
PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

September 2024

Dear Siblings in Christ,

We've had both hints of Fall and reminders that it is still Summer – all in the same week! But schools are back in session, and that means that Fall programming is beginning. There are lots of events coming up, and I hope that you will participate!

Our merger talks are well underway, and as mentioned previously, the plan and the schedule are as follows:

- ~ Sunday, October 20 – both congregations will meet (separately) to vote on the merger documents. These documents are in the process of being reviewed by our attorney. Approval of these documents requires a 2/3 vote by those present at the meetings. A representative from the synod will be present for those meetings.
- ~ As part of the merger documents, I will be under call from synod council as St. Paul's interim pastor on a full-time basis for up to one year beginning December 1, 2024.
- ~ Zion's council presented to St. Paul's a list of stipulations, which were reviewed and agreed to in principle at our joint meeting in July. These will be included as part of the merger documents.
- ~ If the merger is approved, Zion would cease to exist as a separate congregation on November 30, 2024, and the merger would take effect on December 1, 2024.
- ~ We will schedule a time of celebration when Zion members will be received into St. Paul's membership. Though not yet confirmed, this will probably be held on Sunday, November 25, which is also Christ the King Sunday.

Please feel free to reach out to me or any member of council regarding the merger, the land sale, or any other items in the life of the church. As always, we give thanks that God has been leading the way.

In Christ,

Pastor Gwenn Trout



September 1, 9am, Pentecost 15

September 8, 9am, Pentecost 16
(Rally Day & final outdoor worship)

September 15, 9am, Pentecost 17

September 22, 9am, Pentecost 18

September 29, 9am, Pentecost 19

Click [HERE](#) to watch live.

THANK YOU TO OUR WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	Sept 1	Sept 8	Sept 15	Sept 22	Sept 29	Oct 6	Oct 13
Asst. Min.	Steve C.	John F.	Nick C.	Steve C.	Debbie L.	Steve C.	Keith G.
Lector	Emily B.	Seana M.	Phyllis A.	Denise	Steve H.	Denise C.	Debbie L.
Musician	Denise	Denise	Deb R.	Denise	Denise C.	Denise C.	Denise C.
Ushers	Mike S. Mike P.	Mike S. Mike P.	Mike S. Mike P.	Mike S. Mike P.	Mike S. Mike P.	Drew K. Mike S.	Drew K. Mike S.
Counters	Nick C. Steve C.	Nick C. Trudy G.	Nick C. MaryJane	Nick C. Steve C.	Nick C. Heather V.	Heather V. Steve C.	Heather V. Trudy G.
Altar s/u	Deb S.	Sherry R.	Deb S.	Deb S.	Deb S.	Deb S.	Deb S.
Altar c/u	Deb S.	Sherry R.	Deb S.	Deb S.	Deb S.	Deb S.	Deb S.
Lock-up	Nick C.	Nick C.	Nick C.	Nick C.	Nick C.	Heather V.	Heather V.
Tech	Nick C. / Doug B.						

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adult Sunday School: Join us on Sundays (through September 15, excluding September 8) after worship for Adult Sunday School. We will continue the series, "Finding God" utilizing the television series Joan of Arcadia. All are welcome to join us in the large Sunday school room.

Member Update: Ann Gilbert has moved to: Legend at Silver Creek, [425 Lambs Gap Road, Apt. 124, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050](#). She no longer has a house phone. Her cell phone number is in the directory.





GIFT MATCHING OPPORTUNITY

So far almost \$3,000 has been donated toward upcoming expenses to replace our roofs. Even with the matching funds, that is only about 14% of what we need to replace both roofs. Please consider donating what you can to support this imperative project. Remember – what you donate will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$10,000! Work is scheduled to begin in October.

YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

THANK YOU for your continued gifts to St. Paul's! It is important that you continue to support your congregation financially so that we can continue to meet our expenses each month.

Please inform the church office and/or Pastor Gwenn when you or a loved one becomes a patient in the hospital or other health care facility. A phone call or text message to Pastor Gwenn (717-602-9913) will help us respond to you with pastoral care in a more timely manner.

St. Paul's & Zion Lutheran Churches, Enola
invite you to join us for
WINE & CHEESE WEDNESDAYS 2024

A Season of Listening



7:00 – 8:30 pm

St. Paul's Outdoor Pavilion, 6839 Wertzville Road, Enola

Feel free to bring a snack and beverage to share!

Our remaining events:

September 11

Let's gather for a picnic! Join us for a potluck dinner at 6:00 pm in the pavilion

September 18

Jerry Mitchell from the PA Attorney General's Office will speak about elder scams and identity theft. *How can we protect ourselves from scammers?*



Sunday, September 8

The ELCA has once again designated the second Sunday in September as "God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday," a day for congregations to focus on service in the community. We will engage in worship, service and fellowship on that day. The worship service will be held in the picnic pavilion at 9:00am, followed by assembling of 100 school kits (thank you for all of the donations!) for Lutheran World Relief. Finally, a picnic brunch/lunch will be held in the pavilion. Sausages and rolls will be provided, and we ask you to sign up to bring other brunch items, either in church or [here](#). We look forward to seeing you there!

-Christian Education & Social Ministry Committees

Baby Bottle Blast – St. Paul's collected \$245.84 in their bottles for the Capital Area Pregnancy Center. Thanks to everyone who participated. If you happen to still have a bottle, please bring it back (leave it in the Narthex) so it can be returned to CAPC.

TRUNK OR TREAT

We invite the community to our annual Trunk or Treat event on Saturday, October 26 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm (rain or shine). Community and church members alike are invited to decorate their cars and trunks (and themselves!) for the event and hand out treats. Please plan to arrive between 4:00 and 5:00 pm to set up your car. Children and youth are invited to bring their bags and collect goodies from those gathered, to share in games, receive a craft to take home, and enjoy a snack. We are hoping that some of St. Paul's kitchen renters will be on site to sell their food; otherwise, hot dogs, water and chips will be available to attendees.

You can help to make this event a success by helping that day (click [here](#) to sign up) and/or with donations of 1) small game prizes [do not have to be Halloween-themed]; 2) candy; and/or 3) money to purchase what does not get donated.

This is a very fun event for everyone and well attended by the community. All are welcome - tell your friends & family!

2025 BISHOP'S ELECTION LISTENING SESSIONS

From June through September 2024, Listening Sessions are being held across the synod to help members of the Mission Committee prepare the Synod Mission Profile and Gifts of a Bishop documents in preparation for the election of a new synod bishop at the 2025 synod assembly. These sessions are open to anyone from across the synod. The following sessions will be held this month:

Tuesday, September 3, 2024, 6:30 – 8:30pm

St. Luke Lutheran Church, [2695 Luther Drive, Chambersburg, PA](#)

Tuesday, September 10, 2024, 6:30 – 8:30pm

Christ Lutheran Church, [115 Church St, Duncannon, PA](#)

Thursday, September 12, 2024, 7:00 – 9:00 pm

ZOOM Session (please register in advance for this meeting)

Sunday, September 15, 2024, 2:00 – 4:00pm

Trinity Lutheran Church, [6 York St, Codorus, PA](#)

Sunday, September 15, 2024, 2:00 – 4:00pm

Trindle Springs Lutheran Church, [14 State Rd, Mechanicsburg, PA](#)

Before attending any of the sessions, please print and review the resources here. In addition, bring a writing utensil and paper for note-taking and comments. For more information, check out the synod website at www.lss-elca.org. We look forward to your participation and insights!



**The Lutheran Camping Corporation
of Central Pennsylvania**
Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, & The Wittel Farm

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 8, Dinner Church, 5:00 pm @ Wittel Farm

October 1 - 3, Adult Study Retreat @ Nawakwa

October 5, Party with a Purpose Fundraiser, 5:00-8:00pm @ Kirchenwald

October 6, Capture the Flag Spectacular, 3:00-5:30pm @ Kirchenwald

October 6, Dinner Church, 5:00 pm @ Wittel Farm

October 27, Fall Foliage Day, 1:00 – 6:00 pm @ Kirchenwald

October 27, Fall Foliage Day, 1:00 – 6:00 pm @ Nawakwa

For more information, contact the camping office at 717-677-8211 or check their website, www.LutheranCamping.org.

The English Language Learners Program at Trinity Lutheran in Camp Hill is hoping to expand its volunteer pool for their upcoming fall session, and are looking for members of neighboring congregations who might be interested in volunteering. Many of the current volunteers are retired teachers; however, teaching experience isn't necessary. There are opportunities to volunteer as a teacher, an aide, with childcare, or in registration/hospitality. Child abuse clearances are required for volunteers, and training will be provided.

The fall session will run from September 4 through November 22 on Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:30 am – 11:00 am. If you are interested or have questions, reach out to Pastor Elizabeth Frey at elizabeth.frey@trinitycamphill.org or to program director Laura Butcher at trinitylutheranesl@gmail.com.



CUMBERLAND COUNTY

SENIOR HEATING PROGRAM

WHO QUALIFIES?

- Age 60 or older
- Max. income of \$2,925/mo single, or \$3,325/mo for couple
- Not on Community Health Choices Waiver
- Living in Cumberland County

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO APPLY

CONTACT RACHELLE WOMACK
717-232-9757, EXTENSION 201
RWOMACK@CACTRCOUNTY.ORG

TRI COUNTY Community Action

LIHEAP is a federally funded initiative offering direct grants to heating providers for low-income households. Grants range from \$300 to \$1000. Additionally, crisis grants are available for those facing service termination or possessing less than two weeks' worth of deliverable fuel, such as fuel oil, propane, coal, or wood. Residents of Pennsylvania can apply for LIHEAP and other public assistance programs online at www.compass.state.pa.us or by phone at 1-866-550-4355.

All Cumberland County residents aged 60 and older also may apply to the county's Senior Heating Program. The heating assistance will be in the form of a cash grant paid directly to the heating provider and will only be available to those residents who have exhausted all other potential assistance sources and/or who have been denied based on financial criteria. The eligibility for this program exceeds LIHEAP limits. The maximum gross income for a person seeking assistance will be \$2,925/month for a single household and \$3,325/month for a couple. Anyone who receives a Community Health Choices Waiver is not eligible for these funds.

A copy of the bill (or equivalent statement) from the heating provider is required, and the utility must be in the older adult's name. Copies of income sources and amounts are also required. Only the older adult and their spouse's income will be counted towards the income amounts. The grant amounts can be used for past-due balances and can be used to avoid a disconnection/termination. The grant can also be used to reconnect or resume services. To apply, please contact Rachelle Womack at rwomack@cactrcounty.org or by calling 717-232-9757, extension 201.

HELP SHARE WARMTH THIS WINTER

Handmade Blankets Needed

The Homeless Remembrance Blanket Project, now called the Memorial Blanket initiative, is an art installation that began in Carlisle, PA on December 21, 2021, the longest, darkest night of the year. It's a perfect day to remember those who live unstably housed, as well as those who tragically die while experiencing homelessness. This project was carried to Washington, DC on December 21, 2022, and then to the steps of our state's capitol in Harrisburg on December 21, 2023. This December 21, the Memorial Blanket will cover Independence National Historic Park in Philadelphia.

Your help is needed to make blankets! Whether you're an experienced crafter or just starting out, your handmade blanket can bring warmth and hope to someone in need. Simply create a blanket—either 45"x80" for individuals or 60"x80" for families. No time to craft? You can still make a difference by

donating to support shipping and material costs. Join us in this meaningful act of love and compassion. For more details and to get involved, visit www.memorialblanket.org or contact Deacon Marsha Roscoe at mroscoe@lss-elca.org.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY in September to

5 Elizabeth Bentzel-Diehl

10 Carol Umbrell

17 Max Stitzel

19 Marge Rettig

20 Eden Miller

22 Chris Frampton

28 Wendy Menard

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!

September 22 Charolette & Ken Getz

September 28 Helen & David Wood



Ann G., Cindy, Kody, Jay, Bill, Dottie, Jerry, Doug, Jordan, Christian, Naoma, Andy D., Andrea G., Earl, Zelda C., Jim, Sherry, Judy B., Linda, John, Marcia, Barbara H., Stew H., Richard, Matt, Alice, Larry, Frances, Arlan, Shirley, Richard Z.

Please let the church office know if anyone you've placed on the prayer list can be removed.

ONGOING LONG-TERM PRAYER REQUESTS

Elizabeth D., Sheree H., Janie S., Doris & Stew,

Marge & Jerry, Terrie J., Boden R.



Next Council Meeting: 09/12, 6:30pm

August Meeting Materials

If you have any news you would like to share in the Epistle,

please email or call the church office.



Remember to mention St. Paul's ID #10151 when you donate clothing, shoes, accessories, electronics, toys and household goods.



AN EASY WAY OF GIVING

Scan the QR code with your phone to quickly and easily give to the church.



Why did the grill go to therapy?

It was feeling a little "burned out"!

HAVE A WONDERFUL LABOR DAY EVERYONE!

<https://newyorkimprovtheater.com/2024/08/11/here-are-20-dad-jokes-about-the-end-of-summer/>



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

The Reverend Gwenn L. Trout, Interim Pastor

Ann M. Gottlieb, Office Manager (office hours T/Th 9am-3pm)

Nicholas Cekovich, Director of Music

Jack Yinger, Sexton



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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Our mailing address is:

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Enola, PA 17025-1033

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