

The Epistle

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

June 2026



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 Siblings in Christ,

One of my greatest joys is worshiping with you on Sunday mornings. As we gather to hear God's Word and eat God's meal, our faith is strengthened and we are empowered to do the ministry God has entrusted to us.

I also find great joy in planning worship services. This includes choosing components for the service that will communicate the nature and meaning of each liturgical season as well as hymns that support the message from the assigned Scripture readings for the day.

While I was planning the Season after Pentecost, which is the longest season on the liturgical calendar, I decided to utilize Service of the Word on the fourth Sunday of the month. The pattern of this service follows the same the pattern as the Service of Holy Communion without the sacrament. Some congregations celebrate Service of the Word occasionally. Others use it on a regular basis.

The ELW describes Service of the Word like this, "Gathered by the Holy Spirit, we hear and proclaim the saving word of God for all the world. We give thanks for that saving word and all the gifts of God, who then sends us to share the good news we have received and to care for those in need." (page 210)

I believe that utilizing Service of the Word on the fourth Sundays of the Season after Pentecost will help to break up this long liturgical season. It will also give our lay leaders the opportunity to lead worship if I am on vacation or using one of the extra six Sundays that I am allotted as a 3/4 call pastor.

The Church Council and Worship and Music Committee are both supportive of this plan. Please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns about using this service format. I am happy to talk with you about it.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Lori

A Quote from Martin Luther

"In danger and distress such as we experience in perilous times like ours, we should not suffer a day to pass without committing ourselves in prayer to the care and protection of Almighty God, asking Him to be with us and to preserve us in every trouble."

House Postil, Trinity

Church Council News

Finance and Accounting Update

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Church Council, after several months of due diligence, made the decision to outsource our bookkeeping requirements to a third party, Carrier Bay Business Services. This change became effective on May 1. This decision was made for several reasons. First and foremost, the complexity of maintaining our accounting ledgers using financial software continues to grow. Profit and loss, balance sheet and performance to budget statements all must be published monthly. We now have 201-line items in our chart of accounts with 123 approved vendors. Our balance sheet has grown to over \$372,000 as of the end of April. In the interest of best practice fiduciary responsibility, the Council took this action.

Secondly, this change provides stability with respect to our accounting function over time. In the past we have struggled with transitioning the responsibility for accounting and bill payments after Church Council elections. We are also formalizing our banking relationships such that the Vice President and Secretary on the Church Council are the legal representatives for St. Paul's.

Carrier Bay will be responsible for all bill payments and expense reimbursement payments. Our Administrative Assistant, [REDACTED], will be sending copies of invoices and expense and bill payment requests electronically to Carrier Bay weekly. Payments will be sent out from Carrier Bay by mail if no direct deposit or electronic payment option is available. It is very important that those who are submitting a payment request fill out a Funds Disbursement form. These forms are located next to the mailboxes in the narthex. This information is necessary to make sure payments are sent out in a timely manner and the expense is correctly allocated. Please have a Council Member or Committee Chair approve the request for payment. Completed forms can be placed in the Treasurer mailbox.

As part of this change, [REDACTED] has resigned her position as Treasurer. I want to thank Ingrid for all the hard work that she put into that role, starting with

training all the way back to August of last year. Her example of service is a model for all of us.

Yours in Christ,

Brian Foster

President

The Church Council meeting minutes are posted on the bulletin board next to the church office window in the narthex.

Social Ministry

“Let the Children Come”

THANK YOU! Thank you so much for your generosity to the Synod Challenge. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] to send to Synod. This money will be used for the care and feeding of orphans and vulnerable children. The generosity of this congregation is always amazing. Thank you for what you do!

Grab and Go



Grab & Go will be providing 60 lunches for the Living Well on **Thursday, June 11 and June 25**. Please check the sign up sheet to see what ingredients we will need to prepare these meals, and to sign up to be a helper. We will also need store bought cookies and apples. Food items need to be here at church by noon on the

Wednesday before cooking day, which is Thursday. Thank you for all of your help in making this ministry a success for The Well!

Hunger Offering for June

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 and hurting people who live in the Penn Yan area and around the world. Sixty percent of the offering is used to combat world hunger. Forty percent is given to a local organization to help them “nourish” people physically, emotionally or spiritually. This month, the local portion will be given to **Yates County Food Program/Proaction**

Your offering can be placed in the offering plate or mailed directly to church. Please designate the amount you want to give on the “Hunger” line of your envelope or by writing “Hunger Offering” on the memo line of your check.

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

PILL BOTTLES



We have been collecting pill bottles for quite a while. This is a ministry called Matthew 25: Ministries. We collect clean prescription bottles with no labels, glue or residue and mail them to Matthew 25: Ministries. The bottles should be washed in very hot water and dish soap, labels and glue removed, thoroughly dried, caps on. The bottles are sent to countries, such as Africa, where they have no access to containers to keep their medicines safe. They use the bottles we and others collect to keep the medicines from disintegrating or spoiling before use. We are continuing this ministry and there is a basket on the Social Ministry table for the pill bottles. Thank you for continuing to help with this ministry, Matthew 25: Ministries.

Sharing Shed

Summer vacation is fast approaching! Needs for the Sharing Shed:

Kid friendly individually wrapped snacks
Spaghetti O's, or any canned pasta
Granola bars
Family size cereal



Thank you for your continued support.

Worship

June News from the Pews

The Worship and Music Team met in May and planned the worship services for the month of June. We are now entering the time in the worship year known as Early Pentecost. This is a season of green and is from Pentecost Sunday May 24 to Labor day in September.

During this time of Early Pentecost, we will use an "Affirmation of Faith" in place of the traditional Apostle's Creed. The words will be different, but the meaning in our lives the same. Our Gospel Acclamation will be the familiar hymn "Open Your Ears, O faithful People"; the Offertory Hymn will be "Lord of Light"; and our Hymn of Praise will be another familiar hymn: "Give to Our God Immortal Praise."

There are four Sundays in June. Please check the sign up sheets for ways that you can serve during worship. Your help in worship is always needed and most appreciated.

"Come Worship the Lord, for We are His People"

Worship Leadership

	6/7	6/14	6/21	6/28
Assisting Ministers				
Ushers (2)				
Greeters				
Readers				
Altar Guild				
Sound Board				
Computer				
Counters				

Congregational Care

“Shower” Each Other with Messages of Love

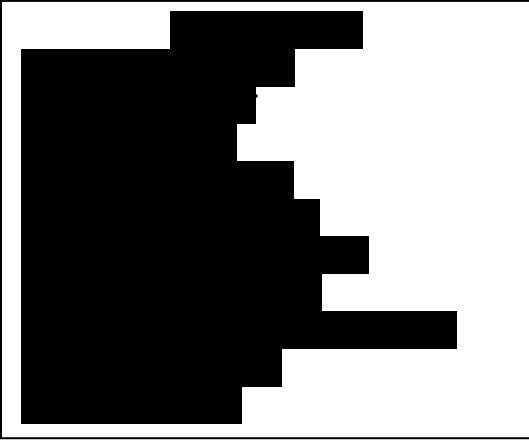


Each month, we “shower” someone from our St. Paul’s family with messages of love and encouragement. This month we are showering

[REDACTED]

. Please take a moment to send them a note to remind them of God’s faithfulness and love.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



Check Out the Puzzle Shelf!

If you're looking for a way to help pass the cold hours of winter, check out our puzzle shelf in the fellowship hall, which has been relocated to the white shelving unit next to the back door. We have a large assortment of puzzles ranging from 300 – 1000 pieces. Feel free to take one home and either return it to church for someone else to use or pass it on to a friend. Donations are always welcome and appreciated.

Reminders

Available Copies



Copies of Christ in Our Home devotionals for July through September are available on the table in the Narthex.

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 June

Please check the weekly announcements for the office hours! [REDACTED] is normally in on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm. School summer vacation will be starting toward the end of June. Once school is out, please call the office before stopping in if you need Jennifer since her hours will be greatly varied.

*Mark your calendars, Father's Day is
June 21st!*



Community Events

Community Prayer Service

Join us on Tuesday, June 2 at 12:15 pm at St. Paul's for a prayer service, The Fruit of the Spirit.



Volunteer Want Ads

Habitat for Humanity

Provide lunch for the Saturday workers
[REDACTED]

The Living Well

Various opportunities to support the programs that serve adults and children in need in our community.
[REDACTED]

Penn Yan Community Café

Help prepare and serve meals to the community on the second and last Tuesday of every month.
[REDACTED]

Yates Christmas Program

Provides a program to ensure that no child in Penn Yan and Dundee School Districts goes without during the holiday season. Donate items, help distribute items, bell ringing
[REDACTED]

Literacy Volunteers

Volunteer to tutor, help as an office volunteer. Literacy Volunteers serves both native English speakers and those learning English as a second language. Tutoring is done in English, no foreign language skill is required. Tutors receive free training and ongoing staff support as they work one-on-one with learners. Office volunteers provide a variety of support to staff. [REDACTED]

Thank You Notes

Dear Saint Paul's Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generous gift to Care Net. You are enabling us to continue with this ministry to men and women in our area.

May God bless you as you continue in service to Him!

Blessings from,

The Penn Yan Care Net Team

5/26

Thank you so much for your donations to the pet food drive this year. Your donations will help keep Gates Co pets healthy and out of shelters this year. We really appreciate your thoughtfulness

Sincerely
- Mike & Ona Beard
Pet Partner Connection

Results from the Ingathering 2026 at St Paul Lutheran Church, Hilton NY

We had 20 churches that participated.

1179 quilts

17 Fabric kits

110 Personal Care kits

287 School kits

99 Baby kits

Thank you to all of you who participated. What a joy to join with all of you in this mission. God has richly blessed us.

A few things to remember for next year from the LWR website:

Use strong boxes

Each box should contain no more than 35 pounds

Fill the box completely

Place a label on the box with the contents and your church address

Please use smaller boxes. Egg boxes are the perfect size. We need to be able to easily stack the boxes and load the truck when it arrives.

Dear Friends,

On behalf of Milly's Pantry and the children and families of Yates County, I would like to thank you for your fundraising donation in the amount of \$3000 for support of our mission and programming. Your gift will help to provide supplemental weekend food and essential school supplies for the youth of Yates County.

We value your thoughtfulness and are grateful for the funds received to help maintain our programming and carry on Milly Bloomquist's legacy of charitable work.

From all of us at Milly's Pantry and the children we serve, thank you for supporting our mission and fostering hope within our community.

In gratitude,



Janet H. Barrett
President
Milly's Pantry Board of Directors
Milly's Pantry, Inc.

Dear St. Paul's Lutheran Church:

Families throughout Yates County will have special memories to cherish at Christmas because of your generous donation to the Yates Christmas Program.

Without support like yours, there is no way we could give the gift of Christmas — toys, clothing, socks and underwear, hats, gloves, dental items, books, and games — to approximately 700 children each year.

We truly appreciate your donation of \$50.00 for your tax purposes, we want to assure you that we operate as a 501-c-3 charitable organization, and no goods or services were provided in exchange for your donation.

People like you are what make the Yates Christmas Program successful, by allowing us to continue to provide gifts to local families for 50 + years.

With sincere thanks,

Yates Christmas Program Team

Donna Johnston

May 8, 2026

135 Hamilton Street
Penn Yan, New York 14527

Dear St. Paul's, Lutheran Church:

Families throughout Yates County will have special memories to cherish at Christmas because of your generous donation to the Yates Christmas Program.

Without support like yours, there is no way we could give the gift of Christmas — toys, clothing, socks and underwear, hats, gloves, dental items, books, and games — to approximately 700 children each year.

We truly appreciate your donation of \$3,000.00 for your tax purposes, we want to assure you that we operate as a 501-c-3 charitable organization, and no goods or services were provided in exchange for your donation.

People like you are what make the Yates Christmas Program successful, by allowing us to continue to provide gifts to local families for 50 + years.

With sincere thanks,

Yates Christmas Program Team

Donna Johnston

*Thank you!
Donna J.*