

St. Paul's Ambassador

*A newsletter making Christ Jesus known,
looking forward to June 2026*

"So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us." 2 Corinthians 5:20

God Sets Fire to Our Hearts

by Pastor Ingrid



The Holy Spirit is like wild geese. Photo used through Creative Commons license

Remember those Energizer Bunny commercials? Don't you wish you could sometimes plug into some kind of power source, to keep you going when you feel exhausted and empty?

Maybe we can – although the Power source isn't at our beck and call. But when we're at the end of our rope, when we reach out to God who created us, God always comes through for us. Like when Elijah lay down exhausted, ready to throw in the towel because of incessant persecution from Queen Jezebel and King Ahab, God sent ravens to Elijah with baked bread and meat. Once he had his strength back, God said, "Get up and go!" It was time for Elijah to go minister to the widow of Zarephath (and for her to minister to him). When we need a strength from outside ourselves – and we ask – God is faithful and comes through for us. That power source is the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit reminds us what we were created for. Each of us has different gifts, which God gave us for the sake of the world that God loves so much. When we get off-track, the Spirit draws us back, reminding us of the life and purpose God calls us to. This doesn't have to be anything big or grandiose – our purpose in this moment may be to be caregiver to an elderly parent, a spouse, or a young child. Our purpose may be to care for a farm, support colleagues, encourage a friend going through depression. Mother Teresa encouraged her teams saying, "We can't all do great things, but we can do small things with great love."

Continued on next page

Continued from front page

God doesn't operate according to a human sense of scale – to God the smallest things can be the most significant (think of ordinary, teenage Mary being called to be Jesus' mother) and the greatest things in human eyes may be least significant (does anyone today give much thought to Herod the Great's political achievements or military victories?). The smallest moments of your life may have great significance in God's eyes, and the Spirit may be at your disposal, so that you will help make God's Kingdom real and present in the ways only you're called to do.

So how do we know when the Spirit's at work? Signs of the Spirit at work include:

- Bringing people together, rather than creating divisions
- Standing up for truth; the Spirit never supports lies or half-truths
- Standing up for justice; God favors those whom Jesus calls "the least of these" and identifies with those in need, vs those who have power and resources but use them for selfish purposes
- Bringing peace; even if the Spirit is causing us to choose a hard path, the choice will bring a deep sense of peace and "right"-ness

To tap into the Spirit, we do have to recognize that God's plans are not necessarily our plans. God sees infinitely farther than we can, and God works in ways that we can't always understand. "Thy will be done," hard as it is to pray, is a prayer that will never steer us wrong. Celtic Christians imagined the Spirit as a wild goose – going wherever She pleases, uncontrolled by human desires or will. We can open ourselves up to the Spirit of Christ and travel with Her, or choose to delay the adventure God has in mind for us.

We never have to worry that God's leading us into something that will be impossibly difficult, or completely alien. God created us for whatever the Spirit's calling us to. And God's grace always provides a sense of peace, purpose, and love for what we're called to. Theologian Frederick Buechner wrote, *"The place God calls you to is the place [where] your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet"*. The Spirit leads you to your deep gladness. You can trust Jesus, and His Spirit. Don't give up – you will have what you need. It's God's promise to you.

Join us for Worship, Study, and Service

Learning and Youth Needs

We are in need of people to help lead our learning and youth programs. Prayerfully consider how God is calling you to serve in these specific ministries, or in any area of our church life.



Young Families'
Chat-n-Chew
First Monday of each month
6:00 - 7:00 pm

Everyone welcome!
Kids enjoy a Bible-lesson &
activities while parents unwind

At St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Jerome

4109 Jerome Rd., Edinburg VA 22824
Questions? Call or text Matt Booher at 540-325-7503



Gathering News

Online opt-out form

Now that our church website is up and running, we'd like to occasionally post photos of congregational events. We will never include individuals' names in the photos. But if you don't want your photo or a family member's photo posted online, please fill out the enclosed opt-out form and turn it in to Pastor Ingrid or the church office.

Altar flowers

June altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor and memory of our loved ones by Louise Hawkins and family.

Christian sympathy

Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Alfred (Junior) Heishman, who died on May 24, 2026.

Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Neal Abrams, who died on May 15, 2026.

Pictorial directory

St. Paul's is creating a pictorial directory. We are creating it in-house, and we would love to have you send in a casual photo of yourself and/or your family! Please send it to: stpjerom@shentel.net, and be sure to include the first and last name of each person in the photo (.jpg and .png files are best). If you have a physical photo instead of an emailed file, please drop it off at the church and we will return it to you. Thanks! *Pastor Ingrid*

Address changes

Please inform St. Paul's if your address changes. Newsletters that are unable to be delivered due to address changes are returned to St. Paul's with additional postage due. Thank you!

Cemetery cleanup

Flowers and decorations must be removed from the cemetery. Mowing has begun and the Property Committee will be cleaning up the area.

St. Paul's Ambassador

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Jerome Parish Pastor Ingrid Chenoweth

4109 Jerome Road, Edinburg, VA 22824
Parsonage: 540-660-9041

Office 540-856-2639

Email: stpjerom@shentel.net

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/stpauljeromeva>

Web Page:

<https://www.stpaulslutheranjerome.org>

Our mission is to be a living example of God's love.

Musicians:

Steve Stratton

Miriam Stratton

Dara Booher

Congregation Council

Jeff Dellinger, President

Anna Barb

Joe Belan

Matt Booher

Donald Bowers

Eileen Fisher

Kaitlyn Funkhouser

Miranda Hawkins

Becky Jenkins

Orville Smoot

Miriam Stratton

Aven Booher, youth representative

Articles for the St. Paul's Ambassador are welcomed from members and friends of the congregation. Please submit your articles to Gail Dawson.

Attendance and Offerings				
Date 2026	Worship Attend	Worship Offering	Sun Sch Attend	Sun Sch Offering
4/5	77	\$2,493.00	N/A	N/A
4/12	35	\$3,441.00	N/A	N/A
4/19	42	\$1,179.00	N/A	N/A
4/26	50	\$1,467.00	N/A	N/A

Thank you for your contributions to the ministry of this church!

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
c/o Denise Dellinger, Treasurer
77 Landis Lane, Edinburg, VA
22824

St. Paul's Ladies On the Town!



Women of Church & Community: "Let's Do Lunch!"

Join us on Tuesday, June 23 at 11:30 am at Cracker Barrel. We are getting together for a Girls Day Out! Let Denise know if you can come or if you need a ride. Text or call Denise at 540-624-9055.



Thanks to Miranda for the photo of our last "Let's Do Lunch!"

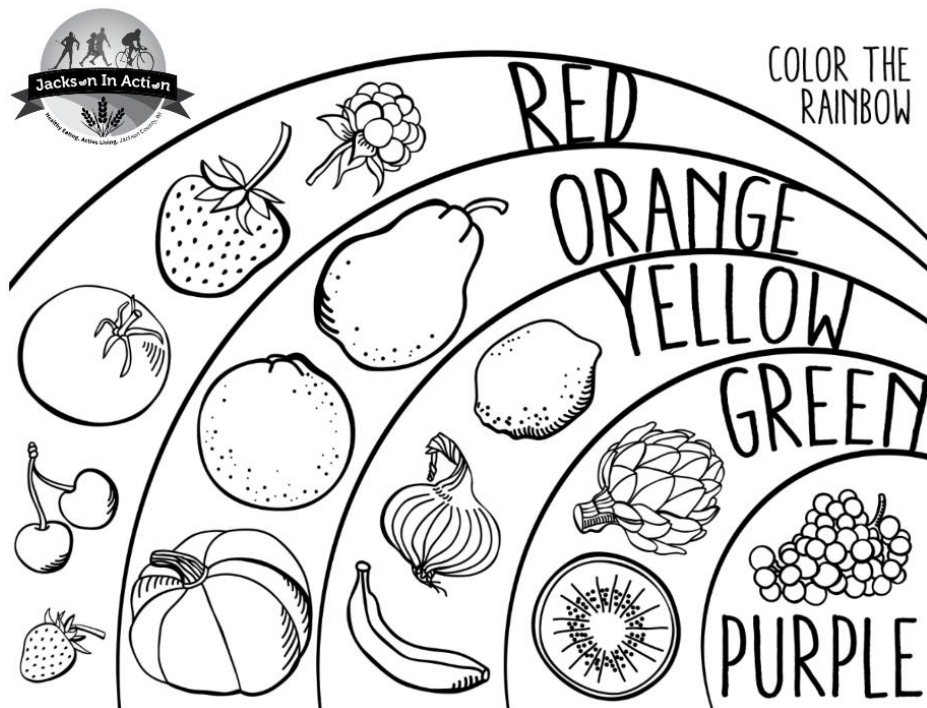
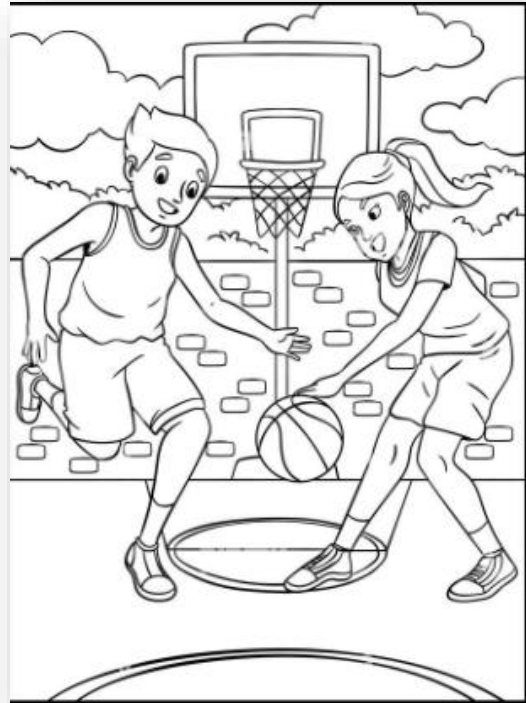
Lutheran World Relief

St. Paul's Sewing Circle prepared 18 personal care kits, 24 60x80 quilts, and 20 lap quilts for Lutheran World Relief. We thank those who donated items for this worthy cause!

The Sewing Circle will not be accepting any material or jeans until further notice.

Young Lutherans' Page

During the Sundays after Pentecost, the church is dressed in green! The green represents all the ways God helps us grow into the people God made us to be. What helps you grow?



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
JEROME PARISH
4109 JEROME ROAD
EDINBURG, VIRGINIA 22824

NON - PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U. S. POSTAGE & FEES PAID
PERMIT #14
EDINBURG, VA 22824

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Jerome, Virginia

June 1:	(Monday) Young Families Chat-n-Chew, 6 - 7 pm
June 7:	Worship, 10:30 am in person and via Zoom.
June 8:	(Monday) Council meeting, 6 pm
June 14:	Worship, 10:30 am in person and via Zoom.
June 21:	Worship, 10:30 am in person and via Zoom.
June 23:	(Tuesday) Ladies "Let's Do Lunch!" at Cracker Barrel, 11:30 am.
June 28:	Worship, 10:30 am in person and via Zoom.

Please remember in prayer members and friends who are experiencing illness, in hospitals or nursing homes, those who serve in the military, and families who are grieving the loss of a loved one.

Bonnie Andes
Arlene Barb
Beatrice Beveridge
Dennis Brown
Dorothy Brown

Gary Funkhouser
Genevieve Heishman
John Hill
Dawn Hockenberry
Brenda Miller Litten

Winnie Lytton
Vicky McMillan
Dick Neff
Dawn Nesselrodt
Jim Newland
Peggy Reedy

Zoey, Maison, and Bryson Rhodes
Peter Shoemaker
Larry Smoot
Kay Townsend
Mary Vann
Karen Walton
Steven Weaver, Sr