

FIRST FRUITS



“Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.” -Proverbs 3:9-10

First Fruits I Celebrate Generosity

The biblical principle of **“First Fruits”** teaches us to offer the first and best of our blessings to God, showing gratitude and trust in His provision.

This Sunday, we’re excited to launch the **First Fruits** series. On the first Sunday of each month, We’ll explore stewardship themes, hear inspiring messages from fellow members, and celebrate how we live our mission:

“Gather in God’s Grace, Grow in the Spirit, Share Christ’s Love with All.”

Highlights include:

Insights into our upcoming pledge campaign and giving options.

Stories of your generosity’s impact through Mission Support, from local outreach to global ministries.

Engaging our children in learning the importance of generosity by sharing their light and love with others through creative activities, service, and discipleship lessons.

Celebrating how our time, talents and treasures transform lives here at St. Paul’s and beyond.

Together, let us continue to sow the seeds of faith, hope and love, nurturing a community that reflects Christ’s abundant grace.

God’s Work. Our Hands.

April 6, 2025 | Deacon Wendy Bean Tannenbaum | First Fruits Celebrate Generosity Launch

Replay <https://youtu.be/pvI84anK7wo>

First Fruits - Celebrate Generosity - Commitment Sunday May 4

Celebrating how our time, talent, and treasure transform lives at St. Paul's and beyond.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." – 1 Peter 4:10

The biblical principle of "First Fruits" teaches us to offer the first and best of our blessings to God, showing gratitude and trust in His provision. **This Sunday**, we'll focus on the gifts of **Time and Talent**. Stewardship is not just about finances – it's about offering our time & skills in ways that glorify God.

Time is one of our most precious gifts, and talents are the abilities God has uniquely given us. God doesn't ask us to do everything. He just asks us to do something with the gifts He has given us.

Matters of Importance – The Stewardship of Time and Talent



Meet Fran Byrne

A Bronx native, Fran spent her childhood in a small Pennsylvania town before returning to New York. She attended Flushing High School, Queensborough Community College, and Lehman College, later working at CIT Corporation in Manhattan. In 1976, she and her growing family moved to Northport, where she spent 30 years on staff at the Northport/East Northport Public Library—the "best place ever!" Seeking a church home in 1999, Fran found her faith community at St. Paul's. Now retired, she enjoys a full life with her four children and 12 grandchildren on Long Island, traveling, playing pickleball, and bowling. At St. Paul's, Fran serves as an usher, reader, service assistant, church database manager and bowler!

She gives thanks for God's many blessings.

Mission Support - May Focus: St. Paul's is one of 190 congregations supporting the Metropolitan New York Synod, which in turn contributes to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, to provide resources to our pastors, congregations and the wider church. A special envelope in today's offering plate is a symbol representing our tithe. Check out the bulletin board in the Narthex for details on where our offerings go.

Noisy Offering - 10:30 a.m. service. In Jump In, our children are learning the importance of generosity by sharing their light and love with others through creative activities, service, and discipleship lessons.

Commitment Sunday – In reference to Pastor Pryer's recent letter, please place your private, sealed Commitment Card in the offering plate at the 8:30 or 10:30 a.m. service. The card will be kept sealed and returned to you with your year-end giving statement. Thank you for your support.

God's Work. Our Hands.

May 4, 2025 | Fran Byrne | Commitment Sunday

Replay <https://youtu.be/jRQilHPW9hs>

FIRST FRUITS

Celebrate Generosity – The Stewardship of Things

Celebrating how our time, talent, and treasure transform lives at St. Paul's and beyond

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.”
Genesis 2:15.

The biblical principle of “first fruits” teaches us to offer the first and best of our blessings to God, showing gratitude and trust in His provision. **This Sunday**, we'll focus on the **Stewardship of Things**. Caring for the gifts of our church building and property. There is a lot of tending to and cherishing going on here! Let's explore how we thoughtfully manage, nurture and preserve the blessings entrusted to us with love and intention.

Matters of Importance – The Stewardship of Things. Caring for our Church.



Meet Paul Young

Paul was born in Virginia and grew up on Long Island. He works in environmental health for Nassau County and has lived in East Northport since 2009 with his wife, sons James and Michael, mother-in-law, and their pup, Rosie.

Paul first joined St. Paul's in 2014 but returned in 2022, embracing his faith and community. He enjoys fishing, motorcycling, cooking, and spending time with loved ones. He now serves as chair of our St. Paul's buildings and grounds committee, grateful for the guidance of those who came before him. We are blessed to have him in our church family!

Mission Support- Camp Koinonia: Located in the foothills of the Catskills in New York, this family camp and retreat center is a place where campers find their source and inspiration through the Christian faith. Three years ago, the Metro NY Synod encouraged congregations like ours to participate in Koinonia's capital campaign to restore buildings and roofs, remediate mold and upgrade bathrooms. And we have! Take a look at the bulletin board near the Narthex to see how we've made a difference with our 3-year commitment to help with this spirit-led outreach.

Noisy Offering - 10:30 a.m. service: While Jump In has wrapped up for the semester, we are still collecting coins to teach the importance of generosity and support meaningful causes. Your contributions make a difference and spread light and love along the way!

God's Work. Our Hands.

June 1, 2025 | Paul Young

Replay https://youtu.be/NyLi_sv4WwA

First Fruits—Celebrate Generosity—The Stewardship of Belonging and Becoming
Celebrating how our time, talent and treasure transform lives at St. Paul's and beyond.

“...being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” - Philippians 1:6

The biblical principle of “First Fruits” teaches us to offer the first and best of our blessings to God, showing gratitude and trust in His provision. **This Sunday**, we'll focus on the First Fruits of Faithfulness; the Stewardship of Belonging and Becoming. By giving to God, we trust that He is at work in our lives—guiding, shaping and transforming us into who He created us to be.

Matters of Importance— The First Fruits of Faithfulness



**Meet
Zach Peltz**

A life long member of St. Paul's, Zachary was baptized & confirmed here and has faithfully served as an usher, reader, bell choir member and Vacation Bible School volunteer. He is a past recipient of the Linda Burns Community Service Award. Zach graduated in June from Northport High School, where he was a member of the National Honor Society, Music Honor Society and Academy of Finance, and played trombone in the marching band and Symphonic Winds. Zach earned the rank of Eagle Scout in June, completing a service project at a local beach. He is a member of Troop 474, chartered by St. Paul's. Beyond church and school, he volunteers at the Northport Historical Society and enjoys raising chickens, restoring antique tractors and building scale models. This fall, Zach will attend SUNY Maritime to study mechanical engineering in the Regiment of Cadets. *We give thanks for his faithful presence and celebrate the many ways he has offered his time and gifts of service.*

Mission Support Spotlight—Long Island Lutheran High School: LuHi is located on a 32-acre wooded campus in the North Shore community of Brookville. LuHi is a leader in Christ-centered education. Their mission is to provide students with academic, social and spiritual learning experiences that will shape them into responsible global citizens. St. Paul's is one of 21 Association Congregations of LuHi that support the school's ministry through leadership, involvement, support & prayer. Look at the bulletin board near the Narthex to learn more on how our offerings help others.

Noisy Offering— While Jump In has wrapped up for the semester, we are still collecting coins to teach the importance of generosity and the joy of giving. Your contributions make a difference and spread light and love along the way!

Gods Work. Our Hands.

July 6, 2025 | Zach Peltz

Replay <https://youtu.be/i-c5mVlwpmg>

First Fruits—Celebrate Generosity—Stewardship through the lens of Prayer
Celebrating how our time, talent and treasure transform lives at St. Paul's and beyond.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." - Philippians 4:6

The biblical principle of "First Fruits" teaches us to offer the first & best of our blessings to God, showing gratitude & trust in His provision. This Sunday, the first Sunday of the Month and First Fruits Sunday—we'll focus on how prayer speaks to Stewardship. When we pray, we intentionally give God our time & focus. This act of Stewardship in its purest form—choosing to be present rather than distracted. Prayer centers our hearts. As we seek God, we begin to steward not just what we have, but why we have it - our resources become tools, for divine purpose. It is our responsibility to use our gifts with wisdom and purpose, not only to glorify God, but to serve and uplift those around us.

Matters of Importance— Stewardship through prayer



Meet Grace Black

Born in Queens, Grace was baptized, confirmed and married by the same minister at Christ Lutheran Church in Freeport, NY. She earned degrees from SUNY Oneonta and Stony Brook University before settling in Eaton's Neck with her husband Ken in 1965, where they shared a love of sailing and family life. Grace spent over a decade raising their two sons, then worked as a county leader in sewing and textiles for Cooperative Extension before returning to elementary education in Northport. Her passion for teaching seamlessly extended to Sunday School, Confirmation Classes and leadership within Parish Education and Ministry Partnership. Involved since the early days of the Prayer Chain, Grace has led the group for over a decade and continues to serve with joy. She co-led Prime Timers, our senior club, and she now enjoys fellowship as a FROG (Fully Rely On God bereavement group) and is known for her love of gardening, sewing and devotion to faith and love for her seven grandchildren, two great grandchildren and countless friends. Grace believes the best way to teach faith is by living it and hopes others are inspired to follow.
Thank you, Grace, for your love of prayer, faith and fellowship!

Mission Support Spotlight—Smile Train: A portion of our offerings from St. Paul's goes to help fund corrective surgery for children with cleft lips and palates. Smile Train provides free corrective cleft surgery in 75 countries, training local doctors and providing hospital funding for the procedures. For over 25 years, they have transformed the lives of more than 2 million children. Beyond surgery, their local partners also provide speech therapy, nutritional services, orthodontics and other essential forms of care to ensure that children with clefts have everything they need to not just live, but thrive. Look at the bulletin board near the Narthex to learn more about how our offerings help others.

Noisy Offering— While Jump In has wrapped up for the semester, we are still collecting coins to teach the importance of generosity and the joy of giving. Your contributions make a difference and spread light and love along the way!

Gods Work. Our Hands.

August 3, 2025 | Grace Black

Replay <https://youtu.be/M0Ct6mJoet0>

FIRST FRUITS

First Fruits—Celebrate Generosity

Celebrating how our time, talent and treasure transform lives at St. Paul's and beyond.

"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." - Matthew 5:16

The biblical principle of "First Fruits" reminds us to offer the best of what we have to God—with gratitude, trust and love. This Sunday, we celebrate the **Stewardship of Spiritual Influence**—how Christian educators nurture faith across generations. They invest time in forming youth and adults spiritually, foster trust and belonging in every space, and share wisdom by making theology accessible and meaningful for all ages.

Matters of Importance— Stewardship through Spiritual Influence



Meet Barbara Gai

Barbara's story began in the Bronx, but her childhood took root in Plainview, back when it was still farmland. Today, she and her husband Dennis call Huntington home, where they spent 55 joyful years raising four children and celebrating eight grandchildren. Barbara's passion for education led her to earn a degree in Community Health and a counseling certificate from St. Joseph's College, followed by a Masters in Education from Hofstra University. She taught high school health, developed curriculum—including a course on Women's Health Issues— and later taught graduate students in "Methods and Materials."

Through it all, Barbara has never stopped loving the classroom.

At St. Paul's, Barbara has embraced many roles with grace and dedication: serving on council, leading youth group and supporting the ELC food pantry. As a **Stephen Ministry Leader**, she equips and encourages our Stephen Ministers in compassionate caregiving, helping them walk faithfully alongside others in times of need. She also **teaches Confirmation**, guiding our youth in their spiritual formation with wisdom, warmth and joy. Barbara sees each opportunity as a blessing— a chance to live out her faith through service, learning and connection.

Thank you, Barbara, for your faithful leadership and deep commitment to nurturing faith and Christ-like service across every stage of life.

Mission Support Spotlight: Long Island Cares: A portion of our offerings from St. Paul's goes to help Long Island Cares— The Harry Chapin Food Bank. Their mission is to bring together all available resources for the benefit of the hungry and food insecure on Long Island and provide for the humanitarian needs of our community. Their goals are to improve food security for families, sponsor programs that help families achieve self-sufficiency, and educate the public about the root causes and consequences of hunger on Long Island. They help children, families, Veterans, and pets across Long Island. Learn more at <https://www.licares.org>. Look at the bulletin board near the Narthex to see how our offerings help others.

Noisy Offering— While Jump In has wrapped up for the semester, we are still collecting coins to teach the importance of generosity and the joy of giving. Your contributions make a difference and spread light and love along the way!

Gods Work. Our Hands.

September 7, 2025 | Barbara Gai

Replay <https://youtu.be/u2th6M7MfBQ>

FIRST FRUITS

First Fruits—Celebrate Generosity

Celebrating how our time, talent and treasure transform lives at St. Paul's and beyond.

"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." - Matthew 5:16

The biblical principle of "First Fruits" reminds us to offer the best of what we have to God—with gratitude, trust and love. This Sunday, we celebrate the **Stewardship of Sacred Service**—honoring the Altar Guild as a powerful embodiment of that call. Stewardship is not only about giving, but about faithful care for all that God entrusts to us. Quietly and reverently, the Altar Guild prepares the altar and tends to sacred objects, ensuring our worship space reflects holiness.

Matters of Importance— Stewardship of Sacred Service



Meet Ann Olsen

Ann grew up in Westchester and earned her BS in Education from SUNY Oneonta where she and Grace Black were sorority sisters! She later completed her MS at Hofstra University and began her teaching career with first graders in Huntington, bringing heart and energy to every classroom. Over the years at St. Paul's, Ann has lovingly taught nursery, kindergarten and **Sunday School**, and for over 40 years, she's prepared our worship space as a devoted member of the **Altar Guild**.

She also serves on the **Prayer Chain**, as a **Stephen Minister**, and behind the scenes at **Fellowship Hour** and the **Soul Food** shelves in the Narthex—often adding treats she knows children will love. Ann and her husband Roy met singing in a community chorus and now lift their voices together in our **choir**. For 56 years, they have made St. Paul's their home, shaped by faith, friendship and deep care. They have a daughter, son-in-law and twin grandchildren they adore. Ann says that in every place she thought she was serving, she discovered she was being served, too. *Thank you, Ann for the quiet ways you reflect God's love, through every table set, every hymn and every soul uplifted.*

Thank you to our Altar Guild teams that serve on a rotating schedule, as noted in our service folder.

- Team 1: Catherine Calvanese, Kathleen Calvanese, Gail Myles, Jean Henninger
- Team 2: Joan Bibow, Ellie Fauser, Linda Klein (*Head of the Altar Guild*)
- Team 3: Linda Bishop, Carolyn Hyatt-Basche, Ann Olsen, Phyllis Sciafani
- Team 4: Angela Damasco, MaryFrances O'Hara, Grace Wern, Jean Henninger

Mission Support Spotlight: Helping Hand Rescue Mission: A portion of our offerings from St. Paul's supports **Helping Hand Rescue Mission**, founded in 1965 by Rev. J.A. Gaines, Rev. Rose Marie Gaines and Florence E. Meringola. Moved by poverty they saw firsthand, they gave everything they had—believing that helping even one person was worth it. Sixty years later, the Mission continues to serve with love, offering a food pantry, clothing, household items, baby supplies and seasonal programs for holidays and back-to-school. Learn more at <https://helpinghandrescuemission.org/>. Look at the bulletin board near the Narthex to see how your gifts make a difference.

Noisy Offering— We continue to collect coins to teach our youngest members in Jump In Sunday School about generosity and the joy of giving. Every clink and jingle help share love, light and care with those in need. Thanks for being part of the noise that makes a difference!

Gods Work. Our Hands.

October 5, 2025 | Ann Olsen

Replay https://youtu.be/jf_jJZYJUw

First Fruits

First Fruits—Celebrate Generosity

Celebrating how our time, talent and treasure transform lives at St. Paul's and beyond.

**"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send?
And who will go for us?" And I said, Here I am I, Send me!" - Isaiah 6:8**

The biblical principle of "First Fruits" calls us to offer our best to God— with gratitude, trust and love. and more than offerings. They're expressions of our best selves, given to God in love. This Sunday, we celebrate **The Stewardship of Participation:** the quiet courage to say yes. Yes to invitation. Yes, to purpose. Yes to presence. When a young person steps forward to read in worship, they don't just speak, they lead. Their voice becomes a witness and their willingness is a gift. This is living faith. This is a first fruit.

Matters of Importance— Stewardship of Participation



**Meet
Jackson Hannum**

Jackson is a lifelong member of St. Paul's, where he was baptized, confirmed and has faithfully served as a reader for several years. His journey as a reader began when Deacon Debbie Peltz invited him to share his gift— and Jackson said yes with grace and enthusiasm. A talented 9th grader at Northport High School, Jackson has a love for math, music and programming. He's always learning— and helping others learn, too. One of his favorite activities is volunteering at the Northport Public Library, where he teaches younger students how to play chess. In 6th grade, Jackson was selected for the institute for Creative Problem Solving (ICPS), a prestigious program for top math students on Long Island. Last year, he joined the ICP Robotics Program and was part of the team that won its final challenge! Jackson is also a gifted violinist who has shared his music during Easter services at St. Paul's. He currently plays with his high school orchestra and will perform with the Northport Symphony Orchestra in their November concert. An origami enthusiast, Jackson brings joy and skill to the Jump In Sunday School class each year by teaching students how to fold Palm Crosses. He is proud to be part of the St. Paul's family and always looks forward to seeing his friends in church. *Thank you Jackson, for sharing your gifts with the congregation and inspiring us all.*

Mission Support Spotlight: Samaritan's Purse: A portion of our offerings from St. Paul's supports **Samaritan's Purse**, a Christian organization bringing spiritual and physical aid to people in crisis around the world. Since 1970, they've responded to war, poverty, disaster and disease by sharing God's love through Jesus Christ. In addition to operation Christmas Child, their ministries include global relief efforts, U.S. disaster response and the Greta Home and Academy for orphaned children in Haiti. Learn more at <https://www.samaritanpurse.org>. Look at the bulletin board near the Narthex to see how your gifts make a difference.

Noisy Offering— We continue to collect coins to teach our youngest members in Jump In Sunday School about generosity and the joy of giving. Every clink and jingle help share love, light and care with those in need. Thanks for being part of the noise that makes a difference!

Gods Work. Our Hands.

November 2, 2025 | Jackson Hannum

Replay <https://youtu.be/WnHURnoL4Dg>

Additional Materials

HONORING OUR GRADUATING SENIORS — A FIRST FRUITS INVITATION

As we prepare for First Fruits Sunday on August 3, we're looking ahead with joy and gratitude to honor the High School Seniors in our congregation and community who are stepping into new chapters— whether that's college, work, service or exploration.

First Fruits is a time to recognize the blessings God has grown among us. These young people are just that — a living reminder of faith taking root, hope bearing fruit, and the Spirit continuing to move through the next generation.

If you know a graduating senior you'd like to see recognized in worship that day, please complete the form and return it to the church office by Sunday, July 20th.

On August 3, we will offer prayers and blessings as a congregation, celebrating our graduates and surrounding them with love.

Let's lift them up with joy and gratitude as they walk into their future — with God and with us.



GRADUATING SENIOR RECOGNITION FORM

We're preparing to honor and bless our High School graduates as a part of our First Fruits celebration on August 3, 2025. If you know a student you'd like to be recognized in worship, please fill out the information below and return it to the church office by Sunday, July 20th.

Student's Full Name: _____

High School Graduated From: _____

Next Step (Name of College, work, service, etc.): _____

Name of Person Submitting Form: _____

Relationship to Student: _____


Phone or Email (*in case we have questions*): _____

Optional: Share a brief note of encouragement or a favorite scripture for the graduate.

CLASS OF 2025


Madison Faith Calvanese
 Henry Ciavarella
 Wayne Ciavarella
 Ryan Farrington
 Kaylie Shea Fauser
 Daniel Henninger
 Jacob Orman
 Zachary Peltz
 Mary Ryan Penny
 Madison Romero
 Michael Edward Slear


Proverbs 3: 5-6
*Trust in the Lord with all your heart;
 do not depend on your own understanding.
 Seek his will in all you do,
 and he will show you which path to take.*


St. Paul's Lutheran Church
 120 Vernon Valley Road East Northport, NY 11731
 Rev. Jonathan Pryer, Pastor

HONORING
 OUR
Graduates

*Be strong and courageous....
 The Lord your God
 will be with you
 wherever you go.*


 Joshua 1:9 (NIV)



Parish News Insert | August 3, 2025

Commitment Card

So others may know God's love, I/we plan to offer \$_____ per week to the Lord's work through the congregation.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Return this part of the card in the enclosed envelope: Seal it and place it in the offering plate on Commitment Sunday, May 4, 2025. The sealed envelope will be returned to you in your 2025 year-end statement. If you won't be attending services on May 4, please mail it back to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Vernon Valley Road, East Northport, NY 11731

Giving Plan

I/we commit my/our life to the service of the Lord, and therefore offer \$_____ per week to the Lord's work through the congregation.

Signature _____

Signature _____

Keep this part of the card.

Thank you for your commitment to our church. Together, we can make a difference and spread God's love. 2025

GROWTH STEPS GIVING CHALLENGE

- Find the step that matches your current weekly giving.
- Prayerfully consider increasing your giving by one step.

What percentage of income do you give?

Weekly giving
÷
Weekly income
=
Percentage of giving
(.10 = 10%)

\$100 - \$150
or increase by 1%

\$75 - \$99

\$50 - \$74

\$40 - \$49

\$30 - \$39

\$20 - \$29

\$15 - \$19

\$10 - \$14

\$5 - \$9

\$1 - \$4

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May 2025 | Pledge Cards and Invitation to Prayerfully Consider Increasing Your Giving By One Step