

St. Paul's News

July 2021

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 156, 215 North Warren Street
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GOOD NEWS

Changes to our current COVID-19 Guidelines were approved by our Council on Monday, June 14, 2021. They will become effective on Saturday, July 3, 2021:

1. No one will be required to wear a mask, sanitize his (or her) hands, or maintain social distance while in our church building. However, anyone who enters our church may voluntarily choose to do one or more of these things while he (or she) is in the building for reasons of health and safety.

2. All hymns and sung responses, which are part of our worship service, will continue to be printed in the bulletin. Hymnals will not be returned to the pews.

3. Pews in the nave and tables and chairs in the gathering place will be cleaned and sanitized as may be needed.

4. The Chancel and the Handbell Choirs may gather to rehearse and may perform during worship as they have done in the past.

5. The Sacrament of Holy Communion will again be shared at each service every Sunday, as well as on the first Saturday of each month.

6. Our Offering Plates will continue to remain in the back of the center aisle at the beginning of each worship service. They will not be passed through the congregation during our worship service.

7. Our COVID 19 Task Force will continue to advise our Pastor and our Council on any matter which may affect the health and safety of our congregation and our community.

8. Baptisms, weddings, funerals, and any other activities or events previously held in our church building may return. Community activities and events previously hosted by groups in our congregation may be scheduled.

9. We encourage everyone to become fully vaccinated as soon as possible, but we pledge to love, honor, and respect everyone regardless of vaccination status. All questions regarding the safety and effectiveness of any COVID-19 vaccine should be shared with one's family doctor or healthcare provider.

Unfortunately, COVID-19 is not gone, and this global pandemic is still far from over.

Please be thoughtful and considerate when you interact with other people inside or outside our church building.

Peace, hope, love, and joy!
Pastor Mike

CONGRATS, GRADUATES!

Hadley Bolinsky, a Blue Mountain High School graduate of 2017, just completed four more years of education at West Virginia University. Upon graduating from WVU with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering, Hadley has accepted a position as a structural engineer with McTish, Kunkel, and Associates in Allentown, PA.

Also a 2017 BMHS alumna, Madison Travor spent the last four years studying at Penn State University, Eberly College of Science. There, she majored in Biology, minored in Music Performance, and received her Bachelor of Science degree. Maddie will now attend Penn State College of Medicine's Physician Assistant Program as a member of the Class of 2023.

Grayson Dewald graduated as President of the Blue Mountain High School class of 2021. In the fall, he plans to attend The Citadel: The Military College of South Carolina.

Austin Heydt is also a member of the 2021 graduating class at Blue Mountain. He will remain in Pennsylvania and attend Shippensburg University where he plans to major in accounting.

Congratulations, graduates! We send our prayers and best wishes for success with you as you begin a new chapter in your life!

“WORSHIP WITHOUT WALLS”

Our congregation will continue to 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 AM on Sundays, July 18 and August 15, 2021. Holy Communion will be shared at those services. Come and bring your friends!

“GOD’S WORK. OUR HANDS”

The Evangelism Committee will place a box in the narthex during the month of August to collect items that will be donated to Opportunity House on September 12 at the 10:30 AM service. This is our “God’s Work. Our Hands” project for 2021.

The Opportunity House supports services for Veterans and their families. Their office is located in Pottsville and the case manager is our very own St. Paul’s member, Victoria Spitler. You can visit their website: www.opphouse.org.

Below is a list of items which will help the homeless (or the at-risk-of-becoming-homeless) veterans in our area. Please consider donating the following:

- basic household items
- shampoo and conditioner
- body soap
- hand sanitizer
- deodorant
- hand lotion
- feminine hygiene products
- toothbrushes and toothpaste
- razors
- new or lightly used blankets and towels.

Thank you in advance from the Opportunity House for giving back to the community!

ADULT FORUM

We will continue our summer schedule and meet via Zoom on the first Thursday of each month. Our topic on July 1 is “What Do You Hear?” On August 5 our topic is “What Do You See?” Please note that there is no meeting on September 2. We return to our regular weekly meeting schedule on September 9.

STiC PRESENTS...

...our second fellowship event following worship at Albright's Woods Pavilion, Sunday, July 18! As Jesus retreated from the crowds to seek solace, we will focus on all things *trees and woods*. Bring the whole family and a bag lunch.

Activities will be chosen from among:

- Planting an acorn/restoring our natives
- Taking a walk and finding a place of solace
- Singing "The Ash Grove"
- A favorite treat from a tree
- A tree quotation from Martin Luther
- And...a challenge, along with some surprises!

Our July STiC meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 14 at 5 PM.

Walks on the Schuylkill River Trail will begin at 9:30 AM unless otherwise noted:

- 7/2 Tumbling Run
- 7/9 Landingville
- 7/16 Auburn
- 7/23 Tumbling Run
- 7/30 Tumbling Run Reservoir Loop
(not on SRT)

TRIP:

We're going to try an excursion to a church supported park in Lancaster on Tuesday, July 20. Details to be announced.

WELCA

Ten women from our church enjoyed shared fellowship at Stoyer's Dam in Schuylkill Haven, PA. on Tuesday, June 15th. Our next fellowship event will be in September. We will then accept In-Gathering offerings designated for the Marcincin family.

COUNCIL NOTES

At the June 14th Council meeting, discussion topics included:

> Wyomissing-based Weik Capital Management representatives were on-site for its annual in-person review of our two endowment funds. Both funds have experienced strong growth and are up over 17% since the onset of the pandemic in Spring 2020. Council preliminarily discussed:

- reviewing each fund's specific investments to ensure that they align with our Christian values, i.e., ideally no exposure to the alcohol, tobacco, or firearms industries.

- considering the merits of deploying a modest percentage of the funds' principal balances (Weik suggested that up to 4% could be conservatively used annually without impairing the funds) to financially support the Christian mission of the congregation.

> Pastor outlined several suggested changes to our existing Covid protocols to be effective as of Saturday July 3rd, given the termination of state-imposed restrictions as of June 28th amidst improving pandemic circumstances. As proposed, we would by and large return to our 'normal' pre-Covid worship service routines. Council was supportive of the proposed changes.

> The deadline for members to return their Giving Estimate forms was May-end. Unfortunately, only 20 completed forms were received to date thus clouding our ability to gauge anticipated member giving levels for future budget and expense control purposes.

SOCIAL MEDIA MINISTRY

Dates to Remember

The “Blessing of the Backpacks & Connect” Event will be held on Sunday, August 22, 2021, at 9:30 AM. Teachers, students, and school staff are welcome! Please bring bookbags, devices, etc. to be blessed for hopes of a wonderful 2021-22 academic year!

Our annual “Blessing of the Animals/St. Francis” Sunday will be held at 4 PM on October 3, 2021. Bring your pet(s), no matter how big or small, to be blessed by Pastor Mike.

DO NOT LET YOUR HEARTS BE TROUBLED...

Our sympathy and prayers go out to the friends and family of the late Lou Ann “Skip” Taylor of Orwigsburg, PA, who passed away on Monday, May 25, 2021.

Our sympathy and prayers also go out to the friends and family of the late Dale J. Strouse of Orwigsburg, PA, who passed away on Wednesday, June 16, 2021.

Our sympathy and prayers go out as well to the friends and family of the late Brian Miller of Orwigsburg, PA, who passed away on Wednesday, June 23, 2021.

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.” - John 14:1-3

ONLINE GIVING

The mission and ministry of St. Paul’s continues amid the coronavirus pandemic. You can still support St. Paul’s by sending your offerings to the church by check through the US Mail OR 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 share the Gospel and reach out to others with the love of Christ!

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Our office hours are now Tuesday through Friday, 9 AM – NOON. Counters may still work in the Gathering Room on Monday mornings.

2021 – NEPA SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Growing Young and Vital was the theme for the 34th. annual synod assembly held June 4-5, 2021 via ZOOM. Throughout the two days, the “*Growing Young and Vital*” initiative was explained with presentations by Pastor Lauren Applegate and Pastor Jennifer Hall. *Growing Young* has six core characteristics in our Jesus centered community: best neighbors, key chain leadership, empathy today, Jesus’ message, warm relationships, and prioritize everywhere. *Growing Young* is a movement across the nation and across denominations.

NEPA Bishop deForest gave his report to the assembly which includes his goals and plans for his term. Under the guidance of Pastor Mike Bennethal (Director of Evangelical Mission), action groups will be formed. Bishop deForest will begin Monday meetings in July with pastors and deacons. Bishop deForest will also hold group meetings with retired pastors and pastors providing interim ministry. Bishop deForest will initiate the search team to replace Sami Kelly (Youth Ministries).

Bishop deForest thanked the entire membership of the NEPA synod for continuing to move forward during COVID. Many congregations found new ways to stay connected during these times. Bishop deForest’s words for us are to be GOD-RELIANT, CHRIST-CENTERED, and SPIRIT-LED.

In keeping with the assembly theme *Growing Young and Vital*, Bishop deForest said the three “vital sign” goals will take at least six years of focused effort, teamwork, and clear goals and outcomes. These are: **Growing Young, Gaining Strength, and Going Beyond Death to Life**. He is asking his staff and all congregations to share ideas and successes used to reach these goals. A MIN LAB will be held August 14th at the Allentown center to move people/congregations forward towards these “vital sign” goals. Also, the MIN LAB will provide opportunities for congregations to share

their “vital signs” and partner with other congregations for ideas and outcomes. Some “vital signs” happening now are: prayer cloths/shawls, food banks, clothes banks, and diaper banks. Dan Raudenbush of Trinity, Kutztown is leading the MIN LAB.

Throughout the assembly, the business of our synod was accomplished. Twenty-four voting members were chosen by our synod for the churchwide assembly being held August 8-12, 2021 in Columbus, Ohio. Additional business included voting for members for the synod council, personnel compensation, resolutions, and the budget. Don Dillman gave his last report as treasurer before Don Boyer assumes the treasurer position. He noted that our synod received a grant from the Payroll Protection Plan which allowed the synod to pay all staff and avoid any staff furloughs or terminations. He thanked all congregations for their generosity during COVID reaching 97% of its 2020 goal.

Mr. Jim Jennings, ELCA Church Council representative, spoke to us about “getting back to normal.” He suggested that we examine what was “normal” and determine what worked. He said, “Why go back to things that don’t really work? Keep the things that work.” As we all know, technology has helped create new means of communication.

Ms. Jodi Slattery, Churchwide Representative, Executive for Governance and Churchwide Organization gave a comprehensive report about shared ministries throughout the ELCA. Mission Support received \$843,174, of which 41% grows the ELCA in the United States; 22% grows the Lutheran church around the world; and 37% helps develop current and future leaders in the ELCA. At the present time NEPA synod has three recipients of this funding. She thanked NEPA for going “above and beyond” our intended contributions during this pandemic. Funds from this “mission support” have been received by **Hope’s Table** in Reading, **The Common Ground Recovery**

Community in Reading and Wyomissing. World Hunger provided funds/grants through “Big Dream Grant Partners to **Café Esperanze** in Reading and the **Easton Hunger Coalition**. Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) provides funds for disasters such as flooding, tornadoes, hurricanes and more.

ELCA Bishop Eaton created ELCA Innovation Lab in January 2020 where new ideas/ways can be shared, evaluated, and put into practice. One such idea coming from the Innovation Lab is **Open Doors** <https://elca.org/opendoors#padlet>. Reverend Cheryl Munschum (Committee on Appeal) and Jim Jennings (Church Council) are two NEPA members serving on the Churchwide board.

Reverend Guy Erwine, President at the United Lutheran Seminary, gave thanks for the support given to ULS and our partnership with the seminary.

Lena Harris brought greetings from WELCA plus gave a summary of WELCA meetings and activities during the pandemic using Zoom.

Bear Creek Camp will be returning to full camp under the direction of Column Gruves. Limited camp activities were held during the pandemic.

During the plenary sessions each day, a “Theme Focus” was presented. The first “**Heal the Hurt,**” gave Barb Debski the opportunity to share the mission of PORTICO, an organization that provides healthcare and wellness services for leaders and congregations. Representatives of Good Shepard shared the many ways they address healing through rehabilitation services and facilities.

A second “Theme Focus” was “**Love the Land**” reminding us to take care of our land. Lutheran Congregational Services (LCS) and LAMPA are programs within the ELCA which can help us reach that goal.

The third “Theme Focus” was “**Engage the Stranger.**” Kristin Witte, representing Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, explained its mission to welcome new-comers, people who are feeling estranged, migrants, and refugees.

Throughout the assembly, individuals and congregations were thanked for the varied ways we kept our congregations strong and meaningful during COVID. As a result of COVID this synod assembly was again held via Zoom. *Therefore, all proceedings are available to you by going to nepasynod.org and scrolling down to Synod Assembly 2021.*

Bishop Eaton was a special addition to our synod assembly. She spoke of the present trends of our synod – growing older and less diverse while the world is growing younger. Obviously, the demographics in the United States are changing. ELCA needs to be a welcoming church engaging new people, young adults, and diverse people. ELCA needs to be a thriving church, a connected and sustainable church, while we remain faithful to the Gospel.

Bishop Eaton asked “How do we engage generations of people who don’t know or haven’t arrived yet to know Christ? How can we position ourselves to be a radically relevant church rooted in church tradition to know the freedom we have in Christ, the grace that we have received, and we are now free to serve the neighbor?” She pointed out that the ELCA is 6% people of color or people with a primary language other than English. Bishop Eaton gave us much to think about. Bishop Eaton later presided at the installation of our NEPA Bishop deForest.

I would like to thank St. Paul’s church council and congregation for sending me as a voting member to the 2021 synod assembly.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Lafko

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Christian Muntone, Phoebe Glenn
- 4 Sue Kane
- 5 Kristen Cunningham
- 7 Beth Webber, Sandy Spotts,
Melissa Hartman
- 8 Morgan Myers, Taylor Beach
- 9 Jeffrey Kline III
- 10 Russell Teter
- 11 Dana Jenkins, Ross Myers, Ken Miller III
- 12 Lil Dewald, Karl Kunkel, Kevin Riotto,
Caitlin Shoener, Bode Hinnershitz
- 14 Bill Moyer
- 17 Katie Zehner, Beth Krause
- 18 Jill Krewson, Elaine Kamp, Jessica Swick
- 19 Grace Krewson
- 20 Nancy Sterner, Nevaeh Houck,
Brooke Eschbach
- 22 Gladys Santee, Ruth Ann Withers,
Dave Krewson, Earl Fuller
- 24 Vickie Folk, Barbara Hinnershitz
- 25 James Lengel, Jeff Ritschel, Sr.
- 26 Ivan Leymeister
- 29 Tamara Tomko
- 30 Kevin Kramer, Sonny Teter,
Christian Keener, Janice Snyder
- 31 Samantha Clarke

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 Ned & Nan Eisenhuth
 - 10 Kent & Beverly Eisenhuth
 - 12 Robert & Sharon Otstott
 - 20 Rich & Tracey Kemp
 - 22 Greg & Tonya Shappell
- *****

JULY FLOWERS

- JULY 4
Altar: In memory of G. Roger and John A.
Lengel by brother, James W. Lengel.
Chancel: OPEN
- JULY 11
Altar: In loving memory of Willard Kramer by
the Lafko family.
Chancel: OPEN
- JULY 18
Altar: In loving memory of my dear Dad, Ralph
A. Reibie, whom we lost 18 years ago
today, by Sue Schenck.
Chancel: OPEN
- JULY 25
Altar: In honor of Jeff Ritschel's birthday by his
loving family.
Chancel: In honor of Jeff's birthday and in
memory of Elizabeth and Eugene.

JULY BULLETINS

- JULY 4: OPEN
- JULY 11: OPEN
- JULY 18: In memory of Brian Miller who had
planned to usher for us today, by Sue,
Kurt, and Juli Schenck.
- JULY 25: In honor of Mr. James Lengel by
friends.

PLEASE WELCOME OUR VISITORS

The Evangelism Committee has placed tote bags with a flyer inside about our church on the small table at the back of the center aisle. We ask our ushers to welcome any visitor and offer them a tote. Everyone, please give the ushers a hand in welcoming someone you recognize as a visitor and offer them a tote.

Thank you,
Evangelism Committee

JULY 2021 ~ SERVICE SCHEDULE

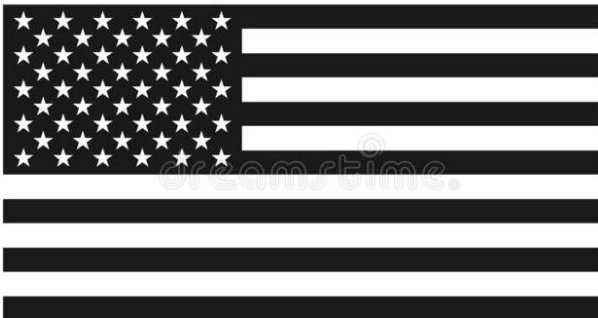
SUNDAY 9:30 AM

	<u>JULY 4</u>	<u>JULY 11</u>	<u>JULY 18**</u>	<u>JULY 25</u>
LECTOR	Chris Long	Jim Emerich	Mary Timpany	Hope Clarke
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Chris Long	Sue Schenck	TBA	TBA
GREETER	Wayne Lutsey	Sarah Eger	Deb Bolinsky	Deb Bolinsky
USHER(S)	Carl Heintzelman	Carl Heintzelman	Jeff Ritschel	Cindy Sklar
ALTAR GUILD	Barbara Lafko Beth Post	Barbara Lafko Beth Post	Hope Clarke Madelyn Knecht	Hope Clarke Madelyn Knecht
COUNTERS	Gwen Wehr Tom Wehr Glenda Bright	Rosalie Wingle Diane Brobst Marlene Eidam	Joyce O'Rourke Gloria Dierwechter Pat Davis	Connie Teter Joanne Emerich Barb Sterner

****JULY 18 WORSHIP WILL BE HELD IN ALBRIGHT'S WOODS PAVILION.**

A PRAYER FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY

"Lord of the nations, guide this nation by your Spirit to go forward in justice and freedom. Give to all our people the blessings of well-being and harmony, but above all things, give us faith in you, that our nation may bring glory to your name and blessings to all peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and our Lord. Amen."



GOD BLESS AMERICA!

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."

JULY 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Adult Forum via ZOOM 7:00 PM	2 STiC SRT Walk, Tumbling Run 9:30 AM	3 Worship with Holy Communion 5:30 PM
4 INDEPENDENCE DAY Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 AM	5	6	7	8	9 STiC SRT Walk Landingville, PA 9:30 AM	10 Worship 5:30 PM
11 Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 AM	12	13	14 STiC 5:00 PM	15	16 STiC SRT Walk Auburn, PA. 9:30 AM	17 Worship 5:30 PM
18 Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 AM at Albright's Woods Pavilion	19	20	21	22	23 STiC SRT Walk, Tumbling Run 9:30 AM	24 Worship 5:30 PM
25 Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 AM	26	27	28	29	30	

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 cwlutsey@gmail.com
Jessica Swick, Social Media Manager 936-648-6809 jessica@stpauls-orwigsburg.org

JULY 2021

**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

WORSHIP AT ALBRIGHT'S WOODS PAVILION ON SUNDAY, JULY 19, AT 9:30 AM

Please visit our website: www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org.

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