

EPISTLE

Quarterly



ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
ROOTED AND GROWING

Summer 2022

SEEDING THE FUTURE

by Pastor Rob

Dear Congregation,

You are a generous people. In the past two months, at a time of great uncertainty in the economy,

- We raised \$4,000 for Ukranian refugees.
- We raised \$4,000 for the Swanson family (and paid for Jodi to travel to the US).
- A donation was given that allowed the Amiri (refugee) family to buy a car.

All of this extra giving was done during a time in which your commitments to your pledges and the general fund held strong.

This comes as no surprise to me as I have seen your generosity play itself out over and over again the past few years. We worked our way out of debt, made major repairs to our building, built a Sacred Grounds outside and contributed well-over a quarter-million to local, national and international ministry partners. We've also generously shared our facilities with the Lititz Warwick Community Chest (LWCC), Scouts and the Christian Early Learning Center (CELC); at a time of national crisis in child-care, we have continued to provide quality care, so much so that we have a seven month waiting list.



What's New

- A word from Pastor Rob
- Ministry Updates
 - children
 - youth
 - music
- Pentecost
- Summer happenings



SEEDING THE FUTURE



Clearly, the economy has a lot of uncertainty; prices continue to rise. But you have been faithful in giving to the church and giving through the church to those in need. To me, this is a testament to both God's faithfulness to us and your faithful response to share what you have been given.

So where do we go from here? In the past two years, we have developed a surplus in our general funds. We think that we have around \$160,000 above our needed balance in our general fund.

Council has decided to invest this in the future of the congregation, throwing seed for future generations to be rooted and growing!

Future Leaders:

As the Lutheran church and Lutheran seminaries continue to grow smaller, St. Paul has a concern about where future pastors and deacons will come from. Over the past five years we have helped three seminarians, all of whom attended Seminary while working in the parish. We believe this will be the model for the foreseeable future. We plan to set money aside to help pay for future pastors and deacons to be on staff while in Seminary, with a more clear intention that they could work for St. Paul after graduation. Currently, Kim Todd is in Seminary and we continue to help her grow as a potential future pastor at St. Paul. Council has created a dedicated fund for Future Leaders at St. Paul and is seeding this with \$35,000.

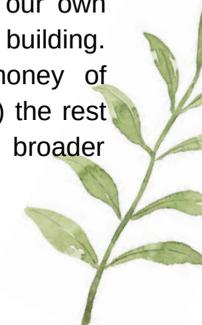


Cemetery Fund:

Our cemetery does not have enough in its perpetual fund to allow for annual distributions to cover its expenses. Over the past years, cemetery receipts that were given for perpetual care ended up being needed for current expenses and were not invested. This summer Council is forming a group to review the cemetery policies and determine the long-term capital needs of the cemetery. Council is going to transfer \$25,000 into the perpetual care fund.

Greening the Building:

In the long run, we want to have a building that consumes fewer resources, from both an environmental but also economic perspective. With each repair and renovation we are asking ourselves – how can we a) modernize and b) make this facility more sustainable. A Council directed team has been working with the property committee to form a list of needs. The preliminary research of this group identified two immediate needs: boiler (addressed in 2021/2022) and educational wing roof. The roof represents a consequential opportunity to improve the resource use in the building. We will be able to add significant insulation and we are in serious conversations with a solar panel company about this possibility. We believe the roof project should cost around \$200,000 and potentially would allow us to produce our own green energy in a more efficient building. Council believes that with “seed” money of \$100,000 we can fundraise (or finance) the rest of the money for the roof and start a broader capital campaign in the late summer.



Tanzania

MISSIONARIES



We welcomed Dr. Stephen and Jodi Swanson to St. Paul on Mission Awareness Sunday.

Thank you to the Women of the ELCA, Mission & Outreach Committee & the entire congregation for their support. Together we raised \$4,000 for their work in Tanzania.



Next summer Pastor Rob will lead a trip to Tanzania. It is a powerful trip. Beautiful in nature, transformative in Spirit. The main purpose of this trip is not doing service projects, but developing relationships and fostering understanding of our partners in Arusha and the Konde region. Youth entering high school in fall of 2023 are invited too.

Tentatively, we would travel in June, aiming to spend two weeks there, one week in the Konde (south) region, visiting Kanga and some other synod partners. The second week we would likely travel north to visit the Swansons and national parks (Safari!)



Pr. Rob is considering splitting the trip into two parts. Travel in the Konde region is far more physically (and emotionally) difficult. The northern part, where the Swansons live in Arusha, is fairly comfortable. If a person wanted to join us in Arusha and not the Konde, this could be arranged as well.

It would be around \$3,000 for a week in Arusha/national parks. It would be about \$500 more to travel to the Konde/Kanga area for the additional week.

We have money to help travelers, but this will likely go to youth to subsidize their costs.

If you are interested in such a trip, let Pastor Rob know!

CONGREGATIONAL CARE & PRAYER



with Pastor Robert Wallace

Over the previous three months, you have welcomed Cheri and me with smiles, greetings, and warmth. Thank-You!

As you know, my primary work is in the area of Congregational Care. This is work we do together. Being the people of God gathered by the Lord as St. Paul congregation, we care for each other. This is especially true when someone has need or is not able to attend worship.

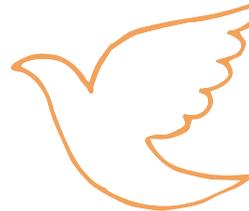
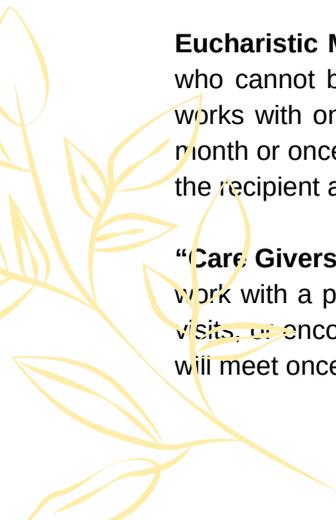
My work is to oversee through invitation, coordination, and training. With this note, I would like you to consider the details of Congregational Care and how you can get involved.

Currently the scope of congregational care engages three ministry groups. They are Tele-care, Eucharistic Ministry, and Care Givers. To this I hope to form a fourth group, Prayer Partners.

Tele-care volunteers meet once a month and between meetings make phone calls and/or send cards to express care and encouragement. They also report back to the pastors in the event further pastoral attention is needed.

Eucharistic Ministers take the sacramental meal from St. Paul to those who cannot be with us in person for worship. Each Eucharistic Minister works with one or two households and makes the visit either once each month or once every other month according to what is mutually desired for the recipient and the minister.

“Care Givers” is formerly known as Stephen’s Ministry. These volunteers work with a person in the congregation who may need assistance, social visits, or encouragement that extends more than a single visit. This group will meet once a month for ongoing training, mutual support, and prayer.

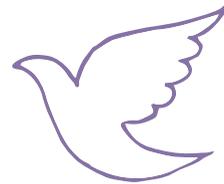


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Prayer Partners is a ministry that is currently being developed. A visible expression occurs at Sunday worship when Pastor Robert is available at the communion rail to prayer with persons following their receiving Holy Communion. Beginning June 1 the sanctuary will be open on Wednesdays from 10 am to 1 pm for persons to come for prayer and meditation. Pastor Wallace will be available to join in such prayer as requested. Envisioned for the future are prayer partners available each Sunday between the worship services, and a once a month prayer gathering to engage in prayer for individuals, the church, the community and the world.

Related Congregational Care ministries include “Meal Train,” Prayer Shawls, and efforts by the Woman of the ELCA.

Each of these ministries are ways we at St. Paul continue the good work of the Kingdom of God in this place. Might God be calling you to take part in one of these efforts. If you would like more information or want to volunteer, please contact Pastor Robert at rwallace@stpaulnitz.net or 717-383-8504.



Indoor Prayer Labyrinth

During Lent, St. Paul prayed with our feet on our journey of faith. A large purple indoor prayer labyrinth welcomed journeyers in the Social Hall on Sunday mornings and the Sanctuary on Wednesdays throughout Lent.



Pentecost

Sunday, June 5



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- 8:15AM INDOOR
- 9:30AM SUNDAY SCHOOL LAST DAY
- 10:45AM OUTDOOR, WEATHER PERMITTING
- 12:00 COOKOUT

Confirmation Blessings

On Pentecost Sunday we will celebrate the Confirmation of:
Lyla Brenner
Hayden Eby
Josie Lynch

Pentecost BBQ



On Sunday June 5th, The Youth Group will host a cook-out after late worship in the pavilion to celebrate Pentecost, Confirmation, & the end of our Sunday School year. Come hungry and join us for this special event. A sign up sheet will be in the narthex. Donations will be accepted to help support the High School Mission Trip this summer in Puerto Rico.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

LOOKING BACK ON THE JOURNEY
WITH JESUS: LENT 2022



ST. PAUL | Children





CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

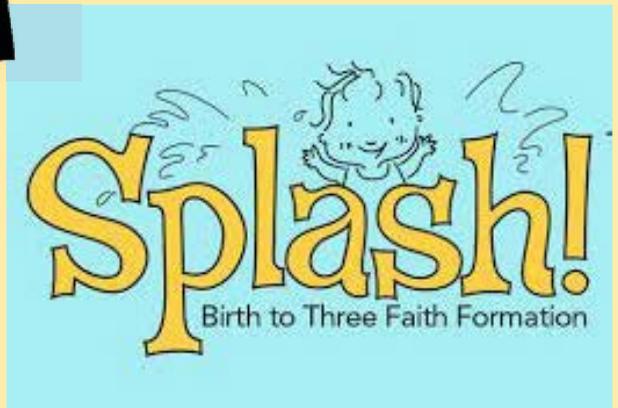


ST. PAUL | Children

SUMMER MEMORIES START
HERE!

You won't hear your child exclaim **"I'm bored!"** this summer with everything St. Paul's children's ministry has to offer!

OULA
DANCEMANIA FOR THE SOUL



Visit stpaulstitz.net/kids for details!

MUSIC MINISTRY

A wide variety of musical gifts have been offered by St. Paul members of all ages. Voices and instruments have filled the beautiful sanctuary each Sunday morning for worship and during the season of Lent and Easter.

St. Paul is deeply devoted to "Giving God the honor and glory He deserves through worship and music".



Jubilate Bells



PRAISE BAND



Pictured below: On Mission Sunday, the Praise Band was accompanied by some future drummers of St. Paul.





GOOD FRIDAY

Jonah Ahlers and Zoe Buchanan offer their talents at the Good Friday worship service.



EASTER CHOIR

Easter Sunday, the Adult Choir sang a special anthem with members of the congregation.



Ann Ahlers and Audrey Myallis accompany the choir.

Do you play an instrument? Do you like to sing? Why not take a step and offer those gifts in worship! Singers and Instrumentalists are wanted for summer worship! Opportunities are available for multiple musicians each Sunday of the summer season to provide a prelude, communion music and song leadership. Sign up at the kiosk in the narthex! Questions? Contact Becky Rairigh at 717-824-5913 or beckyr@stpauilitz.net.

YOUTH MINISTRY



ST. PAUL | Youth

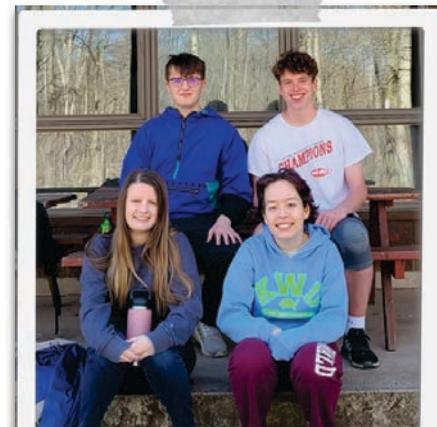
LOOKIN' BACK @ LENT

The St. Paul youth were busy this lent!

Wednesday mornings the kids got up early to share breakfast and devotion time at St. Paul before walking to school. It was a great way to fill up both physically and spiritually before starting their day. A special THANK YOU to all of the volunteers who shared their gifts of hospitality to provide the delicious food!



Our high school youth observed Maundy Thursday with an overnight retreat at Camp Kirchenwald. They followed the journey of Abraham by taking an adventure hike through camp full of the blessings and challenges faced by Abraham. They built an altar, wrote their own covenants and showed hospitality by baking unleavened bread for our special visitor. To close the evening Pastor Robert came to lead us in Maundy Thursday worship with holy communion.



FRIENDS

YOUTH MINISTRY

Middle School Beach Retreat

St. Paul middle school youth had a retreat of their own in Avalon, NJ. They studied the theme of "Lost and Found," discovering ways they can be lost, and how God comes to find them again and again. We played games, studied parables, picnicked on the beach, visited the zoo, and served the community with a service project- planting beach grasses to protect the dunes. It was an awesome weekend, full of signs of God's love!



Congratulations!

CLASS OF
2022

Kendall Eby
Josh Fackler
Ryan Fink
Audrey Hovan
Nathan Lamb

CONFIRMATION CAMP

10 of our middle school youth will be joining youth from churches from around the county this summer for the Lancaster County Confirmation Camp at Kirchenwald. The camp takes place from June 19th-25th. We keep them in our prayers during this special time in their faith journeys.

SUMMER HAPPENINGS



Youth Mission Trip

From July 24-29, we have 5 high school youth and 2 adult leaders traveling to Puerto Rico for mission work in the city of Acricebo, Puerto Rico. If you are interested in supporting this trip financially, donations can be directed to Johnna McCormick or added to the offering, labeled Puerto Rico Mission Trip.

The youth are also hosting a cook-out on Pentecost Sunday, June 5 to raise funds for their mission trip to Puerto Rico. Join us for this special event! Thank you for your support and prayers!





SACRED GROUNDS



Six Girl Scouts from Cadette troop 70536 led by St. Paul member, Melody Stuckey, spent a Wednesday evening in May weeding and mulching the Monarch Butterfly Way Station. Now we are ready to welcome the Monarchs in style! Visit the space to see what's been done and see if you can spot any pollinators.



COMMUNITY GARDEN

Planting has begun!

Five of the raised beds have been adopted by families in the community to garden for their households. Four beds are dedicated to food sharing. New this year is a box for communicating with a dedicated Master Gardener who answers questions and provides gardening resources. Also new this year is trellising for climbing vegetables. Watch for volunteer opportunities to get involved. The harvest will be plentiful!



OUTDOOR PRAYER LABYRINTH

St. Paul's prayer labyrinth team has received permission from Lititz Borough to build a water-permeable, low maintenance prayer labyrinth in the middle of the meadow with a path to access it. They took a field trip to Penn Stone in Lancaster to scout out building materials. The team is currently working to identify a professional landscaper that can help make this project a reality that will last. Pictured below: Marty Althouse, Darla Shober, Kimberly Todd with Penn Stone Employee; not pictured, Chris Runkle



MEADOW

The meadow is seeded! The tall grass that you see growing is intentionally planted ground cover that is protecting the seeds as they sleep this year. Next year, we will see the meadow creep, and in the third year, we will delight to watch it leap!

NATIVE FOREST

Thanks to Troy Smith, the brush around the trees in the Sacred Grounds has been cut! A visit from Ryan Davis of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay confirmed that the trees are healthy and growing. Take a walk through the trees and see the new life there. Imagine the space in ten years' time when the canopy will close forming a native forest and habitat for birds and wildlife.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

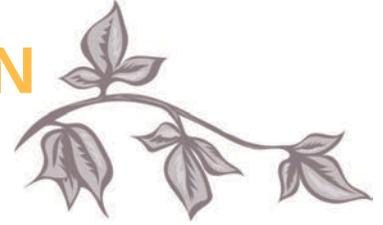
Growing Together

Adult Faith Formation small groups came together during Lent and Easter!

Splash Families (parents + children ages 0-3) and *Talk the Walk with Families* (parents of elementary-aged children) came together for a special Sunday morning of community and conversation.

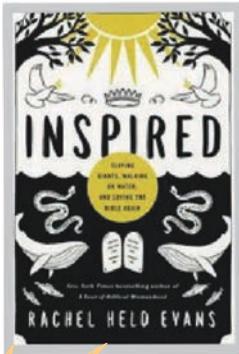


FAITH FORMATION



Ponder Anew

Pastor Rob's weekly Bible study podcast + discussion guides helped three Sunday morning small groups and Pod & Pub on Wednesday evenings take a journey with Abraham and Sarah through twelve chapters of Genesis during Lent. Then in Easter, a return to Acts for a second season, helped us draw on the experiences of the early church to consider the ways in which God calls us to follow Christ in our lives today.



Together in Christ - Weeknights

An adult small group meets across generations on Sunday mornings at 9:30 in Room #110. The group is expanding, and there is always more room at the table, so we added a weeknight! On Thursday evenings during Lent, St. Paul member Bob Richardson led a small group in conversation based on the book, *Inspired*, by Rachel Held Evans.

Keep the connections going this summer with Fellowship Time each Sunday morning between services. Stay tuned for all the details!

