

ST. PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

1377 Lester Road, Valley City, Ohio 44280 330-483-4119, <u>www.spvc.org</u> February 2017

Eyes of Life

Starting Sunday, January 29, our Sunday Adult Bible Study will be called "Eyes of Life." This new series will focus on the stories of real people and how God's love called them to embrace life, even when it was difficult or painful. Join us as we explore real stories of life instead of death and sorrow.

People we'll meet:

Norman Nagel – well known professor, pastor and preacher – who, despite suffering the effects of a stroke, rejoices in Christ's gifts of value, worth and honor.

Jean, who mourns the death of her child but who is reminded daily that "Jesus is always with me, even when I was on the hard, cold, abortion table."

Kevin and Maggie Karner, a couple who faithfully defended life even in death.

Jennifer: Human trafficking. Prostitution. An absent mother. An unborn child. For many, it would be too much. But for this child of God, it's really just the beginning.

The Montgomery family — especially son Brody who was born with Down Syndrome — who, like any other family, love pizza, tacos and each other.

And, Pastor Zielinski. He's outnumbered six to one by wife Sara and five adopted daughters from Colombia, and the Rev. Phil Zielinksi wouldn't have it any other way.

Visit our Web site www.spvc.org for a like to #eyesoflife and see the terrific videos and photos of real people who have confronted sorrow and death in this world and charged forward embracing life.

Eyes of Life













Stories FOR life!

Euthonosio Assisted Suicide Trofficking Adoption Abortion Disibilities

Sundays 9:15am

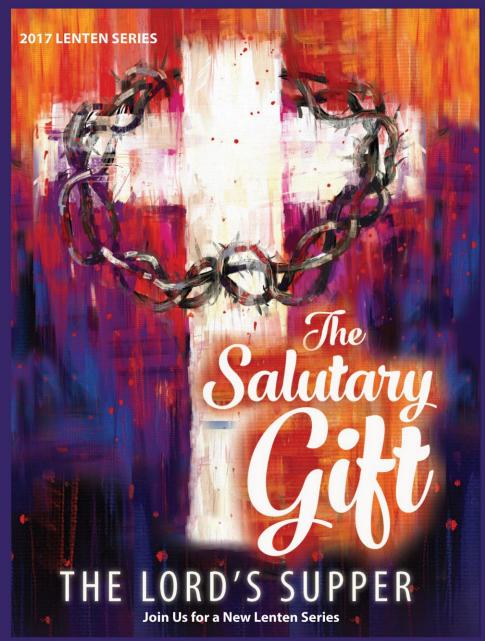
begins January 29



Life Ministry | Icms.org/life









The Salutary Gift: The Lord's Supper by Rev. Paul Beisel

Throughout the season of Lent, we invite you to join us as we gather around God's Word in repentance of our sins, in preparation for our Savior's sacrifice, and in thanksgiving for the crucifixion's redemptive Concordia power. We humbly thank God for the forgiveness of sins, which was won for the world on Calvary and is offered in the Lord's body and blood, truly making the Lord's Supper a salutary gift.

> Wednesdays in Lent 11:30am & 7:00pm

Ash Wednesday, March 1

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

The summer Alaska Mission Trip is shaping up for the end of June. We'll be hosting a VBS and helping with some building projects too, so whatever your skills are, you can play a role! An informational meeting will be held in February (TBD). All are welcome to come and hear more about the possibilities. Look for more info in the bulletin soon. Proceeds from the German Dinner are going toward the trip. If you're interested in coming along, sign up to help with the dinner too.

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.



EVANGELISM

Allow me to introduce myself as your new Evangelism Chairman. My name is David Hesketh. I have been a member of St. Paul for approximately two years and a member of the Lutheran Church for 62 years (46 years L.C.M.S.).

I would like to thank Marilynn Rauhaus for her years of service as Chairman of Evangelism. The projects Marilynn has nurtured for many years such as card ministry, bulletin board and children activity bags will continue. I hope to begin a few new programs in addition that will bring St. Paul Lutheran Church's presence, worship times, activities, etc. to more of our community.

As we are all Evangelists, I pray that we as a congregation will all participate in bringing the name of Jesus Christ to more of the surrounding areas of Valley City and beyond.

Yours in Christ, David Hesketh



LWML

Thank you to everyone who so generously supported and helped with the food pantry over Thanksgiving and Christmas. Many baskets of fruit were given to show the love of the congregation at St. Paul towards the homebound. People within the congregation and outside of our congregation benefited from this generosity

LWML will hold a bake sale at the German dinner. Please stop by and check out the goodies available. Proceeds from this bake sale will go towards additional shelving in the church kitchen.

The monthly meeting on February 7 will start with a Bible study led by Kathy Fargo. All women of the congregation are invited to join us at 10 AM. We will look at the calendar the officers have proposed for 2017.

LWML will sponsor a potluck dinner and movie night on February 19 starting at 5 PM. LWML will provide sloppy Joe's. Please bring a side dish or dessert for the potluck. There will be popcorn during the movie. Movie selection will be in the bulletin later.

Starting in March LWML will be collecting clothes again to take to Trinity Lutheran Church in downtown Cleveland. They especially need men's clothing. Please set aside those items you don't need any more for the spring collection. Thank you Diane Johnson.

QUILTING

Quilters meet the third Wednesday of the month at noon. Bring your scissors, join us for fellowship, snipping and stitching on Feb. 15.

THANK YOU

St. Paul Members,

I want to thank St. Paul and its caring members for all the prayers, help, gifts, cards, and well wishes during my medical crisis. I gratefully appreciate all your thoughtfulness.

Sincerely, Marion Nikel

TRUSTEE

Snow plowing arrangements and salting of the parking lots are in effect for the next few months. As always, please exercise caution when walking through the parking lots. We hope the younger members will remember to leave the spaces near the church door open for those senior members who would appreciate a closer parking spot.

Thanks to Larry Kruger, Rob Zacharias and John Johnson, Andy Patrick and Tim Wadle, we now have a really nice looking expanded set of mailboxes for members in the Narthex. Walls were repositioned, painted and additional mailboxes added to ensure all current and future members have their own.

A new sound board was added in December and hopefully members can hear the difference from the various microphones. The system also seems easier to use and our service recordings are of a much better quality.

Finally, we hope to have some more volunteers to help with Spring Cleaning Day again this year. No date yet, but it will probably be a Saturday morning in May. 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.

WELLNESS

We hope you have taken a moment to read the poster on the wellness table by Pastor's office on antibiotic use. February starts Heart Health Month. See what healthy arteries look like by viewing the demonstration on the wellness table. Feel free to take the handout available.

Our Blood Pressure Clinic continues to be held the second Sunday each month after each service. If you haven't had yours taken recently, stop by!

An American Heart Association adult CPR/AED class will be held at St Paul on Saturday, February 25th form 9–12:00 taught by Beth Bremke BSN, RN.

You must be at least 16 years old to attend. The cost is \$3.00 for certification and if you choose, you can purchase a book for \$16.00 paid in cash. Please register for the class on the sign-in form on the visitor desk.

LETTERS FROM ADOPTED SEMINARY STUDENTS

Dear St. Paul Lutheran Church

I have completed my last first quarter of my seminary career. I have to admit the feelings are somewhat mixed. It's hard to believe that I am almost done with my schooling which I began 3 years ago. At the same time I am very much ready to be done with school. The long hours put in at the library have been exhausting for me. This is not even mentioning the neglect I have put my family through as I write papers and spend countless hours reading. It has been hardest on them I believe. But I have a couple weeks off and I get to see family over Thanksgiving and more importantly get to spend much needed time with my wife and kids. Samuel has already cashed in on some long needed dad playtime and we've build countless train tracks all over the house. Kaleb is pretty much happy all the time. Or, maybe I'm just blocking out all the late nights and middle of the night feedings. He is getting big real quick and it's hard to believe he will be 7 months old this month. Kaci and I are catching up on some TV shows we have not been watching. With a few lunch dates thrown in here and there we are trying not to think about the winter quarter looming in front of us.

That is exactly what is happening though. Not far from my thoughts are the next round of classes which stand in my way of graduation. The stack of books I need to get from the library before my classmates beat me to them have been researched and checked out. The fact of the matter is that I'm not fully detached from school. Even though I try to distance myself from it during these breaks I enjoy the classes. The challenge of arguing a theological point and the research of some topic I find interesting at the time. It's fun. I do miss very much the everyday grind that vicarage showed me, I can't wait to get back out into the field and start doing the job of a pastor again.

Coming up in the next couple of months I have my theological interview. I'll sit down with two professors and they will ask me questions. Could be anything really gauging my ability and knowledge of the Lutheran Confessions and the Christian faith. For them is assures them that I am ready to undertake the pastoral office. I should have that scheduled and possibly done by the time this letter reaches you.

As always continue to pray for me and my family. The finish line is in sight with only a few more hurdles to overcome. Your support is greatly needed and we are forever grateful for all that you have done.

Yours in Christ,

David Weirauch



Dear Members of Saint Paul Lutheran,

Greetings in Christ! I hope that you have had a blessed Christmas and wonderful start to the 2017 year. How is everything treating you? I want to write to thank you again for your prayers, support, and encouragement that you have given to me, as a seminary student. It is your help that makes the seminary schooling possible for me as I am able to afford the costs of education that would be unattainable for a student like me otherwise. Knowing that you are praying for me and thinking of me gives me encouragement as I seek to answer God's call into the ministry however that exactly takes place. Thank you so much.

This New Year has brought Morgan (my fiancée) and me ever closer to our wedding day of June 2nd which we are more and more excited about. It is funny that we both count down the days until our wedding date, so periodically we will mention it to each other how many days are left when big milestones such as less than 150 days comes about. At the time of writing this, there are only 135 days left until we will make our vows! I am not even that old yet and I already think that time is going fast!

Life at the Seminary has continued as usual except for the ice storm that we experienced last week Friday into Sunday. Now being from the great snow state of Wisconsin, I like to say that I am used to most all winter weather, but this ice storm was really unique. Snow is one thing, but the thing with this ice storm is that everything is so slick and icy that you cannot drive well. Even if the roads are salted and cleared, there are many areas that have "black ice" which you cannot see before it is too late. It was bad enough that classes had to be canceled Friday, and Sunday we were unable to go to our fieldwork congregations due to the safety issues. We had a church service in the chapel led by a fourth year seminarian which was nice to experience however. I am happy to report that everyone was safe and it is back to normal now.

Before this ice storm event, I have been able to serve in more ways as time goes on at my fieldwork congregation, Zion Lutheran in Mascoutah IL. It is such a blessing to serve in the worship life of the congregation whether it be assisting with the liturgy, lay reading, assisting with communion, or even greeting members as they come into service. I honestly come home every Sunday renewed by the Word and Sacraments first and foremost, but also encouraged in my calling to be a Pastor as I realize that this is what I want to do.

What is also very rewarding to me and a good experience are the chances Zion has given me serving their youth group. I have been to many youth group events and am now teaching 5th and 6th grade confirmation classes which give me the opportunity to interact with the youth and grow positive relationships with them as a seminary student. Being a seminary student is an interesting position I have come to figure out for young members of a congregation. As a seminary student you are looked at as an "authority figure" in the church, but due to your younger age and "not-yet" adult attitude in their eyes, you have their attention as they share their struggles and triumphs with you because they can see you as one who can relate easily. It is a unique position and can serve as a powerful witness to Christ to these youth in the congregation. Thanks be to

God for putting me, an unworthy servant, in this position where I can share the Good News with these youth!

Lately in my own personal devotional life and Bible reading I have been reading out of the Old Testament, the book of Hosea. At times Hosea's message cuts to the heart as he has to give threats against the Israelites due to their continual unfaithfulness to the LORD, but what has been amazing to me is God's grace that he gives to the people of Israel amidst their unfaithfulness. This got me thinking and got me to realize that it is the same way with us, that he is continually calling us back to him and giving us his grace that his Son has given to us on the cross. We have the joy of having the promise that Israel hoped for fulfilled in his Son Jesus, and furthermore being Gentiles who are grafted in with the Israelites:

"But I am the Lord your God from the land of Egypt; you know no God but me, and besides me there is no savior." Hosea 13:4

Thanks be to God for his saving love in Christ that is the purpose of the church and center of the ministry! Thank you again for your support and prayers as you have been so generous to me and have given me the opportunity to attend seminary with the intention of becoming a pastor.

Peace be to you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and may your remainder of January and beyond bring you comfort knowing that Christ has won it all on the cross for our salvation. You are in my prayers.

In Christ,

Idam Wolfe
Adam Wolfe

P.S. Since the Packers are going to the NFC championship, I thought it appropriate to include a photo of me and my family at Lambeau Field when we went a couple years ago to cheer on the green and gold!



Lutherans For Life - Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life



www.lutheransforlife.org



Life Newsbytes

The pro-life organization American Life League (ALL) recently completed its annual survey of Planned Parenthood locations, giving Americans a better idea of the extent to which Planned Parenthood is shutting its doors across the United States. ALL Executive Director Jim Sedlak explains, "We are happy to report that they closed 27 more facilities in 2016, and they only opened eight new ones-so a net loss of 19 Planned Parenthood facilities in 12 months. That's the way we like to see it go ... They're now down to 624 facilities across the country from a high of 938—so they've lost one-third of their facilities," Sedlak pointed out. Planned Parenthood received more than \$553 million in federal funding for the current budget year, yet the number of health services it provides has been decreasing annually. (CLR LifeWire, 12/29/16)

CTV news has reported that 744 adults have been killed by euthanasia in the six months since it was legalized across Canada. The news channel surveyed provincial and territorial health ministries to gather the most comprehensive picture of "assisted dying" in Canada to date. The numbers show that, on average, four Canadians per day had medically assisted deaths between June 17 and December 16, 2016. In Ontario, there are now approximately 13 people killed by euthanasia every week. (SPUC, 12/30/16)

For those who have had an abortion—a **Word of Hope**. 888.217.8679 • www.word-of-hope.org

Speaking Up For Life

"Should there be a line that determines when humans have value? Some say it's at viability ... when there's a heartbeat ... at birth. Some even argue that the ability to reason should be the dividing line, which would making killing infants okay, too. These lines we draw are so arbitrary, meaningless ... Human beings are valuable because we are human beings. And it's as plain and simple as that." *Micaiah Bilger, Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation*

"Lincoln recognized that we could not survive as a free land when some men could decide that others were not fit to be free and should be slaves ... Likewise, we cannot survive as a free nation when some men decide that others are not fit to live and should be abandoned to abortion." President Ronald Reagan in "Abortion and the Conscience of the Nation," The Human Life Review, 1983

"The greatest irony of Jesus' life is the more Jesus loved, the more Jesus forgave, the more He was hated." Rev. Paul Koelpin, Professor of History, Theology at Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minnesota

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

Annual German Dinner

Featuring:
Roast Pork
Kielbasa
Mashed Potatoes
Sauerkraut
Spaetzle
Applesauce

Adults: \$12 Children (6-12): \$5 5 and under: free Take-out Available

> February 4, 2017 4:30pm - 6:30pm

St. Paul Lutheran Church 1377 Lester Road Valley City, Ohio 330-483-3883

Homemade Desserts!

www.spvc.org

February 2017 Church Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			Bible Study 10-11:30am	Choir Practice 7pm		German Dinner 4:30-6:30pm
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8 & 10:30am Worship Service 9:15a SS & Bible Class Sub Sandwich pick up	Confirmation 6:00-7:30 Handbell Practice 7:00pm	LWML Meeting 10am	Bible Study 10-11:30am	Choir Practice 7pm		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8 & 10:30am Worship Service 9:15a SS & BC Blood Pressure Clinic SS Teachers meeting 11:45a Youth Group Cookies 11:45a	Confirmation 6:00-7:30 Handbell Practice 7:00pm	Elder Meeting 7pm	Bible Study 10-11:30am Quilters 12:00pm	Choir Practice 7pm		Food Pantry 10:30am
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8 & 10:30am Worship Service 9:15a SS & Bible Class 5pm LWML Potluck & Movie	Confirmation 6:00-7:30 Handbell Practice 7:00pm	Executive Board Meeting 7pm	Bible Study 10-11:30am	Choir Practice 7pm		Adult CPR/AED 9am-12:00pm
8a Worship Service 9:15a SS & Bible Class	27 Confirmation 6:00-7:30 Handbell Practice 7:00pm	28				

February 2017 Birthday/Anniversary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			Cameron Eckert	Darrin Read	Darlene Baab Eric Heffinger Susan Willkom	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Brent Haury Don Tibbitts	Dustin Keller	Peggy Gall Judith Pflaum	Jeffery Barajas Scott Leu	Aden Murawski	Cody Gigliotti Mikaela Weigel
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Paul & Pam Rasschaert #40 Jean Palmer	Anna Blaine Bill Rankin Jr.	Cinthia Holland		Andrew Hibler		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Larry & Marlene Shook #55 Shelly Blaine		Robert Murawski	Jaclyn Turner	Perry Ellenberger Paul Schultz		
26 Bonnie Keller Judy Renz	27 Trenna Tighe Daniel Whitmer Carole Zwingelberg	28 Victoria Becker Tracy Read				

OVERVIEW OF GROUPS FOR 2016 AND GOALS FOR 2017

LWML

The 2016 year had many different missions.

We collected clothing to transport to the Trinity Church in Cleveland. We then picked a date in April to go down to the house to help sort the clothing.

We gathered products to fill 20 flood buckets to send to the Southern Ohio Disaster Relief. We were helped with funding by a Thrivent Action Grant.

We continue to supply the food pantry with the help of the congregation. The food pantry is open to all church families any time the church is open and on the third Saturday of each month to the community. We have helped many families throughout the year. We average about 8 families per month. We provided additional help at Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas with extra baskets to members of the church.

In June, Ethel Scheimann and Sandy Turner attended the Ohio Convention in Cincinnati. Margit Gery made the banner for our Zone to be displayed during the convention.

During St. Paul's summer Fellowship Hour, LWML participated in June with an ice cream social for Father's Day.

We sponsored a luncheon in September to reach more women of the church. We had a salad lunch and provided more information about what LWML all about.

We had a bonfire in late September on a Sunday evening. The youth group helped with this event. Pastor presented a great story around the campfire.

Our Christmas tea in December was an enjoyable afternoon with a musical presentation by Ray Miller and Hal Lissow. We offered a program on "Living Life with a Disability" by Jeremy Jackson and Pastor Donald Poest.

Officers for the 2017 year are President: Diane Johnson; Treasurer: Jean Wadle; Recording Secretary: Margit Gery; Corresponding Secretary: Marilynn Rauhaus, and Chaplin: Kathy Fargo.

Meetings are the first Tuesday of the month at 10 am. We welcome all ladies from the congregation to join us. Thank you Sandy Turner

TRUSTEE

- Parking lots were repaired in 3 places, entire parking lots were resealed and parking stripes painted. This should be good for another 3 years and had a cost of \$4,700 from the most reliable bidder.
- New cedar fence installed on north side of church at bottom of the hill thanks to Dave & Judy Scaife for the donation and the volunteers for installation.
- Backflow tests for Medina County Sanitary Engrs. passed.

Church

Property and liability insurance is up to date, no claims or problems in 2016.

- Furnaces, HVAC, water heaters, kitchen equipment all seem to be in good working order.
 New hot water heater was installed this summer. Filters replaced and A/C and furnaces checked for capacity.
- Internet services and WIFI installed and working well.
- Fire, motion, and smoke alarms have been tested twice this year with no problems. Fire
 extinguishers have been inspected and replaced when needed. Fire inspections report no
 discrepancies.
- New LED lights installed in the parking lot.
- Completed new LED lighting at entrance way and Narthex.
- Last winter's temperatures and heavy ice on the roof caused a number of leaks, fixed by Trustees and volunteers, but will need to install additional roof vents.
- All carpeting in Fellowship Hall was professionally cleaned this summer.
- New brass railing was installed at altar.
- New sound board installed to improve sanctuary audio.
- Expanded number of member mailboxes in Narthex
- New drop in safe was installed for non-Sunday deposits.
- Fellowship Hall rentals continue with mostly member participation requests.

Normal Upkeep and Maintenance

- Normal cleaning and upkeep by the custodian and Trustees are ongoing.
- Snow plowing awarded to current vendor for 2016/2017 winter, salt costs have gone up again.
- Landscaping services awarded to current vendor due to excellent service and pricing.
- Spring Cleaning day was well attended this year, our thanks for the volunteers who came.

Cemetery/Memorial Garden

Several new pavers were installed in the cross thanks to donors.

1411 Lester Road

The old parsonage remains occupied and tenants are current on rent. Last inspections in October verified boiler, smoke alarms and other areas are in working order.

Some plumbing issues were addressed this year. New shingle roof was replaced on the storage garage.

Outlook for 2017 includes:

- A full electrical audit that has been on our agenda for a while. Determine breaker needs, labeling of all circuits and load balancing.
- Spring clean-up day for entire church, Fellowship Hall and classrooms planned for May.
- New counter/desk/storage space for pc that controls the electronic sign on Center Road
- Trustees are investigating video cameras for church entrance and parking lot.
- A complete assessment of Fellowship Hall attic, insulation and prevention of roof leaks.
- Evaluation of current furnace and A/C units for the Sanctuary, we may be close to capacity as this past summer was very hot and the unit was maxed out.

The Trustees are very thankful of the volunteer efforts of many in the congregation in 2016 and look for additional help in the coming year as projects develop.

Respectfully submitted, Don Gotsch, John Johnson, Scott Weisman, Matt Bosela, Kyle Bremke, and we welcome Mark Andrukat, Head Trustee and Scott Leu as our newest Trustee.

BOARD OF NURTURE

Sunday School:

As I reflect on this last year of service I found myself saying, "Thank You" and Best Wishes to two staff members that have volunteered their time and talents to our children in Sunday School and spreading Jesus's message. Anita Praisler, Sunday School Superintendent, and Sarah Myers, our faithful Preschool/Kindergarten teachers.

This Fall, we found that our sixth grade class was the biggest and combining them with Jr. High would be challenging so we brought back the 5th/6th grade split, We now have six classrooms and the adult class that is held every Sunday morning at 9:15. Our teachers this year are: Guynelle Beck/Cindy Ruhrkraut (Preschool/Kindergarten), Marci Sherepita (1st/2nd grade), Trinity Brajas and Chris Ruhrkraut (assistant) (3rd/4th grade), Margit Gery/Beth Bremke (5th/6th grade), and Helen Schoolcraft/Sarah Cook(7th/8th grade), and Colleen Kato (High School).

Our weekly visits have been going well attendance is consistently between 40-45 students every Sunday. Our openings to Sunday School are going well with our two hard working Music Teachers Sara Zielinski and Alice Tyrpak. They are a valuable asset to our Sunday School program.

As I look toward this upcoming year our goals for St. Paul Sunday School is to continue with our service of "sharing God's word to our children through teaching, singing, and service to each other."

VBS:

In June 2016, St. Paul held its "Barnyard Round Up." VBS had between 30-35 children ages preschool-6th grade this past year. Many thanks to all the volunteers who taught each station, donated materials and snacks, and parents that brought the children. We couldn't have done this without you.

This year's theme for VBS is "Mighty Fortress." VBS will be held June 12-16. We are always looking for help to teach stations or make donations. More information will be coming soon.

Youth Group:

The Youth Group continues to provide donuts and coffee each Sunday for the members of St. Paul. This seems to be a fellowship that many members appreciate. The Youth Group will continue this services in 2017. In January 2016, the Youth elected new officers: President - Molly Ross, Vice President - Liz Kato, Secretary - David Ross, Treasurer - Grace Praisler. The following events/functions were held by the Youth Group in 2016: Super Bowl Sub sales, Valentine's Day cookie distribution to the shut-ins, Bowling, Children's Easter Egg Hunt, helped with VBS, attended Higher Things Conference, helped with the LWML Bonfire, Game Night, prepared and served Thanksgiving Dinner for Grandparents & Grand friend, Christmas Gift Exchange & Dinner with Youth members.

The 2017 Youth Group officers are: President – Liz Kato, Vice President - David Ross and Secretary – Grace Praisler. Colleen Kato remains as Youth Counselor.