

January 1, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

During 2017 we will begin a series on the fruit of the Spirit. We will be exploring our Christian Walk, and we will first focus on faithfulness (Galations 5:22-25.)

Brian L Harbour, pastor and author relates a story which illustrates what faithfulness looks like. It is a story about Clarence Jordan, a man of unusual abilities and commitment. He had two Ph.D.s, one in agriculture and one in Greek and Hebrew. So gifted was he, he could have chosen to do anything he wanted. He chose to serve the poor.

"In the 1940s, he founded a farm in Americus, Georgia, and called it Koinonia Farm. It was a community for poor whites and poor blacks. As you might guess, such an idea did not go over well in the Deep South of the '40s. Ironically, much of the resistance came from good church people who followed the laws of segregation as much as the other folk in town. The town people tried everything to stop Clarence. They tried boycotting him, and slashing workers' tires when they came to town. Over and over, for fourteen years, they tried to stop him.

Finally, in 1954, the Ku Klux Klan had enough of Clarence Jordan, so they decided to get rid of him once and for all. They came one night with guns and torches and set fire to every building on Koinonia Farm but Clarence's home, which they riddled with bullets. And they chased off all the families except one black family which refused to leave.

Clarence recognized the voices of many of the Klansmen, and, as you might guess, some of them were church people. Another was the local newspaper's reporter. The next day, the reporter came out to see what remained of the farm. The rubble still smoldered and the land was scorched, but he found Clarence in the field, hoeing and planting.

"I heard the awful news," he called to Clarence, "and I came out to do a story on the tragedy of your farm closing." Clarence just kept on hoeing and planting. The reporter kept prodding, kept poking, trying to get a rise from this quietly determined man who seemed to be planting instead of packing his bags. So, finally, the reporter said in a

haughty voice, “Well, Dr. Jordan, you got two of them Ph.D.s and you’ve put fourteen years into this farm, and there’s nothing left of it at all. Just how successful do you think you’ve been?”

Clarence stopped hoeing, turned toward the reporter with his penetrating blue eyes, and said quietly but firmly, “About as successful as the cross. Sir, I don’t think you understand us. What we are about is not success but faithfulness. We’re staying.”

Beginning that day, Clarence and his companions rebuilt Koinonia and the farm is going strong today.<sup>(1)</sup>

Blessings,  
Hans Scherner, Pastor

<sup>(1)</sup>Brian L. Harbour, *Found Faithful: A Daily Commitment*

#### January Birthdays

1/01 Darren Pfeifer  
1/01 Tina Seiler  
1/03 Dan Feichtner  
1/04 Clifford Beck, Jr  
1/05 Richard Schanzenbach  
1/05 Paul Ebbeskotte  
1/09 Herman Seibert  
1/10 Steve Brause  
1/14 Irene Martin  
1/15 Karen Beck  
1/15 Becky Auck  
1/15 Bob Seigel  
1/15 Mandalyn Heckleman  
1/18 June Geiger  
1/19 Pat Morral  
1/19 Steve Kocher  
1/19 Travis Leonhardt  
1/20 John Leonhardt  
1/20 Rochelle Leonhardt  
1/21 Ben Ackerman  
1/21 Anthony Keller  
1/22 Marvin Kocher  
1/22 Cody Ulmer  
1/23 Darrin Feichtner  
1/24 LeEtta Green  
1/24 Becky Webber  
1/24 Jacob Grau  
1/25 Christine Shealy  
1/27 Reegan Leonhardt  
1/28 Angie Booth  
1/30 Alice Schimpf  
1/30 Todd Reffey

#### January Anniversaries

1/24 John & Linda Pfliederer  
1/30 Richard & Carol Green

The annual congregational meeting will be held Sunday, January 22, 2017. A light lunch will be served after worship followed by the meeting.

We extend our sympathy to Paul Leonhardt and his family on the death of Donna Leonhardt. She passed away December 20, 2016. Services were held at St. Paul on December 23, 2016 with Pastor Scherner officiating.

We extend our sympathy to Donald & Polly Schimp and Walter & Alice Schimpf on the death of Donald and Walter's sister, Lois Schultz. Services were held December 12 with Pastor Scherner officiating.

On January 1st there will not be any Sunday School.

January 1, 2017 there will be special congregational meeting to discuss and then vote on an amendment to our church constitution concerning our congregations stance on marriage. This proposed amendment was mailed in November to all voting members. It is titled Christian Marriage and Families.

Christmas Decorations will be taken down on Sunday, January 8 after church. After decorations are put away, anyone who wishes will go to eat at a local pizza place.

God Squad will be hosting the Coffee Hour after church on January 8.

Reformation Task Force will be showing a Martin Luther movie on January 15 at 4 PM. All are invited to attend. After the movie pizza will be served. This is just one of the many events planned for this year in celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. For any questions contact Mark Schanzenbach.

St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Minutes  
December 2016

Dave Halsey called the meeting to order. Dave shared devotions. Council members present were Michele Breyley, Jim Shade, John Pfeiderer, Jim Luidhardt, Tim Miller, Ben Ackerman, Sam Hopkins, Mike Hall, Pastor Scherner and Susie Sutherland was also present.

Secretary Report: Tim moved, Sam seconded to approve minutes from last meeting. Motion passed.

Treasurer: John reported a balance of \$28,653.67 in the checking account.

Deacon Report: Sam reported total giving of \$15,298.78 for the month with \$10,863.01 for current. Our average attendance for the month was 117 with 108 communed.

Trustee Report: John reported that Russell Kehres would like to donate the masonry work at the parsonage. We have two bids for the sealing and painting of the exterior of church. Ron Zucker will be keeping parking lot cleaned this winter. Tyler Shade has also volunteered to help with shoveling of snow. We have salt on hand to be used in parking lot.

Pastor's Report: Pastor averaged 45 hours a week with 3 sick days. Karen & Hans will be on their trip leaving on the 9th of February and returning the week of the 20th.

Elder's Report: Nominating Committee is in need of volunteers for the ballot, a lot of NO's

Old Business: None

New Business: Jim Shade moved to accept bids of lay staff: secretary, bookkeeper, organist, custodian and web designer/IT seconded by Mike Hall. Motion passed.

Council dinner will be February 5th for newly elected and present members. Next meeting will be January 8. Mike Hall will share devotions. Being no further business we closed with Lord's Prayer.

Jim Luidhardt,  
Secretary

# Women of the Church Circle Meetings

Rebecca Circle Tuesday, January 3 7 PM  
 Bible Study: Karen Scherner  
 Devotions:  
 Hostess:

Dorcas Circle Wednesday, January 4, 9:30 AM  
 Bible Study: Karen Scherner  
 Devotions:  
 Hostess: Meet at church

## Committees for January

Altar: D-Ann Geiger, Peggy Gearhart  
 Visiting: Betty Ebbeskotte, Bev Robertson  
 Greeter: Mike & D-Ann Geiger  
 Food: Betty Ebbeskotte, Helen Luidhardt  
 Bev Robertson

Women's Bible Studies begin in January. We will dive back into the book of Joshua to learn more about "The Power of god's Promises". All women are invited. Beginning Tuesday, January 3rd thru January 31st the evening Bible study will meet at 7 :00 pm at the parsonage. The morning Bible study will meet at 9:30 am on Wednesday, January 4 thru February 1st, at the church. The first meeting will be an overview of what Joshua has taught us so far. Then we will pick up with chapter 7 the following week. If anyone needs a book, please let me know Karen Scherner, 419-562-5262 or kmscherner@gmail.com

Remember our nursing home residents and shut in members with cards, prayer and visits.

Richard Green  
 Mill Creek  
 900 Wedgewood  
 Galion, Oh 55833

Eldon Campbell  
 Room 310 Altercare  
 1929 Whetstone St.  
 Bucyrus, Oh 44820

Lois Leonhardt  
 4552 St. Rt. 98  
 Bucyrus, Oh 44820

Kathryn Hoover  
 Altercare  
 1929 Whetstone St.  
 Bucyrus, Oh 44820

Lois Walker  
 Room 113 Carlisle Place  
 1721 Whetstone St.  
 Bucyrus, Oh 44820

Paul & Donna Leonhardt  
 P. O. Box 35  
 Sulphur Springs, Oh 44881

Phyllis Ross  
 Altercare  
 1929 Whetstone St.  
 Bucyrus, Oh 44820

Janet Shuck  
 Room 132 Orchard Park  
 500 Wedgewood  
 Bucyrus, Oh 44820

Susan Martens  
 4940 St. Rt. 98  
 Bucyrus, Oh 44820

Helen Noblit  
 Maplecrest  
 717 Rogers St.  
 Bucyrus, Oh 44820

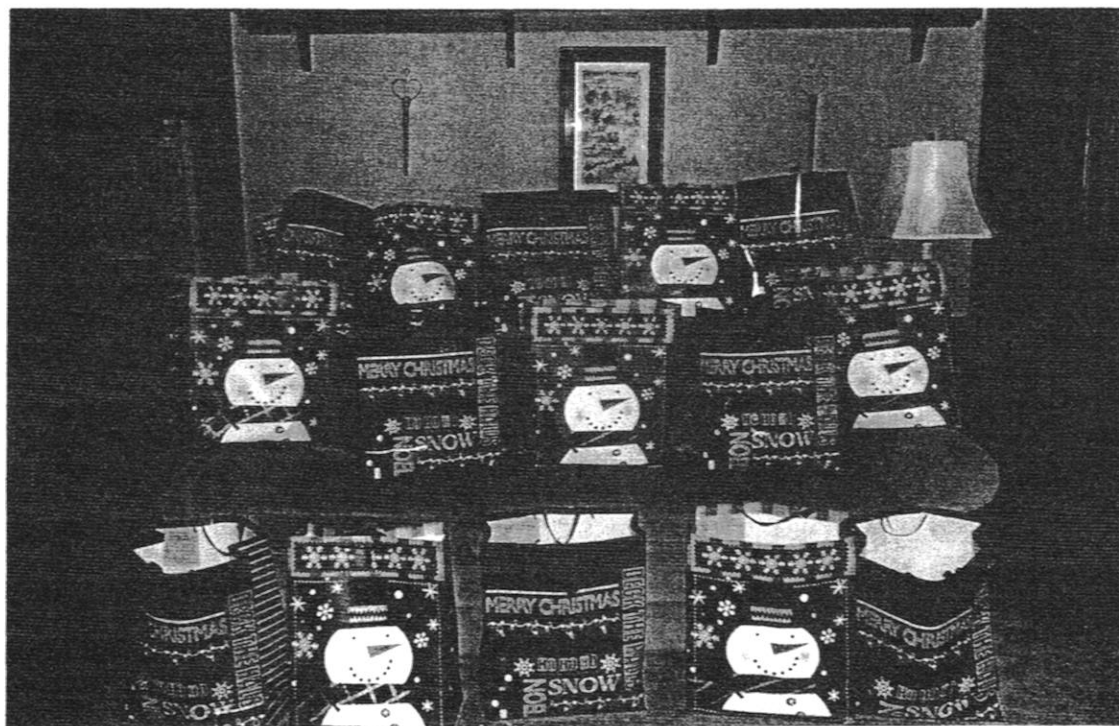
Dorothy Regula  
 Apt. 501 St. Edwards  
 3125 Smith Rd.  
 Fairlawn, Oh 44333

Loyd Kocher  
 Maplecrest  
 717 Rogers St.  
 Bucyrus, Oh 44820

Dorothy Brause  
 The gables of KentRidge D-21  
 5241 Sunnybrook Rd.  
 Kent, Oh 44240

St. Paul Helping Hands once again sponsored the Adopt a Resident for Luther Home of Mercy for Christmas. Thirteen members signed up for this project. The shoppers met at WalMart following the lunch On Sunday, November 20, at the church. There were 15 names with gift suggestions received from Luther Home of Mercy and a total of 19 shoppers. The group received a grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for \$250. When the shoppers finished, they gathered at the front of the store and a new checkout line was opened just for us. Our first purchase on the receipt was 15 shopping bags for the gifts. The shoppers spent a total of \$770. All agree this is a fun project to do.

Thank you to George and Kathy Sheets who took the time to deliver the gifts to Luther Home of Mercy, Williston Oh. Thanks also to Kathy for providing the photo for the newsletter of all the gift bags for the residents of the home.



## GOD SQUAD MINUTES

### December 8, 2016

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

Kate began our meeting with devotions.

Since our last meeting Charlie got information in order to set up an account for God Squad. He shared some printouts from Peoples, United and First Federal banks. We will look over the information and make a decision next meeting.

Visitation committee short Dorothy Schott since she injured her shoulder. Betty and Evie are going to go ahead and visit this month.

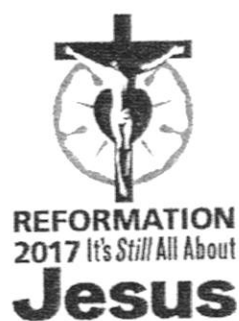
Mark shared that the reformation group are planning to do the movie of Luther on January 15, 2017. With all the busyness of Christmas Mark will wait until the new year to share more of the future reformation activities.

We discussed how we could best help Dorothy as she is recuperating. Various Members of the Squad are bringing Dorothy soup and flowers.

The next meeting will be January 26, 2017. Karen will have devotions.

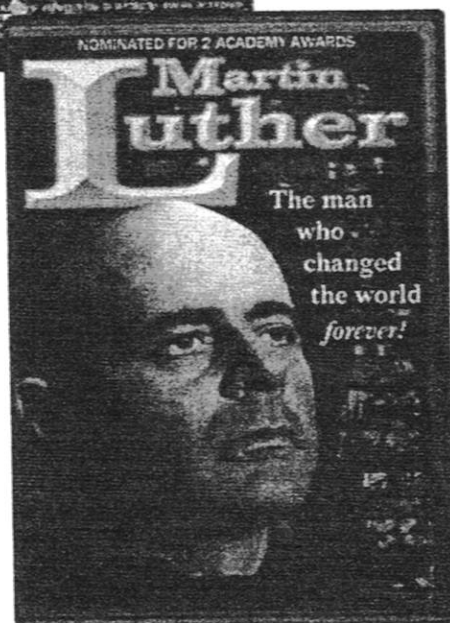
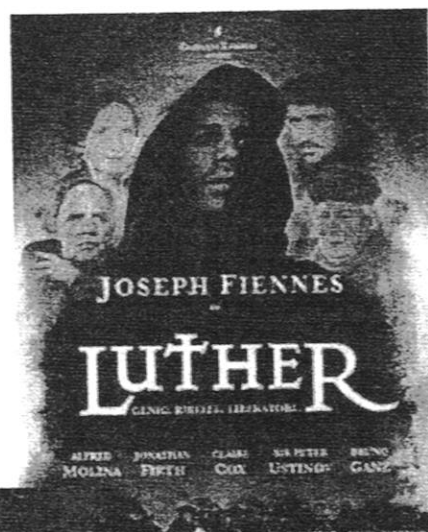
Karen Scherner





2017 marks the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Reformation.  
St. Paul is kicking off the celebration with a

## "Martin Luther Film Fest."



Join us **Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM** as  
the God Squad presents one of the great films  
depicting the life of a great man.

Run time approximately 2 hours. Pizza and discussion to follow!





# TYG

The Youth Group



Follow us on Instagram  
@StPaulTYG



*Kid News  
and  
Upcoming Events*

### The Reason for the Season

The Youth Group has been quite busy this holiday season! On Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> TYG spent the afternoon on our annual Angel Tree shopping excursion. Five kiddos and four adults spent over three hours shopping for 20 little angels from the Bucyrus Area Salvation Army. We left the checkout line at Walmart pushing six carts piled high with garbage bags full of winter coats, shirts, pants and sweaters, dolls, games, Legos, books, crayons, blankets, diapers, a bean bag chair and a Barbie Dream House. This annual event is a favorite and we feel blessed to be able to serve the community in this way.

*"The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear." ~Buddy the Elf*

On Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> TYG assembled 33 fruit baskets and 4 cookie trays to be delivered to shut-ins and nursing homes during the church's annual Christmas caroling. Several TYG members joined groups for caroling later that afternoon.

### **\*\*\*Special Thanks\*\*\***

To Sam Hopkins and Bev Robertson, who shopped til they dropped!  
To Deb Feichtner for helping with the fruit basket and cookie tray assembly.

### **\*Mark Your Calendars\***

#### Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup> - Winter Jam

TYG will travel to Columbus to see Christian Music's Largest Annual Tour. Featured guests this year include: Crowder, Britt Nicole, Colton Dixon, Newsong, Tenth Avenue North, Sadie Robertson, Andy Mineo, Tony Nolan, OBB, Sarah Reeves and Steven Malcolm. There will be a very brief meeting after church on **Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>** for all attendees to coordinate the time table and travel plans.

#### Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup> - St. Paul Family Trivia Night

TYG will join forces with the ~~God Squad~~ for a fun, church family game night. Teams comprised of all ages will test their knowledge on a variety of topics in true quiz show fashion. Start recruiting your team members now!

YOUR **MISSION** SHOULD YOU CHOOSE TO ACCEPT IT....

Turn in your completed Mission Survey to Carrie or Amber by January 8<sup>th</sup>. A follow up meeting will be scheduled later this month.

# January 2017

1 Congregational meeting after worship Worship 10 AM	2	3 Rebecca Circle/Evening Bible Study 7 PM at Parsonage	4 Bible Study/Dorcas Circle 9:30 AM Choir practice 7 PM	5	6	7																																																																																				
8 Coffee Hour sponsored by God Squad Sunday School 9 AM Take down Christmas decoration after worship Church Council after worship Worship 10 AM	9 Dartball Home with Galion Peace Lutheran 7:30 PM	10 Women's Bible Study at Parsonage 7 PM	11 Choir practice 7 PM Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM	12	13	14																																																																																				
15 Martin Luther Movie 4 PM followed by pizza Sunday School 9 AM Worship 10 AM	16	17 Women's Bible Study at Parsonage 7 PM	18 Choir practice 7 PM Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM	19	20	21 Youth Group Winter Jam																																																																																				
22 Light lunch followed by congregational meeting Sunday School 9 AM Worship 10 AM	23	24 Women's Bible Study at Parsonage 7 PM	25 Choir practice 7 PM Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM	26	27 God Squad 7 PM	28																																																																																				
29 Sunday School 9 AM Worship 10 AM	30	31 Women's Bible Study at Parsonage 7 PM	<div>Dec 2016</div> <table> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> </table> <div>Feb 2017</div> <table> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>				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	31	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			
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