



"ST. PAUL'S IS A FAMILY OF BELIEVERS IN THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST, COMMITTED TO THE FULFILLMENT OF THE WORD OF GOD"

Church Office....570-474-6616

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**Visit us at St. Paul's Lutheran Church,
Mountain Top, PA and keep in touch with
upcoming events.**

**Sunday Service Schedule will continue
worship at 10:00 a.m. through
Labor Day weekend.**

**Healing Service:
Wednesday, August 5th at 11AM**



Looking to honor a loved one? Would you consider making a purchase in honor or in memory of someone? Banners range in price from \$50 to \$100 normally. There are a variety to choose from. Speak to Pastor if you are interested.

Pastor's Notes

“To everything there is a season: a time and purpose under heaven.”

What is time? The Oxford English Dictionary defines time as the indefinite continued progress of existence and events in the past, present, and future, regarded as a whole. Time is also identified by the English Study Page as “the thing that is measured as seconds, minutes, hours, days, years, etc.” Many of us have an unhealthy relationship with time; we waste it. We’re never on top of it, but we often wish it would speed up or slow down. Time can seem to be on our side today and then seemingly work against us tomorrow. With all

we know about our love-hate relationship with time, it's interesting to observe the importance of time in the Bible and how indispensable and essential it is when it comes to our spiritual growth and maturity. Time, as a concept holds profound significance in the biblical narrative, serving as a framework within which God's divine plan unfolds. The Bible presents time as both a creation of God and a medium through which He interacts with humanity. From the creation account in Genesis to the prophetic visions in Revelation, time is depicted as a linear progression toward the fulfillment of God's purposes. Time is portrayed as a precious resource. The psalmist reflects on the brevity of life, urging us to use wisdom: "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." (Psalm 90:12) The acknowledgment of life's transience encourages believers to live purposely and according to God's will..

One essential characteristic necessary is faith. Faith is only developed over time, and as we daily relinquish our lives and freewill into the hands of our eternal Maker who operates at His own pace and on an unlimited timeline, we demonstrate true faith and confidence in Him. God wants to finish the work more than we can imagine, and He will: all in due time.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 declares, “There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens” underscoring that God ordains every moment with purpose. The significance of time in the Bible is multifaceted, serving as a reminder of God’s sovereignty, the importance of living wisely and the hope of eternal life through Jesus Christ.



Join us on Sunday, August 9th at 6:00 p.m. at the Old River Church in Wapwallopen. Pastor Kaufman will be leading worship. Step back in time to this historic church along the Susquehanna. Refreshments following.

6 2 6 1 Exploration

On July 19th, Deacon Kat Tigerman attended St. Paul's with the specific purpose of introducing the 6-2-6-1 concept to the congregation. About 16 stayed following the service to ask additional questions. On July 23rd, about 50 people attended the first gathering of interested congregations here at St.

Paul's. They represented 8 Lutheran/Episcopal congregations within a 15 mile radius of Mountaintop. The purpose of this gathering and future gatherings is to get to know one another; share our concerns; discuss matters of faith and mission. About 16 members from St. Paul's attended that gathering. We received positive feedback from those in attendance.

The next gathering is set for **St. Martin's in the Field**, here in Mountaintop on **Thursday, August 6th at 6:00 p.m.** These gatherings are open to all members, so if you weren't able to attend on the 23rd, there's no reason barring you from attending in the future nor are you obligated to attend all the gatherings. But I believe it's important to take this opportunity to learn more and get to know these folks, their churches and their ministries. Are there things we could be doing together? Can we share resources, primarily staff and support each others' ministries? The question on everyone's mind following our meeting on the 23rd was : 'when is the seafood bake?'

If you want to learn more about this program and what this could mean for St. Paul's, Pastor is more than happy to meet and discuss this further. Here are additional dates we have scheduled:

August 2nd St. Martin's in the Field
August 20 St. Clement/ St. Peter's Episcopal

September 10 Trinity Lutheran, Hazleton
September 24 St. James Episcopal, Drifton
October 8 St. Andrews Episcopal, Alden

All meetings are scheduled from 6-8 p.m.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Tuesday, August 4th

5:30-8:30 p.m.

(behind Wright Twp. Municipal Building)

Join us on Tuesday, August 4th as we make our presence known to folks and families here on the mountain at this community event.

Help spin the wheel and let folks know what St. Paul's is all about.



Pastor is scheduled to attend a Consultation in Tanzania at the end of August. Prior to her last visit, members contributed bracelets to be distributed on her travels throughout the South Central Diocese of Tanzania. Join us on Monday, August 3rd at 11:00. They were greatly appreciated by all ages.

NEW GIVING OPTION

St. Paul's has set up a platform for online giving, which allows support of the church anytime and anywhere using a phone, tablet or computer. You can choose to set up automatic recurring donations so giving remains constant even when you are traveling or missing a service, or one time giving when it's more convenient than cash or check. Follow the QR code below for a secure way of giving now. For questions or help, please contact Jeff Brock.



SOCIAL MINISTRY PROJECT

In August, we plan to continue to collect items for the Heartwood Center, located in Hazleton. The center allows homeless people a place to gather throughout the day. Their current Wish list includes the following: a vacuum cleaner, bus passes, journals and pens, women's socks and underwear, men's socks and underwear, winter hats and gloves, coffee, creamer and sugar, ready to eat soups (Pop tops), dish soap, paper towels and tissues. You'll find a box in the narthex for these items.

Thank You!

Thank you to all who provided items for the nursing home Bingo prizes.... always greatly appreciated!



Once again the Scranton Wilkes-Barre Mission District will be sponsoring a day at Knoebels. We will meet and have some refreshments and offer our young people a book of tickets to enjoy their day! Join us on Saturday, August 22nd. Please let Pastor know if you plan on attending and how many will be joining you!



Vocal Choir:

We are excited to announce that our vocal choir will be recruiting new members throughout the month of August for the upcoming 2026-2027 season. This is a wonderful opportunity for those who love to sing and wish to contribute their musical talents to our church community. If you are interested in joining the choir, please sign up during this recruitment period. We also kindly ask that all existing choir members confirm their intent to continue participating in the new season. The signup sheet can be found in the narthex. For any questions or further information, please reach out to our organist and choir director, Schyler. We look forward to welcoming new voices and continuing to worship Christ through song!



Wednesday, August 26th 2026

In order to carpool, we will meet at the church at 11:45am. As Pastor will be in Tanzania, please let Leann know if you plan on attending. We'll keep it simple and plan to head to Adelina's. You are more than welcome to bring a friend. You have no idea how much fun you're missing!

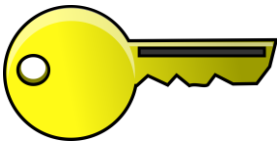
SAVE THE DATE

**Hazleton Area Lutheran Barn Party
September 13, 2026
4:00-7:00 p.m.**

**Come prepared to join in with fellow Lutherans as we gather for a time of fellowship, food and fun!
Our thanks to Tom and Gerri Herron for their willingness to host this event.**



A Sign Up for Meals for Divine Providence are in narthex now! We have volunteers for August and September right now. If you or a group can provide meals for those in need, it's so appreciated. Dinners are needed the 3rd Saturday of the month. For more details, please see Pastor!



ATTENTION: As previously stated, we are looking to once again re-key the building and issue new fobs. We know there are keys/fobs out there. If you do not connect and let us know why you need a key/fob to include in the count, you will not have access to the building as only so many will be ordered. If you know of someone who has a key/fob please ask them to contact the office. Once new keys are issued, you will no longer have the ability to exchange keys if you haven't notified us prior to placing the order.



Dear St. Paul's,

Thank you for thinking of the Heartwood Center and for your recent donation of clothing and hygiene products. Your generous donation helps us continue providing essential items to unhoused individuals in our community. Clothing and hygiene products are always in demand and your contribution plays an important role in helping us meet these ongoing needs. Thank you again for your kindness, generosity and support.

Willow Foundation Heartwood Center, Hazleton, Pa.



8/2

8/9 Lois Scott

8/16

8/23

8/30

Flowers can be ordered if there are openings on the Flower Chart. The cost is \$40. *Color preferences may not be honored. \$5 will be added for specific arrangements and \$10 will be added for blue arrangements. *If you have a specific Sunday you're interested in, call the church & leave a message for Secretary, or email info@stpaulsmttop.com

***Church Council took off the month of July but will be meeting Sunday August 9th following the worship service.**



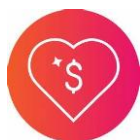
Get your August Newsletter submissions in by August 17th. You can leave your information in her mailbox, call her at the office or email her at: info@stpaulsmttop.com. A reminder that we have a number of graduates this year from high school and college. Please share an update on their accomplishments and plans for the August newsletter.



We often times want to help others, but we don't know how, nor are we always aware of someone else's needs. We currently have a line item in the budget, Pastor's Discretionary Fund. She is often

aware of individual circumstances and is often in a position to assist those in need. This fund allows us the opportunity to make a difference when individuals have nowhere else to turn. You are encouraged to make contributions to the fund as you are able. Every \$ matters!

Don't forget to check out the Holiday tree in the narthex.... feeling generous? See what items are currently needed at the church. Take a tag, donate monies or purchase specific items. A little goes a long way!



Support Our Church with RaiseRight!

How many gift cards have you purchased in the last month or two? Why not order them thru St. Paul's?

Looking for an easy way to give back to our church without spending extra? RaiseRight makes it simple!

By purchasing gift cards for your everyday shopping—like groceries, gas, or dining out—a portion of each purchase is donated to our church. It's the same shopping you already do, but with a purpose. Order forms are due by first Sunday of the month for guaranteed delivery by the end of the month.

Here's how it works:

- 1 Buy gift cards through RaiseRight
- 2 Use them to shop as you normally would.
- 3 A percentage of each purchase goes directly to supporting our church's mission and programs.

It's quick, convenient, and makes a big impact. Get started today by taking an order form at the table in the Narthex. Contact Erin Cain (570-762-6205) with any questions.

Let's turn our everyday spending into generosity!

Need a gift card today? Ask...we have some available for that last minute event!



Stamps for the Wounded

Stamps for the wounded is a service organization dedicated to providing comfort & stimulating activity to US Veterans through stamp collecting.

Stamp collecting is an activity that provides comfort, meaningful activity & social connections.

It is very stimulating, and has been servicing veterans since 1942.

There will be a stamp collection box in the narthex, where donated used postage stamps from your mail will be collected. Any other Postal collections or memorabilia can also be donated.

Questions? Contact Alice Doxsey.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN ST. PAUL'S? Please arrange a meeting with Pr. Kaufman to discuss membership. You are always welcome! **Please call Pastor directly at 570-881-2371.**

We would like to receive new members in September.



EVERY PENNY COUNTS

Bring in that loose change and make a difference when it comes to World Hunger. It is amazing how that loose change on the library table or in the cup holder inside the car can add up when we put it all together. Drop it into the jug in office!



ALUMINUM CANS

Keep those cans coming! With summer events, parties...lots of food and drink! Consider a separate bag for aluminum cans and depositing them at the church.

Deposit your aluminum cans in the bin behind the church. Monies collected from the sale go directly to where it's needed in our church! Support the church and care for the environment!



FOOD BANK

The Mountain Top Food Bank continues to distribute food to clients every Friday using safe distance practices. If you would like to drop off donations at the church, please do so on Fridays 9am-noon. Donations are welcome & appreciated. **Items they currently need are:** Coffee, Peanut Butter, jelly, cereal, ketchup, dry soup, pudding, Jell-O mixes, popcorn, pork & beans, canned tomatoes, canned soup, mustard, mayonnaise, tuna, macaroni & cheese, pasta (ex. Spaghetti), peas, canned pasta, and noodles.

SICK OR IN THE HOSPITAL?/WOULD YOU LIKE A VISIT FROM PASTOR? And PLEASE UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION

If you are in the hospital, please let us know. We care about you, and we would like to pray for you. If you would like Pastor to make a visit for any particular reason, please contact Pastor directly or leave a message with the church secretary and Pastor will contact you to schedule a time. **YOU ARE IMPORTANT TO US**, but we cannot address what we don't know.

Also, if you are newer to the congregation please make sure we have your information on file including address, phone number, email, birthdays and anniversaries listed.

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR: Bob Anthony Jr., Marjorie Lou Anthony, Lynn Barelski, Austin Bowman, Louise Breakstone, Greg Brosh, Dawn M. Brown, Jarrod Clift, Randy Croman, Caroline Cronic, Harlon Davis, Florence Drum, Lena Fenton, Bob Flynn, Sharon Ford, Bernice Ganski, Lee Hallock, Mike Henahan, Leslie Hollock, Pat Hoovler, Doris Hunter, Craig Jacobs, Wayne Jones, Alice Kershinski, John Klebetz, Dean & Carrie Kline, Florence Catherine Kojaszewski, Matthew Kostelec, Todd & Daphne Kretz, Diane Lefebvre, Kathy Lines, Amy Maher, Dale Major, Jon Martineau, Roger & Dolores Marzocco, Mary Alice McCloskey, Jackie McDermott, Mason Medvick, Shari Meister, William Meyer, The Michel Family, Sandy Morales, Cheryl Myers, Kelly Palmer, Florence Pedley, Mary Lou Perez, Jerry Post, Mark Reeves, Steven Reeves, Michele Reed, Ellen Robinson,

Cathy Ruiter, Elliana Scott, Carl Schultz, Nancy Schwartz, Charles Sipler, Joe Seymour, Robert F. Shultz, George Spanos, Adam Tinsley, Hannah Voyton, Matthew Walker, Zack Weber, Tanya Reeves-Wendel, Karen Wise, Ethan Woods, Audrey Wysowski, Joseph & Pam Yescavage, Steve Yodoff

**IN ADDITION TO THOSE HAVING HEALTH PROBLEMS
WE ASK THAT YOU PRAY FOR ALL THE MEN, & WOMEN
SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES:** Sam Rudolf, Casey Balogh, Christian Yurkanin, Luke Fleck, Wayne Kaufman, Kevin & Faith Ann Bigelow, Nicholas Keenan, Devin Fairchild, Raquel Mateo, Genevieve Matello

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August Birthday's

Drake Dewald	1 st
Jason Hunter	2 nd
Janet Zimmerman	4 th
Christie Kaufman	5 th
Alice Doxsey	6 th
John Regulski	6 th
Lindsay Brown	7 th
Andrea Harding	8 th
Michelle Kelsch	9 th

Connor Gustidis	9 th
Fred Stewart	10 th
Tracy Lines	10 th
Sandra Hassinger	11 th
Isabella Harztell	11 th
Michael Henahan	12 th
Kevin Scott	15 th
Devon O'Byrne	16 th
Englysh Enochs	17 th
Falon Brady	19 th
Linda Prushinski	20 th
Christopher Robbins	22 nd
Jackie McDermott	25 th
Debra Garinger	26 th
Brayden Eddy	26 th
Paul Leco	27 th
Mike Paranich	27 th
Robert Rice	27 th
William Michel	28 th
Georgian Ollwerther	29 th
Judy Hollock	30 th
Garrett Gusditi	30 th

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Alice & Jim Doxsey	2 nd /'75
Patti & Day Williams	2 nd /'80
Kevin & Terry Scott	5 th /'00
Nicole & Joey Burke	14 th
Carol & Bill Hankinson	15 th /'87
Janet & Rich Zimmerman	16 th /'69

Mary Lou & Frank Zerfoss

16th/'86

Helen & Shane Davis

17th/'96