

The Epistle

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

August 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,

I'm the kind of person who likes answers to the "why" questions of life. Knowing why things happen or why they are done a certain way helps me understand, accept and find meaning. This curiosity includes the church. For example, have you ever wondered why we use liturgy in worship? Why are our services so "formal" compared to some of the other protestant denominations?

There are many reasons Lutherans utilize liturgy. Here are some of them:

Liturgy connects us to our historical roots. Parts of our it goes back to the time of the early church. They adapted and reformed liturgy from the Jewish synagogue, and the process has been going on ever since. Using liturgy reminds us that the race of faith is like a relay race that is handed down from generation to generation.

Liturgy is both God-centered and Christ-centered. This means that worship is focused on the activity of the Triune God that is centered in the person and work of Jesus Christ. In other words, worship isn't primarily about "me" or "we". It's about God reconciling the world to Himself and our inclusion in God's saving work through baptism.

Liturgy teaches about all of God's work for us. Every liturgical year cycles through the themes of creation, redemption and sanctification so we receive the "whole work of God" on a regular basis.

Liturgy unites us with worshipers around the world. I find great joy in knowing that I am hearing the same Scripture lessons on a Sunday morning as Christians around the world. Utilizing a liturgical format of worship connects us with these believers and equips us to be about the work of God's kingdom wherever we live.

I have lots of other "why" questions about church. How about you? Please share them with me so we can explore them together in future newsletters.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Lori

A Quote from Martin Luther

“We cannot give God anything; for everything is already his, and all we have comes from him. We can only give him praise, thanks and honor.” - *Martin Luther*



Vacation



Pastor Lori will be on vacation from August 19-26. Please contact Rev. Jonathan Deibler at 585-281-3595 if you have a pastoral emergency while she is away.

Church Council News

Meeting Our Core Value Goal – Worship

We identified worship as one of our core values. The Church Council set a goal of including five people in new areas of worship leadership by Christmas. A list of ways that you can share your gifts is on the next page. Please contact [REDACTED] if you would like more information about these roles or to learn how you can sign-up to serve.

Worship Leadership Roles

Altar Guild: works with another person to prepare communion before worship/wash and put away communion ware after worship.

Assisting Minister: helps the pastor lead worship by reading Scripture, leading the prayers and serving communion.

Choir: sings an anthem in worship biweekly and rehearses every week between September and May.

Counter: works with another person after worship to count the offering and drop off the deposit at Lyons National Bank.

Reader: (also known as lector) leads the litany at the end of the service and sometimes leads the Psalm and reads the Scripture.

Sound Board: monitors the microphones during worship to help worshipers hear the pastor, assisting minister and reader.

Usher: works with another usher to hand out bulletins and greet worshipers before the service begins. During worship, count the attendees, collect the offering and dismiss people for communion. After worship, turn out the lights and fans in the sanctuary and lock the outside doors.

Worship and Music Committee: meets monthly to plan the worship services.

Zoom: greets worshipers as they sign onto Zoom and monitor the power point during worship.

Social Ministry

The Sharing Shed

Thank you everyone for the support and all the paper products you donated during the month of July! That helped us stocked the shelves for sure. Paper products are always needed! For the month of August, we would like to concentrate on collecting KID FRIENDLY SNACKS! School is out and the kids are home. Some ideas are: Small packages of cookies, chips, pretzels; crackers with peanut butter or cheese; Granola bars; pop tarts; individual juice boxes or small bottles of juice; packages of fruit snacks. All of these can be found in the grocery store or The Dollar Tree! If everyone grabs one or two things and donates them, our shelves will fill up fast and then be given out in The Sharing Shed. A big THANK YOU to Les Wood for repairing The Sharing Shed for us! It looks wonderful!



Grab and Go Lunches



We are responsible for the Grab and Go lunches on **August 9th and August 23rd**. On **August 9th** we will be serving meatballs and sauce. Each crockpot will need to have 30 meatballs and covered with spaghetti sauce. Each person will be served 2 meatballs. Four crockpots will serve 60 people. We will also need 60 individually wrapped hotdog rolls, 60 individually wrapped cookies and 60 apples. On **August 23rd** we will serve hotdogs. We are just asking for 60 individually wrapped cookies and 60 apples. The hotdogs, rolls and potato chips are already covered. The sign-up sheet will be across the hall from the office. If you have questions, you may contact **Amy (315-759-0901)** or **Jewel (315-719-8182)**. Thank you for any help you may give this month.

Hunger Offering for August

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 **The Council of Churches**.



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!

Share Your Shoes!

Did you know, in the US alone, over 300 million pairs of shoes are thrown away per year? The materials used to manufacture a pair of shoes are created from chemical compounds that will create hazards to the earth, people, and animals when left to disintegrate openly or in landfills. By donating your gently worn, used, and new shoes to Keuka Comfort Care Home, your shoes are given a second chance to make a difference!

The community is invited to begin cleaning out their closets for a shoe drive to raise funds for the Keuka Comfort Care Home. What better time than back to school?? Donations will be accepted starting August 1! The amount of money raised is determined by the amount of shoes collected, so don't be shy! All types of footwear, slippers, and dance shoes are accepted, with the exception of skates, ski boots, and spin/Peloton shoes. All donated shoes will be redistributed by Funds2Orgs, a social enterprise, and used in developing nations!

A drop off box for your shoe donations will be available by the Social Ministry table in the narthex between during August and September. Thanks for supporting this important ministry!

Worship

News from the Pews

August 4, 2024

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

Psalm 51:1-12

Ephesians 4:1-12

John 6:24-35

Main Idea: Christ the Bread of Life

Hymn of the Day: What Feast of Love ELW 467

August 11, 2024

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

Psalm 130

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

John 6:35,41-51

Main Idea: Jesus provides bread that fills a deep hunger.

Hymn of the Day: O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts ELW 658

August 18, 2024

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

Psalm 111

Ephesians 5:15-21

John 6:51-58

Main Idea: Jesus promises us Eternal Life

Hymn of the Day: I Am the Bread of Life ELW 485

August 25, 2024

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

Psalm 84

Ephesians 6:10-20

John 6:56-69

Main Idea: Our faith lets us down and offends us sometimes. How do we respond?

Hymn of the Day: Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup ELW 492

September 1st: Ecumenical Worship in the Community Park

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHAT GOES INTO PLANNING A WORSHIP SERVICE?

Have you ever wondered about what goes into planning each Sunday morning's worship service?

The process begins with Pastor Lori. Pastor Lori gathers the lessons she will be preaching on for a Sunday morning. She captures the over-riding theme or main idea found in the scripture for the day. Pastor then selects three hymns for that Sunday based on the given lessons. The *Gathering Hymn* gathers us in as a congregation, beginning our service with praise and thanksgiving to God. The *Hymn of the Day* reflects the sermon that we have heard and with words and music enhances the spoken word of the lessons and of the sermon. The *Sending Hymn* ties everything from the service together and sends us out into the world, fed for the week to guide us in our daily lives. **All three hymns reflect the main idea of the sermon and spoken word of the lessons.**

When we enter a new season of the church year, Pastor looks at the Communion Setting, the Prayer for Illumination, The Creed, the Offertory Hymn, and the Benediction and shares the seasonal changes with the Worship Team which will be used throughout the season, such as Pentecost, Epiphany, Lent, Advent.

After all this is complete, Pastor Lori sends the information to the worship team members. The team is asked to read over the lessons, to look at the hymn suggestions, and then select hymns for communion which again enhance the spoken word for the day. The worship team does this piece before coming to the monthly meeting!

As the organist, Peter uses the information which Pastor Lori sends to the entire team to select the music he uses for the prelude, offertory, and postlude as well as the music he plays while we all enter church prior to worship at 10:00 AM. The hymn explanation which Peter provides each week in the bulletin, is based on the Hymn of the Day which Pastor Lori has selected.

The worship team meets once a month to plan for the month ahead. When Pastor Lori sends the Worship team members the lessons and hymn suggestions, it is for the four or five Sundays in the coming month. Pastor and the team plan the services, repeating each step for each Sunday of the month. We look at Pastor's suggested hymns, sometimes

changing them and then the team selects the communion hymns. We are careful to select hymns for communion which again enhance the theme of the day while selecting hymns which are familiar to the congregation.

Planning together is a wonderful process! We on the Worship Team hope that your worship time at St. Paul's is rich and meaningful. We hope that you see how all of the pieces “tie together” to enhance worship for you whether it is in spoken word, words of a hymn, or the music itself. Thanks be to God that we “GET TO” hear His Word and sing His praises each and every week and are blessed to go forth as His disciples in this world refreshed and renewed!

Your Worship and Music Team invites you to come and join them!

Those Who Serve

	8/4	8/11	8/18	8/25
Assisting Ministers	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Ushers (2)	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Readers				[REDACTED]
Altar Guild	[REDACTED]			
Sound Board			[REDACTED]	
Computer	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Counters	[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]	

Share Your Gift of Music

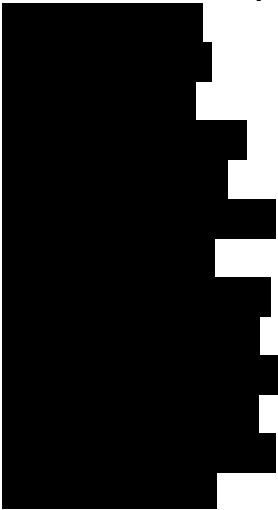
The choir will be taking a break this summer. If you are interested in sharing your gift of music during the offertory (either vocal or instrumental), please talk to Peter to arrange a date.



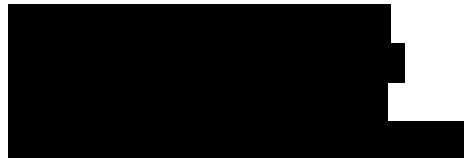
Congregational Care

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays



Anniversaries



Church Picnic

Join us for the annual Church Picnic immediately after worship on August 11th!



Memorials



“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.



Community Events

Penn Yan Fall Festival

The Penn Yan Downtown Business Council is hosting a Fall Festival on Saturday, November 2nd from 11-3. Local businesses, organizations and churches are invited to set up booths to add to the festivities.

Save the Date!

Community Worship Service in the Park on Sunday, September 1st at 10:00 am.
Bring a lawn chair!

Penn Yan Area Council of Churches
Ecumenical Prayer Service
Finding Rest in the Lord

Tuesday
August 6, 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*



HOPE Walk of Yates County

Resilience • Cancer • Courage
We Walk As One

SATURDAY
AUG 24

Penn Yan
Fireman's Field

WHEN

Saturday, August 24, 2024
4pm - 9:30pm
Free Admission for All

WHERE

Penn Yan Fireman's Field
[Behind Knapp and Schlappi Lumber]

Event Schedule

- ★ 4:00 pm: Opening Ceremony
- ★ 4:30 pm: Hope Walk Carnival
- ★ 6:00 pm: Survivors' Ceremony
- ★ 6:30 pm: Survivors' Dinner
- ★ 8:00 pm: Chinese Auction,
and Prepare Hope Walk Bags
around the track
- ★ 9:00 pm: Hope Bag Lighting
followed by Closing Ceremony
- ★ 9:30 pm: Festival Ends

BENEFITING

Yates County Residents who
have been diagnosed with
cancer and are receiving
treatment. All money raised
stays in Yates County.

The Board of Directors would like to say
"Thank You" to all of our wonderful
sponsors that continue to support us
making it possible to help so many
residents of Yates County
We look forward to seeing you next year!

★ All Donations Stay Local ★

FEATURING • Chinese Auction • Bounce House
• Food • Live Music • Carnival Games • Silent Auction

Grants up to \$1,000 available to Yates County
residents receiving cancer treatments.

WWW.HOPEWALKOFYATESCOUNTY.ORG

Reminders




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.

Office Hours for the Month of August

Please check the weekly announcements for the office hours. Hours will be varied due to the school summer vacation.



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF



NEWS FOR THE SEPTEMBER 2024 EPISTLE IS DUE AUGUST 23RD