



Announcements

Sunday, October 4, 2026

Visitors

Welcome to all of our guests and first-time visitors, we are glad to have you here today! Please take a moment to fill out a *Welcome* envelope, available in the pews.

The envelopes also serve as a giving envelope for those who would like to support the ministries of our church. Completed envelopes can be placed in the giving box or handed to a church leader.

Interested in learning more about St. Paul? A Welcome Class is being held Sunday, October 18th at 9:30AM in Room 100 for those who would like to learn more about the church. If you are interested in attending or have any questions, please contact Ellen Harpel in the church office at 717-626-4709 or email her at eharpel@stpaulstititz.net.

Today

Lutheran World Relief Blanket Sunday: Today we observe Lutheran World Relief Blanket Sunday. This special opportunity allows our congregation to see the many quilts lovingly assembled by the Women of the ELCA blanket-making group throughout the past year. Soon, these quilts will be sent around the world to provide warmth, comfort and hope to people in need.

Capture the Flag Event at Camp: everyone is invited to Camp Kirchenwald this afternoon for a giant game of Capture the Flag followed by a brief fireside worship. You can come to play or spectate. 3:00-5:30pm. If you'd like to carpool, meet near the pavilion at 2:30pm. Kids/Youth who attend without parents should contact either Deacon Emily or Scott Frase today so we can ensure space in cars & permission slips.

Fall Stewardship, Food Drive & Prayer

On October 11 and 18, we invite you to bring these things to church:

1) **Items for the Community Chest Food Drive.** The food bank is currently in great need. **See below for the list of items needed. (Yes, there will be a friendly competition to see which service brings in the most!)*

2) **A financial pledge.** You can make the pledge in one of three ways:

- Complete a pledge card
- Email your pledge to finance@stpaulstititz.net
- Renew or update your online giving for 2027

3) **Prayers for God** to use all of our resources for amazing ministry. You can pick up a pledge card and letter in the narthex today.

***Community Chest Needs:** Many of the shelves and bins at the food bank are running very low, and they are in need of a variety of items.

Rice, flavored rice or pasta mixes, Hamburger Helper, chili, canned chicken, spaghetti, tomato sauce, canned vegetables (please no corn or green beans, they have plenty), canned fruit (no pineapple), gravy, stuffing mix, broth, cake mix, Pop-Tarts, condiments, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, and feminine hygiene products.

Thank you for helping keep the Community Chest stocked and supporting our neighbors in need!

Adult Ministry

Contemplative Worship: St. Paul is excited to offer a new weekly worship service, beginning the first Thursday in Advent, each Thursday evening in the sanctuary from 7:00 to about 7:35 p.m. This contemplative service will become an ongoing part of our worship life. Originally planned to start October 22, the service has been moved to Advent — a time when many of us are already used to gathering for midweek worship. We think this new start date will make it easier for you to join us. Like our Advent and Lenten services in years past, this is a quieter, slower way of meeting God: a chance to set aside the noise and busyness of the week and simply be still in his presence. We hope you'll come and experience it for yourself, starting December 3.

Help Make Empty Bowls Happen — Whether you have an hour to give or a whole season, there is a place for you with Empty Bowls. Teamed with Warwick Community Chest our efforts help provide a pantry for persons with need. On Sunday, October 18 we will explain what we do, why it matters, and where you might fit. You do not need any special experience. You only need a willingness to help. After the 8:15 worship we meet in the Narthex and after the 10:45 worship we meet in the Media Room.

Activities of the Women of the ELCA are open to ALL women of the St. Paul congregation. The organization provides many opportunities for women to connect, study and serve our congregation, our community and the world. Contact Phyllis Frankhouser, 717-626-4200, for more information. Please return all Fall Letter donations by October 30th to Sue Long.

Soul Flow for Moms: Soul Flow is gentle exercise combining yoga-inspired movements, dance, breath and music. Moms are invited to three Soul Flow Thursdays from 6:30-7:30pm to experience it. Jenn Maryniak, St. Paul mom and Fitness instructor, will

lead us. The final session is October 8. Please come and invite a friend. Sign-Up with Jenn: jennmaryniak@gmail.com. Bring a mat and water bottle.

Sacred Grounds Book Club: Join as we gather to cultivate faith and community through conversation about what it means to tend the patch of ground where we are. We meet monthly on Monday mornings at 10:30AM in the Media Room. For more information contact Scott Frase at sfrase@stpaulinitz.net. Here is our fall lineup:

October 26: What Grows in Weary Lands by Tish Harrison Warren

November 23: This is Happiness by Nial Williams

December 21: The Irrational Season by Madeline L'Engle

Young Adult Fun: We are offering weekly programming for young adults. This will rotate through a handful of activities: pickleball, local trivia nights, cross net and game night. To make it possible for people to come who have other commitments, we will try an alternating Monday and Wednesday schedule. Interested? Contact Jonah Lenahan (856-454-3807) or Ian Harpel (717-618-9606).

Bible Study

Adult Faith Formation; Find Your Common Ground: Join us Sunday mornings at 9:30 am for our adult Sunday school classes, known as Common Ground Groups. With groups for people in all seasons of life, there's a place for everyone to connect, grow in faith, and build meaningful relationships. Pick up our Learning Together brochure in the church lobby or contact Scott Frase, sfrase@stpaulinitz.net, to find a group that's right for you!

The Sisters in Christ Bible Study resumes today at 9:25 am in room 100. We begin our fall session with the summer Gather magazine series, "I am worthy". This month's session is "I am created in God's image (No matter what anyone else says)". The study leader is Nancy Weiss. An offering will be collected. Please bring your Bible.

The Chosen: Join us this fall to watch The Chosen, a dramatization of the life and ministry of Jesus, followed by lunch and conversation of faith, art and life. Sundays after the 10:45 service in Room 7 (Lower Level). Bring something to share for lunch. Contact Betsy McConnell to sign up or for more information, contact Betsy McConnell at betsy.a.mcconnell@gmail.com.

Pastor's Weekly Bible Study: Thursday mornings at 10:00 AM in the Media Room. Zoom is also available.

Pod and Pub: Join us on Wednesday nights, 7 PM, every other week to discuss an episode of Pastor Rob's Podcast, *Ponder Anew*. **The next gathering will be on Oct. 14th**

at Appalachian Brewing Co., in Lititz. Interested? Let Heather Weaver (717-725-1885) know and she can keep you posted on location, etc. You can find the podcast on our website: <https://www.stpaullititz.net/podcasts>

Children's Ministry

True Colors: This is our Fall Kids Sermon Series. Come watch the color wheel spin as we focus on a different color each week in worship. We'll learn why that color is meaningful at church and the truth of the Gospel it holds.

Color Collection: Throughout the Fall, we will collect used crayons and markers to be recycled. Look for the bin in the Sunday School entrance. Last day to donate: Nov. 1. Questions: see Marty Althouse.

Music Making! We look forward to our children sharing musical gifts this month!
October 11 - our kids in Preschool, K & 1 will sing at the beginning of 10:45am worship.
October 18 - our older kids who've joined "Chime Time" will ring in 10:45am worship.

October's Faith Step Stone: Our Kindergarten and 1st Grade Sunday School class will learn and lead the Lord's Prayer in Worship on Reformation Sunday, Oct 25. On October 18, they will prepare with their parents through our Pumpkins & Prayers morning.

Reformation Celebration: the printing press from Heritage Press in Lancaster is coming to St. Paul for its 4th visit in 10 years. We love when Mr. Ken comes to Sunday School show kids the press and help them use it. We learn how the invention of printing words impacted the reach of the Reformation of Martin Luther's time.

NEW - info needed! Register your child's "Personal Information" into the St. Paul Online Directory. This helps staff and approved-adults care for your child as safely as possible. Click [HERE](#) for a how-to and for the website. On this same site, you can manage your online giving and much more! We ask all our St. Paul families to get familiar with this platform.

Youth Ministry

Fall Fun at the Hoslers: All youth are invited to the Hoslers' home in Lancaster on Sunday, October 18 from 4-7PM, for an evening of pumpkin carving, games, and food! Stay tuned to the BAND app for more details.

7th and 8th Grades - Explore: Confirmation class with Pr. Wallace: Sundays 9:30-10:30AM in Room 8 of the Lower Level

9th-12th Grades - Jesus is Making All Things New: A Journey Through Revelation.

Sundays 9:30-10:30 in Room 5 of the Lower Level

All Youth - Wednesdays at 9PM: All youth will be invited to meet virtually for a brief reflection, prayer and opportunity to connect. This time will be a sort of Compline service, which marks the completion of the day with prayer and the opportunity to settle our minds and hearts before we rest for the night. A Google Meet link will be sent out weekly via the BAND App.

Girls Group! We are gathering just the girls for their own time of mentorship and bible study. Girls in grades 5-8 are invited to join Ms. Brenda Penny and Ms. Cindy Stauffer in the Youth Room for fun and connection. Our first one is October 18, 6:30pm!

Volunteering

Office Volunteers Needed: We are looking for someone who can work in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00am-1:00pm. Office tasks include answering the door and phones, making photocopies and other light office work. Computer skills preferred, but not necessary. If you are interested, please contact Ellen Harpel at 717-626-4709 or email her at eharpel@stpaulsititz.net.

Empty Bowls: Many Hands, Many Gifts: Empty Bowls 2027 needs you! Planning is underway for our March 7 community event benefiting the Warwick Community Chest. We're looking for people with many different interests and gifts to help with food, fundraising, promotion, hospitality, volunteers, event production and more. No previous Empty Bowls experience is needed. Interested? Contact Larry or Melanie Carlson at larry.carlson52@gmail.com.

Find Your Place: Where might you fit in Empty Bowls 2027? Maybe you know local businesses, enjoy working with people, have an artistic side, love organizing details—or simply like making things happen. Our Work Groups offer many ways to participate, both in planning and on event day. Want to learn more? Contact Larry or Melanie Carlson at larry.carlson52@gmail.com.

Music Ministry

Special Choir Anthem Sundays: Sunday, October 25 is Reformation Sunday and Sunday, November 1 is All Saints Sunday. St. Paul Choir wants to invite Youth and Adult singers to come sing with them. The choir will be preparing special anthems and would love to have your voice. Rehearsals for the music will be October 7, 14, 21 and 28 from 7:30 - 8:30 pm.