

# The Epistle

Mini-Series:

## 5 Biblical Principles of Money



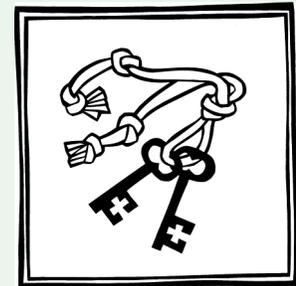
It is clear from the congregational surveys as part of the visioning process this spring that we deeply desire to grow as disciples by deepening our relationship with God. In response to this desire, the next three months of Epistles will feature

a mini-series on biblical principles of money. This series will also prepare us to engage with the fall stewardship drive and the upcoming capital campaign so that we might grow as disciples of Christ in relationship to our money.

Principle #1: We own nothing; we are caretakers of what God has entrusted to us.

In preparation for the transition from his own reign to his son Solomon's, King David launched a capital campaign for Solomon to build the temple in Jerusalem. The people offered freely and graciously; by the end of the offering, there was more than enough to build the temple. In thanksgiving, David prayed, "Riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might: and it is in your hand to make great and to give strength to all. But

*(Continued on page 2)*



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- New Bible Study .... 2
- Constitution ..... 3
- St. Paul Players ..... 4
- OWLS ..... 4
- Celebrations ..... 7
- Prayer Requests..... 8
- Ministry Schedule . 9

## Valley Inter-faith Donation Item of the Month

This month's item for the Giving Tree is **Baby Food**. Thanks for your generosity!

## Women of the Bible Study Series

Come to the Bible study series on women of the Bible in order to grow in your relationship with God and with other members. We will study women like Ruth, Esther, Sarah, Tamar, Mary and others. From them we will deepen our understanding of God's heart, power,

and purpose for our lives. Tuesdays in August at 11:15 am. and Wednesdays at 7 pm.



*David proclaims the central, foundational truth about our money: it is not, in fact, ours.*

## 5 Biblical Principles of Money

*(Continued from page 1)*

who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to make this freewill offering? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you” (1 Chronicles 29:12, 14). David proclaims the central, foundational truth about our money: it is not, in fact, *ours*.

And that's not all: the story of Hannah and Samuel in 1 Samuel 1:9-28 reveals that our families and friends are not our own. Hannah prayed for a son and vowed to give him back to God if he would grant her request. God answered her prayer and she gave birth to Samuel. When she dedicated him to the priesthood as a young child, she confessed “<sup>27</sup> I asked the Lord to give me this boy, and he has granted my request. <sup>28</sup> Now I am giving him to the Lord, and he will belong to the Lord his whole life” (1 Sam. 1:27-28). Our families,

*(Continued on page 3)*



## 5 Biblical Principles of Money

*(Continued from page 2)*

friends, and neighbors belong to God who generously entrusts them to us.

And that's not all: our bodies are not our own. In his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul writes, "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body" (1 Cor. 6:19-20). Like a slave bought by a master, Christ bought us back from sin and death so that we now belong to God. Our bodies and souls—we ourselves—belong to God who entrusts us with life.

God entrusts money, possessions, family, resources, talents, a body, and life to us so that we might use them all to reflect his goodness in order that others might come to know him.

This is why we call care of money, time, talent, creation, and ourselves "Stewardship." Stewards are not owners; they are caretakers. A steward is one who takes care of the rich man's property. We are caretakers of God's property. We are to manage money, talents, time, relationships, and bodies to please God who owns them all. It's not our money. It's not our home. It's not our children. It's not our church. *It's all God's.* We don't give to the church to pay a bill. Like Hannah and David, we give back to God what he has given us as a spiritual discipline so that we might love, please, and obey the God who has so generously entrusted so much to us.

The question, then, that we ask in all of our decisions about home, work, family, and money in our lives is NOT "What do I want to do with this?" BUT, "What does God want done with this?"

In Christ,  
Pastor Emily

More Consti-  
tution Q&A's  
are coming



After the first Question and Answer Session on the possible revisions to our congregation's constitution, it became evident that it would greatly benefit us to have more time to consider these constitutional changes in depth. To honor this need, we will not be voting at the quarterly meeting in July.

The next Q&A session will be Sunday, Aug. 13 after worship, and will focus on Chapter 9 of the constitution, Rostered Ministers. There will be more Q&A sessions focusing on other topics at a later date.



## OWLS

*(Older Wiser  
Lutheran Seniors—  
formerly Seniors  
Flying Solo)*

Plan to stay after the service on Sunday, August 20, for St. Paul Players production of *Catch Me If You Can*. Tickets will be on sale in the narthex very soon. Just mention that you are with our group.

In September, we are hoping to show a film on the life of Martin Luther, which is especially meaningful on this anniversary year of the Reformation.



## St. Paul Players Summer Production

*Catch Me If You Can* (not to be confused with a recent musical and movie of the same name) is a delightful piece of summertime entertainment. Set in the Catskill Mountains over Labor Day Weekend, 1965, it is a rare example of a high quality play which can fairly be described as a "murder-mystery/comedy." There are so many surprises in the last few minutes that we will have to beg our audiences not to reveal the ending!

Don't take my word for it: Alfred Hitchcock purchased the film rights for this script!

Unfortunately, the Master of Suspense died with the manuscript still on his desk, so we will never know... Our own Carroll Mayhugh is taking on the role of Inspector Levine, which Tom Bosley created for Broadway.

Tickets are a mere \$15 for dinner and a show. They will be on sale in the narthex after church each Sunday from now until the play closes.

Production dates are August 18-19-20 and 25-26-27. Doors open at 6:30pm on the weeknights and 12:30pm on the Sundays.

Come, eat, relax, enjoy — and see if you can figure it out before "all is revealed."

Barry Prince

## Sermons Available on our Website

Have you been ill? On vacation? Catch up on Pastor's most recent sermons on our website at [www.stpaulreading.org/worship/sermons/](http://www.stpaulreading.org/worship/sermons/). Sermon videos will also be posted to our Facebook page for easy sharing with your friends and relatives. (Another reason for posting sermons is to make it easier for seekers to find out what we believe and why, which hopefully will encourage them to visit us in person.)

Jane Owen



# Catch Me



# If You Can



**By Robert Thomas**

**Adapted from the French Version**

**By Weinstock & Gilbert**



***St. Paul Players***

***106 Maple St. Reading, Ohio. 45215***

## Sowing, Reaping, Rebirth, and Joy this Month

Now that we have a clearer sense of the Spirit's movement among us from the Visioning Process, we are called to follow that movement. You will see an article each month in the Epistle highlighting this month's initiatives to live out our mission.

What are we doing this month to grow in faith, in relationship with each other, in community engagement, and in mission so we and others know Jesus?

**Reaching Out: Growing in Community Engagement to Serve our Neighbors, Build Community Relationships, and Invite More People into Relationship with Jesus**

***St. Paul Players present: Catch Me If You Can Aug. 18, 19, 25, & 26 @ 6:30 pm; Aug. 20 & 27 @ 12:30 pm***

***Quilt-Making for the Poor around the World: Dorcas Circle Aug. 16 @ 9am***

***Special Offering to Fight Hunger: Sun August 27 during worship: money collected during this special offering will help pack 100,000 meals for families in Cincinnati who are in need***

**Deepening our Roots: Growing in Our Relationship with God and Each Other**

***Bible Study Series on Prayer and Meditation***

***Aug. 1 & 8 @ 11:15am; Aug 2 @ 7pm***

***Bible Study Series on Women of Bible***

***Aug. 9, 16, 23 & 30 @ 7pm***

***Aug. 15, 22 & 29 @ 11 15 am***

***Men's Bible Study Aug. 16 @ Noon***

***Weekly Bible Study Tuesdays at 10:30 am***

***OWLS (Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors) Aug. 20 at 12:30***

## Ice Cream Social a Great Success



**Nancy Erbeck, Holly Ford, Jane Erbeck, and Carole Replogle display some of the delicious treats offered at the social. The event attracted over 30 new visitors! Thank you all!**

## Celebrations in August



- 1 Bess Sturgill
- 4 Noah Smith-Trondle
- 6 Carolyn Koehl
- 8 Jeff & Holly Ford**
- 10 Webb Grandy, Anna Smith-Trondle
- 11 James Dageforde

- 15 Kirstyn Kreiner
- 16 Kyra Cowan, Maci Lawson
- 19 Ed & Kathy Hirt**
- 22 Doug & Marty Lohmeier**
- 26 Bob Portmann
- 27 Jack & Joyce Spelman**
- 28 David & Amanda Peery**
- 29 Jack & Barbara Moorhouse**
- 29 Mary Jane Flege

Bible Apps  
Lighten Your  
Spiritual Load  
(And Your  
Bookbag)



Do you own a smartphone or tablet? Why not install a Bible study app? Many apps are available, both for [iPhones](#) and for [Android devices](#). Most apps include the Bible in many different translations, or the app will read an audio version aloud to you. Some apps also include a “verse of the day”, highlighting and note-taking features, and study plans. Even [Luther’s Small Catechism](#) has its own app. Try one today!

## 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 Curless's great-grandson); **Jimmy Bertheaud** (friend of the Portmanns); **Ethan Bronner; Merle Buck; Kathy Curless; 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; Matthew Harrison** (Seals' neighbor); **David Hill; Les Helmich; Matt Huber** (Penny Huber's son); **Jay King** (son of Jamie King, who cleans the church); **Loretta Kombrink** (Marilyn Portmann's aunt); **Charlotte Langefeld; Barbara and Jack Moorhouse; Jean Nolte; 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; 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); **Walter Sprenger** (Portmanns' friend); **Swafford family; 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).

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 Schieffman'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).

## Ministry Schedule

<b>Month-Long Ministries</b>	Bulletins: Penny Huber and Jean Winkle Greeters: Linda Lawson & Steve Headley Altar Guild: Linens: Jane Erbeck; Setup: Penny Huber; Cleanup: Holly Ford
<b>August 6</b> 9 Pentecost	Assisting Minister: Nancy Erbeck Lesson Reader: Kathy Crosby Acolyte: Katie Sturgill Communion Minister: Carolyn Koehl
<b>August 13</b> 10 Pentecost	Assisting Minister: Doug Lohmeier Lesson Reader: Lee Erbeck Acolyte: Bridget Cathcart Communion Minister: Elinor Schieman
<b>August 20</b> 11 Pentecost	Assisting Minister: Leandra Hawkins Lesson Reader: Carroll Mayhugh Acolyte: Annie Lohmeier Communion Ministers: Donald Harris, Chelsea King
<b>August 27</b> 12 Pentecost	Assisting Minister: David Hill Lesson Reader: Sarah Papin Acolyte: Maggie McDowell Book Bearer: Katie Sturgill Communion Ministers: Ron & Shirley Harbaugh

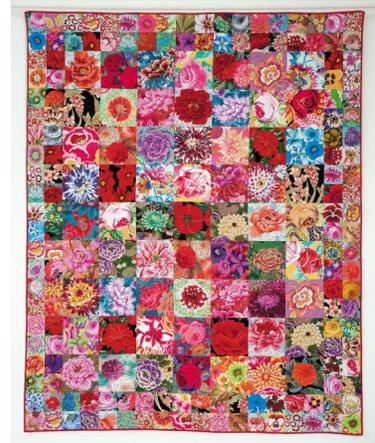
St. Paul  
Lutheran Church

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.

## Dorcas Circle

The ladies have added another work day to our August calendar. We will meet on **Wednesday, August 2**, as well as August 16, our usual meeting day.

A Quilt Raffle will be held! The quilts will be displayed in the sanctuary before they are boxed, taken to Dayton, and finally delivered (with quilts from many other Lutheran churches) to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse. Watch the September newsletter for more information.



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