



PASTOR'S PEN

“It’s that time of year again...” is a statement that can invoke both joy and angst. Joy if it means something we usually think of as positive, like a birthday (party!), or football season (party!), or holiday (party!). Angst if it marks something serious, like tax time or the anniversary of a loss. For the church, “It’s that time of year again...” often means “Time to prepare for stewardship, Reformation, All Saints, Advent, and Christmas” to all hit in the space of less than three months. Or it means “Time to get ready for Lent and Easter.” Indeed, this Messenger has a lot of information that will fall under the category of “that time of year again.” Such is life in a church community! And in fairness, it brings both joy as well as its measure of angst, because it requires we give of our *time* in addition to our talent and treasure (to invoke a well designed and well worn Stewardship reference).

At the same *time*, we are called to pay attention to a different kind of *time*: God’s time. A few weeks ago I preached on the difference between *chronos*, which is our marking of time, versus God’s, which is often called *kairos*. As we move through the next few months with our chronos calendars packed full, we must recall that the purpose of the Church is to draw attention to how God’s time is unfolding in the midst of our own. Practically speaking, we need to highlight God’s love in our lives and in the world as a whole, so we aren’t just “getting through it all,” but genuinely feeling and sharing that love in the things we do inside and outside of church life.

This *Messenger* will have plenty of things with which to fill up *chronos*, like events, activities, and stewardship information, but pay attention also to the things that might help you connect with *kairos*, like resources for prayer, Bible study, and worship, so our work together carries meaning beyond “getting through it.” Because the truth is, it’s always that time of year again: time to love, serve, and grow spiritually in Jesus’ name.

-Pr. ERIC+

ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN CHURCH + 21 CLARA BARTON ST., DANVILLE, NY 14437
(585) 335-5260 + WWW.STPAULSDANSVILLE.ORG

SAVE TREES AND STAMPS! RECEIVE A DIGITAL MESSENGER BY SIGNING UP AT
STPAULSDANSVILLE.ORG/NEWSLETTER.



laundry love

Family Laundromat, 20 Franklin St., Dansville, NY

Sat., Oct. 7 & 21	8:30 -11:30 am
Mon., Oct. 9 & 23	3:30-6:30 pm
Sat., Nov. 4 & 18	8:30 -11:30
Mon., Nov. 6 & 20	3:30-6:30 pm

Serving hundreds annually, Laundry Love needs your help to continue. Please donate to this valuable mission. Checks can be made payable to St. Paul's, with Laundry Love in the memo line.



After a lighter summer the number of diners has picked up for the fall. The remaining months of 2023 are being covered by the Lions Club and the Free Methodist Church, the latter covering both the Thanksgiving and Christmas Feasts (11/18 and 12/16). Volunteers for setup, service, and cleanup are always appreciated. Saint Paul's will provide two meals next year, and those times will be announced once confirmed.

Candelight Vigil

Tuesday, October 17, 6PM
Dansville Free Methodist Church

UNITE AS A COMMUNITY TO REMEMBER THOSE LOST TO SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER. SUPPORT THE CHILDREN, PARENTS, FAMILIES, & FRIENDS AS AN ACT OF COMPASSION.



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

21 Clara Barton St.
Dansville, NY 14437

St. Paul's Enduring Gift Fund committee would like to announce that applications for funds are now available. The applications are available in the St. Paul's Church office or you may get one from our website, www.stpaulsdansville.org.

Approximately \$3,200 is available for the following special projects and initiatives:

- Outreach ministries
- Christian education
- Capital improvements

Apply Online at stpaulsdansville.org!

To be eligible for the grant, your group must be a charitable 501(c)(3) organization or be associated with a charitable organization. Applications are due in the St. Paul's Church office by the close of business October 21st.

If you have any questions, please email:

admin@stpaulsdansville.org
or call the Church Office
(585) 335-5260
www.stpaulsdansville.org



"Hey, Dad. If there are so many different books of stories about Jesus, which one is true?"

- John, age 9, pastors' kid.

From the mouths of babes...

Good thing we've got a Bible Study for that.

WHOSE GOSPEL IS IT, ANYWAY?

A study of the Four Gospels and John's Letters.

Wednesdays, 6-7, with Supper.

St. Peter's Fellowship Hall



The ecumenical Men's Fellowship meets the third Wednesday of the Month at 9:30AM at Sunrise Restaurant.

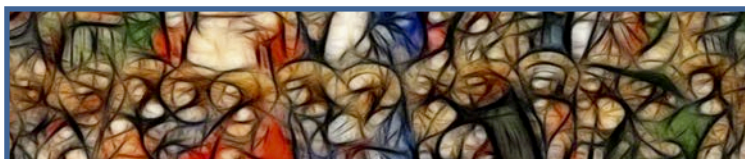
REMEMBER TO SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK 1 HOUR AT BEDTIME ON SATURDAY, NOV. 4!

REFORMATION SUNDAY

October 29



Remember to wear *red*
to help us celebrate.



ALL SAINTS DAY, NOV. 5
JOINT SERVICE AT ST. PETERS
10AM; POTLUCK TO FOLLOW.



HARVEST SUNDAY
(a.k.a. Pie Sunday)
NOVEMBER 12

Dansville Area Ministerial Association
THANKSGIVING SERVICE

SUNDAY
NOV. 19
4PM

DANSVILLE
FREE METHODIST CHURCH



The Longest Night
"Blue Christmas"

honoring the darkness by acknowledging the light

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 7PM
(location TBA)

CHRISTMAS EVE

Festive Service
Sunday, December 24
6PM



SPOKEN
ADVENT 4
SERVICE 9AM



REFORMATION SUNDAY: WHAT IS IT, AND WHY DOES IT MATTER

September 30, 2022 by [breyeschow](#)

Printed with permission from Spirit of Joy! Lutheran Church, The Woodlands, TX, sojoy.org/reformation.

Every year on the last Sunday in October, many churches set aside the day as “Reformation Sunday.” If you didn’t grow up with this practice, you may wonder where this tradition comes from, and why some congregations continue to practice it.

So ... what is Reformation Sunday, and why should we care?

The History of Reformation Sunday

Our story begins in the 16th century – 1517, to be exact. Bear with us here – what follows is a very simplified explanation of complex theological, political, and economic events that all coincided.

Across Europe, the Roman Catholic Church was engaged in one of the greatest fundraisers in all of history.

If a person – out of contrition for their sins and as a sign of repentance – made a financial gift to help with the building Saint Peter’s Basilica in Rome, then the church would furnish that person with a certificate acknowledging that gift and promising that they or their loved ones would be freed from a portion of the misery expected in the afterlife.

In short, the church at that time taught that even those bound for heaven had to be cleansed of their earthly sins and this cleansing (purging) in the afterlife took place in a place called Purgatory. The certificates offered by the church (called “Indulgences”) promised to lessen this time of cleansing for oneself or others who have already died.

There were some very nuanced explanations of this practice at the time.

And there were other very crass explanations that basically amounted to people paying to be forgiven.

November 1st was an important day for the selling and buying of these indulgences, known as All Saints Day on the church’s calendar.

The day before a German Monk named Martin Luther posted a list of 95 Theses – 95 reasons that he objected to this practice of selling indulgences. Along with other writings by Martin Luther, those 95 Reasons went viral.

Luther insisted that we are not forgiven because of anything we do – including the buying of Indulgences or doing enough good work. ***Instead, we are forgiven because of who God is.*** We are loved and forgiven because God is full of grace and mercy.

His teachings and writings got Martin Luther kicked out of the church. But he didn’t go alone. Others agreed with him, and after his death those who agreed with Luther became known as Lutherans and also as Protestants.

Every Protestant church traces their roots back to this moment in history.



Why Does Reformation Sunday Matter?

October 31st, 1517 was a long time ago. Why does it continue to matter and be remembered in our churches today?

1. Reformation Sunday gives us a chance to tell our story – a chance to remember.

We all have a family story – how we got to this point in history. Stories about parents and grandparents, about the things that have shaped our families over the years. Reformation Sunday is a day when we remember and re-tell the family stories of our faith. Stories about men and women who came before us and taught us about the faith. Stories about people who risked everything so that we would be able to gather and worship in the manner that we do.

2. Reformation Sunday reminds us of the most important things.

Throughout the year we preach about many things in church. About how we live our daily lives, the choices we make, the habits of our faith. On Reformation Sunday we are brought back to the most important thing – the thing that compelled Luther and others to risk their lives. On Reformation Sunday, we return to the core of our faith: God loved us first, and God continues to shower us with grace and mercy.

3. Reformation Sunday challenges us to do better

Through re-telling our story and returning to the core of our faith, Reformation Sunday prods us to do better. We are called to be more loving and grace-filled, because God was gracious and merciful to us. We are called to repent of the times that we have placed barriers that have kept others from hearing the Good News. We are called to remember that all that we are is a gift from God. In the church in Wittenberg where Martin Luther preached, there is a wonderful painting. In it Luther stands in the pulpit on the right hand side, and the people stand on the left. In between people and the preacher is Christ on the cross. Reformation Sunday is a reminder that this is the bedrock of our faith – the grace and mercy given to us in Jesus Christ. Keeping the most important thing in the center of the picture is the only hope for our faith and for this community that we call “church.”

Happy Reformation Sunday!

“THIS SEASON, I HOPE OTHER PARENTS WILL JOIN ME IN TRYING SOMETHING OFFENSIVELY SMALL.”

From Ellie Roscher’s “Micro-spiritual Practices with Kids” at [LivingLutheran.org](https://www.livinglutheran.org).

This fall, while building a new routine around the school day, do one tiny thing a day with your children or with the kids in your life. Name it “spiritual practice.” Ask God to join you in the small moments and marvel at what takes root.

Practices

- **Hold your cup with both hands while drinking your morning beverage.** Don’t multitask. Take a few sips, using all your senses. Greet your day, give thanks and invite your kids to do the same.
- **Choose a “gratitude staircase” in your home.** Offer thanks to God aloud with your kids while climbing or descending the stairs.
- **Take three slow, full, conscious breaths at some point in your day.** Acknowledge the Spirit, the life force that flows through you, connecting your inner world to the vast and holy universe.

Full article at <https://www.livinglutheran.org/2023/09/57187/>.

Devotion

What does a Christian look like, anyway?

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against things like this. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the self with its passions and its desires.

- Galatians 5:22-24

"I give you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other. This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each other."

- John 13:34-35

AUTUMN PRAYER

GOD OF ALL SEASONS, WE THANK YOU FOR AUTUMN.

WE THANK YOU

FOR THE TOUCH OF COOLNESS IN THE AIR THAT GIVES US A NEW BURST OF ENERGY,

FOR THE COLORING OF TREES THAT SHOWS THE CREATIVITY OF THE DIVINE ARTIST,

FOR THE FALLING LEAVES THAT REVEAL THE STRENGTH OF THE BRANCHES,

FOR THE HUES OF FIELDS THAT BRING PEACE TO OUR SOULS,

FOR THE SMILES ON PUMPKINS THAT BRING JOY TO CHILDREN,

FOR THE FALL HARVEST WHICH THAT BRINGS US GRATITUDE FOR THE BOUNTY OF OUR LAND,

FOR THIS CHANGE OF SEASONS THAT REVEALS THE CIRCLE OF LIFE.

GOD OF ALL SEASONS, AS YOU TRANSFORM THE EARTH, TRANSFORM US BY YOUR SPIRIT.

AMEN.

– REV. DOUG LEONHARDT, S.J.

Property

The foundation has been repointed at a cost of \$2,800. This caps a summer of substantial maintenance projects, including pressure washing the building, and tree removal. Fall will see the installation of a new fire door in the Sunday School wing.

Treasurer

Through September, St. Paul's is at 72% for offerings and 56% for expenses, on the strength of a large pledge paid in full earlier in the year.

That said, budgeted expenses exceeded income by over \$1k in September. Please continue to be faithful in your financial support of St. Paul's, and thank you for your ongoing support.

St. Paul's Hosts Publick Music for a "Companionable Afternoon"



In a most pleasant and at times laugh-out-loud funny presentation, the Publick Musick troupe presented chamber music and a brief opera on Saturday, October 7. Publick Musick will return to St. Paul's on April 13, 2024.

And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. And all ate and were filled. What was left over was gathered up, twelve baskets of broken pieces. Luke 9:16-17, NRSV

October 2023

Dear Saints,

I am grateful to all the members of our congregation. Throughout the year I have witnessed your generosity as you contribute your ideas, your funds, and your time to our community. Every dollar that we raise, every minute of volunteerism, every good plan comes from the heart and goes toward our mission. So it makes sense that our pledge campaign would focus on what we already do: sharing. Sharing the ways in which our means meet the needs of the world, the ways in which we respond to the Gospel, the ways in which we sustain our community.

More Than Enough, the theme for our campaign, brings us back to that moment of miracle described in Luke's Gospel, having just been fed by Jesus from a scant few loaves and fishes. The people in that story heard Jesus' call to share what they had in order that all might benefit; and that is what we do as the church today when we support Laundry Love, the Hope Luncheon, Trivant Action initiatives, comfort kits, as well as worship and study.

When we all give, whether in small or large ways, our gifts add up and create loving change in our church, community, and world. St. Paul's has a track record of impactful giving, meeting the needs of our local mission but also going above and beyond. To use a boxing metaphor, we "punch above our weight" when it comes to giving and mission. With your ongoing offering of time, talent, and treasure, I am confident that will continue to be the case.

In Abundant Gratitude,

Pr. Eric +

MORE THAN ENOUGH  **My 2024 Promise**

Acknowledging that there is always More Than Enough, I/we promise \$_____ for ministry.
I/we plan to fulfill this pledge weekly monthly semiannually annually.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

- Please contact me about setting up payments from my checking account/credit card.
- Please contact me about including the church in my estate plans.
- Please contact me about making my gift through stocks or securities.
- I will make my gift online this year, please look for my gift.



In Our Prayers

Justin & Lindsey Backus, Jan Blum, Ginger Buck, Rodney Button, June Collier, Don & Madge Cuddeback, Jerome Fazackerley, Kim Greene, Michael K., Jeannie M., Merlyn Hann, Kay Howe, Bill Huver, Rodney Johnson, Jim Lewis, Mary Sahrle, Bill Shaver, Joyce Sliker, David Smith, Jim Wagner
† Alice Burdick

Prayer requests may be updated through the office or by emailing pastor@stpaulsdansville.org.

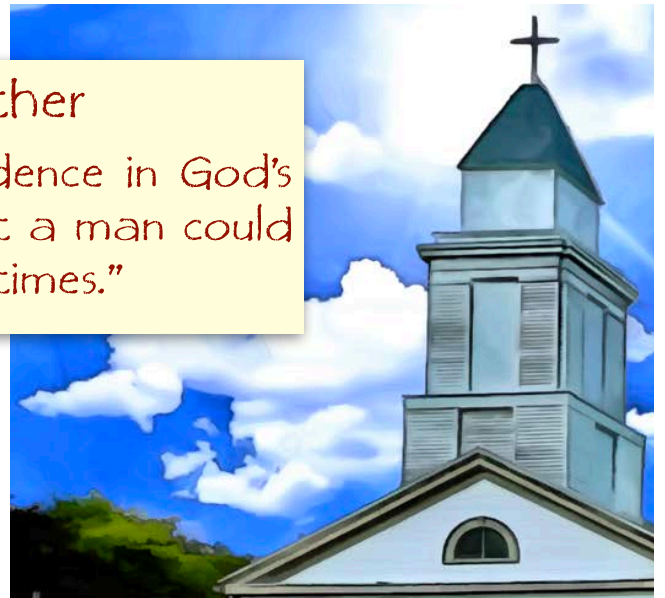
- Birthdays will return to the Messenger beginning in January.
- If you have content for the Messenger, please contact Pastor Eric.



The Quotable Luther

“Faith is a living, daring confidence in God’s grace, so sure and certain that a man could stake his life on it a thousand times.”

**SAINT PAUL’S
LUTHERAN CHURCH
DANSVILLE, NEW YORK**



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21 Clara Barton St.
Dansville, NY 14437

