

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Chimes

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September 2020

September Worship Schedule

September 6, 2020	9:00 am	Worship with Communion Led by Rev. William Thompson
	10:15 am	Sunday School
September 13, 2020	9:00 am	Worship Service Led by Rev. Dr. Dan Baugess
	10:15 am	Sunday School
September 20, 2020	9:00 am	Worship with Communion Led by Rev. William Thompson
	10:15 am	Sunday School
September 27, 2020	9:00 am	Worship Service Led by Rev. Dr. Dan Baugess
	10:15 am	Sunday School



Council Corner

For those of us who have “been around for a while,” September traditionally marks the beginning of a new school year filled with fresh hope, promises, excitement, and a return to a larger circle of friends at school. Although it may have been many decades since some of us have spent much time in a school—even with our own children—when the calendar turns to September, our thoughts return to freshly prepared classrooms, new teachers, new books, and—if we were lucky—some new clothes and school supplies. There is even a song celebrating the nostalgia of going to school (“School days, school days, good old golden rule days . . .”). Most of us could probably still sing a verse or two even though we haven’t even thought about that song in a very long time (By the way, it was written in 1907!).

The COVID-19 virus has changed almost everything in the fall of 2020, including the opening of schools. Our Monroe County schools closed by the direct order of Governor Wolf on March 13, 2020, and we optimistically believed that it might be for a few weeks or a month until the virus passed through—like one of the tropical storms that are hitting our area more frequently these days. Sadly, it hasn’t worked out that way, and it is clear now that we are “in for the long haul” until we can de-

feat the virus and emerge with whatever our new normal will look like.

For well over eighty years at St. Paul, September has also meant a return from a summer break to the opening assembly of Sunday School Rally Day. Rally Day, a traditional part of the life of many congregations, is a time to recognize and honor both those who teach and learn, all who nurture faith in others. It also provides a unique opportunity to acknowledge the partnership of parents and teachers (teachers who are actually “installed” in a ceremony focusing on their pledge to serve God through sound religious instruction). For many of the students Rally Day was an opportunity to reunite with friends they may not have seen since June (and in this strange year, the same is true).

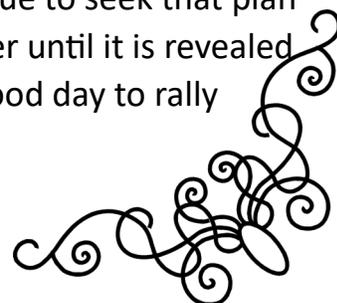
Of course, the need for a Rally Day depends upon an active Sunday School filled with children. Take a look around: we don’t have many (if any) children worshipping with us on a typical Sunday, and our only active Sunday class is for adults. Instead of lamenting this major change in our congregation (which occurred over more than a decade), we need to recognize it for what it is—the cycle of family life, the seasons of life, and the mobility of our population. Yes, we once had confirmation classes of 12-15 students, but we were in the cycle of

young families at that time and church attendance and participation was still a fairly high priority. Today, church attendance competes with youth sports tournaments, weekend camping trips, and all kinds of special events. In addition, Monroe County is filled with a rich variety of churches of all types—not just “main line” churches. The *Church Directory* in the **Pocono Record** may list only a few churches, but that’s because church outreach is occurring through the Internet now. (Try searching for “Churches in Monroe County, PA” and take a look at the listings.)

So what does Rally Day mean at a St. Paul Lutheran Church that no longer has a family-filled Sunday School? It should be a time of rededication to each of us to continue to do all that we can to worship, serve our community, and serve our God. Instead of dwelling on the

“good old days” when the opening assembly of Sunday School filled 3-5 pews in the sanctuary, we need to continue to open our doors to all who are in need. In an unprecedented time when many schools and colleges are delivering instruction online, we need to understand that we are in a holding pattern where most people are not inclined to take unnecessary risks, especially not until we understand more about the strange virus that is COVID-19.

This holding pattern and the demographics of the last ten years have shaped Rally Day 2020. However, despite changes that many of us may view as distressing, God has a plan for us here at St. Paul. We must continue to seek that plan through earnest prayer until it is revealed to us. It is always a good day to rally around God!



St Paul's Rummage Sale

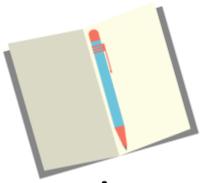
October 2 & 3

Donations from member and their immediate families are being accepted by appointment until September 15. Call the church office to schedule your appointment. All items received will be “quarantined” for a period before the sale setup. This is for the safety of the volunteers that sort and set-up, as well as the shoppers that attend and purchase. The number of shoppers will be limited at any giv-

en time. Masks will be required by all entering the building, and social distancing will be maintained.

Friday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm - all clothing you can fit into a paper bag will be \$7.00

Saturday 9:00am to 12:00 noon - all clothing you can fit into a paper bag will be \$5.00



A Letter from the Parish Administrator

A year ago, I did not envision myself in this position. This maybe accurate for you in this time of coronavirus. For me it is accurate in many ways. I did not envision the current pandemic. I did not see myself as Parish Administrator. I did not envision letting the gray in my hair grow out. I did not imaging recording church services for online viewing (too technical for me.) I did not envision the pandemic that has affected all of us, our daily lives, our livelihood, our way to join as a community of believers, as God's people on earth.

What is the old saying? "If you want to hear God laugh, tell him your plans." We all had other plans for our lives than how things are now. God laughed. He did not cause this pandemic, but laughted at our thoughts that we are in control of our lives and circumstances. However, we can trust in Him to carry us though this time, and even grow in our faith and grow his Church. "We know that in all things God works for good with those who love him, those whom he has called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28

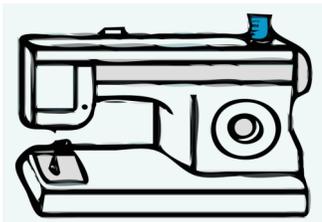
We are called to be His people in this time and place. How can we serve him in this

time? Are there neighbors or church members that we can check on, and remind them of His love for each of us? Man was created to be in community with one another. How can we live "in community" during this pandemic, when we are separated by at least 6 feet, and wearing masks that hide our facial expressions? Those realities require us to use our words to reflect the feelings that our face used to show... a smile, happiness, loneliness, fear, understanding. Are we open to sharing those feelings with one another? Are we open to hearing these things from one another? Sometimes these things are challenging to give voice to, and challenging to hear. When we are not willing to share them with others, we can always share them with the Lord in prayer. Then we can watch the amazing ways he meets our needs and answers our prayers, often in ways we do not envision!

Blessings of safety & health!

Leanna Wickline,
Parish Administrator





The Sewing Ladies

The sewing ladies are back!! Do you sew, knit, or crochet ? Are you looking for some social connection and an outlet for your creativity and handicrafts? Join the Sewing Ladies on the first, third and fifth Tuesday of each month from 10:00am until 2:00pm. Pack a lunch! Anyone is welcome to join and will be greeted warmly.



The Walter & Mary Alice Strunk Food Pantry

Thank you for your continued support of the food pantry! We continue to operate as a curbside pickup service.

If you are inclined to donate food products, we are in need of canned soups, canned pasta, canned fruit, canned beans such as kidney and pinto, canned tuna and

meats, pasta sauce and breakfast cereals. Your support of this important project is appreciated!



“Feed my sheep”



The Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir

Do you like to sing or ring?



Both the chancel choir and bell choir are interested in expanding their membership when they return to practice on Tuesday, September 1st, Bells 6:30 pm , Chancel Choir 7:00 pm.

Come join the fun and make “a joyful noise unto the Lord!”



Do You Like to Craft?



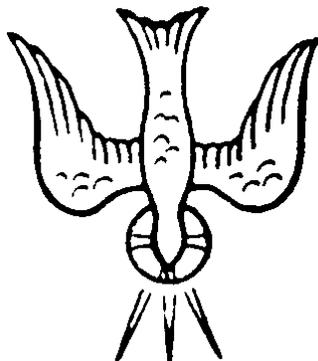
A new physically distanced group is being created here at St Paul! Do you like to craft? No matter what type of craft you enjoy, join us in Spies Hall to create together. Paper, needlepoint, counted cross stitch We will be making Chrismons to decorate our tree in the sanctuary this year. I know it is only September, but all good things take time.

You may be asking "what is a Chrismon?" They are Christian symbols originally created and designed by the Lutheran Church of the Ascension in Danville, Virginia over 50 years ago. A symbol is a visible representation of something invisible, like an idea or quality. One could say that symbols "point beyond themselves." They were an important part of Christian life from the beginning. Old Testament prophets who told of Jesus' coming used symbols to tell of his importance. They called Him "Lamb of God" and "Shepherd". Jesus himself said "I am the Light of the World," and "I am the Bread of Life." These teach-

ings have been remembered by Christians since Jesus' death and resurrection. Artists have depicted the word symbols in visual symbols or pictures. The Bible is a great source book for the visual symbols of the church from its word descriptions.

Chrismons are traditionally white and gold, with colored accents when it is important to convey the meaning of the symbol. Even the colors have been chosen as a symbol. White is the liturgical color for Christmas and suggests innocence, purity and perfection of our Savior. (Isaiah 1:18, Mark 9:3) Gold is a symbol for the glory and majesty of God and the Son of God. (Exodus 25:11) Certain Chrismons show a touch of Red to remind us of the blood of Christ by which we are saved. (Hebrews 9:14)

Join us on Wednesday September 9th at 6:30 pm in Spies Hall to find out what this is all about. (Psst we may even have yummy treats!)



SYNOD NEWS

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

Bear Creek Camp Confronts the Pandemic

New Ways for Ministry in Summer Season 2020

When COVID-19 forced the suspension of the summer camp program for this season, the staff and Board of Directors of Bear Creek Camp quickly grappled with the challenge. They moved toward new ministry opportunities that could still provide for the safety and health of their community. Two programs emerged from their work: **Family Vacation Rentals** and the **Bear Creek Camp Conservation Corps (BCCCC)**.

Family Vacation Rentals was a unique opportunity for families to visit the camp, stay in cabins, eat meals prepared carry-out style, and enjoy the nearly 3000 acres of forest and streams through swimming, hiking, and relaxing time together.



Family Camping

The BCCCC was a select group of twelve returning summer staff who had previously made the commitment to serve as counselors this summer. Throughout the four weeks of their time together, they lived as a cohort and formed an intentional Christian community.

Each day the team worked on maintenance projects including improving trails and overnight sites, building new high and low ropes elements, constructing bridges, and painting anything they could get their hands on.

They also connected with the campers and their families, creating digital content to share on social media and assisting with programming on-site.



Painting Crew

Above and beyond these duties, the group spent each day in devotion and worship with one another. They also took time to focus on professional development and on building skills to benefit the summer camp experience in 2021.

As Bear Creek Camp moves towards the Fall and beyond, your prayerful financial support will be more important than ever before. To learn more about programs at BCC throughout the year, visit www.bearcreekcamp.org.



Trail Blazers

Assembly 2020 - A New Way of Being Church Together

Friday evening, October 16 & Sunday afternoon, October 18

Friday evening, October 23 & Saturday morning and afternoon, October 24

Because of concern for the safety of the voting members in this time of pandemic, Assembly 2020, including the election of a bishop, will be conducted online. The Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod is not the first to hold an online assembly this year; and based on the experience of other synods, especially the South Carolina Synod, the assembly planning team has full confidence that our assembly will be able to conduct its business and elections efficiently and in good order.

We have a production team, Events Staging, that has worked with our synod for a number of years to produce the video for our in-person assemblies. And we also have contracted with Lumi, a tech firm that specializes in online voting and that has been used by the ELCA for churchwide assemblies as well as by other synods for their local assemblies. With the support of these teams, and with the hard work of synod staff and some willing volunteers, Assembly 2020 promises to be a groundbreaking event!

How will this work?

The entire assembly will be broadcast live and can be viewed by anyone with an internet connection. Voting members will need to register and will be given individual credentials to login to a more tailored experience, including the ability to vote, ask questions, and speak to resolutions or other matters. For "visitors" - those who simply wishes to watch the proceedings - unlike past years, there is no need to register.

What do I need to participate?

To participate as a voting member you will need a reliable internet connection, for example, one that can watch a YouTube video without problems. You will also need either a desktop or laptop computer with a microphone and camera. It will be possible for two or more people to share a computer; however, each individual will need a separate device (like a smartphone or tablet) in order to vote.

What if I'm not very tech savvy?

The assembly planning team is working to make participation as simple as possible. Detailed written instructions, as well as an instructional video, will be sent to each voting member well before the assembly. There also will be an opportunity to login to an orientation session prior to the actual assembly in order to discover and fix any issues a voting member might encounter. Finally, there will be a support line to contact a tech team for individual help with any question or problem.



We Are Church
Together

NEPA Synod Assembly 2020

If your congregation has not yet selected its voting members,
volunteer to participate in this exciting new experience.

Registration is now open. Visit the synod website at nepasynod.org.

We Are Church Together and We Can Do This!

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2354 Grove Road, Allentown PA 18109; 610-266-5101. nepsinfo1988@gmail.com.

View the full color edition online at <http://nepasynod.org>.



Don't Forget

Office Hours

Monday—Thursday 9:00am to 1:00pm

Food Pantry Hours

Every Tuesday 11:00am to 1:00pm

Operating as curbside pickup.

Grocery Register Tapes

Please save your Weis and Kinsley's ShopRite of Brodheadsville register tapes. You can bring them to church when we can meet in person again! The receipts are good for 1 year! They can be placed in the box on the table in the narthex. Please do not remove the bottom of the receipts. Thank you to Beth Reindl, who is bundling and totaling the receipts in preparation of submitting them!



Do you use Amazon to shop? If you do, please sign up for the Amazon Smile program. Set St Paul Lutheran Church Tannersville as your charity of choice and with every eligible purchase, AmazonSmile donates 0.5% to St Paul! There is no difference in the price you pay for your products, so there is no cost to you!!

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