

# St. Paul's News

November 2020

St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
P.O. Box 156, 215 North Warren Street  
Orwigsburg, PA 17961  
Office: 570-366-2316  
Fax: 570-366-7357  
[www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org](http://www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org)

## WHY GIVE THANKS?

(with thanks to Rick Warren)

### GIVING THANKS HONORS GOD.

Whenever you thank someone you honor him or her. We need to learn to thank God not just for what God does, but for who God is.

Why not consider praying like this: "God, I thank you that you're smarter than I am," or "I thank you, God, that you know what will make me happy more than I do" or "I especially thank you, God, for your wisdom and mercy." That's thanking God for who God is. We honor God when we have this attitude of thanks.

### GIVING THANKS CREATES FELLOWSHIP.

Giving thanks always builds deeper relationships between you and other people.

Do you want to rebuild your relationship with a friend, a parent, a spouse, or with people in your group? Whomever you want to get closer to, begin by spending more time giving thanks for what he or she says and does. Then give thanks for who that person is.

### GIVING THANKS DEVELOPS FAITH.

Do you thank God even when everything is going wrong? If you're going through tough times, don't look at what can't be. Consider what the future can be. Rest in God's promises. God will never fail!

No matter how bad things are in your life, God hasn't forgotten you. God suffers with you as you suffer. God grieves with you as you grieve. God is there to comfort, encourage, and strengthen you as only He can.

## GIVING THANKS SERVES OTHERS.

Giving thanks reaches out to others. It is a real ministry. God has made us to serve and appreciate others. God has also made us to give thanks.

When you appreciate others, you show them that they are valuable people. Husbands, wives, children, co-workers, and even bosses need to be reminded that they are valuable and that they matter to those around them. Life can be very discouraging at times. You can be a true encouragement to others. Appreciate everybody. Give thanks for everyone.

## GIVING THANKS IS A WITNESS.

The best way to share your faith with other people is to daily give thanks. Giving thanks surprises some people because we often hear more complaints than we do compliments.

Does your life express God's love for you? Does it mirror God's love for the world? God's love draws those who do not believe. It brings hope to a world which sorely needs hope. It brightens a world which is too often dark and frightening.

Radical love, radical kindness, radical generosity, radical joy, and radical thanksgiving come straight from God. There's a word for those who live so abundantly. It's called being *Christ-like*.

Peace, Hope, Love, and Joy! Pastor Mike  
\*\*\*\*\*

## PRAY & VOTE

We should strive to be faithful believers in Jesus Christ as well as good citizens of this nation. Our faith should always inform our words and deeds – active in civil matters, as well as spiritual ones!

## EVANGELISM COMMITTEE NEWS

As part of the Evangelism Committee's outreach, Maryann Cunningham has been sending cards to our shut-in members. If we are provided with addresses, birthday cards can also be mailed to our military personnel and college students. Please contact Maryann or any committee member if you would like to add someone to one of these lists.

Evangelism is an especially important part of St. Paul's ministry and we are looking for additional members to join us in our mission. If you would like to join, please contact any member of the Evangelism Committee or call Connie Teter, chair, at (570) 366-0255. Please note that our committee is not scheduled to meet in November or December.

## ADULT FORUM

Please join us as we continue our study of the Apostle Paul via ZOOM on Thursday evenings at 7 PM. You may contact Barbara Lafko at 570-366-1208 or send an email to [bjlafko@yahoo.com](mailto:bjlafko@yahoo.com) with questions.

## WELCA NEWS

During their meeting on Tuesday, October 13th, our Women of the ELCA decided to support the Diakon Foster Care Christmas Gift Program (formerly Topton) and donate \$100. This will cover the gift requests of two children.

Donations of winter scarves and hats will be collected in the narthex until Monday, November 23, 2020. These items will then be sent to Seafarers International at the Philadelphia Seaport where they will be added to the sailors' Christmas gift bags.

A basket has been placed in the narthex with samples of Memory Blankets for Mikaylee's Hope. The details for this project are found in the October newsletter and posted on the WELCA bulletin board.

Kathy Couch and her family send their greetings from Topeka, Kansas. Our group has written many "Thinking of You" cards to them and they will be showered with our good wishes.

At our September meeting, it was reported that \$138 of the WELCA In-Gathering offering was donated to the Orwigsburg Food Pantry. The \$122 offering from October's meeting went to Access/Rainbow Friends, a group of developmentally challenged individuals who gather at St. Paul's every few weeks to sing, read, do arts and crafts, and eat treats. These meetings are hosted by Gwen Wehr and Sherry Bartush. Our next In-Gathering offering will be given to the Orwigsburg Friendship Fire Department.

Gwen Wehr gave each woman an inspirational postcard which she had painted. On the reverse side was her favorite prayer, "Mamma's Prayer." It reads: "Blessed Savior dear, be near. Keep me from evil, harm, and fear. Amen."

Gwen and Danielle Richards then shared their thoughts on the importance of prayer in our daily lives. A copy of the current St. Paul's "Prayer List" was handed out so that members can pray in their homes for the people named.

Due to the uncertainty of COVID-19, our WELCA group is **not** scheduling future meetings at this time. We encourage members to continue to pray for a brighter future!

Just a reminder that any woman from our congregation is automatically a WELCA member and is welcome to attend when we next meet.

## DRIVE BY CHILI & SOUP SALE

On November 14<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM on the Square, the Men of St. Paul's will hold a "Drive by Chili and Soup Sale." Some baked goods will also be on sale.

Please note that soups and chili will be sold in "chilled" quart containers for your convenience! Drive by, say "hi," grab your goodies, and go!

## ONLINE GIVING INSTRUCTIONS

You can bring your offerings with you when you come to worship, drop them off at the church during regular office hours, or send a check to the church via the US Mail. But you can also give to St. Paul's securely online. Here's how to do that:

- Go to our website: [www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org](http://www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org)
- From the home page, click the Online Giving tab at the top of the screen.
- A Give Now box will appear on your screen.
- Select General Fund from the menu.
- Keep One Time selected (or create a secure account to set up reoccurring payments).
- Enter the dollar amount you'd like to give with NO decimals.
- Click Add Donation.
- Click Next, then enter your Name, Address, and Credit/Debit Card information.

*Optional items:*

*To receive an emailed receipt, check the box and enter your email address.*

*To help offset the online processing fees, check the box.*

- Click Donate Now to complete your transaction. You will receive a confirmation number.

Thank you for your continuing generosity! Your kindness makes it possible for us to continue our sharing of the Gospel while reaching out to others with the love of Christ!

## LET'S HONOR OUR VETERANS

When men and women put on the uniform of our nation's armed forces, they put their lives and limbs at risk. They do so not only to protect their own freedom and liberty, but also the freedom and liberty of every American citizen. For this and for much more, every veteran is worthy of honor.

Remember to give thanks for all our veterans not only on Veterans Day, Wednesday, November 11, but every day throughout the year!

## COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, our community Thanksgiving Eve service WILL NOT be held this year. However, a community Thanksgiving Eve video is being considered. Please check our Facebook page, our website, and up-coming Sunday bulletins for more information

## TIME TO "FALL" BACK ONE HOUR

Daylight Savings Time will end on Sunday, November 1, at 2 AM this year. Please remember to set your clocks back 1 hour before you go to bed on Saturday, October 31.

## ALTHOUGH OUR CHRISTMAS CONCERT HAS BEEN CANCELLED...

A video featuring our Chancel and Bell Choirs is currently "in production." Our 2020 "Christmas Concert" video will be available on or around Sunday, December 20, 2020. Check our Facebook page, our website, our December newsletter, and up-coming Sunday bulletins for more information.



## POMPION

Instead of pottage and puddings  
and custards and pies,  
our pumpkins and parsnips  
are common supplies.

We have pumpkin at morning,  
and pumpkin at noon.  
If it were not for pumpkin,  
we should be undone!

~1623 Plymouth Colony Ballad

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

What a difference a year makes! Last September the Christian Education committee was thrilled by the number of youngsters at our annual Blessing of the Backpacks event, and we quickly started to plan for a new Sunday school program geared towards preschool and elementary age students.

Our goal was to run a class during the 10:30 service to make it more appealing to busy families. We planned to clean and paint the two large rooms upstairs for our new space; the work was to start in March.

And...we all know what happened in March 2020! COVID-19 put everything on hold and our lives suddenly looked very different as we became homebound. We “went to church” at home, on our computers and phones, in our pajamas, for 15 minutes each Sunday.

As we slowly started to get back to some of our activities, we realized that things have changed. Jessica Swick decided it was best for her to leave our committee since her responsibilities have doubled, perhaps even tripled, since COVID-19. We’re so thankful for all the new ideas and enthusiasm she brought to Christian Ed over the last few years! *Thanks, Jessica!!!!!!* 😊

I began to think of my time in Christian Ed - 19 years! I’ll admit that I’m a tad worn out and no longer have the desire and energy to start up another new program at St. Paul’s, so I will also be resigning from Christian Education. It seems like the perfect time to bow out and let some new people step up and share their vision for Christian Education at St. Paul’s.

Christian Education for youth will experience a hiatus until we see what the new year brings with COVID restrictions. A small group will still clean and paint the two rooms so that they will be ready to go when a new program starts.

**In order to continue and move forward, Christian Education NEEDS new teachers and leaders!**

Over the next few months, we are asking everyone to consider how important a Sunday school program will be at St. Paul’s. Do you have a desire to start something new? Do you know someone who would be perfect to run the program? Think about it, pray about it, and see if you have a calling to lead our youth. You will have plenty of support but will be encouraged to add your own touch; there is no need to do things as they have been done previously.

Please feel free to contact Pastor Mike, Doug Travor, or me to discuss the position and have your thoughts and questions answered.

This ONLY applies to our youth programs. The Adult Forum has a faithful following and will continue as usual.

Thank you so much for always supporting our various youth activities over the years!!

Sincerely,  
Deb Bolinsky  
Christian Education Chairperson  
*[This letter first appeared in our October Newsletter.]*

## HAVE A MEMORY OR STORY TO SHARE?

The STiC group has not been able to find a meeting day (and time) that suits everyone. For now, group members are exchanging ideas and plans via email. With the recent rise in reported COVID-19 cases, we are being very careful.

We would like to open our email group up to *everyone*, so that even if you are not officially signed up for the group, you can still share your stories and memories.

Think back to your earliest favorite memory from time spent out of doors, and, in a few words, share it with us. Email your story or thoughts to Sue Reier at [kidsingaround@comcast.net](mailto:kidsingaround@comcast.net). We hope to have a storytelling event sometime in the future after we pass the “all clear” signal.

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Amy Lafko, Cody Berger, Ron Umphrey
- 5 Mikayla Torola, Josh Grove, Hadley Bolinsky, Julie Kaiser
- 6 Mike Zimmerman, Aidan Medica
- 7 Jeffry Ritschel II, Gary Koch, Cole Swick
- 10 Martin Stine, Kay Weidensaul
- 11 Daniel Riotto, Alexander Lotis
- 12 Tracey Kemp, Katie Stramara
- 13 Faye Baranowsky, Pr. Lee Diefenderfer, Janet Geist
- 15 Melanie Seigfried
- 17 John Riegel III, Paul Lysek, Victoria Wagner
- 18 Heidi Glenn
- 20 Nicole Campbell, Jim Emerich, Diane Miller
- 21 Mika Torola
- 23 Alex Sklar
- 25 Margaret Bair
- 27 Sandra Zendrosky, David Aregood
- 28 Kevin Long
- 29 Jeremy Miller, Bryan Ludwig, Susan Wimbrow, Laura Wimbrow

## NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 6 Wayne & Carol Lutsey
- 7 Dom & Janet Just, Michael & Cherie Zimmerman
- 11 Bill & Nancy Tihansky
- 14 Mike & Glenda Bright
- 15 Ed & Amanda Sincavage
- 20 Bill & Vickie Folk
- 22 Allen & Carol Mickalonis
- 23 Frank & Diane Madeira

## CATECHISM CLASSES

Students who are in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade (or older), who have not been confirmed (that is, completed a catechetical program and publicly affirmed their faith), are invited to take part in this year's Catechism program. Classes will not exceed one hour per session and will be scheduled at a time convenient for all who participate.

Please contact Pastor Mike or leave a message at his office telephone: 570-366-2316 Ext. #11 if you are interested.

## NOVEMBER FLOWER SPONSORS

### November 1

Altar: In memory of my mother, Margaret B. Piacine, by Danielle Richards.

Chancel: In honor of our 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, November 4, by Jason and Jessica Swick.

### November 8

Altar: In memory of Wrone and Rose Peifley by Tina Butler.

Chancel: In loving memory of Ruth Wehr, Tom's mother, by Tom and Gwen Wehr.

### November 15

Altar: In honor of Elaine Kamp by Tina and Scott Butler.

Chancel: In honor of my husband, Jim, by Joanne Emerich.

### November 22

Altar: In loving memory of Leighton and Ruth Wehr by Tom and Gwen Wehr.

Chancel: In memory of my parents, Margaret and Francis Piacine, by Danielle Richards.

### November 29

Altar: In honor of my son, Dr. Kevin Long, by Christine Long.

Chancel: OPEN

## NOVEMBER BULLETIN SPONSORS

### November 1

In honor of the 5<sup>th</sup> birthday of our granddaughter, Charleigh Grace, by Darin and Crystal Brensinger.

### November 8

In memory of Juan R. Mato by the Lafko family.

### November 15 - OPEN

### November 22

In memory of Mr. and Mrs. William Lafko by the Lafko family.

### November 29 - OPEN

## SAFE IN GOD'S CARE AND KEEPING!

Our sympathy and prayers go out to the friends and family of the late Gervais R. (George) Murphy of Orwigsburg, PA, who left this world on Monday, September 28, 2020.

Our sympathy and prayers also go out to the friends and family of the late William C. (Bill) Smith of Schuylkill Haven, PA., who passed from this life on Tuesday, September 29, 2020.

Let us take comfort in St. Paul's letter to the church at Rome, in which he wrote,

*"We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's." (Romans 14:7-8)*

Not even death can separate us from God and his abiding love!

## WE ARE TAKING ORDERS FOR POINSETTIAS

It's time to order poinsettias! Happily, our price remains at \$8.00 per plant. Please choose between red and white and fill out the form found on Page 9 of this newsletter.

Poinsettia orders and money must be received by Sunday, December 6, 2020!



## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES AFFECTED BY COVID-19

St. Paul's will hold in-person Christmas Eve services at 5:00 PM, 9:00 PM, and 11:00 PM on Thursday, December 24, 2020. Christmas Carols, Candle lighting, and the distribution of Holy Communion will be featured at each service. COVID-19 precautions (the wearing of facemasks, socially distanced designated seating, hand sanitizing, etc.) will continue to be observed.

Because of the continued threat of COVID-19, the maximum seating at all our Christmas Eve services will be limited to 75 people. This reduction in capacity is due to limited socially distanced designated seating. Unfortunately, this change may affect many families with children who have attended our 5:00 PM Christmas Eve service in previous years.

In order to avoid turning anyone away from worship on Christmas Eve, and, after much discussion, it was decided that all who plan to attend worship on Christmas Eve should call the church office in advance to reserve a place for themselves and their families.

Accordingly, if you (and your family) plan to attend one of our Christmas Eve services, you should call our church office at 570-366-2316 (Ext. 10) at your earliest convenience.

If you call our church office and it is closed, please leave a message on our answering machine. Speak slowly and clearly, identify yourself, give your phone number, indicate what service you (and your family) plan to attend, and how many seats you would like to reserve. Your reservation will be confirmed by Juli shortly thereafter.

The deadline to reserve a seat for our Christmas Eve worship services is Sunday, December 20, 2020.

**IF YOU PLAN TO WORSHIP ON  
CHRISTMAS EVE, PLEASE CALL OUR  
CHURCH OFFICE – SOON!**

# NOVEMBER 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 All Saints' Sunday Worship w/ Holy Communion 8 & 10:30 AM	2	3	4 Bell Choir 6 PM  Men of St. Paul's 7:05 PM	5 Adult Forum via ZOOM 7 PM	6	7 Worship w/ Holy Communion 5:30 PM
8 Worship 8 & 10:30 AM	9	10 Service Ministry 6 PM  <i>Birthday of Martin Luther 1483</i>	11 VETERANS' DAY  Bell Choir 6 PM	12 Adult Forum via ZOOM 7 PM	13	14 Drive-by Soup & Chili Sale "On the Square" 9 AM  Worship 5:30 PM
15 Worship 8 & 10:30 AM	16 Worship & Music 6 PM	17 Council 7 PM	18 Bell Choir 6 PM	19 Adult Forum via ZOOM 7 PM	20	21 Worship 5:30 PM
22 Worship 8 & 10:30 AM	23	24	25	26 THANKSGIVING DAY	27	28 Worship 5:30 PM
29 Worship 8 & 10:30 AM	30					

**Reverend Michael T. Petresky 570-366-2316 - Ext 11 [pastormike@stpauls-orwigsburg.org](mailto:pastormike@stpauls-orwigsburg.org)**

**Justin McClure, Organist/Choir Director 570-573-4076 [justin@stpauls-orwigsburg.org](mailto:justin@stpauls-orwigsburg.org)**

**Juli Schenck, Office Support Staff 570-366-2316 [office@stpauls-orwigsburg.org](mailto:office@stpauls-orwigsburg.org)**

**Carl Heintzelman, Sexton 484-408-5152**

**Karen Travor, Treasurer 570-366-8757 [karen@stpauls-orwigsburg.org](mailto:karen@stpauls-orwigsburg.org)**

**Wayne Lutsey, Financial Secretary 570-366-8766**

**Jessica Swick, Social Media Manager 936-648-6809 [jessica@stpauls-orwigsburg.org](mailto:jessica@stpauls-orwigsburg.org)**

## A SPECIAL WORD OF THANKS

Thanks to everyone for your patience, generosity, kindness, and prayers during this difficult year. Your regular offerings and special gifts have allowed us to continue our ministry and mission in the name of Jesus Christ. Your willingness to observe our COVID-19 precautions has allowed us to safely return to regularly scheduled in-person worship. Your patience and prayers continue to bless all of us as we move forward in faith from one day to the next. May God abundantly bless you and yours!

Pastor Mike and your Church Council

# NOVEMBER 2020 ~ SERVICE SCHEDULE

## SUNDAY ~ 8:00 AM

	<u>NOVEMBER 1</u>	<u>NOVEMBER 8</u>	<u>NOVEMBER 15</u>	<u>NOVEMBER 22</u>	<u>NOVEMBER 29</u>
<b>LECTOR</b>	Deb Moyer	Ruth Ann Withers	Kay Weidensaul	Justin McClure	Gail Rarick
<b>COMMUNION ASSISTANT</b>	TBA	None	None	None	None

## SUNDAY ~ 10:30 AM

	<u>NOVEMBER 1</u>	<u>NOVEMBER 8</u>	<u>NOVEMBER 15</u>	<u>NOVEMBER 22</u>	<u>NOVEMBER 29</u>
<b>LECTOR</b>	Cindy Ritschel	Tina Butler	Doug Travor	Jessica Swick	Deb Bolinsky
<b>COMMUNION ASSISTANT</b>	Jeff Ritschel	None	None	None	None
<b>USHERS</b>	Jim Spotts	Sue Petresky	Cindy Sklar	Jerry Goessel	Chris Long
<b>GREETER</b>	Greg Sklar	Cindy Ritschel	Cindy Ritschel	Cindy Ritschel	Cindy Ritschel
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Kathy Miller & Connie Teter	JoAnne Emerich & Gwen Wehr	JoAnne Emerich & Gwen Wehr	Barb Lafko & Beth Post	Barb Lafko & Beth Post
<b>COUNTERS</b>	Gwen Wehr Tom Wehr Glenda Bright	Rosalie Wingle Marlene Eidam Diane Brobst	Joyce O'Rourke Pat Davis Gloria Dierwechter	Connie Teter Joanne Emerich Barb Sterner	Connie Teter Barb Sterner Glenda Bright

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### WE GIVE THANKS FOR ALL THE SAINTS

### SYNOD ASSEMBLY CONCLUDES: A NEW BISHOP IS ELECTED

On Saturday, October 31, and Sunday, November 1, 2020, the Church will give thanks to God as we honor all of God's saints: the "great cloud of witnesses" who have gone into their heavenly reward, as well as all the men and women who trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and continue their pilgrimage on earth.

The Reverend Christopher deForest was elected to serve as the new Bishop of the Northeastern PA Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America during the recent online Synod Assembly. He is presently serving Trinity Lutheran Church in Kutztown, PA.

During our services on these dates, we will especially remember members and friends of our congregations, as well as family, neighbors, co-workers, and loved ones who have left this world since our last All Saints' Day.

Reverend deForest will be installed as bishop on December 5, 2020 by Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. His six-year term as bishop of our synod will begin on January 1, 2021.

Let us give thanks for all of God's saints. May God protect our family, friends, and loved ones and keep all in His tender care until we meet again!

We celebrate our new bishop-elect and pray that he and his staff will be a blessing to all the congregations, ministries, and members of the Northeastern PA Synod.

We also give thanks for our outgoing bishop, the Reverend Dr. Samuel Zeiser, for all his faithful service and good work, and especially for his leadership during this year of the pandemic.



# POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Poinsettias for Christmas Eve will again be ordered from  
Blue Mountain Farms in New Ringgold, PA.  
The cost of an 8+ bloom plant is \$8.00.

Please indicate red or white blooms and to whom you wish to dedicate.  
If you choose not to dedicate the plants, you will be listed as a sponsor.

**THE DEADLINE TO ORDER POINSETTIAS IS DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>**

Please complete this form  
and return it with payment to the plate in the Gathering Room.

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YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ red poinsettia(s),

I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ white poinsettia(s),

at \$8.00 each. I wish to dedicate my flowers(s) "in honor/memory of."  
(Please circle one for the lines you complete below.)

Honor/Memory: \_\_\_\_\_

Honor/Memory: \_\_\_\_\_

Honor/Memory: \_\_\_\_\_

Honor/Memory: \_\_\_\_\_

Honor/Memory: \_\_\_\_\_

Honor/Memory: \_\_\_\_\_

Total # of Poinsettias: \_\_\_\_\_ Total amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**NOVEMBER 2020**

**ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
P.O. BOX 156  
ORWIGSBURG, PA 17961**

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Pottsville, PA  
17901

PERMIT NO. 52

**Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>: General Election - VOTE!**

**Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>: Veterans' Day**

**Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>: Men of St. Paul's host a "Drive-by" Chili & Soup Sale  
"On the Square" in Orwigsburg at 9 AM**

**Thursday, November 26<sup>th</sup>: Thanksgiving Day (USA)**

**Visit our website: [www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org](http://www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org)**

**Find us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/StPaulsOrwigsburg](https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsOrwigsburg)**