

St. Paul's Ambassador

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

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

Face Your Fears this October: End-of-Life Planning

by Pastor Ingrid

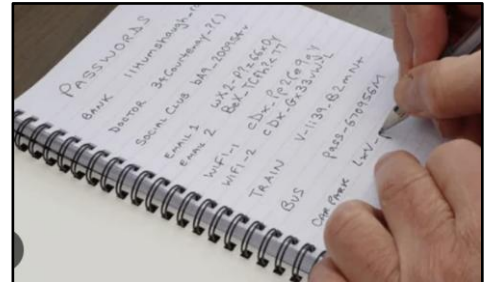
Ben Franklin wrote: "Two things are certain—death and taxes." Hopefully we all have our taxes more or less sorted out (and AARP Tax Aide sites will do your taxes for free, and have many sites all around the area!). But facing the inevitability of our own death, and preparing for it, can be a bit more complicated.



We are Lutherans, we have the hope of the Resurrection, and so we can face these topics with courage and even humor. October and November, the months of skeletons and sugar skulls and family gatherings, are a great time for taking stock of how prepared we are, and for making progress toward leaving our affairs organized for our loved ones.

So as the air grows chilly, it's a good time to:

- Gather your important documents in one place and tell your family where that is. These important documents include your birth certificate, social security card, insurance policies, and property deeds.
- Have dozens of passwords for online banking, bill paying, etc.? It's helpful to keep what I call a "holy book of passwords" updated and in a safe place, so that our loved ones don't have to spend hours or days on the phone trying to figure out how to untangle finances when we can no longer help.
- Make sure the right people are named as beneficiaries on your life insurance and other policies. These named beneficiaries receive assets no matter what a will might say, so don't forget to keep those names updated.
- Make a will. A website like LegalZoom can help you make a simple will, but for more complicated situations like setting up a trust or arranging for guardians for dependent children, you would want to contact an estate planner.
- If you have specific wishes for your funeral and how you want your body handled by the funeral home, communicate your wishes. Do you want to be cremated, or have a more traditional funeral with embalming and a coffin? Are there special songs you want at your funeral? Particular scriptures you'd like to have read? Apparently one can now buy a coffin from Walmart or Costco, and save thousands of dollars. Who knew?



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Face Your Fears This October continued from p. 1

- Make a medical advance directive (like 5 Wishes or a POLST, Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment). These are documents that let medical staff know what treatments you would want in case you're unable to communicate your wishes in person (if you're unconscious, for example). Would you want CPR done if your heart were to stop? Would you want to be on a ventilator, so the machine can breathe for you? If so, for how long? You can find these documents at your doctor's office or the hospital, or even online.
- Another important step you can take is appoint someone to be your medical power of attorney. This is helpful if your spouse or other nearest relative might not be the best person to make difficult medical decisions under pressure. Sometimes, families find someone a little more distanced makes a better choice for medical power of attorney. Remember, if you become confused due to illness or dementia, you can no longer legally make your own medical decisions, so the best time to plan for who should make them is now.
- Update your contact list. Who would you want informed, at your passing?

When I was expecting our first child (Curtis), my husband Rob and I set up his nursery with those things we knew we'd need—a crib, a changing table, and a few other essentials. When we were in the hospital, it was such a weight off our minds knowing that once we got home, we would have what we needed. I imagine that if I had to go into the hospital for a severe illness, it would also be a weight off to know that my basic affairs were in order and papers left in a place where the people who needed them could find them.

And since none of us is going to make it out of here alive, it's always a good time to tell folks how much you love them! For the young people in your life, give them a blessing that shows them you believe in them, and love them for who they are. Your words may be just what they need to make it through future difficult situations; you'll still be there for them in the love you give. That's eternal!

Peace,
Pastor Ingrid

Renowned American poet, novelist, essayist, and agrarian activist Wendell Berry died at the age of 92 on August 31, 2026, at his home in Port Royal, Kentucky.

In a 1998 interview for All Things Considered, Berry was hesitant to provide advice to young people looking to take after him, telling NPR's Noah Adams, "I think advising the young about a life course is probably not a responsible thing to do." But when pressed, Berry added that, if at all possible, young people should look for opportunities to "stop some place, and stay there. Learn the history of it, and the names of the plants and animals and the neighbors."

Berry's writing is a lesson for the ages on slowing down, noticing, and deeply loving and respecting our surroundings.

What We Need Is Here

Geese appear high over us,
pass, and the sky closes. Abandon,
as in love or sleep, holds
them to their way, clear
in the ancient faith: what we need
is here. And we pray, not
for new earth or heaven, but to be
quiet in heart, and in eye,
clear. What we need is here.

Gathering News

Altar flowers

October altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in remembrance of Kenneth, Brian, and Wayne Hawkins by Miranda Hawkins.

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.

Relay for Life

A big THANK YOU to everyone who supported our Relay for Life team this year. The rain held off, and we had a nice evening and very successful Relay. St. Paul's ended up raising \$11,103.50 for the American Cancer Society, with Shenandoah County surpassing its goal of \$125,000.00 and raising \$135,648.43. That's awesome! Again, thanks for your generous support!

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.

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



Dinner provided

At St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Jerome

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



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
8/2	31	\$1,615.00	N/A	N/A
8/9	57	\$804.00	N/A	N/A
8/16	49	\$792.00	N/A	N/A
8/23	43	\$2,456.00	N/A	N/A
8/30	49	\$1,121.00	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

Spotlight on St. Paul's Youth!

Narnia Camp Update

Just before school started, we celebrated faith, fun, music and nature at our VBS/Narnia camp. The theme was the book written by CS Lewis, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. We had about 17 kids each night, and enjoyed activities like:

- Building beaver lodges and learning about how important beavers are to ecosystems
- Singing uplifting songs
- Having a spaghetti-noodle-tower-building competition (won by Sterling!)
- Playing outside
- And lots of other fun activities to learn about God and God's creation!

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who made this year's event possible!



Join us for Worship, Study, and Service

National Youth Gathering

Any youth currently in 8th-12th grade who's committed to attending the 2027 National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis (June 28-July 2, 2027) needs to tell Pastor Ingrid by Sunday Oct. 11 at the latest. The theme is **Imagine More**, and is based around Ephesians 3:20: "to God, whose power at work in us can do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine."

Adult Bible Study with Pastor Ingrid

Pastor Ingrid leads a Tuesday online Bible study, 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm. She will be leading discussion from a new book called *Jesus Is Lord* by United Methodist (Florida) Bishop Rev. Tom Berlin. The book looks at the question - How might our lives be different (and better!) if we acknowledged Jesus as Lord in all parts of our lives? The study will seek to answer this question using texts from many different parts of the Bible.

Call or text Pastor Ingrid at 540-660-9041 to receive the Zoom link in your email!

Installation of the Reverend Elisabeth Chapin

Sunday, Oct. 11 at 4 pm: Installation of the Rev. Elisabeth Chapin at Bethel Hamburg (263 Bethel Church Rd., Edinburg).

Women's Gathering

The Central Valley Conference Women's Gathering will be held at the Upper Room building at Camp Caroline Furnace on Sat. Oct. 24, 2-4 pm. This will be a Reformation-themed, celebratory event with worship, music, devotions, food, and great conversation. RSVP to Pastor or Oma Gail.

Reformation Sunday

Sunday Oct. 25 is Reformation Sunday; plan to wear red. We will also be honoring and celebrating our Seniors (80+) on that day, and a meal is being served after worship.

Bluegrass Service

"Pickin' Grace" Bluegrass Reformation Service, at Reformation Lutheran in New Market, Sunday Oct. 25 at 4 pm. Bring a covered dish to share if you can. One of the featured musicians will be our beloved Rev. Bill Nabers.

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

Join us on Tuesday, October 27 at 11:30 am (location to be determined). 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.



St. Paul's 200th Anniversary

We have commissioned a local potter to make commemorative pottery for the 200th Anniversary of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in 2027. The artist is giving us her non-profit rate and the pottery is being sold without profit to the church. There are two styles of bowls, three styles of mugs, a flower pot, a pitcher, and a refrigerator magnet. If you are interested in purchasing one or more pieces, contact Miranda Hawkins at 540-975-0249 or mirandadecision@gmail.com



CENTRAL VALLEY ELCA WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

GATHERING WILL INCLUDE:

- WORSHIP
- MUSIC
- FELLOWSHIP
- REFRESHMENTS

PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND & MAKE THIS A JOYFUL EVENT!

BRING A FRIEND!

CAMP CAROLINE FURNACE
UPPER ROOM BUILDING
8495 MORELAND GAP RD,
FORT VALLEY, VA
(USE MORELAND GAP ROAD ENTRANCE)



SAT. OCT. 24, 2026, 2-4 PM

RSVP: EMAIL STPJEROM@SHENTEL.NET OR CALL: 540-856-2639



TRUNK OR TREAT

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Oct. 31 6 - 8 p.m.

4109 Jerome Rd.,
Edinburg

+ GAMES & FACE PAINTING!

And Just Around the Corner: Mark Your Calendars!

Thanksgiving Meal, November 16 at 12 Noon



Welcome, Welcome!

You are cordially invited to partake of a delicious home cooked, traditional Thanksgiving Meal with all the fixings! We want to celebrate the relationship that exists between St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Jerome and its community partners and neighbors. This will be a great time of fellowship and an opportunity for you to meet Pastor Ingrid Cheneweth, if you haven't already done so. The Sewing Circle will be graciously assisted by the women of St. Paul's in preparing and serving the meal. Many thanks!

Coming soon—Christmas Corner, Saturday, December 12, 2 – 4 pm!

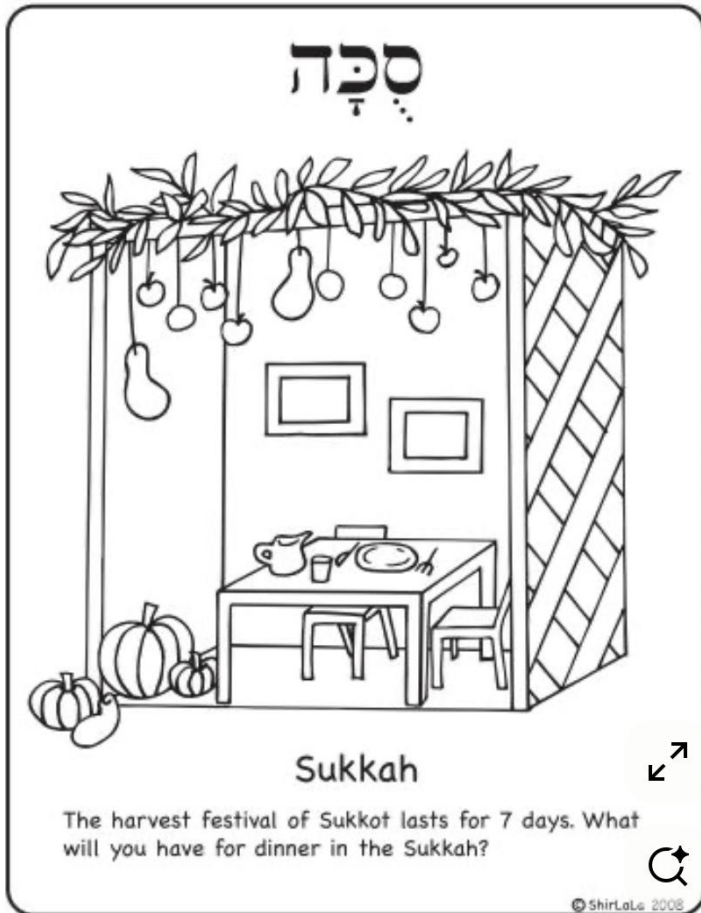
The **Christmas Corner** is St. Paul's very special outreach to the youth in our area! It's a "store" set up for children to shop for gifts for their close family. Children can "shop" for \$0.25/gift for loved ones that live in their house. Selected gifts will be wrapped by volunteers prior to the children returning to their guardians. All family members are welcome to join us for food and fellowship.

We need gift inventory for the 2026 Christmas Corner. We need of men's, women's, and kid's items. Gender-neutral items like tools and flashlights are always welcome. Please bring them to the church. Items can be new, gently used, handmade, or re-gifted.

We welcome helpers, refreshments, and donations! We can use gift bags and jewelry boxes. Questions? Contact Dara Booher, 540-481-6001



Young Lutherans' Page



At this time of year, Jesus would have celebrated a Jewish festival called **Sukkot**. Sukkot lasts for 7 days, and it's a time for families to remember how God took care of the Israelites while they were traveling through the wilderness, returning home after the Exodus in Egypt. Each family builds a shelter called a Sukkah with branches and decorates it with fruit and flowers. Then, they eat meals and sometimes even sleep in their shelter. They look up at the stars through the roof of their Sukkot shelter!

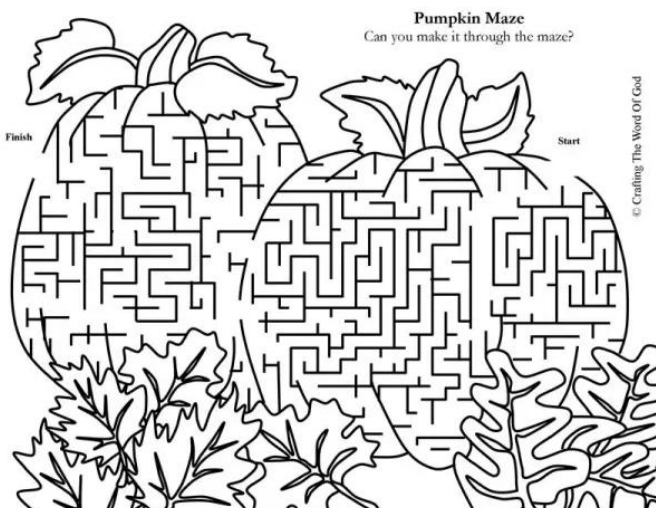
Fall Word Search

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C	N	S	E	P	T	E	M	B	E	R	S	R	F	Y
O	Q	O	B	S	J	W	A	B	A	Q	T	E	A	U
R	X	E	V	D	I	N	U	H	M	U	J	E	L	S
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SEPTEMBER
HARVEST
ACORNS
TREES

SCARECROW
SWEATER
CIDER
APPLES

OCTOBER
AUTUMN
FALL
NOVEMBER



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

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EDINBURG, VA 22824

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



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

Oct 4:	Worship, 10:30 am in person and via Zoom.
Oct 5:	(Monday) Chat-n-Chew, 6 - 7 pm
Oct 11:	Worship, 10:30 am in person and via Zoom. Installation of Pr. Elisabeth Chapin at Bethel, Hamburg, 4 pm
Oct 12:	(Monday) Council meeting, 6 pm
Oct 18:	Worship, 10:30 am in person and via Zoom.
Oct 24:	(Saturday) Central Valley Conference Women's Gathering, Caroline Furnace, 2 - 4 pm
Oct 25:	Reformation Sunday Worship , 10:30 am in person and via Zoom. Wear red! Senior Appreciation Sunday meal follows worship. Bluegrass Service, Reformation New Market, 4 pm
Oct 27:	(Tuesday) Ladies' Let's Do Lunch, location TBD, 11:30 am
Oct 31:	(Saturday) Trunk or Treat, 6 - 8 pm

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
John Hill
Hugh Hopkins

Winnie Lytton
Vicky McMillan
Dick Neff
Jim Newland
James Reed

Peggy Reedy
Otis Ryman
Peter Shoemaker
Larry Smoot
Kay Townsend
Mary Vann