



The Spirit

St. Paul's Lutheran Church 301 N. Third Street Millville, New Jersey

September, 2019



September Greetings to you!

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

This verse from Hebrews chapter 11 appeared in our lectionary this summer. It speaks to aspects of our faith. We are a community of faith, assured of things we hope for and convicted of things we have not yet seen. We are also imperfect, challenged, questioning, and doubting. What matters is not that we always get faith right; in fact, we often fail at faith, and we often have to witness the consequences in our own lives and the lives of the people we have hurt by our failures. But, when we question and doubt and challenge and even laugh at God, the important thing is not that we are unwavering. The important thing is only that we remain in conversation with God.

As people of faith gathered in community at St. Paul's we live with assurance, conviction, and hope that we can continue in the faith living out our call to love God and love neighbor with hope for a better world despite recent tragic events in our own country. We, indeed, have much work before us as we reflect upon the brokenness in the world that is continually thrust upon us. But, we also heard this summer in the lectionary, "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." We have been given the kingdom folks and we live out this promise of the kingdom through our faith which provides for us the assurance of things hoped for.

As a faith community how can we extend our kingdom living and build up the community of the faithful where God has placed us? A team has been formed to contemplate this very question. Do you have thoughts about this? We ask that you prayerfully consider what we at St. Paul's might do to further the kingdom of God. Through worship? Through outreach? Through fellowship? Through partnerships? What are your ideas? September is usually a time when after a lazy summer we get more intentional about most things in our life. Include St. Paul's in those intentions and let us know how you would like to see us move forward in the faith.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Bernhardt



Faith is the assurance
of things hoped for,
the conviction
of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1, NRSV



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Were you wondering?

What is meant by the ELCA's declaration as a sanctuary church?

Given the bad press that has surfaced regarding this declaration and for those of you who were not present at worship on August 11th when Pastor Bernhardt addressed this, the following is Bishop Bartholomew's explanation:

"This action is a public witness to our standing with refugees and asylum seekers, working for improved immigration policies, accompanying the most vulnerable among us, and praying for all who seek safer homes. Praying for an end to the detention of children seeking asylum and an end for the separation of families at our southern border is in line with the biblical call to love our neighbors. The word "sanctuary" when used in the context of immigration, can be understood in many ways; there is no legal definition of sanctuary. For some, the word elicits an emotional response, even without being sure what it means. In 2016, the ELCA adopted

the AMMPARO strategy which speaks about sanctuary as everything from holding English classes to housing people to writing to congress – all of these are ways of being sanctuary. This action does not ask for anyone to engage in illegal behavior. Because we are church in three expressions (congregations, synods, and church-wide) the decision made at the Churchwide Assembly to become a sanctuary church body, only applies to the churchwide expression. Any congregation or synod wishing to become a sanctuary entity is free to decide to do so, or not. No congregation or synod is compelled to take on that designation. If a congregation wishes to become a sanctuary entity, it should also decide what that will mean. We have congregations in our synod

that already do the work of being sanctuary, some with an official designation and others working quietly behind the scenes. As a synod, we are committed to calling for immigration reform, to supporting a ministry for those in the Elizabeth Detention Center (under the leadership of Pastor Ramon Collazo), and to working with neighbors who make NJ home. This commitment is long-standing and unwavering."

You may read the entire letter on the New Jersey website under the Office of the Bishop. The ELCA has also issued talking points on the ELCA website.



Have you remembered your church in your will?



Our Worship time will revert back to 11:00 am beginning September 8th. Please mark your google or personal calendars!

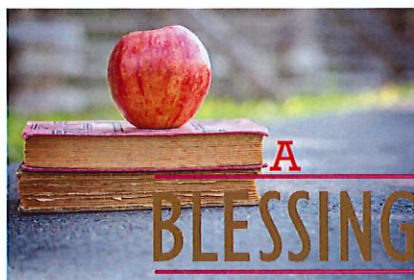
Pastor Bernhardt has a friend suffering from ALS. Her family is in need of meals. If you would like to sign up to help with a meal that Pastor may bring to her please let her know!

Special Emphasis . . .

On Sunday, September 1, our liturgy will reflect honoring our "workers." Labor Day is the following day which provides a respite for all who labor in whatever the daily work schedule demands of us. There will be a "blessing of the hands" during this worship.

On Sunday, September 15th, we will have a special blessing for those in any area of the educational profession as well as all students who are

beginning another year of study at any level. We give thanks to all who serve in this vocation and the difference they make in the lives of those who are in their care from behind the scenes to the classroom. All work together to guide, mentor, teach, administer and keep things clean and in order. Please pass this special time of blessing on to those



you know who are involved in any way in education. They are all welcome to receive this special blessing and join us at our annual neighborhood barbeque. Hope to see you all there!

We would like to send out our newsletter electronically to those who have an email. If your newsletter was mailed and you have an email please contact us!

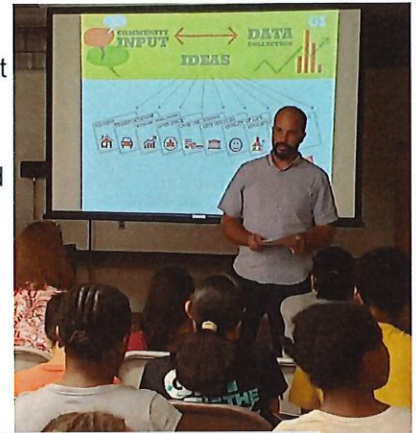
Community MEETING

August 1st a neighborhood community meeting was held in our fellowship hall. At that time a plan for developing further our center city area was presented based on research that was received through surveys, statistics, and speaking directly to the residents—including the members of St. Paul's. There are many ways that

St. Paul's will be able to participate in this proposal for improvements and offerings of ways to help residents. There are six specific emphases proposed:

1. Building a fun and Healthy Community
2. Leveraging Arts and Economic Development
3. Creating a Market for Homeownership and Investment
4. Improving our Public Space
5. Increasing Access to Jobs and Education
6. Increasing Opportunities for Civic Leadership

St. Paul's Congregation Council will be taking a look at ways in which we might partner in this endeavor to walk along side our center city neighbors and help this area reflect pride in our City. This is a tremendous opportunity for us to partner with our community. More to come!



Help and Hope Food Pantry is in need of volunteers! If you have some free time on Tuesday through Thursday mornings, please consider sharing it with those who are in need of help. The pantry now allows clients to do shopping instead of getting pre packed bags. Volunteers are needed to guide this process. Help with picking up food from local vendors is also needed. If you would like to offer help please let Pastor Bernhardt know and she will connect you with the director, Chuck Brett.

Neighborhood



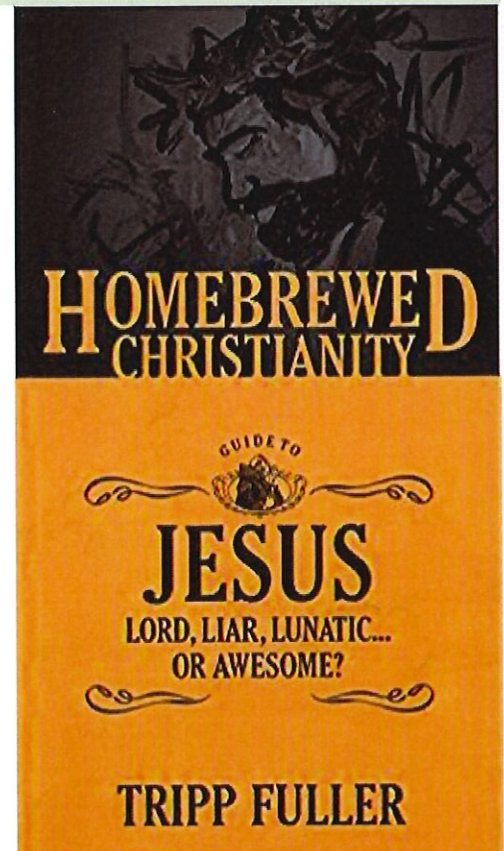
Barbeque

Sunday September 15th following our 11 am worship. Please bring your favorite side dish or dessert. The ice cream truck will be there!

Bible Study/Book Study

We have a small group that has been studying the Gospel of Luke. The final two sessions will be held **September 5th and 19th at 5:30 pm.**

A book study will be offered for those who are interested following the ending of the study on Luke. If you are interested in taking a look at Jesus through the lens of a book series entitled "Homebrewed Christianity" please contact Pastor Bernhardt and let her know what would be a good time for you to schedule 2 get togethers. We will first look at the first 4 chapters and then look at the final 4 chapters. This book is available through amazon smile which benefits St. Paul's. There are other books in this series as well. Perhaps you would also like to do another one. The book is published by Augsburg Fortress and has been recommended by the ELCA.





Story Time with Pastor

Children's story time will begin on September 15th and then be held on the first Sunday of each month through June. October's story time will be on the 6th. All children are invited to this special time for them set aside after the reading of the Gospel. Children then have the option of gathering in our children's area which has snacks and quiet toys and books. Hope to see our little ones on September 15th and then join us for our barbeque and ice cream.

Looking Ahead . . .

September 8: Return to 11 am worship and 12:45 pm neighborhood worship

September 15: Annual Neighborhood BBQ St. Paul's parking lot, Story time with Pastor

September 21: 10 am Adopt a Block

October 3: Blessing of the Animals

October 6: Coffee hour following worship

October 27: Reformation Sunday

November 3: All Saints Joint Worship at St. Paul's with Christ Lutheran

November 9th: 5 pm— Movie Night at St. Paul's

November 16: Christmas Show—Lancaster

Worship Times

Summer Worship
10:00 a.m. —9/1

Fall Worship
11:00 am, 9/8 through
June

Summer
Neighborhood Worship
followed by
food distribution
12:00 p.m. —9/1
Fall, 12:45 pm through
June

Contact Us:

856-825-3008
stpaulsmillville@gmail.com
Pastor Bernhardt:
609-247-8976



All are Welcome! Invite a friend!



St. Paul's Lutheran Church
301 N. Third Street
Millville, NJ 08332

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

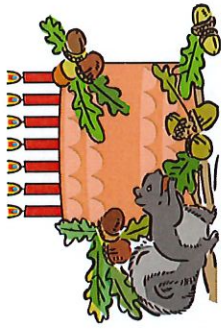






Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10AM Worship with Communion 12:pm Neighborhood Worship	2 	3	4	5 1:30pm Chair Yoga 5:30 pm Bible Study	6	7 Kelly family using Fellowship Hall
8 10 AM Choir Rehearsal 11AM Worship with Communion 12:45pm Neighborhood Worship	9	10 7 pm Congregation Council	11	12 1:30 pm Chair Yoga	13	14
15 10 AM Choir Rehearsal 11AM Worship with Communion 12:00 pm Neighborhood Barbeque	16	17	18 12 Noon Ladies Luncheon	19 1:30pm Chair Yoga 5:30 pm Bible Study	20	21 10 am Adopt a Block
22 10 AM Choir Rehearsal 11AM Worship with Communion 12:45 pm Neighborhood Worship	23 	24	25	26 1:30 pm Chair Yoga	27	28
29 10 AM Choir Rehearsal 11AM Worship with Communion 12:45 pm Neighborhood Worship	30					



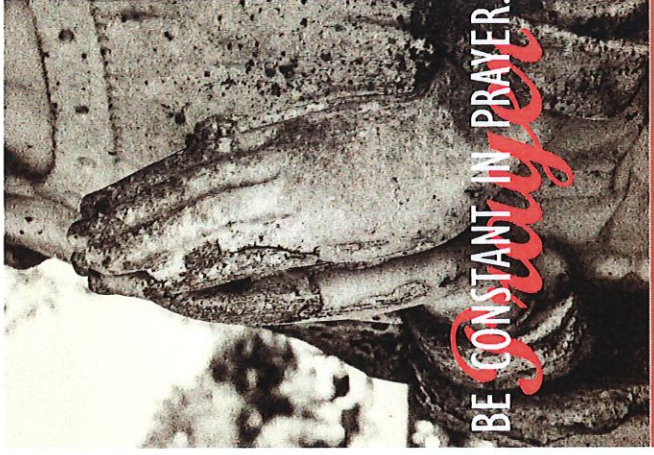


SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- Catherine Kauffman Sept 1
- Lacey Fralick Sept 5
- Gretchen Bruner Sept 8
- Vertie Kunkle Sept 9
- Benjamin Kelley Sept 12
- Autumn Ziennker Sept 13
- Ray Elbertson Sept 15
- Elaine Frantz Sept 18
- Donna Barrett Sept 21
- Lauren Hunsicker Sept 22
- Laura Schwegel Sept 29
- Keith Bernhardt Sept 29
- Linda Branin Sept 29
- Juliette Kelley Sept 30
- Bob Frantz Sept 30



- Tom & Melinda Weatherby Sept 10
- Anthony & Betty Massari Sept 12
- Darryl & Brenda Dodge Sept 15
- Kenneth & Kathy Stenberg Sept 19
- Brian & Denise Ferus Sept 27
- Brandon & Jessica Kelley Sept 28
- Tom & Mabel Laquitara Sept 29
- Charles & Karen Roeske Sept 29



Our Prayer List For September

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Bob Russell | Carolyn Webb |
| Donna Oliver | Bernice Pedra |
| Mark Abbamonte | Vertie Kunkle |
| Mary Lou Campbell | Walter Garton |
| Karen Locker | Ken Stenberg |
| Janice Dunn | Jamie Ziennker |
| Betty Hodge | Grace O'Neal |
| Jody Harrera | Judy Wettstein |
| Jan Barrett Henry | Marlene D'Ambra |
| Charlie Scull | Alessio Scutto |
| Jerry Rigoli | Pamela Spahn |
| Edward Dean | Kevin Garton |
| James Banks | Orville P. Zienkker |
| Thomas Gaitner | Kenneth Clements |
| Dee Gilmore | Betty Smith |
| Elwood Moore | baby girl Poppy |
| Heleen Sloan | John Schneider |
| Judy Bisaquino | Tania Wright |
| Wendy Koering | |

Members of the Armed Forces called to keep our country safe.

GREETERS SCHEDULE

- Sept 1 – Tom & Melinda Weatherby
- Sept 8 – Brian Barr
- Sept 15 – Tom & Melinda Weatherby
- Sept 22 – Bob & Elaine Frantz
- Sept 29 – Bob & Elaine Frantz