



The Epistle

Light of Hope



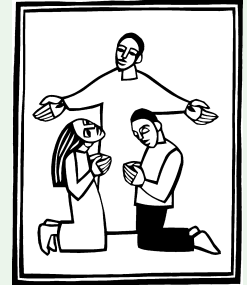
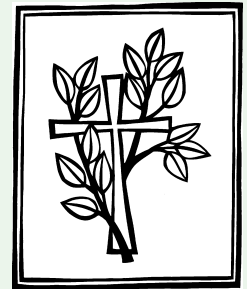
Light of Hope
2023 Stewardship Campaign

Here we are at the start of our 2023 Stewardship campaign to fund all the important programs and work of St. Paul for the calendar year of 2024. The budget for 2023 far exceeded our income for the first half of 2023, so, to “balance” the budget, a

revised budget was submitted by Council, which was approved by the congregation at the 2nd-quarter congregational meeting. Unfortunately, in doing this, some programs were affected adversely.

The task of the Stewardship Team is to find ways to increase giving to meet our goals. One way is to ask supporters of the THRIVE program to continue to donate their support to the General Fund now that we have completed our commitment to THRIVE.

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YOUTH GROUP DONATIONS

Thank you to all who support the faith formation of our youth in prayer and in financial gifts. When you give a donation that you would like directed toward the youth, please specify "Youth" to support ongoing youth ministry or "National Youth Gathering" to help the youth in their fundraising toward the National Youth Gathering Trip to New Orleans in 2024.

Light of Hope

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One item that will reappear in the 2023 Stewardship appeal will be the "Organ Fund". This fund was started last year to allow us to return to organ music for our services. At the end of 2023, we will have in excess of \$8,000.00 committed to this project. This is a great start, but initial returns on repairing/replacing the organ will greatly exceed that amount, so, we will continue this appeal.

Everyone will soon receive a Statement of Intent card and a mailer about this year's Stewardship campaign. Our theme for this year is "Light of Hope". Please return the completed Statement of Intent card on or before October 22, 2023 (Commitment Sunday). For those filling out an online Statement of Intent card, please submit the completed card on or before October 22, 2023 to Jane Owen or the church office. As you fill out the Statement of Intent card, please prayerfully consider each of our programs for 2024, and I am sure that the Lord will bless you and our entire congregation, just as He has in the past.

Thank You,
Nelson Langefeld, Stewardship Team Member

Council Corner: August 2023

We continue to focus on living out the ministry which God has given us while seeking to be fiscally conservative for sustainability. As part of this work, the church will now be cleaned every other week rather than weekly, as can be seen from the calendar included in this issue.

Council listened to the report from members of a subcommittee who met with a representative from the Boy Scouts of America to discern how we might best live out our mission as a congregation in regard to scouting.

Committees began working on their 2024 ministry and mission plans so that Coun-

cil could begin to prepare the 2024 proposed budget.

We have selected dates for upcoming congregational meetings: the 3rd quarter Congregational meeting will be November 12th following worship and the Annual Congregational meeting will be January 28. Mark your calendars so that you might be present to participate in our shared ministry and common life.

In Christ,
Kathy Crosby, Nancy Erbeck, Nick Huitger,
Chelsea King, Chet Laine, Linda Miller,
Joy Niefeld, Carole Replogle,
and Pastor Emily Beckering

Greater Cincinnati Youth Group Kickoff Event!

September 24, 4-6 pm

Winton Woods - Great Blue Heron Shelter

including lawn games, board games, icebreakers,
worship, and light snacks.

Parents are welcome to stay and mingle if desired

Open to grades 7-12. Please see your youth leader or
pastor for a permission slip and any questions

A new opportunity for Lutheran youth is in town! The Cincinnati churches are teaming up to provide a joint space for youth fellowship and fun.



Focus on Committees: Worship & Music

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 Worship & Music Committee is featured, with testimonies from Addy Kruse.

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

I've been involved in church music for basically all my life in various capacities (including subjecting my childhood church to a snare drum solo in 5th grade). Participating in music at St Paul felt like a natural next step in that progression. Because I am so involved in the music, when I got the invitation to join the committee, it made sense!

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

I have really enjoyed learning the 'why' behind a lot of the choices we make for worship. I also really value being able to problem solve and bring in new traditions I've enjoyed at other churches when the space arises.

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

Our committee meetings are very conversational. We talk about what's working, what needs tweaked, what's impactful, how to celebrate the next big day, etc. You don't need to be a liturgical expert or a master musician, you just need to talk about church! If you attend worship, in person or remotely, you have the experience necessary to participate.

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

Come on in! We do a lot of our meetings on Zoom, so it fits nicely in everyone's schedules and family needs. We meet on an as-needed schedule with focuses on the big services like Reformation, Christmas, Easter. And we need those voices from the pews! The service looks different from every pew, and we'd like to hear what it looks like from yours.

Addy Kruse

September Celebrations



2	Kim Coulehan
5	Susan Bardes, Olivia Hedges
11	Hailie Fuller, Carole Replogle

16 John Cathcart

21 Joseph Heskamp

21 Dennis and Joy Niefeld

24 Shaun & Joyce Seals

25 Chrissy Harris

26 Kristopher Keith

29 Taylor Beckering

30 John Kerlin

Support us 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 you!

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!

From the Presiding Bishop: “A Deeply Spiritual Act”

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self-sufficiency was attained when a person became completely independent, with no need of anyone or anything else. By the time Paul wrote to the church in Corinth, self-sufficiency meant not just having enough for oneself but having enough to give away to others. One could have all the wealth and power and status in the world, but if one didn’t share with others, that person was not self-sufficient. Contrast the rich young man who could give nothing away with the poor

widow who gave everything. The rich young man went away grieving. The widow gave freely.

Stewardship is a deeply spiritual act. It moves us out of ourselves and toward the neighbor in need. It glorifies God. It brings freedom from wealth and status. It unclenches our hands and hearts. It lets us rest in the promise of God’s abundance. We become cheerful givers.

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton

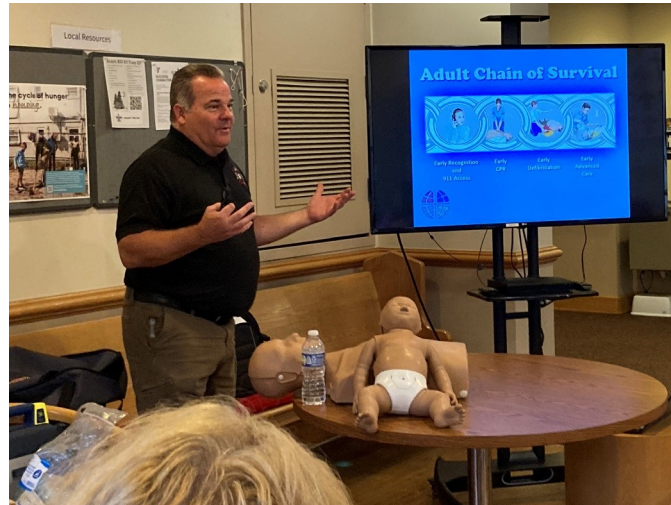
Rally Day Sept. 10; Classes Resume Sept. 17



This year's Sunday School theme is Faith on Fire! Regular Christian Education classes for everyone age 3 and up will resume Sunday, September 17 at 9 am. The adult discussion group will meet in the narthex, and ages 3-18 meet upstairs in the Sunday school wing.

The Rally Day kickoff party is Sunday, September 10 after worship—bring friends and family for treats, fire-themed activities, and Touch-a-Truck with the Reading Fire Department!

CPR/AED Training Serves St. Paul and the Community



Many thanks to Reading Fire Chief Todd Owen for leading our CPR/AED training on August 5! St. Paul members and others from the Reading community practiced lifesaving skills.

St. Paul Shines at Taste of Reading, Aug. 26



From the Presiding Bishop: “A Deeply Spiritual Act”



This article was originally published in the September 2021 issue of Living Lutheran magazine.

The first-century church in Corinth must have been a lively place. Its members were competitive, jealous, divided into factions and litigious. The congregation was diverse. There were Jews and gentiles, rich and poor, men and women, young and old, those brand new to the faith and those with more maturity.

Paul spent over 18 months establishing the church in Corinth. He worked with, lived with and loved these people. Paul wanted them to know the risen Christ and the life of love and freedom found in Christ.

While the Corinthians were enthusiastic, they weren't very disciplined. They argued about which of them had the superior spiritual pedigree—those baptized by Paul or those baptized by Apollos. They took each other to court. And when they gathered for the Lord's Supper—neither decently nor in good order—Paul wrote, “When you come together, it is not really to eat the Lord's supper. For when the time comes to eat, each of you goes ahead with your own supper, and one goes hungry and another becomes drunk” (1 Corinthians 11:20-21).

At his ascension, Jesus told his disciples that they would “receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and

to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8). The church in Jerusalem was the foundation of the Christian movement. It became the parent of the churches founded by the apostles throughout the world.

The decision had been taken at the Council at Jerusalem to welcome gentiles into the way of Jesus. This was a critically important decision and a difficult one. It wasn't universally embraced by everyone. And the saints in Jerusalem had fallen on hard times. Famine threatened the city. Paul organized a massive stewardship campaign among the gentile churches to send aid to the church in Jerusalem.

Paul would have done well as a development officer. He urged the believers to give generously and cheerfully. He set them up to compete with each other to see which church could be most generous. The enthusiastic Corinthians jumped at the chance, especially if they could do better than the Macedonians! But their lack of discipline was stronger than their zeal, and their stewardship campaign faltered.

Paul wasn't going to have it. In his second letter to the Corinthians, he laid out the spiritual basis for giving: it was about opening the self and the community, it was about glorifying God, it was a new way of thinking about sufficiency.

“And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work” (2 Corinthians 9:8).

The concept of sufficiency had changed over the centuries. In Cynic and Stoic philosophy, true

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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

September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
August 27 13 Pentecost 10:30 am Worship (S)	August 28 4 Labor Day	August 29 5 9 am Stewardship Committee 6:30 pm Christian Ed Committee	August 30 2:30 pm Bible Study (N/Z) 6:30 pm Christian Ed Committee (L)	August 31	September 1	2 11:30 am-5:30 pm Church reserved for cleaning
3 14 Pentecost 10:30 am Worship (S) After Worship: Evangelism Committee (L)	4 Labor Day	5 9 am Stewardship Committee 6:30 pm Christian Ed Committee	6 **No Bible study**	7	8	9
10 15 Pentecost & Rally Day! 10:30 am Worship (S) 11:30 am Rally Day Party & Touch-a-Truck (O)	11	12	13 2:30 pm Bible Study (N/Z)	14	15	16 11:30 am-5:30 pm Church reserved for cleaning
17 16 Pentecost 9 am Sunday School (ages 3-18) (US) 9 am Adult Forum (N) 10:30 am Worship (S)	18 7 pm Council Meeting (FH) **Epistle Articles Due**	19	20 2:30 pm Bible Study (N/Z)	21	22	23 5 pm Setup for Community Movie Night 7:30 pm Snacks served 8 pm Outdoor Movie begins
24 17 Pentecost 9 am Sunday School (ages 3-18) (US) 9 am Adult Forum (N) 10:30 am Worship (S) 4 pm Greater Cincy Youth Group Kickoff (Great Blue Heron Shelter, Winton Woods Park)	25	26	27 2:30 pm Bible Study (N/Z)	28	29	30 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**; **David** (Cindy Sieckman's cousin); **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 Koze and family** (friends of Faith Eckerle); **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 of the Kings); **Sara and Evan**

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Our Life Together

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(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 Eck-erle’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).

September Ministry Schedule

Date	Feast / Fast	Assisting Minister	Lesson Reader	Livestreamers
Sept. 3	14 Pentecost	Nancy Erbeck	Kathy Crosby	Carroll Mayhugh
Sept. 10	15 Pentecost	Carroll Mayhugh	Chet Laine	Noah Moorhouse
Sept. 17	16 Pentecost	Cindy Mayhugh	Kathy Hirt	Nick Huitger, Chet Laine
Sept. 24	17 Pentecost	Noah Moorhouse		Carroll Mayhugh

**St. Paul
Lutheran Church**

**Mission
Statement:**

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

**SUNDAY,
SEPT. 10**

**11:30 AM -
1:30 PM**

**SUNDAY
SCHOOL
KICKOFF**

**TOUCH-A-TRUCK & SIGN UP
FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**St. Paul
Lutheran Church**

106 Maple St.
Reading, OH 45215

Phone: 513-821-0987

E-mail:

mail@stpaulreading.org

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

