



The Epistle

Bind Us Together, Lord



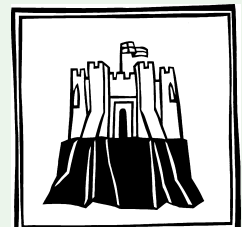
Hi, this is Anne Rolfes, a member of the Stewardship Team. As I began my journey 5+ years ago, I knew it would give me a better understanding of what stewardship was and what it meant to

our congregation, as I was a newer member at that time.

It was easy to become a member of any committee - just volunteer! I have found this congregation family is very welcoming in all aspects.

As a former Home Economics teacher, I looked at our congregation and see a variety of bolts of fabrics, each having their own color, textures and weaves. They all add to the creation of what our congregation is and does for the community, AND having Pastor Emily the thread that holds us together.

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OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD DRIVE BEGINS THIS MONTH

Collections for Operation Christmas Child begin in October! More details to come during the announcements each week. The donation deadline is **Sunday, Nov. 19.**

If you have questions about the project, please contact Kathy Hirt.

Please see [samaritanaspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/pack-a-shoe-box/](https://www.samaritanaspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/pack-a-shoe-box/) for packing instructions and gift ideas.

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I remember the Sundays we had the quilts displayed on the back of the pews and how beautiful it was as a representation of who our church was and still is. Committee work is very rewarding and does take time, but giving back to the church can be accomplished in many ways.

Many blessings to all,
Anne Rolfes

Commitment Sunday is October 22

Statement of Intent cards for the 2024 stewardship campaign will be mailed to members and friends in the last week of September. Please return your card to church by or on October 22, or fill out online at bit.ly/2024SolCard.

Reformation Sunday Potluck

We will rejoice in the tradition of a German Potluck following worship on Reformation Sunday. Bring a dish to share if you wish, and all are welcome to share in food and fellowship as we commemorate the Holy Spirit's work of renewing the church throughout history.

Quarterly Meeting: November 12

Our third quarter congregational meeting will be held after worship on November 12. We will review third quarter financials and vote on the proposed 2024 budget as well as celebrate how God has been at work through our ministries this quarter.

Council Corner – September 18, 2023

We continue to focus on living out the ministry which God has given us while seeking to be fiscally conservative for sustainability. Our congregation was blessed to receive a Memorial contribution from the estate of Jack Wagner of \$25,676.12 and \$4,075.20 from our HundredX fund raising campaign.

Council approved a revised contract for cleaning the church. The church will be cleaned every other week rather than weekly, as can be seen from the calendar included in this issue.

Council carefully reviewed each committee's proposed budget for their 2024 ministry and mission plans. Each committee proposed a reduction in spending for the coming year. Council will prepare a final draft of the 2024 proposed budget at their October 16th meeting and present that proposed budget to the congregation at our 3rd Quarter Congressional Meeting on Sunday, November 12.

The Evangelism Committee recommended including a potluck following worship on Reformation Sunday, October 29.

We selected dates for upcoming Congregational meetings: the 3rd quarter Congregational meeting will follow worship on November 12th and the Annual Congregational meeting will be on 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

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES EVERY SUNDAY

There is Sunday School and Adult Forum every Sunday at 9 am except for the weekends of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's. Generally, on the second Sunday of the month, there will be an intergenerational activity, breakfast, or service project.

From Bishop Eaton: “One Body, One Spirit, One Hope”



This article was originally published in the September 2023 issue of Living Lutheran magazine.

As I write this the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) is preparing to gather in Kraków, Poland, for its 13th assembly. Delegates, observers, guests and staff from the 149 member churches in 99 countries representing 77 million people will gather for worship, Bible study and deliberation. We will sing and pray in hundreds of languages—a veritable Pentecost!

It’s an amazing gathering of people from all over the globe—different cultures, geographies, cuisines, clothing styles, governments, weather. When we gather in

September it will be the beginning of fall for those from the Northern Hemisphere and the beginning of spring for those from the Southern Hemisphere. We come from mountains, deserts, plains, tropical and temperate rainforests, and six continents. Our political systems and realities are different. Many will come from war zones. Creation care is not theoretical for those coming from drought or from island homes sinking into the sea.

Imagine the diversity. We literally come from different worldviews. Homogeneity doesn’t describe the LWF, nor is it a goal. Instead, we understand ourselves to be living in reconciled diversity, not uniformity.

The assembly’s theme, “One Body. One Spirit. One Hope,” might seem to contradict our understanding of unity, not uniformity. It comes from Ephesians 4:4-6: “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.” But there is a difference between how the world is organized and understands things and the way God has established God’s realm.

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St. Paul Lutheran Church

Mission Statement

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

513-821-0987 | mail@stpaulreading.org

October 2023

FH = fellowship hall

US = upstairs

O = outside

Z = Zoom

LOCATION KEY

S = sanctuary

N = narthex

L = library

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
September 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 Kick-	September 25 2	September 26 3	September 27 2:30 pm Bible Study (N/Z) 4 2:30 pm Bible Study (N/Z)	September 28 5	September 29 6	September 30 11:30 am-5:30 pm Church re-served for cleaning 7
October 1 18 Pentecost 9 am Sunday School (ages 3-18) (US) 9 am Adult Forum (FH) 10:30 am Worship (S) After Worship: Evangelism Committee (L)	9	10	11 2:30 pm Bible Study (N/Z)	12	13	14 11:30 am-5:30 pm Church re-served for cleaning
8 19 Pentecost 9 am Intergenerational Sunday School 10:30 am Worship (S)	16 7 pm Council Meeting (FH)	17	18 2:30 pm Bible Study (N/Z)	19	20	21 12 pm Setup for Fall Festival 2 pm Fall Festival
15 20 Pentecost 9 am Sunday School (ages 3-18) (US) 9 am Adult Forum (FH) 10:30 am Worship (S)	23 Epistle Articles Due	24	25 2:30 pm Bible Study (N/Z)	26	27	28 11:30 am-5:30 pm Church re-served for cleaning
22 21 Pentecost / Stewardship Appeal Commitment Sunday 9 am Sunday School (ages 3-18) (US) 9 am Adult Forum (FH) 10:30 am Worship (S)	30	31	November 1 2:30 pm Bible Study (N/Z)	November 2	November 3	November 4
29 Reformation Sunday / Stewardship Celebration Sunday 9 am Sunday School (ages 3-18) (US) 9 am Adult Forum (FH) 10:30 am Worship (S)						

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 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**

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Celebrations in October



2 Jennifer Pence

9 Leandra Hawkins

11 Brianna Pirrmann
Marilyn Portmann

12 Dennis Niefeld

12 Missy Laine

13 Parker Bronner,
Amanda Peery

15 Les and Faith Eckerle

19 Ron Harbaugh

20 Bob & Marilyn Portmann

22 Terry McDowell

26 Abby Harbaugh

Our Life Together

(Continued from page 6)

Judy Ryan (friends of the Kings); **Sara and Evan** (Barbara Moorhouse's cousins); **Scott Schadel** (friend of McDowell's); **Shawn Schnetzer** (Sturgill's 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 Snavelly** (Laines' daughter); **Crosley Spelman** (Spelmans' grandson); **Kathy Spelman and family** (Joyce's sister-in-law); **Michael Steele** (Mayhugh's 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).

From Bishop Eaton: “One Body, One Spirit, One Hope”

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The world seeks to impose uniformity. “Unity” can be weaponized in order to control people and communities. “Unity” sets rigid and impermeable boundaries that keep some in and others out. In God’s economy (from *oikos*—Greek for “house,” not the yogurt), unity in Christ is a gift, it is inclusive. It not only allows diversity but celebrates it. And it is reconciled diversity, which allows difference within a people because we are joined together in Christ by baptism. It has always intrigued me that at Pentecost the Spirit didn’t reverse the confusion of language that God had brought about to disrupt the hubris of those who sought to build the tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-9). Instead, the rich diversity of language, beautifully distinctive for each culture, was maintained. This is how we understand “one body.”

The spirit of the world, particularly in 21st-century America, is one of radical individualism. The individual self is paramount. We are all to be self-made people. Well, no one came into this world by themselves—other people were involved. We are called to “test the spirits” (1 John 4:1). Are they spirits of division, exclusion and

oppression or the Spirit of unity, inclusion and liberation?

The world’s understanding of hope is something concrete and achievable. We are led to believe that we can make our own destiny, that what we hope for is actually what we need. Hope is based on what we can see, what we know. In God’s economy, hope is a gift of the Spirit generated not from within but created when a promise is spoken from the outside. In Hebrews we read that “faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). Hope is eschatological—the goal and end of God’s will for all of us and creation—and proleptic—already realized in Christ, the future that is present now.

It may seem foolish that the LWF will gather in all its diversity next door to the war in Ukraine and in the shadow of Auschwitz-Birkenau, a former Nazi concentration camp. That we will dare to live and witness as one body, one spirit, one hope in a world bent on division, engaged in war and proximate to the site of one of the greatest evils that humankind has perpetrated. But that is precisely where the church needs to show up.

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton

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!

October Ministry Schedule

Date	Feast / Fast	Assisting Minister	Lesson Reader	Livestreamers
Oct. 1	18 Pentecost	Nancy Erbeck	Kathy Hirt	Nick Huitger, Chet Laine
Oct. 8	19 Pentecost	Carroll Mayhugh	Chet Laine	Noah Moorhouse
Oct. 15	20 Pentecost	Chet Laine	TBA	Carroll Mayhugh
Oct. 22	21 Pentecost	Addy Kruse	Kathy Hirt	Nick Huitger, Chet Laine
Oct. 29	Reformation Sunday	Cindy Mayhugh	Kathy Crosby	Noah Moorhouse

**St. Paul
Lutheran Church**

**Mission
Statement:**

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

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

**FALL FESTIVAL
AND
COSTUME CONTEST**



**SATURDAY, OCT. 21
2:00 - 4:00 PM**

COSTUME CONTEST AT 3:00 PM

**St. Paul
Lutheran Church**

106 Maple St.
Reading, OH 45215

Phone: 513-821-0987

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PLEASE
PLACE
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HERE

