

The Epistle

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

May 2024



Gathered to Go . . . to study God's Word, Worship together; and to walk with Christ by loving, serving and nurturing all God's people where ever they are and whatever their circumstances.

From Pastor Lori

Dear Friends in Christ,

On May 19th we will gather with five other congregations on the Courthouse lawn for a joint Pentecost service. It's fitting for us to celebrate this particular festival with other churches because Pentecost marks the coming of the Holy Spirit to Jesus' followers after his ascension, as well as the beginning of the Christian Church's mission to the world. Worshipping with other Christians helps us recognize our common call to share the good news about the life that's available to all people through Jesus' death and resurrection. It reminds us that we don't do this work alone and acknowledges our dependence on the Holy Spirit to fulfill this call.

To kick off our celebration, I would like to share this affirmation of faith that highlights the Holy Spirit's role in our lives and world.

Affirmation: We Sing of the Spirit

We sing of God the Spirit,
 who from the beginning has swept over the face of creation,
 animating all energy and matter
 and moving in the human heart.

We sing of God the Spirit,
 faithful and untamable,
 who is creatively and redemptively active in the world.

The Spirit challenges us to celebrate the holy
 not only in what is familiar,
 but also in that which seems foreign.

We sing of the Spirit,
 who speaks our prayers of deepest longing
 and enfolds our concerns and confessions,
 transforming us and the world.

We offer worship
 as an outpouring of gratitude and awe
 and a practice of opening ourselves
 to God's still, small voice of comfort,
 to God's rushing whirlwind of challenge.
 Through word, music, art, and sacrament,
 in community and in solitude,
 God changes our lives, our relationships, and our world.

~ excerpted from Song of Faith of the United Church of Canada (2006). <http://www.united-church.ca/beliefs/statements/songfaith>

May we be a people of God who listens for the Spirit's voice and responds to the opportunities we have are given to be Christ's presence in the world today.

Blessings,
Pastor Lori

A quote from Martin Luther:
"We are all Christians, and must bear with each other and yield, in many things; for we are all one body, and we are placed together here on earth for the sole reason that we may, through love, serve one another."

May News from the Pews

Alleluia! He is risen! He is risen indeed! We have now entered the season of Early Pentecost beginning June 2 and continuing through August 25. This is the season of green so you will notice the green paraments as you enter the sanctuary. Our liturgy will consist of components from the new hymnal supplement All Creation Sings. We have been singing many of the beautiful hymns from this resource already. Our Hymn of Praise: **Glory to you, God** will be taken from Setting 12. The Communion Setting will be two different hymns: **Holy, Holy, Holy**, and **In This Feast of Love**. The Gospel Acclamation will be **Hallelujah**, which is a short hymn taken from All Creation Sings. This may seem like too many new things, but they are short pieces of our liturgy and the Worship and Music team feels they will become familiar very quickly. They are lovely and we hope you find that the change during the summer months is one that you enjoy.

We will be celebrating Pentecost by worshipping in the park with our Christian Brothers and Sisters from St. Mark's Episcopal; The United Methodist; The First Baptist; The Church of the Nazarene; and The Presbyterian Church. Join us for worship at 10:00 AM and remember to wear your **RED!**

We thank you for your flexibility in changing the way we are entering the sanctuary for worship. Many people like to go into the sanctuary and sit quietly before worship to pray and prepare their hearts and minds for worship. For this reason, one usher is now standing in the Narthex handing out bulletins and greeting you while the other usher is opening the door for you to enter the sanctuary. Keeping the doors closed allows for a quiet sanctuary as Peter plays before worship begins and it allows quiet time for those wishing to prepare for worship.

May 5, 2024

Psalm 98

1 John 5:1-6

Sixth Sunday of Easter

John 15: 9-17

May 12, 2024

Psalm 1

1 John 5:9-13

Seventh Sunday of Easter

John 17:6-19

May 19, 2024

Worship in the Park WEAR YOUR RED

PENTECOST

May 26, 2024

Isaiah 6:1-8

Psalm 29

Romans 8:12-17

Trinity Sunday

John 3:1-17

Come worship the Lord for we are His people!

Parking Lot Resealing



The parking lot is scheduled to be resealed and striped on the weekend of May 17-19. That's the Sunday of ecumenical Pentecost service at the courthouse park. New sealant needs 24 hours to cure. Hopefully, job will be complete for Monday, May 20. If there are work barriers up across driveways, please park across Hamilton Street in the small lot and walk across to the front doors.

Our new surface will include lined parking spaces. Our building gets lots of outside use. Please pay attention to the lines so we can avoid parking confusion at busy times.

Prayer Requests in Public Places

Prayer is an important part of our faith. It is one of the ways we support each other during times of illness, crisis and grief. This is a faithful and powerful practice. Our intentions are often in the best place. However, some people prefer to keep their situation private. If you would like to include someone on the prayer list in the bulletin, during worship or through an email, please ask for their permission to make it public. Thank you.

Feast and Flourish

The Living Well will be holding a fundraiser on **June 13th from 6-9 pm at Climbing Bines** (511 Hanson Point Road) to support their youth programs. Tickets are \$100 per person. Spring cocktail attire is requested. Contact Pastor Lori if you would like to purchase a ticket for this signature event.

Share Your Gift of Music

The choir will be taking a break this summer. If you are interested in sharing your gift of music during the offertory (either vocal or instrumental), please talk to Peter to arrange a date.



Loaves and Fishes

The Upstate NY Synod's Hunger Justice Team is asking congregations to participate in the "**Loaves and Fishes**" program for the ELCA World Hunger. We will collect money through the months of April and May to help support this endeavor. The money collected will be used towards Fish Farms and Irrigation Systems to help those communities in need.



Grab and Go Lunches



We will be responsible for the Grab and Go Lunches on **May 10th and May 24th**. On May 10th we will need four crockpots of chili, 5 dozen apples and 5 dozen individually wrapped cookies. We will need four crockpots of tuna and noodles, 5 dozen apples and 5 dozen individually wrapped cookies on May 24th. The sign-up sheet will be across from the office if you are able to help this time. You may contact **Amy (315-759-0901) or Jewel (315-719-8182)** if needed. Thank you for your help.

"Shower" Each Other with Messages of Love



Each month, we will "shower" someone from St. Paul's with messages of love. Please take a moment to send the person/s listed below a note of encouragement. May God use our communications to remind the recipient of God's faithful presence and love.



Hunger Offering for May

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me in.

Matthew 25:35

Each month we collect an offering to help feed hungry people and help hurting communities in our county and around the world. Sixty percent of the offering is used to combat world hunger. Forty percent is given to local organizations to help them “feed” people either physically, emotionally or spiritually. This month, the local part of our hunger offering will be given to **Yates County Christmas Program**.



Your offering can be placed in the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary or mailed directly to church. Remember to designate the amount you want to give on the hunger line of your envelope or write “Hunger Offering” on the memo line of your check.

Thank you for helping to care for our neighbors near and far!



Key Code Reminder

Just a reminder, for those who use the Key Code, please make sure to spin the numbers so the code is not left on the key code box. Thank you!

Getting to Know Your Neighbors Save the Date

On **May 4th**, the Finger Lakes Bronze Handbell Choir will present their Spring-Ring- A Ling Concert here at St. Paul’s! Invite your friends and family to join us at 3:00 pm for this delightful experience. Admission is free however, donations are gratefully accepted.

Office Hours for the Month of May

Please check the weekly announcements for the office hours. Jennifer is generally in every Tuesday late morning to early afternoon and Wednesday and Thursday mornings.

The Sharing Shed

Your continued help with the Sharing Shed is amazing. We have been keeping The Shed well stocked over the last few months and it is you that make it possible! Thank you to the many volunteers who stop by and refill it at least twice weekly and then some. Thank you to those of you who continue to bring in the necessary supplies that keep the shelves full so we can then stock The Shed. This is a vital ministry! God Blesses us so that we might be a blessing to others.

Exploring a New Ministry Opportunity

Paul's Place is a once-a-month program through the Living Well that provides respite care for people caring for someone with dementia. Guests come on the third Thursday of the month from 10:00 am -1:00 pm for social interaction, crafts, entertainment and lunch. We have provided the space and many of the volunteers for this program since it began. Unfortunately, The Living Well will not be sponsoring Paul's Place after June.

We are in the process of discerning whether or not to continue offering this program as a ministry of St. Paul's. In order to faithfully make this decision, we need your help. Would you be willing to volunteer at Paul's Place? (frequency is flexible) Help with crafts or special programming? Provide food for either lunch or a snack? **If so, contact Angie Bailey (315-521-0940) or Pastor Lori.**



Pastor Lori's Vacation



[REDACTED] if you have a pastoral emergency while she is away.

MAY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays



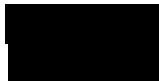
Anniversaries



*Mark your calendars, Mother's
Day is May 12th!*



Memorials



Penn Yan Area Council of Churches
Ecumenical Service
Praying for Creation

Tuesday
May 7, 2024
12:15pm

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
135 Hamilton Street
Penn Yan

In Person or Via ZOOM:
bit.ly/pyprayer

*All services are posted on the Penn Yan Area Council of Churches
YouTube page*



Those Who Serve – May

| | 5/5 | 5/12 | 5/19 | 5/26 |
|----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Assisting Ministers | Dorothy Oswald | Whitney Booth | XXXXXXXXXX | Elaine Gleason |
| Ushers (2) | | Terry and Sallie Jensen | XXXXXXXXXX | |
| Readers | Adrienne Foster | | XXXXXXXXXX | Adrienne Foster |
| Altar Guild | | | XXXXXXXXXX | |
| Sound Board | Charlene Nielsen | Charlene Nielsen | XXXXXXXXXX | |
| Computer | Various Volunteers | Various Volunteers | Various Volunteers | Various Volunteers |
| Counters | Adrienne Foster | Dave and Charlene Nielsen | XXXXXXXXXX | Adrienne Foster |

Thank You Notes

Thanks to your generosity of time, talents and dollars we were able to assemble 33 quilts. 24 personal care kits, 20 school kits and 6 baby kits. We would also like to thank Thrivent Financial for providing funding for materials for quilts and many items for the kits.

The Social Ministries Committee

To my St. Paul's Church Family,
Ever so many thanks for all
the cards, prayers, phone calls
and dinner during my recent
hip surgery and recuperation.
I truly appreciate your
thoughtfulness. Thank you.
Blessings,
Arlene Stillwell

4-5-24

to St. Paul's,

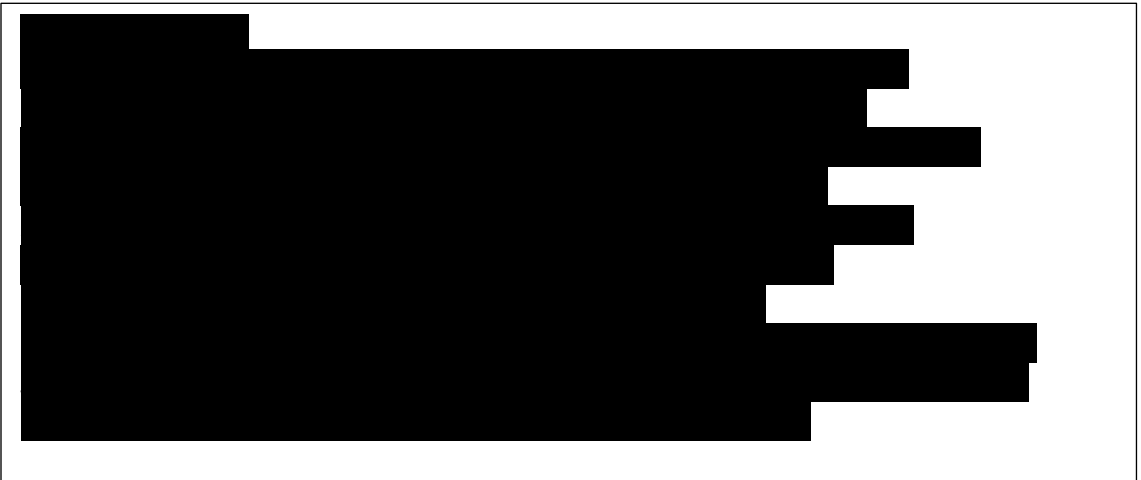
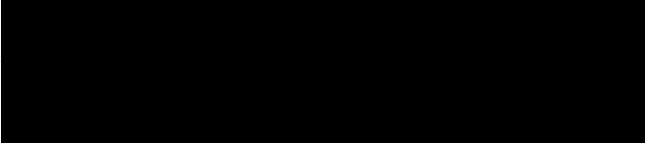
Thank you so much for your recent
contribution during our "soup-a-bowl"
collection.

We very much appreciate your
continued support of our mission.

Blessings to all -

The Living Well

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF



NEWS FOR THE JUNE 2024 EPISTLE IS DUE MAY 24TH