

EPISTLE QUARTERLY



ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
ROOTED AND GROWING

FALL 2023



SUNDAY TO MONDAY...

filling the gap

We've all been there. The worship service on Sunday was beautiful. We find ourselves humming one of our favorite worship songs. As we leave the sanctuary, it's as if the birds in the trees are joining us in praising the living God.

Then we step into our car and at the first intersection out of town, someone cuts us off and honks their horn, our child spills their drink... and suddenly the mysterious and harmonious connection collapses into a sea of frustration and anxiety.

There is a gap between Sunday and Monday, between worship and real life, between heaven and earth. The Bible acknowledges as much. In fact, the work of Jesus coming again is to heal this disconnect and bring about a time and place

where heaven and earth are finally united in praise of God.
But we ain't there yet.

While admitting there will always be some disconnect, there are ways to bring Sunday into Monday; there are ways in which we can see God's work in our lives throughout the week. Throughout the fall, we will focus on how our hearts and minds opened to the presence of God in our daily lives.

- **Sermon Series:** This fall the sermons will address parables from Matthew's Gospel. Many of them are quite open about how crazy life actually is and will provide a great opportunity to reflect on seeing God amid life's chaos.
- **Podcast:** The Sunday sermons will be available on podcast; there will also be weekly pre-sermon podcasts to get one thinking about the Bible passage.

...FILLING THE GAP

- **Discussion/Small Groups:** There will be a number of groups this fall that will be discussing these parables and reflecting on God's work in our daily living. If you are interested in participating in one of these, reach out to Vicar Kim.
- **Monthly focus** of a particular vocation: Throughout this year, we will be uplifting various vocations, that is, ways in which God has called us to serve our neighbor. This can be in our family, in our church, in our community or in our work. In late August we celebrated the vocation of being a student; in September we will shift to focus on the vocation of being a teacher.
- **Prayer, Coins and Thankoffering:** This fall we will teach a way of praying that connects faith, money and worship. This is based on the Thankoffering tradition of the Women of the ELCA. I heard a moving story about this way of praying this summer from one of our members and decided that the whole church should learn about this!

To review. We will take up an age old dilemma - the gap between awesome worship and not-always-awesome real life. We will dig into some five century old Lutheran reflection on vocation; we will learn from women prayer warriors of the past two centuries; we will use all sorts of new technology, including podcasts. Rooted and Growing!

We will kick this theme off on Rally Sunday, September 10. See you then!

Pastor Rob

RALLY DAY!

- 8:15am worship
- 9:15am pancake breakfast
- 10:00 kids dismissed to Sunday school classes. Brief presentation for adults.
- 10:45am worship indoors

Youth & Adult classes begin on September 17, 2023 at 9:30AM

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The St. Paul Youth are hosting a pancake breakfast in the Social Hall at 9:15 am. Join us for food & fellowship!



MUSIC MINISTRY



Ever thought about singing in the choir or Praise Band?

How about ringing a handbell or a handchime?

St. Paul children, youth and adults are very gifted and talented! Why not come alongside the people who currently offer their musical gifts for our Sunday worship!

St. Paul Choir rehearsals begin on Wednesday, September 13 at 6:30pm in the Choir Room.

The Choir is open to youth through adults.



St. Paul Men's Vocal Ensemble

TBD for day and time

If interested please talk to Becky

Jubilate Bells

Rehearsals begin on Wednesday, September 13 at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary.

CHIMETIME

Grades 4-8. Rehearsals begin on Wednesday, September 13 from 4:00 - 4:45pm in the Sanctuary.

Rehearsal dates are September 13, 20, 27, October 4 and 18.

CHIMETIME will offer their music during worship on October 22.

Contact Becky Rairigh,
St. Paul Music Ministry Director
beckyr@stpaulinitz.net.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION FALL 2023

You are invited to connect with others for faith formation this season!

New Offering! - Vicar's Corner

Sunday at 9:30am - Rm 108

Vicar Kimberly Todd will host small group discussions based on what she's learning in her classes at Luther Seminary. The weekly grab-bag will include topics such as Eco-theology and ethics, grief and loss, and Bible study. The first meeting will be on Sunday, September 17th. All adults are welcome.

Families in Faith

Sunday at 9:30am - Rm 107

Parents and educators of teen and young adults gather for study & discussion to nurture the faith that produces healthy family relationships and supportive friendships.

Together in Christ

Sunday at 9:30am - Rm 113

This small group has no defining demographic and meets with the intent to draw on diverse experiences and perspectives of Christian discipleship.



Splash

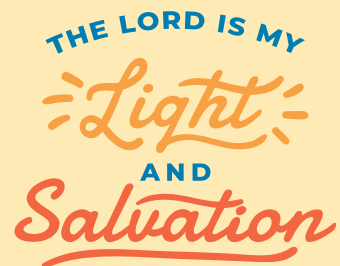
Sundays at 9:30am - Rm 104

For parents primarily raising little ones. Bring your babies/toddlers with you to class. This class is discussion-based, flexible and welcoming to all in this stage of parenting young children.

Talk the Walk

Sunday at 9:30am - Room 111

For parents primarily raising elementary schoolers. While your kids are in Sunday School or Confirmation, come for bible study, sharing and prayer. We focus on faith in the home and Christ in our daily lives.



PSALM 27:1

Pastor Rob's Bible Study

Thursdays at 9:30 am & 10:30 am

Pastor Rob unpacks on the the week's lectionary lessons including its relevance for our time and our place.

Augsburg

Sundays at 9:30am - Media Room.

This study provides insight into scripture through lesson background, questions, and discussion.

Life Together

Sundays at 9:30am - Rm 110

This group is for folks who were born in the 1950's and 60's. They come together to support one another in life's challenges and joys of caring for aging parents, adult children, and grandchildren. On Sunday mornings, they listen to and discuss Pastor Rob's Bible study podcast, *Ponder Anew*.

Sisters in Christ

1st Sunday of the month at 9:30am

Choir Room

This group for women of all ages makes use of *Gather* publication's Bible study written by women of the ELCA.

Men's Bible Study

1st Saturday of the month - various locations.



Bible Study Highlight - Pod & Pub

What is Pod & Pub? Pod & Pub is a six-week Bible study outside the doors of St. Paul. Participants listen to an episode of Pastor Rob's podcast, *Ponder Anew*, and then meet at the Bullshead Pub for discussion on Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm. The first discussion will be held on Sept. 13th. Listen to Episode 1 of the Romans podcast and join us for interesting discussion in a casual atmosphere.

SACRED GROUNDS

St. Paul's Sacred Grounds are common ground for the church, community, and you! Five spaces make up the Sacred Grounds:

- community garden
- certified monarch waystation
- native forest
- prayer labyrinth
- wildflower meadow

Come experience renewal, explore, learn, pray, and share these common sacred spaces. Watch for opportunities to get involved as the Sacred Grounds continue to grow!



**Rooted and Growing in the
Native Forest**



Wildflowers in the Meadow

Native Forest

There are 15 varieties of native trees planted on one acre of the Sacred Grounds. 86% of the trees that were planted in October 2020 are alive and thriving. This is an above average success rate! We thank the volunteers who have worked to clean up and maintain the space:

Al Rothermel, Nicholas Todd, and Boy Scout Troop 44.



SACRED GROUNDS



Herbs, Peppers & Tomatoes in the Community Garden



Prayer Labyrinth



Milkweed in the Monarch Waystation

This Fall, the *Green Team* will continue casting and implementing vision for the Sacred Grounds.

They will begin by participating in a 3-part training conducted by Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake.

Sessions will be held on Thursdays, October 12, 19, and 26 in the Media Room at 6:45pm. The training is open to all who want to consider joining the Green Team. Contact: Vicar Kimberly, ktodd@stpaulsititz.net.

ST. PAUL SOLAR ENERGY

Solar Panel Investment

After months of planning, coordinating, and fundraising, St. Paul was able to turn on the new rooftop solar panel system on July 21, 2023! The system has 184 panels capable of producing up to 88.3 kW of power. During the first 30 full days of production in late July through mid August, the St. Paul system produced 12.82 Megawatt hours (MWh) of power, with the St. Paul campus consuming 10.87 MWh over that same period. As a result, almost 2 MWh of power was sent back to the PPL grid for others in the community to use and PPL will “bank” that power for St. Paul to offset future time periods where the church consumes more than it produces.

In addition to the instant electric savings, St. Paul also receives an SREC (Solar Renewable Energy Certificate) for every Megawatt hour of production. As a result, during the first 30 days, St. Paul achieved almost 13 SRECs that will be sold at a future date to electricity suppliers that are required to meet certain renewable energy standards. The solar panel investment is an exciting endeavor for the St. Paul community to allow the congregation to secure its energy requirements, produce clean energy for the environment, and benefit financially both in the short and long term. Stay tuned for more production updates as we gather more data and solar power production history.



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



Capital Campaign

Thanks again to everyone who pledged and contributed to the Capital Campaign to make the solar panels, LED sanctuary lighting, and the white roof on the education wing a reality! The improvements to the St. Paul campus have been a huge success, but there is still some work to be done to close out the financial component of the project.

As of August 31, with all project costs expended, St. Paul has taken a bridge loan from JBT bank for \$60,000 that carries a 5.95% interest rate to complete the project prior to receipt of all pledges, rebates, and tax credits. The pledge campaign runs into 2024, with \$30,296 in pledges still to be collected. In addition, St. Paul is expecting a significant rebate from PPL Electric Utilities this fall that could exceed \$30,000. PPL is required to monitor the output from the St. Paul solar array for several months prior to determining the final rebate amount. Finally, St. Paul will be applying for federal clean energy tax credits made available to not-for-profit organizations through the Inflation Reduction Act. Final guidance on how to apply for and receive clean energy tax credit funding is beginning to become available and the St. Paul team will continue to advance our application information throughout the rest of 2023! If you have any questions about your pledge or the capital campaign in general, please don't hesitate to reach out to Lyle Hosler, Director of Operations, 717-204-5448, lhosler@stpaulunitz.net.

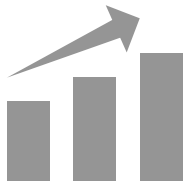
FINANCES

General Fund Update

With so much focus on the Capital Campaign and eco-friendly upgrades to the St. Paul facilities, we wanted to share a quick update on the all important General Fund that keeps church operations running smoothly throughout the year.

Through the first eight months of the fiscal year (January - August), St. Paul's regular income from offering and related sources is 1% ahead of budget in 2023 and 5% ahead of the same period in 2022. Expenses through the first 8 months of 2023 are running 5% below budget (favorable), but 6% ahead of the same period in 2022.

Overall, St. Paul's financial performance for 2023 is sound and we appreciate your continued support and generosity during the final four months of 2023!



Narthex



Thank you for your patience as we work on the church narthex.

Why are we doing this? It is our goal to create a welcoming environment for both our congregation and those who are visiting St. Paul. A space where we can prepare our hearts for worshipping the living God while fostering relationships and sharing gifts.

The walls will be patched and painted beginning Monday, September 11. There will be a complete removal of everything on the walls, as well as a relocation of furniture.

We greatly appreciate everyone's continued efforts on this large-scale project!

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY



S *So much fun happens during the summers at St. Paul for children!*

U *United in Christ, we undertake adventures at places like camp, creeks & church!*

M *Many of us travel in the summer; we know God is with us wherever we go!*

M *Moms, Dads and Grandparents: we are grateful for your summertime help & support to keep faith flourishing - at home and through church!*

E *Each of us grew this summer (literally and spiritually!), and we're excited about the Spirit's work in our young lives!*

R *Read the descriptions of our summer highlights with the pictures below! It was really a great summer!*

"Kirchenwald Comes to St. Paul" is St. Paul's unique combination of VBS and Camp! We had great fun with camp-themed activities around God's Word!



SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS



Lego Bible Builders met Fridays in June and July to creatively build based on a bible theme. Each week's build was displayed at outdoor worship for all to see! Thank you to youth Collin M. for leading us!



In July, these kids recorded an updated version of the How To Acolyte video for St. Paul! Thank you!



All children are welcome at St. Paul! Our summertime kids' sermons were inside, outside and full of faith!



Science Squad's annual Creek Walk explored God's creation with Science teacher & St. Paul member Mr. Jim Hovan!



15 kids took the 2023 By Heart Challenge! They memorized a part of the Bible and were treated to an end-of-summer Pool Party for their efforts.



Connect to Children's Ministry thru email, worship news, & our parent Facebook group!

Children's Ministry: Deacon Emily
deaconemily@stpaulstitz.net
www.stpaulstitz.net/kids

Top 3 Upcoming Children's Ministries!



ST. PAUL | Children



Sunday School Begins!

Join the Rally Day fun on September 10th. All together in the Social Hall, we'll introduce the awesome teachers and give you time to meet them as well as your classmates! Beginning September 17, Sunday School for children ages 3 - 6th grade will be held from 9:30-10:30am in the lower level classrooms at St. Paul. Invite friends - all are welcome! Our kids classes are taught by incredible volunteer teachers, and we divide by grades: preschool/preK, Grades K&1, Grades 2&3, Grades 4, 5&6.



Faith Step-Stones

Every month, we highlight one age group as they take a new Faith Step. In September, we celebrate the 3 year-olds who are starting Sunday School for the first time. In October, our K & 1st graders will lead the Lord's Prayer in Worship. And in November, our 2nd graders will receive Communion Instruction! If you have any questions about these steps, please see Deacon Emily.



Fall Family Fun at Camp!

Come to Camp Kirchenwald on **September 30th** for a family-friendly fundraiser called "Party with a Purpose". There will be food, games and fellowship! **October 1** is the annual Capture the Flag game! Come join this beloved camp tradition played on two fields and through the woods! And **October 29** is Fall Foliage day. Come to set your own pace for exploring camp as the colors turn. Learn more about these & more events at www.lutherancamping.org

YOUTH MINISTRY



In July, the St. Paul Youth went to Philadelphia for 3 days of service in the city.

The group served at several organizations and met some wonderful people.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Atonement hosted our group.

The youth will be sharing their experiences with a presentation on Rally Day.

Thank you so much to everyone who helped support this trip through your generous donations and prayers!



ST. PAUL YOUTH



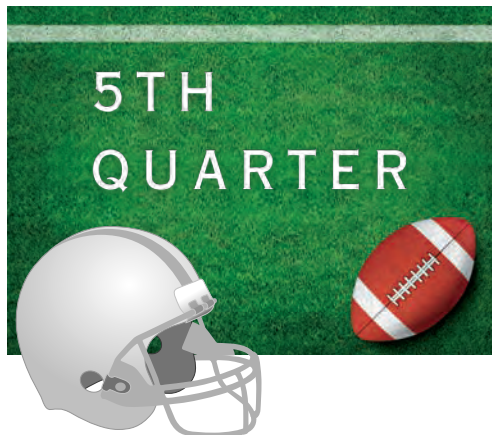
Lutheran Community for Middle Schoolers

ALIVE MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT

6-8th grade youth are invited to attend **Alive** Middle School retreat at Camp Nawakwa on September 22 - 24.

This annual synod retreat is an opportunity for youth to connect with each other and meet teens from other synod churches in a beautiful camp setting.

They will focus on the theme "The Way" through music, speakers, games, small group time, campfires and worship. For questions or to sign up, see Johnna McCormick.



Attention Youth!

Invite your friends and join us at St. Paul on Friday, October 6, after the Warwick football game for the 5th Quarter. We will have food, music, games, door prizes and an interactive inflatable, all free for WMS and WHS students. Festivities begin when the game ends and will last until 11:30.

Join us!

Chaperones needed!

Contact Johnna McCormick,
jmccormick@stpaulilitiz.net.



*Lititz Empty Bowls will be held on
Sunday, November 5, 2023.
Stay tuned for more details!*

OUTREACH

FOOD DRIVE CHALLENGE!

The St. Paul annual food drive for the Warwick Community Chest this year will have a twist to it!

- *Which service will contribute the most poundage, the 8:15 am or the 10:45 am service?*
- *Will we reach a 1000 pounds total?*

Donations can be any shelf stable food item, paper product, laundry detergent (no pods), toothbrush and toothpaste. No expired items.

Please bring your donations on Sunday, September 17th & September 24th.



Soap, towels, toothbrushes and combs. These simple gifts improve the standard of living for people around the world. We can't control when disasters strike and we can't end poverty overnight. But there are things we can do now to help people around the world.

The simple items included in a Personal Care Kit provide much-needed self care, critical germ fighting supplies and the chance for our neighbors in need to regain dignity amidst fear and uncertainty.

Lutheran World Relief Care Kits

We are collecting personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief until September 24.

Items for each kit:

- 1 light- or medium-weight bath-size towel (approx. 52" x 27") dark color recommended
- 2 bath-size bars (4-5 oz.) of soap in its original wrapping
- 1 adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging
- 1 wide-toothed comb, remove packaging
- 1 metal nail clipper, remove packaging

To assemble a kit, wrap smaller items in the towel and tie securely with ribbon or yarn. Put this kit in the plastic container in the narthex marked "Personal Care Kits" by September 24.

Fall Festival

Saturday, September 30th
10:00 am – 2:00 pm

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
200 W. ORANGE ST., LITITZ

**FREE
FUN**

Live Music Pumpkin decorating
Cake walk Face painting
Obstacle course Raffle & More!

**FOOD FOR
PURCHASE**



Bring your pets! Animal Blessing 1:00pm

St. Paul
Christian Early Learning Center



ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
ROOTED AND GROWING

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteering at St. Paul is not just an opportunity to serve, but also a chance to give back! You are creating a safe, nurturing space for people to come and worship, as well as connecting with other members of the congregation and build new relationships.

There are many areas where you can lend a hand such as serving as a host during worship, assisting in community outreach programs, Sunday school and more.

Consider lending a hand this season at St. Paul.



St. Paul Archives

Volunteers Needed as we kick-off Fall at St. Paul!

Contact Vicar Kimberly Todd,
ktodd@stpaulinitz.net
Fall Festival, Sept.30, 2023. Help needed from 10am-1pm in the Sacred Grounds.

Contact Deacon Emily,
deaconemily@stpaulinitz.net
Substitute teachers for Sunday School.

Contact Johnna McCormick,
jmccormick@stpaulinitz.net
Pre-planning and coordinating for Empty Bowls. (There is no need for volunteer help at the event, as the youth group will host it.)
Chaperones for the 5th Quarter Party on Friday, October 6th.

Contact Beth Hoffer,
mullenb1964@stpaulinitz.net
Dessert donations needed for the Cakewalk at the Fall Festival on Sept. 30th (cake, pie or 2 dozen cookies). RSVP by September 17, 2023.

Sign up to volunteer during Sunday Worship at timetosignup/stpaulworship. Link can also be found on stpaulinitz.net.

Spotlight: St. Paul Archives

St. Paul has a room that is devoted to special church artifacts from the history of our church. The archives are maintained and chronicled by Marsha Campbell, a dedicated St. Paul volunteer. We are grateful for her work!
(Contact the office to tour the Archive room.)



St. Paul Lutheran Church
200 W. Orange St.
Lititz, PA 17543



ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
ROOTED AND GROWING