**MAY 2025**

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 & Asher Parnitze**

***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.***



**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**

**BACON DAY!**

**By Pastor Lutz**

Many years ago, I was introduced to BACON DAY! My sister and her family came up with this amazing concept and, honestly, I am ashamed I did not think of it myself. What is BACON DAY!? It is a day where you buy several pounds of bacon and cook it up so everyone gets their fill. Of course, you also include some eggs, biscuits or muffins to go with it. When do we celebrate BACON DAY!? According to my sister, you can do it anytime you want. However, as a Pastor, this year I feel the best opportunity to celebrate bacon is on May 18th. The reading appointed for that day is perfect. In this text, Peter explains a vision sent to him by God to let him know that he may now eat pork and other things that the law had forbidden before, in other words: BACON! This was a huge controversy in the early church and questions the role of the law and the long observed traditions in the church.

While this is an interesting subject, it is not really what I would like to talk about, and believe it or not, the subject of this article isn’t BACON either. I would like to discuss Christian Freedom. “Christian Freedom” is the freedom that comes from being freed from the law through the forgiveness God gives to us when we confess our sins. Christians, throughout the centuries, have abused this concept by believing that freedom from the consequences of sin means they do not need to restrain themselves from committing sin. Paul addresses this in the beginning of Romans 6, “Should we go on sinning so grace may increase?” His answer is an emphatic NO! He explains that we have died and risen with Christ through baptism. Christ forgives us so we can be free from our past and move forward as new creations in Him. WE are free to do good and serve the Lord by using our faith in Him to guide us.

So what was the point of sharing about BACON DAY!? It is cool because it is BACON DAY. More importantly, it is a reminder that while Peter was told he could eat pork he did not say we should over indulge in it. While we are free to have our BACON DAYs, we also live with the health consequences. We need to remember we are also stewards of the bodies that God has given us. Freedom is not a blank check to do anything we want, it is a gift from God to do what is right. We will continue to sin, but God frees us from the guilt of that sin and we can leave it behind and know we can be better through Him. Let us embrace our Christian Freedom and the responsibility that comes with it.

**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)**

**Contemporary Service with Communion (Chapel)**

**11:15 am on Wednesday, May 14th.**

**This will be the last Chapel until September. Thank you to those who have joined us!**

**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.

**PET BLESSINGS SERVICE**

On Sunday, May 25 at 12:30 pm join us for a special gathering to thank God for the gift of our animals and to ask for God’s blessing on them. This service will be a wonderful way to show appreciation for the companionship and joy that animals bring into our lives. If the weather is good we will hold the service outside. In the case of inclement weather we will be inside. We encourage people to bring their well-behaved pets to be part of this special service, where Pastor will bestow a blessing on our precious animals. This event is co-sponsored by Golden Paws Pet Hotel & Daycare.

**HOPE AND HARMONY**

We are excited to announce a new opportunity for devotion and spiritual reflection. Contemporary music will be the focal point of this worship, along with testimonies that will share faith based messages and fill your spirit. There will be a variety of contemporary Christian music and each month we will have someone who will share an inspiring moment or experience. Please join us for a special time to connect with your faith and fellow Christians in a safe and compassionate environment. Our first meeting of Hope & Harmony will take place on Sunday, June 1st at 7pm.

We will meet outside if the weather allows. If not, we will be in the Fellowship Hall. Hope and Harmony will take place on the first Sunday of the month. This will provide an option for those who may find it difficult to get to church on Sunday mornings or who would like to have an additional occasion to reflect and pray through music and sharing.

**THE MEDITATION ROOM**

The Meditation Room Bible Study will be meeting on the 4th Thursday in May (5/22) at 7pm. Please meet in the LEGOS House. The song for May will be Native Tongue by Switchfoot. Lyrics will be available in the back of church.

**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 Thursdays, May 8th & 22nd.

**DEVOTIONS AT FOUR CORNERS**

Join Pastor at the Four Corners Café for a Devotion/Bible Study! The group will meet on Thursday, May 1st, 15th & 29th at 8:30 am.

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

Join Pastor on Sunday mornings at 9:30 for a Bible Study.

**BOOK CLUB**

Please keep an eye out for information regarding the next Book Club meeting in the weekly bulletin. Call Cheryl Colvin at 716.992.4032 if you have any questions or would like to join the group!

**LADIES’ GUILD**

Please consider checking out the Ladies’ Guild table in the Narthex. THERE ARE NEW ITEMS! These wonderful items have been created by Ladies’ Guild members. All proceeds go directly back into the Guild to provide materials they use for service projects and missions.

**D&D**

This group will meet on Sunday, May 4 at 1pm at Gaming and Hobby. This will be a special May the 4th Be With You Edition! We will be playing Star Wars One Shot!

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

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

**MAY 4- In loving memory of Mom & Dad & Grandma** by Michelle, Greg, Owen & Caitlin Gonter

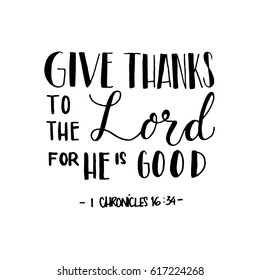
**MAY 11- In memory of Our Mothers** by Kit & Nancy Theriault

**MAY 18- In memory of all our loved ones gone from us for now** by the Sutherland Family

**May 25- In Honor of God’s Many Continued Blessings** by the Rigley Family

**DEDICATION OF THE FELLOWSHIP HALL/KITCHEN**

On Sunday, June 1st we will have a fellowship gathering in the Fellowship Hall between early and late worship services. Please join us for coffee and baked goods to celebrate the completion of the repair work! We have been extremely blessed and this is a wonderful opportunity to share our gratitude for getting through the unexpected, challenging time we have had over the last few months.



**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.**

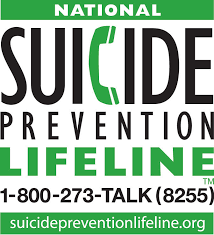
**ALZHEIMER’S**

**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

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 name 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**
* **Cally Burkhart**

**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:

* **Sue Kester** (Lynn Gerber’s friend)
* **Daniel Snyder & Holly Uebhuler** (Jeff Snyder’s father & sister)
* **Julie Buzzard** (Kirsten Henderson’s friend)
* **Bill Robison III**
* **Annette Bove** (Amy Smith’s friend)
* **Joanne Pepper** (Patty Smoot’s friend)
* **Laurie** (Gary Holscher’s friend)
* **Mary Hewson** (Nancy Theriault’s friend)
* **Angela** (Mary Logan’s friend)
* **Maureen** (Dennis Horrigan’s sister)
* **Tamara Hoelscher** (Betty Gabel’s friend)
* **Chuck Westra** (Jeff Westra’s father)
* **Mike** (Terri Bradt’s friend)
* **Debbie** (Tina Rigley’s friend)
* **Larry & Betty** (Ellyn Charette’s friends)
* **Michael** (Terri Bradt’s nephew)
* **Michelle Senecal Hunt** (Jennifer Klein’s friend)

**IN SYMPATHY**

We would like to express our heartfelt sympathy to Gail Agle and her family. Her husband, Dan Agle, passed on to his eternal home. He was a member of Fellowship Club, Men’s Club and the Walther League Group. Dan was a life-long and much loved member of our congregation.

**NEW MEMBERS**

We welcome to our Church family: Lisa Colvin, Christopher and Kristin Greeley & Jessica Jurcevic. They joined us through Adult Confirmation on April 27.

**BAPTISM**

Liam James Greeley, son of Christopher and Kristin Greeley, received the blessing of Holy Baptism on April 27. He was born on December 7, 2024. Serving as Godparents were Kaitlyn Greeley and Mitchell Mason.

**AVERAGE WEEKLY**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**ATTENDANCE**

**This includes youth and**

**adult classes**

March 30- 45

April 6- 50

April 13- 38

No Sunday School on

Easter (April 20)

No Adult Class- voters’ mtg

April 27- 32

**FINANCIAL**

**BAROMETER 2025**

Thru April 27, 2025

Budgeted to date $100,620

Given to date 80,850

**THANK YOU**

for your generous giving!!

All of our bills are

up to date!

**

***MANY THANKS FOR***

***CONTINUED SUPPORT***

***AND GENEROSITY!***

**AVERAGE**

**“IN-HOUSE” WORSHIP**

**ATTENDANCE:**

March 30- 109

(Lent Service) April 2- 16

April 6- 126

(Lent Service) April 9- 26

April 13- 131

(Maundy Thursday)- 30

(Both Good Friday services)- 45

April 20- 201

April 27- 156

**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, 2025- March 31, 2025 total usage was: 140 times

**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!

**Youth News**

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

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

**Discovery Kids (2nd-4th)**

**Confirmation Youth (5th-6th)**

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



**CONFIRMATION CLASS**

2nd year students will have Confirmation rehearsal on Tuesday, May 27 and Confirmation Sunday will be during the 10:45 am service on June 1. Confirmands should arrive at church by 10:30am. Parents- please return the green form by May 27.

**LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Our last day of Sunday School will be on Sunday, May 18. Information regarding Vacation Bible School will be going home with the children in May. VBS will run from Monday, July 21-Friday, July 25 from 9-11:30am. We hope your children can join us!

**CHURCH UPDATE**

We are making excellent progress on the final stages of repair work! The organ is currently being put back together, inspected and tuned. We hope to be hearing the sounds of its music very soon! The removal and installation of the new carpets in the sanctuary will begin on May 12. The back stairway and balcony will begin on May 19. The work on the Fire Alarm System will take place the week of May 5.

Through this very long and challenging time we continue to be thankful for the many blessings we have! Thank you again to our church family for their continued patience and support- we cannot express this enough! GuideOne, our insurance company, High Quality Resolution and Lehigh Construction Group have all worked so well with us and we have received excellent communication and quality work through all phases of restoration. God is good!

**VOTERS’ MEETING HIGHLIGHTS (4/27/25)**

Total attendance: 22

Update of Repairs- The majority of repair work is completed. Asbestos abatement went smoothly and insurance will cover the cost. Work has begun on the inspection, servicing and tuning of the organ on 4/28. Electricians will be back to do the Fire Alarm System. Thank you to the Sullivan Family Foundation and Ruth Ranke for their generous donations to off-set the cost of the system. Removal and installation of the carpets is pending and may be done in two phases.

Financial- Giving is on track; Bills are up to date; Audit of the accounts is complete. Waiting on some additional information regarding a couple of CD’s.

Worship Ministry- On May 14, Chapel will conclude until September. Communion will be offered at all services. We have new members joining today. Summer worship schedule will begin on June 8th. On May 25 we will be hosting a Pet Blessing Service at 12:30pm.

Music Ministry- A new program will being on June 1 at 7pm. It will offer contemporary music and testimonies for devotion and spiritual reflection. Adult bells will perform today and then break until Fall.

Care Ministry- Stephen Ministry continues the “Peaceful Caregiver” study and supervisions.

Outreach Ministry- Planning a couple of movie nights.

Spiritual Growth Ministry- Confirmation has concluded; Statements of Faith were April 8. Confirmation will be June 1. Peaceful Caregiver is being offered at night and during the day to members. Last day of Sunday school is May 18. VBS will be July 21-July 25.

Family/Youth Ministry- Easter Egg Hunt was loved by participants. A dedication is being planned for June. Church picnic will be on June 8.

Trustees’ Report- Back door of the Education building is being replaced. Thank you to Ruth Ranke for her donation to complete this project. Gary has replaced the sanctuary lights with LED. Dave Zittel is looking into options for the drainage issue and to improve the condition of the lawns near the church. Lehigh identified and repaired damage to a shutter window in bell tower.

Next Church Board Meeting will be on Wednesday, May 7 at 7:30pm.

**LOOKING TO HELP OUT AT CHURCH?**

**Check these out!**

**SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS WANTED**

We are looking for a couple of substitute Sunday School teachers. Please contact Tina Rigley (tmrigley1012@yahoo.com) or 716.992.9112 if you are interested in helping out or would like more information!

**ALTAR GUILD**

The Altar Guild is a special group of volunteers that keep our Altar clean by changing cloths, dusting and assisting with cleanup after communion. We are looking for a couple of volunteers to join! It is typically a two month commitment during the year and you partner with another volunteer. Please contact Debbie Gangemi at 716.912.8626 or the church office at 716.992.9112 if you are interested or have any questions.

**GARDEN CLUB**

We are looking for people to sign up to weed and water plants in June, July & August! You can come when it works for your schedule! Contact the office 716.992.9112 to sign up for a date!

