

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH VISITOR

JULY AND AUGUST 2026

*The mission of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church is to
Celebrate and Proclaim to all the saving grace of JESUS CHRIST in word and deed.*



JOINT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

At Christ the King Lutheran
Church
5700 US 60 Huntington, WV
25705

July 6-10
Dinner served at 5:30pm
Program from 6:00-8:00pm

VBS PROGRAM AND PICNIC

Sunday, July 12 at St. Paul Lutheran Church

10:00am

Come celebrate with the students as they share songs from
VBS during worship. Lunch will follow worship in the
Fellowship Hall.

Pastor's Reflections

I like to walk. In fact, I AM a walker, it is not only that I like to walk. I have a fancy watch that keeps the steps I walk each day. With the update I have received I even have a coach who helps me stay on track (mostly). I try to get my steps in any way I can. I take steps rather than an elevator, although sometimes my knees say otherwise. I take breaks from sitting at my desk and walking around the sanctuary. I have walked in Huntington Mall when the weather is not fit for an outside walk.

I have heard it said that 15 minutes, only 15 minutes of walking, can improve your mental state. It can improve your heart vitality and lung capacity. Much research has been done on the simple act of walking. I have a bias for walking outside. Ritter Park is only a half a block away from our facility here at St Paul and I try to go over there at least a couple of times a week.

As we approach the summer months – July and August, it is time for a walk outside, weather permitting. While you take your walk consider the creation around you. Be open to the sounds around you, especially the birds singing. As you walk, give thanks for the creation around you. Give thanks for the air you breath on your walk.

The Summer months in the liturgical calendar are called “ordinary days.” Not sure if I like that designation. Is any day we are given especially Sunday, an ordinary day? Sunday is the day we come together to worship. It is the day we come together to receive the sacrament in holy communion. It is the day we once again hear we are forgiven.

Ordinary days are times to celebrate just as much as “extraordinary” days. Both are gifts from God. Both are a celebration of the love God has for the world. These ordinary days go for a walk, celebrate the 250th anniversary of our country with your family with a party and fireworks. Give God the glory in it all.

Blessings,
Pastor KLM <><



Baptism of Makayla and Avery Simpson.

Dear St. Paul Congregation,

June 28 will be my last Sunday on the organ bench at St. Paul, before I leave for the summer to visit my family in Germany, be on faculty at the Global Summer Institute of Music outside Vienna, and perform a solo concert in my hometown. I am excited. As always, thank you so much to Keith Wellman for filling in for me!

Last Sunday, I was fortunate to have an assistant organist: Jackson Wellman played the Canticle of Praise. Jackson will also perform more patriotic selections from our hymnal on July 5, in recognition of the country's 250th birthday. Thank you, Jackson!

We are looking forward to another ecumenical Worship together at and with First United Methodist Church on Sunday, August 23. Choir director Debbie Bradley and I met and have selected two anthems by Joseph M. Martin (We Are Children of Song and Proclamation of Service), Sing Joy! By Michael Barrett, and a beautiful The Lord Bless You and Keep You by Peter Lutkin.

The first choir rehearsal after the summer will be on Wednesday, August 12, at 7 pm. If you are interested in joining the choir (it is fun and good for you!) or otherwise interested in contributing musically to Worship (on any instrument or voice), please don't be shy and talk to me. We will figure out something according to your comfort level.

I wish you all a great summer and look forward to seeing you in August!

Henning



COMBINED WORSHIP AND CHOIR

August 23

10:45 am

at FUMC

We will join First United Methodist Church for an
ecumenical worship service.

Dear St. Paul Congregation,

As summer begins, our youth ministry has already been blessed with meaningful fellowship, celebration, and opportunities to grow in faith together.

We kicked off June with our end-of-year pizza party at Gino's, followed by a swim party at the YMCA. Our youth enjoyed a wonderful evening filled with laughter, fun, and time together.

We also had the joy of celebrating our graduates during worship with the laying of hands, followed by a small reception. We congratulate our high school graduates—Jacob Hale, Cameron May, Owen Murray, and Brier Wagner—as well as our college graduate, Emma Korstanje. We are so proud of each of them and pray for God's continued guidance and blessings as they begin new chapters in life.

On Father's Day, we sent off Pastor Kevin, Abby Bell, and eight campers to Camp Luther for a week of faith, fun, and fellowship. This year's camp theme is "Wear Love," based on Colossians 3:12: "As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience."

Each day at camp focuses on a core virtue of God's love—kindness, humbleness, calmness, steadfastness, and forgiveness. Their theme song, "God So Loved," by We the Kingdom, beautifully reminds us of God's overwhelming love and grace. We look forward to hearing stories from camp and how God worked in their hearts during the week.

I hope all of our youth and families are enjoying a joyful summer filled with meaningful time together, moments of rest, and perhaps a special trip or two. Looking ahead, our Vacation Bible School will be held July 6–10 at Christ the King Lutheran Church, from 5:30–8:00 p.m. This year's theme is "God's Good Creation," a VBS program from the ELCA. Each evening, children will enjoy a light supper, music, Bible stories, crafts, games, and snacks as we celebrate the beauty of God's creation. Please help spread the word—we would love to welcome as many children as possible!

Before we know it, August will be here and preparations for a new school year will begin. Early in August, we will celebrate Blessing of the Backpacks during worship, sending our students, teachers, and school staff into the new year with prayer and encouragement. We will also gather for our annual church picnic and Rally Day as we kick off Sunday School and CCC once again.

As you enjoy the summer months, may you cherish the beauty of God's creation all around you. May you find joy in time spent with family and friends, and may each of us continue to share the unconditional love of Christ with all we meet.

May God bless you and keep you in His care.

Your loving sister in Christ,
Jill



**BLESSING OF THE
BACKPACKS**
AUGUST 16
10:00AM

All students and educators
are invited to bring your
backpacks to blessed for
the school year.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

6 Owen Murray
 8 James May
 9 Jill May; Bill Jones
 14 Nathaniel Fornash
 15 Alex Barham
 18 Wilma Anderson; Mikah Utley
 21 Stephen Golder
 22 Emma Korstanje
 25 David Korstanje
 27 Anders Lindberg; DeLaney Utley
 28 Trey Bell; William Korstanje
 31 Ethan Arneson; Makaila Baker



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1 Keith Wellman
 4 Jackson Wellman
 15 Jennifer Simpson
 16 Carl Pemberton
 20 Alexandria Lindberg; Jeanna Bell

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

20 Brice and Amy Dowis

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

4 Pastor and Kathy Mackey
 5 Arlan and Trudy Hesse
 10 Tracy and Shannon Simpkins
 21 Keith and Bernadette Wellman
 26 Doug and Susan Korstanje

WORSHIP HELPER SCHEDULE

DATE	READER	ASSISTING MINISTER	COMMUNION DEACON	CRUCIFER	ACOLYTE	USHERS	BREAD
7/5	Barbara Garnett	Ruthann Arneson	Bernadette Wellman and Linda Schneider	No crucifer in summer	Jaylyn Garnett	Kathleen and Sydney Blake	Kelz
7/12	Mary Lou Pratt	Jenny Murray	Emma Arneson	No crucifer in summer	Willow May		Kelz
7/19	Mary Lou Fricke	Steve Golder	Cheryl Konzett	No crucifer in summer	Kennady Kist		Kelz
7/26	Owen Murray	Linda Schneider	Martha Danelle	No crucifer in summer	Jackson Wellman		Kelz
8/2	Steve Golder	David Stuart	Steve Golder	No crucifer in summer	Jaylyn Garnett		
8/9	Linda Schneider	Bernadette Wellman	Jan Kirby	No crucifer in summer	Jackson Wellman		
8/16	David Stuart	Keith Wellman	Jenny Murray	No crucifer in summer	Kennady Kist		
8/23	Worship at FUMC						
8/30	Keith Wellman	Ruthann Arneson	David Stuart	No crucifer in summer	Jackson Wellman		

Altar Guild for July: Janet Grimes and Linda Hay

Chapel and Sanctuary Lamps for July: Norma Gensler

Altar Guild for August: Barbara Garnett and Shannon Walker



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer shawls are available in the narthex if you would like to give one to someone in need of comfort and prayer. Cards are also available to give with the shawls. These shawls are made by members of St. Paul and are offered free of charge.



We pray for: LaDonna, Helen, Opal, Stephen, Helen, April, Rene, Elisha, Bill, Eric, Teresa, Luke, Jake, Becky, Chad, Phyllis, and Scott.



The Book Club will meet on August 12 at 10:00am in the parlor. We will be discussing "Mad Mabel" by Please join us!

FINANCES

May Expected	\$18,039
May Giving	\$22,500
YTD Expected	\$90,195
YTD Giving	\$98,354



Cridlin Food and Clothing Pantry

In July we will collect cans of tomato Soup. Please leave your donations in the containers in the narthex.

WORSHIP AND PICNIC IN THE PARK

September 6

10:00am

Ritter Park Picnic Shelter



July 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 10:00am Worship	6	7 9:30am Quilting	8	9	10	11
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JULY 6-10 at Christ the King Lutheran Church						
12 10:00am Worship	13	14 9:30am Quilting	15	16	17	18
PASTOR ON VACATION July 15-21						
19 10:00am Worship	20	21 9:30am Quilting	22	23	24	25
PASTOR ON VACATION July 15-21						
26 10:00am Worship 11:15am Council Meeting	27	28 9:30am Quilting	29	30	31	

August 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10:00am Worship	3	4 9:30am Quilting	5	6	7	8
9 10:00am Worship Christmas in August	10	11 9:30am Quilting	12 10:00am Book Club 7:00pm Choir	13	14	15
16 10:00am Worship Blessing of the Backpacks	17	18 9:30am Quilting	19 7:00pm Choir	20	21	22
23 Worship and Combined choirs at FUMC	24	25 9:30am Quilting	26 7:00pm Choir	27	28	29
30 10:00am Worship	31		7:00pm Choir			



CAMP
LUTHER





GRADUATION 2026



Christmas in August

August 9

10:00am

"Blessing Bags"

Join us as we come together to celebrate Christmas in August by singing carols and bringing in items for the Blessing Bags that will be assembled during the picnic in September. Our Christmas tree will be put up in July. Choose an ornament from the tree and purchase that item. Bring it back to church by August 9. We will also have our Amazon wish list available.

Watch the bulletin and your email for more information.

