

The Epistle

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

September 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,

God created amazing bodies that enable us to interact with our world. When they are healthy, we are able to work, play and serve in meaningful and productive ways. But when disease or aging issues occur, we have to adjust or stop doing the way we do the things we love.

Recently, I have experienced the challenging effects of both disease and aging issues. Between my cancer diagnosis and developing arthritis in my hip and knee, I feel like I have aged a decade in two years! Thankfully, my cancer treatments are going well and hopefully, a hip replacement on September 30th will enable me to return to the activities I love.

I will be out of the office during the month of October recovering from surgery. If you have a pastoral care need while I'm away, please call Rev. Jonathan Deibler at 585-281-3595. I also ask you to keep me in your prayers as I will keep you in mine.

Rev. Amy Walter-Peterson recently posted this prayer by Rev. Nadia Bolt-Weber on her Facebook page after her hip replacement surgery. I'd like to share it with you to use as you navigate the joys and challenges of our amazing bodies.

Dear God,

These bodies you gave us...I mean, there's a lot to love about them.

First of all, they can sing - so good job on that one.

And they can laugh at bad jokes and walk across the street to say hi to our neighbor's dog.

And these bodies you gave us can smell fresh lavender and savor the taste of perfectly ripe cantaloupe in August.

And honestly, it's pretty amazing the way the skin of someone we love can feel on our own skin. So, that's pretty cool.

But I do have some notes.

Because these bodies are so fragile. So easily wounded and prone to sickness.

They age and get soft and just sort of slowly slip toward the ground like they're really tired of holding it all up.

And then sometimes our bodies stop making insulin or our knees suddenly can't do really simple things for us anymore (like reliably get us up from the sofa), or our cells lose their minds and mutate in ways that make us need to remove and/or poison entire

parts of these bodies you gave us just so we don't die...and if I'm honest, that feels like a pretty major design flaw.

But then they can also magically knit themselves back together - which if I'm honest, is kind of mindblowing. That they can be sliced open, fixed, closed - and then...somehow...cells come to repair the whole thing, collagen lays down across the incision like the lattice top of our grandmother's apple pie, and one day we are whole again. Crossing the street to say hi to our neighbor's dog.

Pretty cool.

These bodies you gave us, God...

*please help us be a little more patient when they disappoint us,
and a little more responsible when they need something from us,
and a little more grateful when they take such good care of us.*

Because we are just down here doing our best with what we've been given.

Amen.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Lori

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

Work has been completed on the removal of weeds and placement of stone on the east side of the church building. Not only is this an aesthetic improvement, it will serve as a display for decorative stones designed by our Paul's Place friends. We appreciate Becky and Len Vaughn for bringing the project to our attention. Thank you to Steve Nussbaumer for covering the cost of the project and managing the project execution. Les Wood and Dan and Karen Malte provided assistance too.

Dan and Karen are also going to be coordinating and paying for the installation of a new horse hitching bar on the church grounds and a handrail going from the parking lot to the back door of the church. Their generosity is greatly appreciated and is a lovely commemoration of their 60th Wedding Anniversary! Watch for work to start soon!

Many other projects are in the works! Feel free to join us for our next Property Team Meeting on Sunday, September 6th, immediately following the church service.

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

Faith Formation

Fall Faith Formation



Join us this fall for an eight-week study that will help us gain a clearer understanding of who God is by exploring the names and titles attributed to God in Scripture. Classes meet on **Sunday mornings at 8:30 am (beginning September 6th)** and on **Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am (beginning September 9th)**. You choose the day that works best for you! Contact Pastor Lori if you have a question about this study or about Faith Formation at St. Paul's.

Social Ministry

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 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 **Milly’s Pantry**.

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!

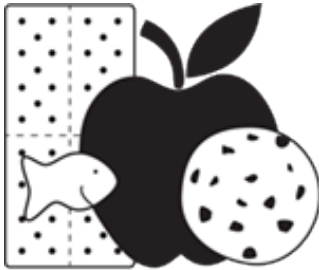
PILL BOTTLES



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

School will soon be starting! Your help in filling the shelves with "kid friendly" items would be helpful.



Snacks

Let's collect in September:

Large boxes of cereal; drink boxes; individually wrapped fruit snacks;
individually packaged bags of chips, pretzels; crackers and cookies;
and snack size pudding cups.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

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.

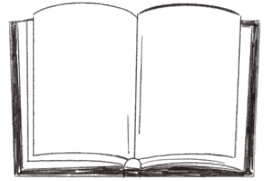
Volunteers are asked to shop once or twice a month for items for the Shed. You can shop alone or with another volunteer. A prepaid VISA card is available to use at Dollar Tree to purchase the items. (Contact Pastor Lori to pick up the card) A list of needed items will be provided at the beginning of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

Yates County Christmas Program

The September Social Ministry incentive is to help put books into the hands of the children in our community. The **Yates County Christmas Program** is in need of monetary donations to purchase books which will be distributed at Christmas. You can help by putting your donation into the book standing on the table in the Narthex during the month of September. What better way to help the children of the community learn to love reading! Thank you!



Worship

September News from the Pews

We are now entering the season of **Late Pentecost** which begins September 6 and continues until November 22. You will notice some changes in the Sunday morning worship liturgy. You will notice that the Hymn of Praise, the Gospel Acclamation, and the Offertory hymn are different from those we used during the summer months of Early Pentecost. We will return to using the Apostle's Creed and Setting 10 for our Communion Liturgy.

Thank you, Peter, for using the piano for worship during the summer months! What a beautiful accompaniment to our worship service each week. We look forward to hearing the choir once again as we head into these Fall months.

We will not be worshipping in the park for Labor Day. This decision was made due to changes and vacancies within the other churches in the area.

Join us on the first Tuesday of each month for the Community Prayer Service at 12:15 PM. It is a lovely service joining many members of all local denominations together to praise and give thanks to God for all our many blessings.

Be sure to check the bulletin board and sign up to help with Sunday morning worship. We need many to fill the positions of usher, reader, counter, altar guild, and sound board. Training is always available.

Worship Leadership

	9/6	9/13	9/20	9/26
Assisting Ministers	████████		██████	██████
Ushers (2)		██████		
Greeters				
Readers	██████	██████	██████	████
Altar Guild				████
Sound Board				
Computer	██████	██████	██████	██████
Counters				

Congregational Care

“Shower” Each Other with Messages of Love

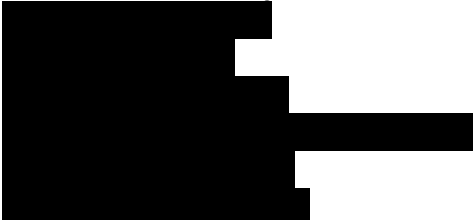


During COVID, we started “showering” members of our congregation with messages of encouragement to help them feel connected during the pandemic. We are still sending messages six years later! [REDACTED]

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

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays



Anniversaries



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



Be sure to
check the announcements for any changes.





Key Code

Community Events

Community Prayer Service

Join us on Tuesday, October 6th at 12:15 pm at St. Paul's for a prayer service. The theme will be, Praying the Psalms.

Volunteer Want Ads

Habitat for Humanity

Provide lunch for the Saturday workers

Call [REDACTED]

The Living Well

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

Call [REDACTED]

Penn Yan Community Café

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

Call [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

Call [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]

AFTER CHAIR YOGA
LET'S TALK
BOOK CLUB

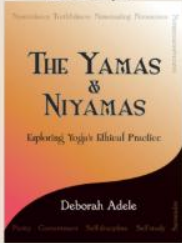


TUESDAY
2:00-2:30
ALL WELCOME

THE YAMAS & NIYAMAS

Exploring Yoga's Ethical Practice
BY DEBORAH ADELE

BOOK:



8/18 - Preface & Chapter 1
8/25 - Chapter 2
9/1 - Chapter 3
9/8 - Chapter 4
9/15 - Chapter 5
9/22 - Chapter 6 & 7
9/29 - Chapter 8
10/6 - Chapter 9
10/13 - Chapter 10
10/20 - Chapter 11
10/27 - Chapter 12
11/3 - Chapter 13 & 14

[AT] **ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**
135 HAMILTON STREET
PENN YAN, NY



American
Red Cross

**Carve out time
to give blood**



Blood Drive

Saint Paul's Lutheran Church

Christian Education Room
135 Hamilton Street
Penn Yan, NY 14527

**Tuesday, October 13, 2026
12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.**



free
Chair
yoga

Tuesday

1:00-1:45

**St. Paul's
Penn Yan**



sponsored by the PYPL

