

The Epistle

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

September 2024



September

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,

Before I went to seminary, I served on a Mission in Transition Team for a church in Rochester. I found the work of accompanying another congregation while they grieved the loss of their pastor and discerned the Spirit's guidance for the future to be interesting and meaningful. I experienced what Paul encourages us to do in Romans 12:15, *'Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.'*

Recently, I was offered another opportunity to accompany a congregation in transition. The Synod asked me to serve as the transition pastor at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Corning. This opportunity is in addition to my call to St. Paul's, not in place of it!

Starting September 1st, I will arrange supply pastors for Emmanuel, attend their Church Council and congregational meetings, and be available for pastoral care, administration, emergencies and other duties as needed. Some of this work can be done virtually. The contract is for up to 20 hours a month. Being a 3/4 call pastor gives me the time and flexibility to do this work along with my responsibilities at St. Paul's.

I am excited about serving God's church in this role. Emmanuel and St. Paul's have similar demographics. Like us, they are committed to sharing the love of Christ through acts of service in their community and around the world. Like us, they have questions about what it means to be the Body of Christ in this particular time and place. Like us, they have hopes and dreams for the future of their congregation and the church. It is my hope that our congregations can learn from each other and as a result, deepen our understanding of what it means to be church together.

Please keep the people of Emmanuel Lutheran Church in your prayers. And let me know if you have any questions about my decision to serve as a transition pastor.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Lori

A Quote from Martin Luther

“The best way to get rid of the Devil, if you cannot kill it with words of Holy Scripture, is to rail at and mock him. Music, too, is very good; music is hateful to him, and drives him far away” - *Martin Luther*



Lutherans are imperfect, but we know we are loved and forgiven. We come from different backgrounds and identify in different ways, with a commonality in our conviction that our unconditionally loving Creator and Redeemer offers us mercy, forgiveness, an eternal life as a free gift - we call it God's grace.

We love Jesus, and we remember he told us to love ourselves, our neighbors, and our God.

We trust that the Holy Spirit is always at work within and around us, guiding us into joyfully expressing that love through service, justice, and worship.

We try to be welcoming,
and we like to think our catch phrase is kinda cool:
God's work. Our hands.

Church Council News

Stewardship and Giving

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am writing to give you an update on our financial position since my last communication with you in the July Epistle. I'm pleased and grateful to tell you that the stewardship of your time, talent and treasures has been thankfully received. In addition to closing the gap between our expenses and income we have also seen our goal of increased worship participation met and exceeded. Through the month of July, we have a budget shortfall of just over \$6,000. This is a vast improvement from where we were after the end of May. If we continue to see the same level of giving over the next 5 months, we should end the year close to breaking even or perhaps better, assuming we don't incur additional expenses that are not captured in our budget.

While this is good news for 2024, we face the reality that our fixed costs will be increasing year over year, particularly in the areas of utilities, insurance and maintenance to name a few. This becomes a challenge when we set about developing a budget for the next calendar year without a firm sense of our projected operating income. For this reason, the church council has asked our finance committee to develop a plan to implement a stewardship campaign in the coming year. The campaign will focus on collecting giving pledge commitments from our membership that will be used in the preparation of future budgets. We will be providing you with more information about this stewardship campaign as details become available.

Again, as always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact me or a Council member and we will do our best to address them. Thank you.

In His service,

Brian Foster

Church Council Core Values

Worship was defined as one of our five Core Values. The Council set the Goal for this Core Value to be: Increase the Worship Leadership on Sunday mornings by 5 people trying something different in the various leadership roles. A coffee hour was held and the various leadership roles explained. We are now thrilled to say that this goal has been met and exceeded by 4. Thank you to all who are willing to try “something new” in worship on Sunday mornings. Many have signed up and some have even begun in their new role. Remember the sign-up sheet is across from the office and if you have questions, don't hesitate to ask! Thanks be to God for everyone's willingness to serve.

Faith Formation

Fall Faith Formation Opportunities

Join us this fall to grow in your life of discipleship through study and conversation.

The Wednesday morning group will do for a 12-week study that looks at what the lives of twelve remarkable people from the Old Testament can teach us about living faithfully today. Classes meet from 10:30-noon both in person and on zoom. Classes start on September 4th.

The Sunday morning group will do a 13-week study on the letter to the Hebrews and what it teaches us about looking forward to what God has planned for the church and creation. Classes meet before worship from 8:30 – 9:30 am. Classes start on September 8th.

Everyone is welcome! Contact Pastor Lori if you would like to reserve a book for one/both of the classes or if you have questions about Faith Formation at St. Paul's.



FAITHFormation

Social Ministry

The Sharing Shed

Your help in managing our Sharing Shed is appreciated and needed. The same folks seem to be helping all the time and we would love to see others take a turn. It needs to be replenished two or three times during the week. The items are found in the Community Room on the shelves and it takes about 5-10 minutes to gather them and put them in The Shed. There is a schedule on the bulletin board where you can sign up to help. Sign up for just a week at a time. You pick the day you want to fill it. If there is no one at church, text or call Elaine Gleason (315-730-0629) and she will let you know how to get in! **For the month of September, The Shed needs: Household Supplies: Laundry detergent, fabric softener, dish washing soap, Clorox Wipes, Etc.**

Thank you for your continued support.

Grab and Go Lunches



September 13th and September 27th are the next dates for Grab and Go Lunches. On September 13th we will need 4 large bowls of pasta salad, 5 dozen individually wrapped cookies and 5 dozen apples. The Living Well needs us to put the food in containers here at church for September 13th. We will start that at 10:30 AM so we can deliver the bag lunches before 11:30 PM. On

September 27th we will need 4 crockpots of chili, 5 dozen individually wrapped dinner rolls, 5 dozen individually wrapped cookies and 5 dozen apples. The sign-up sheet will be across from the office. If you have questions, you may contact **Amy (315-759-0901)** or **Jewel (315-719-8182)**. We always appreciate your help. Thank you so much.

Hunger Offering for September

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 **Millie’s Pantry**.



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?? 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 September. Thanks for supporting this important ministry!

Worship

Save the Date!

For Brunch Church on September 29! Sign-up on the bulletin board across from the church office to bring a dish to share.



Community Worship in the Park

On September 1st we will gather on the courthouse lawn at 10:00 am with our Siblings in Christ from five other churches for a community worship service focused on "The Labor of Peacemaking." The offering will go to a local agency that is dedicated to promoting peace in our community. Bring a lawn chair!



Please note that there won't be worship in our church building on September 1st or on Zoom. Contact Pastor Lori if you would like a ride to the service.

September News from the Pews

September 1, 2024

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

Ecumenical Worship in the Community Park

September 8, 2024

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

Psalm 146

James 2:1-10, 14-17

Mark 7:24-37

Hymn of the Day: Healer of Our Every Ill ELW 612

September 15, 2024

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

Psalm 116:1-9

James 3:1-12

Mark 8:27-38

Hymn of the Day: Take Up Your Cross ELW 667

September 22, 2024

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

Psalm 54

James 3:13-4:3

Mark 9: 30-37

Hymn of the Day: Lord Whose Love In Humble Service ELW 712

September 29, 2024

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

BRUNCH CHURCH

The Worship and Music Team hopes everyone will join together to worship with our friends in Christ on Sunday September 1, 2024 in the Community Park on Main Street. Be sure to bring your chair and a friend!

Beginning September 8th and going through November 24th, we enter what is called “**Late Pentecost**”. These Sundays will take us to Christ the King Sunday on November 24th. With “Late Pentecost” comes a few changes in our liturgy: We will use **Setting Four** in the ELW for our Communion Liturgy which includes: The Glory to God (p.148); The Gospel Acclamation (p.151); The Holy, Holy, Holy (p. 153); and The Lamb of God (p. 154). We will return to the **traditional Apostles Creed**; and use As Saints of Old vs.3 (ELW 695) for our Offertory Hymn. The Prayer for Illumination, The Post Communion Prayer, and the Benediction will also change for this time period.

September 29, 2024 is the Fifth Sunday of the month. We will once again have “Brunch Church. Please watch your bulletins for more information as the day draws nearer.

In September we will be returning to using the glass communion glasses which we used every Sunday before COVID. It is the thought of the Worship team, that we will save money by not purchasing the plastic glasses and we will also be more “green” conscious because we won't be throwing away the plastic each week. Let us know what you think! The **Worship and Music Team meets Thursday September 12, 2024 at 11:00 AM**. Please join us!

“As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word, help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred. Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own; teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's victory known.”
Vs. 1 ELW 522 As We Gather at Your Table

Those Who Serve

	9/1	9/8	9/15	9/22	9/29
Assisting Ministers	████	██████	████████	██████████	████
Ushers (2)	████				████
Readers	████	██████	████████	████████	████
Altar Guild	████				████
Sound Board	████	██████	██████	██████	████
Computer	████	██████	██████	██████	████
Counters	████	██████	████████		██████

Congregational Care

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays



Anniversaries



“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.

This month we are “showering” **Steve Nussbaumer** with our love. His address is: 



Memorials

Richard Nielsen

Phil Darrow

Community Events

Volunteers Needed

As we prepare for Dream Catchers to re-open in a few weeks we have had some of our helpers need to back away from volunteering. Leaving us shorthanded, I am reaching out in hopes that you can share our need for volunteers in your bulletins and help us spread the word. **We are in special need for Penn Yan Monday, Wednesday and Fridays 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm and in Dundee Tuesday and Thursday 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm.** We also have other opportunities within the office or other programs if anyone is interested. Please contact Kim Lyons with the Living Well at

Kim@thelivingwellmission.org Office: (315) 536-0838 Ext. 101 or Allie Griffin at
1allie@thelivingwellmission.org

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.

Pig Roast for Keuka Comfort Care Home

We are in the process of planning our annual Pig Roast for Keuka Comfort Care Home. As you likely already know, a big part of this fundraiser is our pie wheel! We make a great profit from this fun activity, and it is something that the community looks forward to every year. For anyone interested to bake and donate pies to the pie wheel the date of the pig roast is **September 15, from 3:30-6:30 at the Valley Inn.** The pies can be brought to the house the day before or directly to the event. We have boxes at the house that people are welcome to pick up at no charge to put their pies in if needed. Thank you for your help with this!

**Penn Yan Area Council of Churches
Ecumenical Prayer Service
*For Students and Schools***

**Tuesday
September 3, 2024
12:15pm**

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

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



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 September



Thank You Notes



P.O. Box 391
Penn Yan, New York 14527

August 19, 2024

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
135 Hamilton St.
Penn Yan, NY 14527

Dear Church Friends,

This is to recognize your generous donation of \$100 which was received on August 17, 2024. We appreciate your support of our work to provide affordable housing for the needy in Yates County. **Thank you very much!**

Our current project, our 20th home, is a 3 bedroom new build on Cedar Street in Keuka Park. The upper level is essentially complete. The walk out basement interior is nearing completion with door, trim and flooring installation underway or on the agenda. Exterior siding is nearly complete with a deck and landscaping to follow. Hope to celebrate with an open house and dedication this fall. The to be homeowner has contributed to this progress as she works to fulfill her sweat equity requirements.

And then it will be on to Dundee for our next project, a demolition and rebuild. In addition, we recently acquired another building site in Keuka Park which further defines our future goals. Thank you for helping to make all this possible.

Sincerely and in behalf of all our volunteers and future homeowners,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard D. Smith".

Richard D. Smith
YCHFH Treasurer

Thank you for being a part of our Pill Bottle Recycling Program! We appreciate your support and your commitment to caring for our environment.

Did you also know that in 2023 Matthew 25: Ministries shipped more than 33 million pounds of aid to partners across 39 states and to over 35 international destinations—helping more than 40 million people worldwide? Additionally, we are featured on Forbes' 2023 list of America's Top 100 Charities and are a 4-star charity on Charity Navigator.

Your donations of cleaned and capped pill bottles help provide much-needed medical supplies to partners in developing countries, and there are many additional ways that you can support Matthew 25: Ministries and help us provide hope to people facing hardship. Financial gifts, product collections, and more could help amplify your impact and help us to bring hope to even more people in need. Visit m25m.org for more information on ways to help.

Thank you for your support of this program, and thank you for caring for people in need worldwide.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jodi Archer".

Jodi Archer
Director of Programs & Community R

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF



NEWS FOR THE OCTOBER 2024 EPISTLE IS DUE SEPTEMBER 20TH