

The Epistle

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

August 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,

The stories that dominate our news channels can make it seem like the world is crashing down around us and things are spiraling out of control. That's why I want to focus this article on hope. As Christians, our hope is found in Jesus Christ. The one we acknowledge as savior of the world.

I don't mean for you to say, "Jesus take the wheel" and ignore what's going on in the world. That's not how we are called to engage. We are called to be "doers" in this world. Jesus showed us how to do this by serving the poor, reaching out to the outcast, and healing the sick. His work gives us a glimpse of what God's Resurrection Kingdom of life, plenty, joy and inclusion looks like.

It gives me hope to know that there are countless people in our community that are being Christ-like "doers." Programs like Habitat for Humanity, Keuka comfort Care Home, the voucher program at Angel's Diner, the Living Well, Millie's Pantry, and the ministries here at St. Paul's reach out and serve people with compassion and care. They are proof that God's kingdom is well and truly on the way.

It's important for us to stay connected to the news and understand what's going on. It's even more important for us to kindle hope. I encourage you to take a drive around Penn Yan and notice the free libraries, clothing collection bins and blessing boxes that are scattered around our community. They are manifestations of God's kingdom that bring a balm to our aching hearts.

I also encourage you to have hope in God's good work that is happening all around us. See the Kingdom as it comes. Be a Christ-like "doer" who stays active in the world by showing care and compassion for all of God's children.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Lori

A quote from Martin Luther...

"If we Christians would join the Wise Men, we must close our eyes to all that glitters before the world and look rather on the despised and foolish things, help the poor, comfort the despised, and aid the neighbor in his need."

Church Council News

SAVE THE DATE

On **Thursday September 3 from 6:30 to 8:00 PM** St. Paul's will host a neighborhood "Back to School Ice Cream Social."

Watch for the many ways that you will be able to help with this event.



From the Property Team

The Property Team has been busy working on research and execution of summer projects. We'd like to highlight efforts made to increase Handicap parking for all congregation members and church visitors. We'd like to thank John Dubbs for putting up the post and third handicap parking sign in the south parking lot and replacing the other two handicap parking signs in this same location for visual appeal. In addition to his time and energy for installation, John was kind enough to donate the supplies needed for this project. With the two handicap parking spots out front of the church and the three handicap parking spaces in the south parking lot we are happy to offer five handicap parking locations.

We acknowledge that there will be times that folks coming to the church building may not need handicap parking but might need to park closer to the building for ease of building access. In these instances, folks may need to use parking spots closer to the building that are not specifically labeled handicap parking. In order to make space for these occurrences, we ask that folks not needing close access to the church building park in the spaces a bit further from the building. We truly appreciate everyone's consideration in this matter.

Stay tuned for updates on adding a handrail from the south parking lot to the back door for further support and accessibility to the church building!

*Our next Property Team Meeting will be on **Sunday, August 2nd** immediately following the church service. Feel free to join us if you'd like to participate!*

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

Social Ministry

Grab and Go



Our pasta salad is a big hit in these summer months, so have decided to prepare this for our two lunches in **August, the 13th & the 27th**- the second & fourth Thursday of the month. Please check the sign up sheet to see what ingredients we will need, & to sign up to be a kitchen helper. We will also need store bought cookies & "Cutie" oranges. Please have food items here at church by noon on the Wednesday before the Thursday, cooking day. Thank you for your continued support of this ministry for the Living Well!

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 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 nursing home and jail chaplain ministries through The Council of Churches.**

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!

Keuka Comfort Care Home

NEW DATE! Keuka Comfort Care is extending the date for their shoe drive, they will now collect shoes till the end of August. Thank you all for the donations we have received so far.



Sharing Shed

Being generous is natural for the members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Thank you for stocking The Sharing Shed which helps our neighbors who need a bit extra during the weeks each month.

For August, your help is needed in supplying: **Personal care products** for men, women, and children. This includes: Shampoos, deodorants, tooth paste, mouth wash, combs, soap, powder, and lotions.

These are only suggestions in addition to any other things you feel you would like to contribute. Everything is appreciated.

Your help is also need to either shop once a month for supplies or to stock the Shed for a week at time.

Thank you for supporting this ministry of generosity, connectivity, and hospitality by helping others.



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

August News from the Pews

We continue in the time of Pentecost and our paraments remain green. We at St. Paul's enjoy worshipping together on Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM both in the Sanctuary and on Zoom. It is good to gather together to hear God's word and to celebrate Holy Communion. Our Gospel reading during August continues to come from Matthew where we hear many of Jesus' parables.

We are blessed to have Peter play the organ and the piano. During these summer months Peter is sharing his love of and his talent for playing the piano to enhance our worship services. Recently someone told us they love coming early for worship and just listening to Peter play giving them quiet time to prepare for worship. We hope that many feel this special connection to worship.

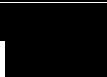
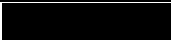
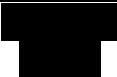
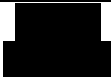
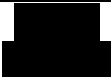
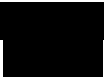
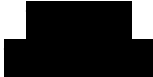
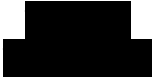
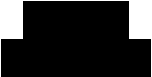
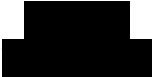
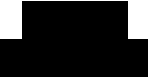
Choir will soon begin rehearsing for the Fall. See Peter if you would like to be a part of this music ministry.

Sunday August 23 we will worship with a Service of the Word. Sunday August 30 will be Brunch Church.

The Worship and Music Team would once again like to know what hymns you would like to sing and hear in worship. Request forms will soon be on the table in the Narthex.

The next Worship and Music Committee meeting is August 11 at 11:30 AM.

Worship Leadership

	8/2	8/9	8/16	8/23	8/30 Brunch Church
Assisting Ministers					
Ushers (2)					
Greeters					
Readers					
Altar Guild					
Sound Board					
Computer					
Counters					



Congregational Care

“Shower” Each Other with Messages of Love

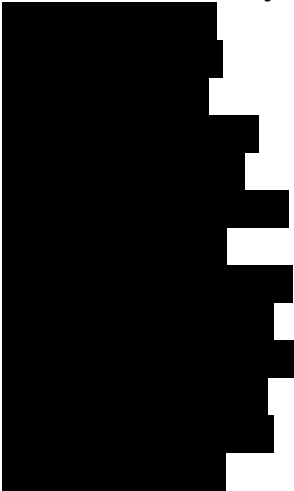


During COVID, we started “showering” members of our congregation with messages of encouragement to help them feel connected during the pandemic. We are still sending messages six years later! This month we are showering [REDACTED]

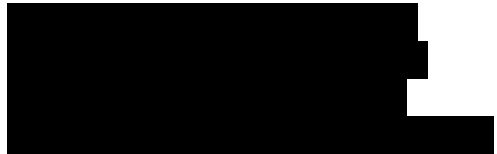
[REDACTED]. Please take a moment to send them a note to remind them of God’s faithfulness and love.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

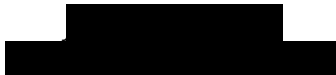
Birthdays



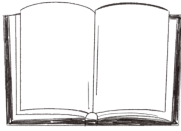
Anniversaries



Memorials



Reminders



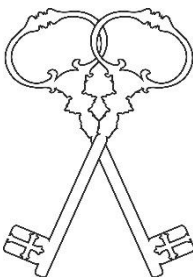
Available Copies

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 August



Key Code

The Key Code will be changed in September, be on the lookout for the updated code to be sent out via email if you use the lockbox.

Community Events

Community Prayer Service

Join us on Tuesday, August 4 at 12:15 pm at St. Paul's for a prayer service, the theme will be Bringing Our Burdens to God.

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]

Fourth Annual BMG Golf Classic Legacy Fund

This will take place on **September 12th** at the Sycamore Golf Club in Mendon, NY. All proceeds from the Scramble will go to the Barbara Macholz Grimaldi Legacy Fund, held by the ELCA Foundation. The fund has distributed \$22,000 over the past four years to the ELCA congregations as well as other non-profits whose ministry focus is in the arena of justice. If you are a golfer, we'd love to have you join us. If you're not a golfer, your presence at dinner would be a gift as well. The menu includes appetizers, an entrée, two sides, salad, rolls and dessert. Special music will be offered during dinner, five spectacular items will be raffled off, and two organizations will be present to talk briefly about their grants and how they benefited people in need. For further information and to register go to BMGLegacyFund.Org.



American Red Cross

Every 2 seconds, someone
in the U.S. needs blood.

*Give blood.
Help save lives.*



Blood Drive

The American Red Cross will have a blood drive coming up **August 18**. The donor incentives for this drive are very nice—a **\$20 Amazon gift card for every donor AND a chance to win a \$100 gas gift card**.

Blood Drive **Saint Paul's Lutheran Church**

Christian Education Room
135 Hamilton Street
Penn Yan, NY 14527

Tuesday, August 18, 2026
12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Thank You Notes

Thank you, Ms. Gross, for
your continued support of
our life-saving mission.
It's my privilege to share
in this mission with you.

Damon Lincoart
Account Manager

This thank you is
for St. Paul's for
letting the Red
Cross use our
building for their
Blood Drives.

Luttrell
Thank you for your generous
donation of \$500 toward the Penn
Jan Community Vacation Bible School.
You helped to provide 38 children
with a week of fun activities
that shared the message of God's
love for them.
Cheryl Stewart Diane DeLoosa

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your generous \$615 gift which we received on June 8.

Here at LVOY, we know how transformational it is when an adult learner decides to improve their literacy. It opens doors to more job opportunities and better income as well as greater independence and self-sufficiency. Whether learners are working toward a high school equivalency diploma, US citizenship, improved speaking and comprehension, or other goals, LVOY tutors create individualized learning plans designed to help them succeed.

Your support will help continue this important work.

THANK YOU for partnering with us to transform lives through literacy.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Searle
Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your congregation's gift of \$316.00. I am so grateful for your generous support of Lutheran World Relief! It is because of caring congregations like yours that Lutheran World Relief has been able to serve our hurting world for 80 years, and it is because of your compassion that our ministry together will continue helping children and families who need it most.

I pray that one day, our work together will no longer be needed. I pray that one day, all our neighbors near and far will live in a world free of poverty, injustice and suffering. Until that day, I am grateful to count on your church to answer the call to help people in their time of need. It is no exaggeration to say your generosity truly saves lives and makes a brighter future possible.

Our team loves hearing from you. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at 800 597 5972 or at congregations@lwr.org. You'll also find inspiring stories and videos to share with your church at lwr.org/congregations. And of course, please connect with us on Facebook and Instagram for the latest updates on your impact.

Yours always in Christ,



Ambassador Daniel V. Speckhard
President and CEO

As required by the IRS, this receipt confirms that Lutheran World Relief has given you no goods or services in return for your charitable contribution of \$316.00-LWR.

NEWS FOR THE SEPTEMBER 2026 EPISTLE IS DUE AUGUST 21ST