

“St. Paul Courier” *The monthly newsletter of St. Paul Lutheran Church*

156 W. Washington Street, Strasburg, Virginia

Mailing address: 193 W. Washington Street, Strasburg, VA 22657

540-465-3232 ❖ E-mail: stpaulstrasburg@gmail.com ❖ Website: stpaulstrasburgva.com

September 2024

FROM PASTOR CHRIS

Election season is closing in on us. We may or may not know what the role is of a church/congregation and a pastor when it comes to political activity. Congregations and pastors are bound by laws that govern not-for-profit tax-exempt organizations. What this means is there are things as a congregation and as a pastor we can and cannot do if we want to continue as a tax-exempt not-for-profit 501c(3) organization. For example:

We can:

- *Provide voter guides and encourage people to vote
- *Have dialogues and debates about the pros and cons of legislation
- *Provide equal opportunity for speeches

We cannot:

- Make direct endorsement of a candidate
- Make contributions to candidates or campaigns
- Have activities or speeches that would clearly favor one candidate over another



As a church and as a pastor we have a responsibility to adhere to these rules and regulations which were enacted 70 years ago in 1954 when Congress amended the Internal Revenue Code to impose limits on the political activities of religious groups and certain tax-exempt nonprofit organizations.

Please note - There are congregations and pastors who break these rules unintentionally out of ignorance or intentionally because they disrespect the law.

To reiterate:

As a pastor I cannot endorse a candidate from the pulpit or in social media.

As a pastor I can preach from the pulpit and teach the morals and ethics of Jesus's sayings and teaching as reminders to consider when we are discerning which candidates, policies and legislation best aligns with our calling as followers of Jesus.

As a person, not as a pastor I can (like any private citizen) endorse and support candidates, policies and legislation.

If you are interested in my thoughts about candidates, policies or legislation, I'm willing to share my thoughts, but I would do so as my personal opinion not as a pastor.

I will close with the familiar words of Jesus, "Love your neighbor as yourself". As we move ever closer to election day may this central teaching of Jesus be a steadfast reminder of his call to us in all aspects of our thinking and actions. May it serve as a benchmark as we reflect and evaluate candidates, policies and legislation.

We will continue to pray this prayer on Sundays (as we have been) through the election season: *Almighty God, we lift before you all who govern this state and nation and those who will be elected to do so in the future. May those who hold power understand that it is a trust from you to be used, not for personal glory or profit, but for the service of the people. Drive from us cynicism, selfishness and corruption; grant in your mercy just and honest government and leaders and give us grace to live together in unity and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

Pastor Chris

Resuming in September

Thursday Bible Studies resume Sept 5

in the Study with Pastor Chris

11:30am Lunch (bring your lunch)

Noon-1pm Bible Study.



Community Men's Prayer Breakfast

2nd Saturday of each month, beginning at 8am

In rotation thru the 4 Churches of the Strasburg Community

(St Paul Lutheran, Strasburg United Methodist, Strasburg Presbyterian and the Christian/Disciples of Christ)

Come enjoy great food and fellowship.

The host church provides the food and a short devotion.

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- Faith Formation and Children's Choir (see article)
 - St Paul Ringers resume rehearsals Sept 4, 6pm, *and*...
St Paul Singers resume rehearsals Sept 4, 7pm (see article)

Life-Long Learners Class (LLL)

Sundays at approx. 10:45am in the Study.

for all ages grade 6 and older

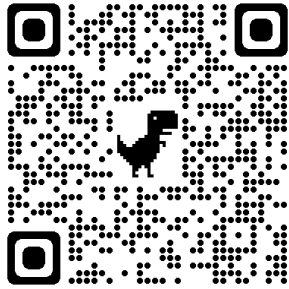
The Chosen, Season 4: thru Sept 1 (Pastor Chris)

EXPLORING LUTHERAN LITURGY: WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

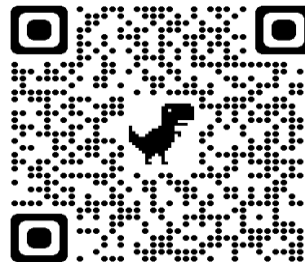
series beginning Sept 22 (taught by Clay Arthur)

St Paul QR Codes: *Always make sure when you scan QR codes that the link is where you were expecting it to go.....if it isn't – don't click on it !!*

St Paul's website



St Paul's Giving/ 'Breeze' link:



All Committee Chairs have been asked to schedule a meeting with your committee to discuss and set your 2025 proposed budget.

by the end of August.

Finance will review and discuss them before the September Council meeting.

Deadlines to submit information for:

1) Monthly St Paul Courier/newsletter ~ ~ 15th of each month.

* The monthly newsletter is printed and mailed/emailed out the Tuesday before the last Sunday of each month. Copies of the newsletter are put in the narthex for church-goers to pick up while at church on the last Sunday of the month ... for example: The September newsletter will be available to pick up at church on Sun, August 25.

2) Weekly Bulletins: Information to be printed in the bulletin can be received via email any time thru Wednesdays, 3:30pm. Minor revisions can be made until Noon on Thursdays.

Please send all information via email to:
stpaulstrasburg@gmail.com.

Birthdays in September

Dilio	Mariotti	September 02
Kevin	Smith	September 02
Richard	Berry	September 02
Lillah	Carlisle	September 03
Roger	Miller	September 04
Wendy	Pieper	September 05
Katherine	Shelton	September 06
Linda	Cook	September 08
Andrew	Clem	September 09
Michael	Smith	September 09
Donna	Davis	September 10
Joshua	Price	September 12
Mary	Price	September 12
Addison	Hay	September 14
Hilda	Keister	September 14
Judith	Grubb	September 16
Linda	Williams	September 16
Toby	Laserna	September 16
Helen	Hall	September 19
Brian	Doman	September 22
Jacqueline	Sager	September 25
John	Lumpkin	September 25
Sherand	Smith	September 25
Pam	Chimento	September 29
Hattie	Golliday	September 30

NEWS FLASH!

Good things are on the horizon for the women of St. Paul!

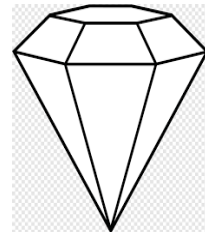
**Plans are underway for the organization of a
NEW WOMEN'S GROUP
Watch your bulletin and newsletter for further
information.
Kickoff is being planned for October**



**THE CONGREGATION IS INVITED TO A SPECIAL CELEBRATION DINNER
HONORING GOD'S GEMS (OUR MEMBERS AGE 75 AND OVER)**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2024, AT 11:00 AM
in the Fellowship Hall following the Worship Service

(All our Gems should have received an invitation.
Please RSVP to the Church Office by September 2, 2024.)



CONTINUING OUTREACHES - TO HELP IN YOUR COMMUNITY:

Strasburg Compassion Cupboard: *No glass containers, please.*

Items requested during September: *rice a roni, pasta meal kits and toilet paper*

Monetary donations payable to "Strasburg Compassion Cupboard" can be mailed to the Annex or dropped through the Annex mail slot.

*** Items can be dropped off at church where drop boxes are provided in the Narthex, or at the Annex during office hours.*

For the 2 outreaches below: Please place items in their respective box on the Annex back porch, or bring them by the Annex during business hours. Carol monitors/stocks the Blessing & Bible boxes as needed.

The Blessing Box: Items such as canned tuna, Spam, chicken, salmon, peanut butter and toiletries/personal hygiene items, baby wipes and diapers are most needed. Garden items are accepted too.

Please NO dried or canned beans at this time, and NO sweets – they attract ants!! (raisins, craisins, cookies, cakes, etc)

Please donated these items whenever and as often as you can. This box has being well-used.

Bible & Christian Reading Box: Please donate new or gently used Bibles and Christian reading.

On Sunday, Sept 8 3 opportunities to help !

“God’s Work. Our Hands.”

Celebrated 10 years in 2023!

This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ — every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life — flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God’s grace.

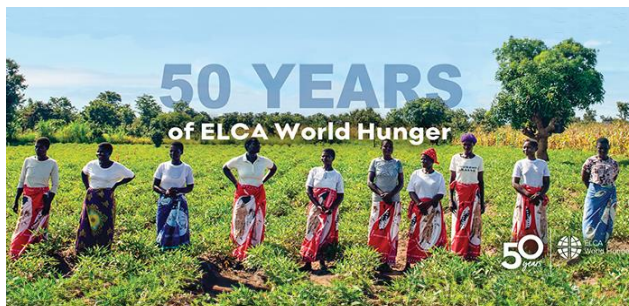


Working together...

****See complete article in this newsletter.**

➡ Also, on Sunday September 8th for **God’s Work. Our Hands.:**

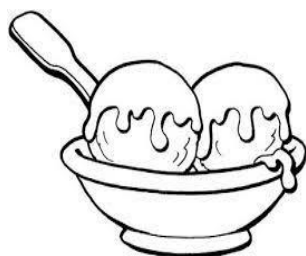
It is the 50th Anniversary of the ELCA World Hunger program. We encourage special monetary offerings to ELCA World Hunger to be placed in the designated basket for World Hunger.



Annual Ice Cream Social - beginning at 4PM

**** Attention All Ice Cream Makers: If you are able and willing to provide ice cream for this event please sign the sheet in the Narthex including the flavor you plan to make – OR call the annex office (540-465-3232)**

We will have hot dogs plain or with chili, chips, cakes and of course, homemade ice cream!



A free-will offering designated for Luke’s Backpacks !
Please plan to join us for food and fellowship!



Thank you for supporting these very important ministries

to help those in need in our area and around the world!

WORDS OF APPRECIATION

We want to thank all the food providers after Erika's two hip replacement surgeries (Feb 29 and May 2). The many well-wishes Erika received lifted her spirit and helped her to endure. Thank you very much! The deliveries of food to us were most helpful and very welcomed.

We wish to thank especially:

Susan Anderson, Gwen Abuzere, Anabel Bowman, Sarah Clem, April Diehl, Judy Grubb, Sue Mariotti, Kitty Miller, Fay Sonner, Ida Smith, Linda Williams, Debbie Winkfield, Pastor Chris and Kayce, and Mary Combs (our sister from the Methodist Church).

A most sincere "Thank you" to all and be well always!

Fritz and Erika Rauhala

Blessings to St Paul,

I am so grateful for all the well wishes, blessings, and prayers I received before and after this last surgery. I am grateful to be a part of this family. With a little work on my part I hope to be back at the church soon.

Thank you all.

Cathy Frenz

The family of Loretta Dyke would like to thank our St Paul family for the many acts of sympathy and love expressed to her and to us during her health issues and death. To Pastor Chris for visiting with communion to The Maynard, for his many acts of kindness during this difficult time and the beautiful service at her funeral. To the Hospitality committee for the wonderful food prepared for our family and friends and to all those who contributed food for the meal. To our members and friends for the many cards and words of sympathy and hope. To Carol Smith and Leslie Doman for the extra work they did to make the day of her service special. Our St Paul family is so special and our mom/nana was so proud to be a member and to know each of you. Our thanks to all for helping us remember her and a life well lived. In Christian love Bonnie, Lynne, Sonny, Greg and the Dyke family

Calling all kids pre-K – grade 5! Faith Formation classes are starting on September 22!

Meet in the Good Shepard Room following the service on Sunday mornings for 10-15 minutes of music time with Ms. Sue.

After that, grades K-5th will go upstairs for class until about 11:25.

ADULTS: We are still working on plans for a preschool class, but until then, preschool kids are welcome to attend the K-5 class with a parent.

➤ We are in need of additional teachers:

In particular, we need someone who can commit to teaching the preschool class most Sundays (at least three times a month).

Teachers for the K-5 class can sign up on a week-to-week basis.

Please see Cheri Morris for additional information.

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR SEPTEMBER (incl. Oct 6) 2024

If you are unable to be at church on the Sunday(s) for which you are scheduled, please find a replacement, then let the church office know.

If you are on this schedule, please mark your calendar accordingly.

<i>Services begin at 9:30am</i>	1	8	15	22	29	October 6
Assisting Minister	Joan Farrell	Kitty Miller	Kitty Miller	Randy Painter	Randy Painter	<i>Mary Redmon</i>
Ushers	Craig Morris Bill Carper	Kevin Smith Bill Carper	Randy Painter Debbie Winkfield	Randy Painter Craig Morris	Sherry Artz Abby Bright	<i>Sherry Artz Abby Bright</i>
Table Steward	Leslie Doman	Debbie Winkfield	Tammy Kibler	Bonnie Giese	Brian Doman	<i>Debbie Winkfield</i>
Communion Assistant	Tammy Kibler	Jay Winkfield	Leslie Doman	Linda Williams	Jalen Doman	<i>Tammy Kibler</i>
Communion Tray	Bryleigh Bowman	Lillia Bauserman	Abby Bright	Sherry Artz	Cindy Embrey	<i>Kennedy Emrich</i>
Communion Bread	Ida Smith	Tammy Kibler	Cinde Wollenberg	Gloria Goeres	Kitty Miller	<i>Abby Bright</i>
Altar Guild	Linda Williams (G)	Linda Williams (G)	Linda Williams (G)	Linda Williams (G)	Linda Williams (G)	<i>Leslie Doman (G)</i>
Steeple Bell Ringer	Brian Doman	Brian Doman	Bill Carper	Bill Carper	Debbie Winkfield	<i>Debbie Winkfield</i>
Coffee Bar	Kayce Grimsrud-Flohr					<i>??</i>



SINGERS AND RINGERS WANTED "INCHOIR" WITHIN

Every Wednesday Evening in the Choir Loft
Rehearsals begin Sept. 4, 2024

ST. PAUL RINGERS (HANDBELL) REHEARSALS 6pm – 6:55pm

ST. PAUL SINGERS REHEARSALS 7pm – 8:15pm
Come join one or both choirs!

Qualifications:

- +Desires to sing and/or ring with a terrific group of God's people.
- +Desires to be actively involved in the worship life of our congregation.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - SEPTEMBER 2024 (August 25 – Oct 5)

** indicates more information on this item is found within this newsletter or in the information below.*

- Sundays: 9:30am Worship Services with Holy Communion
10:45am Children’s Choir, Faith Formation (FF) and Life-Long Learners (LLL)
- Tuesdays, 9:30am: Crafters and Card making groups / fellowship hall
- Wednesday mornings: Pastor Flohr visits the Child Care Center.
- Wednesdays, (1ST, 3rd and 5th) 5:30pm: Community meals at St Paul
- Wednesdays, 6:00pm: St Paul Singers rehearsals resume Sept 4
- Wednesdays, 7:00pm: St Paul Ringers rehearsals resume Sept 4
- Thursday Bible Studies resume Sept 5: 11:30am Lunch (bring your lunch): Noon-1pm Bible Study.
- ~15th of each month: Deadline to submit information for the upcoming newsletter.
- Last Thursday of each month: 10am Pastor Flohr to The Maynard for a Communion Service.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>August 25</i> Worship service *10:45 LLL class	<i>August 26</i>	<i>August 27</i> 9:30 Card making & Crafters	<i>August 28</i> 5:30pm Community meal / Methodist	<i>August 29</i> Pastor Chris to The Maynard	<i>August 30</i> 15 th : Deadline to submit info. for October newsletter	<i>August 31</i>
September 1 Worship Service *10:45 LLL	September 2 Labor Day. ChurchOffice closed	September 3 9:30 Crafters & Card making	September 4 5:30pm Community meal / St Paul 6pm Ringers 7pm Singers	September 5 *11:30/Noon: Lunch and Bible Study		Sept 7
8 Worship service *10:45am God’s Work. Our Hands. *4pm Ice Cream Social	9	10 9:30am Crafters & Card making 4:30pm Child Care meeting 7pm History & Archive mtg	11 5:30pm Community meal / Methodist 6pm Ringers 7pm Singers	12 9am Finance meeting *11:30/Noon: Lunch and Bible Study	13	14 *8am Men’s Prayer Breakfast / Presbyterian Church
15 Worship service *10:45am God’s Gems	16	17 9:30 Crafters & Card making 7pm Council meeting	18 5:30pm Community meal / St Paul 6pm Ringers 7pm Singers	19 *11:30/Noon: Lunch and Bible Study	20	21
22 Worship service *10:45 LLL *10:45 FF resumes	23	24 9:30 Card making & Crafters	25 5:30pm Community meal / Methodist 6pm Ringers 7pm Singers	26 Pastor Chris to The Maynard *11:30/Noon: Lunch and Bible Study	27	28
Sept 29 Worship Service *10:45 FF *10:45 LLL	Sept 30	<i>October 1</i> 9:30 Card making & Crafters	<i>October 2</i> 5:30pm Community meal / St Paul 6pm Ringers 7pm Singers	<i>October 3</i> *11:30/Noon: Lunch and Bible Study	<i>October 4</i>	<i>October 5</i>

God's Work. Our Hands.

has become an annual September activity in Lutheran congregations across the nation for over a decade.

It has taken many forms from raising money for congregation and community ministries to hands on work of planting community gardens, painting houses, and picking up garbage.

On Sunday September 8th for *God's Work. Our Hands.* you are invited to



Fill the Pew (with food items) for Luke's Backpacks which is a food supplement program for school students. Our congregation has strongly supported this over the years.

****After the worship service we invite the kids and any adults** to help move the donated food items to the stage in the Fellowship hall.

Thank you for participating in God's Work Our Hands in whatever way is possible for you!