**MAY 2024**

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

3487 NORTH BOSTON ROAD

EDEN, NY 14057

716.992.9112

stpaulseden.com

 

 **Pastor: Rev. Thomas Lutz**

 **Director of Ministries: Tina Rigley**

 **Associate Director of Ministries: Lisa Hoover-Beller**

**Family/Youth Ministry Coordinator: Morgan Parnitzke**

 **Organist: Jacob DeGarie**

 **Caretakers: Kassidy Beller and Asher Parnitzke**

***LINKS to recordings of***

***our Worship Services***

***and all updates can be found on***

***our website: stpaulseden.com***

***Please call Pastor Lutz
(716.818.9860)
for any emergencies.***

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**Join us on Facebook:**

**St. Paul’s Eden Worship (public group)**

**St. Paul’s Lutheran Friends (private group)**

 **St. Paul’s Lutheran Church**

**Our Website**

**Don’t forget to check out our**

**amazing website! Information about services, events,**

**programs and schedules can be**

**found there! Go to:**

**stpaulseden.com**

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**SUCCESS**

By Pastor Lutz

What is “success”? How do you measure it? The most basic idea is that success is about setting and achieving goals. This is a very adaptable definition because it depends upon what your goals are. It may be to want a family and a house, or to be a star on Broadway or perhaps to make a million dollars. In those cases it can be measured and we can understand success and failure. But what if your goal is unachievable? I’m not talking about being a rock star, which would be extremely difficult but not impossible.

The goal of every Christian is impossible! Our goal is not to sin ever again, yet the bible tells us that is impossible. Paul says in Romans 7, “**21**So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. **22**For in my inner being I delight in God’s law; **23**but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. **24**What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? **25**Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!” So although moral perfection is impossible it still remains the goal we are striving for. I guess we are doomed to failure.

However, Paul is saying that success in the spiritual realm is not defined by an ending point because God has already taken care of that. It is defined by the journey. Christ has given us victory and one day we will know moral perfection when we are in heaven. Success then is indeed promised to us. But that is in heaven. What is success in this fallen and broken world? Paul, John, and Peter, just to mention a few, tell us that the journey itself is success.

How can success be about the journey? If you think about it, it makes total sense. Being spiritual or faith based is about how we continue to live our lives, not only about one moment in our lives. Life is an ongoing experience. T herefore, our spiritual journey is ongoing as well. Success for us is about our continual struggle to reject our pain and anger because it’s already dead by virtue of the Jesus’ sacrifice. John, in his epistles, talks of striving for perfection but also says denying our sin is failure to the point of making Jesus a liar. Peter talks about the Christian life being a refining fire where our impurities are burned away. Along this journey of life we discover truths about ourselves, both good and bad. We don’t just see our sinfulness, we also see the good God is doing in us through our faith. The Christian life is a dynamic and ever-changing challenge of experiences in which God is there with us. Success is embracing the truth of God loving us through our lives and allowing that love to define us and our relationships. It is a life not of perfection but a life of faith. It is believing and trusting God will see us through whatever we face in life.

**IN-HOUSE WORSHIP SERVICES:**

**REGULAR SERVICES**

**Traditional Service**

**8:30 am (every week)**

**10:45 am (2nd & 4th Sundays)**

**Contemporary Service**

**10:45 am (1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays)**

**Wednesday Communion**

**(Chapel)**

**Service is Contemporary with Communion**

**11:15 am (2nd & 4th Wednesdays)**

**In addition to our in-house worship services, our live-stream worship services are on Facebook. Go to St. Paul’s Worship Group. Or go to our website: stpaulseden.com for a link.**

**OPTIONS FOR SEATING**

There is a pew located towards the back of church to assist those with limited mobility. This includes people who utilize wheelchairs, walkers, canes or crutches due to physical challenges, recent surgeries or injuries. We hope this is a welcome addition for anyone who may need accommodations- we are happy to provide a place for all to come and worship!

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

Join Pastor on Sunday mornings at 9:30 for a Bible Study on “the wisdom of God”. We will be starting with the opening chapters of Proverbs. We will also be looking at selected readings in Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs and Job.

**DEVOTIONS AT FOUR CORNERS**

Join Pastor at the Four Corners Café for a Devotion/Bible Study! The group will meet on Thursday, May 2, 16 and 30 at 8:30 am.

**EDEN HEIGHTS BIBLE STUDY**

Bible Study with Pastor Lutz and Pastor Kate (Eden United Methodist Church) will meet at 1:30 pm at Eden Heights. They will gather on Thursday, May 9 and 23. They are studying the life of Jesus.

**CATECHISM BIBLE STUDY**

In April, we will began to study the catechism on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month from 9:30 am-11 am. Come and explore the catechism which contains the basic teaching of the Lutheran Church. Booklets have been available in the back of church, “A Simple Explanation of Christianity” for people to take. You did this when you were young but there is still so much to learn! Bonus- this time there is no required memory work! In May, we will meet on Wednesday, May 8 and 22.

**BOOK CLUB**

The next book club date is THURSDAY, May 30 at 1pm and the book will be Still Life by Louise Penny. The meeting will take place at Bev Nenno’s home. Call Cheryl Colvin at 716.992.4032 if you are interested in joining or have any questions. New members are always welcome.

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**Are you going**

**into the hospital for**

**any type of surgery?**

**Pastor Lutz**

**would like to “visit”**

**with you before your**

**surgery to pray**

**with you.**

**Please call the church**

**office (716.992.9112) or**

**Pastor’s cell**

**716.818.9860**

**to let him know**

**of your surgery.**

**ALZHEIMER’S**

**ASSOCIATION**

Website: alz.org/wny

24/7 Helpline

1.800.272.3900



 **THE L.E.G.O.S.**

 **House**

**A Community Spiritual**

 **Support Center**

***For further information on***

 ***our support groups or to inquire about individualized Christian Care by a trained***

 ***Stephen Minister or staff***

 ***member, please call***

 ***716.992.9112.***



**Need a ride?**

If you are in need of a ride there

are resources available:

* Rural Transit Service-call 716.662.8378 for information
* Eden town car- call Eden Service Line at 716.992.3067
* Hamburg Van Service- call 716.646.0665

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**POLICY BORROWING CHURCH PROPERTY:**

Tables and chairs can be requested to be borrowed by church members. Requests must be made with staff and accommodations made if scheduling allows. Items must be picked up and dropped off at a prearranged time when the staff is present. Drop off must be the following day after usage. Thank you!

**INFORMATION UPDATE:**

Please contact Lisa Beller at 716.992.9112 if any of your personal information has changed. Remember to contact us with your new address if you are moving. Thank you!

**LADIES’ GUILD**

The Ladies’ Guild has a table of beautiful items on display for purchase in our Narthex. The Guild will use the money received to support their mission work. They truly appreciate all of the support they have received!

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Baptism:** On April 14, **Elouise Renee Phillippi,** daughter of Luke & Allie Phillippi received the blessing of Holy Baptism. She was born on November 7, 2023. The Godparents were Zachary O’Brien and Amanda America.

**New Members:** We welcome **John & Mary Logan** of Eden to our church family. They joined through Adult Confirmation on April 21. May they be blessed by their fellowship with St. Paul’s.

We can help YOU with your prayers. God is waiting for

your requests. Call us with any you might have. Please

make your special prayer

requests by calling our

Prayer Chain Coordinator,

Morgan Parnitzke at

716.992.9112.



 Please make your special prayer requests by calling

our Prayer Chain

Coordinator,

Tina Rigley

at 992.9112 or

texting 998.8726.

**PRAYERS**

**WE ARE HAPPY** to honor requests for prayersfor the sick especially when they are in the hospital, in rehab, in hospice or in a post op recovery. When your loved one has improved, please be sure to call Lisa Beller at 716.992.9112sowe can remove their names from the prayer list.

Periodically, the prayer committee will remove names from the prayer list. If you would like someone put back on, please contact Pastor Lutz or Lisa Beller at 716.992.9112.

**IN OUR PRAYERS** for the Lord's healing power we include the following members:

* **Rose Hofner**
* **Harvey Quigel**

**PRAYER LIST**

Please contact the church office at 716.992.9112 to have a loved one placed on the Prayer List.

**IN OUR PRAYERS** for the Lord's healing power we include the following family and friends of our church members:

* **Albert Burkhart** (Cally Burkhart’s father)
* **Sue Kester** (Lynn Gerber’s friend)
* **Amanda Klein** (Mike Klein’s wife)
* **Daniel Snyder & Holly Uebhuler** (Jeff Snyder’s father & sister)
* **Josh Schmittendorf** (Carol Schmittendorf’s family)
* **Matthew Arthur** (Marsha Reding’s friend)
* **Julie Buzzard** (Kirsten Henderson’s friend)
* **Bill Robison Jr.**
* **Kerry Fitzgerald** (Cheryl Colvin’s friend)
* **Will Herrick & Annette Bove** (Amy Smith’s friends)
* **Lisa Bermingham** (Joshua Soule’s mother-in-law)
* **Jared Allen Wygant** (in the service- nephew of Cathleen Allen)
* **Sandy Macey** (Nancy Schettler’s friend)
* **Stefanie Wutz** (Laurie Agle’s daughter-in-law)
* **Joanne Pepper** (Patty Smoot’s friend)
* **Doug Seltzer** (Dave Seltzer’s brother)

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

If there is a special date or a person you would like to honor, please consider placing flowers on the Altar. Please call Lisa Beller at 716.992.9112.

**MAY 5- In loving memory of Mom & Dad and Grandma** by Michelle, Greg, Owen & Caitlyn Gonter

**MAY 12- In memory of Our Mothers** by Kit & Nancy Theriault

**MAY 19- In memory of all our loved ones gone from us for now** by the Sutherland Family

**MAY 26- In Honor of God’s Many Continued Blessings** by the Rigley Family

**JUNE 2- In Celebration of the Life of Bertha Kennedy** by her loving family

**The flowers to the right of the Altar are To the Glory of God in honor of Our Confirmands**

 Jeremiah 31:3 “Love yesterday, today and forever.”



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**AVERAGE WEEKLY**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**ATTENDANCE**

SS & Adult Bible Study

 April 7- 43

 April 14- 46

 April 21- 36

 (No Adult BS- Voters’ Mtg)

 April 28- 39

**FINANCIAL**

**BAROMETER 2024**

 Thru April 30, 2024

Budgeted to date $106,000

 Given to date $76,000

**THANK YOU**

 for your generous giving!!

 All of our bills are

 up to date!

 **

**AVERAGE WEEKLY**

**“IN-HOUSE” WORSHIP**

**ATTENDANCE:**

 April 7- 129

 April 14- 143

 April 21- 130

 April 28- 157

 (Late service included the

 Youth Spring Musical)

 ***MANY THANKS FOR***

 ***CONTINUED SUPPORT***

 ***AND GENEROSITY!***

**L.E.G.O.S. HOUSE**

The L.E.G.O.S. House is used for support groups, supervisions and continuing education for Stephen Ministers, as well as contracted counseling and Outreach/ Workshops. From January 1, 2024- April 30, 2024 total usage was: 179 times

 **2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES**

 If you would like envelopes, please let Tina Rigley or Carolyn Lilequist know. Thank you!

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 **Youth News**

**Creation Kids (ages 2-5; PreK)**

**Wonder Kids (K-1st)**

**Discovery Kids (2nd-5th)**

**Inspire Youth Group (6th-12th)**

 

**LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Sunday, May 19 is our last day of Sunday school for the school year. We will begin again on September 8th.

**CONFIRMATION**

Please join us on Sunday, June 2 during the 10:45 am service to support our five confirmands: Jacquelyn Agle, Francesca Archabald, Peter Bugenhagen, Adalynn Hunter and Gabriel Zygmunt.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Mark your calendars! VBS will be Monday, July 22- Friday, July 26 from 9am – 11:30am. Children pre-k through 5th grade are invited to join us for “Jungle Journey of Faith.” Pre-registration is required and registration forms will be available soon! Adult and youth volunteers are needed and forms to sign up to help will also be available.

**THRIVENT MEMBERS**

Giving back makes an important impact in people's lives. Last year alone, Thrivent Financial provided more than $100 million to help congregations, communities and individuals in need.

Members who own Thrivent Financial products help make this support possible. Thrivent Choice lets you recommend where some of Thrivent Financials charitable outreach funds go by directing Choice Dollars.

Remember: Even though you may have designated choice dollars in prior years, please check your account and make sure they are still designated to the non-profit of your choice. For information, please contact Jan Henry at 716.445.9974 or Jane Bohn at 716.992.3273. Thank you!

**D&D MEETING**

The next D&D meeting will be on Sunday, May 5 at 1 pm. Meet at Genesis Gaming and Hobby in Eden. Please contact Pastor at 716.818.9860 for info.

**MOVIE NIGHT**

Join us for laughs and fellowship on Saturday, May 18 at 6:30 pm to view the movie “Church People.” This heartfelt, laugh-out-loud comedy is the story of real people with real struggles and their unique path to discover what faith in Jesus is all about. It all starts when “America’s Youth Pastor” realizes he is stuck in a mega church marketing machine and wants to rediscover his passion. Please bring a snack to share. Drinks will be provided.

**GROOVY SUMMER CELEBRATION**

On Saturday, June 15 at 5:30 join us on Charette’s patio (3034 Bley Rd, Eden) for a fun fellowship event to welcome summer! The cost is $10 per person to cover cocktails (mixed drinks and wine) and please bring an appetizer to share! We will also be spinning the vinyls so be sure to bring a favorite record (past or present music)! Dancing is optional, dress is casual and be prepared for a good time! Please RSVP to Ellyn by Saturday, June 8 (716.992.4040, 716.425.9274 or email at echarette822@hotmail.com). Don’t miss the fun!

**GROUNDS CREW VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

We are looking for some active volunteers to join the church grounds crew. The grounds crew assist with:

-lawn mowing -raking

-trimming -general clean up

Please contact Bill Henry at 716.450.6039 for more information. Thank you!

**Church Board Highlights (April meeting)**

**Financials** -Thank you to counting teams; Giving is still behind although Holy Week & Easter giving was generous; 2023 Financials were reviewed and approved by Pat Davis; Bills are up to date; Bob is receiving a summary of “misc” monthly expenses from Tina for review – most is spending for “special” events

**Worship**-Maundy Thursday and Lent Wednesday Services attendance was low

**Music**-Youth Spring Musical will be on April 28 during late service; Mixed Choir will sing for Confirmation Sunday; Organ repair to be done the week of May 13

**Care**- SM Training continues

**Outreach**- Suggestion was made to look into cushions for metal chairs; Looking to do another movie night in May

**Spiritual Growth**- Women’s Bible Study is now open to all- it is a study of the catechism; Adult Bible study and confirmation continues; Statements of Faith will be on April 16; Last day of Sunday School will be on May 19

**Family/Youth-**  Family Easter Event and Easter Fellowship Event went well

**Trustees**-Bill made a request for new gas cans for the mowers; Have not received any calls about the Spring Clean up but hoping for some help- it has been set for Sat., April 13 from 9-12 (rain date is April 20); Gary repaired faulty toilet and cross

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