



# The Epistle

## Whether or Not You're a Mother



Mother's Day brings joy and gratitude to mind and the opportunity to celebrate for many, but it can be a very difficult day for many of us.

In Isaiah God says,

<sup>15</sup>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.

<sup>16</sup>See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands;  
your walls are continually before me.” (Is. 49:15-16)

As a mother comforts her child,  
so I will comfort you; (Is. 66:13)

As a mother comforts her child, so God comforts, nurtures,  
and gives life to us.

For those of you who have had caring and attentive mothers,  
God has given them to you to raise you in faith and to give  
you tangible experiences of God's love.

For those of you who experienced cruelty, abuse, or neglect  
from your mother or for those estranged from your mother—  
she may have forgotten how to love you, but the Lord cannot  
and will not forget you—even now, God's healing is for you.

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## Whether or Not You're a Mother

For those of you who are currently mothers, the Holy Spirit who dwells within you will give you gracious love, calm strength, and patient wisdom, that you may teach those entrusted to you to love the Truth, to follow the Way, and to have Life in Jesus' name.

For those of you longing to be mothers, wait for the Lord who works everything for your good.

For those of you for whom the time for giving birth has passed though your dream was not fulfilled, may the Spirit open your eyes to those in your life who need your nurturing. There are many ways to live the calling to motherhood.

For those of you who are separated from your children, the Spirit of God holds you

together with bonds that cannot be broken.

For those of you whose mothers have died, and for those of you mothers who have had to bury your child, God promises to reunite you with them at the Resurrection and you will share a new life and a new relationship in the company of Almighty God.

This Mother's Day, no matter your circumstances or experiences, may you know and trust God's love and care of you.

You are inscribed on the palms of God's hands. You are continually in the heart and mind of God.

In Christ,  
Pastor Emily Beckering

### PAUL PIEPER CAN HAVE VISITORS

Mason Christian Village is now allowing visitors. Paul Pieper would love to see sisters and brothers in Christ! If you're interested in visiting Paul, please contact Kathy Crosby or Pastor Emily Beckering for information about how to make an appointment.

## It's Time to Celebrate

Each Sunday, more members return to worship and it is truly joyous! We seem to be on the cusp of a shift in the pandemic; many of us are feeling safer and more ready to venture out.

God has been so faithful during this pandemic; God sustained us, our ministry, and our congregation. God provided for us financially, spiritually, and resourcefully with the creativity of members and staff!

**A celebration is in order!!**

Pentecost is May 23—we will celebrate the power of the Holy Spirit who calls, gathers, and sends the whole church on earth during worship. After worship, we will elect council members to lead our church. After the election, we will celebrate the faithfulness of the living Triune God.

There will be catered treats and special music! We will also pray together and thank God for God's faithfulness!

God is GOOD! And it will be GOOD to celebrate!

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## Memorial Day Parade Survey

*The Reading Lockland Memorial Day Parade is a perfect opportunity for Evangelism! Please fill out the survey below to indicate how you would like to help reach new people and share God's love so that others may know him!*

Are you interested in representing St. Paul's in the Reading Memorial Day Parade on May 31, 2021 (8:00 am to noon)?

- Yes
- No

Under what circumstances would you participate in the Memorial Day Parade (check all that apply)?

- walk in the parade (4 hours commitment)
- ride a float in the parade (4 hours)

- decorate a float prior to parade (1-2 hours, Memorial Day Weekend)
- pick up walkers at the end of the route (45 minutes)
- drop off walkers at the beginning of the route (45 minutes)
- provide water/snacks for our church's participants (simply drop off at church)
- None: I am not available/interested

If you checked yes to any of the above, please provide your name so that we can contact you:

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## Dorcas Circle

The Dorcas Circle has been in existence for nearly 90 years, and now we are going to put it to rest. Over these many years women have worked at different tasks to put together the quilts for Lutheran World Relief.

We have reached the point now when several of the current ladies are finding it more difficult to do the tasks required. This past year, when we have been restricted from so many activities due to the pandemic, the bodies of some of us have suffered (age has nothing to do with it). Therefore, the decision to suspend

the work of the Dorcas Circle had been made.

Every one of us will tell you that we have enjoyed and looked forward each month to our day of quilting. It was our joy to serve our Father in this way. We will all miss our monthly work day and the fellowship that we enjoyed. It was our pleasure to display our quilts in the sanctuary and to have you join in the blessing of the quilts before they were packed and shipped.

Thank you for sharing these times with us!

## Notice of Quarterly Meeting—May 2

Your participation is invited at the quarterly meeting on Sunday, May 2, 2021 following worship, at which we will review first quarter financials. This is a date change from the original April 25. This meeting gives us an opportunity to provide remote accessibility to the meeting for the first time. Since this is our first time offering an in-person and online congregational meeting, this notice includes detailed guidelines for how to conduct and attend the meeting.

You will see below that these guidelines refer to the Chair, who is our Council President, Nelson Langefeld. The Meeting Coordinator for the meeting will be Carroll Mayhugh; he will admit you to the meeting and will monitor the Zoom chat room for your questions or if you want to have the floor.

We do not anticipate that this meeting will require any votes by roll call or secret ballot, but should an issue be brought to the floor that requires such a motion, the guidelines for conducting such votes are included (see item 10 on p. 5).

If you desire to attend the meeting online/remotely via Zoom, then you may do so using the following information:

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### ZOOM MEETING DETAILS FOR MAY 2 QUARTERLY MEETING

**Join by computer** by clicking this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82695984667?pwd=dDUwamoyQjZUSkNNYUdLS1AvUFZmZz09>

Or enter this ID and password into Zoom:

**Meeting ID:** 826 9598 4667

**Passcode:** 2021Q1

**Or join by phone** (call any number below and enter the Meeting ID and Passcode):

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

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## Celebrations in May

<b>2 Kris &amp; Rhonda Kreiner</b>	15 Kevin Harbaugh	23 Jack Baumiller
4 Marie Calhoun, Jane Erbeck, Barry Prince	18 Jean Winkle	25 Chloe Cameron
11 Addy Kruse	19 Mary Ellen Welsh	26 Kayla Kreiner
13 Annie Lohmeier, Grant Lohmeier, Cindy Sieckman	21 Amanda Harbaugh	29 Michael Coulehan
	<b>22 Kristopher Keith &amp; Kate Wollenburg</b>	

## Notice of Meeting for Council Elections—May 23

Council Elections will be held on Sunday, May 23, at the beginning of worship (10:30 am) so that the results can be announced at the end of worship that day.

The nominees for Council are: **John Cathcart, Nick Huitger, Chet Laine, Noah Moorhouse, Joy Niefield.** For biographies, please see page 8 and 9 of the May Epistle.

There are two (2) available positions for Council.

According to our Constitution (Section C.10.05), absentee voting is permitted for Council Elections. An electronic ballot will be provided the second week of May to every member's email address and a hard copy will be mailed to members who do not have an email address. *If you would like to request a paper ballot even though you have a working email address, then please contact Jane Owen by calling the church office.*

Whether you mail your paper ballot through USPS or submit the electronic ballot, it must be received at church by 10:30 am on Sunday, May 23, or cast in person at the beginning of worship in order to be counted.

To ensure accurate and valid counting, ballots will need to be signed in one of the following methods: (a) signature (b) giving envelope number (contact Dennis King if you don't know your number) or (c) email address and name.

Your vote will be held in confidentiality by the tellers; name confirmation assists us in validating member votes.

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### ZOOM MEETING DETAILS FOR MAY 23 COUNCIL ELECTION MEETING

**Join by computer** by clicking this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87021806536?pwd=VlpVL3h0TWZlYWJJoUjZrODJQd3lqZz09>

Or enter this ID and password into Zoom:

**Meeting ID:** 870 2180 6536

**Passcode:** Elect2021

**Or join by phone** (call any number below and enter the Meeting ID and Passcode):

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

## Congregational Meetings: How to Participate Remotely

- 1) **Login time.** Login will be available starting at 11:30 am, Sunday, May 2 and 10:15 am, Sunday, May 23.
- 2) **Signing in and out.** Members shall identify themselves as required to sign into the Internet meeting service and shall maintain Internet and audio access throughout the meeting whenever present, but shall sign out in the chat room upon any departure before adjournment. After signing in the member shall mute the connection and only unmute when recognized. The Recording Secretary will log all connections and disconnections validating that the person(s) joining are voting members of the congregation. This log will become part of the official record of the meeting (minutes).
- 3) **Technical requirements and malfunctions.** Each member is responsible for his or her audio and Internet connections; no action shall be invalidated on the grounds that the loss of, or poor quality of, a member's individual connection prevented participation in the meeting.
- 4) **Forced disconnections.** The Chair may cause or direct the disconnection or muting of a member's connection if it is causing undue interference with the meeting. The Chair's decision to do so, which is subject to an undebatable appeal that can be made by any member, shall be announced during the meeting and recorded in the minutes.
- 5) **Assignment of the floor.** To seek recognition by the Chair, a member shall request recognition via the chat room. The member shall include his or her name and the reason they request recognition. The Meeting Coordinator shall monitor the chat room and relay recognition requests to the Chair in the order received.
- 6) **Interrupting a member.** A member who intends to make a motion or request that under the rules may interrupt a speaker shall use the chat room for so indicating and shall thereafter wait a reasonable time for the Chair's instructions before attempting to interrupt the speaker by voice.
- 7) **Motions submitted in writing.** A member intending to make a motion, to offer an amendment shall, before or after being recognized, post the motion in writing to meetings@stpaulreading.org, the subject line shall include the member's name and subject of the motion or amendment. The Meeting Coordinator shall share the contents of the motion or amendment to the screen when requested by the Chair.
- 8) **Voting.** For votes not requiring a written ballot, members shall vote by voice (in-person only), using the chat room or the "raise hand" feature, at the discretion of the Chair. For a voice, chat room, or count of hands vote the Chair shall determine the outcome or the need for a roll call. The count shall be maintained by the Recording Secretary.
- 9) **Roll Call Votes.** For votes requiring a roll call the Recording Secretary shall

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# Congregational Meetings: How to Participate Remotely

*(Continued from page 6)*

call the roll of all the members present and tally the results.

- 10) **Written or secret ballot.** For votes requiring a written or secret ballot, members may vote as follows: [If any secret ballots are required for additional business at either meeting, the President will announce the deadline for submission.]
    - a. Members present in-person will be provided with a ballot and may fill it in and submit it immediately or return it as follows.
    - b. Completed Council Election ballots may be returned to the church by U.S. Mail by 10:30 am on Sunday, May 23. Ballots received after that date shall not be counted.
    - c. Completed Council Election ballots may also be dropped in the locked mailbox at the West entrance to church by 10:30 am on Sunday, May 23. Ballots received after that date shall not be counted. If coming into the church, all COVID safety protocols must be followed.
    - d. For those members who wish to vote remotely, a fillable form electronic Council Election ballot may be completed by 10:30 am on Sunday, May 23. Ballots received after that date shall not be counted.
    - e. Completed ballots must include the printed and signed name of the voting member and/or the member's giving envelope number. Electronic ballots must include member's name and a valid email address for confirmation, this will suffice as the confirming signature. Any ballots not properly signed will not be counted.
  - f. Counting of completed Council Election ballots will be done by the Council Election tellers, as appointed by the Nominating Committee Chair, and the totals will be forwarded to the Chair of the Meeting (Council President). Individual voter information will be used only to validate the ballot and will not be maintained by the secretary. The tellers shall not communicate individual voter information to anyone.
  - g. For the Quarterly meeting, only ballots from members listed as present in-person or online for the meeting will be counted. Absentee ballots, i.e., ballots from members not present, are only allowed for election of Church Council and will only be counted for election of Church Council.
  - h. Results of Council Elections will be announced at the end of worship on Sunday, May 23.
- 11) **Adjournment.** The Chair shall entertain a motion to adjourn when requested. The motion must be seconded and voted on by the hand raise method in person or online, the Meeting Coordinator shall report to the Chair the count.

## May 23 Council Elections: Meet the Candidates

### JOHN CATHCART



My family of 9 is so happy to have found a church home here at St. Paul. I teach math at Newport High School in Newport, Kentucky. I have taught high school and college mathematics for the past 25 years.

Here at St. Paul, I have been a part of the Senior High Youth Group and participated in the 2018 Gathering, Youth Nights, and Connect Retreats. I am also on the Christian Education committee as well as the Technology Upgrade committee. As a part of both, I hosted and ran the technology side of the virtual Sunday School this year and put together the Virtual Christmas Pageant video.

I think that I have a lot to offer the council in terms of my experience and personality. I am calm, approachable, and good at building consensus between people. I look forward to helping St. Paul grow in size and outreach, including online.

### NICK HUITGER



I was born and raised in the Cincinnati area and graduated from Sycamore High School in 2001. I come from a large family, some of which are from Reading and surrounding areas. I currently serve St. Paul in multiple ways, and serve on multiple committees, including the Music and Worship Committee, co-artistic director for St. Paul Players, the Technology Upgrade Committee, Music Director Search Committee, Safety Committee and the committee formed to help St. Paul reopen during the Covid-19 (Coronavirus).

I feel serving on council is something first and foremost God has wanted me to do, and I feel in the short time I have been a member of the Church, so much has grown and will continue to grow for future generations. If elected, I will provide an open mind and heart for our growing congregation and community.

### CHET LAINE



I taught high school English in upstate New York before joining the faculty at the University of Cincinnati's School of Education in 1980 and retired from the University in 2015. Missy and I have 4 children and 10 grandchildren.

A member of St. Paul for the past 3 years, I enjoy reading lessons and serving in the kitchen. Recently, I served with Carroll Mayhugh as co-chair for the Thrive! Campaign.

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## May 23 Council Elections: Meet the Candidates

*(Continued from page 8)*

This past year highlighted the strength and resilience of our church community. I hope to use my skills and talents on the church council to better serve St. Paul and grow in my relationship with Christ.

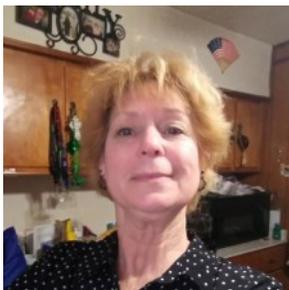
### NOAH MOORHOUSE



A student at UC. I grew up as a Nazarene, but felt that there must be more to the Christian faith than what I experienced, so I began to search. Eventually I discovered Martin Luther and the Reformation and decided that this was what felt the most right to me. I ended up choosing St. Paul because of the traditional worship style, and because of the great community of the congregation here.

I think I would be good on council for a couple reasons. First, as I'm a pretty young person, I have some familiarity with what younger people are looking for in a church. For myself, I still prefer the traditional, liturgical worship style that Lutherans tend to use. I think the issue that happens when people try to, "modernize," worship is that often the newer style does not feel like it is at the level that it should be to worship the literal creator of the universe! Part of what makes our liturgy so special, is the fact that we as Christians have been worshipping this way since the beginning. If you completely remove the Liturgy, you lose that connection. I believe I can help modernize some things, while still keeping that connection.

### JOY NIEFIELD



Originally from California, I moved to Ohio and married Denny. We will be married 30 years in September. I am the step-mother of 2 and have 3 grandchildren. I have worked for BRG Realty Group for 29 years and am the Payroll and Benefits Specialist.

I love to travel, including cruises, and have traveled to Europe and have been to every state in the United States.

Denny and I joined St Paul Lutheran in 2019. Denny was raised in this church and decided to come back. I was raised in the Lutheran religion and drifted away, but I have now also made my way back.

I would like to get more involved in the church and when I was approached about the council, I said "why not"? I would like to see the church more involved in things happening in Reading and see more volunteering. I would hope that I can help with this.

## Our Life Together

**For emergency pastoral care**, please call the after-hours line at 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); **Jeannie Allen** (Faith Pirrmann's friend); **Pr. Lisa Bernheisel; Louise Barry; Teresa Bell** (former member); **Beth** (Elinor Schieman's daughter); **Stephen Black** (Kim Coulehan's nephew); **Bobby** (Christian Lohmeier's friend); **Nancy Bose** (Kathy Hirt's friend); **Brett** (Kings' step-nephew); **Nicole Bucknam** (friend of Millers); **Jodie Calhoun; Ann Cathcart** (Laines' daughter-in-law); **Christian; Frances Clemons** (Portmanns' friend); **Colin** (Millers' grandson); **Sandy Cordes; Kathy Curless; Katie Demopoulos** (Diana Hawkins's niece); **Dick** (Linda Miller's brother); **Jeremy Doan** (Jean Winkle's grandson); **Lee and Jane Erbeck; Larry Faulkner** (Freda's son); **Justin Feldman** (Bess Sturgill's father); **Micki Ford** (Fords' niece); **Jeanne Fuller; Scarlett Gally** (Beth Wernery's great-niece); **Clara Garcia** (Cindy Mayhugh's sister); **George and Sherry** (Shirley Harbaugh's cousins); **Nathaniel Gibson** (Les Eckerle's step-nephew); **Steve Gollehon** (Elinor Schieman's cousin); **Hannah; Matthew Harrison** (Seals' neighbor); **Sandy Hatcher** (Linda Holt's sister); **Elain Heskamp; Richard Hoffman** (Cindy Mayhugh's brother); **Andrew Horton; Mary Ann Hudecki** (Linda Miller's sister); **Ellen Hunter** (Jeni Cathcart's grandmother); **Jo and her daughter** (Jeanne Fuller's friends); **Joan** (Penny Huber's friend); **Kate** (granddaughter of Dennis King's friend); **Dennis King; Jay King** (son of Jamie King); **Loretta Kombrink** (Marilyn Portmann's aunt); **Lewis Laine** (Chet Laine's brother); **Richard Lane** (Elinor Schieman's nephew); **Nelson Langefeld; Ruth Lohmeier; Yvonne Lowery** (St. Paul Players); **Revea and Jim Mayhew** (Millers' sister & brother-in-law); **Carroll Mayhugh Sr.** (Carroll Mayhugh's father); **Samantha Mersch** (Mayhughs' daughter, Sarah Papin's sister); **Ann Miller** (Millers' niece); **Mary Mills** (St. Paul Players); **Jessica Mink** (Donald Harris's cousin); **Doris Minton; Barbara Moorhouse; Jean Nolte; Ervin, Carol, Jim, and Jeannie Oerther** (Portmanns' sister and family);

**Ann Ohr** (Barbara Moorhouse's cousin); **Richard Osborn** (Betty Pack's brother); **Rosie Osborn** (Betty Pack's sister); **Tom Pack** (Betty Pack's son); **Eric Papin; Christian & Suzie Pereira** (Carolyn Koehl's granddaughter & grandson-in-law); **Richard Peterson** (Shirley Harbaugh's brother); **Ginny Pape; Linda Perin** (Moorhouses' cousin); **Paul Pieper; Faith Pirrmann; Pat Popplewell** (Dennis King's friend); **James Savoy** (Jean Winkle's great-grandson); **Shawn Schnetzer** (Sturgills' cousin); **Sheila Schultz** (Betty Pack's friend); **Shannon and Dane** (friends of Riddle family); **Shear family** (Kings' daughter & son-in-law); **Kate Sheridan** (Kings' family friend); **Keith Shupe** (father of Kelly Shupe); **Jason Simpson** (Freda Faulkner's grand-nephew); **Patricia Smith** (Teresa Bell's mother); **Scott Songer; Judy Songer** (friends of Jean Winkle); **Crosley Spelman** (Spelmans' grandson); **Frank Sturgill** (Jim's dad); **Britney Jean Teems** (Jean Winkle's granddaughter); **Teresa** (friend of Marty Lohmeier); **Randy Thaman** (friend of Marie Calhoun); **Geri Toland** (Carole Replogle's neighbor); **Treasure** (Les Eckerle's cousin); **Ralph Turner** (friend of Dennis King); **Jacob Vegso** (Millers' nephew); **Tereasa Vogel** (Freda Faulkner's friend); **Jack Wagner; Jeanne Wagner; David Allen Walker and family** (community member); **Daryl Wesselman** (Betty Pack's granddaughter); **Jean Winkle; 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: **Louise Barry, Barbara Moorhouse, Jean Nolte, Heather Segar.**

We pray for our armed forces members: **Graham Barton** (Fords' neighbor); **Paul Cordes** (Elinor Schieman's grandson); **Victoria Derry** (Elinor Schieman's great-granddaughter); **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).

## Many Languages, One Growing Church

*In 2020, we shared 3% (\$5,040) of our offerings for Mission Support through the Southern Ohio Synod. This is a story of how God uses our Mission Support to bring the Spirit's Pentecost today!*

To watch a video of this ministry, visit [ELCA.org/SOFIA](https://www.elca.org/SOFIA).



When God spoke to Jean Paul Kisuku, Kisuku knew he had to listen.

While living in the Congo, Kisuku spread the gospel through prayer groups with fellow Congolese and neighbors in nearby Uganda. After immigrating to the United States and settling in Maryland, he stepped away from ministry to focus on secular work to support his family.

God had other plans.

Asked about his return to ministry, Kisuku said, “God is moving you to do his work, and if you say ‘yes’ you will be OK.”

Kisuku and his family were resettled by Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) and Christ Lutheran Church, Baltimore. Seeing how the congregation welcomed newcomers, Kisuku reached out to Christ’s associate pastor, Amsalu Geleta, and volunteered to conduct a prayer service there in Swahili, the native language of Congo.

“He gathered five families for the first day in October 2016,” said Geleta, who now serves as executive assistant to the bishop and director for evangelical mission in the Delaware-Maryland Synod. “He’s a wonderful evangelist, and he reached out to many people who speak Swahili, French, Lingala—new arrivals, most of them.”

That prayer service has evolved to become Mountain of God Evangelical International Church, a new congregation bolstered by grants from the ELCA church-wide organization and the Delaware-Maryland Synod that were funded by Mission Support.

Mountain of God’s membership now boasts over 150 people. Geleta believes the growth has been inspiring for the synod.

Much of that growth can be attributed to Kisuku’s determination to bring God’s word to as many African-descent people as possible. Many prospective members lacked transportation, so Kisuku began driving them to and from church.

“How can one ministry be born or stand by itself?” Geleta said. “The participation of everyone helps plant and nurture it to make it grow. And the spirit of evangelism to the church revives us all.”

**St. Paul  
Lutheran  
Church**

*Mission  
Statement:*

Christians us-  
ing God's gifts  
helping others  
know him.

**V  
O  
T  
E**



**COUNCIL ELECTIONS  
May 23 at Beginning of Worship**

**St. Paul  
Lutheran Church**  
106 Maple St.  
Reading, OH 45215

*Phone:*  
513-821-0987

*E-mail:*  
mail@stpaulreading.org

*Website:*  
stpaulreading.org



PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE