



The Epistle

You Built Faith and Families in Jesus' Name!



On Tuesday night a VBS participant asked, "We still have five more days of VBS right?"

Parent, "No, three days."

Child, "What?! Only three? That's barely anything. We should do this every night for a week at least."

It is clear that VBS was a big hit with kids. You welcomed seven families for a total of 11 children to Vacation Bible School this week. Half were community members.

This was made possible by the 21 adult and 8 youth volunteers who shopped, cooked, cleaned, and led activities, and by all of you through your offerings and item donations.

The theme for this year's VBS was "Build Your Family Tool Kit." You built up families and you built faith by offering this VBS. You fed them with free dinner each night. You gave

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VALLEY INTERFAITH DONATION ITEM OF THE MONTH

This month's donation items for Valley Interfaith Community Resource Center are **shampoo and conditioner.**

In May, you donated 60 rolls of toilet paper to Valley Interfaith! Thank you for your generosity.

You Built Faith and Families in Jesus' Name!



them space and time to play games and do challenge courses together as a family to build communication and conflict resolution skills. You taught them new methods for nurturing faith at home. You shared God's love through songs, skits, and art projects.

Thank you, one and all, for being part of this congregation and for your offerings which made it all possible.

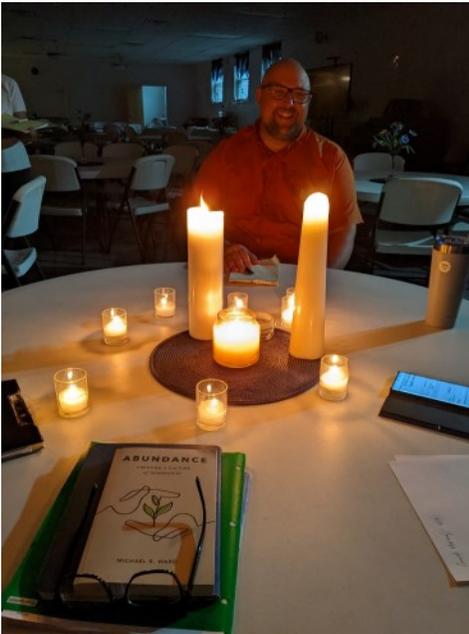
On Friday night, during family prayer, when asked to fill-in—the blank, a parent said, “Thank you, God, for...” and the toddler responded, “Church!” Amen!

Pastor Emily Beckering



Council Corner

PLANNING AND POLICIES FOR FLOURISHING



There was a power outage at church, but we met by candlelight to care for our congregation.

ance of our church, we will continue to offer both for congregational meetings. We continue to work on the Child and Youth Abuse Prevention Policy, but we all have consensus that (a) it is our responsibility as members of the St. Paul community to prevent abuse, and (b) as a Church community, we can help children build strong relationships to nurture their faith and gifts.

We gave thanks to God for Joy Niefield and Tom Pyle, for this was their final Council meeting for this term. We have seen Jesus and heard God's voice through their observations and contributions during Council meetings. We will give thanks for them and install our new Council members, Jim Sturgill and Nick Huitger, during worship in July.

Warmly in Christ,

Church Council: Donald Harris, Kathy Crosby, Linda Miller, John Cathcart, Chet Laine, Nelson Langefeld, Joy Niefield, Tom Pyle, Pastor Emily Beckering

POEM: *A LETTER TO MY FATHER*

Patrick Cathcart wrote and read this poem—a Letter to Our Heavenly Father—at St. Paul's annual picnic for Father's Day:

Hello, I am well.

Thank you for kind words and blessings all of the days.

I know I mess up sometimes, but you love me anyways.

I hope you're doing well, every day I feel held. Held by your love.

Even though I write this from far away, I know it carries all the way.

In the end, I'd like to say.

Happy Father's Day!

QUARTERLY
CONGREGATION-
AL MEETING
JULY 24, 2022

Please attend our quarterly meeting following worship on July 24 to review financials and ministry accomplishments during the 2nd quarter. If we have the results in, we will also share the survey data about the organ and favorite hymn submissions. There will be opportunities for questions and answers about the life and ministry of our congregation. If you would like to attend virtually, please see pages 4 and 5 (at right) in this newsletter for guidelines. The Zoom details are on p. 6.

Guidelines for Remote Meeting Attendance

1. **Login time.** Login will be available starting at 11:30 am, Sunday, July 24.
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

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Guidelines for Attending the Quarterly Meeting Remotely

(Continued from page 4)

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 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, the President will announce the deadline for submission during the meeting. members may vote as follows:
 - a. Members present in-person will be provided with a ballot and may fill it in and submit it immediately or return it as directed by the chair. Members present via Zoom may mail in their ballot to the church office by the date specified by the chair during the meeting.
 - b. 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.
 - c. 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.
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.

COMMUNION RETURNS TO THE RAIL!

Many of us have missed taking Holy Communion together at the chancel rail and the opportunity it provides for meditation. For some, communing side by side with sisters and brothers in Christ is a powerful physical and visual reminder of Jesus' presence during worship as well as our connection with the Saints who have gone before us. Worship and Music Committee discerned at our most recent meeting that the time is right to return to the rail for those who wish, and so we will begin offering communion at the rail later this month. For those who wish to take Communion at the railing, you can

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Zoom Access for Congregational Meeting

Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87487831248?pwd=iUz9f5k9zncrrzLdPNGg1Gzi0f1Fjb.1>

Topic: Quarterly Meeting - July

Time: Jul 24, 2022 11:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Or join by touch-tone phone by dialing one of the below numbers and entering the Meeting ID and passcode when prompted:

301-715-8592 (Washington DC)

312-626-6799 (Chicago)

646-558-8656 (New York)

253-215-8782 (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 874 8783 1248

Passcode: 962803

Celebrations in July



- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1 Mark & Connie Lohmeier | 11 Lucy Sturgill |
| 2 Becky Betsch | 12 Donald Harris |
| 3 Joy Niefeld | 15 Dennis King |
| 6 Donald Hosea | 16 Andrew Bardes |
| 7 Terry & Joyce McDowell | 17 Linda Miller |
| 7 Leslie Willet | 19 Bradly Bronner,
Elain Heskamp |
| 8 Larry & Penny Huber | 23 Emma Hedges |
| 8 Karen Dardeen,
Evan Segar | 27 Mark Lohmeier |
| 10 David Hill | 28 Cindy Reed |
| | 29 Taylor & Pr. Emily Beckering |
| | 29 Cindy Mayhugh,
Betty Pack |
| | 30 Carol Curless,
Jeanne Fuller |

Youth Group Takes Their Faith on the Road!

With just a month to go, the youth group is excited for their trip at the end of July! When the National Youth Gathering was cancelled by the ELCA due to the COVID pandemic, they were pretty down about it, but they bounced back with the idea of their own trip. We will be going to a day event put on by the synod followed by visiting some attractions in Dayton and Columbus. At the end, we will attend a two-night retreat put on by the Luther Outdoor Ministry of Ohio at one of the their camps. There is a more detailed itinerary listed below.

- July 25th - Gather at St. Paul and stay overnight
- July 26th - Synod Day at Peace Lutheran Church in Gahanna
- July 27th - Visit Carrillon Park and Sunwatch Indian Village in Dayton
- July 28th - Visit COSI in Columbus
- July 29th - Visit Columbus Zoo
- July 30th - Visit German Village in Columbus and do a service project
- July 31st through August 2nd - Retreat at Luther Memorial Camp in Mansfield

We have put together fun, faith, and service just as they would have experienced in Minneapolis (which was where the Youth Gathering was going to be), but in our own way. We will share pictures and videos with the church as we travel. We will bless and send the youth group and their leaders off on their trip during worship on Sunday, July 24.

If you have any questions about the trip, please ask John Cathcart, Donald Harris, or Chelsea King for more information. We ask the congregation to pray for us as we travel and for this to be a growing experience for all of us.

COMMUNION RETURNS TO THE RAIL!

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either come forward to dip a wafer into the wine or grape juice chalice, or you can bring forward your individual communion kit (from the narthex) and take it at the railing as you hear the words “Given and shed for you”. Those who wish to continue to take communion at their pew may continue to do so. Worship and Music Committee is hopeful that offering all of these options will allow everyone to commune in the way that they find most spiritually meaningful.

Valley Interfaith Needs Gluesticks and Folders

SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE DECLARES SCHOOL SUPPLY MONTH!



Valley Interfaith Community Resource Center has requested that St. Paul Lutheran Church saints provide 300 glue sticks and 100 two-pocket folders for this year's back-to-school supply drive. Please provide folders without gussets. St. Paul's has collected school supplies for Valley Interfaith for many years; however, during the pandemic the committee opted to take care of the request as a committee and not open it to the congregation.

Please bring donations by **July 17**, so that they can be taken to Valley Interfaith in time to be assembled into back-to-school kits with other donated supplies.

Thank you,
Kathy Crosby

Evangelism Committee Thanks You!

The Evangelism Committee wants to thank everyone who helped our recent ministries to the Reading community. By participating in the Reading High School Baccalaureate and the Community Memorial Day Parade, St. Paul demonstrated our faith and our commitment to the surrounding community. One of the great blessings of our church is that so many of you give of your time, talents, and resources to spread the Good News. Thank you and please mark your calendars for upcoming Evangelism Committee events:



Community Fall Festival on Saturday, October 22

Live Nativity on Saturday, December 17

Mission Support In Action: “Bolstered by Relationships”

This is a story of how our mission support helped a growing congregation equip a worship space and support themselves and neighbors through the pandemic.

Jesús Escamilla knows the power of relationships. Over 15 years, he’s seen God provide for his congregation through faithful partners across the church and within his community.

“What God wants, if you believe and trust in how he wants to do it, it will get done,” said the pastor of San Gabriel Lutheran Church in Alvarado, Texas.

Escamilla came to San Gabriel in 2006, when future congregants were holding Bible studies weekly in worshipers’ homes. To worship, they drove more than 30 miles north to San Miguel Lutheran Church in Fort Worth. He joined the Bible studies, then became the faith community’s official worship leader a year later, ministering in homes for both Bible study and worship. In time, the growing faith community needed a building in Alvarado.

A deal with a local supporter allowed the congregation to begin renting a plot of land, where it worshiped outdoors and eventually built makeshift indoor worship space. “Everyone was dusty, but they didn’t care because they had a place to worship — their own place,” Escamilla said.

Over time, partnerships with local congregations allowed San Gabriel to build a permanent church. Gifts from Calvary Lutheran Church in Richland Hills allowed San Gabriel to put in flooring, and pews were donated by St. John Lutheran

Church, a closing congregation in nearby Grand Prairie. Later, St. John’s council gifted funds that helped San Gabriel take ownership of its land.

Since then, the church has grown, adding a fellowship hall that serves as a community hub for the area’s largely Mexican immigrant population. But like so many congregations, San Gabriel struggled to maintain a sense of community during the worst days of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States.

The church closed and pivoted to virtual worship on Zoom and Facebook, with Escamilla, lay leaders and a small contingent of choir members recording services in person at the church.

With virtual worship, collecting offerings became a challenge. Some congregants sent money through the digital-payment network Zelle or even left their offerings in the church mailbox, but many couldn’t contribute monetarily. So the church began hosting weekly food sales to raise needed funds and provide members with a way to give back.

Escamilla believes that San Gabriel has been built up by the generosity of others — church members, nearby ELCA congregations and, through Mission Support funds, the ELCA Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod.

“It’s been a conjunction of [congregations] working together to help a community that was struggling,” he said “We have this wonderful community that is working together to work with what the Lord wants us to do.”

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, or to remove a person from the list, please contact the office at 513-821-0987 or mail@stpaulreading.org.

We pray for **Armstrong family** (friends of Hubers); **Samantha Asbrock** (Marie Calhoun's friend); **Berkeley** (Carol Curless's great-grandson); **Jeannie Allen** (Faith Pirrmann's friend); **Pr. Lisa Bernheisel**; **Louise Barry**; **Teresa Bell** (former member); **Chrissi Bergt** (Kate Wollenburg's cousin); **Stephen Black** (Kim Coulehan's nephew); **Bobby** (Christian Lohmeier's friend); **Brett** (Kings' step-nephew); **Jodie Calhoun**; **John Cathcart**; **Christian**; **Sandy Cordes**; **Kathy Curless**; **Doug Dahlien** (Harbaughs' nephew); **Katie Demopoulos** (Diana Hawkins's niece); **Karen Doan** (Jean Winkle's daughter); **Jeremy Doan** (Jean Winkle's grandson); **Jane Erbeck**; **Nancy Erbeck**; **Larry Faulkner** (Freda's son); **Justin Feldman** (Bess Sturgill's father); **Cindy Flege**; **Lee Frank** (Barbara Moorhouse's niece's husband); **Jeanne Fuller**; **Scarlett Gally** (Beth Wernery's great-niece); **Clara Garcia** (Cindy Mayhugh's sister); **Nathaniel Gibson** (Les Eckerle's step-nephew); **Steve Gollehon** (Elinor Schieman's cousin); **Hannah**; **Caleb Harbaugh** (Harbaughs' grandson); **Ron and Shirley Harbaugh**; **Sandy Hatcher** (Linda Holt's sister); **Elain Heskamp**; **Andrew Horton**; **Huitger family**; **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); **Ken Keith** (Kris Keith's dad); **John Kerlin**; **Chelsea King**; **Dennis King**; **Jackie King**; **Janet King**; **Earl (Buddy) King** (Dennis's brother); **Marilyn Kline** (Cindy Sieckman's neighbor); **Loretta Kombrink** (Marilyn Portmann's aunt); **Tom and Mike Kozee and family** (friends of Faith Pirrmann); **Chet Laine**; **Lewis Laine** (Chet Laine's brother); **Kelsee Lainhart** (friend of Kings); **Nelson Langefeld**; **Eli Liffick**; **Grant Lohmeier**; **Yvonne Lowery** (St. Paul Players); **Carroll Mayhugh Sr.** (Carroll Mayhugh's father); **Carroll and Cindy Mayhugh**; **Jessica Mayhugh & family** (Mayhughs' niece-in-law); **Samantha Mersch** (Mayhughs' daughter, Sarah Papin's sister); **Jack Miller** (Becky Betsch's uncle); **Linda Miller**; **Mary Mills** (St. Paul Players); **Jessica Mink** (Donald Harris's cousin); **Barbara Moorhouse**; **Jean Nolte**; **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 Osborn** (Betty Pack's nephew); **Tom Pack** (Betty Pack's son); **Eric Papin**; **Linda Perin** (Moorhouses' cousin); **Cathern Pirrmann** (Adam and Nick's aunt); **Faith Pirrmann**; **Nick Pirrmann**; **Pat Popplewell** (Dennis King's friend); **Christopher Rolfes** (Anne's son); **Pr. Pete and Joyce Rudowski**; **Judy Saaranen** (Portmanns' friend); **Heather Segar**; **James Savoy** (Jean Winkle's great-grandson); **Scott Schadel** (friend of McDowells); **Shawn Schnetzer** (Sturgills' cousin); **Sheila Schultz** (Betty Pack's friend); **Shannon and Dane** (friends of Riddle family); **Bernadette Shear** (Kings' granddaughter); **Sharpshier family** (Kings' neighbors); **Shear family** (Kings' daughter & son-in-law); **Knox Shepherd** (grandson of Pr. Vicki Garber); **Kate Sheridan** (Kings' family friend); **Keith Shupe** (father of Kelly Shupe); **John Smith** (Elain Heskamp's brother); **Michelle Snavely** (Laines' daughter); **Scott Songer**; **Judy Songer** (friends of Jean Winkle); **Crosley Spelman** (Spelmans' grandson); **Kathy Spelman and family** (Joyce's sister-in-law); **Catriona Stockstill** (family friend of Carole Replogle); **Frank Sturgill** (Jim's dad); **Britney Jean Teems** (Jean Winkle's granddaughter); **Randy Thaman** (friend of Marie Calhoun); **Geri Toland** (Carole Replogle's neighbor); **Treasure** (Les Eckerle's cousin); **Ralph Turner** (friend of Dennis King); **Jack Wagner**; **Jeanne Wagner**; **Mary Wagner**; **Melinda Wakefield** (Sherry Bronner's friend); **Daryl Wesselman** (Betty Pack's granddaughter); **Leslie Willet**; **Jean Winkle**; **Susan Winkle** (Jean Winkle's daughter-in-law); **Kate Wollenburg and family**.

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** (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** (Becky Betsch's brother); **Jobeth Ramirez** (friend of Karen Koehl); **Joshua Rodriguez** (friend of Karen Koehl); **Trent Schwegman** (cousin to the Erbecks and Fords); **Dustin Silvey**; **Alex Wisecup** (son of Nadine and Barry Wisecup).

St. Paul Lutheran Church

LOCATION KEY

- S = sanctuary
- N = narthex
- L = library
- FH = fellowship hall
- US = upstairs
- O = outside
- Z = Zoom

July 2022

Mission Statement

Growing a Christian community where each is valued, accepted, and loved.

513-821-0987 | mail@stpaulreading.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
June 26 3 Pentecost 10:30 am Worship (S)	June 27 Independence Day— Office Closed	June 28 2 pm Charter Scout Meeting (L) 6:30 pm Venture Scouts (FH)	June 29	June 30 10:30 am Bible Study (N/Z)	July 1	2
3 4 Pentecost 10:30 am Worship (S) After Worship: Evangelism Committee (L)	4 Independence Day— Office Closed	5	6	7 10:30 am Bible Study (N/Z)	8	9 3 pm Confirmation Mentor Training (L)
10 5 Pentecost 10:30 am Worship (S)	11	12 6:30 pm Venture Scouts (FH)	13	14 10:30 am Bible Study (N/Z) 6 pm Scouts BSA (N/L)	15	16
17 6 Pentecost 10:30 am Worship (S)	18 7 pm Council Meeting (FH)	19	20	21 10:30 am Bible Study (N/Z)	22	23
24 7 Pentecost 10:30 am Worship with Sending of Youth Group (S) After worship: Quarterly Congregational Meeting (S/Z) After meetings: New Members/Inquirers' Class (FH)	25 <i>Epistle Articles Due</i>	26 6:30 pm Venture Scouts (FH)	27	28 10:30 am Bible Study (N/Z) 6 pm Scouts BSA (N/L)	29	30
Youth Gathering Event						
31 8 Pentecost 10:30 am Worship (S) After Worship: New Members/Inquirers' Class (FH)	August 1	August 2	August 3	August 4 10:30 am Bible Study (N/Z)	August 5	August 6
Youth Gathering Event						

St. Paul Lutheran Church

*Mission
Statement:*

Growing a Christian community where each is valued, accepted, and loved.



Building faith, families, and fun at VBS!

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PLEASE
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