

The Epistle

Tongues of Fire



Many of us know—at least theoretically—that the Holy Spirit lives in us and is at work. Few of us would be so bold as to claim we have seen or felt the Spirit. Fewer still share they have had a vision from the Spirit. Visions and speaking in different languages are rare among us, and in our society are more likely to be dismissed or diagnosed than celebrated. It seems Americans aren't the only skeptics, for the crowd gathered on that first Pentecost thought the disciples were drunk

(Acts 2:13)! Yet another reason why we are discouraged from looking for and witnessing to the Spirit's activity.

Such activity of the Spirit sometimes seems so foreign, almost like a fairytale, or something that only happened in Biblical times. But the truth is that that same Spirit who spoke through those gathered that first Pentecost has also been poured out onto us in our baptisms.

Though few of us would be so bold as to claim we have seen or felt the Spirit, that is the great promise of Pentecost! We celebrate Pentecost on Sunday, June 4, to give thanks to God for pouring out the Holy Spirit, not just on those gathered on that first Pentecost, but also on us! The Holy Spirit IS at work in you! I have seen him working in how you embrace one another and welcome new members, adopting them and letting yourselves be

(Continued on page 2)



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Reading Historical Society 3
- Election Results 3
- June Picnics 4
- Prayer Requests 6
- Ministry Schedule . 7
- Celebrations 8

VALLEY INTER-
FAITH: JUNE DO-
NATIONS

The Items of the
Month to donate
for Valley Interfaith
Community Re-
source Center are
diapers and wipes.

Tongues of Fire

(Continued from page 1)

adopted into a new family. I have seen him working in your generosity by how you pour out money, time, and your spiritual gifts into the mission of this congregation and by how you pour out food, clothing, and quilts on those who are in need. I have seen him at work in you when you forgive each other and have remained in relationship through difficult times. I have seen him at work in you when you visit and send cards to the sick and hospitalized among us and comfort those who are grieving. I have seen him in you in your

Live on the lookout for the Holy Spirit! Pay attention!



heart for those who do not yet know Jesus Christ. The Spirit makes you reflect Christ for each other and for the world!

What is more, the Spirit himself will stir in your heart and give you the boldness to witness to how God has been working in your life! So live on the lookout for the Holy Spirit! Pay attention! A person showing up on your door step or calling you on the telephone, a nudging to participate in a new ministry or to “do that thing that has been on your heart” just might be your own “tongue of fire” resting on you whether or not it is accompanied by a violent rush of wind as in Acts 2:2-3.

So look for the Holy Spirit and then name for others when you see him at work. Do not be surprised if when you do, people call you crazy. Do not be surprised either if when you do, God makes people’s hearts and eyes light up as with tongues of fire.

In Christ,

+Pastor Emily Beckering

No Summer Sunday School or Nursery

There is no Sunday School in the summer so that children, families, and teachers can all have much-needed rest. There will also be no nursery activities during the summer so that our teachers who serve all school year can rest and be nourished by worshipping God. Children's Sermons will continue throughout the summer, and children are celebrated in worship, so we encourage all families to keep their children with them in worship so that they hear God's promises for them! It is important for children to participate in worship each week so that they learn their need for worshipping God and have the pattern of weekly worship formed in them while they are young.

Reading Historical Society Welcomes St. Paul Lutheran Church

The Reading Historical Society is hosting us on Sunday, June 4, at 12:30 for an Open House at their museum. The Reading Historical Society is hosting Reading organizations and churches to learn more about Reading history, and June 4 is our turn! We will get to tour the museum and share our stories of growing up, worshipping, or living in Reading. So stay after worship on Sunday, June 4 for the New Members' Reception, then walk over to the Reading Historical Society Museum at 22 W Benson St.



COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS

Please welcome our newly elected council members: Marie Calhoun, Nancy Erbeck, Donald Harris, and Elinor Schieman. Many thanks to all who accepted the call to be on the ballot, and to our Council members for their hard work on St. Paul's behalf.

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

Congratulations to our 2017 graduates from high school and college:

Jack Baumiller

Cole Isaacs

Christian Lohmeier

Olivia Lohmeier

Molly McDowell

Dorcas Circle

We were unable to meet for a second time in May, but we will add a work day in June. In addition to our customary day (Wednesday, June 21), we will meet an extra time—on Wednesday, June 7. So please mark your calendars now! There will be an additional day scheduled later in the summer. But then comes time for rest in October when the quilts are shipped. Of course, our work begins for the shipment next year!

There is still a request for flat sheets—king, queen, full, and twin (at least 60” wide). We do appreciate the donations that support this work. Again, if you would like to join us on any day, please join us in the fellowship hall.



Luther and the Reformation Film



The Reformation 500 Committee will host a viewing of Rick Steves' documentary *Luther and the Reformation* on June 4 at 9 am, before worship.

From Rick Steves' website about the film: "Five hundred years ago, Martin Luther kicked off the

Protestant Reformation, which contributed to the birth of our modern age. In this one-hour special — filmed on location in Europe — Rick Steves tells the story of a humble monk who lived a dramatic life. Rick visits key sites relating to the Reformation (including Erfurt, Wittenberg, and Rome) and explores the complicated political world of 16th-century Europe — from indulgences to iconoclasts, and from the printing press to the Counter-Reformation. It's a story of power, rebellion, and faith that you'll never forget."

SURVEY DEAD- LINE EXTENDED

About 23% of the active members of the congregation have submitted the congregational survey. If you haven't yet, good news!

The deadline for submission is extended to Monday, June 12 because we need your response! This survey

will help the Council discern what

God is calling us to do right now and will help to ensure that your gifts are being celebrated

for God's glory in the life of this congregation. Please

submit the electronic or paper copy to the office by June 12!

Our Life Together

For emergency pastoral care, please call Pastor Emily Beckering, 513-760-5884.

If you have requests for the Prayer Chain, call Penny Huber, 513-931-6420. To remove people from the list, contact the office.

We pray for **Mary and her granddaughter Kyra** (friend of Paul Pieper); **Jim Barry** (Kathy Hirt's dad); **Berkeley** (Carol Curlless's great-grandson); **Jimmy Bertheaud** (friend of the Portmanns); **Ethan Bronner; Debbie, Steve, Jessica Davis** (friends of Holly Ford); **Julie Dietrich** (Ginny Pape's daughter); **Jeremy Doan** (Jean Winkle's grandson); **Jerry Doan** (Jean Winkle's son-in-law); **Kathy Downie** (Sieckmans' neighbor); **Rita Edwards; Bus Faulkner; Larry Faulkner** (Bus and Freda's son); **Justin Feldman** (Bess Sturgill's father); **Skip Flowers** (Tracy Sieckman's stepfather-in-law); **Jim Forst; Ron Harbaugh; Steve Headley; Les Helmich and his daughter Elaine; Greg Hershey** (Steve Headley's cousin); **Sandy Hill** (David Hill's sister-in-law); **Matt Huber** (Penny Huber's son); **Jay King** (son of Jamie King, who cleans the church); **Loretta Kombrink** (Marilyn Portmann's aunt); **Charlotte Langefeld; Cindy Mayhugh; Barbara Moorhouse; David Oaks** (Bus Faulkner's son-in-law); **Craig Olsen** (friend of the Sieckmans); **Ginny Pape; Ray Pape; Don Pflieger** (Kings' brother-in-law); **Faith Pirrmann; William Pratley** (friend of Pr. Emily); **Ron Harbaugh; Ron Replogle; Sarah Rupert** (Carolyn Koehl's sister); **James Savory** (Jean Winkle's great-grandson); **Pauline Schauer** (Cindy Sieckman's cousin); **Kim Sieckman; Jason Simpson** (Bus and Freda Faulkner's grand-nephew); **Speedy**

Sizemore (friend of Marie Calhoun); **Leland Smiley** (Marie Calhoun's uncle); **Scott Songer** (friend of Jean Winkle); **Crosley Spelman** (Spelmans' grandson); **Joyce Spelman; Walter Sprenger** (Portmanns' friend); **Britney Jean Teems** (Jean Winkle's granddaughter); **Randy Thaman** (friend of Marie Calhoun); **Richard Thompson** (friend of Marie Calhoun); **Sherman and Mike Waddle; Susan Winkle** (Jean Winkle's daughter-in-law).

At the death of: **Todd Willet** (Leslie Willet's brother).

We pray for those with ongoing health concerns who are unable to come to church every week: **Bernice Baglien, Dottie Bangert, Pat Edwards, Bus Faulkner, Mary Jane Flege, Ruth Jones, Carol Leonard, Jack and Barbara Moorhouse, Jean Nolte, Heather Segar, Edna Willet.**

We pray for our armed forces members: **Paul Cordes** (Elinor Schieman's grandson); **Jared Forst** (Jim and Loretta's grandson); **John Garbrecht** (Carolyn Koehl's nephew); **Beau Glenn** (Karen Koehl's son-in-law); **Kylie Hahn** (Gretta Hahn's granddaughter); **Chad Harris** (Donald Harris's cousin), **Donald Hosea** (Karen Koehl's son); **Andy Langefeld** (Nelson and Charlotte's grandson); **Jobeth Ramirez** (friend of Karen Koehl); **Joshua Rodriguez** (friend of Karen Koehl); **Trent Schwegman** (cousin to the Erbecks and Fords); **Dustin Silvey; Mack Thompson** (Freda and Bus Faulkner's grandson).

June Ministry Schedule

<p>Month-Long Ministries</p>	<p>Greeters: Bob & Marilyn Portmann Bulletins: Penny Huber and Jean Winkle Altar Guild: Linens: Elinor Schieman; Setup: Marty Lohmeier; Cleanup: Bess Sturgill</p>
<p>June 4 Pentecost</p>	<p>Assisting Minister: Nancy Erbeck Reader: Sherry Bronner Acolyte: Annie Lohmeier Book Bearer: Matthew Lawson Communion Minister: Chelsea King</p>
<p>June 11 Trinity Sunday</p>	<p>Assisting Minister: Donald Harris Reader: Chrison Harris Acolyte: Jared Isaacs Book Bearer: Katie Sturgill Communion Ministers: Ron & Shirley Harbaugh, Terri DeAngelis & Leslie Willet</p>
<p>June 18 2 Pentecost</p>	<p>Assisting Minister: Leandra Hawkins Reader: Sarah Papin Acolyte: Molly McDowell Communion Ministers: Terri DeAngelis & Leslie Willet, Carolyn Koehl</p>
<p>June 25 3 Pentecost</p>	<p>Assisting Minister: Terry McDowell Reader: <i>Volunteer Needed</i> Acolyte: Ian Cathcart Book Bearer: Alanna Cathcart Communion Minister: Elinor Schieman</p>

St. Paul
Lutheran Church
MISSION STATEMENT
As a community of
Christian believers,
we are called by God
to use the many gifts
He has given us,
within the church
and the community,
so others may come
to know Him.

Celebrations in June



- 3 Paul & Louise Barry**
- 6 Jeff Baumiller, Doug Lohmeier
- 9 Kay Fox
- 10 Loretta Forst
- 13 Jack Wagner

- 16 Ian Cathcart
- 17 Daryl & Cindy Flege**
- 18 Bob Flege, Nelson Langefeld
- 19 Bob & Mary Jane Flege, John & Jeni Cathcart**
- 21 Allan Harbaugh
- 26 Jim Sturgill
- 28 Jim & Bess Sturgill**
- 28 Katy Thompson Waddell

St. Paul
Lutheran Church
106 Maple St.
Reading, OH 45215
Phone: 513-821-0987

E-mail:
mail@stpaulreading.org

Web:
www.stpaulreading.org

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

