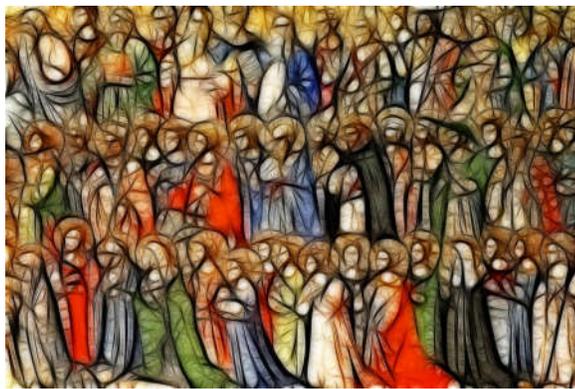




# The Epistle

## A Good Goodbye

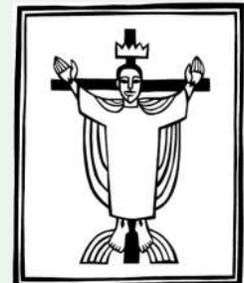


Perhaps you're one who hates good-byes. They are especially difficult when you know that it will be a long time before you see your friend or loved one, or if you don't know at all how long until you will

see them again. As a child, my family lived a 13-hour drive from my extended family. The last moments of saying goodbye before we piled into the car for the long trip were always hard. I remember even as a young child the difference between an unsatisfying goodbye and a good one. If the hugs and departure were rushed, it left me anxious the whole ride home remember the thank-yous left unsaid and I insisted my mom call them when we arrived back home so that I could say what was on my heart (before cell phones). If, however, I got to spend a moment with each grandparent, aunt, uncle, and cousin, if I felt like I told them what they meant to me, then it was a "good goodbye" and the distance between our houses didn't seem so long.

Perhaps the most difficult goodbye of all is when we say farewell to someone as they depart this life and are born in-

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## VALLEY INTER-FAITH DONATION ITEM OF THE MONTH

## A Good Goodbye

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to eternal life. At no other time do we feel the intensity of pressure to say everything that needs to be said, to express gratitude, to convey our love, for we know that we can't simply pick up the phone. Regret and things unsaid can intensify our grief.

In the month of November, we celebrate the Feast of All Saints; we give thanks to God for our beloved dead, and we rejoice that they have eternal life in Christ. This, dear ones, takes away both the pressure of expressing everything we feel before the moment of death as well as the sting of

*On All Saints Day, God reminds us that we will once again be with our loved ones in the presence of the Triune God.*

The donation item for Valley Interfaith CRC this month is **canned meat and tuna.**

*Report from previous months:* In September you gave 48 packages of paper towels. Thank you for your generosity!

death. On All Saints Day, God reminds us that we will once again be with our loved ones in the presence of the Triune God. We will have an eternity of moments to share with them when we are all made new in Christ's presence. Until then, the Holy Spirit holds us together and they are with us each Sunday at the Lord's Supper—that is the good news of the Communion of Saints. The good news of eternal life and the Communion of Saints means death can be a good goodbye; the distance between us isn't so long.

In Christ,  
Pastor Emily Beckering

## Quarterly Meeting

The third-quarter congregational meeting will be held following worship on Sunday, November 3. We will vote on the 2020 budget and hear updates on our finances and the capital campaign projects.

## Thank You!



Thank you very much for the surprise reception on October 21, and for the gifts of flowers, cake, and the beautiful Lutheran Rose stole. I felt very cared for, and it is a joy to be called as the pastor of this congregation. The Beckering family is blessed to have you all as our church family.

In Christ,  
Pastor Emily Beckering



## MEDITERRANEAN SLIDESHOW

On Sunday, November 3, after the service and the quarterly congregational meeting, Jim & Linda Miller and Carole Replogle will present a slide show of their 2017 Mediterranean cruise. Nelson Langefeld will also provide some commentary. Lunch will be served at 12:15 and the program will begin at 1:00. The program will last about 1 hour and 10 minutes.

Sandwiches will be provided and attendees are asked to bring snacks (potato chips, pretzels, tortilla chips, etc.) or a dessert.

## OWLS Lunch and Craft Day



On Nov. 2 the OWLS (Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors) met with Chrissy Harris and Doris Minton for another fun Craft Day to create calendar/Post-It easels, pictured at left. Chrissy and Doris are so generous with their time and talents and materials, and we are very appreciative of their patience

as we make new crafts. They have suggested that we have another Craft Day sometime in December. Watch for information and a sign-up sheet for this new day.

IN THANKSGIVING FOR ST. PAUL'S VOLUNTEERS

This month we give thanks for the many members at St. Paul who faithfully and diligently perform their designated responsibilities at the church that keep it going every day, week to week, month to month and year to year. They selflessly provide a valuable service to the St. Paul family, Reading community and throughout the world each with their own talent and gifts serving as the body of Christ.

I would personally like to thank all those that serve on the Evangelism and Christian Education committees for the valuable service they are providing to the youth in our church and Reading community through our Christian Education pro-

*(Continued on page 5)*

## St. Paul Players' December Production



Coming up next  
**St. Paul Players Presents**  
**Happy Hollandaise!** by Tim Koenig

All Claire Finley wants is the perfect Christmas. She's hired the celebrated gourmet chef Vilma Hasenpfeffer to prepare her famous Hasenpfeffer Hollandaise Sauce for her dinner guests — the new vicar and his very pregnant wife, Mary. Unfortunately, however, the chef is late, the guests are early and there are burglars loose in the neighborhood. To top it all off, Claire's father has been hit on the head (with the crêche, no less!) and thinks he's the leading man in all of the West End theatre productions of the last 30 years! With the help of her quirky brother George, Claire tries to keep everything together as it continues to unravel in this sidesplitting British farce reminiscent of *Arsenic and Old Lace*. But once the mayhem dies down and the mixed-up identities unscramble, the true Christmas spirit shines bright in a surprise ending, which involves transformation, forgiveness, and a beautiful new beginning.

### *Meet the Cast*

**Kaitlin Otto** (new to SPP) playing Claire Finley  
**Andrew Schiltz** (new to SPP) playing George Finley  
**Kelly Hale** playing Philip Finley  
**Meredith Conner** (new to SPP) playing Vilma Hasenpfeffer  
**Owen Kelm** playing Larry Finch  
**Michelle Cockerham** playing Irene Quigley  
**Nate Huitger** playing Father William Abbott  
**Molly Simons** playing Mary Abbott  
**Carroll Mayhugh** playing Inspector Archie Abernathy

### *Meet the Crew*

Directed by **Randy Blake**  
Assistant Director **Rachel Thorman**  
Producer **Cindy Mayhugh**  
Assistant Producer **Sarah Papin**  
Lights and Sound by **Rachel Thorman**

## Operation Christmas Child Boxes Due



This year's Operation Christmas Child campaign is underway! Please bring filled shoeboxes in by November 17. If possible, please label the boxes by age and gender of the recipient.

## Live Nativity Volunteers Needed

This year's Live Nativity will be Saturday, Dec. 7 from 2-4 pm. The Evangelism Committee is seeking volunteers for:

- Providing baked goods and treats
- Setup and/or takedown of the Nativity
- Staffing tables during the event
- Actors (non-speaking) to portray the people in the Christmas story as it's read from Scripture

Please see Diana Hawkins or Joyce McDowell with any questions.

## Celebrations in November



<b>1 Kay &amp; Dick Fox</b>	9 Steve Headley
1 Kathy O'Hara	10 Desiree Riddle, Kate Wollenburg
<b>2 Stan and Betty Kline</b>	12 Matthew McDowell, Korben Seals
3 Susan Harris, Joyce Seals	13 Grace Herringer
4 Edward Bardes	17 Jason Dageforde
7 Holly Ford	19 Austin Bronner
8 Chris Conner	21 Elinor Schieman, Bea Sturgill
	23 Jennifer Reimer
	25 Anne Rolfes
	27 Shannon Reimer
	<b>29 Don &amp; Vicki Grau</b>

*(Continued from page 4)*

grams in-house and evangelism opportunities in the community. It is a joy to serve with them and see and feel the Holy Spirit at work in myself and others first hand. I would like to spotlight a few of our members, namely Joe Heskamp and Denny Niefield for their service on the property committee in sprucing up the church and Becky Betsch for all of her creative work with crafts, hands on projects and tasty treats.

Again, thank you to everyone at St. Paul who so generously gives of their time and talents for the good of others. You indeed are the body of Christ at work.

Joyce McDowell  
*Council Liaison,  
Evangelism and  
Property Committees*

## Dorcas Circle

The quilts for 2019 have been blessed, boxed, and shipped to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse! We shipped **137 quilts** and raffled off two which were won by Marie Calhoun and Shirley Lathrop. The proceeds from the raffle amounted to **\$526**, which has been sent to LWR to help cover the cost of shipping the quilts to their destinations. Thank you!

We want to thank all the Dorcas ladies who tirelessly worked to box the quilts and to others who showed up to tape the boxes, identify them for tracking purposes, and for moving them into position for loading into the vehicles the next day. A special thanks to Nelson Langefeld, Jim and Linda Miller, Bob Portmann, Carole

Replogle; Jane for printing all the tracking labels for the boxes, and my Paula and Marty for delivering them to the semi in Kettering.

We are well on our way to making quilts for 2020. We have been blessed with Thrivent Action Team dollars and donations of fabric. We can always use sheets for the quilt backs. If you have, or know someone who has, sheets that you no longer use (and they're in good condition), please consider donating them to Dorcas. We use all sizes, print or solid colors. Thank you!

Our next meeting date is Wednesday, November 20, 9 am until 2 pm. Come join the fun!

## Stewardship Opportunities in November

NOVEMBER – STEWARDSHIP IS EXECUTING DECISIONS SO EVERY ASPECT OF LIFE HAS CHRIST AT THE CENTER.

BODY	MIND	SPIRIT/FAITH	RELATIONSHIPS	ECUMENICAL CONNECTION
Chair Volleyball	Tough Bible Passages Bible Study Series	All Saints' Day	The Gathering—intergenerational service and board games	Reading Council of Churches Thanksgiving Worship Service
FINANCES	NEIGHBOR	TALENTS/SPIRITUAL GIFTS	FEATURED MINISTRY: PRAYER	FEATURED MINISTRY: BLESSING
Quarterly Congregational Meeting	Item of the Month: Canned meat for Valley Interfaith; Operation Christmas Child	Dorcas Circle Quilting	Community Breakfast Servers; Veterans; Ushers	Operation Christmas Child Boxes

# Sowing, Reaping, Rebirth, and Joy This Month

Reading Churches  
Thanksgiving Service

Operation Christmas  
Child collection

Valley Interfaith  
collection (Giving  
Tree and Christ-  
mas baskets)



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

**Deepening Roots: Grow-  
ing in Relationship with  
God and Each Other**

Youth  
Group

The Gathering

Quarterly  
Meeting

OWLS Lunch  
and Crafting

## From the Presiding Bishop: “Our Common Witness”



*This article by Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton was originally published in the August 2019 issue of Living Lutheran.*

One of the distinct privileges of this call as presiding bishop is seeing the church at work at home and around the world. The Lutheran movement is alive and well, speaking the gospel in a distinctive voice. Sunday after Sunday

the good news is proclaimed in accordance with Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions. In hundreds of languages and dialects, God’s promise of grace, reconciliation and freedom is received and celebrated in places Martin Luther never knew existed. We are part of a worldwide family.

In many ways, and in the most important ways, we are alike. The cross is our center. Faith, grace and Scripture alone are our guides. A clear understanding of human brokenness and our inability to save ourselves sets us apart from societal and even some theological pressures that would try to draw us away from the source of our life and freedom. A world built on works and individualism promises salvation based on our own effort and denies salvation if we fail. The Lutheran movement points to another way. This is our common witness.

There are also glorious expressions particular to regions, countries and history: governance; organization; the role of laity, deacons, pastors and bishops; and the age for first communion, to name a few. And that’s just the ELCA! Around the world the expression of Lutheranism takes on many different flavors—literally and figuratively.

In the Northern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa, porridge is a staple at all meals, so they pray, “Give us today our daily porridge.” Spiritual healers are an important part of the life and ministry in the Lutheran church in Madagascar. Lutherans in Mexico celebrate the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, which falls just a day away from the Swedish celebration of Santa Lucia. Lutherans around the world hold fast to the core and adapt to make the gospel accessible.

Part of Luther’s genius was to make Scripture, preaching and worship available in the language of the people. All these variations make the Lutheran movement richer, especially when we share across borders and cultures.

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## From the Presiding Bishop: “Our Common Witness”

*(Continued from page 8)*

Just two years ago we commemorated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. It was interesting to see the different ways congregations and synods marked the event. Luther roses sprang up everywhere, even on an NCIS episode. There were Luther movies and Luther seminars. Ecumenical worship services were held, notably with Roman Catholics. I think the Small Catechism made the best-seller list. I can almost imagine a Lutheran Y2K-like montage of celebrations as the sun rose on Oct. 31, 2017, across the globe. If Lutherans are allowed to be proud, we were.

Now it's time to move forward. It's good to remember the events of the 16th century, but we shouldn't get stuck there. We need to ask what it means to be Lutheran in the 21st century. What it means for the Lutheran World Federation's 148 member churches, representing over 75.5 million members in 99 countries, that are exploring Lutheran identity. For some member churches with a state church tradition—Sweden, for example—Lutheran identity is a novel concept. The Lutheran church was “The Church,” and there was no need to think about identity. Now many churches in Africa and Asia are forging an indigenous expression of what it means to be Lutheran. Yes, they still sing hymns set to German, Swedish and American hymn tunes, but they are also developing music and worship using traditional instruments and styles.

What will our Lutheran identity be in the ELCA? We still treasure our immigrant roots—and we should. But if our ethnic identities become synonymous with Lutheran identity, we are missing the mark. The gospel, and Luther's clear exposition of it, transcends human boundaries. When a single culture's vernacular becomes the established language of the people, we hinder the gospel's free course in the world. We can become an alternative face of Christianity in the culture—one that moves across divisions, is meant for all, and that is a free and liberating gift.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton

## 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 **Annabelle** (daughter of friends of Katie Schieman); **Mary and her granddaughter Kyra** (friend of Paul Pieper); **Berkeley** (Carol Curless's great-grandson); **Louise Barry**; **Bobby** (Christian Lohmeier's friend); **Brent and Katie** (friends of Elinor Schieman's granddaughter); **Brett** (Kings' step-nephew); **Austin Bronner** (Sherry's grandson); **Jodie Calhoun**; **Bob Cathcart** (John's father); **Christian**; **Crystal, Troy and family** (Les Eckler's niece and nephew); **Kathy Curless**; **George Demetriades** (Portmanns' friend); **Katie Demopoulos** (Diana Hawkins's niece); **Dick** (Linda Miller's brother); **Jeremy Doan** (Jean Winkle's grandson); **Jerry Doan** (Jean Winkle's son-in-law); **Eckerle and Wuestefeld families**; **Lee and Jane Erbeck**; **Larry Faulkner** (Freda's son); **Justin Feldman** (Bess Sturgill's father); **Jeanne Fuller**; **Jason Garcia** (Mayhughs' nephew); **Clara Garcia** (Cindy Mayhugh's sister); **Hannah**; **Matthew Harrison** (Seals' neighbor); **Elain Heskamp**; **Andrew Horton**; **Ellen Hunter** (Jeni Cathcart's grandmother); **Joan** (Penny Huber's friend); **Kate** (granddaughter of Dennis King's friend); **Dennis King**; **Jay King** (son of Jamie King, who cleans the church); **Loretta Kombrink** (Marilyn Portmann's aunt); **Lewis Laine** (Chet Laine's brother); **Richard Lane** (Elinor Schieman's nephew); **Regina Laursen** (Portmanns' friend); **Butch Maier** (Sherry Bronner's friend); **Nick Mayer** (Elinor Schieman's grandson-in-law); **Carroll Mayhugh Sr.** (Carroll Mayhugh's father); **Audry Ruth McDonald** (Nelson Langefeld's great-granddaughter); **Samantha Mersch** (Mayhughs' daughter, Sarah Papin's sister); **Doris Minton**; **Barbara and Jack Moorhouse**; **Jean Nolte**; **Richard Osborn** (Betty Pack's brother); **Rosie Osborn** (Betty Pack's

sister); **Eric Papin**; **Don Pflieger** (Kings' brother-in-law); **Linda Perin** (Moorhouses' cousin); **Paul Pieper**; **Faith Pirmann**; **Nick Pirmann**; **Bob Portmann**; **James Savoy** (Jean Winkle's great-grandson); **Shawn Schnetzer** (Sturgills' cousin); **Sheila Schultz** (Betty Pack's friend); **Shannon and Dane** (friends of Riddle family); **Keith Shupe** (father of Kelly Shupe); **Jason Simpson** (Freda Faulkner's grand-nephew); **Elizabeth Smith** (Elain Heskamp's sister); **Scott Songer**; **Judy Songer** (friends of Jean Winkle); **Rosemary Spaeth** (Elinor Schieman's friend); **Crosley Spelman** (Spelmans' grandson); **Jack Spelman**; **Nancy Stirnkorb** (friend of Terri DeAngelis); **Susan** (Elinor Schieman's niece); **Britney Jean Teems** (Jean Winkle's granddaughter); **Randy Thaman** (friend of Marie Calhoun); **Ralph Turner** (friend of Dennis King); **Jack Wagner**; **Daryl Wesselman** (Betty Pack's granddaughter); **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**, **Carol Leonard**, **Jack and Barbara Moorhouse**, **Jean Nolte**, **Heather Segar**.

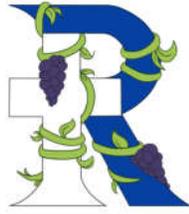
We pray for our armed forces members: **Graham Barton** (Fords' neighbor); **Paul Cordes** (Elinor Schieman's grandson); **Jared Forst** (Jim and Loretta's grandson); **Beau Glenn** (Karen Koehl's son-in-law); **Kylie Hahn** (Gretta Hahn's granddaughter); **Donald Hosea** (Karen Koehl's son); **Samuel McLoughlin** (friend of Cindy Sieckman); **Scott Minton** (Doris Minton's son); **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	<b>Bulletins:</b> Carole Replogle and Linda Miller <b>Altar Guild:</b> Linens and Cleanup: Shirley Harbaugh; Setup: Penny Huber <b>Counter:</b> Pat Coldiron	<b>Teacher, Ages 3-7:</b> Sarah Papin <b>Teacher, Ages 8-11:</b> Nancy Erbeck <b>Teacher, Jr/Sr High:</b> Donald Harris
November 3 All Saints Sunday	<b>Assisting Minister:</b> Carroll Mayhugh <b>Acolyte:</b> Bridget Cathcart <b>Book Bearer:</b> Maci Lawson <b>Communion Minister:</b> Chelsea King <b>Nursery:</b> Taylor Beckering, Kim Coulehan <b>Activity Time:</b> Penny Huber, Bess Sturgill	<b>Assistant, Ages 3-7:</b> Kim Coulehan <b>Assistant, Ages 8-11:</b> Sherry Bronner <b>Assistant, Jr/Sr High:</b> Chelsea King
November 10 22 Pentecost	<b>Assisting Minister:</b> Nelson Langefeld <b>Communion Ministers:</b> Ron & Shirley Harbaugh <b>Nursery:</b> Kim Coulehan, Shirley Harbaugh <b>Activity Time:</b> Becky Betsch, Joyce McDowell	
November 17 23 Pentecost	<b>Assisting Minister:</b> Terry McDowell <b>Acolyte:</b> Donny Cathcart <b>Communion Minister:</b> Pat Coldiron <b>Nursery:</b> Jeni Cathcart, Bess Sturgill <b>Activity Time:</b> John Cathcart, Joyce McDowell	<b>Assistant, Ages 3-7:</b> Kim Coulehan <b>Assistant, Ages 8-11:</b> Sherry Bronner <b>Assistant, Jr/Sr High:</b> Chelsea King
November 24 Christ the King	<b>Assisting Minister:</b> Nancy Erbeck <b>Acolyte:</b> Patrick Cathcart <b>Book Bearer:</b> Teagan Cathcart <b>Communion Minister:</b> Carolyn Koehl <b>Nursery:</b> Taylor Beckering, Jeni Cathcart <b>Activity Time:</b> Bridget Cathcart, John Cathcart	<b>Assistant, Ages 3-7:</b> Jeni Cathcart <b>Assistant, Ages 8-11:</b> Sherry Bronner <b>Assistant, Jr/Sr High:</b> Chelsea King

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.

## Reading Churches Thanksgiving Service



READING COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Please join us and the other churches of the Reading Church Council for an ecumenical Thanksgiving service. St. Paul is this year's host church. We will meet with our brothers and sisters in other churches for worship and fellowship to give thanks to God for all his blessings.

The service is Tuesday, November 26 at 7 pm.

St. Paul  
Lutheran Church  
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Reading, OH 45215

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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

