

The Epistle

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

July 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,

Keith and I have some exciting news to share with you. We have purchased a house in Victor. It has always been our plan to build a house on the property we own across from our former farm when I retire. This plan changed when former neighbors approached us about purchasing their house. After much thought and deliberation, we decided to take them up on their offer.

The original part of the house was built in 1860. It sits on 15 acres that includes a historic barn and another barn that is home to five horses (which are cared for by their owners!). We were drawn to this property for its natural beauty, historic charm and because it is located across the street from our daughter and her family.

We are in the process of having the bathrooms renovated, some floors refinished and the inside of the house painted. Once that work is done, Keith and I will split our time between the house in [REDACTED] and our house on the lake. I will continue to be in the office on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Keith and I will be in Penn Yan on Sunday mornings to lead Faith Formation and worship and to coordinate Zoom. If you need me for a pastoral emergency while I am Victor, please call my cell phone at [REDACTED]

We would love to have you stop by and visit once we get settled. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Grace and peace,
Pastor Lori

A Quote

In a world so torn apart by rivalry, anger and hatred, we have the privileged vocation to be living signs of a love that can bridge all division and heal all wounds.

~Henri Nouwen

Church Council News

DO YOU LOVE ICE CREAM?

Help plan the Back to School Ice Cream Social to be held on the lawn at St. Paul's on Thursday September 3.

As part of our Connectivity Goal and one of the outcomes of the Council Retreat, the church Council has decided to hold a "back to school" ice cream social for the neighborhood on Thursday September 3 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. The date is set, a few ideas are forming, and we could use a few more voices and ideas from you, the members of the congregation. If you would like to help with this one time event, please **see Elaine Gleason and let her know if you would be willing to serve on the team to help plan and organize this fun time.** Other folks will be needed for the event and sign up sheets will be popping up.

From the Property Team

The Property Team has been busy this spring cleaning out the church garage and arranging for lawn mowing and landscaping. We'd like to thank Becky and Leonard Vaughan for their support of the flower gardens and bushes around the church building. We'd also like to thank Les Wood, Steve Nussbaumer and John Dubbs for their time and energy towards spring cleaning.

Much thanks goes out to Les Wood for being the Property Team representative in the church efforts to get the new media system up and running. He has put many hours into the project and continues to fine tune the process.

The Property Team will be meeting on July 5th after the church service. Feel free to join in as we discuss summer projects!

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

Summer Faith Formation

Before Jesus left this world, he gave specific encouragement and instructions to his disciples on what to expect and how to live after he had gone. These words still apply to his disciples today. Join us this summer for an eight-session study that looks at Jesus' farewell to his disciples in John 14-17 and discover what it means to abide in Christ during the time between his departure and his second coming. Classes will meet on Wednesday mornings from 10:30-noon starting **July 1st**. You can attend in person or on Zoom! Contact Pastor Lori if you have any questions.

Social Ministry

Living Well

The Living Well will be having their "Pan-tree" collection again this July. We will have a Christmas tree in the Narthex with Pan-tree "ornaments". Please choose an "ornament" and fill the wish on the tag. These items are to fill the Living Well pantry. You may bring the items to church or take them directly to the Living Well. Some tags may have a larger list of things than others. You may want to have a couple of people work together to fill the wish on a tag. If you have any questions, please ask Amy [REDACTED]. Thank you for your help in this ministry.



Keuka Comfort Care Home

Keuka Comfort Care Home is again collecting shoes as a fund raiser. There will be a box in the Narthex to collect the shoes. We take shoes, boots and sandals. This will be going on the month of July.



Grab and Go



Grab & Go will be providing 60 lunches for the Living Well on **Thursday, July 9 and July 23.** (It is always the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of the month). 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 fruit (we are taking a little break from apples, and going with small oranges or grapes- just check to see what is on the sign up sheet). Please have food items her at church by noon on the Wednesday before cooking day, which is Thursday. Thank you for your continued support of this ministry for the Living Well!

Hunger Offering for July

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 **The Living Well.**

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!

Sharing Shed

We really need folks to take the responsibility of filling The Shed twice a week. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board or contact Elaine Gleason with any questions.

The Sharing Shed Wish List for July

Family size boxes of cereal

Individual drink boxes or bottles: Juice, ice tea, fruit punch;
Gatorade

Personal Care items for Sensitive Skin: Shampoo,
conditioner,
soaps, deodorant, laundry soap and rinse



Thank you for your continued support and generosity!

Sharing Shed Shoppers Needed

The Sharing Shed provides food and personal care and household cleaning supplies to people in our community. One of the ways YOU can contribute to this ministry is by shopping for these items.

Volunteers are asked to shop once or twice a month for items for the Shed. You can shop alone or with another volunteer. A prepaid VISA card is available to use at Dollar Tree to purchase the items. (Contact Pastor Lori to pick up the card) A list of needed items will be provided at the beginning of each month.

A sign-up sheet is available on the bulletin board across from the church office. Talk to Pastor Lori if you have any questions about shopping for the Sharing Shed.

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.

Worship

July News from the Pews

Thank you to Peter and the Choir for enhancing our worship services throughout the church year. The blending of your voices brings the congregation joy in the words of the anthems you sing. Enjoy your summer break and we will "hear" you in September.

During our summer months, on June 28, July 26, and August 23 we will celebrate worship with Service of the Word. What this means is there will be no Holy Communion on those Sundays. Pastor Lori will preach on June 28 and Astuti Bijiefeld, the Nursing Home Chaplain, will be with us July 26.

We continue in the **season of Early Pentecost** where the paraments are green as a sign of growth. **Our lessons** lead us to the work of being disciples in the world. **The liturgy leads** us in this direction each week with words and phrases such as: "to witness among all peoples"; "to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace"; "strengthen us to the love the world"; and to "love and love in the way of Jesus Christ". We are to carry those and other words we hear and speak with us into our lives and act on them daily.

The **Worship and Music Team** meets again on Tuesday July 14 at 11:00 AM. Please join us.

Worship Leadership

	7/5	7/12	7/19	7/26
Assisting Ministers	████████	████████	██████	
Ushers (2)			██████████	
Greeters		██████		
Readers		████████	████████	
Altar Guild				
Sound Board	██████	██████	██████	██████
Computer	████████	████████	████████	████████
Counters	████████	████████	████████	████████

Congregational Care

Church Picnic

Please join us in celebrating summer at the annual Church Picnic on Sun, July 12, following worship. The picnic will be held in the fellowship hall. Terry and Sallie Jensen will grill the hot dogs, and if you care to provide a dish to pass, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board across from the church office. We look forward to great food and fellowship with all our siblings in Christ. *The Parish Life Committee*



“Shower” Each Other with Messages of Love



During COVID, we started “showering” members of our congregation with messages of encouragement to help them feel connected during the pandemic. We are still sending messages six years later! This month we are showering [REDACTED]

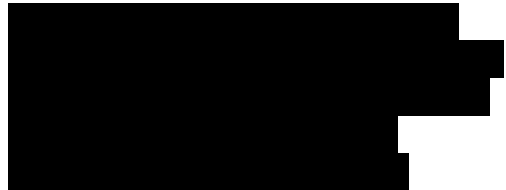
[REDACTED] Please take a moment to send them a note to remind them of God’s faithfulness and love.

JULY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays



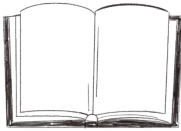
Anniversaries



Memorials



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 July

Please check the weekly announcements for the office hours! Remember to call the office before stopping in if you need Jennifer since her hours will be greatly varied.



Pastor Vacation

Pastor Lori will be on vacation from July 20-28. Please call [REDACTED] if you have a pastoral emergency while she is away.

Community Events

Community Prayer Service

Join us on Tuesday, July 7 at 12:15 pm at St. Paul's for a prayer service, the theme will be Unity in Christ.

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]



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

NEWS FOR THE AUGUST 2026 EPISTLE IS DUE JULY 22ND