St. Paul's September Newsletter 2022

104 S. Village Avenue, Exton, PA 19341 | Main Number: 610-363-6264

www.stpaulslionville.org | **September 2022**

Be In the Know

Worship Svcs
Sept. 4: 9:30am
Sept. 11 & 18: 10:30am
(Sunday school starts: 9:30am)
Sept. 25: 8am & 10:30am

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St. Paul's regularly takes pictures and video to share all the wonderful things happening in print and digitally. If you or your family has any concerns about something being shared in this manner, please contact Pastor Stuart.

A Note from Pastor Stuart

Check Out Our New Church Website!

We've just updated www.StPaulsLionville.org and we think you'll love it. Here are a few things to note:

Our **first priority** in redesigning the website was to make it guest friendly so please share it often with friends, family, neighbors and co-workers. It well- represents what a great church St. Paul's is, so let people know about the site!

Part of making it represent St. Paul's is that it uses pictures and video of many people at St. Paul's. However, we want to be respectful to you and your family's privacy, so if you see an image you would rather not be used, please let us know as soon as possible.
Our **second priority** in the redesign was making it functional for the people of St. Paul's. You especially might want to note the calendar and newsletters pages.

Another really useful page has upcoming St. Paul's Events with the ability to register for those activities. Especially if you lead an area of our ministry, please communicate with the church office about any upcoming events. A registration can be created through the website or we can offer a link to other sites like Sign Up Genius or Google Forms.

The website also has resources to help you grow in faith, especially this page with a number of resources and this page that lists worship services not only chronologically, but by topic.

Last, but certainly not least is the giving page. This page reminds us how important giving is and offers a new, very easy to use, secure method of giving online. You can do this once or repeatedly to support the many great things St. Paul's is doing!

If you have any edits, suggestions or questions about the website, please send me an email or give me a call at 610-804-1740.

The Late Service Moves to 10:30 am (from 10:45)

The recent survey about worship times had an overwhelming response (over 98%) that moving the later service to 10:30 am would be a good idea. Thanks so much to the many people who responded.
Also, the other comments that were offered were very helpful and have been reviewed by the Worship Planning Team.

Sept. 4: One combined service at 9:30 am
Sept. 11: Sunday School kicks off 9:15am, followed by a combined service 10:30 am
Sept. 18: Sunday School at 9:15 am, one combined service 10:30 am
Sept. 25: Back to 2 services: traditional at 8:00 am, contemporary at 10:30 am

Rally Day

As we start the fall programming, we will have one combined service as we celebrate the beginning of **Sunday School and Confirmation**. Additionally, this service will include a **burning of the church mortgage** and after the service there will be a **ministry fair** in the parking lot to learn about all the great things happening at St. Paul's! On Sunday, September 25 we return to an 8 am traditional worship service and 10:30 am contemporary service, each with their distinctive style.

Not just for kids!

Council Corner

Congregational Council held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday August 16, 2022. During the Council meeting, we reviewed the new website that is being designed for St Paul's. It has lots of great information, the ability to donate electronically, and a combined calendar showing everything that is happening at St. Paul's.

Council is planning another leadership retreat on Saturday, October 29th from 8:30-1:00. Please save the date if you lead a program or committee.

There are several activities of note planned for the Fall. Pastor Stuart's installation service is on Sunday September 18th (bring a friend or two).

On September 11, we are having a ministry fair. Come learn about all the ministries as St. Paul's and learn which ones may be of interest to you. There will also be a mortgage-burning ceremony.

Please continue to pray for our staff, our leadership, and one another.

Kyle Wiest, Congregation Council Vice President

Coffee Fellowship Help

The volunteer list to sign up for fellowship snacks/coffee on Sunday mornings is online via Signup Genius. Sign up with a friend or with a church group.
Click here: **Coffee Fellowship Signup**

Pastor Stuart's Installation

Pastor Stuart's Installation, Sunday, September 18, one Outdoor Service at 10:30 am and a Picnic/Pig Roast

This should be an excellent day as we celebrate, outside weather permitting, Pastor Stuart's **installation** as our pastor! We've printed invitations for you to give out to friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers for the next couple of weeks to invite them to celebrate this special day in the life of our congregation. (*You might even share an invitation with a friend who has fallen away during the pandemic or pastoral transition.*)

The worship service and installation will be followed by a wonderful **potluck picnic** and **pig roast**! You can sign up to bring something at StPaulsLionville.org/Events!

After these two weeks of the Rally Day and Installation celebrations, we will return to two worship services, traditional worship at 8am and contemporary worship at 10:30 am, each with their distinctive style.

Leadership Retreat

Please save the date for our next **Leadership Retreat** on **Saturday, October 29** from 9 am to 1 pm. This will be a chance to gather with others who care about St. Paul's to plan and dream about our future together!! Mark your calendars!

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.

New—Connection Card

Starting in September, we'll be using a new "Connection Card" with the bulletin each week. (This will replace the Sunday worship sign-in.)

This bright yellow insert (also available online at StPaulsLionville.org/cc) is one of the best ways to get information from those new to St. Paul's and hence welcome them.

Additionally, you'll also find it an excellent way to communicate with the church staff. If you have a prayer request, a question, or something you'd like more information on, just let us know through the Connection Card. Our new Welcome Team thought this would be worth trying. I've personally found it very helpful to improve communication with members in many of the churches I've served.
If you have any questions, as always, email me at PastorStuart@StPaulsLionville.org or call me at 610-804-1740.

- Pastor Stuart

Be a 'Welcome' Ambassador

The Welcome Ambassador Ministry Needs You!

Our new Welcome Team is creating a new ministry to let St. Paul's guests know how much we value them! It's called the **Welcome Ambassadors** and it's really simple, but makes a big impact on people.

When a guest at St. Paul's gives us their address, we follow up their visit by dropping off a gift bag with cookies to thank them. It's not a long visit, just a simple, "Thanks for coming!" but it often means the world to someone. You could be a cookie baker (which we will freeze and have ready) or someone who delivers the gift. That too is simple: the team will be contacted and whoever is available or lives in the area of the visit can volunteer. If you would be interested in this ministry or would like to know more, please contact PastorStuart@StPaulsLionville.org or by phone, 610-804-1740.

Thanks so much for considering this ministry to be used by God to welcome guests to St. Paul's!

- Pastor Stuart

Greetings from Mutual Ministry

As we continue to enjoy more person-to-person interactions at church, we wanted to remind the congregation of our Mutual Ministry Committee and their role at St. Paul's. This perspective on mutual ministry comes from the ELCA:

> *The ministry of any pastor, lay professional, and congregation is strengthened when there exists a small group of persons who act out of mutual concern for the pastor, lay professional, and congregation . . . through listening, interpreting, advising, conferring, evaluating, recommending, affirming, and forgiving, the ministry of the pastor and lay professional is strengthened as well as that of the congregation.*

Each St. Paul's staff member has a Mutual Ministry member as their advocate, to lend support on a personal level and with professional development. Mutual Ministry works to foster a positive work environment where the staff can effectively serve and support our congregation, and our numerous ministries and programs.

We also support a positive, communicative environment for all St. Paul's members that is rooted in our Christian faith. We encourage all members to contact a committee member to discuss any questions or concerns. Thank you!

Mutual Ministry Committee		
Name	**Email**	**Phone**
Joel Fabry	joel_fabry@hotmail.com	610-780-4659
Anne-Marie Walters	annemariewalters@hotmail.com	610-812-0204
Lindsay Albright	laa1023@aim.com	610-806-6554
Joan Adams	jradams922@yahoo.com	610-350-9203
Fran Kane	fab713@aol.com	610-679-5915
Jane Lynch	lynchjane@yahoo.com	845-774-9479
Kyle Wiest (Council VP)	kylewiest@yahoo.com	610-269-4247

New Adult Sunday School Class on FAITH!

At 9:15 am on Sunday, September 25th, and for the following weeks, we'll be gathering an adult class (including teens and young adults) looking at the topic of faith! Each week we'll watch a short video by some of the most interesting and provocative voices in Christianity and then have some discussion—two weeks for each video. The speakers and topics are below, and we'll meet in the upstairs classroom 204. I hope you can attend and learn and grow together!

-Pastor Stuart

God: Faith Is a Quest with Brian McLaren

Religion: Spirituality Is Not Enough with Lillian Daniel

Jesus: The Revolution of Love with Mark Scandrette

Salvation: Abundant Life Now with Shane Hipps

Cross: Where God Is with Nadia Bolz-Weber

Bible: A Book Like No Other with Lauren Winner

Church: An Imperfect Family with Bruce Reyes-Chow

Strong Faith for Hard Times Worship Series

One thing I've found that blesses our worship is sometimes holding a "worship series." Many churches like St. Paul's use the Revised Common Lectionary, a prescribed three-year cycle of scripture texts. This has value in systemically covering different parts of the Bible. However, it also has value to pick a theme, like in this case, faith.

Over a period of weeks we will be talking about how faith gets us through difficult times. This seems especially appropriate coming out of the pandemic or any other challenges we might go through. One advantage is that this can be very relevant. Especially if the topic is something you know a friend, family member, co-worker or neighbor would value, please invite them.

Additionally, it allows us build on the topic each week and go deeper than any one individual topic. I think you'll find this to be a blessing, but if you have any questions or concerns, please let me know and I'll always be glad to talk!

-Pastor Stuart

Grow in Faith & Serve with Love

More Studies at St. Paul's

Three weekly opportunities for Adult Studies:

The Sunday morning **Contemporary Issues / Christian Perspectives** class continues through the year. We meet directly following the worship service in the second floor room 208. With a lively discussion we dig deeper into the current issues on your mind while looking at Christian perspectives using the worship service Bible readings of the day. The class is led by Chris Robinson; if interested in leading the group now and then, please contact Chris at chrisrobinson228@hotmail.com.

The **Simpson Meadows Bible Study** meets on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm at Simpson Meadows, 101 Plaza Drive in Downingtown. We study multi-week biblical-themed videos followed by a discussion of the video relating it to today's world. In September we will be viewing a six-session video series on *"Moses: In the Footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet."* The sessions are independent and can be joined at any time without viewing the earlier sessions. We meet in the second-floor lounge of Simpson Meadows. Masks and front-desk check-in are required. All St. Paul's members are welcome to join this study. - Chris

The **Friday Night Fire Pit** continues through the fall! We meet at the church fire pit at 7:00 pm on Friday nights to share our stories from the week and get a preview of the worship service Bible readings for the coming Sunday. All are welcome. Bring your own chair. As in the past, in case of weather not conducive to sitting outdoors, we will meet in the Parsonage. It's a relaxing way to end the week and meet in fellowship with other members of St. Paul's. And at the fire pit sessions, you can learn the fine art of roasting marshmallows. Please join us. - Chris

Chat and Chews Book Club

Chat and Chews Sunday School Book Club resumes this month on the 2nd Sunday in **room 110** at 9:15 am. Our next meeting is **September 11**.

The following is a list of the summer books:

- *That Summer* by Jennifer Weiner,
- *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins,
- *Arabella* by Georgette Heyer,
- *At Home in Mitford* (1st Book) by Jan Karon,
- *Memphis* by Tara Stringfellow,
- Nancy Jane Newman's newly-published children's book: *The Very Small Adventures of Anne Katrina*.

Please contact Gwen Werner for more information.

ggwerner@verizon.net

Happy Reading!

Stewardship

Thank you for your continued generosity with both your financial gifts that enable us to continue to support our many ministries. You should have received a half-yearly statement. We will soon be looking to 2023 and thinking about the many more ways we can serve God, our Faith community, and our neighbors. Please prayerfully consider what you might be able to give both in time, talent and treasure.

We are so blessed to have so many people who give so much of their time and talents that enable our community of Faith to do so much. There is always so much more that we can do, so if you feel called to do something or do more, please reach out to Pastor Stuart or any of us on Council and the Stewardship committee. If you don't quite know where you would fit and would like help identifying areas in which you would be really good, we have access to the ELCA Spiritual Gifts Assessment. This is a wonderful tool that helps you explore your spiritual gifts Please talk to Pastor Stuart or Anne-Marie if you want to know more. There are so many wonderful ways to serve the church and we are always open to new ideas and new volunteers.

Finally, a big thank you to Theresa Foltz and Jenn Pindle-Lloyd for joining Pastor Stuart and I on the Stewardship team (or "Stuart-ship" team as we are fondly becoming known).

Yours in Christ,
Anne-Marie Walters

annemariewalters@hotmail.com ; 610.812.0204

VBS Update

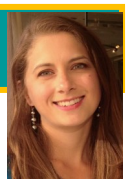
Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers at this year's VBS. A great time was had by all.

Also, next year's VBS will be held the week of July 23.

Mark your calendar now!

A Note from the Director of Music

lyndseystpauls@gmail.com



For the past two and a half years, I almost feel like I've been holding my breath. Or in some ways walking on a treadmill; putting one foot in front of the other but feeling like I'm not going anywhere. But now, as we head into fall of 2022, I feel ready to exhale with joy and get moving again!

The pandemic has had sweeping effects on countries, states, churches, families, and individuals. While worship and music at St. Paul's never stopped, some of the music ensembles did go on hiatus. This fall, I hope to resume all of St. Paul's music ensembles: Praise Players, Voice of the Spirit, Sunday School Singers, Kingdom Choir, Early Praise, Jubilant Bells, and the Worship Team. Please see below for details and start dates. Let's make a joyful noise at St. Paul's!

MUSIC MINISTRIES FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS:

Praise Players: St. Paul's children's music ensemble (open to kids 1st-5th grade) is a unique combination of classroom percussion instruments and singing. We'll meet **6:15-7 pm on Wednesdays** in the Choir room starting **September 14.**

Voice of the Spirit: St. Paul's teen choir is the perfect place to meet new friends and let your voice be heard. We sing a variety of music, but we're more than just music! Each week we gather for fellowship and fun. Students 6th-12th grade are invited to join us in the Choir Room on **Thursdays 6:15-7 pm** starting **September 15.**

Sunday School Singers: We'll make some music together at the start of Sunday School each week. As long as you're registered for Sunday School, no additional registration is required.

MUSIC MINISTRIES FOR ADULTS:

Kingdom Choir: St. Paul's adult choir meets **Thursdays in the Sanctuary from 7:30-9 pm.** We usually sing two Sundays a month at the 10:30am service and once a month at the 8am service. The Kingdom Choir sings a variety of repertoire ranging in complexity as well as style. We have a great group of singers, but we are always looking for new members. Our first rehearsal is on **Thursday, September 8.**

Early Praise: The **FIRST Sunday of each month** finds a group of early birds meeting **at 7:30 am** to prepare an anthem to be sung at the 8am Traditional Worship Service that day. While we have a core of dedicated singers who join us every month, this is an ensemble that does not require an ongoing commitment. Fall dates include **October 2, November 6 and December 4.**

Jubilant Bells: St. Paul's handbell choir is open to teens and adults. We rehearse **Mondays in the Sanctuary at 7:30 pm starting October 10**. While we have quite a few experienced ringers who read music, this is not a requirement. All levels are welcome. If you're looking for a way to grow musically and spiritually, or just looking to make a joyful noise, please contact our Director of Music.

If you are interested in joining any of these ensembles, being added to our mailing list, or have questions, please contact me via email (lyndseystpauls@gmail.com) or call the office (610-363-6264). I'm looking forward to the fellowship and faith that grows in each of these ensembles and worshipping with all of you through music.

Youth and Family News

craigyouthmin@gmail.com

THE TIME IS NOW TO SIGN UP FOR THE SEPTEMBER YOUTH RETREATS! The middle school and high school groups are heading to the Poconos on Friday evening, September 23rd, returning Sunday afternoon, September 25th. (It's okay if participants need to come up Saturday morning or head home on Saturday evening due to other commitments.) The total cost of the retreats will be $40 per family for the first youth, then an additional $20 per youth in the family after that. It doesn't matter if you have two high school students, two middle school students, one of each, two in one and one in the other – the rate is based on the total number of youth in your household that are coming on the retreats. **The signup deadline is Sunday, September 11th,** so don't wait! Here are the links:

Middle School Youth Retreat

High School Youth Retreat

I also still need adults to help with these retreats, so if you are interested in a two-night, all-expenses-paid trip to the Pocono Mountains, here is your opportunity! If you aren't currently an "Approved Youth Worker" through our Youth Protection Policy, I can help you through that process (it's pretty easy and straightforward), so don't let that be a deterrent. This would be a wonderful opportunity to get to know our youth even better, in a completely different setting. Sign up here to help out: September Retreat Adult Help. And while I'm on the subject of needing help (no, not THAT kind)…

HELP! I NEED SOMEBODY(IES) – As we continue to emerge into the (hopefully) post-pandemic world, things are really starting to take off in the area of youth and family ministry at St. Paul's and St. Matthew's! There are lots of new opportunities presenting themselves, as well as a desire for some of the pre-pandemic, regularly-held events to return. (HellOOO, Spaghetti Dinner and Chili Cookoff — is this the year when you'll be back?) In case you need a list, here are the things that have been happening or are definitely on tap in the St. Paul's/St. Matthew's youth ministry world:

-Monthly events for the middle school youth
-Twice-a-month OASIS gatherings for the high school youth
-The Peer Ministry Leadership program for the high school youth
-Summer service opportunities
-The high school summer mission trip to West Virginia through Appalachia Service Project
-Fall retreats at the end of September for both groups
-Delivering and helping distribute St. Paul's Thanksgiving Food Boxes and Easter Food Baskets to the Care Center Foundation in West Chester
-The 30-Hour Famine at the end of February for the high school youth
-The Annual Easter Egg Hunt at St. Matthew's
-Participating in SEPA Synod's annual Tuscarora Retreat in March
-A middle school mission trip in summer 2023

And here are some things on the "wish list" to resume or introduce:

-Regular (monthly?) events for the younger families in our congregations
-Community fundraising events like the Spaghetti Dinner, Chili Cookoff, and car washes
-A youth "brunch club"
-Partnering with Martin Luther/ Silver Springs School to have our youth work with their kids
-Summertime social events

As you can see, there is a LOT going on in this ministry, with the exciting potential for a LOT more to happen! HOWEVER…

(cont.)

Youth & Family News (cont.)

craigyouthmin@gmail.com

As a whole, these ministries require (or will require) significant amounts of time and energy and a variety of talents, much more than what a single Youth Director, or even a small-but-committed group of adult volunteers, can manage.

In order to broaden the ways that our teens can explore, expand, and live out their faith relationship with God and with each other, we need more people who will answer God's call to serve in this area. It might be a small, one-time measure of support, a more significant contribution of time and energy for a multi-day event, or an ongoing commitment to help with a regularly-occurring program. To help folks figure out how they might step forward, I have put together a list of areas where help is most needed right now. A CAVEAT: Some of these require folks to be approved as youth workers under the Youth Protection Policies of both St. Matthew's and St. Paul's, which involves submitting background checks and clearances and going through an hour-long training session. If this is a concern for you for any reason, talk to me or one of the pastors, or seek a way to help that doesn't require going through that process. (It's really not that difficult to complete, though.) In the list of needs below, those that are marked by an asterisk (*) DO require approval as a youth worker.

Here's the list:

* Drivers for single-day offsite events
* "Second Adults" for onsite and offsite activities
* Adults willing to take on occasional, or even regular, activity leadership roles within programs
* Planning team members for special events, such as the High School Graduate celebration, Spaghetti Dinner, etc.
* Adult leaders for week-long mission trips

And these two represent some more pressing, time-sensitive needs:

* Drivers & adult leaders for the September 23rd-25th youth retreats to Bear Creek Camp in the Poconos
* Youth Support Team members (youth worker approval not required, but strongly recommended)

For *any* of these roles, you do **not** need to be a parent of a middle school or high school student; in fact, you don't have to be a parent, period. Age doesn't matter a whole lot, either; some of the best youth workers I've seen have been folks in their 40's, 50's, and 60's. You simply have to have a heart for youth and, if you plan to work with them directly, a willingness to be an open, authentic, caring adult in their lives. If you want more information about any of these roles and what they entail, please talk to me about it. I'm not going to try to 'sell' you on helping or pressure you into it, because it's just as important to me (and the kids) that whatever you are contemplating doing is a good fit for you, and truly how God is calling you to use your talents. You can reach me by phone or text at 484-320-0785, or by e-mail at craigyouthmin@gmail.com.

So ask yourself — What's the best way for me to be a 'somebody' to the young adults in our congregation? When you feel that tug from God on your heart, give me a call!

Confirmation 2022-23

jstrawbridge52@yahoo.com

St. Paul's Confirmation classes resume on Sunday, September 11.

The 9th graders will complete their instruction through September and October before getting confirmed on Sunday, October 30, 2022. Classes for the 9th graders start in the **Church Library** at 9:00 am on the 11th. Succeeding Sundays will start at 9:15 am.

We are adding 6th graders to our Confirmation program this year. The 6th, 7th, and 8th graders also start the year on September 11 *along with their parents this first week* in the **Fellowship Hall** at 9:00 am. Succeeding Sundays will be the youth only, and they'll meet in the **Parsonage** starting at 9:15 am..

We're looking forward to a great year. If you have any questions or have a child that you would like to enroll in the program, please contact Joan Strawbridge at JStrawbridge52@yahoo.com.

Youth Calendars - Fall 2022

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

Fri. evening, September 23 through Sun. afternoon, September 25 – **Middle School Youth Fall Retreat to Bear Creek Camp!** The theme for the retreat is "Connect – Disconnect – Reconnect." Spend a weekend exploring this topic with your friends as we do fun activities, play games, eat lots of food, and have some thought-provoking conversations around what it might mean to be a connected Christian! **Sign-up deadline is Sunday, September 11th;** sign up here to participate: Middle School Youth Retreat.

Sun. afternoon, October 23, time TBA – **Youth Gaming Day at Uplink Studios!** Come show off your e-skills as we take part in a gaming session at Uplink Studios in Glenmoore. Sign-up info and other details coming very soon; watch for it in the weekly congregation publications and "Youth Ministry News"!

Sat., November 12 location and time TBD – **Our Annual "Friendsgiving" Event!** Invite a friend or two to take part in our yearly push to share this wonderful group with others. They can be friends from outside of our congregations, or someone who IS a part of the church but you haven't seen around in a while. Games, activities, and (weather permitting), some time around the firepit will be part of the plan!

Sun., November 20, meet at St. Paul's at noon – **Load, Deliver, and Distribute Thanksgiving Food Boxes.** We'll help load the van and trailer at St. Paul's, then follow it all down to the Care Center Foundation in West Chester to help unload and distribute them to those in need in the community.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

Sun., September 18, 6:30 to 7:45 pm at St. Matthew's – **OASIS.** Spend some time unwinding from the crazy business of everyday life, and maybe learn some ways to deal with it when you are in it. Come early at 6:00pm for St. Matt's evening worship, if you want. Unlike other events, sign-up is NOT required; you can just drop in.

Fri. evening, September 23 through Sun. afternoon, September 25 – **High School Youth Fall Retreat to Bear Creek Camp!** The theme for the retreat is "Connect – Disconnect – Reconnect." Spend a weekend exploring this topic with your friends as we engage in lots of different activities to help us think about what it might mean to be a connected Christian! **Sign up deadline is Sunday, September 11th;** sign up here to participate: High School Youth Retreat.

Sat., October 1, 7:00 to 8:30 pm at St. Paul's – **OASIS**

Sun., October 2, noon to 1:30 pm at St. Paul's – **Appalachia Service Project (ASP) Info Session.** If you weren't able to go with our group to West Virginia this past summer, here's a great opportunity to hear what it's all about from those who went. This will be the kickoff to our July 2023 ASP workweek, with registrations due at the end of October.

Sun., October 16, 6:30 to 7:45 pm at St. Matthew's – **OASIS**

Sat., October 22, 8:15 am to 3:30 pm – **Good Works Youth Workday.** Meet at the Good Works warehouse in Coatesville, then travel to a local residence to help make somebody's home safer, warmer, and drier. If you want a sample of what ASP is about, this is a GREAT way to get it! Sign up here by Monday, October 10th to participate: *Oct. 22nd Good Works Workday*.

Sat., November 5, 7:00 to 8:30 pm at St. Paul's – **OASIS**

Sun., November 20, meet at St. Paul's at noon – **Load, Deliver, and Distribute Thanksgiving Food Boxes.** We'll help load the van and trailer at St. Paul's, then follow it all down to the Care Center Foundation in West Chester to help unload and distribute them to those in need in the community.

Sun., November 20, 6:30 to 7:45 pm at St. Matthew's – **OASIS**

Social Ministry

- The **Quilting Bee** on August 7 was very successful with several quilts pinned and knotted. By far the best part was the wonderful food (see the photo!). Everyone had so much fun we're probably going to organize another bee sometime in the Fall to finish off the quilts that we'll be sending to Lutheran World Relief.

- **School Bags** for Lutheran World Relief - thank you so much to everyone who donated. We reached our 250 bag goal with a few extra $$ to buy some additional supplies. We are tentatively planning to pack the bags between services on the **25 September**. More info to come!

- **Blessing Of The Animals** - Details are still being worked out but we are expecting we will be holding a Saturday morning service October 15 (tentative) to bless our pets. All pets are welcome. One year, someone brought a horse!

- **Thanksgiving Food Drive** – this will start in October. Food collected will go to the Care Center in WC and local families. In addition to providing items for the baskets, we are hoping everyone can join us to pack the food boxes. Packing is tentatively scheduled for **November 13** between services.

- New - **Downingtown Holiday Parade** - St. Paul's will be creating a float for this year's parade scheduled on **Dec. 10**. Help will be needed to decorate/design the float, march in the parade, and handout candy at the parade. Apparently, you are not allowed to toss candy into the crowd :). More details to come.

- Please keep the **tabs from soda cans** coming. There's a collecting basket in the Narthex. The tabs are being collected for the Ronald McDonald House in Philly

- Also, keep the **postage stamps** coming. Please don't worry about trimming the stamps—Social Ministry will do this. Money raised from the stamps helps LWR send the quilts, school bags, and layettes to where they are needed.

- Finally, if you're a member of Thrivent did you know you can apply for a $250 visa card twice a year for a church-based project? We are fortunate to have several members who do get these cards which enables us to purchase soap and towels for the layettes and the school bags, for example. We can also use more cards, so please contact Ann Byer (annbyer1@gmail.com) if you want to know how to get a $250 gift card from Thrivent.

Rare Birds Upcoming Events

- September 13, 11:30 am -

Nancy Jane Newman & her son Scott

Learn the path Nancy Jane took to becoming the published author of *The Very Small Adventures of Anna Katrine*. Hoagie lunch will be served.
RSVP to karen@lammey.com by Sept. 4th.

- October 11, 11:30 am -

Fire Pit Fun

Hot dog roast lunch will be served. Bring your lawn chair.
RSVP to karen@lammey.com by Oct. 2nd

Crafters

Crafters is still going strong. We meet **every Wednesday at 11 am** outside the parsonage at the picnic area (at least until the weather gets cooler) when we'll move inside the Parsonage and meet at 10:00am. Come help trim stamps! We're also making baby blankets for LWR layettes and pillow cases to raise money to cover postage.

A couple of us are starting *plarn* mats for the homeless made from grocery bags. So keep saving those bags too! Anyone interested in either 'plarning' a mat or cutting the plastic bags to be used, please go to the YouTube video, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yr_WHW_tGSE "How to Make a PLARN Bedroll " or contact Anne-Marie W. for info. This is a **great** way to recycle plastic bags for a great cause!

St. Paul's Preschool

ST. PAUL'S PRESCHOOL
104 S. Village Avenue
Exton, PA 19341
610-594-9393

MORNING CLASSES for:

3 Year Olds - 3 days
4 Year Olds - 3 days
Pre-K 5 Year Olds -- 5 days } **(9 am-12 noon)**

LEARNING WITHOUT TEARS© CURRICULUM
EXTENDED-DAY, LUNCH ENRICHMENT
& LUNCH BUNCH PROGRAMS
MUSIC & MOVEMENT PROGRAM INCLUDED
LIBRARY OF 1800+ BOOKS
SMALL CLASS SIZES - INDIVIDUALIZED ATTENTION
CAMERA-EQUIPPED SECURITY SYSTEM

Call or email for Registration Information or visit
www.stpaulslionville.org/st-pauls-preschool.php
www.facebook.com/stpaulspreschool ~~
preschool@stpauslionville.org

Did you know St. Paul's Preschool offers a Pre-K Class?

Our Pre-K's program is specifically designed for those children who do not meet the kindergarten age requirements or those needing another year in a small-class setting before entering kindergarten.

Our Pre-K's program uses the Learning Without Tears© curriculum and a complete math curriculum in addition to STEM activities to encourage individual growth while focusing on kindergarten readiness skills.

Please call or email for more information; space is limited.

610-594-9393
www.stpaulslionville.org

Interested in working at our preschool? Give Cari a call!

St. Paul's Blood Drive

American Red Cross

Give blood. Help save lives.

Blood Drive
St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Fellowship Hall
104 S. Village Avenue
Exton, PA 19353

Thursday, October 13, 2022
1:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

To schedule an appointment, please sign up after services or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter sponsor code: splutheran

Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients.
If you are an eligible type O, B - or A - donor, consider making a Power Red donation.
Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.

We've got a treat for you this month: Come to give in October and get a $5 e-gift card to a merchant of your choice. Enjoy some buttery popcorn or a refreshing drink with your next movie screening on us. Terms apply, see rcblood.org/boo

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

©2017 The American National Red Cross

Rejoicing Spirits Service

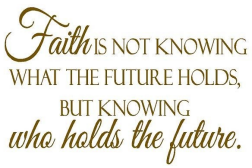
Our next Rejoicing Spirits service is scheduled for **Sunday, September 11** at 4pm in the Sanctuary. Hope we see you there!

Rejoicing Spirits® United in One Body

Everyone is Invited to Rejoicing Spirits Worship Services!

Come and experience an amazing worship service where:

we have lots of music & joyous singing



meaningful messages

many ways to participate, serve and lead

"NO" shushing policy

and fellowship!

Volunteers are asked to arrive at 3:30 pm.

A Year in the Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church Year is based on the two major events in the life of Christ: His birth and His resurrection. *Christmas*, the birth of Christ is always the 25th of December.

There are four Sundays before the new Church Year begins. These Sundays are called *1st , 2nd, 3rd* and *4th Sunday in Advent*. (In Year 2000 the Church year began December 3rd, in Year 2001 on December 2nd, and in Year 2002 on December 1st, and so on.)

The 6th of January is *Epiphany* (where the 3 Holy Kings visited Jesus), important for naming the next Sundays. Between Christmas and Epiphany is normally a Sunday named *Sunday after Christmas* or *Sunday after New Year*.

Now we have a gap in time. We have to find out when it is Easter, because the rest of the calendar depends on that date.
Easter (the Resurrection of Christ) is related to the full moon, as Easter is the first Sunday after the full moon after the vernal equinox. When Easter is placed, every other event can be placed in a firm schedule.

First, *Lent* - the last 40 days before Easter (Jesus fasted in the desert for 40 days). Now we count back from Easter, which we determined in the previous step, till we reach *Epiphany*:
Good Friday, when Jesus was crucified, is the last Friday before Easter Sunday.
Palm Sunday is one week before Easter, and there are five more Sundays in Lent before Palm Sunday.
Going backwards again, we now look back to Epiphany counting the remaining Sundays. There are a maximum of six. They are simply named 1st Sunday after Epiphany, 2nd Sunday after Epiphany, and so on till the gap is closed.

That was the hardest part of the maneuver! Now we go back to Easter. The Monday after Easter Sunday is a holiday, too (*Second Day of Easter*).

Then there are six Sundays before we reach *Pentecost*, where the Holy Spirit was given to the disciples and the Church was founded. The Thursday between the 5th and 6th Sundays is *Ascension* (40 days after Easter where Jesus ascended to Heaven). The Sunday after Pentecost is *Trinity.* Now comes the easiest part.
You simply name them *1st, 2nd, 3rd Sunday after Pentecost* until there are four Sundays left before the 25th of December.

Voila! Are you confused? Just review it a few times; it's relatively easy. There'll be a quiz...

Lots of Love from *Love Does*

lovedoes@stpaulslionville.org

Habitat for Humanity – our very own Chris Robinson was featured in the quarterly update speaking about volunteering. The update also featured a great update on the homes that Habitat has been building in Coatesville to replace "the projects." The update can be found here: (149) Executive Director Quarterly Update - July 28 2022 - YouTube. Chris and Anne-Marie volunteer regularly at the ReStores in Chester County (one in Caln and the other in Phoenixville). If you've not yet visited the new Phoenixville ReStore you really should. They have some great items, especially useful if you're helping to furnish a college room or newlyweds' new home! Donations also always welcome. The ReStores are open Wednesday through Saturday 9 to 5:00 pm and are always in need of volunteers. You can volunteer from as little as 2 hours to all day. There are also volunteering opportunities on both construction sites in Coatesville and West Grove. Email: annemariewalters@hotmail.com or chrisrobinson228@hotmail.com for more information.

Rise Against Hunger – save the date of **Sunday, October 16** for our next event in partnership with St. Matthews and probably being held there as well. Bill and Lauren Bauer are leading the St Paul's team for this family activity. Please save your quarters. Each meal we pack costs 31cents, so by saving quarters for this worthy cause you can make a huge difference. Look out for the details to come.

GoodWorks - work continues on Elaina's home in Coatesville. St. Paul's sends volunteers and youth every 4th Saturday of the month, which makes the next work day **September 24**. The bathroom is rebuilt and the kitchen ceiling is tiled. Not sure what is next but it will be fun! If you want to learn something new and help Elaina who is a nurse at Chester County Hospital and a single Mom, contact: chrisrobinson228@hotmail.com or annemariewalters@hotmail.com.

Pennsylvania Center for Adapted Sports – cycling on the Chester Valley Trail every Sunday from 1-3:00 pm leaving from Exton Park. This volunteering activity pairs volunteers with disabled athletes keeping them safe and providing company as they cycle on the trail and get great exercise. We have 30 disabled athletes signed up for this season and we urgently need more volunteers as some weeks either an athlete has to go out alone or they have to wait until someone comes back, cutting down their time to exercise. If you're interested in coming out and helping, contact: annemariewalters@hotmail.com. And as well as helping disabled riders, the onsite team is always happy to help other cyclists in need – see the photo on our photos page!

Church Humor

Thank-Yous

Dear St. Matt's and St. Paul's churches,

Thank you so much for all of your hard work, energy, and enthusiasm last week! Your help made homes warmer, safer, and drier here in Logan County. The staff and homeowners are so, so grateful. We loved getting to know you all and hope you had safe travels home. Thank you again and we hope to see you again next summer.

Many thanks, Anna Baldwin, Dylan Baedke, Reid Jones, & Colleen Roche
ASP Logan County Center Staff (Appalachian Service Project)

Crop Walk - Coming up Next Month!

The 36th Annual Downingtown Area CROP Walk will be held on **Sunday October 2!** Join Central Presbyterian Church members at **11:00 am** to begin our walk through Downingtown.

Register to walk with Team Central on October 2nd and/or Donate to Central's Team here:

https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/event/downingtownpa

If you are a Facebook user, please join the Downingtown CROP Facebook page for updates and further information:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/3192412217485281

What is the CROP Walk?
CROP Hunger Walks are walk events held across the USA raising funds to support Church World Service, an organization transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster. Learn more here: https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/page/about-the-crop-hunger-walk

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

Church Office Hours: Limited (*We are reachable by phone*) **Phone**: 610-363-6264
www.stpaulslionville.org **Preschool:** 610-594-9393

For an emergency or if you are in need of pastoral care, call the church office or email caristpauls@gmail.com. Voice mail is checked regularly.

Congregational Photos

Quilting Bee participants last month. Food, glorious food...

Crafters at their weekly gathering

Simpson Meadows Bible Study - Tues Eves

Congregational Photos (cont.)

PCAS Sunday - Cycling on Sunday afternoons at Exton Park from 1-3:00pm.

Every once in a while as you're walking by the sanctuary doors, you catch a great (and natural) light show.