

**SEASONS
MARCH 2018**

**St. Paul Lutheran Church
2860 East Market Street
Warren, OH 44483
330-394-5741**



L E N T

**SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:30 am
SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 10:30 am**

FROM PASTOR ANN MARIE WINTERS: A Sunday Sermon Series for Lent: “Staying in Touch with God”

Now, we are in the season of Lent, a time to return to God, strengthening the connection between us and God. Being in God’s presence, and walking with Jesus, we have guidance, comfort, and direction. Staying in touch with God, we can find a growing, fulfilling spiritual life. So how are we to “stay in touch”? How can we “walk the walk” and “talk the talk” in the midst of our busy lives? Even in a noisy, distracting world, God does not need to be hidden from us...

Feb. 18: Staying in touch with God: HEARING THINGS: Blocking out distracting things and listening well to God.

Mar. 4: Staying in touch with God: FORMING THINGS: God forms and reforms a new heart in us.

Mar. 11: Staying in touch with God: HEALING THINGS: Jesus’ peace comes from healing and wholeness inside.

Mar. 18: Staying in touch with God: TROUBLING THINGS: Jesus’ life and death is a way through suffering.

Mar. 25: Staying in touch with God: CARRYING THINGS: Embracing the promises of God and partnering with Him.

Most of all, this Lent, stay in touch with God and your brothers and sisters in regular weekly worship.

Praying with you,
Pastor Winters

REPENTANCE FOR THE SAKE OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES: How often we hear the word REPENTANCE during Lent! What comes to mind?

- Is it saying sorry to God and promising to give up sin?
- Is it sacrificing something that you especially enjoy?
- Or is it more prayer and worship than usual?
- Perhaps giving to the poor and needy?

Repentance is any and all of these things. And REPENTANCE is always a matter of “changing directions”, moving closer to God and God’s ways.

With CHANGING DIRECTIONS in mind, we are embarking on a Lenten Journey together with St. Paul and Living Lord, taking action to grow younger. **This means that we are working more closely with God for the sake of young people and families.** We have been consulting with Dr. Andrea (Ceplecci) Hall (see her article entitled “Seeking the Fountain of Youth”), and we have formed a Youth Design Team. As we double our efforts to incorporate young people into our congregations, we need the support of every member.

- Come to St. Paul for the prayer services and “Growing Young” presentations on Lenten Wednesdays Feb. 21 to Mar. 21
- Take an interest in one or two young people by talking to them, asking them about themselves, sharing your story, or a bit of wisdom perhaps.
- PRAY for God’s help that our church will change directions and GROW YOUNG!

(The book called “Growing Young: 6 Essential Strategies” that is the basis for our discussion is written by Kara Powell, Jake Mulder, and Brad Griffin, Baker Books; Grand Rapids, MI, 2016. It is available for about \$12.00 through Amazon.)

PRAYING TOGETHER DURING LENT: Our PRAYER EMPHASIS for March is “Growing Young”. Will you pray for youth and young families, especially those in our churches?

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS DURING LENT: Our Worship Committee at St. Paul is preparing a Service of Preaching and Teaching called “Growing Young Presentation and Prayer” (see the article called “Seeking the Fountain of Youth”.) The 7:00 pm prayer service will include song, scripture, prayers, and a key presentation. Come learn and worship! Everyone is also welcome to the Soup Suppers which begin at 6:00 pm each Wednesday.

SEEKING THE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH: It is no secret that the culture in North America is going through a massive shift, and it is no secret that this shift is having a tremendous impact on the church. With every major denomination (and churches in no denomination at all) in steady decline, churches are wondering about their ability to survive. In particular, churches long to see more young people walk through their doors, but young people today just don’t seem interested, and most churches have no idea where to start. The future seems unsure, at best, and downright depressing, at worst.

Yet amid these grim statistics, there are churches that are beating the odds. That is why the folks at Fuller Theological Seminary decided to research churches that were “growing young” (that is, churches whose average age was decreasing or holding steady). They wanted to determine what, if anything, these churches had in common. Was it denominational affiliation (or lack thereof)? Was it location? A “contemporary” worship service? The size of the congregation? A young, hip pastor?

You might be surprised to learn that they found that none of these factors were particularly significant. In fact, time and again, they found churches of every denomination, size, geographic location, and worship style that were able to grow young. Through their research, the team identified six core commitments that every “growing young” church embodied.

During Wednesdays in Lent, we will continue to examine these commitments in the hopes of sparking some conversation about how we might begin to help young people discover and love our churches. The last three strategies will be discussed as follows:

- March 7 - Fueling a Warm Community
- March 14 - Prioritizing Young People (and Families) Everywhere
- March 21 - Being the Best Neighbors

Please join us at St. Paul on each of these days. We will gather for a soup supper at 6:00 pm and then at 7:00 pm for a worship service where we will explore these themes.

Growing young can be a difficult process. It requires some change and a whole lot of faith to step out and embark on something new. But, it is necessary if the church is going to thrive amid the changing cultural tides. And, more importantly, it is necessary if we want a new generation to know and follow Jesus. While many things have changed, some things have not: Jesus is still the only one who has defeated sin and death, he is still calling his children to follow him, and he is still calling his church to go and make disciples. Join us as we talk about the ways in which we can embrace our role in God’s mission in the world – even if that world is a bit different than the one we used to know. Andrea Ceplecci Hall

(Andrea Ceplecci Hall was baptized, confirmed, and married at St. Paul. She has a Master's degree in theology from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and a Doctorate in Educational Ministry from Columbia Theological Seminary. She is married to Rev. Dr. Sean Hall, and they live in Greenville, PA, where Sean is the pastor at Hillside Presbyterian Church.)

CELEBRATE GRAND-FAMILIES: "Celebrate Grand-families" is a new support group for grandparents raising their grandchildren. St. Paul is reaching out to support these families with Christian compassion and a place to meet and discuss their needs. We are starting with the group with five families from the community, and more are welcome, if you know of anyone who would fit in. While the women meet, we will have crafts, games, bible stories, snacks, help with homework, tutoring, and a fun social time for children. Church members are needed to help with the children. Sessions in March will be on **Saturdays, March 10 and 24**, from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm. Please contact Brenda Ceplecci or Pastor Winters to help.

ST. PAUL NEWS & EVENTS

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Remembering those with medical challenges:

Debbie Bartlett, David Baudo, Elaine Benka, Ron Benka, Debbie Groves, Jacob Groves, Jerry Groves, Don Hazel, Carol Hipple, Wally Hipple, Jim Illencik, Carolyn Marsh, Roy Seibert, April Williams, Andrea Wollam

Remembering those who are home bound:

Shirlee Chambers, Charles English, Margaret Halavick, Harriette Shaffer

Remembering those with special needs:

Donna Baldwin, Joe Benka, Elizabeth Campbell, Marty Cohol, Amber Ellis, Bryan Giocondi, Debi Houlf, Letha Marsh, Mike McMann, Anita Rayburn, Cindy Robinson, Deanna Savon, Ondine Shiau, Lisa Young

Remembering those in the Military:

Joe Baudo, Kirk Groves, Michael Maradin

COFFEE CUP GREETINGS: Held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month, March 4 & 18.

ST. PATRICK LUNCHEON AND SILENT AUCTION: Come One, Come All! **Sunday, March 11**, St. Patrick Luncheon and Silent Auction. The 150th Anniversary Committee would like to continue our year-long celebration with a special lunch and fun activity on **Sunday, March 11**, immediately after the church service. The luncheon cost will only be \$5.00. Following the luncheon, we will have a silent auction. You are asked to bring one or two wrapped items to be auctioned off. It can be a good quality item or a gag gift. Please write a clue on a piece of paper and tape it to your gift – a clue that would encourage someone to bid on your gift. Please bring your pocketbook for the bidding. An ATM machine will be available in the narthex for your convenience. Feel free to invite your family and friends. Our friends from Living Lord are welcome to join us.

FROM THE PARISH EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Noisy Change - During the month of March 2018, the children will be collecting "Noisy Change" during the church service. This is an ELCA project for "World Hunger". We would like to raise \$100.00 so that we can purchase either a goat or two pigs for a country so that the people will not go hungry.

Maundy Thursday – The Catechism Class will hold a "Chicken Dinner". The money raised will go towards their Camp Frederick Servant Week in June.

Upcoming Events:

May – 1st Holy Communion

May 20 – Confirmation and Reception. We have 6 youth that will make Confirmation. They are Ean and Ethan Dodge, Jordan Eaton, Christian and Hunter Groves, and Chelsea Moorhead.

2018 Seniors – Any high school graduates please submit your bio to the secretary, Lynn, at St. Paul Lutheran Church.

St. Paul Scholarship Applications for undergraduate degree – Applications are available in the church office. Deadline for applications to be submitted is May 31, 2018.

June – Northeast Ohio Synod Lutheran Youth Organization is hosting a Summer Lock-in for high school and middle school youth. The dates are June 8-9, 2018, at John S. Night Center in Akron and Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Akron. Registration deadlines: \$10 by May 1; \$15 by May 15. If interested, please see Debbie Groves for application.

HALL RENTAL: Anyone wishing to rent Cassel Hall must first call the office to schedule the date to be sure it is not already rented or in use by the church, the Preschool, DAR, or the Red Cross. There is also paper work which needs to be filled out prior to renting.

FLOWERS AND MEDITATION CANDLES: Weeks are available for purchase, dedicated to your special intentions. The meditation candle is \$5.00 and flowers are \$30.00 for two vases. **Please use an Order Envelope and PREPAY your order at the time that you sign the flower and candle chart. PAYMENT ENVELOPES ARE BY THE FLOWER CHART.** On weeks where there is no paid order, the church will display silk flowers to the Glory of God. Please sign up for your special weeks while they are available.

SPLASH TODAY: Donations are always warmly welcomed, and with your continued support, we will be able to sustain this valuable ministry to young families.

GRIEF MINISTRY: Part of the Social Committee is Grief Ministry. Joyce Osborn (330-372-2136) is spearheading this ministry with Pr. Winters' and God's guidance and help. When a loved one dies, Joyce sends a set of four books called "Journeying through Grief" throughout the first year. Each book describes the issues and feelings that a person tends to encounter at various points of grief and the books offer suggestions on handling them. If Pastor Winters or Joyce can be of any help or if you have any questions during a time of grief, please contact either of them.

DUE TO GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS: In the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), churches and clergy can no longer make written or oral public announcements of health information regarding our members. Thus, unless specifically requested by a member to share other information, we are only able to indicate where a person is hospitalized or that they have been discharged.

BIRTHDAYS:

- 1 = Donald Brant & Hunter Groves
- 2 = Pr. Ann Marie Winters
- 3 = Taylor Montgomery
- 5 = Lynn Gibson
- 6 = Drena Smith
- 7 = Noah Kerns
- 11 = Grace Gilger
- 14 = Christine Mymo
- 15 = Shaun Brown
- 16 = Marissa Colarich
- 19 = Justin Montgomery
- 20 = Victoria Muehlbauer
- 22 = Evelyn Brant & Cameron Danklefsen
- 23 = Erika Smith
- 24 = Joey Sarko
- 29 = Cameron Mackowski
- 31 = Margaret Halavick, Penny Jewell, & Ava Waldron

ANNIVERSARIES:

- 2 = Wilson, Paul & Sarah
- 7 = Seibert, Roy & Dorothy
- 12 = Preston, James & Cathie

ST. PAUL SERVANTS FOR MARCH 2018

Greeters

03/04 June and Kelly Hutchison
03/11 June and Kelly Hutchison
03/18 Linda Murray and Joanne Santucci
03/25 Linda Murray and Brenda Ceplecci

Lectors

03/04 Georgia Mikola
03/11 David Perkins
03/18 Linda Murray
03/25 Kelly Hutchison

Flower Delivery

03/04 LENT – NO FLOWERS
03/11 LENT - NO FLOWERS
03/18 LENT – NO FLOWERS
03/25 Diana Bauman

Refer to the sheet in the Sacristy for deliveries. Mark the date of delivery opposite the person's name on the sheet. Thank you.

Communion Assistants

03/04 Diana Bauman
03/11 Georgia Mikola
03/18 Lisa Thirion
03/25 Kay Paajanen

Acolytes 10:30 service: (agreed dates by parish youth)

03/04 Spencer Moorhead
03/11 Evan Davis
03/18 Chelsea Moorhead
03/25 Ean & Ethan Dodge (cross bearer)
03/29 Evan Davis
3/30 Tori Muehlbauer
3/31 Kyra Mymo

Acolytes: Please be present ten minutes before the service begins.

If you are unable to acolyte as scheduled, please trade with one of the other acolytes and notify Christine Mymo – 330-647-2913. Thank you for your help! We count on you to be here!

Ushers

03/04 Harry Pasku & Judy Cary
03/11 Harry Pasku & Judy Cary
03/18 Matt Kerns & Christine Mymo
03/25 Matt Kerns & Christine Mymo

Church Closing

Liz Chapin

Visitor Notes

Jean Maurice

NEWS FROM LIVING LORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

From the Fellowship Committee Chairperson, Nancy Walters...

Lenten Soup Suppers...In March, Living Lord Lutheran Church needs to provide food for the Soup Suppers on **March 7 and 14** at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Each time, we need four pots of soup, salad, and desserts. There will be a sign-up sheet on the main bulletin board.

Easter Breakfast...On **Easter Sunday, April 1**, we will have an Easter Breakfast between services. Everything will be provided by the Fellowship Committee. There will be a sign-up sheet just to get a head count. If you have any ideas on a theme or what could be provided, please call me or leave a message in my mailbox. We will try our best to make it happen.

From the Later Life Committee, Member Lynne Walters...

Card Class...Join us for a card-making class on **Thursday, March 1**, in the Activity Room. We will be making 4 cards. Our theme will be "Fantastic Folds for Spring/Easter". Classes will be at 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm. The cost is \$12.00. Please bring adhesives like double-stick tape and liquid glue. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. The deadline for signing up is Sunday, February 25. St. Paul members are welcome to join us – call Lynne Walters at 330-856-9689 to get signed up!

From the Outreach Committee Chairperson, Judy Shaffer...

Bingo at NSOV Update...The Outreach Committee would like to thank everyone who donated items and/or assisted with the Bingo at Niles Shepherd of the Valley on February 21. The residents had a wonderful time!

Easter Food Baskets...We will begin collecting food for the Easter Food Baskets on **Sunday, March 4**. The last day to bring in items will be **Sunday, March 18**. A chart will be in the hallway for items to bring. If you know anyone in the church or anyone in need, please call or email the Parish Office (330-856-5302 or secretary@lllc.org) to order your food basket by **Friday, March 9**. Emmanuel and St. Paul members are encouraged to call your church office if you know of anyone in need of a food basket. We will pack and distribute the baskets on **Wednesday, March 28**, beginning at 9:00 am. Pickup will be from 10:00 am until 12:00 noon. No deliveries. There will be envelopes to donate for the purchase of hams available at the food chart in the hallway. Please mark "Easter Food Baskets" in the memo portion of your check made payable to Living Lord Lutheran Church. You may also place your check in the collection plate. If you have any questions, please contact the Parish Office.

From the Parish Education Committee, Member Pat Was...On **March 4** the Adult Forum will continue reviewing the Ray Vander Laan series "Path to the Cross". The remaining five sessions before Easter will follow the path of Christ leading up to the Passover and concluding with the Last Supper. Mr. Vander Laan is an extraordinary teacher and historian who guides us through the Holy Land with geographical and cultural detail. Those looking for a meaningful Lenten experience should take the time to bring a friend and join us on Sunday morning.

From the Worship Committee Chairperson, Jan Was...

Organ Concert...An organ concert featuring all aspects of organ repertoire such as Bach, Mendelssohn, Boëllmann, Franck, and Hindemith will be held at Living Lord Lutheran Church on **Sunday, March 11**, at 4:00 pm. Organists are Dylan Sanzenbacher and Chase Castle. Dylan Sanzenbacher, a native of Warren, Ohio, is a sophomore Music Education major at Baldwin Wallace University Conservatory of Music in Berea. In his time at BW, he has studied piano with Dr. Sungeun Kim, and organ and harpsichord with Professor Nicole Keller. He is currently employed as organist at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Elyria, Ohio. He has performed in master classes and Brownbag concerts at Trinity Cathedral and Baldwin Wallace University's Lindsay-Crossman Chapel with Todd Wilson. Dylan enjoys accompanying the Howland Middle School Solo and Ensemble contests, accompanying Mrs. Nancy Moore's Warren Civic Chorus Children's Choir, and substitute playing organ for Living Lord Lutheran Church and his home church, St. Mark Lutheran Church, both in Warren, Ohio. Dylan loves spending time with his family, reading, cooking, and learning about his family history and their impact on the Canfield/Warren area. Dylan is Lee and Bonnie Sanzenbacher's grandson. Chase Castle is an active organist and collaborative musician from Norwalk, Ohio. Chase studies music history and organ performance with Nicole Keller at Baldwin Wallace Conservatory of Music in Berea, Ohio. He is on faculty at Far Around Recording in Norwalk, Ohio, as a keyboard instructor and serves as Director of Music at Church of the Epiphany in Euclid, Ohio. Chase enjoys exploring all aspects of organ repertoire, with particular emphasis on ethnomusicological and world music compositions. Chase has performed in master classes with Todd Wilson, Marie-Louise Langlais, and James David Christie. He has played concerts in Ohio, New York, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont, Florida, Mississippi, and Kansas. Chase spent summer 2017 as the resident organist and choirmaster of the Squirrel Island Chapel in Squirrel Island, Maine. He enjoys collaborating with other artists and musicians and promoting diverse artistic projects.

From the Parish Nurse, Dora Muller... *"Be happy...not because everything is good, but because you can see the good in everything."*

The signs of spring are just around the corner. To renew and energize is a good thing. However, with our daily life struggles, it can be difficult to focus on our mental well-being. We can examine a few strategies to improve our mental health. For example, do you wake up looking forward to your new day? Do you take the time to recognize what you are grateful for each night? Do you have at least two friends outside of your immediate family who you feel free to talk with about anything? Those questions are well known to those who search for mindfulness and inner peace. Let's analyze the meaning of "looking forward to your day with a goal" when we wake up every day. It can be as simple as enjoying a cup of coffee, inhaling the fresh air, taking a walk, admiring the neighborhood, or rediscovering your community. My husband and I enjoy hiking downtown in Packard Park along the Mahoning River or in Mosquito Lake State Park. These walks are one way we reconnect with our community. When the weather is nice, it is easy to participate in outdoor activities. However, even when the weather is not great, one can participate in activities such as reading a book, involving oneself in hobbies such as watercolor painting or crossword puzzles. By being grateful for each little blessing helps us to feel positive energy and look forward to a better future. Having friends is vital as we are social beings in need of social interaction. Loneliness, especially among the elderly, can lead to physical and/or mental pain. Cultivating friendships is essential because when we share our lives, we can find happiness and support in the moment of need. My advice is to be grateful, count your blessings, enjoy the beauty of life, appreciate the colors of the season, find a reason for waking up, and tomorrow start all over again.