



The Epistle

An Opportunity for Abundance



There are times in life when it is apparent that God really is everywhere and God’s blessings are given beyond measure.

God beyond measure

is the theme of the National Youth Gathering in 2022, when 30,000 young Lutherans will gather for education, service, and worship in Minneapolis, MN.

My husband, Taylor, and I have recently experienced God’s goodness beyond measure, too.

We were surprised by the news that on top of the stimulus checks, we received more money through the American Rescue Plan. Because you provide so generously for me in compensation, we are not in need of all this money from the American Rescue Plan. Since this extra abundance is pouring into our lap, we would like to share it!

Taylor and I are donating to church \$2000 from the American Rescue Plan money we received —half to fund the National Youth Gathering Trip for our young people and half toward the technology improvements in the sanctuary planned by the Technology Upgrade Committee.

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An Opportunity for Abundance

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The teenagers and young adults in our congregation are exceptional. These are kind and considerate young people who love the Lord and their families. They are always willing to serve at church. These young people follow Jesus.

There is a chance for them to experience abundance—the abundance of Jesus’

love and the expansion of community at the National Youth Gathering in 2022.

This is a real opportunity for abundance for our congregation! God has provided abundantly with money we did not expect and so now it can be used toward special opportunities to enhance the faith and leadership of our teenagers and young adults and to enrich worship for our whole congregation!

May you experience and recognize God’s abundance in your life.

If and when you receive money from the American Rescue Plan or if you still have money unspent from the stimulus checks, and you find that you aren’t in need of all or some of it, then Taylor and I invite you to join us in sharing your abundance and donating it to St. Paul’s. Indicate in the memo line of your check or in Vanco if you would like it designated to “Youth Group Fund” or “Technology Upgrade Fund”. If you are not in a position to do this and you find that the American Rescue Plan is an answer to prayer, then God bless you; the Lord has provided!

May you experience and recognize God’s abundance in your life. It is an abundant life to share the life of faith with you all.

In Christ,
Pastor Emily Beckering



Council Election Results

New Council members:

- John Cathcart
- Chet Laine

Re-elected members:

- Donald Harris
- Nelson Langefeld

Continuing till June 2022:

- Kathy Crosby
- Carroll Mayhugh
- Linda Miller
- Tom Pyle



Bible Studies—2 times a week to dwell in the Word!

In-person Bible studies have now resumed on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm and Thursday mornings at 10:30 am. They will also both be available virtually through Zoom and the recordings will continue to be emailed out. We will study the readings assigned for the upcoming Sunday so that we can spend the week dwelling in the Word and have it come alive in our lives and make worship even more meaningful.



Thank You, Dorcas Circle



On Pentecost Sunday, we blessed members of the Dorcas Circle in worship. We give thanks to them and to all of you who have served in this group and for your passion for caring for those in need. This circle has existed for nearly 90 years and during that time, they created more than 7,000 quilts which were shared locally and around the world to comfort people. Thank you, ladies, for carrying on this important work which has proven to many that Jesus lives.

Congregation Celebration!



Celebrations in June



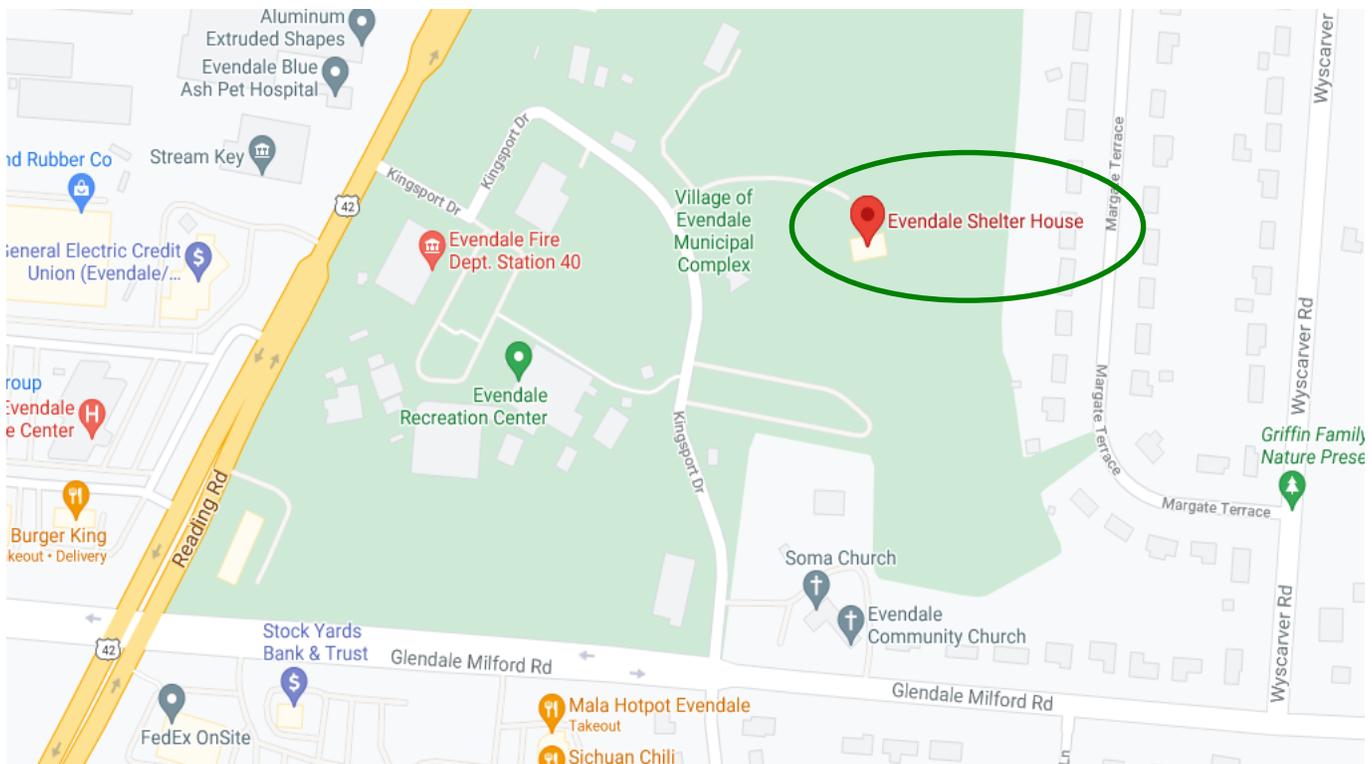
- 6 Jeff Baumiller,
Doug Lohmeier
- 7 Dottie Deloatch

- 8 **Michael and Kim Coulehan**
- 9 Kay Fox
- 10 Loretta Forst
- 13 Jack Wagner
- 16 Ian Cathcart
- 17 **Daryl & Cindy Flege**
- 18 Nelson Langefeld

- 19 **John & Jeni Cathcart**
- 21 Allan Harbaugh
- 24 Gary Gries
- 26 Jim Sturgill
- 28 **Jim & Bess Sturgill**
- 28 Katy Thompson
Waddell
- 30 **David and Emily Nutt**

Annual Church Picnic!

Father's Day (June 20) is our annual church picnic at the pavilion at Baxter Park in Evendale at 11 am. Following worship, we will share lunch! Meat will be provided. You are invited to bring your own beverages and a side dish item or dessert to share. There are picnic tables at the pavilion, and you may wish to bring folding chairs for comfort during worship.



Congregation Celebration!



Congregation Celebration!



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); **Lee Frank** (Barbara Moorhouse's niece's husband); **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); **Hazel Mersch** (Mayhughs' granddaughter); **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).

Mission Support: “A New Lens for Generosity”

In 2020, we shared 3% (\$5,040) of our offerings for Mission Support through the Southern Ohio Synod. This is a story of what our Mission Support did.

Sharing God's gifts with one another through stewardship is an integral part of the Lutheran faith. But sometimes stewardship is misunderstood, equated simply with giving money rather than sharing time, spirit and love. Linda Staats is trying to change that with the Generosity Project, a stewardship resource funded in part by Mission Support.



“One [person] exclaimed, ‘We never talked about any of this when I was a kid, and I wish we had,’ Krauszer said. Believing this resource could benefit neighbors at Epiphany Lutheran Episcopal Church, Valdez, Alaska, she took a cue from the project and shared it with them.

In 2019, Krauszer partnered with Kaitlin Pabo-Eulberg, Epiphany’s pastor, to introduce the blended Lutheran-Episcopal congregation and a neighboring Catholic church to the Generosity Project.

“It [was] a very natural partnership to invite them,” Pabo-Eulberg said of Epiphany’s Catholic neighbors. “They were really excited to talk about giving from their perspective.”

The event included participants ranging in age from 8 to 89, and Pabo-Eulberg recalled enthusiastic listening and understanding across the generations.

Among them were Epiphany members Donna Newcomer, a baby boomer, and Steve Newcomer, of the Greatest Generation. “[Now] every time somebody comes

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Developed through a partnership between Staats, the Rocky Mountain Synod and the churchwide organization, the Generosity Project challenges Lutherans to rethink stewardship through innovative, intergenerational programming.

When Diane Krauszer, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Palmer, Alaska, introduced her congregation to the Generosity Project two years ago, it shifted perspectives.

Mission Support: “A New Lens for Generosity”

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to [our] house, when they leave, I say, ‘Thank you for spending time with us,’” Donna said. “Because that’s the greatest thing you can give somebody — they noticed you and spent time with you.”

Staats said this new lens for generosity is the project’s aim.

“The goal is not to increase giving by a percentage,” she said. “The goal is to change the culture in a congregation [and in homes]. We’re building a culture to

bring all generations together... and equipping the home as a place where generosity is practiced.”

Thank you for your generous gifts of Mission Support, which made this story of faith in action possible. Mission Support is the portion of your offering your congregation shares with your synod, and your synod shares with the churchwide organization. To learn more, visit livinglutheran.org/sofia/.

From the Presiding Bishop: Music is Personal and Universal

This article was originally published in the May 2021 issue of [Living Lutheran](#) magazine.



I had a friend in high school who said, “Wouldn’t it be great if our lives had a soundtrack and we could hear it?” That way we would always know what was coming at us.

Suspenseful music, ominous music, joyful music, sorrowful music, heroic music—all would alert us to what is just around the corner and would accompany us on our way. There is something intriguing about the idea. And it could work if your soundtrack were the only one and everyone and everything else were just the supporting cast in your musical.

But God didn’t create us that way. We aren’t solitary lives played out on an isolated stage. God created us by love and for love. We were meant to be together. The Trinity is relationship and God welcomes us into that holy company.

Like God’s love, music is at the same time deeply personal, sounding deep within an individual’s soul, and universal, ringing out to an entire community. Like God’s love, music sings to us in all of our marvelous diversity. Just as the beauty of creation is apparent not in monochrome but in Technicolor, so also must music be polyphonic. This is why we have a variety of worship resources that include a variety of musical styles from many cultures and in many languages.

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From the Presiding Bishop: Music is Personal and Universal

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One of the great harms done by Western missionaries was to equate proper, acceptable and God-pleasing worship with Western music, dress and even instrumentation. The problem wasn't the introduction of their music. The problem was the replacement of Indigenous expression with Western music and the labeling of Indigenous music, language, dance and dress as pagan and worse.

One of my greatest honors in this call was being asked to preach on Easter Sunday at a Lutheran church in Yunnan Province, China. The Chinese characters that convey "Lutheran" actually mean "Justification Church." On that Easter morning, high up in the mountains, we sang our praise and thanks to God for the victory of the Resurrection. These were Lisu people. They are an ethnic minority pushed out of the fertile valleys by the Han people.

Then the missionaries came. As the Justification Church, we believe and teach that the gospel is the message of redemption, reconciliation and liberation for all people. Instead, the Western missionaries took away the Lisu people's music and culture. An elder of the community explained to us that this service would be the first time in a century that the Lisu people worshiped God with their own music, their own instruments, with their own dance, in their own traditional clothing.

I didn't understand the language (sermons could take three times as long—I preached in English, which a second person translated into Mandarin and then a third person translated into Lisu) and the music didn't resonate with me at first, but I recognized the song. It was the song of Resurrection. The style was unique to the Lisu people, but the music was universal.

Martin Luther, a musician and hymn writer, wanted his people to hear the universal message of the gospel in their own language. We Lutherans take a great deal of pride in Luther's translation of the Bible into the vernacular. How is it that we are not so ready to hear the gospel in the musical vernacular of the thousand tongues that sing our great Redeemer's praise? Music, in all its many forms, sings for us even when we can't find the words. I like to think that, when the Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words, the Spirit is singing and, in that distant melody, just beyond our comprehension, our longing and God's love meet.

My life flows on in endless song; above earth's lamentation, I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.

No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging. Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing? (ELW, 763).

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton

**St. Paul
Lutheran
Church**

*Mission
Statement:*

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



**COMMUNITY
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

June 21-25 | Evenings
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Reading

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

Phone:
513-821-0987

E-mail:
mail@stpaulreading.org

Website:
stpaulreading.org

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