



# ST. PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

1377 Lester Road, Valley City, Ohio 44280

330-483-4119, [www.spvc.org](http://www.spvc.org)

March 2017

The chief blessing of the Lord's Supper is made clear by the words of Christ's institution: "Given and shed for you for the *forgiveness of sins*." The forgiveness of sins, won for us on Calvary and offered in the Sacrament of our Lord's body and blood truly makes this blessed Supper a "salutary gift" (Post-Communion Collect). While the chief blessing and benefit of the Lord's Supper is the forgiveness of sins, there are several different images and metaphors used by Holy Scripture to highlight the blessings of the Lord's Supper, many of which are reflected in our hymns.

Consider the following examples: In Stephen Starke's hymn "The Tree of Life," the Lord's crucified body and blood are depicted as a life-giving fruit that flows from the tree of the cross. "For all who trust and will believe, Salvation's living fruit receive. And of this fruit so pure and sweet The Lord invites the world to eat, To find within this cross of wood The tree of life with ev'ry good" (*LSB* 561:4). This fruit is contrasted with the fruit that Adam and Eve ate in the Garden of Eden, bringing the world into sin and ruin. For the sacramentally minded Christian, it is not difficult to connect this "pure and sweet" fruit with what is received, eaten, and drunk in Holy Communion.

Another benefit of the Lord's Supper is its nourishing power. Martin Luther in the Large Catechism calls the Lord's Supper a "food of souls, which nourishes and strengthens the new man" (Part 5, par. 23). For this reason, several hymns appropriately refer to the Lord's Supper as "bread from heaven" or "living bread." Stanza 1 of *LSB* hymn 625 naturally reflects this: "Lord Jesus Christ, life-giving bread, May I in grace possess You. Let me with holy food be fed, In hunger I address You." These words remind the communicant who hungers and thirsts for righteousness (cf. Matthew 5:6) that God has lovingly prepared for him in the Sacrament a nourishing meal to strengthen him in his lifelong journey towards the promised land of heaven.

Drawing upon the scriptural themes of healing, some of our hymns depict the Lord's Supper as a healing balm or medicine. A classic example of this is David W. Rogner's hymn "Jesus Comes Today With Healing" (*LSB* 620). Stanza one emphasizes the healing benefits of Christ's body and blood: "Jesus comes today with healing, Knocking at my door, appealing, Off'ring pardon, grace, and peace. He Himself makes preparation, And I hear His invitation: "Come and taste the blessed feast." Christians who are suffering from bodily ailments may take comfort in considering the Lord's Supper as a healing medicine, seeing that the complete healing of their bodies in the resurrection begins now with the healing of the soul in the Sacrament of the Altar.

More examples will be developed throughout the course of this Lenten series. The goal of this series is to set before our eyes the many blessings and benefits of the Lord's Supper, chief among which is the forgiveness of sins. Our hymns help us in this regard by making connections that we might not otherwise make. They draw upon the themes of Holy Scripture and teach us to appreciate the full range of blessings that are present when the faithful are gathered around the life-giving, nourishing, and salutary gift of our Lord's holy body and precious blood.

In Christ,

Pastor Zielinski

*The  
Salutary  
Gift*

2017 LENTEN SERIES

**Ash Wednesday, March 1**

11:30am - Worship (Study @ 10am)

7:00pm - Worship (Supper 6-7pm)

Lord's Supper celebrated at both services

**Wednesdays in Lent**

11:30am - Worship (Study @ 10am)

7:00pm - Worship (Supper 6-7pm)

**Maundy Thursday**

(Divine Service with the Lord's Supper)

April 13, 11:30am & 7:00pm

**Good Friday**

April 14, 11:30am & 7:00pm

**Easter Sunday**

April 16, 8am & 10:30am

9:15am Breakfast & Egg Hunt

# *The Salutary Gift*

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

Join Us for a New Lenten Series

### Ash Wednesday: March 1

Continuing through Lent

11:30am - Worship (Study @ 10am)

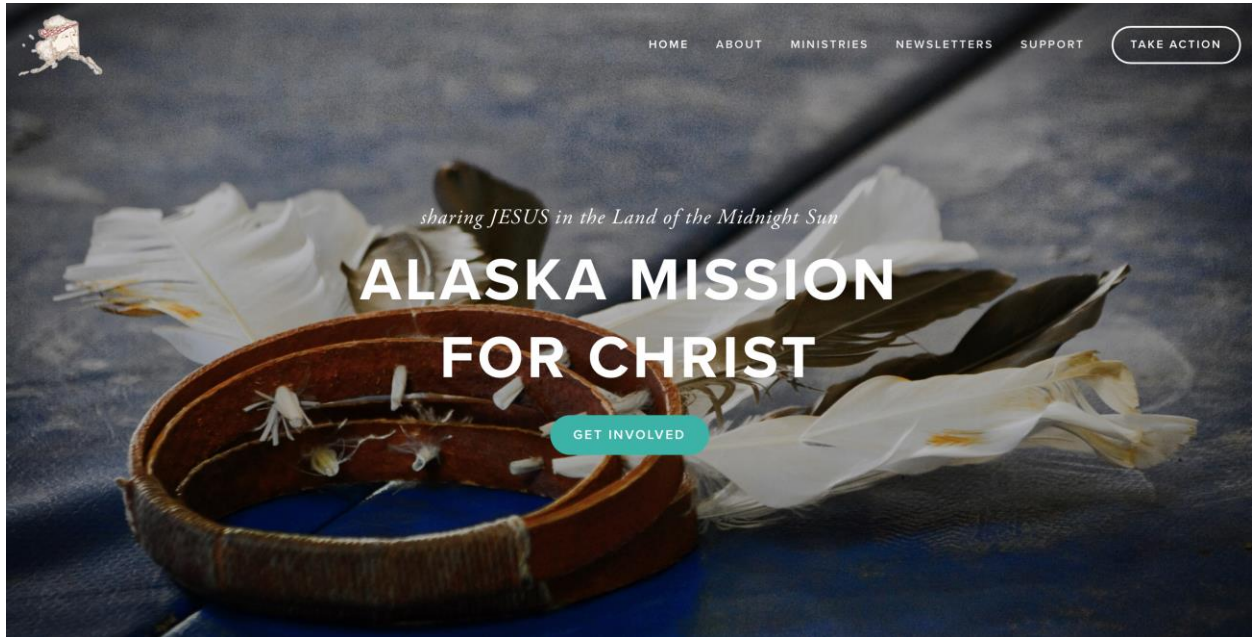
7:00pm - Worship (Supper 6-7pm)



## LENTEN DINNERS

Groups, Organizations, and Individuals are invited to sign up to help host weekly suppers before midweek Lenten services (6pm-7pm). Look for sign-up sheets at the Welcome Center soon.

## ALASKA MISSION FOR CHRIST



### Information Meetings:

Sunday, February 26, 11:30am  
or  
Tuesday, February 28, 7:00pm

Curious?      Committed?      Called?

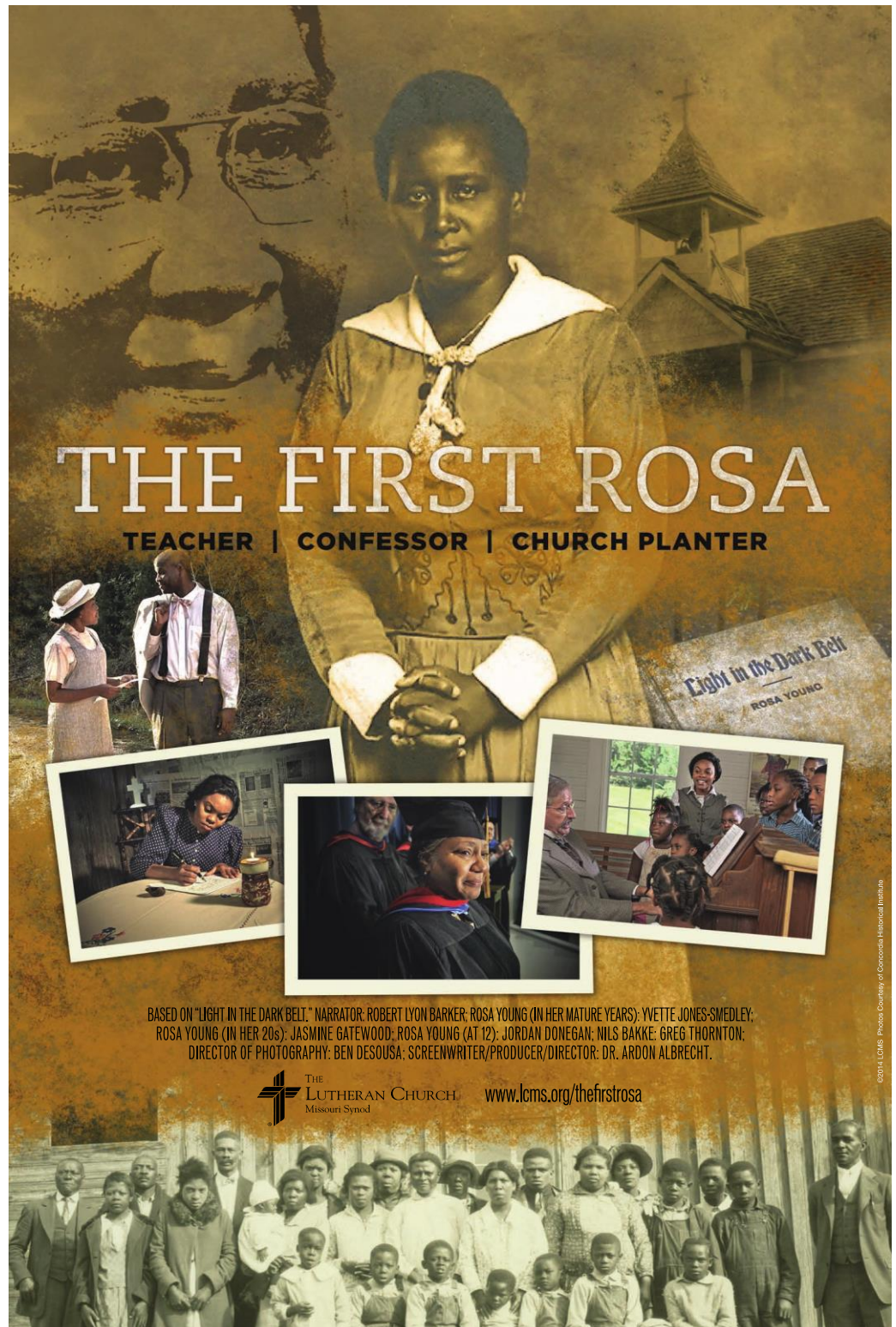
Come and find out!

Meetings will cover:

- Timeframe (leaving on or around June 23 for 10 days)
- Cost - deposit, your out-of-pocket, fundraising, and scholarships
- Planning - we'll need someone to take "point" and coordinate with AMC.
- Mission Details: Leading VBS and other team roles (music, cooking, teaching, etc.)
- Accommodations and travel
- Sightseeing - what there is to see and do.

**MOVIE  
PREMIERE:  
MARCH 5 & 12  
9:15AM  
SUNDAY  
ADULT  
BIBLE CLASS**

Hear the story of Rosa Young who brought education and the Gospel to Alabama in the decades leading up to the Civil Rights Movement.



## **QUILTING**

Anyone interested in quilting is invited to join us on the third Wednesday of the month at 12:00 noon. Bring your favorite scissors and see what's happening! Jeanette Rafter applied for a Thrivent Action Grant for quilting. Now we have enough batting to last all year! Thanks Jeanette! If you would like to piece a quilt, we have several quilts cut that need to be sewn. You may take these "in progress" quilts home to work on. Questions: contact Jeanette Rafter, Judy Renz, Norma Rankin or Diane Johnson.

## **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

The prayer shawl ministry is growing in participation and outreach, and many more helpers are needed. Anyone can do it and it is easy. The shawls may be knitted, crocheted, quilted or sewn.

The purpose of this ministry is to touch the lives of our congregation, our families and neighbors in need of prayer. Prayer for life celebration care and support. Please join us in this outreach ministry.

Instructions for making a "Jesus Loves Me" fleece prayer shawl are near the LWML bulletin board and in the church office.

If you are interested or have questions, please contact Margit Gery at 330-722-8973.

God bless your work as you remember others in your prayers.





## LWML

Thank you to everyone who supported the LWML bake sale at the German Dinner. Whether you baked or bought goodies, we appreciate your support! We made almost \$300 and that will be given to St. Paul toward shelving for the kitchen.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, March 5 at 10 o'clock. The speaker, Todd Gery, will tell us about disaster relief efforts by Lutheran Disaster Response. We will be assembling flood buckets before his talk. Thank you to Ethel Schiemann who applied for Thrivent action grant to help prepare these buckets. There is about \$15 in supplies that go into each bucket. Devotions and bucket labels were donated by LCMS. The buckets will be placed in the HARP trailer in the parking lot and taken to Caldwell in time for the spring rains.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support the Food Pantry. The food items and monetary donations are amazing. Food can be placed in the food pantry and monetary donations given to Judy Renz or any LWML officer. St. Paul is such a generous congregation! The Food Pantry is open the third Sat. of the month to the community. We hand out bulletins and religious materials to those from outside St. Paul.

LWML will be collecting Bibles again for the Prison Ministry. Bibles are marked according to guidelines set by Lutheran Prison Ministry. No other words may be written in them. If you have old or multiple unused Bibles in your home, please place them in the food pantry or basket marked Prison Ministry in the coat room. Bibles will be marked at our May meeting, so please have them to church by May 1. Thank you to the Youth Group who has agreed to help mark Bibles with us!

Starting your spring cleaning? LWML will be collecting gently used clothing for the clothing ministry at

Trinity Lutheran Church on W. 30th, downtown Cleveland. All spring and summer clothing is needed, but especially men's clothing and shoes. Many men wear their clothing till the clothing falls apart, thus there is typically less men's clothing donated. Donations can be taken to the basement, back corner wall of the big room OR left in the food pantry. Clothing will be collected through May 7.

Looking for LWML information? Stop by the LWML bulletin boards in the narthex or talk to any of our members. All women of the congregation are invited to attend our meetings and activities.

Diane Johnson





# **LWML LORAIN-MEDINA MEET AND GREET MEETING**

SATURDAY, APRIL 1ST

At 10:00AM

ST. PAUL, VALLEY CITY

1377 Lester Road

Valley City, Ohio

**NEW PASTORS AND NEW LADIES**

Bring a salad to share for lunch

Dessert will be provided

Pastor Ramsey, our zone counselor's last  
meeting

For more information, e-mail  
[emschiemnn@windstream.net](mailto:emschiemnn@windstream.net)  
or call [440-236-5448](tel:440-236-5448)

## TRUSTEES

So far this winter, temperatures have been mild which means we are saving money on the heating bills. Let's see what kind of weather the month of March brings.

As a reminder, all cemetery decorations should be removed from the gravesites by the end of March to allow for grass cutting to begin. Most cemeteries have the same standards. Please remove any wreaths or winter decorations by March 31.

The Trustees continue to work on maintaining all aspects of the church and property. If you notice anything that needs attention, please contact one of the Trustees or drop a note in the Trustee mailbox. Thank you.

Finally, we hope to have some more volunteers to help with Spring Cleaning Day again this year. Join us **May 13 from 9:00am-12:00pm**. Please consider a couple of hours to help keep your church the way you like it. The more members who participate makes the project so much faster and easier.



## YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group is planning to go bowling on **Sunday in March 12**. We will meet around 1:00 at the church and drive to the bowling alley. For more information, see Lizzy, Molly, or David with questions.

### HERE I STAND – 2017 Conference, July 4-7, 2017

Have you signed up? We can still get you in! Students who will enter High School in the fall through college-age are welcome to attend this great conference. Contact Pastor ([pastor@spvc.org](mailto:pastor@spvc.org)) or Colleen Kato ([colleen.kato@spvc.org](mailto:colleen.kato@spvc.org)) for more information.

## WELLNESS COMMITTEE

Members of the Wellness Committee, our next meeting will be on **Sunday March 19<sup>th</sup>** after the second service in room #2. We will discuss the Health Fair which is scheduled for July 9, 2017.

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## SWISS STEAK DINNER

April 22, 2017 from 4:30-6:30pm

Mark your calendars, invite your family and friends!

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**PLEASE HELP SUPPORT  
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
THROUGH THRIVENT CHOICE!**



**THRIVENT  
FINANCIAL®**

If you are an eligible Thrivent member, please consider directing Thrivent Choice Dollars to **St. Paul Lutheran Church, Valley City**. Learn more by visiting [www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or by calling Thrivent at 1-800-847-4836 and when prompted, say "Thrivent Choice." Thank you for helping to support the mission of St. Paul!

**Oaks Family Care Center--located on Center Rd in Brunswick, Ohio.**

This is a Christian centered, non-denominational center that works to serve the needs of family. They offer classes for parenting, classes for infants/children and teens, finances (Budgeting classes), counseling by licensed Counselors, material goods and Emergency Food Pantry (including formula and diapers). They also have Bible studies, and a Refit class (a cardio dance class for both body and soul). There are many opportunities for volunteers. For more information, call 330-220-7777, or visit [www.oaks-family-care.org](http://www.oaks-family-care.org).



**Don't forget to set your clocks  
forward Saturday night  
March 11.  
Daylight Savings time begins!**

March  
2017



[www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)



### **Life Newsbytes**

**For the first time since 1974, the number of abortions performed in the United States has dropped below one million—926,190 for 2014.** Even better news, longer term, is that abortion rates and ratios, which measure the general frequency of abortion and the likelihood that a pregnant woman will abort, are down to levels below what they were in 1973 ... In “Abortion Incidence and Service Availability in the United States, 2014” (Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health, March 2017), Guttmacher Institute authors Rachel Jones and Jenna Jerman estimate that there were 926,190 abortions performed in the U.S. in 2014. The Guttmacher Institute also says that there were just 14.6 abortions for every thousand women aged 15-44 as of July 1, 2014, of that year (the abortion rate) and indicates that there were 18.8 abortions for every 100 pregnancies ending in abortion or live births (the abortion ratio). The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has reported similar declines in the number of abortions over the past couple of decades. These latest numbers from Guttmacher are a strong confirmation of a significant and enduring change in abortion practice and opinion in the United States. **Total abortion since 1973: 59,115,995.**

Find the full report from National Right to Life website: [www.nrlc.org/uploads/communications/stateofabortion2017.pdf](http://www.nrlc.org/uploads/communications/stateofabortion2017.pdf).

(CLR LifeWire, National Right to Life Committee, 2/9/17)

### **Speaking Up For Life**

“Jesus, who was formed in the womb of Mary, who began life smaller than a grain of salt, grew ... became a newborn in the Bethlehem manger, and lived a sinless life to become a 33-year-old who hung on a cross outside of Jerusalem. He did this so that you might be saved from the power of the devil, so that you might receive the forgiveness of sins, and so that you might spend eternal life with Him in Paradise.” *Rev. Michael J. Schmidt, pastor at Peace Lutheran Church, Natoma, Kansas, and First Lutheran Church, Plainville, Kansas*

“We have some shocking news. ‘God became a speck, an embryo in a fallopian tube!’ ‘God was born!’ ‘God lived as a friend of sinners.’ ‘God embraced dirty, smelly sinners!’ ‘God suffered for unlovable and unloving sinners!’ ‘God died!’ ‘God rose again!’ ‘God wins!’ ‘Sin, death, Satan defeated!’ ‘God reigns over all!’ That’s the most positive and powerful, shocking For Life news I can think of.” *Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, former executive director of Lutherans For Life*

[www.lutheransforlife.org/media/life-quotes](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/media/life-quotes)

**Keep life issues before your congregation: LifeDate journal • Life News bulletin inserts • Life Notes email • Life Quotes and Life Thoughts in the Church Year**

For those who have had an abortion—a **Word of Hope**. 888.217.8679 • [www.word-of-hope.org](http://www.word-of-hope.org)

**Lutherans For Life • [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org) • 888.364.LIFE (5433)**



## Life Will Win! *by Rev. Michael W. Salemink*

Lent leans forward. Lent looks ahead. The word “Lent” comes from an Old English name for the season of spring: *lente/lencte/lengte*. This *lengthening* of daylight declares a theological truth. Melting clouds, warming air, softening soil, and romping fauna proclaim the Gospel. Life limited, tamed, overcame, and exiled death once again, at the command and by the hand of God. Everything that appeared dead was actually only hidden for a time, to draw death entirely out into the open, infiltrate behind the enemy lines, and enshroud it all in total dominion. So Christians, armed and moved by the Savior’s power, push back against sin and put death away in repentant Lententide.

“*Media vita in morte sumus*,” Christians of centuries past confessed. Reformation people echo it in chorale form from Luther: “In the very midst of life, snares of death surround us.” Death’s initially elegant tentacles have us surrounded, encircled, constricted. It advances in popular insistence on elective abortion, acceptance of physician-assisted suicide, undermining the dignity of those with disabilities, and experimenting on embryonic human beings. Surrogacy and sex trafficking reduce people to property in a society that already desires to possess those who please me and discard those who don’t.

Meanwhile our media cheerleads it, our government funds it, our courts vindicate it, our culture ridicules any who speak up in opposition, and our academics silence dissent via indoctrination. Worst of all, our sinful selfishness allowed and encouraged it all in the first place. Illnesses and accidents don’t really kill us; we’ve broken our bodies and the cosmos and brought it crashing down upon us.

So Jesus joins us there. He incarnates Himself and exposes God to us right where death is. He extends love and abides life among and within suffering sinners. Rather than sweeping aside the dying, He swallows it, pain and punishment and all. **God’s got death covered.** Love wins, a particular kind of love—forgiveness. Life wins, a particular kind of life—grace, unconditional and everlasting. In self-sacrifice, Jesus appropriates death itself to serve the purposes of God’s salvation. Every Good Friday must now give way to Easter morning, and resurrection always follows crucifixion. The Lamb once slain has become the Son risen again, and His ascension is scattering spores and sowing seeds of it all over. Father, Son, and Spirit make death fertile terrain. If we are limping, it’s only because He’s leaned us forward and choreographed a leap after every stumble.

In every sunrise and rainfall Christ is risen. Every inhalation and heartbeat happens because Christ is risen. His life wins as every berry bush balloons and every cornstalk stretches. His life wins when grass blades bend but do not break or sparrows sleep and then awake. Shelters stand and harvests heap because God’s love cultivates life, not just in spite of death but out of it. Bodies heal and victims survive because God’s love makes death labor as slave to life. Even winter arrives because the earth revolves because Christ is risen. **Death in all its degrees and disguises submits to the ways of faith that God’s Gospel Word works.**

In fact, He has enlisted us as antibodies. Yes, He has use for you and me in our scarred conditions. Our brokenness and bleeding out are redeemed and repurposed for delivering life into the worlds and hearts of our endangered neighbors. Whether they are culprits or casualties, Jesus takes us right where death is to shower His Word and shine His love. We get to speak Christ’s forgiveness and show God’s grace according to our station and vocation, in court and culture, in college and clinic, in comments and conversations, in laboratories and legislatures, at the front door or on the front page. We know life will win because Christ already has!



# March 2017

## Church Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Bible Study 10am Ash Wednesday 11:30 & 7:00pm (6:00 Supper)	2 Choir Practice 7pm	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8 & 10:30am Worship Service 9:15a SS & Bible Class	Confirmation 6:00-7:30 Handbell Practice 7:00pm	LWML Meeting 10am	Bible Study 10am Lenten Services 11:30a & 7:00p (6:00 Supper) Worship Comm. Meeting 7:30p	Choir Practice 7pm		Set clocks forward!
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8 & 10:30am Worship Service 9:15a SS & BC Blood Pressure Clinic	Confirmation 6:00-7:30 Handbell Practice 7:00pm	Elder Meeting 7pm	Bible Study 10am Quilters 12:00pm Lenten Services 11:30a & 7:00p (6:00 Supper)	Choir Practice 7pm		Food Pantry 10:30am
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8 & 10:30am Worship Service 9:15a SS & Bible Class  Wellness Committee meeting 11:30a	Confirmation 6:00-7:30 Handbell Practice 7:00pm	Executive Board Meeting 7pm	Bible Study 10am Lenten Services 11:30a & 7:00p (6:00 Supper)	Choir Practice 7pm		
26	27	28	29	30	31	
8 & 10:30am Worship Service 9:15a SS & Bible Class	Confirmation 6:00-7:30 Handbell Practice 7:00pm		Bible Study 10am Lenten Services 11:30a & 7:00p (6:00 Supper)	Choir Practice 7pm		

# March 2017

## Birthday/Anniversary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			Addison Barajas Don Gotsch		Robert Andrukat Martha Konzelman Alan Smith	Ann Olee Helen Schoolcraft
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Trey Cook Kristen Nemes	Adeline Burchfield	Haleigh Gilles Aimee Whitmer	Caleb Bores Kara Dearth Teri Petzold Joseph Prvenzano	<b>Ivan &amp; Ruth Parker #21</b>		Jim Sherry David Willkom
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Danielle LaChance	<b>Bill &amp; Hildy Benns #19</b> <b>Todd &amp; Margit Gery # 47</b> Audrey Paliokas		Jacob Strba Gauge Witt	Dianne Schultz	Breanna Haury Alexandria Knopf
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	James Baker		Shannon Agurkis Debbie Frickey Corrinne Palmer		<b>John &amp; Dianne Holland # 55</b>	Allison McCamon
26	27	28	29	30	31	
	Irene Robinson	<b>Jerry &amp; Cathe Buddie #14</b> Jonathan Knopf	Brian & Azania Schnurr #3	Tereasa Rankin	Jerry Buddie Joseph Holland Todd Knake Stacie Knirsch	

## **ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

*1377 Lester Road*

*Valley City, OH 44280*

Address Service Requested