

Our Church

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
25 West Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403
717/843-8155 – st.paulsyork@comcast.net
www.stpaulsyork.org

September 2021

8 AM & 10:30 AM Sunday Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM—Live Streamed YouTube
Holy Days as announced



Sundays this Fall

Sunday worship is at the center of our Christian lives. It is what anchors our congregation's mission and outreach. It gives shape to our week and over time forms us into disciples of the Lord in whose name and presence we gather. In these days there are plenty of times and occasions for us to offer words of forgiveness and hope, ask for God's mercy, extend Christ's peace, pray for the world and for our neighbors in need, and offer food for the hungry. These things are all modeled for us in the pattern of worship in which we take part weekly.

This fall we will; present Bibles to children and youth, celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, observe St. Luke with a service of healing, invite families for Preschool Sunday and sing hymns from the days of Luther on Reformation. On most Sundays musical setting #9 from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* will provide the melodic line for the mass parts. We will focus the children's sermon mostly on the appointed Psalm text to provide greater attention on a

portion of the liturgy that is often passed over rather quickly. The Psalm each week reflects on the Old Testament reading and serves as a sign post highlighting one important aspect of the first reading. The liturgical space will look a bit different too as we wrestle with making room for a larger compliment of leaders, musicians, and acolytes. Where people sit and stand and how and where they move has taken on a critical importance as we open our church space to the world through the digital live stream. Our congregation is growing through this new format. We are aware of some things that we are doing well and aware of places that need improvement so as to draw worshipers through the digital stream more closely to God and to the St. Paul's congregation. The altar will be placed on the upper portion of the chancel. This will permit us to use a greater number of "green" designated pews. It will mean that those serving in musical ensembles will not always be "on" stage to those participating through the live stream. And it will create room for the handbell choir to rehearse while we remain aware of the on-going pandemic.

In respect for the Congregation Council's leadership through these days of pandemic we have resumed wearing masks for our indoor services. While this may seem like a step backward it can be viewed as a step forward as we continue to make a way for the congregation to gather as safely as possible to offer prayer, praise and thanksgiving to God. Along with masking we will continue to utilize red and green pews and other mitigation strategies. All of this is being done in an effort to bring us together in Christ and for the up-building of the faith community. We pray that you will take an active part in our worship life and strengthen our witness to Christ and his love for all.

In Love and Service to the Lord - Pastor Reep

Extending Words of Welcome to Our New Staff Members

With enthusiastic joy we welcome Leah McComas as Handbell Choir Director and Cody Messersmith as Children's Music Director. They officially began their work among us last month in preparation for a vigorous September start to the music program at St. Paul's. Leah is no stranger to St. Paul's. She herself is an active member of the faith community and has participated in the handbell choir program. Cody is new to our faith community but not new to Lutheranism. He brings experience in working with children's music. Both Leah and Cody are music educators and work full time in one of our local districts. They are aware of what protocols will need to be followed in order for us to maintain music making within a safe environment as we continue to move through these days of pandemic. To that end you are encouraged to take an active part in our music ministry, be it Handbell Choir or one of the musical opportunities offered for our children. Please extend your words of welcome to both of them and please do be in contact with them about how you can use or develop your musical gift for the up-building of God's kingdom.



Cody Messersmith is an avid performer and educator in and around the state of Pennsylvania. Messersmith performs regularly as a multi-instrumentalist (euphonium, tuba) and vocalist. He currently serves as an Intermediate Music Specialist in the Dallastown Area School District. Messersmith currently enjoys a prosperous freelance performing career, performing with many local and regional ensembles. Aside from teaching and performing as a low brass specialist, Cody has a great passion for singing; from contemporary a cappella to opera, he has probably either listened to, seen live, or performed it all! Messersmith holds a Bachelor's of Music degree from Marywood University (Scranton, PA) and currently pursues graduate studies through Penn State University. When not performing or teaching music, Cody can be found running, cycling, or watching Disney movies with his canine companion, Remus.

Leah McComas is excited to join the St. Paul's staff as handbell choir director. Leah has been a member of St. Paul's for six years. She moved to York in 2010 after graduating from Susquehanna University and has been a music teacher at Dallastown Intermediate School for the past 11 years. She is currently the band director at the intermediate school. She earned her master's degree in conducting from Messiah University in 2014. A life-long Lutheran, Leah grew up in the church shadowing her mom who led youth programs, choirs, and founded her home church's handbell choir. She started playing handbells around age 8 and participated through high school. Most recently, she played handbells as a member of St. Paul's bell choir before the pandemic. Leah enjoys spending time with her husband Sean, daughter Caroline, and collies Fitz and Mack.



Come CREATE with Us!

Tuesday evenings beginning September 14 through November 15

I am looking forward to seeing everyone for in person and Zoom CREATE this fall. Cody Messersmith and I are planning fun rehearsals and activities for ages 2 – Kindergarten and Grade 1 – 6. We will be following St. Paul's Covid Committee guidelines and are asking everyone to wear a mask.

During the month of September children Age 2 – Kindergarten will learn the stories about Creation, Adam & Eve and Noah. Each week along with the story they will participate in a creative activity.

Grade 1 through 6 will learn the first 3 Commandments. They will read the commandment from the Bible and then participate in an activity that will help in understanding the commandment.

If any parents are willing to help with the story and activity time, please let me know as I will be navigating doing both in person and Zoom at the same time.

Please let me know if your child is interested in participating in CREATE. - Kelly





Flexible Music

I recently discovered a collection of choir music entitled Flexible Anthems. I was intrigued with the title and after closer examination, I discovered it to be a very fine collection of choral music labeled Flexible forces for all types of choirs and singers (small, young, choirs with few men, new singers and choirs with limited rehearsal time. Published by Oxford University Press, the collection features a multitude of anthems including new pieces to be sung throughout the church year with flexible scorings in a wide range of musical styles spanning 500 years.

I also located a second newer collection entitled Easy Flexible Anthems. While I am always skeptical of seeing the word “easy” when applied to choral music, this collection boasts the same quality level and similar offerings as the first. Furthermore, this set includes folk tunes, spirituals, African songs and compositions by some of the finest living composers. This series indicates variable performance resources and again limited rehearsal time.

Eureka! I believe I have found what I have been looking for that combines quality choir music that doesn't require a large commitment of rehearsal time nor multiple voices to sing.

While we continue to deal and live day to day with COVID-19, after 17 months of “choir hibernation downtime” our singers and musicians will soon start back to provide music to add and enhance our liturgies. The return to our musical endeavors may look and act differently and the commitment level may not be the same. This has been my greatest concern as ours is a musical and singing congregation.

To that end, FLEXIBILITY will be a hallmark for resuming our musical ensembles. Some may not want to return to the previous ways of musical involvement. To that end, FLEXIBILITY will be used to find ways that works for those who may have limited time, limited availability, limited commitment, etc.

Our Chancel was planned with flexibility in mind. Our musical resources and equipment are easily movable. Thus our musical ensembles and musicians will need to be flexible. This means that we will offer what best fits our adults and children who will help to provide music.

Flexibility may mean that individuals or small groups of musicians provide music for our worship services.

Flexibility will include singing new congregational songs and hymns from “All Creation Sings”, the newest Evangelical Lutheran hymnal supplement to help expand and enliven our worship.

I think I can speak for Leah and Cody to say that we will try to be flexible to accommodate everyone who wishes to participate in the musical life of St. Paul's congregation.

I hope you and or your family members will consider returning and or joining our music ministry. Please feel free to reach out to us for questions and flexible ideas.

Victor Fields vfields.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
Leah McComas lmccomas.stpaulsyork@gmail.com
Cody Messersmith cmessersmith.stpaulsyork@gmail.com

Ring out the News!

Handbell choir will resume rehearsing September 9th! The handbell choir is open to new and returning ringers. We typically play for services once a month and on major feast days. We also add handbells to psalms, hymns, and other parts of the liturgy. In order to be sensitive to the changing nature of the pandemic, there will be a couple opportunities to join the handbell choir this year. At this time, we are looking for ringers who are comfortable committing to playing in September through November. Students in 7th grade through adults are welcome to join the handbell choir. Previous music experience is beneficial, but not necessary for success. Please consider ringing with us this fall! Our first rehearsal is on Thursday, September 9 from 6:30pm to 7:30pm in the chancel. Please contact Leah McComas (Lmccomas.stpaulsyork@gmail.com or call/text 717-381-7363) if you are interested in participating.



Harvest Wine Dinner & Auctions

Saturday, October 16 @ 5:30 PM

The Harvest Wine Dinner Committee gathered in August to make the final selection of wine to accompany each course of the dinner. With the menu in hand, the committee listened to the descriptions of each wine on offer and thoughtfully brought together a complement of Italian wines to heighten the flavors of each dish prepared by Chef Brandon. You don't have to be a wine connoisseur to attend the dinner or even to sample the wine. You don't need to consume any of it if you choose. But if you do participate in the pairing, you may be surprised at how the wine enhances the flavors of the food and the food of the wine. While other details of the evening are being completed there are many things that are ready to go. Tickets are available through the church office. The cost per ticket is \$100. The proceeds from the entire event underwrite the Food Pantry and Pre-school ministry. Other aspects of the evening are listed to assist you in your preparation for a fabulous evening at St. Paul's!

Silent Auction Items

Provided is a list of items presented for the silent auction as of the printing of this publication. Additional items are still being confirmed and will be publicized prior to the October event. Please give thought to these, as many of them would make great holiday gifts. Information about how to make your private bid will be forthcoming.

Model Train

Professional Family Photo Session

Dutch Appel Dinner Theater Tickets

Art Class, Four hour and a half painting sessions for you and a friend

Wine Basket featuring the evening's pour

Trump Land and Lawn

Royer's Flowers

Beach Weekend

Original Water Color Paintings by Pastor Reep, Professionally Matted and Framed



Covid-19 precautions for the Harvest Wine Dinner and Auction

The planning committee is very much aware of the changing landscape as it pertains to the pandemic. From the beginning of planning for this year's event they have considered alternate plans and have taken into consideration the spaces in which the evening's events will take place. We are providing a few of them so to reduce any anxiety or fear. The goal is to hold this event safely with little or no risk of disease for participants.

Fellowship Hall seating will be less than half capacity.

Professional Chef and staff experienced with precautions during the pandemic.

Filtration and fresh air intake operable at highest levels.

Contingency plans for the appetizers and harvest table upon arriving.

Seating table of six upon request.



Please remember to notify Pastor Reep of any life events, illnesses, joys or concerns. Call the office 717-843-8155 or email st.paulsyork@comcast.net

**DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER ARTICLES
September 15**

Original Water Color Paintings by Pastor Reep

Professionally Matted and Framed (Dimensions provided are framed size.)

The first six paintings were all painted on location in Italy and were represented in the 2020 calendar. These images provided the inspiration for the menu and wine pairings. They were painted during the summer of 2018 with the exception of *Rooftops* which was painted in 1982. The remaining 12 paintings comprise a body of work consisting of still life and cottages. The cottages were painted while on the grounds of the Chautauqua Institute, Chautauqua NY, 2019. The still life images are all from PA, 2019 & 2020. These paintings will be auctioned live the night of the dinner.



Courtyard, St. Francis Church,
Siena 19 ½ x 15 ½



Rooftops, Lucca 22 ½ x 18



Temple of Vesta, Tivoli
19 ½ x 15 ½



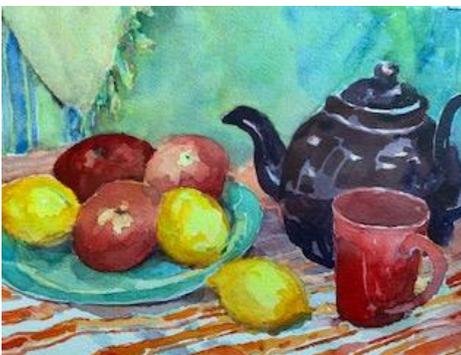
Duomo, Siena 19 ½ x 15 ½



South of Amalfi,
Santa Maria Di Castellabate
19 ½ x 15 ½



On the Bluff, Orvieto 19 ½ x 15 ½



Brown Betty, Red Mug 18 x 24



Yellow House on Lake Drive
15 x 19



Memorial Day 15 x 19



Yellow Cottage, White Hydrangea
15 x 19



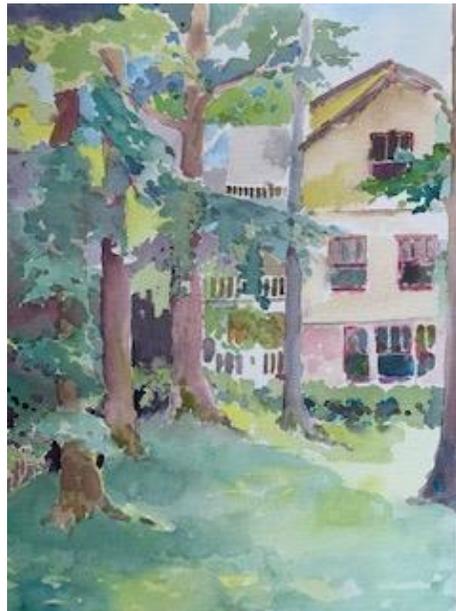
Bunting on Miller Park 15 x 16



Peaches on the Porch
21 ½ x 17 ½



Sunflowers on Blue Chair
17 ½ x 21 ½



Behind the Amphitheater
17 ½ x 21 ½



Spring Bulb Bouquet
17 ½ x 21 ½



Antique Kettle 21 ½ x 17 ½



Afternoon Shadows 15 x 16



Christmas Pears 21 ½ x 17 ½



God's Work our Hands—September 12

Annually the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) observes “God’s Work our Hands” on the second Sunday of September. Over the years we have used our hands to; clean up trash and debris littering the neighborhood, prepare health kits to give aid to those in disaster struck regions, and assemble school kits for children in developing nations. This year our focus is on the need for water, especially drinkable

water, to sustain communities in places that are suffering from draught and lack infrastructure. In the spirit of water and wells and baptismal grace, a variety of water activities will comprise the Sunday school time (9:15-10:15AM) on September 12. We will be receiving special offerings for the work of Lutheran World Relief and their efforts to supply water, wells, and irrigation so that people, communities, flocks and crops can flourish. Please plan to attend this special outdoor Sunday school session. You may wish to bring a towel to dry off or absorb any excess water you may encounter along the way! Activities are planned for children and their parents. A combination of water relays, balloon toss and water games will center us on the importance of water in our lives and how important water is for daily life. The Fellowship Committee will serve refreshments. All offerings received will be given to the work of Lutheran World Relief. Plan on taking part in “God’s Work our Hands” even if it means you get a little bit wet!

Adult opportunities available this fall

Sunday mornings....

September 12th Join the water event for all ages. See the above description.

September 19th – October 17th “*by what authority? Rethinking early church history*” a video series followed by discussion will meet 9:15-10:15 am and be led by Pastor William Snyder. During this 5-week session we will see how the drama of the early church’s formation has direct connections to our life of faith today.

October 24-November 14th *Isaiah: messages of hope* is the second course offered for adults this fall. Pastor Judith McKee will lead this video series and discussion on the book of Isaiah. In a time when we long for peace in the world we will look at the peace theme in Isaiah through bible study aided by visual expressions by major artists who have been inspired by Isaiah’s words.

November 28 – An Intergenerational Advent Event - watch for details

December 5, 12 & 19th *Intersections of Faith and Science* led by Tristan Ericson. We will explore the relationship between Christian faith and science: their intended purposes, the questions they seek to answer, where they agree, disagree, or avoid each other altogether.

Monday evenings 7-8 pm - Christian Conversations: Connecting Sunday worship with daily life. Join different clergy each week in reflections on what we heard in worship on Sunday morning and what we will take with us on our week long walk with God.

Wednesday morning Bible Study resumes at 10:30 AM, September 8.

Acolyte Training—10:00 AM Saturday, September 18

On Saturday, September 18 beginning at 10:00 AM training will be available to prepare our children to serve as acolyte. This year we welcome many new children to this ministry.

The Ministry of acolytes has a long and honored history in the Church. A letter written in A. D. 251 by Cornelius, bishop of Rome, tells us that at that time there were 42 acolytes in the city of Rome alone. By the 6th century, the ministry of acolytes had become so important in the life of the Church that acolytes were actually “ordained” to their ministry following a period of instruction by a bishop.

Acolytes are well named. The word acolyte comes from the Greek word *akolouthos*, which means: follower, attendant, companion; one who serves, assists or helps. In our time, acolytes are in most congregations usually (and unfortunately) looked upon as assistants who simply light and extinguish candles. However, their ministry is, or should be, much more than that. They assist in processions, in the distribution of communion, at baptisms, at other rites of the Church, at the offering, and in a variety of other ways. They help to give dignity and order to the worship of God’s people. The fact that acolytes are vested (robed) and are highly visible in public worship helps everyone in the congregation to see and understand that “ministry” is the work of all of God’s people, using their gifts of time and talent in service to the Lord.



September 19th, Sunday Morning Classes Begin

At the time of writing this information, classes are scheduled to be in person. Watch your email for any changes that may occur due to covid.

Children up to grade 3 will meet in the church nave at 9:15 AM where Pastor Reep will lead the bible story of the day. Following the story, children will be dismissed to their classrooms. See below for more information. **This story time will also be live streamed on YouTube for those unable to come in person.**

The age groupings for classes are as follows:

Infant-preschool

Kindergarden-1st grade

2nd-3rd grade



Children in grades 4-6 will go directly to their classroom at 9:15 AM to meet their teachers for the story and learning activities. This group will be studying one of the Bible lessons heard during the Sunday service.

Spark family magazine provides ways for you to talk about God and Jesus with your children. St. Paul's subscribes to this magazine for our families with young children sending it directly to your home. The third quarter issue arrived in August. Take time to read the stories with your children and try out some of the activities. Enjoy growing in faith together. (If you are not receiving this magazine, simply call the church office and asked to be added to the subscription list.)

Sunday School Opening Devotions and Bible Story—Live Stream at 9:15 AM

As a way to teach God's love through Bible stories, Pastor Reep will present a weekly story at the beginning of Sunday School from September 19 through November 14. The story will start promptly at 9:15AM because it will be live streamed. If you can attend in person, please be in the church nave ready to start. The hope is that not only St. Paul's families who may not be able to attend in person, or who may be away, or children enrolled in our preschool, or friends and neighbors you may have and for whom there isn't any known Christian education, this will be a way to engage in a Bible story extending God's love. Please share this information! It can also be accessed through our YouTube channel [St. Paul's Lutheran church - South George St. York - YouTube](#) so that folks can watch if necessary at a later time.

September 19	Beginnings, Creation, Genesis 1
September 26	Protection, Building Noah's Ark, Genesis 6
October 3	Promise, Abram's Call, Genesis 12
October 10	Visitors, Abraham and Sarah's Visitors, Genesis 17&18
October 17	Blessings, Isaac's Blessing, Genesis 25 &27
October 24	Freedom, Free from Slavery, Exodus 5
October 31	Making a Way, Crossing the Red Sea, Exodus 14
November 7	Life, Ten Commandments, Exodus 20
November 14	Barriers, Jericho, Joshua 6

Presentation of Bibles—Sunday September 12

The Christian Education Committee will present children and youth with Bibles on Sunday September 12 during the Sunday Liturgy. Infants new to the congregation will receive the *First Stories of Jesus*, a beginning Bible board book. Students entering First grade will be presented the *Paraclete Bible for Kids*. Students entering Fourth grade will be presented the *Adventure Bible*. Students entering Seventh grade will be presented the *NRSV Student Bible*. Our hope as a faith community is that by placing in the hands of our children versions of the Bible that are age appropriate, we may get our young people more engaged in reading and discussing Bible stories. It is important for us to honestly use our Bibles. They should show signs of wear and use. The Reformation of the 16th century encouraged Christian people to read and study the Bible. Please be present in worship on Sunday September 12 to show your support and to give your encouragement to the children and youth of our congregation as they learn and grow in God's grace.

St. Paul’s Food Pantry – Volunteer Opportunity on Sunday & Tuesday Mornings

For those wishing to help, but unable to participate on Tuesday mornings due to jobs or school during the week, there is a new volunteer opportunity. Twice a month volunteers work between Sunday services at 9:00 AM to stock the shelves. We still are in need of additional helpers on Tuesday mornings, too! Contact Patty Snyder if you are willing to help in this ministry.



Food Pantry—Fall

Items needed: Pancake mix, 4 pks of toilet paper, canned or boxed potatoes, stuffing mix, jelly, boxed rice. We also need paper grocery bags with handles. Anyone able to help can contact Teresa Rohrbaugh, Patty Snyder, or Janet and Larry Moore. Plastic Bags are always needed. Money donations are gratefully accepted. Please place cash or check in a “special” envelope marked “Pantry”.

2021 Flower Chart

The 2021 flower chart is posted on the Springettsbury vestibule bulletin board. The cost of the flowers is \$30 per vase. You are welcome to sign up to provide one or both vases. After you have signed up, simply make a check payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church and mark it altar flowers. This is a great way to honor someone, celebrate a milestone in life, or remember a loved one. The flowers may be taken home with you at the conclusion of the 10:30 AM liturgy or you may have them given to someone who is sick, shut it, or hospitalized. If you wish, you can contact the office to reserve a date, and to provide us with all of the correct information for inclusion in the Sunday bulletin. The 2022 chart will be posted for you to reserve dates on October 1, 2021.

10/10/21		
10/17/21		
10/31/21		
11/7/21		
11/21/21		
11/28/21		
12/5/21		
12/12/21		

Council Highlights

The Congregation Council gathered for their regular meeting on Monday August 9 at 7:00PM in Christ Hall. The meeting began with devotions and prayer led by Pastor Reep.

The Finance Committee requested information regarding 2022 budget preparation especially in regards to staff compensation. It was noted that inflation and cost of living needs to be properly considered as we prepare for 2022. While no official figures for the local area have been reported council asked that a 3% and a 5% model be considered.

The preschool staff roster was approved for the up-coming 2021-22 school year.

The Nominating Committee reported on their work in securing future council leadership. Two Zoom sessions were held to communicate about the leadership needs of the congregation. An informal breakfast session is slated for August 29th between the Sunday service times as a way to make further connections.

The report from the COVID-19 Task Force was reviewed. It was moved that we resume wearing masks during indoor worship on Sundays.

The Pastor reported on his time away. Appreciation was expressed to Pastor George Fitch, Pastor Judy McKee, Pastor Tom McKee and Pastor William Snyder for providing coverage while he was on vacation. Pastor Reep identified the need for us to stay focused on Christ Jesus and his message of hope for a struggling world at times such as these.

The meeting concluded at 8:15PM with Kem Vaught offering closing prayer.





Congratulations to our new parents!

Caroline Grace Mullen born on June 9, 2021 to Nicole (Houck) Mullen and Charles Mullen, III.

Jane Elizabeth Berkey born on July 19, 2021 to Carrie Oberholtzer Berkey and Mike Berkey.



Thank you ever so much for the beautiful bouquet of delivered flowers this past Sunday. They added a touch of cheerfulness to our day. Each time we look at them, we are reminded of our faithful friends at St. Paul's. Thank you ever so much for the prayers, thoughtfulness and sincere kindness. We are indeed blessed and cherish all the support. Sincerely, Oren & Anna Mae Cook.



St. Paul's Preschool Prepares for Opening Day!

Members of the preschool team have been preparing their rooms in anticipation of a new academic year. With bulletin boards brightened up with new paper and patterned boarders, and toys unpacked from summer storage, and tables and chairs neatly arranged, class rooms await eager children. Having completed last year with on-going COVID-19 strategies the teaching team is ready to begin yet again. Health and safety plans are in place and energy levels are high.

The preschool opens on Thursday September 9 with parent orientation. This will all be conducted while observing our pandemic protocols. The day of orientation helps parents transition as they prepare to have their child begin taking the first steps in what will hopefully become lifelong learning. While covering the basics of drop off and pick up and sickness and snack, parents are reminded of the importance of their child's socialization and of the importance of weekly chapel services with Pastor Reep. After meeting the staff and seeing the beautiful classrooms, parents will be ready to send their children to St. Paul's Preschool for the first day of class on Monday September 13.

This year we have one class section of our terrific twos on Monday/Wednesday. We have enrolled students for two class sections of our tremendous threes, Monday/Wednesday and Tuesday/Thursday, and one small combined group on Friday. We have enrolled students for one class of fabulous fours, Monday through Thursday. We are delighted to receive late enrollments, so if you know of someone seeking a preschool experience for their child, please have them call 717-854-1996 and speak with our Director, Deb Becker.

If you have questions, or would like to know more about St. Paul's Lutheran Church Preschool, please check out their website or call the director. We are ready to begin another year of growing together in grace.

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Thank you to all who helped to get this newsletter
out this month!

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Worship Schedule

September 2021

Sunday Holy Eucharist
8 AM & 10:30 AM
10:30 AM Live streamed
Holy Days as announced