

St. Paul's News

October 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

HOW LUTHERANISM BEGAN

Martin Luther sparked the Protestant Reformation on October 31, 1517 by posting The Ninety-Five Theses on the door at Wittenberg Church. The theses criticized the Catholic Church and the papacy, mostly on the selling of indulgences and the authority of the Pope.

In June 1520, Pope Leo X issued the Papal bull Exsurge Domine ("Arise, O Lord"), in which he discussed forty-one alleged errors in the Ninety-Five Theses, as well as other writings by Luther. Luther was then summoned by Emperor Charles V of the Holy Roman Empire, to be tried in the Diet of Worms.

Luther was instructed to renounce or reaffirm his views. Luther affirmed his views and refused to recant, saying,

"Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason (for I do not trust either in the pope or in councils alone, since it is well known that they have often erred and contradicted themselves), I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. May God help me. Amen."

Before the verdict was reached, Luther fled to Wartburg Castle, where he stayed in seclusion for several years. Emperor Charles V did indeed have Martin Luther declared a heretic, but it was too late. The populace began embracing Lutheranism, and Protestantism became a major group of religions in Europe.

From <http://proudlutheran.weebly.com/500-years-of-the-reformation.html>

CLICK. LIKE. SHARE.

Social Media Ministry Monthly News
Jessica Swick
936-648-6809 (cell)
jessica@stpauls-orwigsburg.org

Our Social Media committee will host our annual Blessing of the Animals & St. Francis of Assisi Sunday worship service at the pavilion at Albright's Woods Pavilion on Sunday, October 4 at 4 PM. All friendly and leashed or crated animals are welcome to attend this fun lively outdoor event! Arrive 10 minutes early and stay after the blessings for a photo op at our pet selfie station and visit with other pet owners and their fur babies.

Our youth are hosting a collection for the Hillside & Ruth Steinert Memorial SPCAs at this event. Donation suggestions include: canned dog and cat food, treats, cat litter, cleaning supplies, old blankets, towels, sheets, new or used collars, leashes, and food bowls. There will be a collection bin at this event.

Have a great month and remember to
CLICK. LIKE. AND SHARE!

CHANGE OF OFFICE HOURS

On Monday, September 21, 2020, our church office hours changed from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM to 9:00 AM to 12 Noon. Pastor Mike also designated Friday as his official day off, and so he will not be in his office on Friday mornings.

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 go on a hiatus until we see what the new year brings with COVID restrictions. A small group will still clean and paint the 2 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 would 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

ONLINE WORSHIP VIDEOS

Please continue to watch our online worship videos. These videos will be available by Saturday morning each week.

Before you watch, make sure the volume on your device (computer, smart phone, or tablet) is turned up for the best audio experience.

To access an online worship video:

- Go to our website: www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org
- From the Sermons, Bulletins & Newsletters tab, click on Sermons & Weekly Bulletins.
- The most current video available will be at the top of the list.
- Click View to watch the pre-recorded video.
- You can also go to YouTube directly and search for "St. Paul's Lutheran Church Orwigsburg, PA."

WELCA WELCOMES RESILIENCE

WELCA members met at Albright`s Woods, while socially distancing, on Tuesday, September 8 to share the sisterhood and fellowship of a bright fall afternoon. The meeting focused on Resilience, the ability to bounce back during (and after) trying times.

Over \$130 was collected for the Orwigsburg Food pantry through the In-gathering offering. Additionally, members colored uplifting post cards to be mailed to the essential workers at Orwigsburg Manor. A group discussion followed, which focused on the specific, positive ways each woman has met the challenges of the pandemic, and a list of strategies was prepared. In the next week weeks, posted in the narthex, we share written strategies and maybe you can draw inspiration from them!

COVID-19 will not keep this ambitious group down. We are focused on three activities to support our community, church, and others. Please join us over the next few months as we reach out in hope and love to our town, our church, and our world.

First, we will continue to support Seafarers International, a mission of the ELCA, by donating warm watch caps and scarves to the seafarers who deliver life sustaining products and goods to us. Look for the donation box in the narthex. Donations will be received through November.

Second, we are supporting Mikaylee`s Hope, a local non-profit organization, focused on supporting grieving parents who have suffered lost because of a stillbirth or miscarriage. WELCA donated \$100 toward the purchase of a CuddleCot, a unit which allows grieving parents to spend more time with their little one before burial.

How can you help Mikaylee`s Hope? Volunteers are needed to make 12x12 or 18x18 soft material blankets (can be knitted or crocheted). These blankets are placed in a memory package for the parents; it also includes a handwritten sympathy card, a baby cap, and a certificate of life. We will collect these blankets over the next several months. Please look for the donation box in the narthex and add a small baby blanket of your own creation.

Third, we are asking all interested women to join in a project sponsored by national WELCA. Consider writing a “Dear friend in Christ, “letter. Look for details of how to participate in this newsletter.

Finally, join us outside, weather permitting, at Albright`s Woods on Tuesday, October 13 at 1:00 PM. We plan to meet and focus on what comes with resilience: Hope! If the weather is unfavorable, we will meet in the nave of the church with social distancing. In-gathering offering collected will benefit Access/ Rainbow Friends, a support group for developmentally challenged individuals.

We will not allow the pandemic to impede the kindness and generosity of WELCA. We are determined to move forward with the love of Christ as our inspiration.

HARVEST HOME

Thank you to everyone who contributed non-perishable food items to our recent “Harvest Home” outreach. Your generosity will bless the many families who depend on our Food Pantry just to survive.

Please continue to keep our hungry neighbors in your prayers and support our Food Pantry in your giving. Donations of non-perishable food items, gift cards, and monetary donations will be forwarded to the Orwigsburg Food Pantry as they are received.

CATECHISM CLASSES

Students who are in the 8th 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 to all who participate.

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

“GOD’S WORK. OUR HANDS.”

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you to ALL who helped make our support of frontline workers such a joy. It will be important and valuable for us to evaluate the efficacy of this effort by hearing back from our recipients, and by taking an honest, thorough look at what we did...and didn't do. There are other frontline workers we could add to the list, such as postal workers. The families of any of these workers stand by them in ways we may not even realize. A short example is the Coast Guard in hurricane season...they are out rescuing citizens, and sometimes the power goes out, and there are no generators for the base-housed families (who are without a parent who is out helping others). Imagine the sweltering conditions in the south with young children and pets! While those conditions do not normally exist in our region, maybe that thought will help lead us in our understanding of underlying factors and planning towards next year's project. As of now, we can't predict what form that service may take; we *might* be able to bring back the health fair, we *might* through prayerful collaboration, feel led to explore other alternatives as needs in our community arise. As we are all children of God and therefore all essential, let us use our eyes and ears and hearts to think *forward* starting *now* to share those ideas with each other as we feel called! Please email Sue Reier with your concerns, reviews of this year's project, and ideas for the future at kidsingaround@comcast.net.

ADULT FORUM

Our study of the apostle Paul using “The Call” by Adam Hamilton continues. We meet via ZOOM at 7 PM on Thursday evenings. Zoom meeting information is sent to participants via e-mail each week.

If you would like to participate, please contact the office, call Barbara Lafko at 570-366-1208, or send an email to bjlafko@yahoo.com.

JOIN IN WELCA’S “DEAR FRIEND IN CHRIST”

Want to sustain our community that is a hallmark of the ELCA? Then, join in “Dear Friend in Christ,” a unique letter–exchange project.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Handwrite (or type) a 1 to 2-page letter using the “Dear Friend in Christ” salutation. Please share your thoughts on these 2 questions: How is your faith in Jesus Christ sustaining you during the pandemic? And what words of encouragement can you offer to the person who receives your letter?

You can include a photo, recipe, drawing, or anything that fits into an envelope. Then offer up a prayer for the recipient. You may include your mailing address if you DO NOT wish to remain anonymous. You must print and sign the release form to participate. You can find Release forms on the gathering place table or call Danielle Richards (at 570-366-1165) who will mail one to you.

Finally, mail your letter and signed release form to Dear Friend in Christ, Women of the ELCA 8765 W. Higgins Rd., Chicago, IL 60631. Deadline: OCTOBER 15.

Your letter will be matched, and you will get their letter and they will get yours. Staff at ELCA will read all submitted letters first.

We hope you will join your WELCA sisters and participate!

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.

Also, please consider replacing the batteries in your home smoke detectors when you change your clocks. A fresh battery can save your life!

ONLINE GIVING

You can bring your offerings with you when you come to worship, or drop them off at the church during regular office hours, or send a check to the church by 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
- 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 and reaching out to others with the love of Christ!

THANK YOU!

Thanks to everyone for their kindness, generosity, and participation in this year's community outreach to our first line responders: the EMS, the Fire Department, the Police, and the nursing home workers right here in Orwigsburg.

A special thanks to Sue Reier and Tina Butler for their leadership and hard work on this year's "God's Work. Our Hands." project

HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES

The Orwigsburg Halloween parade is scheduled for Wednesday, October 28, with the rain date of October 29. Trick or Treat night will be October 29, but it may be changed. The Lions Club is still awaiting approval for these events.

If the parade is not cancelled, the Evangelism Committee would like to participate. We purchased a banner for the parade last year and could not use it due to delivery error. Evangelism is looking for a volunteer to provide a truck and to drive in the parade.

Please contact Connie Teter at 570-366-0255 or any committee member if you wish to volunteer.

STEWARDSHIP IN CREATION (STiC)

Meetings are beginning again, the first of this "school year" was on September 24. Our goals are these: find a time when interested people can meet, become more familiar with local opportunities to help the environment, and decide how we want to participate. These decisions will probably take several months, and we hope to invite some representatives from area groups (such as watershed and forest stewards) to visit and help us become more informed of what is already established and how we can best become active and involved.

ASSEMBLY 2020 - A NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH TOGETHER

Friday, October 16, Sunday, October 18,
Friday, October 23 & Saturday, October 24

Because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Assembly 2020, including the election of a bishop, will be conducted entirely online. "Visitors" - those who simply wish to watch the proceedings, do not need to register. Please visit our synod website at www.nepasynod.org for more information!

**BULLETIN AND FLOWER
DEDICATIONS
IN THE TIME OF COVID-19**

Again, thank you to everyone for your patience as we rescheduled flowers and bulletins from three and a half months! I know many people were disappointed, and I appreciate your understanding as we changed dates and issued refunds.

Now that we're up to date, I'd like to ask a favor. If you are unable to put a payment in my plate in the Gathering Room, please feel free to mail your check to the church, adding a line to my attention. Pastor Mike and Juli will see that it gets to the plate, and I will see that it gets to the counters and send your information to Wayne.

Here follows a list of open dates for flowers and bulletins. If you would like to dedicate, you can call me at 570-386-2647, email me at frausrs@yahoo.com, or send me a Facebook message. Since we live in a dead zone, texting isn't possible.

Thanking you again for your patience and faithfulness to St. Paul's,
Sue Schenck

Open dates for flowers and bulletins in 2020

Altar flowers: 12/27

Chancel flowers: 10/18, 11/1, 11/15, 11/29,
12/6, 12/20, and 12/27

Bulletins: 11/15, 11/29, and all Sundays in
December.

ALTAR GUILD

- 10/04/20 – Tina Butler and Chris Long
- 10/11/20 – Jean Premich and Joyce O'Rourke
- 10/18/20 – Jean Premich and Joyce O'Rourke
- 10/25/20 – Kathy Miller and Connie Teter

OCTOBER SERVICE SCHEDULE

SUNDAY 8:00 AM SERVICE

- 10/04/20 – Greeter: Amy Dewald
Lector: Ruth Ann Withers
Communion Assistant: TBA
- 10/11/20 – Greeter: Amy Dewald
Lector: Gail Rarick
- 10/18/20 – Greeter: Carl Heintzelman
Lector: Ron Rozansky
- 10/27/20 – Greeter: Carl Heintzelman
Lector: Deb Moyer

SUNDAY 10:30 AM SERVICE

- 10/04/20 – Greeter: Chris Long
Usher: Jerry Goessel
Lector: Bob Schuld II
Communion Assistant: Sue Schenck
- 10/11/20 – Greeter: Greg Sklar
Usher: Barb Sterner
Lector: Doug Travor
- 10/18/20 – Greeter: Greg Sklar
Usher: Linda Auteri
Lector: Julianne Schenck
- 10/25/20 – Greeter: Doug Travor
Usher: Madelyn Knecht
Lector: Jason Swick

OFFERING COUNTERS

- 10/04/20 – Gwen & Tom Wehr and Glenda Bright
- 10/11/20 – Rosalie Wingle, Marlene Eidam, and Diane Brobst
- 10/18/20 – Joyce O'Rourke, Gloria Dierwechter, and Pat Davis
- 10/25/20 – Connie Teter, Joanne Emerich, and Barb Sterner

**KEY TO QUIZ
"HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW
THE FATHER OF THE REFORMATION?
MARTIN LUTHER**

- 1. a, 2. c, 3. b, 4. d, 5. d, 6. b, 7. c, 8. b, 9. d, 10. d

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

1. Linda Auteri
2. Danielle Otstott
4. Christopher Wimbrow, Morgan Miller
5. Mary Ann Cunningham
6. Chase Sincavage, Alyssa Sklar
7. Preston Sincavage, McKenzie Torola
8. Adam Williams
9. Kaitlin Brobst
10. Jaclyn Harris, Amanda Sincavage
13. Carol Mickalonis, Tyler Lotis
14. Jill Weidensaul, Carl Heintzelman
15. Beverly Hein
16. Jeff Sterner, Tom Smith, Cheryl Witman
17. Tristan Foster
19. Elisabeth Hannaway
20. Chuck Trubilla
22. Mary Steinert
23. Emily Kaiser, Justin McClure
24. Carl Rarick, Jonathan Olmes
25. Beth Post, Claudia Fuller
26. Debbie Moyer, Jeffrey Dillman
27. Christine Kaiser
28. Donna Correll, Kathie Frantz
29. Rick Rarick, Rachel Zehner
30. Sophia Seigfried, Dutch Brensinger
31. Christine Marcusky, Joe Medica

SAFE IN GOD'S CARE AND KEEPING!

Our sympathy and prayers also go out to the friends and family of the late Marguerite E. (Yeich) Mortimer, lately of Reading, PA., who left this world on Saturday, September 19, 2020.

Our sympathy and prayers also go out to the friends and family of the late Eva E. Young of Schuylkill Haven, PA., who passed from this life on Sunday, September 20, 2020.

Let us take comfort in the knowledge that all of God's children who have left this life are freed from all earthly pain and suffering and are safe in God's care and keeping!

OCTOBER FLOWER SPONSORS

October 4

Altar Flowers: In honor of Jeff's and Cindy's 45th anniversary, Jeffry's and Amanda's 6th, and Joel's and Cristi's 3rd

Chancel flowers: In honor of Jeff and Cindy Ritschel's sapphire anniversary TODAY by Sue, Kurt, and Juli Schenck.

October 11

Altar flowers: In loving memory of Aubrey "Bubba" Glover by Tom and Gwen Wehr.

Chancel flowers: In honor of our wedding anniversary, 10/11/86, by Barry and Dana Jenkins.

October 18

Altar flowers: In honor of Mary Steinert's birthday by Christine Long and Kevin Long.

Chancel flowers: OPEN

October 25

Altar flowers: In memory of Jack Taylor by Skip and family.

Chancel: In memory of Rachel E. Zehner by Sonny and Connie Teter.

OCTOBER BULLETIN SPONSORS

October 4

In memory of Aubrey and Minnie Glover, parents of Gwen Wehr, by Tom and Gwen Wehr

October 11

In honor of our wedding anniversary, 10/11/86, by Barry and Dana Jenkins

October 18

In memory of Pearl Seigfreid by daughter, Gail Wolfe.

October 25

In honor of our son, Dutch Brensinger, by Darin and Crystal Brensinger.

OCTOBER 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1		1 Adult Forum via Zoom 7:00 PM	2	3 Worship w/ Holy Communion 5:30 PM
4 Worship w/ Holy Communion 8:00 & 10:30 AM Blessing of the Animals at Albright's Woods Pavilion 4:00 PM	5	6 Evangelism 6:00 PM	7 Bell Choir 6:00 PM	8 Adult Forum via Zoom 7:00 PM	9	10 Worship 5:30 PM
11 Worship 8:00 & 10:30 AM	12 Council at 7 PM	13 WELCA at Albright's Woods Pavilion 1:00 PM	14 Bell Choir 6:00PM	15 Adult Forum via Zoom 7:00 PM	16 Synod Assembly via Zoom 6:00 – 9:30 PM	17 Worship 5:30 PM
18 Worship 8:00 & 10:30 AM Synod Assembly via Zoom 2:00 – 4:30 PM	19	20	21 Bell Choir 6:00PM	22 Adult Forum via Zoom 7:00 PM	23 Synod Assembly via Zoom 7:00 – 9:30 PM	24 Synod Assembly via Zoom 9:30 – 11:45 AM & 1:30 – 3:50 PM Worship 5:30 PM
25 REFORMATION SUNDAY Worship 8:00 & 10:30 AM	26	27	28 Bell Choir 6:00PM Halloween Parade in Orwigsburg 7 PM	29 Trick-or-Treat in Orwigsburg 6 PM	30	31 <u>Turn back your clocks one hour tonight!</u>

Reverend Michael T. Petresky 570-366-2316 - Ext 11 pastormike@stpauls-orwigsburg.org
Justin McClure, Organist/Choir Director 570-573-4076 justin@stpauls-orwigsburg.org
Juli Schenck, Office Support Staff 570-366-2316 office@stpauls-orwigsburg.org
Carl Heintzelman, Sexton 484-408-5152
Karen Travor, Treasurer 570-366-8757 karen@stpauls-orwigsburg.org
Wayne Lutsey, Financial Secretary 570-366-8766
Jessica Swick, Social Media Manager 936-648-6809 jessica@stpauls-orwigsburg.org

OCTOBER 2020

**ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
PO BOX 156
ORWIGSBURG, PA 17961**

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

PERMIT NO. 52

The Blessing of the Animals at Albright's Woods Pavilion is set for Sunday, October 4, 2020, at 4:00 PM. Please invite your friends!

Visit our website: www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org

Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/StPaulsOrwigsburg

Call our church office: 570-366-2316