

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Attached is an article by Max Lucado.

I found it challenging. Please let me know your thoughts.

Blessing,

Hans Scheun, Pastor

*Do not  
fear  
those who  
kill the  
body but  
cannot kill  
the soul.*

MATTHEW  
10:28



*Editor's Note: Today's devotion by Max Lucado, published on [his blog](#) earlier this week in response to the recent violent acts in America, reminds us not to fear evil, but to be courageous in the name of the Lord. This holiday season, we need Jesus and His message more than ever. Find hope in the fact that Christ came to bring peace on earth in our next Online Bible Study, [Because of Bethlehem](#), with four FREE video teachings with Max. Will you join us in this Advent study? Draw your friends and family close to you and share the light of Christ with them in these dark times. [Learn more about the study here](#) and get the "Let Your Light Shine" Advent toolkit when you sign up.*

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*"Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul." —  
Matthew 10:28*

Yet again, yet so soon, we struggle to make sense of bloodshed and violence. Last week bikers mowed down on New York City's Westside. Sunday, worshippers slaughtered in a small-town South Texas church.

Life is a dangerous endeavor. We pass our days in the shadows of ominous realities. The power to annihilate humanity has, it seems, been placed in the hands of people who are happy to do so.

Contrary to what we'd hope, good people aren't exempt from violence. Murderers don't give the godly a pass. Terrorists don't vet out victims according to spiritual resumes. The bloodthirsty and wicked don't skip over the heavenbound. We aren't insulated. But neither are we intimidated. Jesus has a word or two about this brutal world. "Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul" (Matthew 10:28).

His disciples needed this affirmation. Jesus had just told them to expect scourging, trials, death, hatred, and persecution (Matthew 17–23). Not the kind of locker room pep talk that rallies the team. To their credit none defected. Perhaps they didn't because of the fresh memory of Jesus' flexed muscles in the graveyard. Jesus had taken his disciples to the "the other side into the country of the Gadarenes, [where] two men who were demon-possessed met Him as they were coming out of the tombs; they were so exceedingly violent that no one could pass by that road. And behold, they cried out, saying, 'What do we have to do with You, Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?'" (Matthew 8:28–29 NASB).

These two men were demon-possessed and, consequently, "exceedingly violent." People walked wide detours around the cemetery to avoid them.

Not Jesus. He marched in like he owned the place. The demons and Jesus needed no introduction. They had battled it out somewhere else, and the demons had no interest in a rematch. They didn't even put up a fight. "Have you come to punish us before our time?" (Matt.8: 29 cev). Backpedaling. Stuttering. Translation? "We know you will put it to us in the end, but do we get double trouble in the meantime?" They crumpled like stringless puppets. Pathetic, their appeal: "please send us into those pigs" (Matthew 8: 31 CEV).

Jesus did so. "Move," he exorcised. No shout, scream, incantation, dance, incense, or demand, just one small word. We Christians trace the source of violence back to the devil. We place the fault of bloodshed at the feet of the one whose days are numbered; Satan.

We find our hope in the sure victory of Jesus.

*And though this world with devils filled,  
should threaten to undo us,  
we will not fear, for God has willed  
his truth to triumph through us:  
the prince of darkness grim,  
we tremble not for him,  
his rage we can endure,  
for lo, his doom is sure,  
one little word shall fell him.*

This is the balance on which Jesus writes the check of courage "Do not fear those who kill the body and cannot kill the soul" (Matthew 10:28).

Courage emerges, not from increased police security, but from enhanced spiritual maturity. These days of violence call for people of faith. People of fear make poor decisions. They overreact, lash out and/or retreat. People of courage, on the other hand, keep a cool head. They are not blind to nor bewildered by the evil in the world.

Martin Luther King exemplified this courage. He chose not to fear those who meant him harm. On April 3, 1968, he spent hours in a plane waiting on the tarmac due to bomb threats. When he arrived in Memphis later that day, he was tired and hungry, but not afraid.

"We've got some difficult days ahead," he told the crowd. "But it doesn't matter to me now. Because I've been to the mountaintop. And I don't mind. Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the Promised Land. And I'm happy tonight. I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord." [ii]

He would be dead in less than twenty-four hours. But the people who meant him harm fell short in their goal. They took his breath, but they never took his soul.

Evildoers have less a chance of hurting you, if you aren't already a

victim. "Fearing people is a dangerous trap, but to trust the LORD means safety (Proverbs 29:25 NLT).

**Real courage embraces the twin realities of current difficulty and ultimate triumph.**

Avoid Pollyanna optimism. We gain nothing by glossing over the brutality of human existence. This is a toxic world. But nor do we join the Chicken Little Chorus of gloom and doom. "The sky is falling! The sky is falling!" Somewhere between Pollyanna and Chicken Little, between blind denial and blatant panic, stands the level-headed, clear-thinking, still-believing person of faith. Wide-eyed, yet unafraid. Unterrified by the terrifying. The calmest kid on the block, not for lack of bullies, but for faith in our heavenly Father. The old people of God knew this peace: "Though a host encamps against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident" (Psalm 27:3 RSV).

Do not give in to your fears. Resist the temptation to retreat and hunker down. This is the time for faith; the season for God-based hope. "Be still in the presence of the Lord, and wait patiently for him to act. Don't worry about the evil people who prosper or fret about their wicked schemes" (Psalm 37:7 NLT).

**Courage is a choice. Let it be yours.**

"This Brutal World" originally published on [Max's website](#), copyright Max Lucado, 2017.

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## **Your Turn**

This world can be brutal— we've seen this all too much lately. But God reminds us not to focus on the evil, and instead embrace His steadfast love. Advent season is the perfect time to re-focus our lives on the Lord and His amazing gifts. Do so by joining us in our Advent

#### December Birthdays

12/01 Jameson Rosales  
12/02 Craig Brause  
12/04 Polly Schimpf  
12/04 Betty Vance  
12/04 Christene Johnson  
12/08 Gary Crabaugh  
12/09 Tom Kibler  
12/11 Dwight Leonhardt  
12/11 Susan Gaeta  
12/15 Geneva Cleland  
12/17 Dave Robertson  
12/20 Lynn Noc  
12/21 Robert Leonhardt  
12/21 Andrew Geiger  
12/22 Roxanne Shipman  
12/22 Kathleen Seifert  
12/24 Tom Bush  
12/24 Albert Green  
12/24 Heather Pfeifer  
12/27 Michael Shipman  
12/27 Graham Scott  
12/29 Lydia Ackerman  
12/31 Marilyn Long  
12/31 Quintin Beck  
12/31 Dylan Scott  
12/31 Daniel Scott

#### December Anniversaries

12/01 Travis & Stephnie Scott  
12/05 Carl & Jennifer Rinehart  
12/20 Jim & Peggy Gearhart

We extend our sympathy to ——

Joyce Bloomfield on the death of her sister,  
Alice Frost.

Ken & June Geiger on the death of their  
sister in-law, Sharon Wurm.

Ron & Phyllis Hinamon on the death of  
their brother in-law, Steve Hamm.

Congratulations to Andrew & Abby (Krahling)  
Gundron on the birth of their daughter, Amelia.  
Rich & Chris Krahling are the grandparents.

Elisabeth Grace Steffen was baptized on November  
5, 2017. She is the daughter of Nick & Rachel Steffen  
And granddaughter of Pastor Hans & Karen Scherner.

December 3 is the Open House at the Parsonage. It will  
be held from 4-7. All are welcome.

Prayer meetings are held the first Tuesday of each  
month. It will be Tuesday, December 5 at 6:30 pm.  
Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Christmas Caroling will be held on Sunday, December  
10th. Meet at the church at 3:30 to go caroling. After  
caroling come back to the church for chili and hot dogs.

Women of the Church will have their Christmas meeting  
On Tuesday, December 12 beginning at 6 PM.

The Christmas Breakfast will be on Sunday, December  
17. There will not be any Sunday School this morning.  
During worship the Sunday School will be having  
their Christmas program.

Our Christmas Eve service will be held December 24  
at 7:30 p.m. Our regular morning worship will be held  
At 10:00 a.m. on December 24.

St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Minutes  
November 12, 2017

Dave Halsey called the meeting to order. Ben Ackerman shared devotions. Members present: Michele Breyley, Mark Ebbeskotte, Jim Luidhardt, Ben Ackerman, Tim Miller, Eric Kocher, Mike Hall, Sam Hopkins, and Pastor Scherner. Susie Sutherland was also present.

Mark Schanzenbach was present to give a re-cap of the Reformation activities for the past year. Total attendance for the events was 500 individuals. Mark mentioned cost for all events of \$472.00. He thanked the congregation and council for all their support.

Secretary Report: Mike moved and Sam seconded to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

Treasurer Report: Tim Miller reported all bills current with checking account balance of \$35,210.79. Eric moved to accept report. Sam seconded. Motion passed.

Elders Report: Ballot nominations.

Deacons Report: Sam reported average attendance of 108 with 107 communed. Total giving for the month was \$15,007.24 with \$11,252.80 given for current.

Trustees Report: Tim replaced 2 energy lights and batteries in other units. Eric is waiting on bid for educational windows reglazing. Jim mentioned some paint peel on exterior doors. Most of exterior cleaned, repointed some brick inside bell tower, also attended Northern Ohio Rural Water meeting at Fire House. Jim committed church to wanting water from them. Tyler Shade has offered to help for snow shoveling. Fall clean up November 25.

Pastor Report: Thanksgiving Eve service at 7:30 with communion. Advent sermon series on "Waiting". Bible Study to start Jan. 3 for 6 weeks "Has Christianity Failed You"

Mike moved Eric seconded to approve the above reports. Motion passed.

Old Business: Eric moved, Mike seconded to have DP Pipe of Westerville to maintain our organ for the 2018 year at \$210.00 per quarter. Motion passed. Our present contract is with Bunn Minnick, the owner passed away. They will be closing at the end of the year. DP Pipe are former employees. Ben moved, Mark seconded to have Alan and Harry Kanney replace plugged tile at west parking lot area at estimate of \$2,000.00. Motion passed.

New Business: Pastor moved Tim seconded to give gift card to Doug Ebbeskotte for paint work at parsonage. Closed with Lord Prayer. Next meeting December 10. John Pfeleiderer will have devotions.

Jim Luidhardt, Secretary



## GOD SQUAD MINUTES

October 26, 2017

Members present at the God Squad meeting were Mark Schanzenbach, John Pfleiderer, Susie Sutherland, Charlie and Kate Britton, Dorothy Schott, Hans and Karen Scherner

Kate began our meeting with devotions.

Treasury report is \$5079.35

We discussed updates on our church family.

Betty Vance and Dorothy visited Maplecrest. Dorothy and Kate will visit with the rest of our shut-ins.

### OLD BUSINESS:

Reformation committee wrap up: We had over 80 visitors to our Feast and Fest which included some visitors from other churches. The free will offering from the dinner was over \$500 which was given to the firehouse in appreciation for all they do for the community. Thank you to all our helpers who made it such a success!

We continued our discussion on ideas for next year's events. John gave us more information about the ARK Adventure. He is in the process of getting the costs for a one day event which would mean leaving early in the morning on a tour bus and arriving about 11:00. We would eat lunch there and spend about 4 hours to explore the exhibit. We discussed bringing sack lunches or getting boxed lunches from Coopers. We are looking at keeping the cost under \$100 per person for the bus, admission and lunch. It would be on a Saturday at the end of April or the beginning of May. We will need to see if there are enough people interested in doing this. We could also open it up to other area churches.

Another event idea is to do a cemetery walk at our church. Also, Dorothy suggested baking cookies with the residents at Carlisle House. Possibly we could do it on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month after the church service which David Halsey leads.

### NEW BUSINESS:

We discussed how we can use our money to make a difference in our community of Sulphur Springs. Again we want to support our teachers in the local schools. Karen will contact our congregation's teachers to find out what they think their top 3 needs are that we could help meet. We are thinking of



doing this in January 2018 for about a month. Also, our hope is that through the schools we can be made aware of particular families that have a need that we can help meet.

Another way to reach out to Sulphur Springs is to set up a tent in the community park and hand out free ice cream to the children. We could possibly do it once a month for June, July and August. We can advertise at the post office and possibly hand out flyers. Our hope is make St. Pauls' presence more readily known in the community.

Mark put together a survey at be handed out to the congregation regarding what we have done and what people would like to see done. If anyone has additional questions, please let Mark know via e-mail. Our aim is to do this on November 19<sup>th</sup>.

Our next meeting will be November 16, 2017 and Dorothy will do our devotions.

Karen Scherner

St. Paul Women of the Church Christmas Program will be held on Tuesday, December 12 at 6 PM. Tom Bush will be playing his guitar and singing.

#### Committees for December

Altar: Amber Robertson, Carrie Robertson  
Visiting: No visiting, Christmas Caroling  
Greeter: Joyce Schanzenbach, Joyce Bloomfield  
Food: Shari Milks.

The Christmas Breakfast will be held on December 19 from 8:30 until 9:30. If anyone would like to donate something for the breakfast, please contact Deb Feichtner.

The Sunday School program will be on Sunday, December 19 during worship.

There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board for those willing to share a Children's Sermon in 2018. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

I would like to thank everyone for their cards and prayers at time of my sisters death. A special thank you to God Squad for their many visits, cookies and everything done for her. She really forward to your visits.

Joyce Bloomfield & Family

New Address for David & Janet Wachhaus is: 15052 Primrose Lane, Middlefield, Oh 44062  
Their email address is: [dwachhau@columbus.rr.com](mailto:dwachhau@columbus.rr.com)

Pastor Scherner will begin a new Bible Study, "Has Christianity Failed You". It will begin in January. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Women's Bible Study on John will resume on January 10 and will be held each Wednesday morning at 9:30. This study is led by Karen Scherner.

Women's Conference will be held Saturday, February 10 from 9-1. Give your \$25 check to Marilyn Long. brunch is included in the cost. A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board. It will be held at Pickwick Place. For more information contact Betty Ebbeskotte.

Don't forget to save the stamps from your holiday cards. Be sure to leave 1/4" around the stamps. Place them in the box on the coat rack on the East side.

Dear Friends of The Father's Hands Extended Soup Kitchen

What an honor it is to serve hot meals to the poor of this region with you. Many broken hearted people are ministered to through your generous donations of food, finances, paper products and service. There is a scripture in Proverbs 19:17 that simply states: He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will reward him for what he has done. We here at The Father's Heart Healing Center thank you for your support and you will be rewarded by the Lord. That will be the greatest thank you of all!

Many Blessings,  
Pastor Dan Rebon

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Thank you for your prayers and gift of \$865.00. Your financial contribution helps advance the King's work as your missionaries bring the Gospel to those least likely to have heard, believed, or benefitted from its saving and transforming power.

World Mission Prayer League,  
Diedone and Serafine Panzo Support Fund

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Dear Church Members,

Thank you for supporting the mission of Filling Home with you gift as \$465.00. Your generosity is helping our staff to provide vital services to the individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities that are a part of our community of care and support.

Friends, Thank you very much for your generous gift.

Warmest regard in Christ,  
Jean Cohrs, Ex. Assistant

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Dear Friends,

Thank you for your recent gift of \$515.00 to Luther Home of Mercy. Thank you for your continued partnership in this important work! Please accept our gratitude for your kindness and know that you are in our prayers of thanks.

Sincerely,

Terri Rodriguez  
President and C.E.C.

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# December 2017

Nov 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Jan 2018						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

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Choir practice 9 AM  
Parsonage Open House 4-7  
Sunday School 9 AM  
Worship 10 AM

4

Dartball at Tiro Crouse Lutheran 7:30 PM

5

Prayer meeting 6:30 PM

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Choir practice 9 AM  
Christmas Caroling 3:30  
Church Council after worship  
Sunday School 9 AM  
Worship 10 AM

11

Dartball home with Good Hope Lutheran 7:30 PM

12

Women of Church Christmas Program 6 PM

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17

Choir practice 9 AM  
Christmas Breakfast  
SS Christmas Program during worship

18

Dartball home with Bucyrus St. John U.C.C. 7:30 PM

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Choir practice 9 AM  
Christmas Eve Worship 7:30 PM  
Sunday School 9 AM  
Worship 10 AM

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Sunday School 9 AM  
Worship 10 AM