



JANUARY EPISTLE

ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH, SCHOOL AND KINDER PLACE

JANUARY 2017



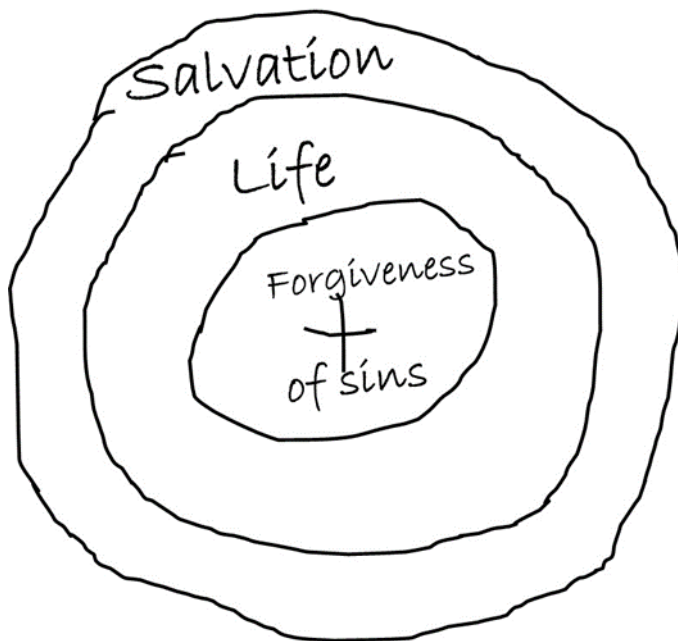
From the Pastor

Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell

It is the *kairos*!!! That is, it is a great time to explore the Lutheran confession of the Christian faith; it is the opportune time to be a member of St. Paul's.

Kairos (*καιρός*) is an ancient Greek word meaning the right or opportune moment (the 'supreme moment'). The ancient Greeks had two words for time: χρόνος (*chronos*) and *kairos*. *Chronos* refers to chronological or sequential time. *Kairos* signifies a period or season, a moment of indeterminate time in which an event of significance happens.

In October 2017 we celebrate the 500th anniversary of The Reformation. The Reformation, as we will see this year, is about many things, but the beating heart of The Reformation is *FORGIVENESS OF SINS*.



When I teach the faith, whether to confirmands or conference-goers, you are likely to hear me ask, "What is the center of the circle?" and if there's a white board around you'll see me inartistically draw something like the image below.

What is the center of the circle? What is the central teaching of the Christian faith? What is the most important thing for each and every man or woman, boy or girl?

Forgiveness.

By God. In Christ. For you.

If you have forgives from God, then you have *Life*, and you have *salvation*. Thus, in receiving Christ's forgiveness you have

everything you truly need. As Martin Luther says, "For, where there is the forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation."

(continued →)

(continued from previous page)

The logical follow-up question is, "Where do you learn that?" And the answer is: The Holy Bible. As Jesus himself says: "*You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me,*" (John 5:39, ESV)

The Scriptures point us to Christ, to His forgiveness; thus, to life and salvation.

The forgiveness of sins is the central teaching and the heart-and-soul of the Christian life, and that forgiveness and life comes from God, his Word. That is why the famous new Playmobil® figurine of Martin Luther has him with quill pen in hand and the



German Old and New Testament in the other.

If forgiveness of sins (justification by grace through faith) is the central *teaching* of the Christian faith, then the *final authority* from which that teaching comes is The Holy Bible. These two things are inseparably tied: 1) forgiveness of sins (justification by grace through faith); 2) the authority of Scripture.

In 2017 there will be volumes published and millions of hours of video produced about Martin Luther and The Reformation, but if you can remember those two things—1) forgiveness through faith in Christ; 2) the Bible is the final authority for faith and life—then you have the fundamental understanding of The Reformation.

However, if you say The Reformation is about the application technology to theology (the printing press) you've missed the mark. If you say The Reformation is about Luther thumbing his nose at the Pope, you've missed the mark. If you say The Reformation is about individual rights, freedom of conscience, a protest against authoritarian Rome, German nationalism, the collapse of feudalism, etc. etc., you've missed the point.

The Reformation, at its core, is about salvation and where you hear about it:

1. The forgiveness of sins (justification by grace through faith in Christ);
2. The Holy Scriptures as final authority for Christian faith and life.

It is the *Kairos*! It is the opportune time to explore the Lutheran confession of the Christian faith; it is the opportune time to be a member of St. Paul's, because "where there is forgiveness of sins, there is life and salvation," and forgiveness is what we're all about.

Friday of Advent 3. 16 December A.D. 2016

JANUARY 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8:00 am Traditional Worship 9:20 am Blood Pressure Screening 10:30 am Contemporary Worship	2 NO SCHOOL/OFFICE CLOSED	3 7:00 pm LWML 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	4 5:20 pm Parish Choir 7:20 pm Adult Choir Practice	5 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	6	7 5:30 pm Traditional Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting
8 8:00 am Traditional Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Bible Study 9:15 am Public School Confirmation 10:30 am Contemporary Worship	9 5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Open Pantry 7:00 pm Stephen Ministry Continuing Ed.	10 7:00 pm Board of Elders Mtg. 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	11 5:20 pm Parish Choir 6:15 pm 5 Love Languages Bible Study 12:00 pm Senior Adult Bible Study 7:20 pm Adult Choir Practice 7:30 pm Church Leadership Mtg. 7:30 pm TRIBE (Young Adult Bible Study)	12 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	13	14 7:30 am Journey Men 5:30 pm Traditional Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting
15 8:00 am Traditional Worship 9:15 am Coffee Fellowship Hour 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Public School Confirmation 9:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Contemporary Worship 6:00 pm Sunday Night Alive (5th-12th)	16 NO SCHOOL 5:30 pm Lord's Cupboard Meal	17 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	18 5:20 pm Parish Choir 6:15 pm 5 Love Languages Bible Study 12:00 pm Senior Adult Bible Study 7:20 pm Adult Choir Practice 7:30 pm TRIBE (Young Adult Bible Study)	19 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	20	21 5:30 pm Traditional Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting
22 8:00 am Traditional Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Bible Study 9:15 am Public School Confirmation 10:30 am Contemporary Worship 6:00 pm Sunday Night Alive (9th-12th)	23 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Training 6:00 pm Stephen Leaders 7:00 pm Stephen Ministry Supervision	24 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice 7:00 pm Church Leadership Mtg.	25 5:20 pm Parish Choir 6:15 pm 5 Love Languages Bible Study 12:00 pm Senior Adult Bible Study 7:20 pm Adult Choir Practice	26 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice	27	28 7:30 am Journey Men 5:30 pm Traditional Worship 8:30 pm AA Meeting
29 8:00 am Traditional Worship 9:15 am Bible Study 9:15 am Public School Confirmation 10:30 am Contemporary Worship	30 6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Training	31 7:00 pm Praise Team Practice				

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDIES BEGIN JANUARY 11th

The 5 Love Languages

The 5 Love Languages has transformed countless relationships.

This study reveals how different people express love in different ways and contains the key to understanding each other's unique needs.

How you perceive love may not be the same way your spouse does. Apply the right principles, learn the right language, and soon you'll know the profound satisfaction and joy of being able to express your love and feel truly loved in return.

Led by Pastor Steve and Angie Scharnell

Wednesday nights January 11-February 22 in Room #219 from 6:15-7:15

Final Registration is January 4th

Purchase of the book and reading it, is required.

To register:

Please contact Pastor Steve at 262-567-5001 or sscharnell@splco.org

SENIOR ADULT BIBLE STUDY

As we finish out the Christmas season, we are again reminded of God's great promise to all generations of a Savior to redeem us from our sin and provide for us a place in heaven. In our journey through the "Aging Gracefully" period of our lives, we see and sense more of God's fulfillment in that promise. All are welcomed to join us for this "soup & sandwich" Bible Study as we take a look at the journey God is providing for us and its eternal fulfillment in the loving and waiting arms of our Savior.

Led by Pastor Kelling

Wednesday afternoons January 11-February 22 in Room #219 from 12:00-1:30

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Baptism

Ryder Douglas, son of Josh Balfanz & Katie Adams

Profession of Faith

Kurt Ahrens

Death

Bernice Adams

Baptized 1827 Confirmed 1078

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

January 1st
Joanne Abel

January 3rd
Donna Fortmann

January 8th
Jeanette Leonhardt
Dale Swenson

January 12th
James Abel
Barb Boldt

January 13th
Charles Muecke

January 16th
Robert Reddelien

January 19th
Waldemar Gebel
Wayne Schoenherr

January 20th
Doris Moore
Marguerite Schneider

January 21st
Barb Pieper

January 30th
Kenneth Groenke

For our members 70+ years



MEMORIALS

Mark Lindemann	\$615.00
Paul Goetzke	\$25.00
Henry Pickelmann	\$25.00
Gaby Guadagno	\$100.00
Lorina Kulkee	\$50.00

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

(The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)

210 E. Pleasant Street
Oconomowoc, WI 53066-3050
262-567-5001

WORSHIP & STUDY

Saturday	5:30 pm
Sunday (Traditional)	8:00 am
Sunday (Contemporary)	10:30 am
Bible Class	9:15 am

Pastor Lance Armstrong O'Donnell 567.5001 x217

Pastor Steven Scharmell 567.5001 x216

Pastor Emeritus Dr. Paul Borgman 567.5001

Organist/Choir Director- Diane Bleke 567.5001

Principal - Jon Pickelmann 567.5001 x213

FAX 567.1207

Website: www.splco.org

RADIO BROADCASTS:

8:00 am Sunday Worship

Live on WTKM 104.9 FM/1540 AM

& www.wtkm.com

THE KINDER PLACE

Christian Pre-School & Day Care

Director Christine Flores 567-4881

Epistle Editor-Heather Scheuer

Newsletter deadline for articles,
announcements and features is the
2nd Wednesday of the month

PLEASE ADVISE THE CHURCH OFFICE OF
ANY ADDRESS CHANGES

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, School & Kinder Place
210 E. Pleasant St.
Oconomowoc, WI 53066-3050

PRSTD STD
NON PROFIT ORG
U.S. postage
PAID
Oconomowoc, WI
Permit No. 45

Address Service Requested

Phone: 262-567-5001
Fax: 262-567-1207
Website: www.splco.org



FUNDRAISERS FOR LARRY HANSEN

Our brother in Christ, Larry Hansen, was severely injured on the night of December 8th when a driver lost control near Highway 16 and Sawyer Road, crashed into his garage and pinned him against the wall as he was working on his car. Larry has undergone several surgeries (including one of his legs being amputated at the knee) and is expected to have several more.

An account has been set up at First Bank Financial Centre to offset the cost of medical and other bills while Larry is out of work. Donors may give money at any First Bank branch by donating to the charity "Larry's Journey,"

There is also a fundraiser scheduled at 6:00 pm on January 13th at the Okauchee American Legion, which will include a 50/50 raffle, silent auction, food, drinks and live music. Watch the bulletin for more information.