

The Epistle

A newsletter for the Members and Friends of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church



July and August
2023

PASTOR

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SEXTON

Al Lightner

215-368-0374

Summer is a great time to reframe how God continues to make a claim on the beloved community of the church against all odds. God's persistence in the life of the church is truly a treasure! In our Sunday worship this summer, we will hear accounts of Jesus forming his followers through storytelling and with mighty acts to inspire us to persevere and even flourish. This summer we will hear from the prophet Jeremiah who was compelled to speak even though he had no assurance that his words would have any effect. We will hear of the great fertility of God's word producing fruit like rain promoting crop growth. And we will hear in Jesus' parable of the wheat and weeds that we are to shine like the sun even when weeds are planted because God is the gardener and God will reap what is sown.

I love these readings to help build our community moving us to consider ways that we can share our produce with those in need, and to share the gift of hospitality as we welcome those new faces among us. **Consider then, this summer, how something special to you, a blessing or talent you have can be used at St. Paul's?** In the past we may have believed that ministry only happens through our church committees, but good ministry happens when we take what we have and share with others. It's quite simple. For instance, maybe you have a summer garden? Can produce from the garden be shared with our blessing box? Maybe you love reading? Is there a need for helping children read in our community? Are you good at finances? Is there a need for helping people with financial literacy? Do you have time and car to help transport people to a doctor's appointment or grocery store? These are just a few ways of helping and serving, and hopefully these examples get you thinking of what you have to share, and then taking the step, to bring your vision about. My door is always open to talk and pray with one another about how God is calling you to share your gifts.

I pray you will have a safe, healthy, and restorative summer. I do trust that a significant part of a "good" summer is our connection to God and one another, so I will ask you to consider keeping those connections strong.

We pray, O God, that during this summer, you will guide us so that each day we can demonstrate your love, joy, peace, goodness, gentleness, and kindness. You grace each of us with equal measure in your love. Let us learn to love our neighbors more deeply, so that we can create peaceful and just communities. Inspire us to use our creative energies to provide shade and relief for those who are weary. And may Jesus provide us the example needed and send the Spirit to warm our hearts for the journey. Amen

In gratitude,
Pastor Bill Coleman

**Church Council
Contact
Information**

Church Officers

Jim McMichael,
President
267-885-8026

Ray Landis
Vice President
610-287-5499

Cathy Hurley
Treasurer
215-258-1211

Wayne Young,
Secretary
610-287-8897

**Committee
Chairpersons**

Cemetery
Dale Souder
215-527-4709

Christian Education

Janet Farrington
267-733-8725

Evangelism
Deb Bitner
267-664-0039

Fellowship
Terry Crippen
215-439-2284

Finance
Cathy Hurley
215-258-1211

Property
Greg Fosbenner
215-257-4707

Social Ministry
Barbara Mandato
215-460-5473

Stewardship
Wayne Young
610-287-8897

Worship and Music
Vacant

Youth
Vacant

Finance Update

Checking Account - Monthly	
Beginning Balance 5/1/23	\$17,144.74
Deposits (monthly)	\$23,926.85
Beginning Bal + Deposits	\$41,071.59
Expenses (monthly)	\$25,423.33
Ending Balance 5/31/23	\$15,648.26

Checking Account - YTD	
Beginning Balance 1/1/23	\$37,296.47
Deposits to date	\$119,906.55
Beginning Balance + Deposits	\$157,203.02
Expenses to date	\$141,534.76
Ending Balance 5/31/23	\$15,648.26

Ending Fund Balances 5/31/23	
Memorial Fund	\$37,196.23
Capital Reserve	\$80,437.14
Benevolence	\$3,133.71
Specials	\$26,285.91

Liabilities as of 5/31/23	
Mortgage Balance	\$26,880.18

This information is the most up to date available at time of printing. More up to date information can be found in the Sunday bulletins, or by calling the church office.



Church Family News

Congratulations to Dale and Gayle (Jobst) Souder, who were married at St. Paul's on Saturday, June 10, 2023.

We wish them many blessings and continue to keep them in our prayers as they begin their new life together.



Thank You Notes

Dear Friends at St. Paul's, we wish to thank you for the beautiful flowers delivered to Dom while he was hospitalized. Thank you also for the calls from the Pastor and all of the care and concern and well wishes for Dom. It is truly a blessing to be part of this church family.

Dom and Joan Votta

Thank you to the kitchen volunteers who helped with the funeral luncheon after my husband Dennis' memorial service. Everything was wonderful and I greatly appreciate all of the work that was put into it.

Lisa Bealer

Reminder!



Please remember that if you have any changes to your address, home phone number, cell phone number, email address, etc., please let Ashley in the church office know so that we can continue to keep our church records as up to date as possible.



www.stpaulstelford.org and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/StPaulsLutheranChurchTelfordPa/

Building a Culture of Generosity in the Special Account

This segment concludes the 4 part series on Deposit accounts of St Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church. In the previous segments, we have reviewed the 3 major Deposit accounts of Current, Benevolence, and Building and attempted to explain how monies, contributed to these respective accounts, are allocated. The Special account is, just as the name implies, special. Unless you are a contributor who receives weekly offering envelopes, you may have never contributed into the Special deposit account.

The Special account does not appear as one of the weekly offering envelope divisions you will see when you contribute each Lord's Day, yet the Special envelopes are found within the packet of envelopes mailed to parishioners every 2 months. They are not marked "Special," but rather, are the extra envelopes included for Ash Wednesday, Lent, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Parishioners who contribute through the "Simply Giving" program do not have access to Special envelopes unless they specifically ask for them.

Here at St Paul's, there is no predesignating of where funds received through these Special envelopes will be distributed. Rather, with guidance from the Finance committee at the end of the year, the Church Council directs these monies received into areas of ministry where the budgeted goal may not have been fully achieved that particular year. This flexibility allows the Council to fully fund a ministry goal without the constraint of designated giving to a specific ministry. For example, if St Paul's has a budgeted goal of contributing "X" amount toward Lutheran Disaster Response in a given year and throughout the course of said year only 85% of "X" is achieved, the Church Council can vote to fulfill the remaining 15% from the Special account. That is a really simplified example, but one that should help to explain where these funds originate and where they are distributed.

The Special account also contains funds from several sub-accounts of standing "groups" within St Paul's to avoid each group needing to have their own treasury. Examples of this are the Youth, Kitchen, and Green Team accounts. In addition, whenever extra social or ministry functions are scheduled that include parishioner's individual funds, these monies are held in, and paid from, the Special account. Examples of this are Senior Ministry events like the Iron Pigs outing and the Christmas banquet or the recent refurbishment of the Prayer Garden.

The truth is that St Paul's also has three additional deposit accounts, but I believe their names are self-explanatory and are not accounts where there is routine interaction between any individual parishioner and the account. These are the Memorial account, the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, and the Endowment Fund.

I want to thank you for your solid, generous support of our shared ministry. As the psalmist writes in Chapter 24, verse 1, "The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it." That's you and me, folks. All we are and all we have is God's. We are called to be responsible stewards of what has first, been shared with us.

Wayne Young, Stewardship chair



Hi to the book lover's of St. Paul's. The short-term library committee has been working on consolidating & repositioning books in the adult church library. Our goal is to make the library more accessible to our members. So far we have labeled the Fiction section (**FIC**) in alphabetical order by the Author's last name and within the same author then the book titles are the secondary order. No longer are there cards to be signed out. Instead all is by the honor system. Featured authors in our fiction section include (Lynn **Austen**, Jan **Karon**, Kim Vogel **Sawyer**, Karen **Kingsbury** - Christian, Wanda **Brustatler**, Beverly **Lewis** - Amish, Julie **Klassen** - Historical, contemporary, Walter **Wangerin** - Lutheran) and many other authors. Also, we have finished a shelf of young adult books to enjoy (**YOU**). Come and enjoy all the books in the library (not limited to Fiction and Young Adult) and place them back on the shelf when finished.

Also, the children's library has been consolidated and repositioned. Bring the young to enjoy the wonderful books in the children's area.

In September we will start labeling Non-fiction shelves in the adult library.

Cathy Mensch

2023 Vacation Bible School



July 31 through August 3
from 9am – noon

Being held this summer at Little Zion Lutheran Church, Morwood Rd., Telford

You can sign up through the link on our website or in the weekly announcement email, through the QR code below or through the green sign up forms in the narthex.

Adult & teen helpers are needed for many roles, from assisting with snacks, science, crafts, recreation, actors, and small group leaders.

For more info or to volunteer, please contact Marian Henry at dce@stpaulstelford.org



SEPARATION FROM SIN

David praises God for his love and compassion.
What does God do for people who fear him?

Directions: Using each grid pattern marked below, find the word that appears in all three of those squares. Write the words in the spaces below to complete Psalm 103:12, NIV.

FROM as is can	NORTH from far	at the EAST FROM
is South AS	by do far EAST	the THIS up as
WEST THAT is East	far down WEST	THE be AS West



... so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

PSALM 103:12, NIV

Answer: As far as the east is from the west

Lehigh Valley IronPigs Baseball Game

at Coca-Cola Park

Saturday, August 19

6:35pm gametime

Sign Up and Payment is due
July 23



\$22 per person includes game ticket, air conditioned bus ride to the ballpark, and \$2 ballpark credit. Bus to the ballpark leaves

St. Paul's parking lot at 4:30pm, returning at approximately 10:30pm.

Sign up sheet can be found in the Narthex. Invite friends!!
We have 52 tickets to sell!

St. Paul's at the Telford Night Market!

July 12 and August 16
at 5:30 pm

A great way for us to meet
neighborhood families!



Volunteers are needed to greet the kids and help them making their craft. Speak to Marian Henry to volunteer or with questions.

Summer Adult Faith Conversations

Held during the summer on select Sunday mornings
AND Thursday evenings!

Where Daily Life Intersects with God's Word

Led by Pastor Coleman and Marian Henry

10:45am Sunday mornings in the Parlor after worship

6:30pm Thursday evenings at Freewill Brewery
(come early and grab dinner at one of the food trucks!)

Thursday, July 6 & 20, August 17 & 31 – 6:30pm
at Freewill Brewing

Sunday, July 9 & 23, August 13 & 27– 10:45am in the Parlor

Intersections:

Where Daily Life Intersects
with God's Word

St. Paul's Bible Study



July 6 and 20 and
August 3 and 17 at 12:00 pm

St. Paul's Bible Study takes place on the first and third
Thursday each month. Come and join us in Christian
Fellowship for this informal time to reflect, discuss and learn.

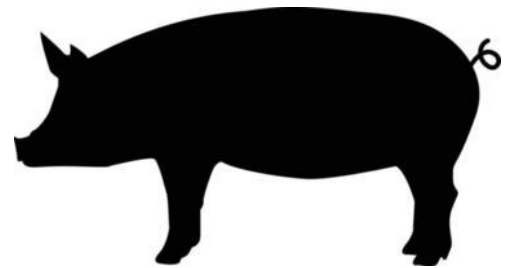
Mark Your Calendar for St. Paul's Church Picnic!



Sunday, September 10 from 2:30pm – 6:00pm
Dinner Served at 5:00 pm

Franconia Community Park picnic pavilion
Yard Games, Blessing Box service project, cake walk,
picnic supper, and more!

Adult Pig Roast



Saturday, July 15

5pm – appetizers; 6ish – dinner

Please bring an appetizer, side dish or dessert to
share

Meat, water, tea & lemonade will be provided

\$10 per person

BYOB

Being held at the home of Tom & Karen Dunlap

10 Church Rd., Telford

RSVP by July 3 – sign up sheet is located in the
Narthex or call the church office



Every Fourth Tuesday of the Month at Free Will Brewing Co., Perkasio
Next Meeting: July 25 at 7 pm

For the past several years, members from several local congregations have been gathering on the
4th Tuesday of every month for Pub Theology. Each month features a different leader and
topic. Conversations are always lively and thought-provoking. Won't you consider joining us?
No previous Bible knowledge needed!

Honoring Our Graduates



During the month of June, the following students were recognized during worship for graduating from high school, college, or another degree program. Congratulations to all!

James Beer—James graduated from North Penn High School. He will be attending Montgomery County Community College in the fall.

Austin Farrington— Austin graduated from Upper Perkiomen High School. In the fall he will be attending Pennsylvania College of Technology where he will be studying Automotive.

Lauren Favorin—Lauren graduated from Joe E. Newsome High School. She will be attending Hillsborough Community College in the fall.

Rachael Favorin— Rachael graduated in December from the University of South Florida with a degree in criminal justice.

Lauren Leibensperger—Lauren graduated from Perkiomen Valley High School. She will be attending Susquehanna University in the fall where she will be majoring in business and playing field hockey.

Nicholas Kraus—Nicholas graduated from Pennridge High School. He will be attending St. Joseph's University in the fall.

John Sommers—John graduated from Temple University. He will be starting work at Price Waterhouse.

Prayer List



The following prayer list is current as of June 19, 2023. Please contact the church office with any changes. Names will remain on the prayer list for four weeks unless notified otherwise. Thank you.

Please Pray for...

Joshua Chattley	Anne Macy
Mary Devereaux	Robert Scott Sr.
Elijah Klingman	Dawn Spencer
Keith Landis	Amber Voehringer
Bruce Lawhon	Samantha Williams
Anna Long	

Please Continue to Pray for...

Diane Carver	Al Landis
Greg Church	Tracey Leinen
Dick Clark	Bill Lincoln
Jeanette Delp	Leigh Anne Mirabella
Maxine Detweiler	Karen Money
Carolyn Evans	Joanne Romano
Roland Fernandez	Dean Shollenberger
Suzanne Fernandez	Rachelle Shollenberger
Bev Gibson	Paul Stover
Tim Greiser	Andrew Strauss
Bob Grisley	Claudette Strauss
Gloria Harpel	Linda Tierrmo
Bryan Johnson	Luke Touhill
Roger Jones	Victoria Young
Gayle King	Fred Wahl

Comfort for the Bereaved

Family and Friends of Rev. John Huber
 Family and Friends of Sharon Lord
(Sister of Beth Seifert)
 Family and Friends of Tim Kramer
(Cousin of Sara Ryan)

**If you would like a name added to the prayer list, please fill out the "Prayer Requests" section of the weekly bulletin insert, or speak to Pastor Coleman or Ashley in the church office.*

Bible Quiz

In what land and at what age did Moses die?

- A. The land of Israel; 100 years old
- B. The land of Canaan; 70 years old
- C. The land of Moab; 120 years old
- D. The land of Judah; 102 years old



Answer: C (See Deuteronomy 34:5, 7.)

Volunteer Serving in July and August 2023

ALTAR GUILD

July 2023

Ruth Sommers, Ron and Sandy Schneck,
Becky Fritzges and Mallory Prediger

August 2023

Pat Hammer, Jeanette Johnson, Karen Money,
Barbara Mandato and Judith Hercek

ASSISTING MINISTERS

July 2— Dawn Krown

July 9— Wayne Young

July 16— Diane King

July 23 — Ashley Bromley

July 30—Denny Detweiler

August 6— Wayne Young

August 13— Denny Detweiler

August 20— Dawn Krown

August 27 — Diane King

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

July 2— Jim McMichael and Marian Henry

July 9— Cathy Hurley and Kristina Ahlman

July 16— Ray Landis and Dale Souder

July 23 — Jim McMichael and Marian Henry

July 30—Ray Landis and Cathy Hurley

August 6— Jim McMichael and Dale Souder

August 13— Cathy Hurley and TBD

August 20— Shirley Schimpf and Ray Landis

August 27 — Jim McMichael and Kristina Ahlman

FLOWER DELIVERY

July 2— Judy Kraus

July 9— Joan O'Connor

July 16— Pat Hammer

July 23 — Sandy Groff

July 30—Wayne Young

August 6— Wayne Young

August 13— Jeanette Johnson

August 20— Joan Votta

August 27 — Ron and Sandy Schneck

GREETERS

July 2— Jayne and Richard Poole

July 9— Sandy and Bill Baker

July 16— Meg Mills

July 23 — Karen and Ron Money

July 30—Cathy Hurley

August 6— Deb Bitner

August 13— Judy and Ken Heckler

August 20— Ruth Sommers

August 27 — Pat Hammer and Karen Wilmore

LECTORS

July 2— Mallory Prediger

July 9— Wayne Young

July 16— Amy Coleman

July 23 — Tors Ahlman

July 30—Kristina Ahlman

August 6— Bob Bell

August 13— Frank Bucher

August 20— Pat Young

August 27 — Melissa Brasch

USHERS

July 2— Greg Fosbenner and Brian Garges

July 9— Bob Johnson and Dale Souder

July 16— Jim McMichael and Randy Groff

July 23 — Denny Detweiler and Ray Landis

July 30—Richard Poole and Tors Ahlman

August 6— Ron Money and Fred Johns

August 13— Bob Johnson and Dale Souder

August 20— Jim McMichael and Randy Groff

August 27 — Denny Detweiler and Ray Landis

THANK YOU
Volunteers

