



**"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**

**Pastor - Rev. Michele Kaufman**

**Home: 570-443-0832      Cell: 570-881-2371**

**Email: [kaufman19@verizon.net](mailto:kaufman19@verizon.net)**

**Secretary - Kelly Smolenak**

**Email: [info@stpaulsmttop.com](mailto:info@stpaulsmttop.com)**

**Secretary Office Hours**

**\*Office Hours Starting June 6<sup>th</sup> will be:**

**Tues. & Thurs. 8:30-1pm**

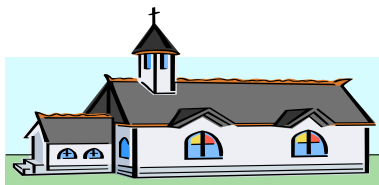
**\*\*Updates over Summer will also be posted on Office Door.**



**Sexton – Kim Schuler – 570-332-8013**



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



## Sunday Service Schedule:

9:00 AM & 10:30 AM

*(Please note the time change for 2<sup>nd</sup> service)*



Our Healing Service will be June 7<sup>th</sup> at 11AM  
ALL ARE WELCOME!

## **PASTOR NOTES**

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want;  
He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads  
me beside still waters,  
He restores my soul....

I want you to imagine for a moment that you are  
in your favorite place –that place where you feel  
relaxed and calm and refreshed and happy. Is it at  
the ocean? In a garden? In the mountains? Maybe  
for you it's a real place, or maybe it's a place  
you've always imagined. But I want you to take  
time and imagine that place right now. (I'm  
serious.... take 2 minutes...close your eyes....  
breathe in, breathe out...

If you followed my directions, you just  
experienced what might be called a psychological  
“rest stop.” A rest stop is a brief reprieve from the  
stresses and roller coaster of life. It's a time of  
relaxation, refreshment, and joy in which for a  
brief time, you can put your troubles aside and

breathe. We all need something that breaks our stress, interrupts our pain with a little bit of pleasure and joy, something that breaks our “fasting” with a little bit of peace. How many know what we’re talking about? You know, when you go traveling and you’re going by car, driving for hours, and you really need a pit stop? Maybe it’s a bathroom break you need, or a fresh bottle of water, or a snack, or a little nap. Or maybe you need to stretch your legs, because you’ve been driving forever. Rest stops were created for this kind of necessary break. Day been long? Road been hard? Life been tough? Take a break. Pull over. Relax. And refresh.

I know we all believe the summer months are for just that purpose. You see, we’ve kind of misconstrued that word in our culture today with the idea that taking a “rest” means taking time for ourselves just to do more stuff! Or sleeping in instead of going to church! But here’s the problem with that. That’s not the kind of “rest” that God intended. This is why Jesus told us, “Come to me, all you who are weary, and I will give you rest.” Jesus is our sabbath. He IS our break. Sabbath is a time when we allow Jesus to refresh us, heal us, renew us, and rejuvenate us before sending us out to face the world again. Sabbath is not a time to “check out” of worship, but a need to “check into” worship! That’s where the refreshment “stand” is.

That’s where the living water fountain flows. That’s where you eat the food of holy communion

and are rejuvenated in the power of the Holy Spirit. Worship is where you gear up again for the road and the way and the journey still to come. Cause if you don't refresh, you will burn out. We need to give ourselves a break, and a little downtime works well for almost everybody. It doesn't really matter what the activity or inactivity is. The idea is to give your body, mind, and heart a chance to relax and recharge. If you keep going at full speed every day, it can be really hard on you, both physically and mentally. We were not designed to go 24/7/365. But also remember how important it is to maintain your relationship with God. Making time for God will allow all the pieces of your life's puzzle to fall into place.



**Want to support St. Paul's? Do you regularly shop at Weis Markets? Consider purchasing a Weis gift card in \$25 increments to purchase your groceries at a later date. Make checks payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church.**

# LADIES HIGH TEA

*When: June 3, 2023*

*Where: St. Paul's*

*Time: 12 pm-3 pm*

*Cost: \$15 per person*

*Bring the important women/girls in your life  
to this sweet event!*

*Lunch and desserts will be provided!*

*Join us as we sip, savor, and enjoy each other's company!*

*Signup sheet is in the Narthex! Or Please let Pastor know*



SYNOD  
ASSEMBLY  
 2023

GOING  
BEYOND  
DEATH  
TO LIFE

JUNE  
1-3

*What's happening at Kalahari?*

- Plenaries full of important decisions like the next Vice President of the Synod and the next Secretary.
- Small group breakouts with important and timely topics like small rural ministry, growing young, anti-racism, innovative worship, and more...
- Vibrant worship featuring Agape (David Scherer) and spoken word poet, Joe Davis.
- Free time activities and gatherings.
- And an incredible guest preacher for our festival worship (announcement coming soon.)

*We're hard at work planning  
this incredible event!*

.....

SO, LET'S GET BACK TOGETHER,  
RECHARGE, WORSHIP, AND ENGAGE IN  
THE BUSINESS OF CHRIST'S CHURCH.

**\*Shane and Helen Davis have agreed to serve as delegates for St. Paul's. You can follow along online by going to Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod's website and following the link.**

# Ladies Lunch Out

**On the road again! We will meet again for our monthly lunch on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month. Our next outing is scheduled for June 28<sup>th</sup>! You are more than welcome to bring a friend. Please let pastor know if you plan on attending. We'll be meeting at the church at 11:45 AM to carpool should you desire.**

## **Thank you!**

### **FIRST FRIDAY DINNERS!**

**We will be continuing the dinners on the First Friday of every month beginning Friday, June 2nd. Look for the sign-up sheet in the narthex every Sunday...Renee's Cold Cuts will be providing delicious dinner options like Chicken Parmesan & Swedish Meatballs!**



**Our July 3<sup>rd</sup> hospitality event is fast approaching! Meetings will be held June 18<sup>th</sup> & July 2<sup>nd</sup> in between services. Anyone looking to help should attend. For those who are new members, St. Paul's lawn turns into a perfect viewing place to watch the Wright Twp. Park Fireworks! Church members sell food at the event! A signup sheet is in the narthex for those interested in helping! Please come to meetings and learn more!**

# CREATED TO BE

*Once again we are looking to the summer of 2024 and the upcoming National Youth Gathering that is scheduled for July in New Orleans. We have a number of youth who are eligible to attend. We plan to order a gift card raffle ticket in the spring and we need your help. Please keep your receipts- they can be regular purchase from restaurants, fast food, the grocery store- you name it as long as the receipt has the name of the business, the amount paid and the date. There is an app that calculates points for those purchases and offers points that can be traded in for gift cards. The receipts must be from purchase within the last two weeks to qualify. Bring your receipts in and deposit them in the basket of the narthex. How much easier can it be to support our youth.*



*If your child has expressed an interest in wanting to know more, please contact Pr. Kaufman and she can sit down and discuss the details with you.*



**WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN ST. PAUL'S?** Please arrange a meeting with Pr. Kaufman to discuss membership. Pastor is currently arranging appointments with various folks.



**Our youth have come up with an extensive lists of summer activities. We are currently working on a schedule of events throughout the summer months. Please look at the list that has been sent to many of you or look over the list in the narthex and indicate what activities you are interested in as well as any dates we should try to avoid. We know there are vacations and other summer activities that we will make an effort to work around.**

**June 9<sup>th</sup> End of School Pool Party  
12:00 p.m. at Ackerman's**

**Can crushing Party  
Following 2<sup>nd</sup> service at 11:45 @ church**

**\*\*\***

## CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS MAY 2023

The Council Meeting took place on 5-21-23

1. Sunday, June 11th, after 2nd service, the Sunday School children and Girl Scouts will be working on emptying the recycling bin in the church parking lot.

All members are invited to come lend a hand.

2. The parking lot repairs will be completed on Friday, May 27th, weather permitting.

3. The bathrooms will be painted in late August.

4. Volunteers are still needed to help weed the church grounds through the summer. Please see Pastor, Lois Scott or Liz Snyder if you can donate any time to help keep the grounds beautiful.

5. Thrivent cards are needed to line up/complete various projects for this year. Please see Pastor if you have available Thrivent cards.

The next Church Council Meeting is June 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. All church members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Respectfully submitted,  
Liz Snyder



**Get your Newsletter submissions into Kelly by June 17<sup>th</sup>. You can leave your information in her mailbox, call her at the office or email her at:**

**[info@stpaulsmttop.com](mailto:info@stpaulsmttop.com)**



***Bible Study is Thursdays at 1:00pm. Snacks provided.  
Bring a friend. We are currently discussing A Study  
on the Apocrypha-  
The Missing Books of the Bible!***

Throughout the Ages, Christians have recognized Holy Scripture as God's Word, inspired and inerrant. They were willing to pay the high cost of copying the manuscripts, and read the canonical books in the majority of congregations over many centuries, and risk death. The people of God in the Early church recognized the value of the thirty-nine Old Testament and twenty-seven New Testament canonical books. The Early Church did not always accept as Holy

Scripture the works included in The Apocrypha: The Lutheran Edition with Notes, but they did value them and preserve them. These books reflect the struggle of God's people in the two centuries leading up to the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. God's people faced persecution, enduring all kinds of suffering rather than giving up their faith. They also dealt with temptation in the form of the allure of wealth and security offered in exchange for their faith. The works contained in this volume carry their message of encouragement and hope to the children of God scattered throughout the world. They counsel us to trust in the Lord and do the right thing, even though the situation seems hopeless.

Ultimately, God will deliver us. JOIN US! EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

**Bible Trivia: How well do you know your bible?**

(Answers are on the last page of the Newsletter)

1. Why did Jesus believe the man was born blind?
2. What did Jesus mix together before he put it in the eyes of the blind man of Siloam?
3. In what pool did the man who was blind wash his eyes?
4. What does the word Siloam mean?
5. Why did the Pharisees tell the once-blind man that the person who healed him was not from God?

## Thrivent News

...How would you like to help? We would like to organize and ask Thrivent members which projects they would like to support in 2023.

IF YOU ARE A THRIVENT MEMBER, CONSIDER WHAT YOU MAY WANT TO SUPPORT. FOR \$20 YOU CAN BECOME A THRIVENT MEMBER AND UNDERWRITE A PROJECT FOR \$250. PASTOR HAS APPLICATIONS IN THE OFFICE.



**PLEASE CONTINUE TO WRITE YOUR NAMES ON THE ENVELOPES AS WE HAVE CHANGED NUMBERS AND HAVE A NEW PROCESS. THE NAMES ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE ENVELOPE NOW.**



- 6/4 Michele & Lisa  
6/11 Kim Schuler  
& Margie Lou (chancel)  
6/18 Leeann Whitaker  
Lois Yeager (chancel)  
6/25 Merilee Wisler

Flowers can be ordered if there are openings on the Flower Chart. The cost is \$40. \*\$5 will be added for color/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](mailto:info@stpaulsmttop.com)



## ALUMINUM CANS

Sunday, June 11th, after 2nd service, the Sunday school children and Girl Scouts will be working on emptying the recycling bin in the church parking lot. All members are invited to help! The monies collected from the sale go directly to where it's needed in our church!



## YARN SPINNERS

We are currently working on lap robes for St. Luke's Marjorie Lou Anthony will take them over to St. Luke's for distribution. We will continue to work on the prayer shawls and baptismal blankets for Pastor.

# SUMMER CAMP

Bear Creek Camp's overnight camping program, for all children who have completed grades 1-12, is a traditional camp program centered on spiritual growth, outdoor living and small group development. Each age group experiences a mix of small-group and all-camp activities throughout their week to meet their group's spiritual, social and developmental needs.

## **What do we do at camp?**

Most camp sessions begin on Sunday afternoon and end Friday afternoon. Campers spend their time living and playing together: swimming, boating, hiking, worshipping, playing games, discussing their faith, camping, making arts and crafts, learning about the environment, singing and much more.

## **Where do we live at camp?**

Campers live in a cabin according to their gender and grade. Each cabin is paired with another to make a Quest Group. Quest Groups form the campers' main family group for their time at camp.

## 2023 Summer Theme



**One God and Creator of all, who is over all and  
through all and in all.**

**—Ephesians 4:6**

## **2023 Camp Sessions are:**

June 18-23, June 25-30, July 2-7, July 9-14, July 16-21,  
July 23-29, July 30-Aug. 4,  
August 6-11

\*There are also options to “try Camp”

Costs are close to \$700 for the week...

We at St. Paul’s are looking for ways to fundraise and help our campers out. Please see pastor for more information on sign up and financial assistance.

For general info, please go to

[www.bearcreekcamp.org](http://www.bearcreekcamp.org)



**Feeding the  
Community**

## **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.



**A reminder we'd like your loose change!  
Clean out your pockets and check under  
your car seats! Please save your change  
and donate it to the church!**

### **SICK OR IN THE HOSPITAL?**

#### **WOULD YOU LIKE A VISIT FROM PASTOR?**

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.

**PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:** Addie Bear, Austin Bowman, Greg Brosh, Dawn M. Brown, Lois Burge, Silas Czesak, Al Drum & Florence Drum, Tom Fenstemacher, Bob Flynn, Leslie Hollock, Pat Hoovler, Deb Howaniec, Craig Jacobs, Wayne Jones, Alice Kershinski, Matthew Kostelec, Todd & Daphne Kretz, Paul Krzywicki, Diane Lefebvre, Kathy Lines, Andy Macko, Barbara Macko, Amy Maher, Dale Major, Jon Martineau, Dolores Marzocco, Wayne Mast, Mary Alice McCloskey, Jackie McDermott, Shari Meister, Cheryl Myers, Sandra Nargoski, Susan Pecora, Mary Lou Perez, Nadine Petch, Regan Richmond, Andrew Richner, Steven Reeves, Michele Reed, Ellen Robinson, Cathy Ruiter, Dale Scott, Carl Schultz, Nancy Schwartz, Joe Seymour, Robert F. Shultz, Amanda Skalla and her brother Jarrod Smith, Paulette Straka, Bill Talanca, Tammy Tosline, Matthew Walker, Zack Weber, Tanyia Reeves-Wendel, Karen Wise, Ethan Woods, Audrey Wysowski, Joe Yadsko, Steve Yodoff



**IN ADDITION TO THOSE HAVING HEALTH PROBLEMS WE ASK THAT YOU PRAY FOR ALL THE MEN, AND WOMEN WHO ARE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES.** Robert Figmic Jr., Matthew Hewson, Wayne Kaufman, Richard Mester, Patrick Murphy, Brandon Passman, Anthony Porrecha, Jr., Christian Yurkanin, Faith Ann Bigelow, and Casey Balogh.



*June Birthday's*

Noah Jakubowski	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Mark Regulski	5 <sup>th</sup>
Tiffany Becker	6 <sup>th</sup>
Megan Hoops	6 <sup>th</sup>
Allyson LaSorsa	6 <sup>th</sup>
Kim Hollock	7 <sup>th</sup>
Noreen Yodoff	7 <sup>th</sup>
Sharon Ellis	7 <sup>th</sup>
Mariann Eyerman	8 <sup>th</sup>
Merilee Wisler	10 <sup>th</sup>
Rose Swerdon	10 <sup>th</sup>
Donna Dewald	12 <sup>th</sup>
Patti Lettich	12 <sup>th</sup>
Ian Walser	13 <sup>th</sup>
Jenna Lines	13 <sup>th</sup>
Ted Ollwerther	14 <sup>th</sup>
William Ackerman	14 <sup>th</sup>
Matthew Kaster	16 <sup>th</sup>
Abigail Davis	16 <sup>th</sup>
Steve Slutter	16 <sup>th</sup>
Brooke Weiss	17 <sup>th</sup>

David Falcheck	21 <sup>st</sup>
Terri Edwards	22 <sup>nd</sup>
Elizabeth Handlong	22 <sup>nd</sup>
Florence Pedley	22 <sup>nd</sup>
Eric Kolasensky	22 <sup>nd</sup>
Jenna Rose Lines	23 <sup>rd</sup>
Gary Gensil	25 <sup>th</sup>
Mary Lou Zerfoss	25 <sup>th</sup>
Elwood Rinehimer	29 <sup>th</sup>

### *June Anniversaries*

Todd & Rachel Kern	1 <sup>st</sup> /'19
Alisha & Justin Mirilovich	2 <sup>nd</sup> /'07
Kathy & Mike Paranich	2 <sup>nd</sup> /'90
Sue & Mike Henahan	2 <sup>nd</sup> /'84
Mark & Sabrina Regulski	2 <sup>nd</sup> /'12
Nadene & David Peters	7 <sup>th</sup> /'86
Shai & Jerry Post	8 <sup>th</sup> /'96
Debra & Larry Garinger	11 <sup>th</sup> /'77
Sandra & Kirk Hassinger	12 <sup>th</sup> /'93
Kim & Bob Handlong	15 <sup>th</sup> /'91
Lois & Dale Scott	15 <sup>th</sup> /'68
Gail & Steve Perillo	19 <sup>th</sup> /'04
Gerri & Tom Herron	21 <sup>st</sup> /'02
Tracy & Mark Kaster	27 <sup>th</sup> /'87
Michelle & Gary Gensil	27 <sup>th</sup>

### **ANSWERS TO BIBLE TRIVIA:**

- 1. So God might be displayed in his life**
- 2. mud and spit**
- 3. Siloam**
- 4. sent**
- 5. Because he healed on the Sabbath**