Crosstalk

January 2017

Duties for January

Greeters (should welcome folks from 9:30 until just before church starts):

Jean Hollanshead & Jill Eyestone – West Entrance
BJ & Angie Ford – South entrance
Youth Sunday – Janae & Ellie and Jenna & Emily

Ushers (should arrive by 9:15):

Brent Gottfried	Abbey Wenger
Larry Webster	Hunter Kelbley
Madeline Webster	Morgan Wenger
Jeff Clark	Garrett Goodman

Acolytes (should arrive by 9:45):

1 – Taeylor & Ellie
8 – Creston & Ryleigh
15 – Morgan & Colton
22 – Ben & Noah
29 – Ryleigh & Janae

Readers:

1 – Nancy Ross
8 – Leah Crawford
15 – Robbi Sigler
22 – Tom Menningen
29 – Sheryl Grafmiller

Communion Assistants:

Bill & Jane Bricely

Bread Baker:

Sue Decker

Deliver Food Pantry Donations (on Wednesday between noon-2pm)

Tom & Bonnie Menningen

TWL Leaders:	**The Gathering Place Hosts:**
3 – Sally Stansbery	1 – Beth Collins
10 – Marge Forry	8 – Becky Vaughn
17 – June Eier	15 – Rinda Kraus
24 – Darlene Mooney	22 – Eyestone/Ross
31 – Jackie Graeser	29 – Tim & Karen Koehler

St. Paul Lutheran
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Pastor:
Joe Trester
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jtrester@sbcglobal.net

Administrative Assistant:
Beth Collins
419-294-8326
bethjcollins@sbcglobal.net

Office Hours:
9-noon, 1-3pm

Mailing address:
318 W. Wyandot Avenue
Upper Sandusky, OH 43351

Website:
www.stpaulupper.org

2017 Council Members
June Eier
Brenda Koehler
John Krock
Michelle Ohler
Nancy Ross
Carol Roszman
To be voted on Jan. 8th
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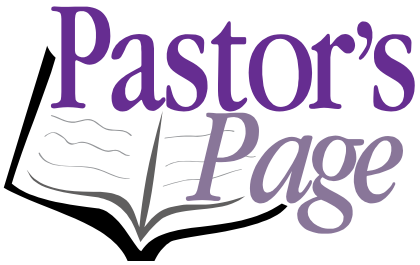
Meetings are the second Monday of the month at 7pm.



SO WE CAN FINALLY PUT 2016 TO BED and begin anew with 2017! I know that is how a lot of people are feeling these days. There is always a sense, perhaps even a longing, that we can begin the New Year with a fresh slate, an opportunity to begin again. I have often wondered why we feel that way. After all, January 1 is another day just like July 26. But it is true that it marks one more time around the sun and, in that sense, marks some sort of accomplishment with a new journey stretched out before us…

Of all people, we followers of Jesus should understand the concept of beginning anew. We know how God feels about new beginnings. We had a fantastic one in the gift of the Son, Jesus Christ. We know that this Jesus tells us that we have to offer forgiveness seventy times seven to our brothers and sisters. In other words, there is always room for new beginnings..

But new beginnings were the subject of the Hebrew Scriptures as well. Just this morning, as I opened my prayer book to the order for Morning Prayer, I read this from Psalm 65: "To you all flesh will come with its burden of sin. Too heavy for us, our offenses, but you wipe them away." We can't carry this load of garbage but God wipes it all away. Wow…new beginnings…

But the good news didn't stop there. I also read from the 38th chapter of the prophet Isaiah. There this statement is made: "You have preserved my life from the pit of destruction, when you cast behind your back all my sins." God seems to be talking about new beginnings all over the place!

If these opportunities to begin anew are good enough for God, perhaps they should be good enough for us, too. Whatever garbage we have drug in the door from 2016 should be swept out so we can start 2017 afresh. It may be stuff that involves someone else or it may be stuff that we have done to ourselves. No matter. Isaiah says that God has thrown it behind his back. Why don't we?

Our Bishop has asked that we read and memorize Ephesians 2:8 which says: *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.* It seems that God loves this "new beginnings" thing and has given us a wonderful gift, a gift we can use at any time! So, my dear brothers and sisters, let's make 2017 a year of "New Beginnings," a year of Mercy where we claim and utilize God's gift of grace not just once a year but every day…Happy New Year!

pj

January 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 9am Sewing 5-6pm free meal 6pm Beginning Bells 6:30pm Adv. Bells 7:30pm Choir practice	4 9:30am Holy Communion @ County Home 5:30pm Worship & Music Committee meeting 6:30pm WOW 2	5 6:30pm undecorate 7pm 4H Advisory Council meeting 7:30 Dartball (home)	6 8-10:15am Wyandot Cares	7
8 11:15am Congregation meeting 11:30am-1:30pm Catechism class	9 4pm REACH Board meeting 7pm WELCA Board meeting	10 5-6pm free meal 6pm Beginning Bells 6:30pm Adv. Bells 7:30pm Choir practice	11 8am-2:30pm Wyandot Cares classes 9:30am Ruth/Naomi Circle meeting 6:30pm WOW 2	12 8-10:15am Wyandot Cares 7pm Martha Circle meeting 7:30pm Dartball (home)	13 8-10:15am Wyandot Cares	14
15 Council installation during worship 7pm Leave for overnighter	16 6pm Ladies Night Out 7pm Council meeting 7pm Dartball (home)	17 9am Sewing 5-6pm free meal 6pm Beginning Bells 6:30pm Adv. Bells 7:30pm Choir practice	18 8am-2:30pm Wyandot Cares classes NO WOW 2	19 8-10:15am Wyandot Cares 7pm Horse Committee meeting 7:30pm Dartball @ Forest UMC	20 8-10:15am Wyandot Cares	21
22 Time & Talent Sunday 11:30am-1:30pm Catechism class	23 7pm Dartball (home)	24 5-6pm free meal 6pm Beginning Bells 6:30pm Adv. Bells 7:30pm Choir practice	25 8am-2:30pm Wyandot Cares classes 6:30pm WOW 2	26 8-10:15am Wyandot Cares 7:30pm Dartball (home)	27 8-10:15am Wyandot Cares	28 9am-4pm Council retreat
29	30 7pm Dartball @ Jenera	31 5-6pm free meal 6pm Beginning Bells 6:30pm Adv. Bells 7:30pm Choir practice				

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 – Hannah Dible
2 – Logan Dible
4 – Margaret Chandler
4 – Maddison Stansbery
5 – Lynn Stilwell
6 – Ashleigh MaGinn
6 – Erika Merrick
7 – Amber Roszman
8 – Trent Baum
11 – Andy Koehler
13 – Beth Richman
14 – Janae Weaver
17 – Colby Koehler
17 – Pete Miller
17 – Christina Nelson
17 – Loren Schoenberger
Happy 97th!!!
21 – Joel Leslie
21 – Alec MaGinn
21 – Tammy Stilwell
23 – Joyce Outhwaite
24 – Jane Bricely
24 – Sue Decker
24 – Dave Eippert
27 – Bob Wachtman
27 – Beth Wade
28 – Larry Webster
30 – Steve Matteson
31 – Deb Grafmiller
31 – Jenn Ruhlen

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

13 – Bill & Pat Dickey
14 – Bruce & Sue Decker
22 – Matthew & Jane Smalley
25 – Harold & Shirley Johns

Food Pantry Needs

This month we are collecting toothbrushes & toothpaste for the Food Pantry. There is a shopping cart at the crosswalk for you to place your donations. Thanks for your help!

We're collecting...

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Our Family
LABELS for LEARNING

Troopons
Coupons for Troops
Give us your tired,
Your expired,
Your huddled masses
of unused coupons.
Send coupons to troops

Collection containers at crosswalk or drop off at the office.

Catechism

The Christmas break is over! Catechism will be back in full swing this month with classes right after church on January 8 and January 22. We have a parent volunteer to provide food on the 8th but we need a volunteer (someone who hasn't done it yet) for the 22nd. Please call Beth at the office and let her know if you would provide snacks or a light meal for our class. We will be studying the Apostles' Creed this month.

Our text study has returned after a break for the Advent/Christmas season. We now meet on Wednesdays (so it has become **Word on Wednesday, Part 2!**) at 6:30pm in The Gathering Place to look at the texts for the coming Sunday worship. Bring a bible and an inquisitive mind! We have a great time and welcome all to come and learn with us! You do not have to be a great scholar, just a willing learner! Join us and bring a friend!

Ladies Night Out for January will take place at The Corner Inn on Monday, January 16th at 6pm. The cost for the meal will be $10. Call Brenda Zeigler at 419-294-5179 by January 12th to save your spot! When making reservations, please also give a contact number in case of cancellation due to inclement weather.

On Sunday, January 15, members of Council and WELCA Board will be installed during worship. Come and support your church leadership!

Pastor Joe will be attending the Professional Leader's Retreat at Sawmill Creek Resort January 17 - January 19. The subject of the retreat is Always Reforming - The Next 500 Years. If you are in need of pastoral care during that time, please call Beth and she will get in touch with PJ. Please pray for all of our rostered leaders and especially for our new Bishop during these three days.

Time & Talent Surveys

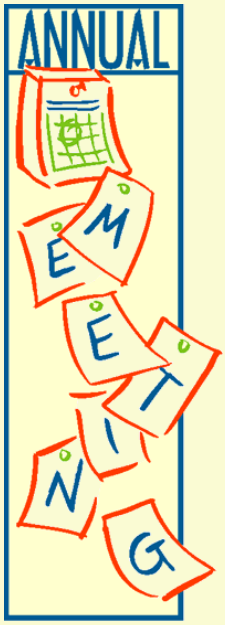
On Sunday, January 22, we will be consecrating our time and our talents to the work of the church! We will be asking that you fill out and hand in that day responses to surveys asking you to participate in the various ministries of the church. Please be giving prayerful consideration now how you will help in the mission of St. Paul. Then please attend worship on the 22nd and fill out your Time and Talent Survey!

Leadership Retreat

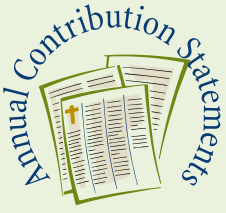
The Church Council will have a retreat on Saturday, January 28, from 9am to 4 pm. The purpose of this retreat is to put together a mission and vision for St. Paul and to enumerate those things that we intend to accomplish in 2017. The Council appreciates prayers of all for this day of planning!

Annual Report

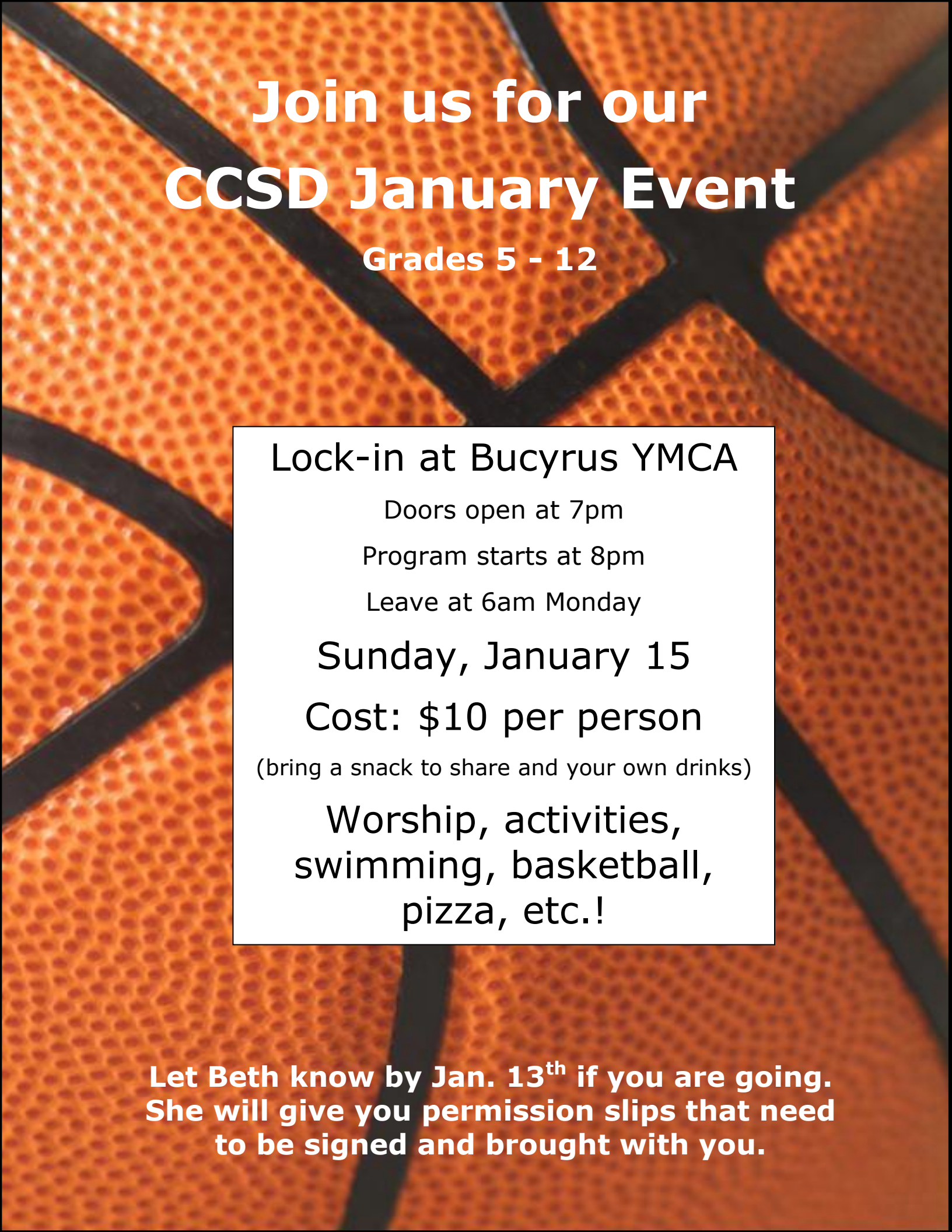
2016 reports from each committee and group need to be turned in to the office by January 26th. These will be included in the church's annual report which will be presented at the meeting on February 5th.



Our annual congregational meeting will be held on February 5th. At this meeting, we will hear about all the great things that happened at St. Paul last year! In addition, we will hear about plans for our mission in 2017! The meeting will take place immediately after worship and will include a potluck lunch! Watch for more details!



2016 Contribution Statements are ready to be picked up. If you would like a copy of yours, please let Beth know. We do not hand them out to everyone, only those who ask for them.



Join us for our CCSD January Event

Grades 5 - 12

Lock-in at Bucyrus YMCA

Doors open at 7pm

Program starts at 8pm

Leave at 6am Monday

Sunday, January 15

Cost: $10 per person

(bring a snack to share and your own drinks)

Worship, activities, swimming, basketball, pizza, etc.!

Let Beth know by Jan. 13th if you are going. She will give you permission slips that need to be signed and brought with you.