrimage. Our pilgrimage includes learning to share our faith for there's one thing the Church has always done and will do. We proclaim the gospel.



That's where we have been, are and shall be - in the gospel of Jesus Christ, the most relevant thing in the world. As long as Saint Paul Lutheran Church remains faithful to that word, we can rejoice in all circumstances. By the grace of God, Saint Paul Lutheran Church has a heritage to pass on, relying on the goodness of the heavenly Father for years to come.



Sunday, December 17th

Caroling
at Indian Springs Care Center
following Sunday School





Human Care

Deaconess Sara Smith

Christ Comes to Us



“And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her”.

(Luke 1:28-38)

Very little is said about Mary in this scripture, except that she is a virgin. Mary is not the focus. As always the focus is on Christ. Here it's about the miraculous conception, the fulfillment of the Old Testament promise.

In verse 34, Mary asks, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” She doesn't ask this in unbelief. It's an honest question. She simply wants to know how this could happen. The angel instructs Mary concerning the child she will conceive. This is God's Word; this is her catechesis. She responds, showing her faith in God. She hears God's word and believes.

In verse 38, Mary describes herself as a servant. She believes God's Word, spoken to her through the angel. She believes in the promise that is now in her womb.

Salvation comes through this baby conceived in Mary. She finds favor with God, not because of any merit or superiority in her, but because she is chosen by God; by His good pleasure He chooses Mary to be the mother of Jesus.

Mary can be seen as representing the church. Mary is the virgin bride carrying the presence of Christ within her. The Lord is present in Mary's womb; the Lord is present in His church.

The conception of Jesus in verse 35, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, the power of the Most High will overshadow you.” We know this is the same Spirit that hovered over the waters at creation. The conception of Jesus came through the power of God's Word. Mary heard the Word from the angel and conceived the child. Similarly, the Word works faith in our hearts.

continued - Human Care

Mary is the mother of God. She heard the Word of God and believed. She sets the pattern for us to follow. Hearing/receiving God's Word and submitting in faithful obedience to the Word.

“For nothing will be impossible with God.” (v37) Mary rejoices as one favored by God to become the flesh and blood home of His Son. The Lord is with her! She humbly submits herself to God's Word and to His miraculous presence in her body.

Jesus presence is with us. Through hearing the Word of God, we also are a brought to faith. By the power of the Holy Spirit, Christ is within us. Just as the Lord was present in Mary's womb, the Lord is present in His church.

Just as Mary served by carrying Jesus into the world, we the church serve by bringing Christ to others. God prepares us for this service with His Word and Sacrament, as we gather at the altar and receive from Him.



Kroger Community Rewards for Mercy Care

If you shop at Kroger, you can designate St. Paul to receive donations from Kroger every time you shop and use your Kroger Rewards Card. Simply go to the website Kroger.com and click on “Explore” and choose “Community Rewards” from the box that drops down. Create an account and then you will have the option to designate which organization receives your community rewards. Please choose St. Paul

St Paul Community Christmas Dinner

Plans are underway for our 10th Community Christmas Dinner! Sign-up sheets for serving on Christmas and setting-up on Dec 23 will be out soon. Please let Deaconess Sara know how you would like to help, dcs.sara3@gmail.com or 513-271-4147. For any that don't know – our Community Christmas Dinner is on Christmas day at noon. We welcome any and all who are hungry or alone to join us for a delicious hot meal and the Christmas message. We also sing Christmas carols and have gifts for everyone, including a toy raffle for the children.

We are collecting new or gently used gloves, hats, scarves and socks to be given away at the Christmas dinner.

Toy Collection

We are collecting new, unwrapped Toys for the Christmas Dinner toy raffle. Toys are needed for boys and girls of all ages. Collection boxes for all of these items are available in the Narthex through Dec. 17th. See Deaconess Sara with questions.

– our organization number is 80301. This in no way affects your grocery bill or anything else relevant to your Kroger Card. Kroger simply makes a donation based on how much we spend with our Kroger Rewards Cards. If you aren't sure whether you are already enrolled, check the bottom of your receipt the next time you shop – it should say “You requested Kroger to donate to St. Paul Lutheran Church”. Please see Deaconess Sara for more information.

MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

December 16th

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

“ANNUAL MEN'S
CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST”



The National Exemplar
Mariemont Inn, 6880Woster Pike

RSVP to *Gates Smith* so he can
make reservations.

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

All St Paul men,
and friends are welcome.

HOLLY FOLLIES

ACTS WANTED

Participants are needed for this year's HOLLY FOLLIES on Sunday, December 10th. Please let Leah Broman know if you are willing to share your talent in this program especially if it has to do with the Reformation



Holly Follies



December 10

12:00 noon



Fun Food Fellowship
Please sign up in the Narthex



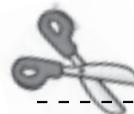
THE BELL

I KNOW WHO I AM

I am God's child (John 1:12)
I am Christ's friend (John 15:15)
I am united with the Lord (1 Cor. 6:17)
I am bought with a price (1 Cor 6:19-20)
I am a saint (set apart for God). (Eph. 1:1)
I am a personal witness of Christ. (Acts 1:8)
I am the salt & light of the earth (Matt 5:13-14)
I am a member of the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:27)
I am free forever from condemnation (Rom. 8: 1-2)
I am a citizen of Heaven. I am significant (Phil 3:20)
I am free from any charge against me (Rom. 8:31 -34)
I am a minister of reconciliation for God (2 Cor 5:17-21)
I have access to God through the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:18)
I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realms (Eph. 2:6)
I cannot be separated from the love of God (Rom 8:35-39)
I am established, anointed, sealed by God (2 Cor 1:21-22)
I am assured all things work together for good (Rom. 8:28)
I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit (John 15:16)
I may approach God with freedom and confidence (Eph. 3: 12)
I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Phil. 4:13)
I am the branch of the true vine, a channel of His life (John 15: 1-5)
I am God's temple (1 Cor. 3: 16). I am complete in Christ (Col. 2: 10)
I am hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:3).. I have been justified (Romans 5:1)
I am God's co-worker (1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor 6:1). I am God's workmanship (Eph. 2:10)
I am confident that the good works God has begun in me will be perfected. (Phil. 1: 5)
I have been redeemed and forgiven (Col 1:14). I have been adopted as God's child (Eph 1:5)
I belong to God
Do you know
Who you are?



NEW MEMBERS TO ADD TO DIRECTORY
JOINED OCTOBER 1, 2017



Julie and Tony Walter

1191 Alwill Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45215

Julie 513-882-7175
Tony 513-430-5371



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER



Let's celebrate the birth of our Savior together in our community!

- Christmas caroling
- Toy raffle for children
- Something for everyone!

12 Noon on Christmas Day

St. Paul Lutheran Church

5433 Madison Road ~ Madisonville, OH

No reservations are needed and there is no cost.
For more information, please call 271-4147.

We also invite everyone to our Christmas Services:
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service ~ 7:30 pm
Christmas Day Divine Service ~ 10:00 am



December Worship

Sunday at 9:00^{am}

December 3rd
1st Sunday of Advent

December 10th
2nd Sunday of Advent

December 17th
3rd Sunday of Advent

December 24th
4th Sunday of Advent

Advent Worship

Vesper Service

7:30 pm

Wednesday, December 6th

Wednesday, December 13th

Wednesday, December 20th

6:15^{pm}

Light supper served prior to Advent Services



Christmas Eve

Candlelight

Sunday, December 24th

7:30^{pm}

Vespers Service - Candlelight

Christmas Day

Monday, December 25th

10:00^{am}

Divine Worship Service with Communion



Monday, December 25th

Community Christmas Dinner

Christmas Day at Noon



Sunday, December 17th

Caroling

at Indian Springs Nursing Home
following Sunday School

Sunday, December 10th

Holly Follies

Noon

sign-up in Narthex
entertainment and fun for all!

Women's Ministries

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES EVENT

Saturday,
December 2, 2017
10 am – Noon

“The Gift and Service of
the Pastor”
*The Ministry of Word and
Sacraments*



*“Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us.
We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.” - 2 Corinthians 5:20*

Gift Exchange

Bring something small (wrapped) gently used from home
which you are willing to give away **or**
buy a small gift from Angel Bazaar to give away
(no clothing)

LUNCH: *Ham, small red potatoes, carrots, baked apples, rolls*



Women's Ministries

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

from the Office

Those at Home

Clarke Anstaett
David Bardill
Florence Beaber
Betty Crawford
Hilde Crossley
Kim Frederick

Mary Ann Haupt
Richard Henke
Janet Hicks
Mary Jane Hoffman
Preston Lee
Ruby McCudden

Roma Jane Minto
Doris Rathel
Elsie Roosa
Jim Seiter
Pat Stoecker
Aron Tugwell

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

Order Christmas Flowers

It's time to order Christmas flowers to decorate the Sanctuary during the Christmas services. Available are 6.5" red, white or pink poinsettias with 4-6 blooms for \$14.99 and 6" white holiday mums for \$11.24. Order forms will be available in the Bulletin and in the Narthex. Orders are due by Monday December 4th.



2017 CHRISTMAS FLOWER ORDER FORM
6.5" pot Poinsettia (\$15.00) or 6" pot White Holiday Mum (\$11.25)

NAME _____ Phone # _____

POINSETTIA: RED ___ WHITE ___ PINK ___ x \$15.00 = _____
(Availability of White Poinsettias may be limited)

MUM (WHITE) : _____ x \$11.25 = _____

Total quantity of flowers ordered _____ Total Amount Paid \$ _____

Please return this order form along with a check payable to St. Paul Lutheran Church, marked "Christmas Flowers" in the memo section in the attached envelope, put in the offering basket or the basket provided in the Narthex. **All orders must be in by Monday December 4th.**

Center for International Ministries

Madison WI
Judy Tang



Dear Sisters in Christ ~
Just thought I'd show you a very small sampling of what has been happening at the International Friendship Center. We've had a beautiful autumn and it's a great opportunity to share how God reveals Himself through His creation and all the wondrous colors! Thank you so much for your ongoing support of me and this amazing ministry as we connect internationals to life in Jesus and life in the U.S.

Blessings of Judy j



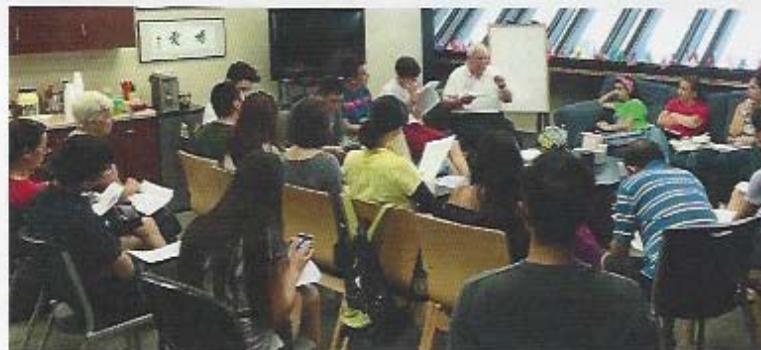
Apple picking at a local orchard



Nina, Ken and me (and we didn't plan it!)



Learning to make and enjoy pumpkin muffins and apple muffins!



US History and Conversation class



Yan and Judy

Cookies, Cookies, Cookies

Cookie Pack is
Monday, December 4,
9:30 a.m.
Christ Lutheran Church
3301 Compton Road

Cookies should be
brought to church on
Sunday, December 3

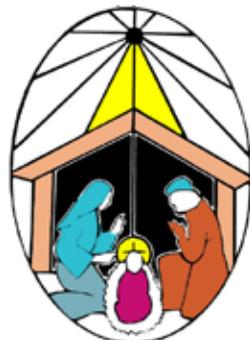
(If you would like your containers returned to you, be sure to clearly mark them with your name and "St. Paul", and we will retrieve them.) Many, many thanks!





Angel Bazaar and Turkey Dinner

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make it a success and everyone would take the time to support the work of St Paul's Women's Ministries.



25 YEARS OF LHF!

Join us in giving thanks to God for the Lutheran Heritage Foundation's 25 years in mission!

From humble beginnings in the basement of Rev. Robert Rahn's home, where in 1992 LHF's first translations brought the Gospel to the people of Russia, to today's World Mission Center in Macomb, Michigan, the Holy Spirit has greatly blessed the work of LHF.

Through your prayers and support, LHF has translated and published more than 880 good Lutheran books in 98 different languages for Christians around the world, young and old.

LHF Founder Looks Back on 25 Years in Mission

From the LHF Executive Director:
A Vision for the Next 25 Years

This month, LHF sends to the press the Jarai translation of Luther's Small Catechism. The Jarai are a minority group of 2-3 million people living along the Cambodia/Vietnam border in Southeast Asia. As with many of LHF's 80+ catechism translations, the Jarai have never before had this important book of the faith available in their own language.

In honor of LHF's 25th anniversary, please consider a thank offering to LHF, which will help cover the costs of printing books like Luther's Small Catechism for a Jarai brother or sister in Christ. Or, you can choose to direct your gift to a different area of the world that's close to your heart. Every \$5 you give places a book about Jesus directly in the hands of someone who wants to know more about Him!

THANK YOU



for your offerings and prayers for the LHF Match. With your help, the match goal of \$190,000 has been realized, allowing LHF to translate, print and distribute literally thousands of books about Jesus to new believers throughout the world. LHF hopes to be able to offer another matching program in 2018; more info to come!

Soli Deo Gloria!

More ways you can help the LHF mission:

Shop with Amazon Smile: When doing your Christmas shopping at Amazon, first sign up for Amazon Smile, a program that gives 0.5% of your total purchase price back to LHF. Simply go to the link, choose the Lutheran Heritage Foundation as your charity and start shopping!

Giving Tuesday: This year, remember LHF on Giving Tuesday, celebrated on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving, Black Friday and Cyber Monday shopping. On Nov. 28, take part in sharing the gift of the Savior with all nations through a gift to the LHF mission!

Lutheran Heritage Foundation