

# St. Paul's News

May 2021

St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
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## REDISCOVER MACEDONIA

A spirit of gratitude and generosity

“We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints—and this, not merely as we expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us, so that we might urge Titus that, as he had already made a beginning, so he should also complete this generous undertaking among you.”

2 Corinthians 8:1-6

The believers in Macedonia were not expected to be generous participants in the collection for Jerusalem. One might have thought that, living in poverty, they would be reluctant to give their meager resources away, especially when they were undergoing affliction. Yet here they were, surprising everyone with their “wealth of generosity” and passion for giving.

Why were the believers in Macedonia so eager to participate in the offering? It was not because of the great need in Jerusalem. It was not because they had an abundance of resources. It was because “They gave themselves first to the Lord.”

Knowing that they were in God's hands, they did not hesitate to commit themselves fully to God's purposes. They made God's priorities their own. They entrusted themselves, and their future, entirely to the Lord.

It has been said that the modern church is only one generation away from oblivion. If we choose to ignore the message of the gospel and the continuing work of the church, and if we take for granted God's generosity to us, and forget God's amazing grace, the church, like so many other once important institutions, may simply fade away.

On the other hand, if we trust in God and God's continuing goodness and mercy, and if we honestly believe in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, and strive to follow in his path, daily living in the light of God's grace, we should not only learn how to daily give, but live a life characterized by generosity. And we should also encourage our family and friends to do likewise.

We give good gifts because we have received (and continue to receive) good gifts in abundance -- from a loving God!

In this newsletter is an ‘Estimate of Giving Form for 2021.’ Please prayerfully consider what you give to the ministry of our congregation and the greater church. Help us to grow in our ability to serve others -- with the love of Christ.

Peace to you and yours!

*Pastor Mike*

## EARTH DAY

On April 22, 2021, America and 150+ countries around the world celebrated the 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Earth Day. 60 some years ago, we in the US were only starting to become aware of the effects of pollution on the environment. After a massive oil spill off the coast of California in 1969, the “modern environmental movement” was in full swing. By the year 1970, Earth Day was founded as a national holiday. Try these tips below to start making a difference today, and “Together, we can Restore Our Earth™.” (earthday.org)

- Rethink how natural resources are precious and limited.
- Recycle plastic, metal, paper, and glass.
- Refuse the use of single-use plastics.
- Reduce energy emission. Turn off and unplug electronics when not in use.
- Repurpose your old stuff!
- Repair and re-use.
- Swap paper towels for a kitchen cloth.
- Switch to reusable shopping bags.
- Conserve paper.
- Save water.

Sincerely, Juli Schenck

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## WE REMEMBER AND GIVE THANKS!

We remember and give thanks to God for all the men and women who served in our nation’s armed forces and gave their lives, so we and those who follow us might enjoy the fruits of liberty and justice for all. Their sacrifice is not forgotten!

**MEMORIAL DAY WILL BE OBSERVED ON  
MONDAY, MAY 31, 2021!**

## STiC

Dear Friends: Some time ago, much earlier in my lifetime, I remember being amused by the quip that God must indeed have an incredible sense of humor: look at the duck-billed platypus...or terrifying, if you take a peek at the angler fish! Well, “amused” is close to “amazed,” and to be amazed by God’s creativity and diversity leads us to greater awe and worship. That’s one reason STiC offers walks and trips: to refresh our amazement (and gratitude).

Our trip to Shenk’s Wildflower Preserve in April was truly full of stunning new blooms in a wide variety of colors and shapes. How masterful is our King of Creation! We wish that everyone could have gone along; but we will continue to offer more and more choices for trips and projects. The more time we spend “in the garden,” the more attached we become, and an actual *passion* overtakes the sense of duty in providing care for the great gifts around us. Upcoming events might include some of the following: The Ned Smith Center, Nolde Forest, Pocono Environmental Education Center, The Cranberry Bog near Tannersville, viewing the hordes of chimney swifts in Bethlehem...and so many more!

Helping to *restore these treasures* when passion is the driving force becomes a joy, so as I write this note close to Earth Day, STiC is asking you to think of the products you use in your home which come in plastic bottles. Not all these get recycled, even with our sorting. As a matter of fact, so many end up in the ocean that they comprise the greatest percentage of what is salvaged through clean-ups. STiC will provide a letter format which you can use to write to the manufacturer requesting the same product in solid form. This is one simple way we can REDUCE. And...we need all of your ideas! Our next meeting is Wednesday, May 5 at 5:00 PM.

En Cristo,  
Sue Reier

## **CLICK. LIKE. SHARE.**

Social Media Ministry Monthly News

Jessica Swick

936-648-6809 (cell)

[jessica@stpauls-orwigsburg.org](mailto:jessica@stpauls-orwigsburg.org)

We tried something new in April for our Easter Sunday Video. We went "LIVE" on Facebook at the 10:30 AM service, and it was a success. For the equipment that we have, the sound was good, and, better yet, the engagement with our online audience was tremendous! Trying this out also made it possible to learn a new way of being connected together through Social Media.

I was able to download the recording and share it to our YouTube Channel and website, too, for those that are not on Facebook. Thank you to all those that tuned in for our first LIVE Worship Service and thank you to Jason Swick for engaging with our online community during the service.

Have a great month and remember to **CLICK, LIKE, and SHARE.**

## **EVANGELISM NEWS**

Church Picnic Scheduled

Please mark your calendars now for our annual church picnic. On Sunday, September 19, 2021, join us in Albright's Woods for some Lutheran fellowship.

## **GWOH 2021?**

"God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday will be observed on September 12 this year. The Evangelism Committee is asking for ideas from all members of our congregation.

Please contact Connie Teter at 570-366-0255, if you have an idea to share!

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Do you know any students who graduated in December 2020 or will graduate in May or June of 2021? Please let us know so that we can celebrate their achievements on our church's Facebook page and our website. Send the name of the graduate, school, degree, and any future plans. Also include a picture that you would like to share.

Please send your info to Jessica Swick through our church Facebook page, email it to [jessica@stpauls-orwigsburg.org](mailto:jessica@stpauls-orwigsburg.org), or text it to her at (936) 648-6809 by Friday, May 28.

We invite all graduates & their families for an in-person celebration at the 9:30 AM service on Sunday, June 6. [Please note that we will be on our Summer hours schedule.]

## **GOLD AWARD**

Hi, St. Paul's! I would like to update you on my Gold Award Project.

Due to the amazing support from the community and our congregation, I was able to pack 35 suitcases for Kids Peace! I also made a video documentary to showcase everything I did for my project. The video is on YouTube and the link is down below.

I can't thank everyone enough for your donations and support! I will be doing a brief presentation on my project at the 8 and 10:30 AM services on Sunday, May 2, 2021. Hope to see you all there!

Here is the link:

<https://youtu.be/28GwEULpgHk>

Sincerely,  
Maddie Swick

## WELCA

### “Springing into Hope”

All women of St. Paul’s are invited to attend the Tuesday, May 11 WELCA meeting at 1 PM. Social distancing and mask wearing will be observed. Due to widespread immunization opportunities and with Council approval, we are optimistic and are scheduling this meeting for the Gathering Room at church. There will be an abbreviated business meeting and a shortened program, but we are delighted that we can resume our gathering with some sense of normalcy. Our May program is entitled “Springing into Hope” presented by Gwen Wehr and Danielle Richards. This title is reflected in our future and on-going activities.

Here are some hopeful items of interest for your perusal.

We are happy to report that our talented sewers created another 35 blankets for presentation to Mikaylee’s Hope. Thank you! This organization helps to replace grief and loss with hope and support.

A reminder, too, that the in-gathering offering is designated for the Orwigsburg Fire company. These volunteers are our neighbors and provide protection for us all.

Our project, “Dear Friend in Christ,” sponsored by the national Women of the ELCA, is in full swing. This is a unique letter-exchange project that connects women in our Lutheran church community. Several women are involved here at our church and have made friends with women in different parts of our country. One letter writer anticipates meeting her “friend in Christ” sometime this summer!

Please join us to celebrate our encouraging return as we spring into a world filled with our hope and Christ’s love!

## COUNCIL NEWS

At the Monday April 12<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, the following three items were identified:

1. As they periodically do, the members of the church's COVID task force recently met to assess our established pandemic protocols. They feel these are working quite well, thus no changes are anticipated at this time.
2. Council affirmed its willingness to consider facility rental requests on a case-by-case basis within the prescribed parameters of the COVID protocols.
3. While the cemetery is a distinct legal entity, church volunteers have overseen its operation for many years with Jim Spotts chairing the very small committee. With dwindling funds, ongoing operating expenses (mowing, insurance, etc.), no additional revenues possible (the cemetery is full), and lots of maintenance needed to fix many toppled/leaning tombstones, Council will be looking into how needed ongoing cemetery funding can be put in place.

Sincerely,

Wayne Lutsey, Council Secretary

## SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE TO BEGIN!

We will return to our in-person summer worship schedule on Sunday, June 6, 2021. Instead of having an 8:00 and 10:30 AM service on Sunday mornings, we will share a single 9:30 AM worship service. Our Saturday worship service will continue at 5:30 PM. Please mark your calendar!

## **ADULT FORUM**

We continue our study of Dietrich Bonhoeffer on Thursday evenings at 7 PM via ZOOM. Please contact Barbara Lafko at [bjlafko@yahoo.com](mailto:bjlafko@yahoo.com) if you are interested.

## **RESTING IN THE PROMISE OF ETERNAL LIFE**

Our sympathy and prayers go out to the friends and family of the late Gary M. Koch of New Ringgold, PA, who left this world on Sunday, March 14, 2021.

Our sympathy and prayers also go out to the friends and family of the late Lauren A. Dow of Breinigsville, who left this world on Friday, April 9, 2021.

Because Christ lives never to die again, we can rest in the promise of new resurrection life for ourselves -- and for those we love!

## **MOTHER'S DAY**

Mother's Day is observed the second Sunday in May. It is a time to honor mothers, grandmothers, and great-grandmothers for their contribution to family and society. This special day is frequently celebrated with gifts, cards, flowers, a special meal out, jewelry, or chocolates and candy. It has become the most commercialized holiday for dining out and jewelry sales.

Mother's Day originated from mainly two women, Julia Ward Howe and Anna Jarvis. Julia Ward sponsored Mother's Day each year in Boston around 1870 to promote pacifism and disarmament with women. It lasted about 10 years. Anna Jarvis organized the first Mother's Day in Grafton, West Virginia at St. Andrew's Methodist Church in 1908. ([www.timeanddate.com](http://www.timeanddate.com))

## **VIRTUAL RACIAL JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION EVENT**

Registration is now open for the "Trouble the Water: Racial Justice & Reconciliation" event which will be held on Saturday, May 22, 2021. This is a completely virtual conference sponsored by the Northeastern PA Synod will host keynote speaker, the Rev. Cecee Mills, and feature the Rev. Marsha Williams, Dr. Helen Davis, and the Rev. Melissa Pohlman. The workshop leader and preacher for the event will be Rev. James Thomas.

This is a day of worship and workshops will help us to better grow in our understanding of racial justice and reconciliation. It is open to all people: pastors, deacons, staff, lay members, non-church people, etc. Some of the topics of the workshops include: a biblical view against racism, white privilege, how congregations can support communities during social unrest, and what implicit bias is all about.

Please register at the Northeastern PA Synod website (<http://nepasynod.org/>) and take part in this important and timely event. A suggested donation for the event is \$25 per person.

## **NOTE OF THANKS**

Dear Members of St. Paul's,

Becky and I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all the members of the congregation who said prayers, sent cards, offered words of condolence, or contributed to the fund for Lauren's children.

It was greatly appreciated to have received the outpouring of support for our daughter and our entire family. May God bless you all.

Sincerely,  
The Herb, Dow, and Horbal Families

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Matthew Auteri, Phil Olmes
- 5 Edith Kriner, Scott Rarick, Steve Zimmerman
- 6 Kate Harkins
- 7 Troy Moyer, Jim Spotts
- 8 Connor Zimmerman
- 9 Michele Lyter, Christopher Mosher
- 10 Alexandria Spitler, B. J. Folk, Greg Sklar
- 11 Terri Keyworth
- 12 Nancy Kaiser, Cheryl Dukmen
- 14 Cherie Zimmerman, Connor Spatz, Jason Swick
- 15 Dan Correll
- 16 Dan Aregood
- 18 Meredith Krewson, Jeffery Rarick, Charles Stramara
- 19 Brayden Shappell
- 20 Patricia Kunkel, Stacey Goessel
- 23 Brian Miller
- 24 Eric Hosler, Rosalie Wingle
- 25 Robert Schuld, Mark Tavor
- 26 Jared Kane
- 27 Lola Rymarkiewicz, Laura Post
- 29 Gloria Dierwechter, Gwen Wehr, Reese Steely
- 30 Jesse Scheipe
- 31 Ed Keyworth, Bobby Schuld, Josh Miller

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## MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 John & Linda Pontician
- 6 Rick & Karen Shoener
- 15 Amber & Jason Eisenacher
- 16 Phil & Priscilla Olmes
- 22 William & Carol Heydt
- 23 Dale & Janet Keener
- 27 Allen & Leslie Dahl



### “WORSHIP WITHOUT WALLS”

Our congregation will hold outdoor Sunday worship services at Albright’s Woods Pavilion each month during the summer. Please join us for “Worship without Walls” at 9:30 A.M. on Sundays, June 20, July 18, and August 15, 2021.

## MAY FLOWERS

### MAY 2

Altar: OPEN

Chancel: In memory of Guy and Frances Lengel by James Lengel and family.

### MAY 9

Altar: In honor of Alexandria Spitler by her parents, Tina and Scott Butler.

Chancel: OPEN

### MAY 16

Altar: OPEN

Chancel: OPEN

### MAY 23

Altar: OPEN

Chancel: In honor of all veterans by Stu and Danielle Richards.

### MAY 30

Altar: OPEN

Chancel: In memory of Wm. R. and Lottie Lengel, my grandparents, by James Lengel and family.

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## MAY BULLETINS

### MAY 2:

In honor of Nathaniel D. Dixon, grandson, by grandparents, Stu and Danielle Richards.

MAY 9: OPEN

MAY 16: OPEN

MAY 23: OPEN

MAY 30: OPEN

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## TRINITARIAN BANNER

We will celebrate Trinity Sunday on May 30, 2021. Please take a moment to study our banner; reading from the center out the Latin means "God is the Father, is the Son, is the Holy Spirit." The additional lettering is presented in memory of Clark "Duke" Schenck, Ralph and Muriel Reibie, and Ron "Buck" Reibie by Sue, Kurt, and Juli Schenck.

# MAY 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Worship with Holy Communion 5:30 PM
2 Worship with Holy Communion 8 & 10:30 AM	3	4 Evangelism 6:00 PM	5 STiC 5:00 PM	6 <b>NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER</b>  Evangelism hosts OBPA 4:30 PM  Adult forum via ZOOM 7:00 PM	7 STiC Sojourn in Auburn, PA 1:30 PM	8 Worship 5:30 PM
9 <b>MOTHER'S DAY</b>  Worship 8 & 10:30 AM  Deadline for flower orders!	10 Council at 7:00 PM	11 WELCA 1:00 PM	12	13 Adult forum via ZOOM 7:00 PM	14 STiC Sojourn in Tumbling Run, PA 1:30 PM	15 Worship 5:30 PM
16 <b>ASCENSION OF OUR LORD OBSERVED</b>  Worship 8 & 10:30 AM	17 Worship & Music 6:00 PM	18	19	20 Adult forum via ZOOM 7:00 PM	21 STiC Sojourn in Landingville, PA 1:30 PM	22 Worship with Holy Communion 5:30 PM
23 <b>DAY OF PENTECOST</b>  Worship with Holy Communion 8 & 10:30 AM	24	25	26	27 Adult forum via ZOOM 7:00 PM	28 STiC Sojourn in Auburn, PA 1:30 PM	29 Worship 5:30 PM
30 <b>THE HOLY TRINITY</b>  Worship 8 & 10:30 AM	31 <b>MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVED</b>					

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

# MAY 2020 ~ SERVICE SCHEDULE

## SUNDAY 8:00 AM

	<u>MAY 2</u>	<u>MAY 9</u>	<u>MAY 16</u>	<u>MAY 23</u>	<u>MAY 30</u>
LECTOR	Amy Dewald	Patrick McCoy	Ron Rozansky	Deb Moyer	Kay Weidensaul
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	TBA	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE
GREETER	Ron Rozansky	Ron Rozansky	Ron Rozansky	Ron Rozansky	Ron Rozansky

## SUNDAY 10:30 AM

	<u>MAY 2</u>	<u>MAY 9</u>	<u>MAY 16</u>	<u>MAY 23</u>	<u>MAY 30</u>
LECTOR	Sue Reier	Sarah Eger	Ruth Ann Withers	Jim Spotts	Wayne Lutsey
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Sue Schenck	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE
USHER(S)	Glenda Bright	Deb Bolinsky	Sue Petresky	Joanne Emerich	Madelyn Knecht Gwen Wehr
GREETER	Cindy Ritschel	Cindy Ritschel	Cindy Ritschel	Cindy Ritschel	Cindy Ritschel
ALTAR GUILD	Glenda Bright Gloria Dierwechter	Tina Butler Chris Long	Tina Butler Chris Long	Joyce O'Rourke Jean Premich	Joyce O'Rourke Jean Premich
COUNTERS	Gwen Wehr Tom Wehr Glenda Bright	Rosalie Wingle Marlene Eidam Diane Brobst	Joyce O'Rourke Pat Davis Gloria Dierwechter	Connie Teter Barb Sterner Joanne Emerich	Connie Teter Barb Sterner Glenda Bright

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## ESTIMATE OF GIVING FORM 2021

\_\_\_\_\_ **Option one:** I/we/our family prayerfully estimate(s) our giving to be:

\$\_\_\_\_\_ for St. Paul's Current Expenses.

\$\_\_\_\_\_ for the greater church through Mission Support (Benevolence).

\$\_\_\_\_\_ for special ministry or needs (list here) \_\_\_\_\_.

I/we/our family will contribute:

\_\_\_\_\_ weekly \_\_\_\_\_ monthly \_\_\_\_\_ quarterly \_\_\_\_\_ as we are able.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Option two:** I/we/our family will continue to give to St. Paul's as we are able, however we cannot estimate what our giving will be at this time.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please deposit this form in the offering plate or mail it to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Planned Giving Program, P.O. Box 156, Orwigsburg, PA. 17961 by Monday, May 31, 2021.



**MAY 2021**

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

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
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17901

PERMIT NO. 52

**REMEMBER**

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