



The Epistle

What's the Weather?

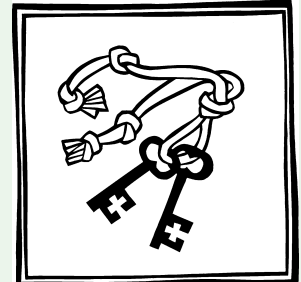
HOW TO READ AND UNDERSTAND THE PROPHETS



It's summer and checking the weather forecast is vital for planning the day. If you're not familiar with the weather forecast, your plan can be upset by a thunderstorm. All summer long, the first reading in worship features a reading from the Books of the Prophets, especially Isaiah. If we're familiar with the prophets, then the readings can be confusing and upsetting.

The Books of the Prophets may be compared to the weather section of the newspaper, the weather report, or the weather app on your smartphone. Just as the weather forecast helps you know what to expect so that you can plan the day, the Books of the Prophets reveal to us what God expects of us as well as what we can expect as the natural consequences either of sin or of holy living. You may recall Micah's

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VALLEY
INTERFAITH
COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

Donation Corner

**BACK-TO-SCHOOL
CAMPAIGN FOR
VALLEY INTER-
FAITH**

The Social Concerns Committee is collecting glue-sticks and 2-pocket folders for Valley Interfaith! Collection deadline is Aug. 6. Please place donations in the box in the narthex. Thank you for your generosity!

What's the Weather?

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words, “What does the Lord require from you, except to carry out justice and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8).

The main thing to know about the Prophets is that they speak God’s Word; God gives them a message and they speak it. Many hear “prophet” and think “predict the future.” It would be better to think, “Speak for God.” Sometimes, they do tell the future. Sometimes, as a statement of fact (Ez. 37:11-14). Sometimes, however, the word they give is conditional and found in an “If-then” statement (Jer. 18:7-11)— God tells the Israelites through the prophets that if they sin, they will suffer, but if they repent, they will have new life. If-then statements from the prophets are like precipitation percentages in the weather report. Prophets don’t only predict the future. They also simply describe the current situation to help the Israelites understand their circumstances and how they got there (Hosea 4:1-3). In summary, the prophets speak God’s Word—of judgment (Amos 8:4-6, 9-12), of repentance (Jer. 8:18-9:3), and of hope (Isaiah 43:1-7).

A smartphone can tell you where you are and what time it is as well as what the weather will be like there. Prophets tell us what to expect from God, what God expects of us, and whether it’s time for judgment, or time for deliverance and restoration. This summer, listen to God’s Word for the Church and the World through the Prophets during worship, and the next time you check the weather, think of God’s Word in Scripture.

In Christ,
Pastor Emily Beckering

Council Corner: New Council Members



At the July Council meeting, new officers were elected, and new committee liaisons were chosen (not pictured: Nick Huitger). Please read below so that you know whom to contact with questions and ideas.

Officers and Committee Liaisons

President: Nancy Erbeck

Vice President: Chet Laine

Secretary: Kathy Crosby

Treasurer: Linda Miller

Christian Education Committee Liaison:

Chelsea King

Evangelism Committee Liaison:

Chet Laine

Finance Committee Liaison:

Linda Miller

Property Committee Liaison: Joy Niefeld

Social Concerns Committee Liaison:

Kathy Crosby

Stewardship Committee Liaison:

Carole Replogle

Worship and Music Committee Liaison:

Nick Huitger

Sunday School Kickoff Sept. 10: Faith on Fire!

BACK-TO-SCHOOL BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS SUNDAY, AUG. 13



Hello from the Christian Ed. Committee!

We are so excited that Rally Day is fast approaching. It is on Sunday, Sept. 10, after worship, from 11:30 am -1:30 pm. This event will be exciting and engaging for the entire congregation, so come enjoy the fun! Our theme is Faith on Fire! A fire truck will visit to host a touch-a-truck event. In addition, we will have fire-themed activities and frozen hot chocolate, plus frappes. We really want to grow Sunday school, both youth and adult sections. Please invite friends and families to join us. There are fliers (*image at left*) available in the narthex to hand out.

We also continue our search for Sunday school teachers and substitutes. These do not need to be huge commitments. If you are at all interested, please speak with any of the Christian Ed committee.

One more topic: we are working on adult activity groups. As I talk with people in the congregation, there have been many different groups in the past. Are there any you would like to see come back? Or do you have new ideas? You can email me at bessturgill3@gmail.com, put ideas in the collection box, or talk with any of us.

Thank you all!

Bess Sturgill



Celebrations in August



1 Bess Sturgill

4 Noah Smith-Trondle

6 Carolyn Koehl

7 Ryan Coulehan

8 Jeff & Holly Ford

10 Webb Grandy,
Anna Smith-Trondle

15 Kirstyn Kreiner

16 Kyra Cowan,
Maci Lawson, Tom Pyle

19 Ed & Kathy Hirt

22 Doug & Marty Lohmeier

23 Charlotte Waddell

24 Rodney Bronner,
Pat Coldiron

26 Bob Portmann

28 David & Amanda Peery

31 Mark Burgjohann,
Cole Grieger

Support St. Paul at Kroger!

Did you know that St. Paul benefits from the Kroger Community Rewards Program? Just follow the directions below to increase your church offering at no cost to yourself!

One-time step: Link your Kroger Plus Card to St. Paul.

- Visit [kroger.com/account/communityrewards](https://www.kroger.com/account/communityrewards) and log in with your Kroger account. (Kroger customer service can help with this.)
- Search for “St. Paul Lutheran Church” or organization number TG880.
- Click the ENROLL button under St. Paul’s name & address.
- After this, each purchase with your Plus card will generate donations to St. Paul!

Unfortunately St. Paul no longer receives rewards from Amazon, as the Amazon Smile program has been discontinued.

Evangelism Committee Invites You to Taste of Reading



Evangelism would like to give special thanks to everyone who baked for and helped set up

and participate in the community ice cream social on Saturday, July 22 and the St. Paul picnic on Sunday. The food and fellowship were exceptional and everyone had a great time! About 33 community guests were served.

Our next event is participation in The Taste of Reading which is on Saturday, August 26 at Koenig Park. We will be

sponsoring a booth focusing on kids featuring games, crafts and activities. We will use the time to promote Sunday School, Movie Night, the Fall Festival, Live Nativity and our other community events. The Taste will last from noon to 11 pm. Anyone interested in helping for a couple of hours, please let us know. You can sign up to share a shift with a partner on the volunteer sheet located in the narthex, or contact Chet Laine or anyone else on the Evangelism team.

The next Evangelism meeting will be in the library immediately after worship on Sunday, August 6. All are welcome to join in with your thoughts and ideas!

Annual Picnic Stays Cool Indoors



Picnic fun and fellowship moved indoors this year due to heat—a cool time was had by all!

Focus on Committees: Christian Education

Have you ever wondered how a close-knit congregation like St. Paul has so much impact on the world outside our building? The answer is our amazing committees! Over the next few months, members of each committee will tell you about their work and what motivates them to serve in that ministry. This month the Christian Education Committee is featured, with testimonies from Bess Sturgill.

1. What led you to become involved in this committee?

If I am completely honest, Pastor Emily persuaded me to take up this position. And admittedly when she first asked I was rather reluctant. All I could think was: how in the world am I going to be able to find the time to devote to this committee? But my belief that if I want something for my children I have to be willing to work for it came through. And I have to admit I am glad it did. This committee has taught me a lot, and continues to.

2. How has being on this committee impacted your life?

This committee has shown me the love and care that lives in this church family. It warms my heart when I think of how all of the congregation loves and supports the youth of the church. It is not easy to

find a place where your children get to experience care and love from non-blood-related adults. Personally, I have found that many youth activities center around competition and being the best, as opposed to building community and a sense of being cared for. Our church family provides community and being cared for.

3. Explain to members how they can become involved with this committee

Join us! Come to a meeting! Be a Sunday school teacher! Be a substitute Sunday school teacher! Our committee welcomes anyone who wants to join. Bring your ideas.

4. How would you encourage others to join this committee?

I encourage all of you to come to rally day. Our committee is really focusing on ways to make every member of the church feel welcome, wanted and excited about joining us. We truly want you to be part of everything we are doing. Christian Education is not just for the youth. We are working to make Christian Ed inviting for all. Please come to Rally Day then give us ideas and thoughts on how we can make our next event more inviting and exciting for you.

Bess Sturgill

St. Paul Neighbors Enjoy Community Ice Cream Social



St. Paul Lutheran Church

LOCATION KEY
 S = sanctuary
 N = narthex
 L = library

FH = fellowship hall
 US = upstairs
 O = outside
 Z = Zoom

Mission Statement

Growing a Christian community where each is valued, accepted, and loved.

513-821-0987 | mail@stpaulreading.org

August 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
July 30 9 Pentecost 10:30 am Worship (S) After worship: Quarterly Congregational Meeting (S)	July 31	August 1	2 2:30 pm Bible Study (N/Z) 6 pm Christian Ed Committee (L)	3	4	5 11:30 am-5:30 pm Church reserved for cleaning
6 10 Pentecost 10:30 am Worship (S) After Worship: Evangelism Committee (L)	7	8 6:30 pm Venture Scouts (L/N)	9 2:30 pm Bible Study (N/Z)	10 6 pm Scouts BSA (N/L)	11	12
13 11 Pentecost 10:30 am Worship (S)	14 7 pm Council Meeting (L)	15	16 2:30 pm Bible Study (N/Z)	17	18	19 11:30 am-5:30 pm Church reserved for cleaning
20 12 Pentecost 10:30 am Worship (S) 2 pm <i>The Chosen Bible</i> study	21 **Epistle Articles Due**	22 6:30 pm Venture Scouts (L/N)	23 2:30 pm Bible Study (N/Z) 7 pm Conference-Wide Youth Planning Meeting (N)	24 6 pm Scouts BSA (N/L)	25	26 12-11 pm SPLC Booth at Taste of Reading (Koenig Park, 520 W. Columbia Ave.)
27 13 Pentecost 10:30 am Worship (S) 2 pm <i>The Chosen Bible</i> study	28	29	30 2:30 pm Bible Study (N/Z)	31	September 1	September 2 11:30 am-5:30 pm Church reserved for cleaning

Our Life Together

To reach Pastor directly, please call the pastoral line at 513-760-5884.

If you have requests for the Prayer Chain, or to remove a person from the list, please contact the office at 513-821-0987 or mail@stpaulreading.org.

We pray for **Samantha Asbrock** (Marie Calhoun's friend); **Berkeley** (Carol Curless's great-grandson); **Jeannie Allen** (Faith Pirrmann's friend); **Teresa Bell** (former member); **Chrissi Bergt** (Kate Wollenburg's cousin); **Stephen Black** (Kim Coulehan's nephew); **Nancy Boone** (Gary Gries' sister); **Brett** (Kings' step-nephew); **Jodie Calhoun**; **Casey** (Cindy Sieckman's niece); **John Cathcart**; **Christy** (Terri DeAngelis' daughter); **Pat Coldiron**; **Sandy Cordes**; **Kathy Curless**; **Rebecka DeLeon** (daughter of Holly Ford's co-worker); **Katie Demopoulos** (Diana Hawkins's niece); **Sara Eble** (Portmanns' friend); **Jane Erbeck**; **Nancy Erbeck**; **Larry Faulkner** (Freda's son); **Justin Feldman** (Bess Sturgill's father); **Cindy Flege**; **Lee Frank** (Barbara Moorhouse's niece's husband); **Darrell Frasure** (St. Paul neighbor); **Jeanne Fuller**; **Clara Garcia** (Cindy Mayhugh's sister); **Lena Gibson** (Pirrmanns' stepsister); **Nathaniel Gibson** (Les Eckerle's step-nephew); **Janie Grandy** (in-law of DeAngelis-Willet family); **Don Grau Jr.**; **Jim Hammerling** (Portmanns' son-in-law); **Ron Harbaugh**; **Chrissy Harris**; **Sandy Hatcher** (Linda Holt's sister); **Elain**

Heskamp; **Ed Hirt**; **Andrew Horton**; **Penny and Larry Huber**; **Ellen Hunter** (Jeni Cathcart's grandmother); **Kate** (granddaughter of Dennis King's friend); **Mike Keefe** (Millers' neighbor); **Ken Keith** (Kris Keith's dad); **Chelsea King**; **Dennis King**; **Jackie King**; **Janet King**; **Earl (Buddy) King** (Dennis's brother); **Marilyn Kline** (Cindy Sieckman's neighbor); **Loretta Kombrink** (Marilyn Portmann's aunt); **Tom and Mike Kozee and family** (friends of Faith Pirrmann); **Chet Laine**; **Kelsee Lainhart** (friend of Kings); **Nelson Langefeld**; **Yvonne Lowery** (St. Paul Players); **Carroll Mayhugh Sr.** (Carroll Mayhugh's father); **Cindy Mayhugh**; **Jessica Mayhugh & family** (Mayhughs' niece-in-law); **Samantha Mersch** (Mayhughs' daughter, Sarah Papin's sister); **Jack Miller** (Becky Betsch's uncle); **Linda Miller**; **Mary Mills** (St. Paul Players); **Jessica Mink** (Donald Harris's cousin); **Barbara Moorhouse**; **Charlie Myers** (Coulehans' family friend); **Jean Nolte**; **Carol, Jim, and Jeannie Oerther** (Portmanns' sister and family); **Ann Ohr** (Barbara Moorhouse's cousin); **Eric Papin**; **LaCartha Pate** (Jeanne Wagner's friend); **Linda Perin** (Moorhouses' cousin); **Nick Pirrmann**; **Bob Price** (Kings' friend); **Barry Prince**; **Everett Prudhomme** (Beckerings' nephew); **Denise Rankin**; **Cynthia Reed**; **Dick Replogle** (Linda Miller's brother); **Christopher Rolfes** (Anne's son); **Mike and Judy Ryan** (friends

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Our Life Together

(Continued from page 10)

of the Kings); **Sara and Evan** (Barbara Moorhouse’s cousins); **Scott Schadel** (friend of McDowells); **Shawn Schnetzer** (Sturgills’ cousin); **Shannon and Dane** (friends of Riddle family); **family** (Kings’ neighbors); **Knox Shepherd** (grandson of Pr. Vicki Garber); **Kate Sheridan** (Kings’ family friend); **Kim Sieckman; Michelle Snavely** (Laines’ daughter); **Crosley Spelman** (Spelmans’ grandson); **Kathy Spelman and family** (Joyce’s sister-in-law); **Michael Steele** (Mayhughs’ nephew); **Frank Sturgill** (Jim’s dad); **Geri Toland** (Carole Replogle’s neighbor); **Lish Trasser** (friend of DeAngelis-Willet family); **Treasure** (Les Eckerle’s cousin); **Ralph Turner** (friend of Dennis King); **Jeanne Wagner; Melinda Wakefield** (Sherry Bronner’s friend); **Leslie Willet; Kate Wollenburg and family; Judy Young** (Janet King’s sister); **Barb Zeh** (Jeni Cathcart’s mom).

We pray for those with ongoing health concerns who are unable to come to church every week: **Betty Hoffmann, Betty Kline, Shirley Lathrop, Barbara Moorhouse, Jean Nolte.**

We pray for our armed forces members: **Graham Barton** (Fords’ neighbor); **Paul Cordes** (Elinor Schieman’s grandson); **Victoria Derry** (Elinor Schieman’s great-granddaughter); **Jared Forst** (Loretta’s grandson); **Beau Glenn** (Karen Koehl’s son-in-law); **Kylie Hahn** (Gretta Hahn’s granddaughter); **Donald Hosea** (Karen Koehl’s son); **Samuel McLoughlin** (friend of Cindy Sieckman); **Scott Minton** (Becky Betsch’s brother); **Jobeth Ramirez** (friend of Karen Koehl); **Joshua Rodriguez** (friend of Karen Koehl); **Trent Schwegman** (cousin to the Erbecks and Fords); **Dustin Silvey; Alex Wisecup** (son of Nadine and Barry Wisecup).

August Ministry Schedule

Date	Feast / Fast	Assisting Minister	Lesson Reader	Livestreamers
Aug. 6	10 Pentecost	Cindy Mayhugh	Carole Replogle	Nick Huitger, Chet Laine
Aug. 13	11 Pentecost	Noah Moorhouse	Kathy Hirt	Carroll Mayhugh
Aug. 20	12 Pentecost	Carroll Mayhugh	Cindy Mayhugh	Noah Moorhouse
Aug. 27	13 Pentecost	Nancy Erbeck	Kathy Hirt	Nick Huitger, Chet Laine

**St. Paul
Lutheran Church**

***Mission
Statement:***

Growing a Christian
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each is valued, ac-
cepted, and loved.



AUG. 13

**BLESSING OF
BACKPACKS**



**St. Paul
Lutheran Church**

106 Maple St.
Reading, OH 45215

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mail@stpaulreading.org

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

