

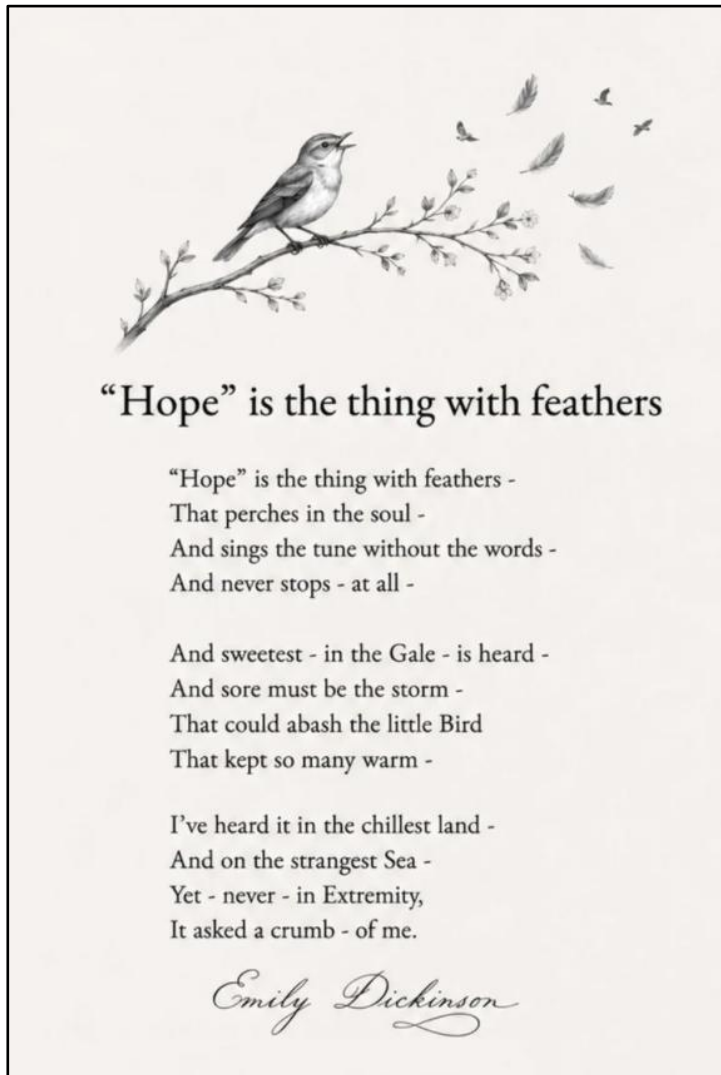
St. Paul's Ambassador

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

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

Dare to Hope

by Pastor Ingrid



If you've opened a newspaper lately or switched on the news, you might be feeling down. There are serious problems out there, threatening the well-being (even the survival) of human beings and other creatures everywhere. It's tempting to ignore the news, to pull the covers back over our heads, instead of seeing what's out there. It's tempting to think there's nothing we can do.

But that would be an unfaithful and unwise choice.

- *Unfaithful* because we're called by God to live in solidarity with all of our sisters and brothers on the globe, and we can't do that if we don't know what they're going through.

- And *unwise* because of two things: One - God promises that ultimately, everything's going to be OK. More than OK! Redeemed, caught up in the love and wholeness of Christ Jesus and of His Kingdom. And two - the future is created by those who have hope.

We are people who've seen the difference that belief in a risen Christ has made in the world. We are heirs to Jesus' promises made in the Beatitudes that the poor in spirit are blessed, that those who mourn shall receive comfort, and that those who hunger and thirst for righteousness shall be filled.

God is making all things new, bringing resurrection life and hope even in the worst of circumstances, and we can trust God's promise that we will someday understand why things have happened the way they have. St. Julian of Norwich's words are helpful for whatever it is you're grieving or anxious

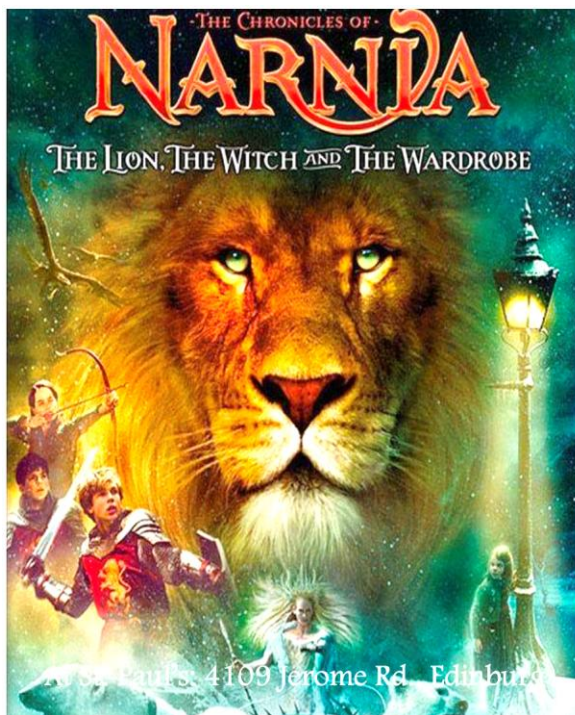
about; she writes, “All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.” If it’s not OK yet, it’s not the end.

The future is created by those who are courageous enough to hope. Think about it: anyone who has given up, who’s overwhelmed by despair or pessimism, isn’t going to be giving their energy to make any kind of meaningful change. Only those who have energy for life will be creating change and crafting the future. Futurist Kevin Kelly, in a well-known TED talk, ponders the various things that humans have attempted to do that seemed impossible at first: airplanes, immunizations, space flight! A World Cup hosted in the U.S. (just kidding). He says, “Every great and difficult thing that has been accomplished has required a strong sense of optimism, that it was possible.” If we don’t dare to dream, we can’t accomplish anything great. If we don’t dare to share God’s dream for a healed earth and a humanity living in peace, we are less likely to be a part of making it happen.

Pessimism seems louder than optimism, and it happens that way for boring, prosaic reasons. Lots of the real good news in the world (that we should be celebrating!) is the absence of bad things happening. In the early 1800s, approximately 43% of children in the U.S. died before age five, primarily from communicable diseases like cholera, tuberculosis, diphtheria, and typhoid fever (https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/measures/child_mortality_a).

Today, child mortality is less than 1%! It’s such good news that childbirth is no longer a leading killer of young women. That kind of news about medical progress achieved over time, or falling crime rates, doesn’t make it into newspapers often. Kevin Kelly remarks that bad things happen much more quickly than good things, and our news tends to be a snapshot of those bad things. He says, “If we updated our news only every 100 years, we’d have a very different set of headlines!”

We who are heirs of the promises of Christ can be leaders in hope. We can look with eyes and hearts wide open at what’s happening around us, both the good and the bad, and have the energy and courage to do our part in making positive change happen. Hope, born of the Holy Spirit, is a tough little bird. She won’t stop singing for anything.



St. Paul's Lutheran
Church, Jerome Parish
STEAM Camp /VBS!

DATES	TIMES	AGES
Thurs. July 30 to Sat. Aug. 1	5:00— 7:00 pm	Ages 3 to 18

Dinner included!

To RSVP: Call or text
540-660-9041 or email
stpjerom@shentel.net

***Vacation Bible School is
THIS WEEK!***

***Helpers are warmly wel-
comed, especially if you
are able to join the post-
VBS take-down crew.***

Gathering News

Altar flowers

Altar flowers for August are given to the glory of God by Oma Gail Simmons.

Christian sympathy

Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Celia Spiker, who died July 7. Celia Spiker was the sister of the late Hope Funkhouser, and is believed to have been the oldest member of St. Paul's at the age of 100.

Congratulations!

At the FCCLA Nationals event in Washington DC on July 6, Aven placed second in the nation in the Professional Presentations category!



Thank you!

Thanks to James Dellinger for the delicious bbq chicken he prepared for the Relay for Life meal. Thanks to Tracy Barb Smootz for the eagle photo in the July newsletter.

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

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 9 – noon

Pastor's Cell (call or text) 540-660-9041

Church Office 540-856-2639

Email: stpjerom@shentel.net

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

Web Page: <https://www.stpaulslutheran-jerome.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
6/7	48	\$1,922.00	N/A	N/A
6/14	41	\$1,320.00	N/A	N/A
6/21	49	\$957.00	N/A	N/A
6/28	49	\$1,721.00	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

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 this, or in any area of our church life.

St. Paul's 200th Anniversary

There's a whole lot of planning going on to celebrate St. Paul's 200th anniversary year in 2027! It's not too late for you to join one of the committees: Activities, Communications, History, Property, and Worship. Eileen Fisher and Oma Gail Simmons are chairs for the overall planning, and Steve Stratton is coordinating the different committees. Please reach out to any of these folks to join in!

History committee

The history committee is collecting information on our military members for the next St. Paul's history book. If you served in any branch of the US Armed Forces, please send your full name, rank, dates of service, and branch of service to Miranda Hawkins at mirandadecision@gmail.com or text her at 540-975-0249. We are concentrating on those not covered in a previous book, mainly those following WWII.

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

Join us on Tuesday, August 25 at 11:30 am at IHOP. 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.



Card shower for Dave Delaney

Join the Virginia Synod in celebrating the Rev. Dr. Dave Delaney and giving thanks for his faithful service to the Virginia Synod as Director for Youth and Young Adult Ministry. As part of the celebration, the Office of the Bishop is organizing a card shower to honor his retirement. Please mail cards to: **Virginia Synod, % Dave Delaney Card Shower**, P.O. Box 70, Salem, VA 24153. Please ensure that all cards are postmarked by **July 31** to ensure they can be shared with Dave prior to his last day in the Office of the Bishop.



We wish all of our students the best as they start school on Wednesday, August 12, 2026

HOW WILL YOUR CHURCH RESPOND?

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

WITH SHENANDOAH COUNTY DEPUTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR SHANNON WALTERS

COORDINATE WITH AREA CHURCHES
LEARN HOW TO CREATE A SAFETY PLAN FOR YOUR SITE

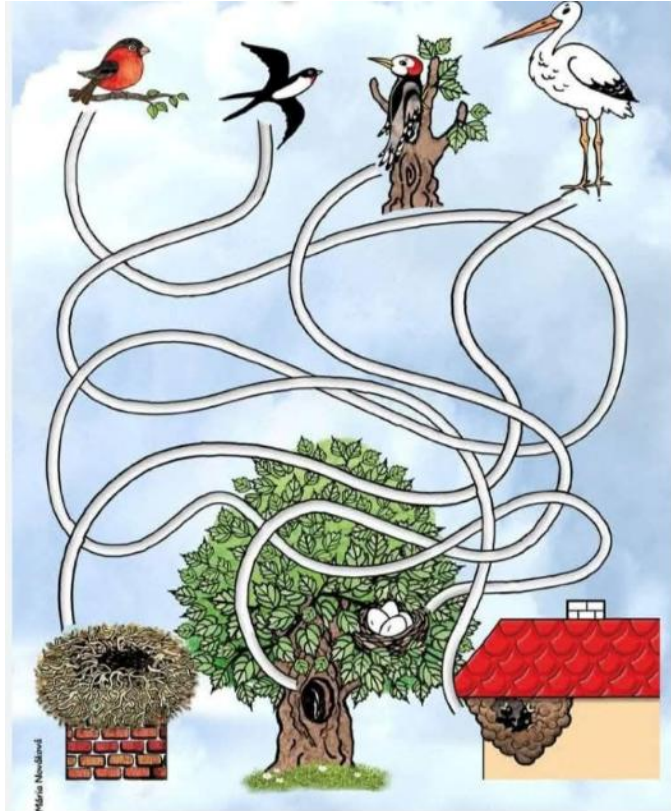
SUN. AUG. 2, 2-3 PM

AT ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
321 HEADQUARTERS RD.,
EDINBURG

QUESTIONS? PLEASE
CALL OR TEXT PASTOR INGRID
CHENOWETH, 540-660-9041

Young Lutherans' Page

God promises to take care of every little bird, and for us too! Help each bird in the maze get to its nest.



Color these birds and the flowered tree that is their home.



Do you like to watch birds? There are lots of live cams of birds on YouTube where you can watch them eating at a bird feeder or taking care of babies in their nests. Some of my favorites are on the Cornell Lab Bird Cams site (you can just google that or look it up on YouTube).



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

- Jul 30-Aug 1: (Thurs-Sat) 5 - 7 pm. **The Chronicles of Narnia STEAM Camp/Vacation Bible School**
Dinner included. Ages 3 - 18. RSVP to 540-660-9041 or email stpjerom@shentel.net
- Aug 2: Worship, 10:30 am in person and via Zoom. Disaster Preparedness workshop for churches, Zion Lutheran, 2 - 3 pm
- Aug 9: Worship, 10:30 am in person and via Zoom.
- Aug 10: (Monday) Council meeting, 6 pm
- Aug 16: Worship, 10:30 am in person and via Zoom.
- Aug 23: Worship, 10:30 am in person and via Zoom.
- Aug 25: (Tuesday) Ladies' Let's Do Lunch, IHOP, 11:30 am
- Aug 30: 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

Eileen Fisher
Gary Funkhouser
Genevieve Heishman
John Hill
Winnie Lytton

Vicky McMillan
Dick Neff
Jim Newland
Peggy Reedy
Otis Ryman

Peter Shoemaker
Larry Smoot
Kay Townsend
Mary Vann
Steven Weaver, Sr