

St. Paul Lutheran Church
“Let’s Make a Difference Together”



158 Fish Hill Road

PO Box 196

Tannersville, Pennsylvania 18372

Telephone: (570) 629-1992

Fax: (570) 629-2038

Website: www.stpaultannersvillepa.org

Parish Administrator’s Email: parishadmin@stpaultannersvillepa.org

Worship Services: Sunday at 9:00 A.M.

Holy Communion: 1st & 3rd Sundays of each month & Festivals

Christian Education: Sunday’s at 10:15 A.M.

Air Conditioned & Handicapped Accessible

Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church

OUR MISSION STATEMENT: Grounded in faith and growing in grace, we share the Good News of Jesus Christ by word and deed in our local community and throughout the world.



Are you visiting St. Paul? Are you interested in membership or just looking to see if St. Paul is a good fit for you and/or your family??

Please call (570-629-1992) or stop by our office during regular business hours (Mon – Thurs 9:00am – 1:00pm) and speak to our Parish

Administrator, Leanna Wickline, who will be happy to guide you through

the membership process and help you find information on all of the great programs at St. Paul Lutheran Church.

SILENT MEDITATION. . . . Please note – the silent meditation is a part of the morning worship service. This is a time for individual reflection; a time for communicating with God, as well as a time of preparation for the service of worship. We encourage you to use it in a meaningful way.

Please respect the prayerful atmosphere of this holy place. We ask that you turn off all cell phones and electronic devices. Thank you.

Pastor: Reverend Rashion “Woody” Santiago

Parish Administrator: Mrs. Leanna D. Wickline

Choir Director/Organist: Mr. Robert Jones

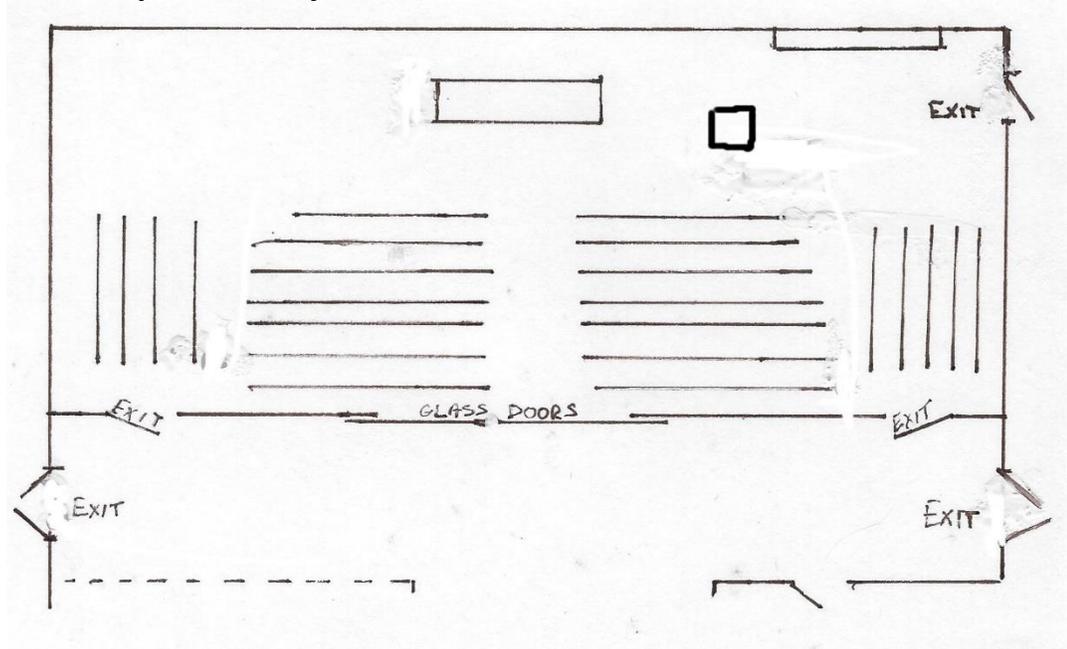
2023 Council Members

Grant Allen, Dawn Bartron, Bill Below, Chris Kinsley Sr., Nicole Kresge,
Carl Reindl, Deb Storman, Beth Werkheiser, Leanna Wickline

Website: www.stpaultannersvillepa.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stpaultannersvillepa

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsvvR6Fl09zcaiDPY174k5A>



Worship Service

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 17, 2023

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

**Please stand, if able.*

Words in bold print denote congregational response.

Chimes

Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship

As we are called into worship today, it is sobering to remember that when God appeared on earth in the person of Jesus, most of the world did not recognize him and therefore did not worship him. Today we ask for the faith that will open our eyes to see Jesus for who he is, that we might worship him in truth. People of God, behold and see your God!

We open our eyes to see his glory. We open our ears to hear his wisdom. We open our hands to offer him gifts. We open our mouths to sing his praise. We open our hearts to offer him our love. He is Lord!

***Confession**

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be God, the one who forms us, † Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

Amen.

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Steadfast and faithful God,

you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed

by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

*Absolution

Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In † Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

Amen.

*Opening Hymn Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death (Red Book) ELW #452

1 A - wake, O sleep - er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re - lease,
3 There is one bod - y and one hope, one Spir - it and one call,
4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;
5 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con - quered in the strife.

so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.
to give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace.
one Lord, one faith, and one bap - tism, one God who made us all.
with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.
A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984
Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829
Text © 1980 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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*Greeting

You whom I took from the ends of the earth, and called from its farthest corners, saying to you, “You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off”; do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

***Kyrie**

Refrain

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.

- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
- 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the

u - ni - ty of all; for
 hun - gry and the poor; that
 friends and fam - i - ly; for
 wa - ter and the word; that you

this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
 we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
 life and for love, for our work and our play,
 nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

Refrain

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

***Hymn of Praise**

Refrain

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and

peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther,

we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you

Refrain

for your glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high-

est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the
right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Refrain
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and
peace to God's peo - ple on earth. 3 For you a -
lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the
Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.
A - men. A - men. A - men.

Final refrain
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and peace to God's
peo - ple on earth. Glo - ry to God in the high -
est, the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

*Prayer of the Day (Lector)

Let us Pray.

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said to one another, "If Joseph is holding a grudge against us, he will certainly repay us for all the suffering we caused him."

¹⁶ So they sent this message to Joseph, "Before he died your father gave a command: ¹⁷ 'Say this to Joseph: Please forgive your brothers' transgression and their sin — the suffering they caused you.' Therefore, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when their message came to him. ¹⁸ His brothers also came to him, bowed down before him, and said, "We are your slaves! "

¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ You planned evil against me; God planned it for good to bring about the present result — the survival of many people. ²¹ Therefore don't be afraid. I will take care of you and your children." And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 103:1-13

¹ My soul, bless the Lord, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

² **My soul, bless the Lord, and do not forget all his benefits.**

³ He forgives all your iniquity; he heals all your diseases.

⁴ **He redeems your life from the Pit; he crowns you with faithful love and compassion.**

⁵ He satisfies you with good things; your youth is renewed like the eagle.

⁶ **The Lord executes acts of righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.**

⁷ He revealed his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel.

⁸ **The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in faithful love.**

⁹ He will not always accuse us or be angry forever.

¹⁰ **He has not dealt with us as our sins deserve or repaid us according to our iniquities.**

¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his faithful love toward those who fear him.

¹² **As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.**

¹³ As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.

Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

¹ Welcome anyone who is weak in faith, but don't argue about disputed matters. ² One person believes he may eat anything, while one who is weak eats only vegetables. ³ One who eats must not look down on one who does not eat, and one who does not eat must not judge one who does, because God has accepted him. ⁴ Who are you to judge another's

household servant? Before his own Lord he stands or falls. And he will stand, because the Lord is able to make him stand.

⁵ One person judges one day to be more important than another day. Someone else judges every day to be the same. Let each one be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶ Whoever observes the day, observes it for the honor of the Lord. Whoever eats, eats for the Lord, since he gives thanks to God; and whoever does not eat, it is for the Lord that he does not eat it, and he gives thanks to God. ⁷ For none of us lives for himself, and no one dies for himself. ⁸ If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. ⁹ Christ died and returned to life for this: that he might be Lord over both the dead and the living. ¹⁰ But you, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written, As I live, says the Lord, every knee will bow to me, and every tongue will give praise to God. ¹² So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the Gospel. (*Lector*)

*Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:21-35

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹ Then Peter approached him and asked, “Lord, how many times must I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? As many as seven times?”

²² “I tell you, not as many as seven,” Jesus replied, “but seventy times seven.

²³ “For this reason, the kingdom of heaven can be compared to a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ When he began to settle accounts, one who owed ten thousand talents was brought before him. ²⁵ Since he did not have the money to pay it back,

his master commanded that he, his wife, his children, and everything he had be sold to pay the debt.

²⁶ “At this, the servant fell facedown before him and said, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ Then the master of that servant had compassion, released him, and forgave him the loan.

²⁸ “That servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him, started choking him, and said, ‘Pay what you owe!’

²⁹ “At this, his fellow servant fell down and began begging him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.’ ³⁰ But he wasn’t willing. Instead, he went and threw him into prison until he could pay what was owed’ ³¹ When the other servants saw what had taken place, they were deeply distressed and went and reported to their master everything that had happened. ³² Then, after he had summoned him, his master said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. ³³ Shouldn’t you also have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And because he was angry, his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured until he could pay everything that was owed’ ³⁵ So also my heavenly Father will do to you unless every one of you forgives his brother or sister from your heart.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

*Hymn of the Day

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

(Red Book) ELW #733

1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no
2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon, and
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear

shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -
stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in
pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright

pas-sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 man - i - fold wit-ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 hope for to - mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be - side!

Refrain

Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by

morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need - ed thy

hand hath pro - vid - ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un - to me.

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960
 Music: FAITHFULNESS, William M. Runyan, 1870–1957
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***The Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right

hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***Prayers of the People** (*Lector*)

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. Bless the missions and ministries of diverse congregations, that they uplift the good news of salvation in ways that can be understood. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We pray for creation. Send rain to lands experiencing drought and healing to rivers clogged with pollution. Enrich the soil for trees and plants. Protect the crops needed to feed those who hunger. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We pray for all who govern. Encourage those in positions of power to lead with empathy, practice forgiveness, and care for those who struggle. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We pray for our neighbors who face illness of any kind. For those strained financially; for all living with chronic pain, mental illness, the disease of addiction, or otherwise afraid or in harm's way. Protect all who cry out for mercy. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We pray for this congregation. Open our hearts to practice intentional invitation. Help us to forgive each other, practice patience, and choose welcome over judgment. Move us to care for those in our community seeking refuge and safety. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We give thanks for the saints who died in faith. Show us how to live faithfully, creatively, and lovingly in your church and world. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

At this time, you are welcomed to offer your joys and concerns, either aloud or silently.

Pause. Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Offering Prayer

God of power, God of plenty,

all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace. Then the assembly is seated.

*The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*Proper Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -

est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

***Words of Institution**

Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God! People will come from east and west, from north and south, and sit at table in the kingdom of God. When our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, he took the bread, and blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him. This is the Lord's table. Our savior invites those who trust him to share the feast that he has prepared.

The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this in remembrance of me."

For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

***The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Jesus invites us to this table. Come, eat and live.

Communion

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

***Table Blessing**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

***Prayer After Communion**

Let us pray.

Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

***Blessing**

The God of glory, † Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

1 On our way re - joic - ing glad - ly let us go.
2 Un - to God the Fa - ther joy - ful songs we sing;

Christ our Lord has con - quered; van - quished is the foe.
un - to God the Sav - ior thank - ful hearts we bring;

Christ with - out, our safe - ty; Christ with - in, our joy;
un - to God the Spir - it bow we and a - dore,

who, if we be faith - ful, can our hope de - stroy?
on our way re - joic - ing now and ev - er - more.

Refrain
On our way re - joic - ing; as we for - ward move,

hear - ken to our prais - es, O blest God of love!

***Choral Benediction**

"Go Now and Pass It On"

May the Lord _____ walk be - side us _____ as we

6
leave _____ this qui - et place, _____ for the Lord _____ will al - ways

12
guide us _____ if we walk in the light of His grace. _____

17
_____ May we feel God's love a - round us _____ as it

22
keeps us faith - ful and strong, _____ for the peace _____

27
_____ of God sur rounds us, _____ and now we must pass it

32
on. _____ Go now and pass it on. _____

***Charge to the People**

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

"The worship ends. . .the service begins."



Prayer Requests

Prayers have been requested for the following brothers and sisters in Christ who have concerns needing God's help...

Sr. Msgr. William F. Allen; Specialist William "Blake" Allen; Tom Altemose; Mark Anthony; Evelyn Arroyo; Daniel Bartron; Dillon Berenti; Major Matthew Blessing; Captain Katy Blessings; David Brong; Judi Carman; Elaine Cornelus; Jamie Fisher; LilliAnna Daniels; Renee Depuy; Doris Drury; John Drury; Louis Genset; the family of Chris Haley Jr.; Charlie Hemple; Carol Jones; Ian Juica; Robbie Kinsley; Nikolaos Kotretsos; Eleanor Kreuger; Esther Laurito; David Leith; James Meckes; Steven Moore; Ada Morales; Nelson Morales; Donna Myers; Dr. Kenny Pearson; Annabelle Peechatka; Anna Rivera; Jean Ross; Gina Santiago; Rafael Santiago; Claudette Segear; Frank Schambra; Shirley Singer; Samuel Smith, Jr.; Greg Theadford; Jim Tomedi; Brenda Van Why; Jacob Wilson; John Woodling; for the people of Ukraine; for all who are traveling; for all of those struggling with addictions; the members of the Armed Forces of the United States; for the families and victims of the mass shootings, for all those around the world and here at home suffering from the coronavirus pandemic. **Have your prayers been answered? Or do you still need God's help? Please let us know. Thank you to everyone who prays with us for those in need.**



Thank you to all who have helped to support St. Paul's Strunk Food Pantry! Your commitment to help is a true blessing to those who are struggling to feed their families. The pantry is always in need of basic food supplies, and we need your continued support to keep this program going strong. **Items of particular need are canned pasta, canned white potatoes, canned soup, and small bags of rice.**

Grocery Tapes

If you shop at Kinsley's Shoprite or Weis markets we get a percentage of your purchase. Just bring your receipts in and put them in the box on the table in the Narthex. In order for us to receive credit, the receipts must include the date and store number. Please don't tear off the bottom of the receipts.

St Paul Tee-shirts

St Paul Tee-shirts are available to purchase, in sizes from medium to 3XL. The price is \$10.00. Personalized with St Paul Lutheran Church, Tannersville on the back the colorful front says "Faith, Hope & Love 1 Corinthians 13".

Inside Out Church

Inside Out Church is held at 6:30pm on Wednesday, in the parlor. We join together with a meal and a deep dive into the scriptures. This is an opportunity to grow your faith and increase your knowledge and understanding of God’s Word and the Bible. This past week, we were joined by a group from St Paul, Smithfield/Craig’s Meadow.

Help Wanted

Parish Administrator. If any of you have an interest in the position or may know of someone who does, please contact Bill Below, Deb Storman, Pastor Woody, or Leanna. Leanna’s last Sunday is October 22nd.

Worship Assistant Schedule						
	Acolyte	Ushers	Lector	Communion Assistants	Counters	Altar Guild
9/17/2023	Linda Below	Charlie Hempel	Joan Rinker	Linda Below	Beth Werkheiser	Deb Storman
		Donna Warner		Deb Storman	Donna Warner	Donna Warner
9/24/2023	Barbara Allen	Linda Below	Jim Werkheiser		Barbara Allen	
		Deb Storman			Beth Werkheiser	
10/1/2023	Eli Kresge	Beth Reindl	Bill Below	Dawn Weiss	Beth Werkheiser	Beth Werkheiser
		Carl Reindl		Dawn Bartron	Deb Storman	Leanna Wickline
10/8/2023	Deb Storman	Charlie Hempel	Dawn Bartron		Barbara Allen	
		Donna Warner			Donna Warner	

If you are unable to serve at your scheduled time, please contact the office.

Next Week’s Readings:

Jonah 3:10--4:11 *God’s concern for the city of Nineveh*

Psalms 145:1-8 The LORD is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Philippians 1:21-30 *Standing firm in the gospel*

Matthew 20:1-16 *The parable of the vineyard workers*