

St. Paul's Ambassador

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

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

Walking With Jesus

by Pastor Ingrid

Even though the temperature highs are still in the 80s, there are some signs that fall is just around the corner. Walnut trees have begun to shed a few bright yellow leaves, and some birds (swallows, martins, and starlings) are starting to gather in flocks in trees and on power lines prior to their fall migrations. If you love fall as I do, you're looking forward to the hint of cool in the morning air that we've been missing during the summer heat wave.

The other evening, I caught a faint scent of a wood fire, and that reminded me of a task my family usually does at this time of year - cutting and stacking firewood. We just call it "doing wood." When we're really serious about it, we rent a wood splitter. Then, everyone gets involved - even Ember and Salem, for as long as their attention holds - and we form a line from the splitter to the growing neat stack of wood.

Rob and I and our adult kids enjoy doing wood. It's a time of laughing, working together, and of experiencing the satisfaction of doing something whose results are easy to see. The task feels much lighter when everyone's helping.

When Jesus talks about his yoke being easy and his burden light, he's talking about the sense of community that comes as a natural consequence of following him. A contemplative prayer blog called "Word of the Week" shares these thoughts about Jesus' yoke:

The word for "yoke" in Aramaic, *nira*, translates as "the way or path of a teacher." Jesus' Way of the Heart entails releasing the small self's burdensome desire for esteem, power, control, and security—relying instead on the living water of the Spirit, a current that buoys us up as we take on the yoke that leads to liberation. This "light burden" brings freedom from the heaviness of self-importance and its accompanying anxieties—and releases the energies of love, patience, peace, and steadfastness ... those fruits of the Spirit that nourish and serve the human family. For Love, as Paul reminds us in his first letter to the Corinthians, bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

This yoke is "easy" because the journey is a deeply shared one, the burden being carried with the Spirit and in relationship with other members of the body of Christ; it is a labor of love that does not depend on human effort alone. This is the humble, homeward path of heart through which the soul finds true work, true accompaniment, and true rest.

- From <https://weekoftheword.substack.com/p/sunday-july-5-my-yoke-is-easy>

Continued on p. 2

Homecoming September 13, 2026: Worship, Fellowship, Food!

Join us on September 13 as we "come home to Jerome" for a time of refreshment and renewal! Our own Pastor Ingrid will preside at our 10:30 am worship service.

A covered dish meal follows worship.



When Jesus calls us to follow him, he invites us into a flow, like the flow of a river. We are carried along by the Spirit, and participate in the dance of the river. People we know and countless we don't know yet also take part in this dance, and each person's participation helps to build up the Kingdom of God. We don't have to force the river into a particular path - we can't, so we can give up the heavy burden of being executive manager of our own lives (and other people's!) and instead keep all our senses open for where God is leading next. It's a joyful thing to let go of the need to hurry, to hoard, to build up walls. Instead, we slowly learn to see that we've been surrounded by community all along, and that our best companion on this river journey is Jesus himself.

So remember that your ways of serving, no matter how small they may seem, are shared with Jesus and the Spirit. God will multiply your efforts, like the little boy's lunch of five loaves and two fish, manyfold. And may his yoke feel easy and light for you.



Gathering News

Altar flowers

September altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of loved ones by Fred and Nancy Evans.

Remembering our senior members

In addition to the late Celia Spiker, age 100, we also would like to acknowledge other longtime members of St. Paul's: Galen Rinker is 104, Beatrice Beveridge turned 100 in April, and Arlene Barb turned 100 in July.

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
7/5	41	\$965.00	N/A	N/A
7/12	38	\$497.00	N/A	N/A
7/19	50	\$1,858.00	N/A	N/A
7/26	52	\$1,319.00	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



Bottoms Up!

a fundraiser for
A Small Hand Diaper Pantry
because we cover a lot of butts

Thursday, September 17 at 6pm

Woodstock Brew House
123 E. Court Street, Woodstock

Live Music by **The Instigators**

Exciting **Raffle Items**

Park Lane Jewelry available for purchase
Early Christmas shopping while supporting a great cause!

Have fun while helping local families keep their little ones clean, dry, and healthy
www.svlm.org

 **A Small Hand**
A program of Shenandoah Valley Local Ministries

HELP US REACH OUR GOAL!

\$3,500 GOAL



\$3,500
\$3,000
\$2,500
\$2,000
\$1,500
\$1,000
\$500
\$0

≥ OUR GOAL: ≤

\$3,500

TO PROVIDE ONE MONTH'S SUPPLY OF DIAPERS FOR LOCAL FAMILIES IN NEED!

♥ \$3,500 = APPROXIMATELY 12,000 DIAPERS

Every donation makes a difference!

Free-Will Cover
Donation Ideas
Baby Lotion | Baby Shampoo | Diaper Cream

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.

Vacation Bible School / Visit to Narnia STEAM Camp

Thank you to everyone who made this year's Vacation Bible School and visit to the Kingdom of Narnia such a success! We were happy to welcome young people from our community each evening.

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.



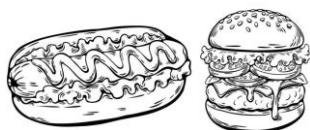
Relay for Life

The Relay for Life team will provide a spaghetti luncheon on the 5th Sunday, August 30. A free-will offering will be accepted.

Shenandoah County's Relay for Life will be held on Saturday, September 12 at the Shenandoah County Park in Maurertown. The opening ceremony and survivor and caregiver laps will begin at 5 pm. The Luminaria Ceremony will be held at 8:30 pm with the closing ceremony at 9:30 pm. Everyone is invited to bring your own chair and join us for an evening of Celebrating those who have won their battle, Remembering those we have lost, and Fighting Back against this terrible disease. There will be many activities centered around the theme: **GIVING CANCER THE BOOT.**

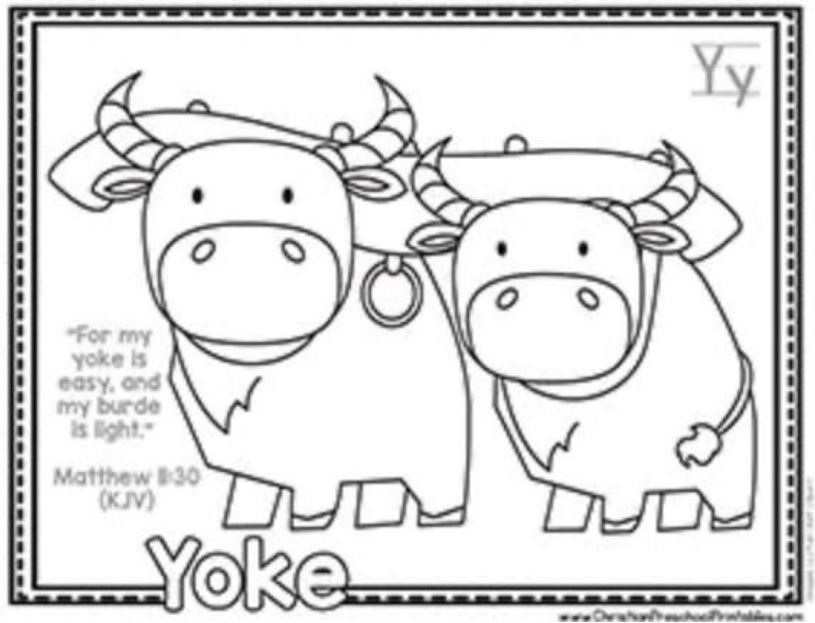
A Very Special Labor Day Chat-n-Chew & YOU TOO!

Saint Paul's monthly youth gathering is inviting the **entire community** to a special end-of-summer Chat-n-Chew on **Labor Day, Monday, September 7 at 6 pm**. Cooked burgers and hotdogs will be provided by the Chat-n-Chew crew, and we are asking everyone to bring a side or dessert to share. Come to the church ready to enjoy good food, fellowship, and Labor Day celebration with friends and neighbors. We hope to see you there!

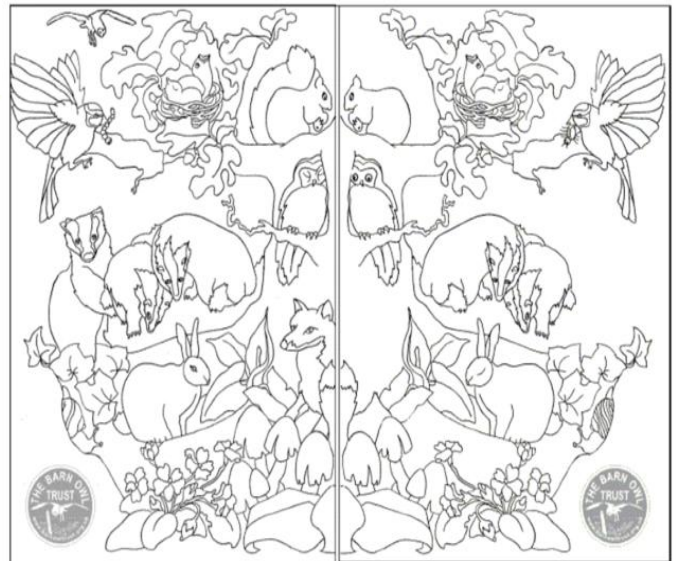
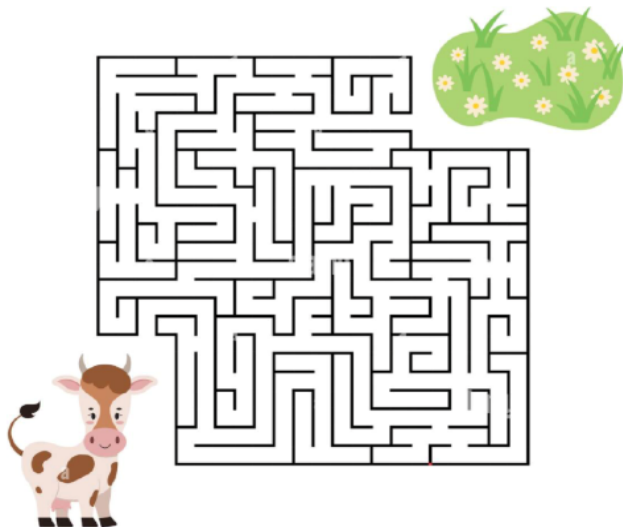


Young Lutherans' Page

Jesus invites us to be his partner as he works to heal people and the whole world. But he says that if we partner with him, our lives and work with be full of joy! He says, "My yoke is easy and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:30). Color in these oxen. Maybe they need their yoke decorated with special items? Then help the cow find fresh grass & flowers to eat!



Spot the differences!



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

Aug 30:	Worship, 10:30 am in person and via Zoom. Relay for Life spaghetti dinner fundraiser follows worship.
Sept 6:	Worship, 10:30 am in person and via Zoom.
Sept 7:	(Monday) Chat-n-Chew and You, Too, 6 - 7 pm, bring a side or dessert to share
Sept 12:	(Saturday) Shenandoah County Relay for Life, starting at 5 pm, Maurertown
Sept 13:	Homecoming. Worship, 10:30 am in person and via Zoom. Fellowship potluck meal follows worship.
Sept 14:	(Monday) Council meeting, 6 pm
Sept 17:	(Thursday) A Small Hand fundraiser, 6 pm, Woodstock Brew House
Sept 20:	Worship, 10:30 am in person and via Zoom.
Sept 27:	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

Carson Daniel
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