

St. Paul's July - August 2025 Newsletter

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A Note from Pastor Stuart

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

9:30 am - Combined Service

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St. Paul's regularly takes pictures and video to share all the wonderful things happening digitally and in print. If you or your family are concerned about something being shared in this manner, please contact [Pastor Stuart](#).



Our Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly took place on May 30 and 31. I was very glad to have Greg Dommel and Dave Heydt attend with me as the Evangelical Lutheran Churches in America congregations in our area conducted the business of the larger church. Unlike last year, when we elected a bishop, this year was much less exciting. It was especially an opportunity to hear from our new Bishop Bryan Penman. I was especially impressed with his address, which gave me a lot to think about. You can [watch the entire presentation here](#), but here are some highlights on which to reflect.



He started by asking the profound question, "What might God do through us if we befriend the world with the same fierce, inclusive love that Jesus has shown all of us?" He went on to describe a reality we all feel, that those who describe themselves as practicing Christians in the US dropped from 45% in 2000 to 20% in 2023. However, a bright spot is that 72% of the adult population describes themselves as spiritually open. That's 188 million people looking for meaning, peace, purpose and belonging. When asked why these people are not coming to church they express distrust that the church can deliver. They see the church as irrelevant and full of hypocrisy and moral failure. They think God is missing in the church and that legitimate doubt is prohibited. They're not sure they can learn about God or find community in the church. Our challenge is to help them discover that we have found these things, especially at St. Paul's!

The Bishop went on to describe four shifts that might help us accomplish this:

1. **Listening is the new evangelism.** It's a powerful thing to just listen to someone's experiences and questions without judgement.
2. **Peace is the new apologetic.** Here I wish the Bishop would have used a less churchy word. Apologetics is the practice of defending our faith through reason and evidence. He noted that people are looking for peace and not our arguments.

(Note continues on page 2)

A Note from Pastor Stuart (continued from page 1)

3. **Curiosity is a spiritual practice.** Spiritually open people aren't looking for certainty, they just want someone to be open and playful as they wrestle.
4. **Jesus is the answer.** Of course, Jesus has always been and always will be the answer. Show others the Jesus who heals, liberates and loves in both words and deeds

He also described five next steps that we as people of faith and we as a congregation can take:

1. Embrace empathy and spiritual backstories
2. Create spaces for dialogue, not just services
3. Offer healing ministries, not doctrine
4. Train your people to listen with curiosity
5. Invite people to take one step closer to Jesus

The Bishop ended with a question fashioned from a phrase from the great hymn, *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*, which was also the theme of the assembly, "Ponder anew, what the Almighty can do, if with his love he befriends you." The Bishop asked, "If God has befriended you, how can you befriend others?"

I hope this gives you much to think about, even as it has for me!

God Bless!



PASTOR STUART

Chat and Chews Book Club

The Chat and Chews Sunday School Book Club meets on the **THIRD** Sunday of each month, after the late service in the Lounge next to the Hospitality Room. We do not meet in the summer, but we did select the summer reads below. Our next meeting will be on **Sunday, September 15**.



Our summer selections are: "The God of the Woods," by Liz Moore; "Legends and Lattes," by Travis Baldree; "Family Tree," by Barbara Delinsky; "The Crocodile on the Sandbank," by Elizabeth Peters. You do not have to finish the book or even read it to join us in a lively and faithful discussion. Please contact [Gwen Werner](#) or call the church office for more information. Happy Reading!

Adult Faith Formation

The Friday Night Fire Pit Fellowship Group meets at the church fire pit at 7:00 pm **Friday nights** to share our stories of the week and get a preview of the worship service Bible readings for the coming Sunday. Seating is provided, but bring your own lawn chair (BYOLC) if desired. In case of inclement weather (rain, snow, heat, or gloom of night) we will meet in some sheltered location on the church property. It's a relaxing way to end the week and meet in fellowship with other members of St. Paul's. Please join us, and bring a friend.



It's Only a Doll

I think it's only natural that a parent tries their best to make their child's wishes come true. My daughter was an easy-going child who seldom asked for anything, so when, at the age of three, she very specifically asked for a gift, I wanted to be able to give it to her. Unfortunately, what she wanted more than anything was a

Cabbage Patch doll. They were in such great demand that fights were breaking out in stores leading to violence and arrests! I tried to prepare my daughter for disappointment. I explained that it was very hard to find Cabbage Patch dolls, and she might not be able to get one for Christmas. She accepted the news with obvious disappointment but without an argument, until she was with me at a flea market and saw some knock offs. She pointed them out to me and told me it was possible to buy Cabbage Patch dolls. I explained to her that those dolls were not real; they did not come with adoption papers. She asked me what adoption meant. I told her it was a promise to always love and take care of something. She was quiet for a moment. Then she asked me, "What if you don't?" I told her nothing would happen to her but it was important to always try her best. She then said she would like one of the knock off dolls. I reminded her again it would not come with adoption papers. She looked at me very seriously and said, "I don't need no doption papers. It's only a doll!"

I admit when this happened I was afraid she might be commitment phobic, but just maybe she had the right idea. It's human nature to want things that are valued, but it is important that we learn to differentiate the things of real value from the glitzy sparkle of fads. She wanted a doll, but no amount of documentation or commitment would make it real and she knew that. Are we committing ourselves to things that truly matter or are we enticed by popular culture and glitz?

Director of Music Update



Our Director of Music Discerning Team has started to advertise this open position as we search for the right person. We will not be interviewing till the fall, once the music program is fully underway. If you or anyone you know is interested, please direct them to StPaulsLionville.org/careers! We are also very blessed and thankful to Brian Lloyd for serving as our Interim Director of Music to keep our music program on track while we are in the search process!

May Blood Drive Update

St. Paul's hosted a Red Cross Blood Drive on Thursday, May 29, Twenty-one donors came out and 19 donations were collected. Thank you to everyone who supported the drive. Our next drive will be **Thursday, September 4.**



Summer Family Fun Night

It's time to celebrate another Family Fun Night on **Friday, July 11** from 5:00 - 7:00 pm. These are always great events to celebrate with the congregation and the community, with free fun, food and games for all ages. We have a number of summer themed activities including outdoor games, crafts, face painting, summertime food, and a firepit with smores! The events only happen by the generosity of St. Paul's and you can offer some [supplies or help on this signup](#)! Sign up to [attend at this link](#) and be sure to [share this Facebook event](#) on your page!



Crafters Meeting Schedule

Crafters usually meet downstairs in the church on Wednesdays at 10 am. They will not be meeting on Wednesday, July 23. All are welcome!



Social Ministry News

A check for \$9,381 was presented to the Chester County Food Bank representing a portion of the sales from our Pop Up Thrift Store. (Please see pictures of the check presentation below.) Your donations helped make this happen. Thank you!! Our store is now closed for the summer, but will reopen again in September. Please keep your donations coming during the summer months. You can drop them off in the air lock in the front of the church.

Our next Living Love Lunches meal packing event will be **Tuesday, July 22 and Tuesday, August 26** at 6:30 pm up in Fellowship Hall when we prepare 50 bag lunches for the homeless community in Chester.

Thank you for your donations for the peanut butter and jelly food drive for the Chester County Food Bank summer student and senior food boxes program. We collected 450 pounds of food, over 150 pounds more than last year. Thank you all for your donations.

We're getting ready to kick off our annual school supplies collection for Lutheran World Relief School Kits. Please check out our Sign-Up Genius in "This Week" or on the Events page of our website and then take advantage of store sales that have already started. Each School Kit contains 4 spiral notebooks, a ruler, pencil sharpener, scissors, 5 pencils, 5 ballpoint pens, crayons and an eraser. These kits are specifically designed to aid people coping with poverty, disaster, and help keep education going in a crisis.



Food Bank Donation

The Social Ministry team recently presented a check for \$9,381 to the Chester County Food Bank, which came from sales at the Pop Up Thrift Store. Thank you to everyone who helped with or shopped the sales!

Help Support Lutheran Disaster Response to Texas Flooding



Lutheran
Disaster Response

The news about the catastrophic flash floods in South Central Texas has been devastating. Our hearts break as we hear of the damage, loss of life, and ongoing search for survivors.

Lutheran Disaster Response is always "first in and first out" supporting those in need, and they are prepared to assist area residents as the floodwaters recede and rebuilding begins, providing emotional and spiritual care and supporting cleanup and long-term recovery.

[Please click here](#) if you are able to make a donation to help Lutheran Disaster Response in their efforts and keep all those affected in your prayers. Please make donations directly to Lutheran Disaster Response (not to St. Paul's). Thank you.

Sunday School Registration

One of the most enduring and important gifts you can give a child is faith. To know that you are loved and special to God, so much so that Jesus died and rose from the dead for you, is the basic foundation of our faith. For most children, this faith grows through a Christian Education program like Sunday School!

Last year we had a fantastic Sunday School year, and we're looking forward to this year being even better! You can learn more about the program and see this year's calendar at StPaulsLionville.org/sundayschool. We would ask everyone to register so the teachers can be well prepared and so we know about any special needs or allergies. You can [register online here](#) or there are also paper copies available in the narthex. This could be for your children, grandchildren or any family members or friends who would like to attend!

We want this gift of faith for every child we can bless! Filling out the registration form will help us be well prepared for the fall classrooms, so please do so as soon as possible. (Ages are potty trained through fifth grade.) If you have any questions, feel free to contact PastorStuart@StPaulsLionville.org or 610-804-1740 or our Sunday School Coordinator, Ginny Graham at vgg333@aol.com or or (610) 329-7437.



Rejoicing Spirits

**Everyone is Invited to
Rejoicing Spirits
Worship Services**

Sunday, July 13

at 4:00 pm

Come and experience an amazing worship service where:

we have lots of
music and joyous
singing



many ways to
participate, serve
and lead



and fellowship!



Faith IS NOT KNOWING
WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS,
BUT KNOWING
who holds the future.

meaningful
messages



"NO" shushing
policy



**Volunteers are
asked to arrive
at 3:30 pm.**

Fall Service Schedule

Beginning **Sunday, September 7**, St. Paul's will resume two services each Sunday, a traditional service at 8:00 am and a contemporary service at 10:30 am.

Please join us!

Worship Schedule



Office Closed/Labor Day

The church office will be closed on **Monday, September 1**, in observance of Labor Day.



Brickside Dining for Living Love Lunches

We are partnering with Brickside Grille (in Eagleview) to raise funds for Living Love Lunches.

Once a month, Brickside will return 15% of your purchase to St. Paul's for Living Love Lunch supplies. This now applies to any purchases throughout the day, including brunch, using the buffet, or ordering lunch or dinner. Our designated Sunday is the first one of the month. Our next date will be **Sunday, August 3**.

When you present our flyer or email, Brickside will return 15% of your purchase to St. Paul's for Living Love Lunch supplies. Please remember that you must bring a paper flyer or show it on your phone in order for a donation to be made.

The flyer is below, and you can visit [Brickside's website](#) to browse their menu.

Thanks in advance for taking one for the team by eating too much!!!



FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
(BRUNCH, LUNCH or DINNER)

15% of purchase is returned to St. Paul's.
(EXCLUDES ALCOHOL)

PRESENT THIS EMAIL OR COUPON UPON ARRIVAL.

Proceeds benefit:
Living Love Lunch

1st Sunday of Each Month



Living Love Lunches is a program that provides packed lunches to the homeless in Chester. St. Paul's contributes 50 packed lunches a month to the ministry.

Your support is appreciated!



Congregational Photos

Sunday, June 1 - Outdoor Service and Picnic

Despite the chilly temps, everyone enjoyed gathering for our outdoor service and picnic. Thank you to everyone who helped make this day a success!



Congregational Photos (cont.)

Sunday, June 8 - Family, Faith, Friends Picnic

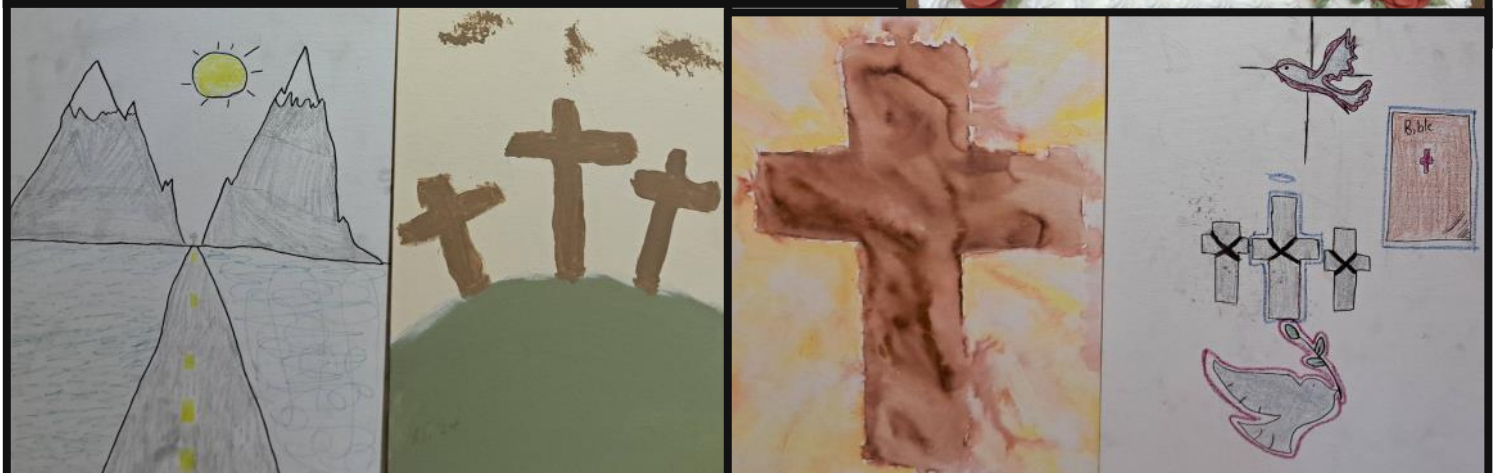
St. Paul's and St. Matthew's families with younger children (preschool through 5th grade) met up for an afternoon of fun, food, and sharing. The group offers a mix of social and support activities for families, and this fall they will offer a book study of Jonathan Haidt's book "The Anxious Generation."



Congregational Photos (cont.)

Sunday, June 8 - Confirmation

Seven students celebrated their Confirmation on June 8, and three additional students will celebrate during the Sunday, July 20 service. The service included a version of the Lord's Prayer written by this year's Confirmation class, and the students' statements of belief were shared in a bulletin insert and later on our Facebook and Instagram pages. Artwork by the students was displayed in the narthex. Congratulations to all our Confirmation students!



Congregational Photos (cont.)

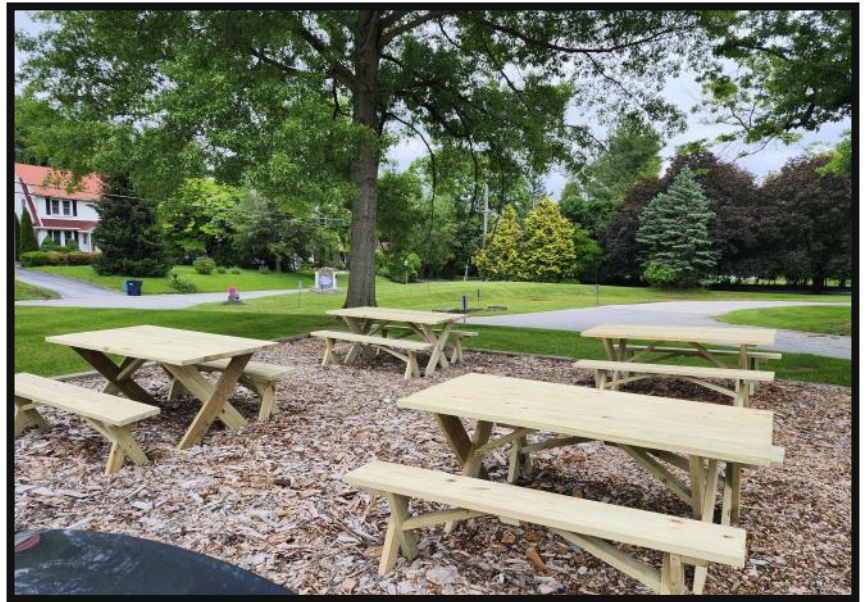


Peanut Butter and Jelly Collection

Big thanks to everyone who made a donation to our Peanut Butter and Jelly food drive for the Chester County Food Bank. Your donations amounted to 450 pounds, 150 pounds more than last year. All this will help to fill their summer student and senior food boxes.

Eagle Scout Project

Michael Corbo recently completed his Eagle Scout project, which included making six new picnic tables for St. Paul's. A big thank you to Michael on his beautiful work!



Sunday, June 29 - Polka Worship Service

We were joined by the Heidelberg Brass Band for a special service that included hymns sung to German polkas, marches, and waltzes.



St. Paul's Volunteer Schedule for July and August

	7/6/2025 9:30 AM PENTECOST 4	7/13/2025 9:30 AM PENTECOST 5	7/20/2025 9:30 AM PENTECOST 6	7/27/2025 9:30 AM PENTECOST 7
Altar Care	Missimer, M	Hujsak, T	McPeak, J	Wachter, J & S
Asst. Minister	Miller, C	Erickson, F	Johnson, K	Volunteer Needed
Lector	Huffman, M	Finkbiner, A	Biber, B	Heydt, D
Usher/Greeter	Strawbridge, J	Flach, C	Robus, S	Tilghman, P
Usher/Greeter	Strawbridge, H	Burt, B	Fabry, J	Ward, J
Acolyte	Grant, J	Gledhill, R	Hillestad, K	Hillestad, K
Lock-Up	Flach, C	Shallow, D / Flach, C	Huffman, M	Smith, P

	8/3/2025 9:30 AM PENTECOST 8	8/10/2025 9:30 AM PENTECOST 9	8/17/2025 9:30 AM PENTECOST 10	8/24/2025 9:30 AM PENTECOST 11	8/31/2025 9:30 AM PENTECOST 12 OUTDOOR SERVICE
Altar Care	Strawbridge, H & J	Kerstetter, H	Ward, J	Shallow, D & W	Pechin III, F
Asst. Minister	Shallow, W	Robinson, C	Sanders, J	Brauer, B	Missimer, M
Lector	Fernandez, R	Graham, G	Ermilio, J	McCurdy, K	Thomas, N
Usher/Greeter	Dierksheide, D	Piombino, J	Teague, J	Wait, K	Mcllvaine, K
Usher/Greeter	Dierksheide, L	Wollenberg, R	Teague, R	Wait, T	Mcllvaine, T
Acolyte	Fernandez, M	Fernandez, M	Teague, L	Gledhill, H	Grant, E
Lock-Up	Wornson, B	Foltz, D	Heath, S	Mertz, J	Swanson, B



Thank You for Volunteering!



St. Paul's Volunteer Schedule for September and October

	9/7/2025 8:00 AM PENTECOST 13	9/14/2025 8:00 AM PENTECOST 14	9/21/2025 8:00 AM PENTECOST 15	9/28/2025 8:00 AM PENTECOST 16
Altar Care	Pechin, M	Missimer, M	McPeak, J	Shallow, D & W
Asst. Minister	Wiest, A	Robinson, C	Colberg, A	Sarpen, G
Lector	Wiest, Jack	Kramer, K	Strawbridge, H	Robinson, C
Usher/Greeter	Huffman, M	Dierksheide, D	Ward, J	Dierksheide, D
Usher/Greeter	Munson, G	Dierksheide, D	Wollenberg, R	Dierksheide, L
Acolyte	Wiest, Jacob	Mertz, C	Gledhill, R	Shallow, C
	9/7/2025 10:30 AM PENTECOST 13	9/14/2025 10:30 AM PENTECOST 14	9/21/2025 10:30 AM PENTECOST 15	9/28/2025 10:30 AM PENTECOST 16
Altar Care	Rice, P & P	Stevens, L	Hujsak, T	Wachter, J & S
Asst. Minister	Heath, Z	Sanders, J	McGovern, C	Johnson, K
Lector	Johnson, K	Sanders, J	Baker, C	Finkbiner, M
Usher/Greeter	Heath, S	Stevens, J	Burt, B	Tilghman, P
Usher/Greeter	Wornson, B	Flach, C	Fabry, J	Piombino, J
Acolyte	Merkel, A	Teague, R	Young, W	Grant J
Lock-Up	Farra, J	Flach, C	Shallow, D	Huffman, M

	10/5/2025 8:00 AM PENTECOST 17	10/12/2025 8:00 AM PENTECOST 18	10/19/2025 8:00 AM PENTECOST 19	10/26/2025 8:00 AM PENTECOST 20
Altar Care	Strawbridge, H & J	Ward, J	Pechin III, F	Pechin, M
Asst. Minister	Erickson, F	Pechin, M	Missimer, M	Robinson, C
Lector	Berger, N	Wiest, K	Shallow, D	Erickson, F
Usher/Greeter	Missimer, M	Kramer, K	Shallow, W	Adams, C
Usher/Greeter	Berger, K	McPeak, J	Shallow, B	Adams, J
Acolyte	Gledhill, H	Wiest, Jacob	Mertz, C	Gledhill, R
	10/5/2025 10:30 AM PENTECOST 17	10/12/2025 10:30 AM PENTECOST 18	10/19/2025 10:30 AM PENTECOST 19	10/26/2025 10:30 AM PENTECOST 20
Altar Care	Kerstetter, H	Rice, P & P	Stevens, L	Hujsak, T
Asst. Minister	Sanders, J	Brauer, B	Heath, Z	McGovern, C
Lector	Burt, B	Fabry, J	Robus, S	Meade, J
Usher/Greeter	Wornson, B	McIlvaine, J	Teague, J	Johnson, K
Usher/Greeter	Robus, S	McIlvaine, S	Teague, R	Burt, B
Acolyte	Hillestad, K	Fernandez, M	Teague, L	Grant, E
Lock-Up	Smith, P	Wornson, B	Mertz, J	Heath, S

St. Paul's Volunteer Schedule for November and Volunteer Notes

	11/2/2025 8:00 AM PENTECOST 21	11/9/2025 8:00 AM PENTECOST 22	11/16/2025 8:00 AM PENTECOST 23	11/23/2025 8:00 AM PENTECOST 24	11/30/2025 8:00 AM ADVENT 1
Altar Care	Missimer, M	McPeak, J	Strawbridge, H & J	Ward, J	Pechin III, F
Asst. Minister	Shallow, W	Sarpen, G	Wiest, A	Colberg, A	Erickson, F
Lector	Pechin III, F	Pechin, M	Thomas, N	Sarpen, G	Missimer, M
Usher/Greeter	Strawbridge, H	Pindle, K	Wiest, Jack	Wait, K	Pindle, K
Usher/Greeter	Strawbridge, J	Pindle, R	Wiest, K	Wait, T	Pindle, R
Acolyte	Shallow, C	Gledhill, H	Wiest, Jacob	Mertz, C	Gledhill, R
	11/2/2025 10:30 AM PENTECOST 21	11/9/2025 10:30 AM PENTECOST 22	11/16/2025 10:30 AM PENTECOST 23	11/23/2025 10:30 AM PENTECOST 24	11/30/2025 10:30 AM ADVENT 1
Altar Care	Wachter, J & S	Kerstetter, H	Rice, P & P	Hujsak, T	Stevens, L
Asst. Minister	Volunteer Needed	Johnson, K	Sanders, J	Brauer, B	Heath, Z
Lector	Tilghman, P	Mclvaine, S	Finkbiner, A	Grant, K	Heydt, D
Usher/Greeter	Fabry, J	Teague, J	Tilghman, P	Mclvaine, J	Heath, S
Usher/Greeter	Piombino, J	Teague, R	Flach, C	Mclvaine, J	Stevens, J
Acolyte	Merkel, A	Teague, L	Young, W	Grant, J	Hillestad, K
Lock-Up	Swanson, B	Farra, J	Flach, C	Shallow, D	Huffman, M

We are grateful to our volunteers who give their time to ensure worship services run smoothly!
Thank you for your service to St. Paul's.

Please make note of the following items:

- **We currently need more Altar Care and Assisting Minister volunteers, especially for the 10:30 am services, as well as Acolytes, especially for the 8:00 am services.** If you or someone you know might be interested in helping out, please email Maureen.
- **There are several upcoming services where we need volunteers** (all empty volunteer spots will be noted in red). If you can help, please email Maureen.
- **Please save the email that is sent out with the volunteer schedule.** It goes out to all volunteers for that role. **If you are unable to serve on a day you are scheduled, please use "reply all" on that email to find a substitute** and email Maureen any changes to the schedule that are arranged outside of "reply all."
- If you would like to start volunteering, volunteer in another capacity, or step back from volunteering, please complete a "Serve with Love" survey (a pink sheet inserted into bulletins periodically throughout the year and on a table in the narthex) or you can submit the online survey here.
- Scheduling occurs quarterly (in December for March-May, in March for June-August, in June for September-November, and in September for December-February) and is emailed to volunteers at the beginning of every month.
- For the most up-to-date volunteer schedule, visit StPaulsLionville.org/volunteers. Please email Maureen if you know of any changes that are not reflected in the schedule above.

Thank you!!

About St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Lionville

St. Paul's is a community who gather to grow in faith with Jesus and God and then let that powerful gift of love and joy overflow into the community, nation and world! If we can be helpful in any way on your faith journey, everyone (and we do mean EVERYONE) is always invited and will be welcomed!!



Address: 104 S. Village Avenue
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Website: StPaulsLionville.org
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Facebook: [Facebook.com/StPaulsLionville](https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsLionville)

STAFF

Stuart W. Luce: Pastor (ext 4 / PastorStuart@StPaulsLionville.org)
Brian Lloyd: Interim Director of Music; Organist and Accompanist
Craig Miller: Director of Youth & Family Ministries (ext 7 / CraigYouthMin@Gmail.com)
Cari Kramer: Director of Administration (ext 5 / CariStPauls@Gmail.com)
Maureen Bellafante: Communications & Office Administrator (ext 8 / Maureen@StPaulsLionville.org)
David Foltz: Worship Technician

The office is generally staffed Monday-Thursday from 9:00-4:30 pm and **closed Fridays**.
To meet with a staff member or if you plan to visit the church, please call ahead.
Thank you!

For an emergency or if you are in need of pastor care,
call Pastor Stuart at 610-804-1740.



*St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church is a member of the Southeastern
Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.*



Grow in Faith, Serve with Love, Invite into Fellowship

Caring for each other is one of the most important things we do — now more than ever! If you or your loved ones have a specific need during these challenging times - spiritually, physically, or emotionally - please email our designated email: Care@StPaulsLionville.org.

This is for everything from letting us know you are especially lonely or have a particular need, to requests for special prayers or support. In the event of a pastoral emergency, please call the office 610-363-6264.

Our newsletter is published every month. Members are welcome to submit news items.
Articles to St. Paul's Newsletter are due by **no later than the 24th of every month**.

Email items to: Maureen@StPaulsLionville.org

Please include WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE and WHY as well as your name and contact information if you're asking people to respond. Contact Maureen via email with any questions.