

# The Epistle

## Attending to Jesus' Healing



From the moment he boarded the light rail, it was evident that he had endured a lot; life was clearly rough for him. We are all of us, in need of Jesus' healing. All of us bear scars and wounds from life that have yet to heal. Some are

more visible than others; we never know what another person has endured unless he or she tells us. We can interact with our neighbors, with strangers, with our family and friends, and brothers and sisters in Christ with a certain level of awareness of trauma. We can attend to Jesus' presence and healing in their lives.

If a person whom you know opens up to you about trauma they have endured, be calm in your responses to the information and curious about the person. But rather than ask "what, when" questions, you might try "how" questions: "How does or did that affect how you see yourself? How you understand the world." Convey through body language and by what you say that you are confident that he or she will find a way forward and that God can bring healing.

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### VALLEY INTERFAITH DONATION ITEM OF THE MONTH

This month's donation item for Valley Interfaith Community Resource Center is **baby food**.

In June you donated 4 rolls paper towels, 3 packages diapers, and 10 packages baby wipes to Valley Interfaith. Thank you!

## Attending to Jesus' Healing

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It can be overwhelming to contemplate the magnitude of suffering, the severity of evil, and heartwrenching trauma which so many have endured in the world. Rather than despair, we are the people who trust in God's healing power in every circumstance. We are the people whom Jesus calls to be his agents of healing in the world.

This newsletter is full of examples of how you have already been and are seeking to be agents of God's healing.

Enter every conversation with a curiosity of what God is up to in this moment for you and the other person, and you will be attending to Jesus' healing for them and for you.

Warmly in Christ,  
Pastor Emily Beckering

## Healing the Threat of Scarcity

### SUCCESSFUL COLLECTION FOR VALLEY INTERFAITH BACK-TO-SCHOOL ITEMS



You worked to heal the threat of scarcity, which commandeers minds and hearts so easily, by your donations of glue sticks and folders. St. Paul collected 581 glue sticks and 211 folders for local students and delivered them to Valley Interfaith—almost double the number we were asked to give! Thank you for your generosity!

# Council Corner

## HEALING FEAR THROUGH CAREFUL PLANNING

Council is working avidly to provide for the safety of all who participate in the life of the congregation. Here is a summary of some of the key decisions and discussions of this month's council meeting:



*OCPA training*



1. Five members of our congregation attended a house of worship emergency preparedness planning introduction workshop with the Ohio Crime Prevention Association. That experience was so positive that Council voted this month to host the full-day workshop and to invite congregations in the Reading Church Council as well as our neighboring ELCA congregations in the Cincinnati area. We will keep you posted. There is a portion of the day during which our whole congregation can participate.

2. We discussed our Child & Youth Abuse Prevention policy and continue to take into consideration feedback from the Christian Education Committee and the congregation at large. Since a portion of the emergency preparedness workshop includes youth protection, we are waiting to update our policy until after we receive that training.

3. We elected officers and committee liaisons for the 2022-2023 year:

### **Officers**

President - Donald Harris  
Vice President - John Cathcart  
Secretary- Kathy Crosby  
Treasurer - Linda Miller

### **Committee Liaisons**

Christian Ed - John Cathcart  
Evangelism- Chet Laine  
Finance - Linda Miller  
Property - Jim Sturgill  
Social Concerns - Kathy Crosby  
Stewardship- Nelson Langefeld  
Worship and Music - Nick Huitger

## STEWARDSHIP OF OUR RESOURCES: DO YOU NEED OFFERING ENVELOPES?

Do you usually give your offering through our Vanco app, or by autopay from your bank? St. Paul's usage of offering envelopes has decreased as some members have begun to give via credit card or bank transfer instead of by check or cash. Please let Dennis King know whether you plan to continue using envelopes for your offering. This will help the Finance Committee decide how many boxes of envelopes to order for 2023.

Please contact Dennis King at [dennis@dennisking.com](mailto:dennis@dennisking.com) or 513-378-5464 to let him know whether you would like 2023 offering envelopes or not. You can call, text, or email your preference.

## Healing through Leadership

### THANKING AND INSTALLING COUNCIL MEMBERS



Council members work hard to steward the mission of this congregation and the well-being of the whole church. We gave thanks to Tom Pyle, Joy Niefield, and Carroll Mayhugh at the end of their term on Council. We installed Kathy Crosby, Nick Huitger, Linda Miller, and Jim Sturgill for the 2022-2023 term.

## Celebrations in August



- 1 Bess Sturgill
- 4 Noah Smith-Trondle
- 6 Carolyn Koehl
- 7 Ryan Coulehan
- 8 Jeff & Holly Ford**
- 10 Webb Grandy, Anna Smith-Trondle
- 11 James Dageforde

- 15 Kirstyn Kreiner
- 16 Kyra Cowan, Maci Lawson, Tom Pyle
- 19 Ed & Kathy Hirt**
- 22 Doug & Marty Lohmeier**
- 23 Charlotte Waddell
- 24 Rodney Bronner, Pat Coldiron
- 26 Bob Portmann
- 28 David & Amanda Peery**
- 31 Mark Burgjohann, Cole Grieger

# August Ministry Schedule

Date	Assisting Minister	Lesson Reader	Livestreamers
Aug. 7	Donald Harris	Sherry Bronner	Nick Huitger, Chet Laine
Aug. 14	Noah Moorhouse	Cindy Mayhugh	Carroll Mayhugh, Jim Miller
Aug. 21	Leandra Hawkins	Chet Laine	Noah Moorhouse, John Cathcart
Aug. 28	Carroll Mayhugh	Sherry Bronner	Patrick Cathcart, Nick Huitger

## Healing Isolation

### EVANGELISM COMMITTEE HOSTED MOVIE NIGHT

Evangelism Committee planned, many members served, and you provided a movie night for our congregation and community. Pop-corn, cotton candy, and snowcones were given to attendees. Children were welcomed with group outdoor games. It was definitely an evening of hospitality in Jesus’ name. After 2 years of the pandemic, this was a welcoming gathering which helped to attend to people’s feelings of isolation and loneliness. You were just what Jesus knew was needed.



## Support St. Paul With Your Household Shopping

*Did you know that St. Paul benefits from rewards programs through both Amazon and Kroger? Just follow the directions below to increase your church offering at no cost to yourself!*

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### KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS



Link your Kroger Plus Card to an organization, and all you have to do is shop at Kroger and swipe your Shopper's Card. Here's how it works:

#### **1. Create a Kroger account.**

A Kroger.com account is needed to participate in Kroger Community Rewards. (If you use pickup or delivery ordering, or the Kroger app, you likely have an account already.) If you already have a digital account, check that your Plus card is

linked to it. The Customer Service desk at the store can help.

#### **2. Link your Card to St. Paul.**

- Visit [kroger.com/account/communityrewards](https://www.kroger.com/account/communityrewards) and log in with your Kroger account.
- Search for "St. Paul Lutheran Church" or organization number TG880.
- Click the "Enroll" button under our church name and address.

Your selected organization will also display in the Kroger Community Rewards section of your account.

#### **3. St. Paul earns.**

Any future transactions which use the Kroger Plus Card number associated with your digital account will be applied to the Community Rewards program, at no added cost to you.

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### AMAZON SHOPPING



Just visit the St. Paul Amazon link at [smile.amazon.com/ch/31-6092774](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/31-6092774), log in with your Amazon account, and shop as usual! Once your Amazon account is linked to St. Paul, a percentage of the amount you spend will be donated to us each time you place an order.

## From the Presiding Bishop: “The Good Samaritan”

*This article was originally published in the February 2017 issue of Living Lutheran magazine.*

I have been thinking a lot about the parable of the good Samaritan lately (Luke 10:25-37). Parts of it are so familiar—the unfortunate victim, the robbers, the priest, the Levite, the Samaritan—that I miss points of deeper meaning. We all know the compassion and generosity of the Samaritan has become the standard by which we measure our response to suffering. Hospitals are named Good Samaritan. All 50 states have a Good Samaritan law on the books. I always imagined (or hoped) that I would act like the good Samaritan were I ever in a similar situation.

There are two other characters connected to this story that I don’t always think about: the lawyer and Jesus. Theirs was not a casual conversation. The lawyer was looking to test Jesus. “Teacher, he said, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

Jesus answers with a question: “What is written in the law?”

Being a good lawyer the man answered from Deuteronomy and Leviticus: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” Case closed. Conversation over.

But the lawyer couldn’t let it go: “Wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbor?’”

We know the man wanted to test Jesus and justify himself so his question was not an earnest inquiry about the Torah. Are some people my neighbor and some peo-

ple not? How far does hospitality have to extend? Can there be limits to compassion? What is reasonable: Family? People on my block? My congregation? Fellow citizens? And, conversely, whom can I exclude? People across town or around the world? Who is my neighbor?

It’s in answer to this question that Jesus tells the parable—a parable designed to be as provocative as possible.

We call the Samaritan “good” but that word is not found in Scripture. No Jew would call a Samaritan “good” nor would any Samaritan call a Jew “good.” Samaritans and Jews regarded each other as ceremonially unclean, socially outcast and heretical. They would not have come up automatically in the neighbor category.

It’s not clear that the beaten Jewish man would have been entirely thrilled that he had been helped and touched by the Samaritan. (Think of the All in the Family episode where Archie Bunker realizes he has received a blood transfusion from a Black doctor.)

Now it’s Jesus’ turn to ask a question: “Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?”

This becomes the question for us and for these times. When we ask, “Who is my neighbor?” we sort people into categories. Is the refugee my neighbor? Is the Muslim my neighbor? Is the Jew my neighbor? Is the Latina my neighbor? And on and on. This makes for increasingly smaller neighborhoods. And this question can be driven by fear and suspicion. Left to ourselves we turn in and away.

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## Healing Lives around the World with the Gospel

### YOUR OFFERINGS AT WORK THROUGH ELCA MISSIONARIES



In 1982, a month after their wedding, Mark and Linda Jacobson moved to Kenya. Three years later they accepted a call with the Lutheran Church in America, a predecessor church of the ELCA, to serve as community health workers with the Arusha Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT). Little did they know that they would become the ELCA's longest-serving active mission personnel, with 38 years of service.

“Mark and Linda Jacobson are the embodiment of a faithful servant of Christ,” said Rafael Malpica Padilla, ELCA executive director for Service and Justice. “Their whole life has been a life of accompaniment.” Mission Support, which funds ELCA mission personnel, makes the Jacobsons' work possible.

In the beginning, Mark, a doctor, supported Maasai community health workers in six small primary-care clinics. He quickly concluded that “prevention could only prevent a certain amount of disease; people still needed a place to go

when they were acutely ill.” So, with the ELCT, he developed one of the clinics into Selian Lutheran Hospital, which now provides care in orthopedics, fistula, hospice and other areas.

Then he and his team opened the Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre, creating training programs for medical officers and nurses and opening a rehabilitation center for children recovering from surgery. Mark said he's proud of the work he and his colleagues have done together and loves seeing his colleagues' skillful leadership of the medical center since he stepped down from his leadership role there.



After working briefly in one of the clinics and then in hospital labs, Linda focused on coordinating volunteers, offering hospitality and arranging housing for visiting medical students and interns. But her

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## Healing Lives around the World with the Gospel

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most substantial accomplishment may be the support group Widow's Might, launched to counter Tanzania's practice of disinheriting widows. When a Tanzanian woman's husband dies, their property goes not to her but to her in-laws. Not every widow's in-laws claim the inheritance, but Evelyn (last name withheld) and her children stood to lose their house. "I'm not going to fight my family," Linda remembers her saying. "I'm just going to work. God will help me." Together, Evelyn and Linda launched Widow's Might, whose members support their families by weaving, sewing, embroidering and beading.

Remembering her life in Tanzania, Linda is most struck by her neighbors' faith. "If things get really bad [here], we pray. My neighbors start by asking us what God wants to do. ... [I] am learning from this tremendous faith."



*To learn more about the Jacobsons, visit [livinglutheran.org/SOFIA](http://livinglutheran.org/SOFIA) for a link to the video documentary "Kuambatana (Accompaniment): The Ministry of Mark and Linda Jacobson".*

## From the Presiding Bishop: "The Good Samaritan"

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Thank God that God has not left us to ourselves. Our new life in Christ leads us to ask and answer a different question. Not, "Who is my neighbor?" but "How are we neighbor?"

The world is a dangerous place—just check any news source or social media. There are people who mean to do harm to our country. Fear and the threat of danger divide us and constrict us. But we live in

the hope of the resurrection and in the certainty of the redemption of the world through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We no longer ask, "Who is my neighbor?" The question is now, "How are we neighbor?"

The lawyer answered Jesus' question about who was neighbor to the man beaten by robbers with: "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, and to us, "Go and do likewise."

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton

## 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](mailto: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**; **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**; **Ron 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); **James Savoy** (Jean Winkle's great-grandson); **Scott Schadel** (friend of McDowell's); **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**.

At the death of: **Heather Segar**.

We pray for those with ongoing health concerns who are unable to come to church every week: **Louise Barry**, **Barbara Moorhouse**, **Jean Nolte**.

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);

# St. Paul Lutheran Church

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

## August 2022

### Mission Statement

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

513-821-0987 | [mail@stpaulreading.org](mailto:mail@stpaulreading.org)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>31 8 Pentecost</b> 10:30 am Worship (S) After Worship: New Members/Inquirers' Class (FH)	August 1	2	3	4 10:30 am Bible Study (N/Z)	5	6
<b>7 9 Pentecost</b> 10:30 am Worship (S) After worship: Evangelism Committee	8	9 6:30 pm Venture Scouts (FH)	10	11 10:30 am Bible Study (N/Z) 6 pm Scouts BSA (N/L) 7 pm Resurrection Now: Recovery Bible Study (L)	12	13
<b>14 10 Pentecost</b> 10:30 am Worship (S)	15 7 pm Council Meeting (FH)	16	17	18 10:30 am Bible Study (N/Z) 7 pm Resurrection Now: Recovery Bible Study (L)	19	20
<b>21 11 Pentecost</b> 10:30 am Worship (S)	22 Epistle Articles Due	23 6:30 pm Venture Scouts (FH)	24	25 10:30 am Bible Study (N/Z) 6 pm Scouts BSA (N/L) 7 pm Resurrection Now: Recovery Bible Study (L)	26	27
<b>28 12 Pentecost</b> 10:30 am Worship (S)	29	30	31	September 1 10:30 am Bible Study (N/Z) 7 pm Resurrection Now: Recovery Bible Study (L)	September 2	September 3

# St. Paul Lutheran Church

*Mission  
Statement:*

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

## Healing Our Minds



**BIBLE STUDY TO  
START  
“RESURRECTION  
NOW: RECOVERY  
AS A WAY OF LIFE  
FOR ALL OF GOD’S  
CHILDREN”**

A new evening Bible study starts August 11, which focuses on

how we can live the resurrected life now. This Bible study also investigates themes of recovery from addiction and how Jesus is the healer of our every ill. Thursdays at 7 pm in the library.

## St. Paul Lutheran Church

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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE