

The Epistle

Missing Your Mother or Mourning

GOD'S WORD FOR MOTHER'S DAY



Mother's Day is Sunday, May 13th this year. Families around us gather for brunch in joy and the store aisles spill over with flowers and Mother's Day greeting cards, but for many of us, Mother's

Day is a painful day. If our mothers have passed away, we find ourselves longing for them even more than usual. If the circumstances of life prevent us from being present with our mothers, or if we are estranged or arguing with them, then their absence is particularly palpable. If we are mothers who feel distant from our children and wish our relationships could be different with them or if we have lost children to death or miscarriage or have never been able to have children, then Mother's Day reminds us of the life we longed for but do not have and hopes for our children which went unfulfilled.

Because Mother's Day can be difficult, some of us would rather not come to worship on Mother's Day, but we need to come to hear God's Word especially on this day because God and God alone can speak into

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Valley Inter-
faith Donation
Item of the
Month

Missing Your Mother or Mourning

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the depth of our pain.

For those of us missing our mothers or children who have died, take comfort in the promise of the resurrection. Because Jesus lives, your mother and your children or grandchildren who have died live and you will be with them again in heaven. Until that time, when we gather together on Sundays for Holy Communion, all the Saints who have gone before us are with us and Jesus Christ at the table. Come to worship on Moth-

Our connection to each other runs deeper than blood and our bond is stronger than human will.

This month's donation item for the Valley Interfaith Community Resource Center is **toilet paper**. Thanks for your generosity!

er's Day, come forward for the wafer and wine, and share in Christ's body and blood with your mother, children, and grandchildren who will be with you even as they are face to face with Jesus and all the Saints in light around his throne.

For those of us who cannot be with our moms this year or who have a difficult relationship with our mother or children, take hope in Jesus' words about the vine and the branches in John 15 and the body of Christ in Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12. Christ is the vine and we are all his branches. Our connection to each other runs deeper than blood and our bond is stronger than human will. If you or others have initiated a cut-off from loved ones, know that even then, the Holy Spirit holds you together to Christ. Christ is stronger than the sin that divides us. He is stronger than personality conflicts, political differences, and changing worldviews. You are connected to your family through Jesus Christ. God has the power to raise the dead to life; he has the power to bring healing to your family. When Christ returns and we are all given

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Missing Your Mother or Mourning

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resurrected bodies, then all that divides us from our mothers or fathers or children or siblings in this life will be no more and we will love each other perfectly as we should. But even now, God has power to heal your family and bring you close together in love. With God, all things are possible (Matthew 19:26).

For those of us who have longed to be parents but couldn't be, know that God hears the cries of your heart (Psalm 24:17). He is at work for you. Your longing to be a parent may as yet come true, even if not in the way you wanted or expected. Be on the lookout for how God might bring children into your life in desperate need of a mother's or father's care so that you can be the answer to one another's prayers.

God says to each of us this Mother's Day: "15 Can a woman forget her nursing-child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. 16 See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me" (Isaiah 49:15-16). You were inscribed on Jesus' hands on the cross; no matter what your relationship with your mother, mother-in-law, children, or grandchildren, and no matter what your relationship with God has been in the past, he will not forget you. He is the mother and the father that we all need, and his love for you endures forever.

Come to worship on Mother's Day. Despite how you may feel, you are not alone. Your sisters and brothers in Christ are with you and we pray with and for one another that God might heal us all and our families and hold us in the sure and certain hope of abundant life with him and all whom we love in this life and the next.

In Christ,
Pastor Emily Beckering



Pentecost:
"Each in their
Own Lan-
guage"

Pentecost is on May 20. If you can read in a language other than English, please consider reading Acts 2:17-20 in that language on Pentecost, Sunday, May 20, so that we can hear the story the coming of the Holy Spirit in multiple languages. This will give us our own experience of tongues of fire on Pentecost and remind us of the global Church. Let Pastor Emily know if you are interested.



Raffle and Luncheon Fundraiser for New Stage

The first of several fundraisers for the new stage in the fellowship hall (see article on page 7) will be on Sunday, June 3, following worship. Come for a lunch of lasagna and bid on items in the raffle. Tickets are \$10. If you would like to donate items for the raffle, please see David Hill, Sarah Papin, or Nick Huitger.

A New Gift to our Music Program



As many of you know, Charlotte Langefeld was a gifted musician and served as the organist of Norwood English Lutheran church for many decades. Over the past several years, Charlotte and Nelson discussed and agreed up-

on the desire to see Charlotte's treasured musical instrument, a Clavinova, become a part of the St. Paul's music program. This Clavinova is both top of the line and state of the art! At base, it is an electric piano, but that description both understates and misleads. The Clavinova imitates a concert grand piano, a Bosendorfer concert piano (standard for international concert halls), and a series of other keyboard musical instruments such as a harpsichord (a sound called for in music we sometimes play). Charlotte and Nelson's gift will be able to support the choir as a piano and also to do other musical things, as the congregation will hear as we go forward. The Music Ministry gives thanks to God for this unexpected and transformative gift.

The existing piano in the sanctuary will be "retired", as it is no longer tune-able, in addition to being unsafe with two broken legs.

Barry L. Prince

Blessing of Graduates May 6

Are you graduating college or high school this May? If so, we would like to bless you and pray for your future during worship. You will receive a gift and the Evangelism Committee is hosting a reception after worship in your honor. Come and receive God's blessing for your future!

Save the Date for Vacation Bible School!



We remember fondly VBS's of the past at St. Paul's! We will host a Vacation Bible School once again this summer in part-

nership with the Reading Council of Churches. The theme is "Serengeti Trek: Where Kids Are Wild About God." Our goal is to have 100 kids participate from our congregation and throughout Reading. Although we will be working with volunteers from all the churches in Reading, we are in need of St. Paul's members (high school students and adults) to serve as teachers. The VBS will run the week of July 23-27 from 9am-noon for children entering 1st grade through 8th grade. If you would be interested, please mark the date and let Pastor Emily know.

Reading Memorial Day Parade May 28



We are marching in the Lockland-Reading Memorial Day Parade as a congregation on Monday, May 28. The youth are creating our float. If you would like

to ride in our truck or walk in the parade with St. Paul's, then please sign up in the narthex or call the church office so we can coordinate transportation to and from the parade route. Pastor Emily will lead the Invocation and Blessing for the community at the end of the parade at Reading Cemetery. It's a great opportunity to wear our new red t-shirts and evangelize!

Cooking With Marie Calhoun

Date: May 12, 2018

Time: 1 to 3 pm

Where: St. Paul's kitchen

What: Basic Cooking class

Who: All are invited

A basic cooking skills class will be held from 1 to 3 pm on Saturday, May 12th, in the kitchen of St. Paul.

We will learn how to follow a basic recipe and have a better understanding about measuring and mixing ingredients.

Since the next day is Mother's Day, we will make scones for our mothers. How great is that!

Bring your aprons and tie up your hair. . . 'cause we're gonna have some fun!!!

A sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex.

All are welcome!



Website Updates Coming; Email Will Be Unavailable For a Few Days

St. Paul's website needs a couple of security updates to protect us from hackers and make it safer for us to start offering online giving options.

In order to make these updates, the website will need to be closed down for construction for a little while. This will also shut down all the email addresses that end in stpaulreading.org - such as mail@stpaulreading.org and

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Dorcas Circle

The ladies are adding an extra work day in May. We will meet on Wednesday, May 3, as well as Wednesday, May 17 — 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

If you are replacing any of your bed sheets this spring, we would appreciate any donations of your “old” sheets. We use colored or print sheets, full, queen, king size and, if they are wide enough, even some twin size. Not to be picky, but to eliminate some work, we prefer flat sheets that are not stained and not too worn. Thank you in advance for your donations!

FYI: The Dorcas Circle is not an exclusive group of ladies. If you are looking for something to do on the third Wednesday of the month, the ladies invite you to join them. No special talents are needed. We do work hard and leave tired at the end of the day, but we leave happy and thankful for what we have been able to do.

OWLS

On Wednesday, May 23, we will go to the Krohn Conservatory Butterfly Show. The show's theme this year is “The Butterflies of Madagascar”, and the show will feature some of the unique plant and insect species found on the island. Admission is \$7. (Coupons for a one-dollar discount are available in the church office.)

We plan to meet at the church at 11:30 a.m. and eat lunch somewhere before carpooling to the Conservatory. If you do not plan to join us for lunch but do want to see the butterflies, meet us at the church at 12:15. Also, if you are willing and able to drive in the carpool, please let me know. Sign up on the paper on the bulletin board if you want to join us so we can arrange for the transportation.

St. Paul Players: Stage Project

God is good.

Just so everyone knows: Half of the stage floor will be rebuilt in May of this year. Steve Huitger (Nick's father) has some "friends of family" who will rebuild part of the stage that is in bad condition. Good news is that it will only cost us the expense for materials. St. Paul Players will be doing two or more fundraisers to raise the funds for the cost of the materials. (Some people have showed interest in paying for what we can't raise. God is good!) We will tell more in the next Epistle.

Now for an update on *Lavender and Old Lace*. Thanks to Carroll Mayhugh, the show is now cast. Rehearsals start April 29th.

Carroll will announce more in June's Epistle.

Thank you all for your support of the Drama Ministry.

God is so good!

David Hill

Spring Cleaning Time!

Many of the rooms and storage areas in our building are filled with items we may or may not need. In preparation for a deep spring cleaning, we will be evaluating each room's contents and disposing of items that are not being used. It would be best for those who have a vested interest in the contents of these rooms to make decisions regarding what to keep and what should be discarded. We will be asking "content experts" to take responsibility for some areas, but please let Linda Miller or Carole Replogle know if you are interested in helping with this effort. Thank you!

Linda Miller



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pastor@stpaul-reading.org - so that they cannot receive any emails. (We *will* be able to send outgoing emails during this time.)

We plan to do the updates the week of June 12, while Pastor Emily and Nancy Erbeck will both be away, so as to minimize the disruption. Hopefully the update will only take 48 hours or so, but if the update hits any snags, it may take up to ten days. Jane will notify everyone when the update process is about to begin. Thanks for your patience!



Council Elections May 20

We will elect four new Council members on Sunday, May 20, following worship, to serve for the 2018-2020 term. The Nominating Committee is meeting in early May to finalize the list of candidates, so please be attentive to upcoming bulletins and announcements.

Celebrations in May



<p>2 Kris & Rhonda Kreiner</p> <p>4 Marie Calhoun, Jane Erbeck, Barry Prince</p>	<p>13 Annie Lohmeier, Grant Lohmeier, Cindy Sieckman</p> <p>15 Kevin Harbaugh</p> <p>18 Jean Winkle</p> <p>21 Amanda Harbaugh</p> <p>23 Jack Baumiller</p> <p>25 Chloe Cameron</p> <p>26 Kayla Kreiner</p> <p>29 Michael Coulehan</p>
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Ascension Day Service May 10

Please join us for a service celebrating Ascension Day at 7 pm on Thursday, May 10.

What is Ascension Day? If you weren't raised in a church that follows a liturgical calendar (Lutheran, Catholic, Episcopal, etc.), you may not have heard of it before. Ascension Day commemorates Jesus's ascension into heaven after his resurrection, described in Luke 24: "46 And he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised...' 50 Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. 51 While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven."

Although Jesus returned to his Father after his resurrection, he reminds us to be his witnesses on earth and proclaim the Good News throughout the world.

Sowing, Reaping, Rebirth, and Joy This Month

Hosting Healthy Visions mentoring meetings

Dorcas Circle—extra work days!

Hosting Reading HS events

Reading HS Baccalaureate service

Reading/Lockland Memorial Day parade

**Serving our Neighbors:
Building Relationships and Inviting More People to Jesus**

OWLS Trip

Deepening Roots: Growing in Relationship with God and Each Other

“Cooking With Marie”

Ascension Day

Recognition of Volunteers

Bereavement Support Group

Blessing of Graduates

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); **Berkeley** (Carol Curless's great-grandson); **Tim Arkfeld** (former member); **Jimmy Berthud** (Portmanns' friend); **Debbie Brooks** (friend of Elinor Schieman); **Merle Buck; Jodie Calhoun; Christian; Kathy Curless; Debbie, Steve, Jessica Davis** (friends of Holly Ford); **Katie Demopoulos** (Diana Hawkins's niece); **Jeremy Doan** (Jean Winkle's grandson); **Jerry Doan** (Jean Winkle's son-in-law); **Rita Edwards; Larry Faulkner** (Freda's son); **Justin Feldman** (Bess Sturgill's father); **Jim Forst; the Fothergill family** (former members); **Hannah; Bill Harris and Cheryl Harris** (relatives of Donald Harris); **Matthew Harrison** (Seals' neighbor); **Les Helmich; David Hill; Ed Hirt; Doug Hibbeler** (Elinor Schieman's nephew); **Matt Huber** (Penny Huber's son); **Jay King** (son of Jamie King, who cleans the church); **Loretta Kombrink** (Marilyn Portmann's aunt); **Richard Lane** (Elinor Schieman's nephew); **Barbara and Jack Moorhouse; Jean Nolte; David Oaks** (Faulkners' son-in-law); **Pete, Zac, and Andrew Padolipa** (Wagners' friends); **Don Pflieger** (Kings' brother-in-law); **Linda Perin** (Moorhouses' cousin); **Paul Pieper; Chris Pirrmann; Faith Pirrmann; Nick Pirrmann; Sarah Rupert** (Carolyn Koehl's sister); **James Savory** (Jean Winkle's great-grandson);

Shawn Schnetzer (Sturgills' cousin); **the Selke/Fletcher family** (family friends of Pirrmanns); **Keith Shupe** (father of Kelly Shupe); **Elaine Sieckman** (Cindy Sieckman's mother-in-law); **Kim Sieckman; Jason Simpson** (Freda Faulkner's grand-nephew); **Scott Songer; Judy Songer** (friends of Jean Winkle); **Rosemary Spaeth** (friend of Elinor Schieman); **Crosley Spelman** (Spelmans' grandson); **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; Jane Weatherford** (Donald Harris's mother); **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, Louise Barry, Mary Jane Flege, 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); **Donald Hosea** (Karen Koehl's son); **Samuel McLoughlin** (friend of Cindy Sieckman); **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 Faulkner's grandson); **Alex Wisecup** (son of Nadine and Barry Wisecup).

Ministry Schedule	During the Service (10:30 a.m.)	Education Hour (9:00 a.m.)
Month-Long Ministries	Bulletins: Carole Replogle, Pat Coldiron Greeters: Joyce & Jack Spelman Altar Guild: <i>Linens & Cleanup:</i> Shirley Harbaugh; <i>Setup:</i> Carole Replogle Counter: Nancy Erbeck	Teacher, Ages 3-7: Jane Erbeck Teacher, Ages 8-11: Nancy Erbeck Teacher, Jr/Sr High: Donald Harris
May 6 6 Easter	Assisting Minister: Nancy Erbeck Lesson Reader: Carroll Mayhugh Acolyte: Grant Lohmeier Communion Ministers: Chelsea King, Ron & Shirley Harbaugh Nursery: Shirley Lathrop, Joyce McDowell Activity Time: Linda Lawson	Assistant, Ages 3-7: Sarah Papin Assistant, Ages 8-11: Kim Coulehan Assistant, Jr/Sr High: Chelsea King
Thursday, May 10 Ascension Day	Assisting Minister: <i>Volunteer Needed</i> Lesson Reader: Carroll Mayhugh Acolyte: <i>Volunteer Needed</i> Book Bearer: <i>Volunteer Needed</i>	
May 13 7 Easter	Assisting Minister: Donald Harris Lesson Reader: Sherry Bronner Acolyte: Alanna Cathcart Communion Minister: Carolyn Koehl Nursery: Maggie McDowell, Bess Sturgill Activity Time: Joyce McDowell	
May 20 Day of Pentecost	Assisting Minister: Leandra Hawkins Lesson Reader: Carroll Mayhugh Acolyte: Maggie McDowell Book Bearer: Matthew Lawson Communion Minister: Elinor Schieman Nursery: Jeni Cathcart, Linda Lawson Activity Time: Bess Sturgill	Assistant, Ages 3-7: Chrissy Harris Assistant, Ages 8-11: Steve Headley Assistant, Jr/Sr High: John Cathcart
May 27 Trinity Sunday	Assisting Minister: Doug Lohmeier Lesson Reader: Carroll Mayhugh Acolyte: Bridget Cathcart Book Bearer: Alanna Cathcart Communion Ministers: Elinor Schieman Nursery: Joyce McDowell, Bess Sturgill Activity Time: Maggie McDowell	Assistant, Ages 3-7: Chelsea King Assistant, Ages 8-11: Sarah Papin Assistant, Jr/Sr High: John Cathcart

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.

Opioid Crisis Workshop June 16

The Reading Council of Churches, in conjunction with the Hamilton County Heroin Coalition, is hosting a workshop at Ss. Peter and Paul Catholic Church on Saturday, June 16 to support families affected by Heroin Addictions. A keynote speaker will validate and affirm families' experiences of journeying with loved ones who struggle with heroin addiction. A variety of workshop sessions are offered including: Grandparents Navigating Custody; Children Impacted by Parental Substance Use; and How to Equip Children to Prevent their Own Addiction. Although the workshops are intended for adults, children are welcome to accompany parents/grandparents/guardians. The event is free and no registration is required.

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE