



# The Beacon

## September 2025

### A Season to Appreciate Creation

This Sunday, Aug. 31, will be the first of six in which we'll celebrate God's work and presence in Creation. This year's theme is "Peace with Creation", inspired by Isaiah 32:14-18:

*For the palace will be forsaken, the populous city deserted; the hill and the watchtower will become dens forever, the joy of wild asses, a pasture for flocks. Until a spirit from on high is poured out on us, and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, and the fruitful field is deemed a forest. Then justice will dwell in the wilderness and righteousness abide in the fruitful field. The effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness, and trust forever. My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.*

Isaiah's rather pessimistic vision implies that the absence of humans and the desolation of cities will result in peace for the earth's animals and habitats. I hope an apocalyptic event isn't required – but it's going to take more than "thoughts and prayers." What practical steps need to accompany them?

We won't mess with the cycle of Sunday readings, but our prayers, music and sermons will encourage us to appreciate the connections among our lives, other people, and the natural world. Also mark your calendars for two special events within the season:

- **Saturday, September 20 from 5-6:30 pm**, an outdoor Sing-Along Celebration of Creation, followed by supper in the Parish Hall. Using an ecumenically-developed liturgy called "Via Creationis" (The Way of Creation), we'll ponder the Biblical accounts in Genesis 1, in parallel with what science has discovered. Songs you probably know ("This Land is Your Land," "Here Comes the Sun," "Lean on Me") will help all ages delight in the world and its many creatures. Rain or shine, and bring a lawn chair if it's shining out! If raining, we'll move it all inside.

*continued on next page...*

### St. Jude's Episcopal Church

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[STJUDESFENTON.COM](http://STJUDESFENTON.COM)

#### OFFICE HOURS:

MONDAYS & THURSDAYS  
9 AM - NOON

TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS  
9 AM - 4 PM

[STJUDESCHURCHFENTON106@GMAIL.COM](mailto:STJUDESCHURCHFENTON106@GMAIL.COM)

## St. Jude's Staff

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**RON SPAULDING**  
ORGANIST

**STEVE & LAURA KOCH**  
SEXTONS

## "...appreciate Creation" continued

- **Sunday, October 5**, will conclude the Season by honoring St Francis of Assisi and include Pet blessings after the service. Well-behaved pets may attend church; noisier (nosier?) animals may need to "stay" home and be fetched afterwards. Let the Marincos know if you'll need some extra time to return with a furry family member. A little treat bag for all pets will reward their patience.

I'm looking forward to the creativity and deepened spirituality this "season" always brings to worship.

Hoping to see you soon,

*Susan+*



## Building & Grounds Update

Summer is about gone and football season is upon us. Our Building and Grounds Committee has been busy through the summer and planning for the fall.

We are excited to announce, after about three years of planning, lots of discussion and investigation, we are finally replacing the roof of our Church proper.

The committee, thanks to our project lead Doug Hill and support of others, presented to the Vestry our reports and bids for the much needed project. The Vestry approved the project and our Finance committee is working with our Diocese of the Great Lakes to find the funding. I am sure you will hear more on that later from the Vestry.

In the mean time the project was awarded to Weather Vane Roofing and the work has been scheduled. They will begin on Monday, October 13<sup>th</sup> and work should be completed in about two weeks. They will begin work on the tower first and

then move on to the main part of the church.

If you have any questions please feel free to ask any of the members of our committee.

### *Building & Grounds Committee*



## September Birthdays

1st Dave James  
5th Linda Chciuk  
7th Dee Grossmann  
8th James Sailus  
11th Diane Putnam  
Dave Rayner  
13th Nancy Jones  
16th Francine Zick  
19th Francine Johnston  
21st Joan Graham  
26th Lydia Anderson  
Megan Rosa

## Sept Anniversaries

10th Jim & Kathy Korge  
(59 years)  
Steve & Laura Koch  
26th (27 years)

## It's CROP Walk Time Again!

This will be the 45<sup>rd</sup> Annual CROP Walk in Fenton, and St. Jude's has been actively involved since the beginning. Members of St. Jude's have been on the planning committee for over 30 years and have chaired or co-chaired the walk for 17 of those years. The walk has raised over \$490,00 for hunger related efforts and \$120,000 of that has been used right here in our community. Our own Pantry & School Lunch programs have been blessed to receive almost \$20,000.

This year's walk will be starting on Elizabeth Street between St. Jude's and 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian and before the walk there will be a potluck in St. Jude's parking lot. Each of the participating churches will be responsible for bringing a certain type of picnic food. St. Jude's has signed up to bring hot dogs and hot dog buns. We'll get the hot dogs from the food bank, but there will be a sign-up sheet in Vandenburg Hall on the Outreach board for purchasing hot dog buns.

**This year the walk will be held on September 21, registration starting at 11:45, with the Potluck starting at 12:30 and the walk commencing at 1:15 .**

Finally, as always, what really makes the walk work is people walking and donating. You can get your walk envelopes from Dave Rayner



beginning the last week in August, or sign up / donate on-line now at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/event/fentonmi> . At this link you can sign up to walk, join the St. Jude's Team, or donate to the team or any individual that has signed up to walk. We look forward to this being a fun event with lots of participation from St. Jude's as are one of the host churches.

## Godly Play - September 14

Families with their young kids (criterion: can sit in one place for more than 5 seconds) are invited to check out "Godly Play" our **early Sunday School class; on September 14 at 10:30 am downstairs.** (Come five minutes early to choose your pew upstairs, leave your stuff, and come on down.)

Perspective teaching helpers are also encouraged to join in this "Demo Class" led by expert teacher Kris Forsyth.

Ushers will let everyone in the room know when it's time to return at the Peace. Then we will bless backpacks and briefcases, celebrate Milestones, and continue with the Eucharist.



### Blessing of the Backpacks September 14

During the service, bring your backpack (or briefcase, work bag if you're an education professional) for a special blessing to begin the new school year!

## Planning the Ultimate Transition

No one likes to think about death. We spend a lot of time and money avoiding the reality that, well, our bodies are designed to wrinkle, lose strength and agility, get shorter, and eventually our “dust” returns to the dust and our spirit returns to God. There are better and worse ways to go about facing this great transition. But I can assure you, the days just before, or after, a death are NOT better.

You’ve seen it happen: families are stressed, siblings quarrel, long-inactive or unchurched relatives make strange decisions (or no decisions at all). But chaos is entirely preventable. To misquote Smoky the Bear, *Only YOU can prevent a “forest-fire” after your passing!*

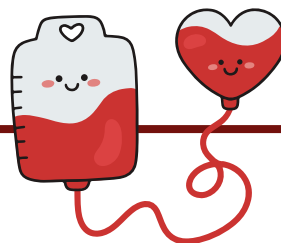
I’ve been relieved to notice that several copies of St Jude’s Funeral Planning document are being picked up, filled out, and returned to the office recently. More are on the wall near the church office. We will make a folder for your plans, at whatever stages (they can be updated of course), and their existence is *very* helpful when the time comes. The form will let us know whom to call, what sort of service you want, which hymns and readings you’d like, where you wish to be buried, an idea of costs, memorial designations like St Jude’s Heritage Fund... You can also arrange and pre-pay for a spot in our Memorial Garden. Do include your “next of kin” in the planning process. I’m here too, to answer questions and suggest scriptures.

Unless your plan is to be lost at sea, you’ll probably also need the services of a funeral Director (aka undertaker, mortician), Home or Crematorium. Did you know you can pre-plan and pre-pay for those as well? Here’s an opportunity to learn more.

**On Saturday, September 27 at 10:00 am**, a Director from Sharp’s Funeral Home will spend an hour with us, in VandenBergh Hall over continental breakfast, talking about what and how to pre-plan. No sales pitches or arm-twisting, they promised; just information and time for Q&A. Having those decisions made in advance with your funeral home of choice, and your funeral requests filed here, mean that your family can stay calm and confident that *all manner of thing shall be well*.

Blessings for all eternity,

*Susan+*



## Fall Blood Drive

St Jude's Episcopal Church, in partnership with Versiti Blood Center of Michigan, is holding their fall community blood drive on **September 13th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

If you would like to donate, please plan for it to take about an hour and bring a photo ID with you. If you know of anyone who would like to donate, please pass this information on to them. One unit of blood can save up to 3 lives. You can [sign up online](#) or walk-ins are welcome.

## Prayer Shawl Ministry 2025

The prayer shawl ministry meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of the month in the library to knit prayer shawls for anyone in our larger community that may need one.

Knitters (and crocheters) of all skill levels welcome!

## Dates & Hosts

Sept. 2: Judy Marincio  
 Sept. 16: Kris Forsyth  
 Oct. 7: Deb James  
 Oct. 21: Terri Hutchins  
 Nov. 4: Lynell Wright  
 Nov. 18: Heather (Mary Ellen's 98th bday)  
 Dec. 2: Kris Forsyth  
 Dec. 16: Christmas luncheon  
 Jan. 6: Judy Marincio  
 Jan. 20: Diane Hill  
 Feb. 3:  
 Feb. 17:  
 Mar. 3:  
 Mar. 17: Deb James  
 Apr. 7: Terri Hutchins  
 April. 21:  
 May 5: Lynell Wright  
 May 19:  
 June 2: Heather  
 June 16: Diane Hill  
 July & August: off



## Vaccination Clinic

St. Jude's and Leroy Pharmacy are partnering to provide a vaccine clinic for parishioners, family members, friends, neighbors, etc. on **September 7th** following the service. The clinic will be held in the Library so you can stop on your way to coffee hour for your vaccine or step out of coffee hour for it. Vaccines being provided are: Flu, COVID, Pneumonia, Shingles, RSV. There is a sign-up sheet in Vandenberg Hall. If you could select the type of vaccine you would like to receive, that would be great. That information will be given to Leroy Pharmacy so they will have an idea of the number of vaccines to bring.



## Socks Sunday Donations Sunday, September 28, 2025

*Will Stinky Make a Surprise Appearance to Fire Us Up???*

You know that feeling when you have been wearing socks all day and you cannot wait to take them off? Unfortunately, many people do not have the option to change soiled and worn socks for clean and new ones.

Every year St. Jude's Outreach Committee encourages donations for us to purchase socks for donation to Crossover in Genesee County, Flint, Michigan. Crossover is a Christian organization that seeks to show the love of Christ by feeding, clothing, and providing services and programs to those in need.

Sunday, September 28 is your big opportunity to provide new socks for those in great need. Your gift of \$10 will buy one dozen (12 pairs) of new, comfortable cotton socks. Please consider a donation, and bring your cash on September 28 (\$5, \$10, \$20, or a check payable to St. Jude's - memo: socks). Thank you for your consideration!

In ancient times, socks were made from matted animal hair or leather. Machine-knit socks were first produced in the late 16th century. Aren't we all grateful for cotton and other sock fabrics?

Thank you – and see you Sunday!

*John & Carol Pettiphen on behalf  
of Outreach Committee*



## An Event So Good, It's Scary!

**Friday, October 31 (Halloween)**, Fenton Chamber of Commerce will be hosting their annual trick or treating event. Last year, we had a lot of fun passing out goody bags to children and their families as part of this event. We would like to be a trick or treating site again this year. But we need your help!

The cost to participate is \$65. Then we would like

to make goodie bags for the children. If you can donate money toward our participation cost, please put in the offering plate with the memo "Trick or Treat".

**Look at the beginning of October for a sign up sheet** for volunteers to bring in candy, pack the goody bags and pass out candy on the afternoon of Halloween!

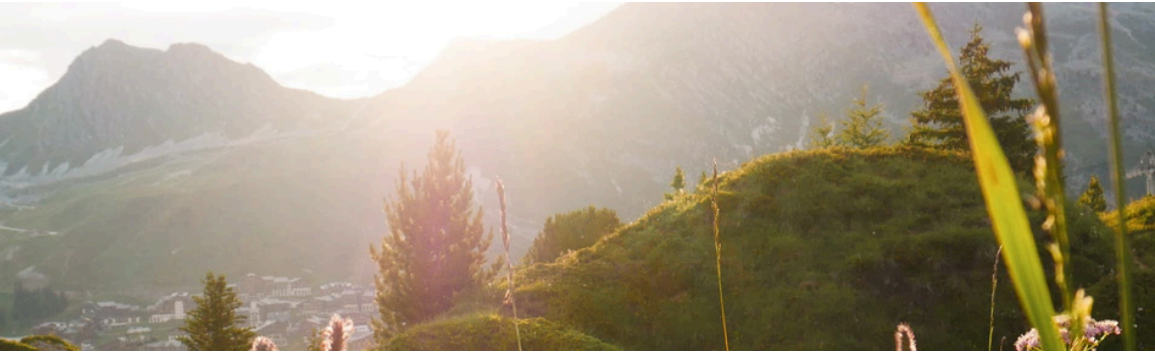
# Reflections

Submitted by Judy Maringo from "Our Daily Bread", August 21st edition

## Feed the Need

*No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own,  
but they shared everything they had."*

John 11:23



Lisa and Freddie McMillan own a unique restaurant in Brewton, Alabama. They offer a full hot meal to all who stand in line—at no charge. This couple has invested from their own savings to make a difference for senior citizens who often go without meals and rarely enjoy a restaurant experience. A donation box receives contributions. Lisa says, "Sometimes we find nothing there. Sometimes a thank-you note. Sometimes \$1,000. Always, we have everything we need. Our goal is to feed the need, restore dignity, and develop community."

Caring for the needy can seem a daunting task—unless we depend on God! The Gospels include records of Jesus feeding thousands by inviting His disciples to participate: "You give

them something to eat" (Matthew 14:16). In the book of Acts, we learn that in the early church, believers "shared everything they had" and "there were no needy persons among them" (4:32, 34). Many of them sold property and gave the proceeds to the apostles, who "distributed to anyone who had need" (vv. 34-35). Understanding that their possessions ultimately belonged to God, they voluntarily invested in the lives of others from what they owned.

God provides. Sometimes by His own hand and sometimes through the hands of His people. He feeds our need so that we can feed the need of others.

By Elisa Morgan

### Reflect & Pray

How has God provided for you? How can you join God in providing for those around you?

**Dear God, I'm so grateful for Your abundant provision in my life! Please help me to give to others from what You've given to me.**

## Feed the Need

As I read the following Reflection, I thought of each and everyone of you and what we do collectively to feed the need.

As we actively reach out to those on the margins through all the opportunities with our Outreach Ministry, we feed the need. With volunteer time in The Pantry the first Saturday of each month, the many hands working with the Fenton Fire Department at Truckload Giveaways, support for Family Promise, CROP Walk donations, helping stretch family food budgets with our Spring Break Lunch Program, buying Socks for Crossover, making monthly and holiday deliveries to Millpond residents, and providing for Christmas Families, we feed the need.

Thanks be to God for the wonderful commitment we are making in so many ways to feed the need.

Faithfully,

*Judy*

## Upcoming Events to Note in September

Tues. 1 - 1 pm Prayer  
Shawl Ministry

Sat., 6 -  
9 - 11 am Truckload  
Giveaway @ Fire House  
9 - Noon Basic Needs  
Pantry

Sun. 7 - Following service  
Vaccination Clinic

Wed., 10 -  
1 pm Outreach Meeting  
7 pm Finance Meeting

Sat. 13 - Fall Blood Drive

Sun. 14 - Godly Play Demo  
& Backpack Blessing during  
service

Tues. 16 - 1 pm Prayer  
Shawl Ministry

Wed. 17 - 7 pm Vestry

Thurs. 18 - 6 pm Book Club  
@ Terri Hutchin's

Sat. 20 - 10 am Alzheimers  
Caregivers Class  
5 pm Via Creationis Music  
Fest

Sun. 21 - CROP Walk &  
Potluck following service

Thurs. 25 - 7 pm Imperfect  
Club

Sat. 27 - 10 am How to  
Preplan with Sharp Funeral  
Home

Sun. 28 - Sock Donation  
Sunday

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Craft Show & Holiday Bazaar

Here we are the beginning of September and it is getting closer: Yes, the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Craft Show and Holiday Bazaar here at St. Jude's! The dates are **4 - 9 pm on Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup> and 9 am - 3 pm on Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup> 2025**. Mark your calendars.

The Craft show this year is fundraising for the Building and Grounds fund. All profits will go to help this ministry. As always, we need many volunteers to give their time and help in various areas (look for a sign up sheet in Vandenbergh Hall soon). In addition, this year, we are asking if you would consider making a financial donation to help with the expenses like the food for concessions or to help cover the cost of advertising and promotion. If your able just write a check to St. Jude's Episcopal church and in the memo section mark Craft Show donation. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

There are still a couple of open spots for crafters. If you're at a craft show, farmers market or other event and you find a crafter you like, tell them about our event. They can contact St. Jude's at 810-629-5681 and information will be sent to them.

### *The Craft Show Committee*



### Jar Sale at St. Jude's Table

Once again, St. Jude's will be selling soup, cocoa and cookie mixes in a jar at the St. Jude's craft show table. This year we would like to expand the items we are selling in our jars, and are asking for peanut brittle, "human" puppy/reindeer chow, chex mix, etc. Ball jars, recipe cards for soup/cookie mixes, and jar decorations will be on a table in VandenBergh Hall at the end of September. There will be a sign up sheet in VandenBergh Hall if you would like to make a jar for the craft show. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Heather Ludwig.

## **WORSHIP LEADERS for September 2025**

Lay Eucharistic Minister(s)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Chalice	Reader	Intercessor	Ushers	Altar Guild	Vestry Person of the Day	Live - Streamer	Coffee Hour Host(s)
<b><u>September 7</u></b> Holy Eucharist - The Rev. Mary Jo Schuetz								
Dee Grossmann	Amy Freeman	Dave James	Deb James	Charlie J., Jeff Wood	Mary Louise S., Diane H.	Dave Rayner	Dave Rayner	Lynne Ronthi
<b><u>September 14</u></b> Holy Eucharist - The Rev. Susan Anslow Williams								
Lynn Hopper	Clay Putnam	Dolores Ruby	Nancy Day	Nancy D., Lynne R.	Dee G. Lisa Cronk	Bill Anderson	Dave James	Dee Grossmann
<b><u>September 21</u></b> Holy Eucharist - The Rev. Susan Anslow Williams								
Paul Dolza	Dee Grossmann	Ellen Tripp	Jeff Wood	Dave & Deb James	Terri H., Francine J.	Megan Rosa	Paul Dolza	Sarah Dolza
<b><u>September 28</u></b> Holy Eucharist - The Rev. Susan Anslow Williams								
Clay Putnam	Mary Louise Susalla	Nancy Day	Amy Freeman	Dave & Denise Rayner	Sarah D., Lisa Cronk	Sue Premo	Dave Rayner	Feijoo/ Kortge
<b><u>October 5</u></b> Holy Eucharist - The Rev. Mary Jo Schuetz								
Amy Freeman	Dee Grossmann	The Rev. H. Wayne Knotts	Pedro Melchor	Charlie J., Jeff Wood	Mary Louise S., Diane Hill	Doug Hill	Dave Rayner	Francine & Charlie Johnston

### **Monday Office Volunteer(s):**

8<sup>th</sup> - Heather Ludwig  
 15<sup>th</sup> - Ron Trimmer  
 22<sup>nd</sup> - Francine Johnston  
 29<sup>th</sup> - Nancy Day

### **Thurs. Office Volunteer(s):**

4<sup>th</sup> - Dave Little  
 11<sup>th</sup> - Kathy Kortge  
 18<sup>th</sup> - Lynne Ronthi  
 25<sup>th</sup> - Ellen Tripp





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## St. Jude's Episcopal Church

### VESTRY

#### 2026

Bill Anderson  
Paul Dolza  
Heather Ludwig  
Dave Rayner

#### 2027

Doug Hill  
Dave James  
Jim Ramelis

#### 2028

Charles Johnston  
Sue Premo  
Megan Rosa-Norred

#### Delegates to the Diocesan Convention

Paul & Sarah Dolza  
Dave & Debbie James