

*Christian fellowship
built on trust and
mutual
understanding for
the well-being of all.*

Koinonia News

St. Paul Lutheran Church

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YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS!

Sunday, October 25

An Important Day in the Life of St. Paul Lutheran Church!

Not only is the Reformation Sunday, it will be our first in-person worship service!

We'll gather outdoors so that everyone can be as safe as possible. Please wear a mask (unless in your car) and practice social distancing.

Bring your own lawn chairs to sit outside. It might be chilly so dress warmly and bring a blanket. If you prefer you can remain tune in to a specific FM radio station from the comfort of your car. More information about the FM station will be provided the morning of worship.

We'll sing some of our favorite reformation hymns, listen as God's spoken Word is proclaimed in scripture and a sermon, offer prayers, and receive Holy Communion.

Be sure to invite your family, friends, and neighbors to worship at St. Paul! Let's make our presence known!

Will you help?

Will you help set-up for the service?

Will you help clean up afterwards?

Will you serve as an usher, greeter, reader, sound operator, or communion assistant?

Contact Pastor Pam and let her know how you can support this worship service!

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Inside this issue:

Census	2
Voting	2
Preparations	3
Did you know?	3
Feed My Sheep	4
Preaching Series	4

Discipleship in a Democracy

In June of 2020, the ELCA Church Council unanimously adopted "Government and Civic Engagement in the United States: Discipleship in a Democracy." This social message reminds us that law and government are gifts from God for the ordering of creation. "God intends for government to protect society and to enable it to flourish," the message asserts. Responsible citizenship is "a calling from God" to each of us. The ELCA to the biblical idea (Jeremiah 29:7) that God calls God's people to be active citizens and to ensure that everyone benefits from the good of government. Download the social message at elca.org/socialmessages. We exercise our discipleship in a democracy when we complete the census and vote.

Make NC Count

Make NC Count is working to ensure that every North Carolinian is counted. The census determines how critical resources and political representation are distributed. It is critical that every North Carolinian is counted. Complete the Census online at <https://my2020census.gov/>

While September 30 may have been the deadline for completing the census, there is confusion about this date. If you haven't already done so, please complete the census today!



Election Day – November 3rd

Make plans now to exercise your right to vote.

Important dates:

- **October 9** – Regular Voter Registration Deadline
- **October 27** – Last day to request an Absentee Ballot. Must be done by 5:00 pm. Please don't wait until the last day!

One Stop Voting & Same Day Registration sites (October 15 – 31)

- Rockingham Parks and Recreation, Browder Park – 1311 Rockingham Rd, Rockingham
- Cooperative Extension Office – 123 Caroline St., Rockingham
- First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall – 200 Rice St, Hamlet
- First UMC Fellowship Hall – 2281 N. Main St, Ellerbe

Visit Richmond County Board of Elections at

<https://www.richmondnc.com/178/Board-of-Elections>

**Confirm your registration, have questions, need clarification,
identify your polling place**

Preparations underway for your safety

Friends, even though our first in-person worship service will be held outside, we need to maintain our commitment to keep everyone healthy and well.

Currently, the Executive Order from the Governor continues to limit indoor gatherings to 25 people and outdoor gatherings to 50 people. Maybe this will change later this month. As much as we might not want to, we can do our part to reduce the spread of COVID-19 by practicing social distancing from those outside of their own household or family group, wearing face coverings over your mouth and nose, and washing your hands often.

We'll need to refrain from touching and hugging each other, especially those outside of your own household or family group. I know that will be especially hard since you haven't seen each other in a long time, but we really need to honor this. You'll be asked to use hand sanitizer and avoid touching common areas.

Even outside, worship itself will be modified so that we can keep everyone safe. We'll omit the Sharing of the Peace and passing an offering plate. We ask that you remain with your family group. Baskets will be available for you to drop in your offering when you arrive and as you leave.

Holy Communion will be prepared by those who have sanitized their hands and put on gloves and masks. We'll be using individual cups and separate containers for the wafer which you will pick up yourself.

Based on information from the CDC, the ELCA, and the NC Synod, air quality is of utmost importance when gathering indoors. Because circulating fresh and clean air in the sanctuary and fellowship hall is challenging, we have ordered 3 air purifiers. Two will be placed in the sanctuary and one in the fellowship hall. If we have an event in the fellowship hall, one of the ones upstairs will be moved downstairs. These units will clean the air quickly of dust, pollen, allergens, mold, bacteria, and viruses. These air purifiers are on back order.

At this point we will worship outside again on Sunday, Nov. 1. Once we have everything ready in the sanctuary we'll move inside. Thank you for your patience and understanding. More information will be shared as it becomes available.



Did you know?

St. Paul is the recipient of a \$4500 Shared Ministry Grant from the NC Synod! This gift has enabled us to purchase the 3 air purifiers, additional filters, and other items we need to safely gather for outdoor and indoor worship.

With this gift we are also able to purchase banners promoting our worship services, signs, and increase our presence on Facebook and the website.

We are extremely grateful for the support they we receive from the NC Synod which enables St. Paul to continue its mission to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to our community and the world.

*Proclaiming the
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Feed My Sheep Food Ministry

We've received a thank you note from someone who receives food assistance through Feed My Sheep.

Barbara Mills writes: "A special thanks for all of you who donate your time, effort, and love to feed me and all the other "sheep" you feed too. This helps me to meet my food needs every month. Love and prayers to you all.

In August, Feed My Sheep provided food to 158 families, 464 people, along with 112 school bags.

In September, Feed My Sheep provided food to 131 families and 410 people.

This is an important outreach ministry for St. Paul and supports many in our community. Mary O'Neal, George O'Neal, Jarrod Norris, Mark & Gloria Shroyer, Virginia & Cameron Pihl, Lois & Stencil Harrington, and others serve in this ministry.

Please give thanks for these dedicated servants and consider how you can support this ministry.

Preaching Series - Philippians

Every now and then, the Revised Common Lectionary gives us opportunities to focus on specific books of the Bible over several weeks. I like to use these opportunities to go deeper into a particular book. Paul's letter to the believers in Philippi is the current focus.

A little history on this letter. Paul wrote this letter while he was under house arrest in Rome. He had already established the church in Philippi and, according to Acts of the Apostles, he visited it often. The believers in Philippi were concerned about Paul so they sent Epaphroditus to bring a gift and check on him. Epaphroditus remained with Paul for a while and then returned to Philippi with the thankful and happy letter we call Philippians.

This is a short letter, with only 4 chapters. Each one is full of encouragement as Paul reminds the believers to be steadfast in their faith.

On Sunday, Sept. 27, we looked at the themes in chapter 1: relationships, prayer, perspective, and unity. It is important to Paul that the church in Philippi remain focus on the things that he has taught them. He longs for their lives be woven together in fellowship and grounded in prayer so that they can persevere in suffering and live in the unity of the Spirit.

These are important themes for us as we live in this prolonged time of anxiety and separation. Remember to reach out to each other, hold one another in prayer, ask for what you need, and make plans to participate in our first in-person worship service in a long time.

We'll continue going deeper into this letter over the next several weeks: October 4 – chapter 2; Oct. 11 – chapter 3; and Oct. 18 – chapter 4

If you miss the live worship service on Facebook on Sundays at 11:00 am, you can watch the recorded and edited version of the service on our website: www.stpaul Lutheranhamlet.org.