

# The Epistle

## Let the Children Come to Me

Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs” (Matt. 19:14 NRSV). You know this commandment well, and you are obedient to it.

Exactly one year ago, we completed a congregational survey to help us discern what God is calling us to do and asking us to be. That survey revealed “bringing children to worship” as the most needed improvement going forward. Children and youth are a top priority in this congregation. This priority is reflected in our 2018 budget, for we have committed to providing for the Christian education of young people through Sunday School as well as by providing a vacation Bible school this summer and by sending interested youth to the National Youth Gathering in Houston this summer. Thanks to you, your generosity to the youth during their fundraisers, and your faithful support of the mission of this congregation, all that will happen!

Your obedience to Jesus’ command is also evident in the hours devoted by so many of you to teaching Sunday School, leading the Activity Time during the sermon, caring for children in the nursery, and planning educational opportunities as part of the Christian Education Committee. Thank you to all those who have used their gifts for working with children to bless them and us all.

We are seeking to lean in even more deeply to Jesus’  
*(Continued on page 2)*



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Annual Picnic ..... 3
- OWLS & Dorcas Circle..... 4
- VBS ..... 5
- St. Paul Players .. 9
- Prayers.....12
- Schedule.....13

## Valley Inter-faith Donation Items of the Month

This month's items for Valley Interfaith Community Resource Center are **diapers and baby wipes**. Thank you for your generosity!

## Let the Children Come to Me

*(Continued from page 1)*

call this summer in several ways. First, we are hosting the Reading Vacation Bible School for the Reading Council of Churches from July 23-27. We are in need of many volunteers (at least 25) to make VBS possible. For a fuller description of positions needed, please see the article on page 5. We are hopeful that the VBS will introduce children in the neighborhood to Jesus who otherwise wouldn't know him.

Second, we are also conducting background checks

*Children and youth are a top priority in this congregation.*



2

on all those who work with children or youth so that we might put into place best practices to protect our children, volunteers, and the congregation as a whole. Council has elected to complete fingerprinting checks on each volunteer with the Bureau of Criminal Investigation, which searches Ohio, and a national background check through the company Trusted Employees. Together, these checks will ensure that we have done our due diligence in protecting every member of our congregation. The money we are investing in these background checks is an investment in our children and enables us to live out our commitment to their well-being.

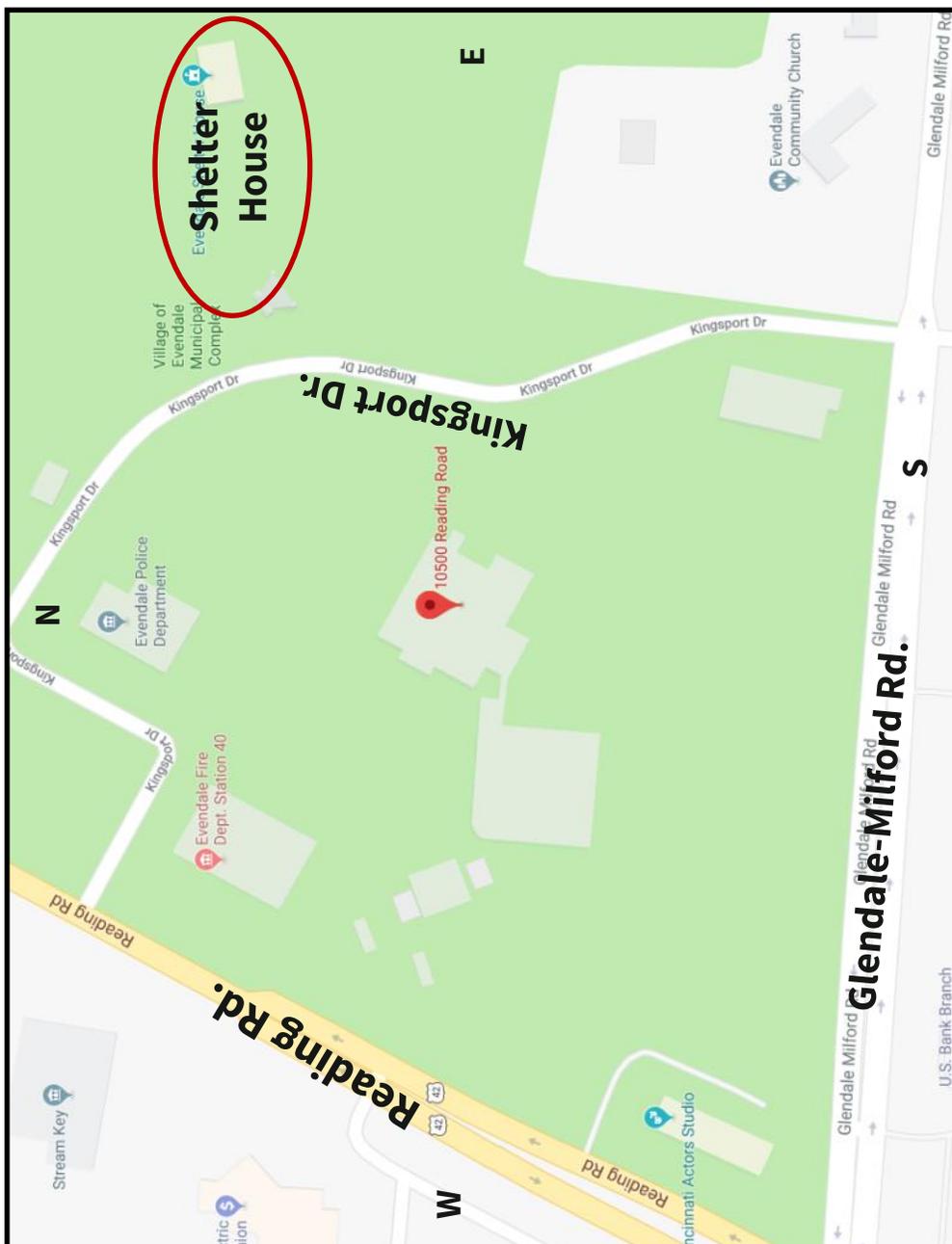
There is much to look forward to this summer! VBS, the youth's trip to the National Youth Gathering, and background checks all help us to fulfill Jesus' command to let children come to him. Because of you, the children you have brought to know Jesus in this congregation, and all of us, have experienced more fully the kingdom of heaven.

In Christ,

Pastor Emily Beckering

## Annual Church Picnic June 10

The Annual Church Picnic is June 10, 2018 at Baxter Park in Evendale, in the Evendale Shelter House (up the small hill behind the baseball fields). Worship is at 11:00 am, and a potluck lunch follows immediately after. Thanks to Barry Prince, Jack Wagner, and the St. Paul Band, we will have special music. Hamburgers and hot dogs are provided, so please feel free (but not obligated) to bring sides and desserts to share.



### Blessing and Giving Thanks for Music Ministries

We are blessed by the leadership of Barry Prince, our Music Director, Carolyn Koehl, our Children's Choir Director, Jack Wagner, who directs the instrumental ensembles, and our choirs and instrumental musicians. Come to worship on June 3 so that we can give thanks to God for their ministry.



## National Youth Gathering Thank-You

You have given four youth (Ian, Patrick, Bridget, and Donny Cathcart) the opportunity of a lifetime! They are going to the National Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas, this summer, where they will do service projects, worship God with 30,000 other youth, and grow in faith. Your faithful support of the mission of this congregation allowed us to allocate money in our budget to send them to Houston. Additionally, your generous support of them during the

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Dorcas Circle

The ladies will be meeting two times during June to compensate for the cancelled meetings during last winter. Mark your calendars now for Wednesday, June 6 and June 20. Hopefully we will have a full complement of quilters on both days.

## OWLS

In May we had a wonderful afternoon visiting the Madagascar butterflies at the Krohn Conservatory. Although one of the butterflies developed an “attachment” to a couple of us, we did not leave with any butterflies.

On Sunday, June 24 we plan to gather at 12:30 in the church library. After a little lunch, we will join Chrissie Harris in some paper crafting. A few years ago we planned this activity and it proved to be a most enjoyable time. She will direct us in making a special little “purse” (maybe to be used as a gift bag). Plan to stay after services that Sunday and have a lot of fun! Please sign the sheet in the narthex if you plan to attend so we can plan appropriately.

## Devotional Series on Relationships

Stewardship is the management of all of life with Jesus Christ at the center. This year, exercise classes and chair volleyball helped us care for our bodies. Planting trees on the church property helped us care for God’s earth. Bible studies helped us tend to our spiritual health. As part of the Stewardship Committee’s endeavor to help us care for every aspect of our lives, a devotional series on Care of Relationships will help us grow as disciples in our relationships. The devotions will be emailed and posted to Facebook every day, or you can request a paper copy from the church office. Thank you to Terri DeAngelis and Leslie Willet for coordinating!

## Vacation Bible School July 23-27!



We remember fondly VBS's of the past at St. Paul's! We will host a Vacation Bible School once again this summer in partnership 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 to serve as small group leaders, game leaders, and snack/lunch coordinators. The VBS will run the week of July 23-27 from 9:30am-1 pm for children age three through 8th graders. If you would be interested, please mark the date and let Pastor Emily know.

## Celebrations in June



6	Jeff Baumiller, Doug Lohmeier	16	Ian Cathcart
7	Dot Deloatch	17	<b>Daryl &amp; Cindy Flege</b>
8	<b>Michael &amp; Kim Coulehan</b>	18	Bob Flege, Nelson Langefeld
9	Kay Fox	19	<b>John &amp; Jeni Cathcart</b>
10	Loretta Forst	19	<b>Bob &amp; Mary Jane Flege</b>
13	Jack Wagner	21	Allan Harbaugh
		26	Jim Sturgill
		28	<b>Jim &amp; Bess Sturgill</b>
		28	Katy Thompson Waddell



*(Continued from page 4)*

fundraisers of the Reformation Dinner, Easter breakfast (special thanks to Marie Calhoun!), and bake sales during Christmas and Easter raised an additional \$1313.05! As a result, the youth earned \$473.05 more than needed to attend. They will determine how to donate this surplus so as to further God's mission in the world. Thank you, not only for sending them to Houston so that they might be enriched, but also in giving them the opportunity to give back.

In Christ,  
Pastor Emily

# FROM VOICE TO ACTION

## CONFRONTING THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC IN READING

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Workshops:

Reducing the Stigma of Addiction

Self-care and Support

Impact of a S.U.D. on Children/Biology of Addiction

Finding God in the Midst of Addiction

Visit the Event Facebook Page for more Information

<http://www.facebook.com/events/207837730012390/>

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**SATURDAY, JUNE 16TH, 2018**  
**9:30AM - 12:00 PM**

Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church  
416 W. Vine Street, Reading, OH 45215



HAMILTON COUNTY  
HEROIN COALITION

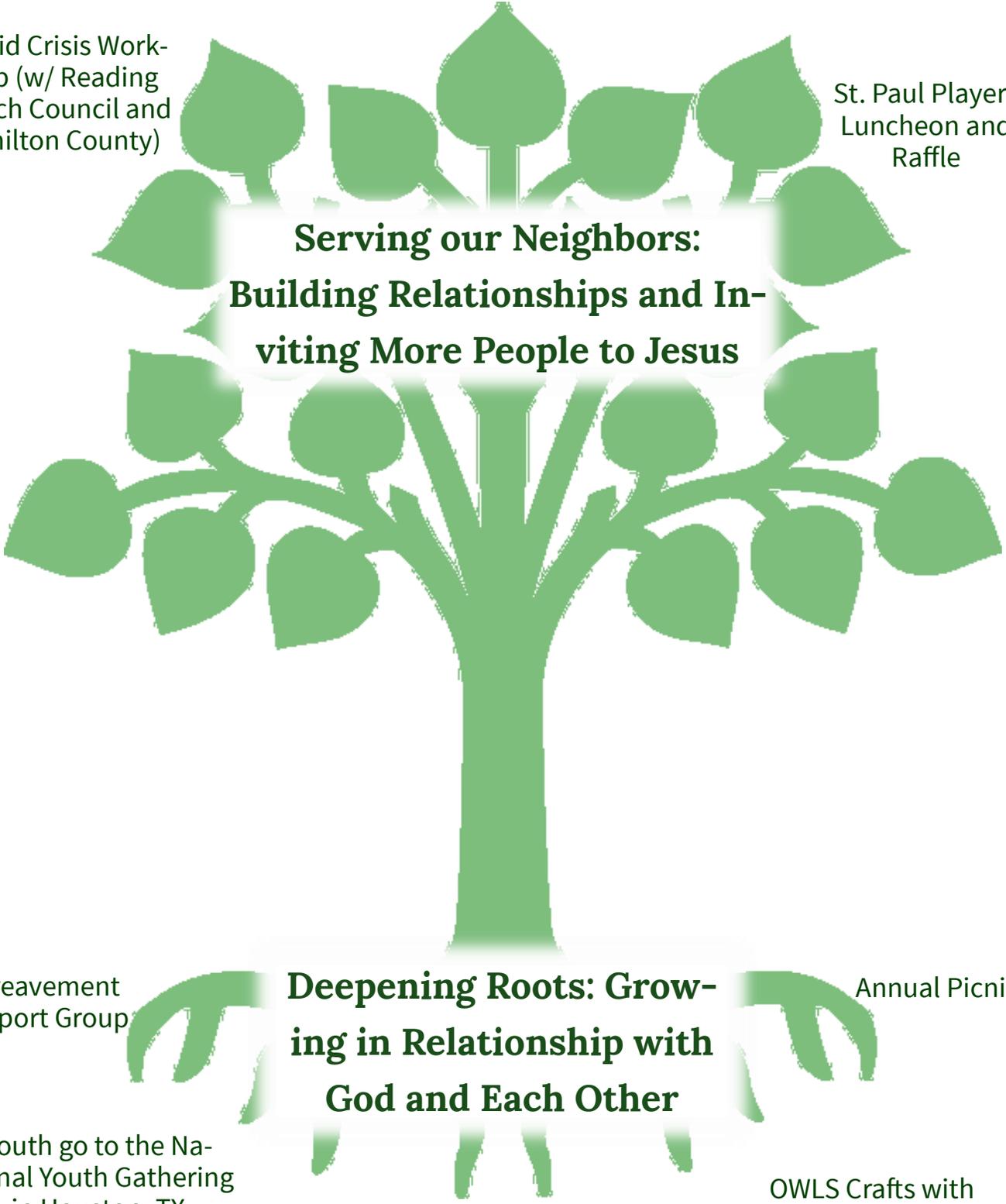


READING COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

# Sowing, Reaping, Rebirth, and Joy This Month

Opioid Crisis Workshop (w/ Reading Church Council and Hamilton County)

St. Paul Players Luncheon and Raffle



**Serving our Neighbors:  
Building Relationships and In-  
viting More People to Jesus**

Bereavement Support Group

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

Annual Picnic

Youth go to the National Youth Gathering in Houston, TX

Relationship Devotional Series

OWLS Crafts with Chrissy

**Come join us for a  
Lasagna Luncheon  
and Raffle**



**Raffle**

25 tickets for \$5

**\$10.00 a person**

**\$20.00 per family**

**Sunday June 3rd at 12:30 pm**

**At**

**St Paul Lutheran Church**

**106 Maple St.**

**Reading, Ohio 45215**

**All Proceeds to Benefit**

**The Rebuilding of St. Paul Players Stage Floor**

The St. Paul Players present

*Rose Warner's*  
*Lavender and Old Lace*

Mary Ainslee, a charming and gracious little lady, is a tradition in her little New England village. She never leaves her house and every night a lamp burns in her attic window.

As an accommodation to her neighbor, Miss Ainslee agrees to take in her neighbor's young niece, Ruth and they become warm friends. Carl Winsfield, young newspaper reporter with eye trouble, comes to the village. Carl falls a victim to Miss Ainslee's charm and falls in love with Ruth. They become engaged.

Carl has an accident which causes him to lose his eyesight. It is then that Miss Ainslee steps forth and fights heroically to help Carl regain his lost vision. Why should Mary Ainslee lavish so much care on a strange boy? In the last act, in a scene of poignant beauty, Mary Ainslee reveals why she has lived such a strange life.

This production features the return of several St. Paul Players' veterans as well as the introduction of new actors.

<b>Role</b>	<b>Actor</b>	<b>Recent SPP performances</b>
Miss Mary Ainslie	Michelle Knoechelman Cockerham	Blithe Spirit, Catch Me If You Can, Harvey, A Nice Family Gathering
Jane Hathaway	Chris Schingledecker	Hotel Pickle, Over the River and Through the Woods, It's a Bird ... Chickenman!
Ruth Thorne	Rachel Thorman	A Nice Family Gathering, Over the River and Through the Woods
Bernice Carlton	Kimberly Coulehan	New to SPP
Carl Winfield	Nate Marvin Huitger	Over the River and Through the Woods, Harvey, Catch Me If You Can
Sophrony Trotter	Mary Benjen / Sonnia Richards	New to SPP
Dr. Howard Patterson	Randy Blake	Hotel Pickle, Harvey, A Nice Family Gathering, Over the River and Through the Woods, Catch Me If You Can, Blithe Spirit
Hepsey	Sarah Papin	Hotel Pickle, Blithe Spirit, The Lower Room, Over the River and Through the Woods, Harvey, A Month of Sundays
Joe Pendleton	David Hill	Hotel Pickle, Harvey, Catch Me If You Can, The Lower Room, Passing Grandpa
James Ball	Dennis Eling	Catch Me If You Can

## Website Security Updates Finished

The security updates to the St. Paul website we had planned for June are now finished!

The website should look the same as before, but is now quicker to load and has an SSL certificate. The certificate is like an ID, proving to visitors that the website is really "us" - similar to showing your driver's license at the bank when you want to withdraw money.

Thank you all for your patience during the days when our email was down for the updates!

## Cooking with Marie

...was held on Saturday, May 12th in the kitchen of St. Paul.

It was a HUGE success!

There were eleven young bakers at St. Paul:

- Maggie McDowell
- my grandsons – Joe and Chris Calhoun
- the three Sturgill girls – Katie, Bea and Lucy
- five of the Cathcarts – Ian, Donnie, Bridget, Alanna and Teagan

Everything went great! I was surprised how much the novice bakers enjoyed getting their hands into the dough and working it to make the scones. They were able to choose from many flavors and flavor combos - vanilla, chocolate chip, sea salt and caramel chip, M&Ms, white chocolate chip, toffee and cinnamon. The bakers decorated their scones with sugar crystals, gold beads, pearls, rainbow sprinkles, icing and caramel topping. They were able to decorate 4 of their favorite scones and put them in a cute container to give to their mothers for Mother's Day. I even picked out four beautiful and flavorful scones for my mother!

My grandsons, Joe and Chris, were very excited to give them to their mother on Mother's Day! It meant a lot to them to bake something for her with their own hands.

I was pleasantly surprised by the turn out and a little overwhelmed at first. Bess Sturgill, her mother, Ann, and Maggie were a great help. Everything fell into place better than I could have imagined, especially with such a large group of bakers.

I am so proud of all of them! We had plenty of scones to sample and just the best time!

Marie Calhoun



## **FREE BIBLE DAY CAMP**

**READING CHURCH COUNCIL**

**Come to the grasslands of Serengeti Trek for FREE Vacation Bible School! You'll make crafts and play exciting games, experience thrilling Bible stories, sample tasty snacks, and hear unforgettable music. Plus, you'll meet lots of new friends!**

**WHERE:** St. Paul Lutheran Church  
106 Maple St., Reading

**WHEN:** July 23-27, 9:30 am — 1 pm  
(Free lunch is provided)

**AGES:** 3 years old - 8th grade

**FOR MORE INFO & TO REGISTER ONLINE:**  
**513-821-0987 or [www.stpaulreading.org](http://www.stpaulreading.org)**



**SPONSORS:** ALMS Christian Church • Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish • Reading-Lockland Presbyterian Church • St. John UCC • St. Paul Lutheran Church • Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church • Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur

## 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); **Jason Garcia** (Mayhughs' nephew) **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); **Jay King** (son of Jamie King, who cleans the church); **Loretta Kombrink** (Marilyn Portmann's aunt); **Richard Lane** (Elinor Schieman's nephew); **Maria** (Lohmeiers' friend); **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; 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); **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).

	June Ministry Schedule
Month-Long Ministries	<p><b>Bulletins:</b> Carole Replogle and Linda Miller</p> <p><b>Greeters:</b> Linda Lawson &amp; Steve Headley</p> <p><b>Altar Guild:</b> <i>Linens:</i> Elinor Schieman; <i>Setup:</i> Marty Lohmeier; <i>Cleanup:</i> Kim Coulehan</p> <p><b>Counter:</b> Rick Hedges</p>
<p>June 3</p> <p>Second Sunday after Pentecost</p>	<p><b>Assisting Minister:</b> Terry McDowell</p> <p><b>Lesson Reader:</b> Sherry Bronner</p> <p><b>Acolyte:</b> Katie Sturgill</p> <p><b>Communion Ministers:</b> Chelsea King, Elinor Schieman</p> <p><b>Nursery:</b> Shirley Lathrop, Maggie McDowell</p> <p><b>Activity Time:</b> Penny Huber, Chrissy Harris</p>
<p>June 10</p> <p>Third Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>Annual Picnic</p>	<p><b>NO NURSERY OR ACTIVITY TIME</b></p> <p><b>Assisting Minister:</b> Nancy Erbeck</p> <p><b>Lesson Reader:</b> Kathy Crosby</p> <p><b>Acolyte:</b> Annie Lohmeier</p> <p><b>Communion Minister:</b> Elinor Schieman</p>
<p>June 17</p> <p>Fourth Sunday after Pentecost</p>	<p><b>Assisting Minister:</b> Donald Harris</p> <p><b>Lesson Reader:</b> Carroll Mayhugh</p> <p><b>Acolyte:</b> Matthew Lawson</p> <p><b>Communion Minister:</b> Elinor Schieman</p> <p><b>Nursery:</b> Jeni Cathcart, Maggie McDowell</p> <p><b>Activity Time:</b> Joyce McDowell, John Cathcart</p>
<p>June 24</p> <p>Fifth Sunday after Pentecost</p>	<p><b>Assisting Minister:</b> Leandra Hawkins</p> <p><b>Lesson Reader:</b> Steve Headley</p> <p><b>Acolyte:</b> <i>Volunteer Needed</i></p> <p><b>Book Bearer:</b> <i>Volunteer Needed</i></p> <p><b>Communion Minister:</b> Carolyn Koehl</p> <p><b>Nursery:</b> Maggie McDowell, Linda Lawson</p> <p><b>Activity Time:</b> Joyce McDowell, Steve Headley</p>

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.

**St. Paul Players**  
*Lavender and Old Lace*  
A Drama/Comedy in Three Acts by Rose Warner  
Friday July 27<sup>th</sup>, & August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 pm,  
Saturday July 28<sup>th</sup>, & August 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm,  
& Sunday July 29<sup>th</sup>, & August 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm



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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

