

February, 2016

The Epistle—Monthly Newsletter

St. Paul Lutheran Church

106 Maple Street

Reading, OH 45215-4811



The Epistle

February 2016

**“And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.
But the greatest of these is love.”
1 Corinthians 13:13**

The month of February is often associated with love, when we express that love for one another in the form of cards, poems, candy and gifts on the Valentine’s Day holiday. What greater form of love is there than this, however, that Jesus our Savior laid down his life for us, in order that we may have eternal life through him. That is truly the greatest gift of all!

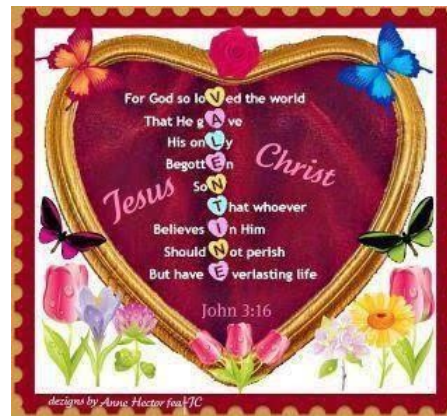
Our 40 day Lenten journey, also begins in February, starting with Ash Wednesday on February 10. Lent is a time of preparation, repentance, self-examination, reflection and giving of ourselves.

Why take just one day out of the month to express our love for one another? Let us use our Lenten journey to reach out and help our neighbors in need through one of the many service projects, here at St. Paul, or one near and dear to your heart, outside of the church. God asks us to “Love our Neighbor as we Love Ourselves” and what better time to prove that.

We hope you will join us at St. Paul for our Lenten services and international-themed dinners. Our Lenten service and dinner schedules are included in the newsletter. Please mark your calendars and join us on the journey!

In Christ,

Nancy Erbeck
Council President



Our Lenten Schedule

Ash Wednesday, February 10th

12:00 pm Noon Service
7:00 pm Evening Service

Both services will include the imposition of ashes.

Midweek Lenten Services and meals

On Wednesdays in Lent we will gather for a meal, with services following. The dinners this year will be international potlucks. Please bring a dish to share from the country or regional cuisine noted. St. Paul committee members are graciously taking responsibility for set-up and clean-up.

Feb. 17th 6:15 German Potluck (Property Committee)
7:00 Vespers Service

Feb. 24th 6:15 American Potluck (Social Concerns Comm.)
7:00 Compline

March 2nd 6:15 Mexican Potluck (Christian Ed./Evangelism)
7:00 Dulcimer Group

March 9th 6:15 Asian Potluck (Finance Committee)
7:00 One-Act Play, *Red Tie Club*

March 16th 6:15 Italian (Music and Worship Committee)
7:00 One-Act Play, *Canvas of Lies*

Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday, March 24th 7:00 pm

Good Friday, March 25th Noon and 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday, March 27th 10:30 am

February Ministry Schedule

7	Transfiguration Sunday	Assisting Minister:	Terry McDowell
		Reader:	Sherry Bronner
		Acolyte:	Spencer Lohmeier
10	Ash Wednesday	Assisting Minister:	Doug Lohmeier
		Reader:	Carolyn Koehl
		Acolyte:	Matthew McDowell
14	1 Lent	Assisting Minister:	Nancy Erbeck
		Reader:	Penny Huber
		Acolyte:	Matthew McDowell
21	2 Lent	Assisting Minister:	Leandra Hawkins
		Reader:	Terri DeAngelis
		Acolyte:	Annie Lohmeier
28	3 Lent	Assisting Minister:	Taylor Beckering
		Reader:	Kathy Hirt
		Acolyte:	Grant Lohmeier

Greeters: Linda Lawson and Steve Headley

Altar Guild:

Linen: Elinor Schieman

Set Up: Janet King

Clean Up: Kathy Hirt

Bulletin Folders: Jean Winkle and Penny Huber

A Little Drama for Lent and Beyond

The St. Paul Players, under the direction of David Hill, have been preparing several one-act plays. Join us for theatre on two of our Lenten Wednesday evenings, or for any of the April performances.

Lenten Performances

Wednesday evening, March 9th
Red Tie Club by Fred Passmore
Directed by Sarah Papin

Wednesday evening, March 16th
Canvas of Lies by Fred Passmore
Directed by Barry Prince

April Performances

Four short plays each date

Friday, April 1st 7:30 pm

Saturday, April 2nd 7:30 pm

Sunday, April 3rd 2:00 pm

Red Tie Club by Fred Passmore
Directed by Sarah Papin

Canvas of Lies by Fred Passmore
Directed by Barry Prince

Crazy for Christ By Fred Passmore
Directed by David Hill

Walkin' Home by Steven Orth
Directed by Carroll Mayhugh

Capital Campaign

The realization of our current financial situation provides us with an opportunity to reflect on our giving patterns and to prayerfully consider how God might be calling us to give of our time, talents, and financial resources in order to support the mission which God has entrusted to us. A Capital Campaign is underway to address our current financial issues: special pledges designated to the Capital Campaign will be used to pay our back-taxes and outstanding bills to vendors.

If you have not yet submitted your Stewardship 2016 Commitment Card, there is still time! In response to God's call to this mission and out of thanksgiving for God's faithful provision and the generosity which God has abundantly poured out on us and our congregation, please consider what you/your household can commit for your regular giving in 2016 as well as toward the Capital Campaign. Stewardship Cards and envelopes are located in the narthex. Please place them in the offering plate during worship or mail them to St. Paul.

If you were unable to attend the Annual Meeting, held on January 24, 2016, or if you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact Nancy Erbeck, President at councilpresident@stpaulreading.org or Chris Geiger, Treasurer, at treasurer@stpaulreading.org. If you would like a copy of the Annual Report, you can pick one up in the Narthex or at your request, we will be happy to mail one to you.

Music and Worship

During the month of February, while Pastor Emily is on maternity leave, we welcome these Presiding Pastors who will lead our worship services:

Sunday, February 7th:
Pastor Douglas Campbell

Ash Wednesday, February 10th, Noon & 7pm:
Pastor Lisa Bernheisel

Sunday, February 14th:
Pastor Lisa Bernheisel

Sunday, February 21st:
Pastor Lisa Bernheisel

Hosts Needed for One Night!

Here is a great opportunity to be part of an inspiring musical event. The renowned Concordia College Choir will be singing on Saturday, February 27th right here in Cincinnati. To make possible this **FREE concert**, they don't stay in hotels, but ask for friendly folks to put up students in their homes for one night. Do you have an extra place in your home for that night that would sleep two guys or two gals? (One queen bed or two single beds is fine!)

Concert Info: Saturday, February 27th at 7:30pm
Location: Christ Church Cathedral, 318 E. 4th St.

You would pick up your students at the cathedral (they will have already eaten dinner!), and bring them back on Sunday morning. These kids are lovely, dedicated to their music and fun to talk with. If you can help, please contact Dawn Bruestle, 513-706-7556, or dawnbsinger@mac.com.

Dorcas Circle

Since it was necessary to cancel our work day in January, we will make it up this summer. Meanwhile, we will meet on Wednesday, February 17th, provided it is not snowing heavily!



Elinor Schieman

Valley Interfaith Ministries

This local ministry provides goods and services to meet short-term emergency needs. In winter, sometimes people have to spend so much on heat that they go without other basic household needs, even without adequate food.



Along with many other churches, synagogues and community groups, we donate goods which are distributed to those served by VIM. Our gifts mean a lot to this all-volunteer organization. Currently we are asking for items that cannot be purchased with food stamps. For February, please bring **all-purpose cleaners** and place them under the giving tree in the narthex. We'd love to be able to donate 100 items per month!

Update on the Beckering Family

Henry is doing well and settling into a regular sleeping schedule, allowing Mom & Dad (Pastor Emily & Taylor) a little more sleep! He's growing and becoming more alert, as you can see from the photos below. In between helping Pastor Emily with Henry, Taylor is preparing for two school interviews at both Xavier and Wright State. Pastor Emily is enjoying her family time at home with Taylor and Henry, and is enjoying motherhood! She will be returning to St. Paul on Monday, February 22. We look forward to her return!



Tender Mercies

We are in need of items for the gift baskets for our future visits to Tender Mercies.

Anything can go into a basket. Some examples are: * Small umbrellas, pocket raincoats, rain bonnets/hats, etc * Personal care items (deodorant, hair spray, bath soap, disposable razors, shaving lotion, body wash, shampoo, perfume/aftershave, Kleenex, etc...) * decks of cards * hand held games * Pringles, nuts, pretzels, etc. * canned soups, tuna, crackers, etc. * bottles/cans of soda or juice * note pads/pens/pencils/markers * picture frames, alarm clocks, small radios, etc. * bagged candy/candy bars

This list is endless. We can make a gift basket out of just about anything you'd care to donate.

We are always in need of volunteers to go to Tender Mercies to help with the Bingo game.

Please let me know if you'd like to help.
Thanks a bunch –

Marie Calhoun

Feel free to contact me any time:

513-251-2417

houdinicat@zoomtown.com

February Birthdays and Anniversaries

Celebrating Birthdays:

- Feb 1 William Harrison
Matthew Lawson
Jim Miller
- Feb 8 Les Eckerle
- Feb 11 Ron & Shirley Harbaugh
- Feb 12 Joyce Spelman
- Feb 13 Eric Bardes
Kyle Kreiner
- Feb 18 Kris Kreiner
- Feb 19 Rachel Bronner
Karen Kerlin
- Feb 20 Penny Huber
- Feb 21 Bryana Bronner
- Feb 22 Diana Hawkins
- Feb 23 Nate Daley
- Feb 24 Erika Ford
Jillian Ford
- Feb 26 Jack Spelman



Happy Anniversary to:

Jack and Mary Wagner on the 26th

Is your birthday or anniversary missing? Please contact the church office to make our list more complete. Don't be

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

One of the things God wants us to do is pray for one another. If you need prayer for yourself, a family member or a friend, please **email the church office at mail@stpaulreading.org** or call **Penny Huber at (513-931-6420)**. Please take this home and pray for those listed.

We pray for those near and far with ongoing health concerns who are unable to come to church every week: **Ann Christiansen, Norm Dageforde, Pat Edwards, Bus Faulkner, Mary Jane Flege, Ken Garber, Carol Leonard, Marge Malin, Jack Moorhouse, Jean Nolte, Heather Segar, and Edna Willet.**



Please remember in prayer all the brave men and women serving in harm's way. We remember especially those close to people of St. Paul:

Paul Cordes (grandson of Elinor Schieman)
Jared Forst (grandson of Jim and Loretta)
John Garbrecht (nephew of Carolyn Koehl).
Beau Glenn (son-in-law of Karen Koehl)
Kylie Hahn (granddaughter Gretta Hahn)
Donald Hosea (son of Karen Koehl)
Kyle Murdoch (friend of Holly Ford)
Jobeth Ramirez (friend of Karen Koehl)
Joey Ramirez (friend of Karen Koehl)
Joshua Rodriguez (friend of Karen Koehl)
Mack Thompson (grandson of Freda and Bus Faulkner)
Mylan Watkins (friend of the Ford family)

We mourn the death of Patricia (Pat) Hollis, who passed away January 17th. The family has held a private service. Please keep her family in prayer. Donations in memory of Pat may be made to St. Paul.

We mourn the death of Helen Baldauf (Carole Replogle's Mother), who passed away on February 1st. A service was held, In Springfield, OH, for family and friends on Friday, February 5th. Please keep Carole, Ron and family in your prayers. Donations can be made to St. Paul (Reading,¹OH) or to Arise in Christ Lutheran (Donnelsville, OH).²

Members, family and friends of St. Paul congregation need our prayers:

We pray for **Carole and Ron Replogle** on the passing of Carole's mother, **Helen Baldauf**. We pray for **Mark Ford** (brother of Jeff Ford), **Berkeley** (great-grandson of the Curlesses), **Bill and family** (Co-worker of Faith Pirrmann), **Cameron** (great-grandson of Rita Edwards), **Jerri Bagley** (friend of Kathy Hirt), **Jimmy Bertheaud** (friend of the Portmanns), **Amberly Derby** (friend of Molly McDowell), **Jeremy Doan** (Jean Winkle's grandson), **Jerry Doan** (Jean Winkle's son-in-law), **David Faulkner** (Bus and Freda's son), **Larry Faulkner** (Bus and Freda's son), **John Gill** (son of a co-worker of Holly Ford), **Debbie Heinz** (cousin of the Portmanns), Les Helmich's children **Bruce** and **Elaine**, **Dick Hibbeler** (Elinor Schieman's brother), **Clara Hoffman** (Cindy Mayhugh's mother), **Matt Huber**, (Penny Huber's son), **Linda Kohl** (friend of the Sieckmans), **Charlotte Langefeld**, **Doug Meyers' Family** (friend of the Portmanns), **David Oaks** (son-in-law of Bus Faulkner), **Anne Ohr** (cousin of Barb Moorhouse), **Craig Olsen** (friend of the Sieckmans), **Barry Prince**, **Sarah Rupert** (Carolyn Koehl's sister), **James Savory** (Jean Winkle's great-grandson), **Pauline Schauer** (cousin of Cindy Sieckman), **Michael Schmitt** (Jean Winkle's son-in-law), **Allan Sieckman**, **Kim Sieckman**, **the Silva Family** (daughter and son-in-law of Tammy Trees), **Jason Simpson** (Grand-nephew of Bus and Freda Faulkner), **Speedy Sizemore** (friend of Marie Calhoun), **Dot Smith** (friend of Marilyn Portmann), **Melissa Smith** (friend of Holly Ford), **Scott Songer** (friend of Jean Winkle), **Crosley Spelman** (grandson of Jack and Joyce Spelman), **Britney Jean Teems** (Jean Winkle's granddaughter), **Debbie Willet** (co-worker of Holly Ford), and **Anna Louise Witker** (Carolyn Koehl's mother).

THE EPISTLE February, 2016

**St. Paul Lutheran Church
A Congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
106 Maple Street * Reading, Ohio 45215-4811**

www.stpaulreading.org

Phone: 513/821-0987 Email: mail@stpaulreading.org

9:00 am Intergenerational Sunday School
(All ages, September—May)

10:30 Worship Service

Reverend Emily Beckering, Pastor

Barry L. Prince, Director of Music

Janet King, Sacristan

Dennis King, Financial Secretary

David Hill, Drama Director

Holly Pratt, Administrative Assistant

Church Council

		<u>Term</u>
President	Nancy Erbeck	2015-2017
V.P. & Education	Joyce McDowell	2015-2016
Secretary & Evangelism	Diana Hawkins	2015-2017
Treasurer & Finance	Chris Geiger	2015-2016
Stewardship	Jim Forst	2015-2017
Social Concerns	Penny Huber	2015-2017
Property	Dennis King	2015-2016
Worship	Janet King	2015-2016