

St. Paul's News

July 2022

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
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For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery... For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another.

Galatians 5:1, 13

4th of July weekend is almost here; a time when we celebrate our “freedoms” as American citizens. Among many others, we have freedom of religion, speech, the press, to bear arms, to assemble, to vote, and elect our leaders. We give thanks for these freedoms as we thank God that we live in a land of “liberty and justice for all.”

Almost all of us have lived in this county all our lives. Most of our families came to America more than a century ago and some were here before our nation became a nation. Perhaps that is why it is easy for some people to take our freedoms for granted or worse, to abuse them.

Unfortunately, there is a reckless self-indulgent spirit evident in our nation today. Some people believe that they are free to do whatever they please whenever they choose – even it keeps others from exercising their freedoms. It is what I would describe as “Me First-ism.” Its motto is “My freedom, my rights, and my happiness matter, not yours.”

I shudder to think what our Founding Fathers would say about such an abuse of freedom. For freedom which does not acknowledge the rights of all people is lawlessness and destructive.

As Christians, we recognize that true freedom is ours only through faith in Jesus Christ. And this freedom comes through God’s amazing grace. We are free because neither sin, nor death nor the Devil himself, can separate us from the love of God revealed for all the world to see in life, death, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Our Constitution, Bill of Rights, and other historic documents guarantee us many freedoms, but unless we are freed from the terrible cost of our sinfulness, which is eternal damnation, we are never really free.

In Christ, we are free to bring healing to others rather than wound them. In Christ, we are free to restore rights and free others rather than deprive and imprison them. In Christ, we are free to share a gospel of true peace and abundant life, rather than cling to a “worldly” gospel which leads destruction and death.

Please don’t be a “me first” kind of American. We already have many more of those than we need.

I believe that we are strongest as a nation when our highest values, ideals, and virtues are reflected in daily lives of all citizens. America’s greatness lies in our continual desire to be good and to do good – even at great risk.

Have a safe and happy Independence Day!

Pastor Mike

LIBRARY CORNER

Hello, St. Paul's Friends! We hope that you are enjoying your summer! Herman, Lucy, and I were in Texas for a visit with our mice cousins in Victoria. We enjoyed some great Tex Mex food, made by Carlos and Juanita from San Antonio, some barbecue with all the fixin's, as well as some yummy Gulf shrimp and crabs at the Boiling Pot in Rockport on the Texas Coast. What a fun time we had visiting and making new memories with our family and friends! We know that you are enjoying picnics and family reunions, too. Lucy just finished kindergarten at BMEE this school year, and she wants to share a recipe from her teacher that's quick and easy to take to those gatherings. So, here it is:

KINDERGARTEN WHATSITS

Line a cookie sheet with sides with aluminum foil and spray lightly with oil. Preheat oven to 350°, then line up graham crackers (or saltines) to fill the pan. Melt together 1 stick of unsalted butter and 1/2cup sugar. Drizzle this mixture over the crackers and spread evenly. Then, bake at 350° EXACTLY 10 MINUTES! Take out of oven and pour 1 bag of semi-sweet chocolate chips over the crackers. Let chips melt for about 5 minutes, then spread softened chips evenly over the crackers. Other toppings can be added to the top like nuts, sprinkles, M and M's, etc. Refrigerate until set. Peel off foil and break WHATSITS into pieces and enjoy!

Herman, Lucy, and I hope that you have fun this summer. Relax, appreciate your many blessings, and soak up the sun in this wonderful creation which God has made! Don't forget to read, as books can take you to those places that you may not be able to visit! Two books that are on the "New Arrivals" shelf are *Sons of Blackbird Mountain* and *Daughters of Northern Shores* by Joanne Bischoff, given by Robin Zimmerman. These are definitely "beach reads!"

Happy Summer, Everyone!

Melvin, Herman, and Lucy,
your resident library mice

WELCA

Twelve women enjoyed a picnic at Albright's Woods on June 7th. Gwen Wehr presented a program on flamingoes at that event.

The September In-Gathering will benefit the Old White Church in Ringtown, PA., a Union church of the Ringtown Lutheran and UCC congregations that was built in 1842 by early settlers of the Ringtown Valley. It is a simple wooden structure with a "tulip pulpit" and is open for worship three times a year. These times include Ascension Day, a UCC service in June, and a Lutheran service in August.

The church was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1995 while its renovation, upkeep, and restoration are the responsibility of those congregations. Because of the decline in church attendance and the aging of the current members, donations are decreasing.

The WELCA group wants to support our sister congregations in maintaining the treasure of the Old White church, located at 189 Cemetery Hill Road outside of Ringtown. Take a drive some summer day and enjoy the beauty of the Old White Church and the Ringtown Valley.

St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church of Minersville sent a letter (see WELCA bulletin board) thanking our group for the \$500.00 gift to support the humanitarian relief effort for the people of Ukraine. They also expressed special thanks to Danielle Richards for collecting and delivering medical supplies to their church which were transported to the Ukraine.

As of this date, our next meeting will be Tuesday, September 13th at 1 p.m. at the church.

Our annual church picnic
will be held on
Sunday, September 18, 2022,
in Albright's Woods Pavilion.

Please mark your calendar!

2022 NEPA SYNOD ASSEMBLY

June 10 & 11, 2022

“**Stronger Together**” was the theme of this year’s synod assembly. When Bishop deForest was elected in 2020, he outlined three goals: Growing Young, Gaining Strength, and Going Beyond Death to Life. This year’s theme is “Stronger Together.” Videos were shown during the assembly demonstrating ways congregations within our synod are “Stronger Together.” You can view these videos by going to nepasynod.org/assembly.

Bishop deForest shared progress made towards these goals plus resources and people in place to help congregations. During the worship service, Bishop deForest continued the theme “Stronger Together.” His biblical reference was Isaiah 40: 28-31. He used an analogy of a bus – where is the bus (we) going, where will it stop, when does it need directions, does it need to change directions, who will be on that bus?

Rev. Kim Vaugh also referenced Isaiah 40. Rev. Vaugh is our churchwide representative to ELCA. She spoke about our journey with Jesus, what do we need on this journey while reminding us that “we are not alone”.

During her report, Kristen Edelman-Weiner stressed the inter – dependent relationship among all congregations. She is the chair of the Synod Council which deals with the business of the synod. This Synod Council is composed of 20 members plus 2 youth members and 4 officers. The member categories are defined in the constitution to insure a cross-section representation. The Synod Council is an opportunity for NEPA synod members to participate in the workings of the synod.

This assembly meets once a year to conduct business of the synod. Elections to the Synod Council were held at this time. Treasurer Don Boyer gave a very inclusive and informative report. He explained where the money received by synod is spent. He also spoke about the current financial concerns in light of our country’s financial situation. Mr. Boyer

presented the budget for 2023 which was adopted.

Roster updates and changes were acknowledged as well as retiring pastors. Pastor Shankweiler, our synod secretary, pointed out that in the last 5 years, thirteen (13) people were ordained; forty-eight (48) pastors retired and forty-seven (47) pastors died.

Resolutions are considered during this assembly. These are submitted by members of this synod. Unfortunately, because of time restraints, only 1 of the 6 resolutions was considered and was passed by this assembly. The remaining 5 resolutions will be referred to the Synod Council which meets in July.

Other reports were given including the United Lutheran Seminary; Jim Jennings, our NEA synod representative to ELCA church council; and Bear Creek Camp.

Looking for more Synod Assembly details? Go to nepasynod.org/assembly.

Please contact me if you have any questions about the 2022 Synod Assembly.

Submitted by Barbara Lafko – June 2022.

CEMETERY FUND

Thank you for your generous donations to our Cemetery Fund. Your donations help defray the cost of regular mowing and maintenance during the summer months. Our long-term plan is to straighten and upright a number of headstones and make sure our shrubbery is healthy and trimmed.

If you would like to give a donation to our Cemetery Fund, you may do so at any time. Please mark “Cemetery Fund” on the memo line of your check. Envelopes for our Cemetery Fund are also available in the narthex.

“Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread of them, because it is the LORD your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you.” Deuteronomy 31:6

STiC

Prayer from May 1 bulletin: Teach us to protect Your good creation and treasure all living things that You have made. Hear us, O God.

Welcome to summer and all the fun picnics and wonderful family and neighborhood gatherings! They are made so trouble free and so much easier with disposable plates, cups, plasticware, napkins....and you know where I'm going with this!

So, in the caring and keeping of the beautiful earth God has made, let's look at plastic, the most useful and most troublesome invention ever. STiC has supported the judicious use of plastic by providing re-usable water bottles, by advocating bar shampoo/conditioner, and advocating to Procter and Gamble that Dawn be also produced in bar form as well as liquid, and we have used multiple-use dishes at our events. Jeff Ritschel even volunteered to take them home and wash them!!!

I wish to thank Pastor Mike for a recent article about the reality of recycling. In a nutshell, there are SO MANY varieties of plastics that they cannot be efficiently sorted and recycled properly. The recycling process also involves many procedures involving high heat and processing steps which spew unsavory molecules...

so what are we as Christians committed to long range care of creation supposed to do?

- Email your representatives to support reduction of ONE/SINGLE use plastics, we do need help from our government to push mega companies to change packaging to something more recyclable: paper, metal, wood, glass, fabric, etc.
- Walk the Talk: consider all the stuff we buy and find your product in better packaging! STiC will be creating a display board to showcase some choices available, and we welcome your discoveries and will add them for wisdom-sharing!

- Talk with your guests about why you have chosen to lessen your trash by using re-usable plates, etc. I remember some very happy conversations helping wash/dry the dishes at home, or at least getting them into the dishwasher. Perhaps your company would be willing to pitch in, even though we don't "like" asking guests to help, they might try it out and decide to continue to protect our planet at their home.
- Be PATIENT with yourself and others. It has taken us a long time to get into the throw-away mode. I remember my mother giving me hankies for my pocket in second grade and changing to tissues, and only now have I returned to kerchiefs for allergies, etc.
- Have FAITH and TRUST that God has us in His care. We can make good choices of care, but ultimately God is in control!

Sue Reier and the growing STiC team

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

We will lock-in our oil supply for '2022-'23 with Tobash. There is a \$2 per gallon increase from last year so this will be a huge expense for the church.

The carillon upgrade is complete. Justin was trained on operating procedures and is looking forward to adding it to our music. The upgrade was paid for by Richard Teets, Jr., Cindy Ritschel's brother, and was done in memory of their parents.

We will purchase a new copier from Edwards Business Systems, with delivery expected later this summer. Richard Teets, Jr. also donated the money for this large purchase.

We are very grateful for Dick's generous monetary gifts to St. Paul's and send our heartfelt thanks to him.

Additional members are needed on our Evangelism Committee. If you are interested, please contact Connie Teter or Pastor Mike.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES

On Sunday, June 5th we gathered to acknowledge the achievements of our many graduates and to bless and wish them well as they start a new chapter in their lives. Our graduates include:

Kate Bolinsky graduated Magna Cum Laude from the West Virginia University School of Nursing on May 14. She has accepted a position at Duke Health in Raleigh, NC.

Ethan Dewald is a graduate of The College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA with a degree in Biology and Environmental Science specializing in Marine Science. He plans to pursue graduate work in Marine Biology and specialize in shark research.

Connor Dukmen is a 2022 graduate of Blue Mountain High School and Schuylkill Technology Center, South Campus. He studied Residential Electric his freshman and sophomore year. During his junior and senior year, he worked alongside a certified electrician/general contractor. He will be entering the workforce immediately after graduation as a subcontractor for a remodeling company.

Gabrielle Eger is a 2022 Pre-K Graduate of The Growing Tree Pre-School. Her future plans include joining the Blue Mountain Kindergarten class of 2035 and learning how to ride her bike. Gabby would like to be an astronomer when she grows up.

Abby Krewson is a 2022 graduate of Blue Mountain High School. She will attend DeSales University in the fall to major in Speech Pathology.

David Krewson is a 2022 graduate of Hobart College in Geneva, NY. He has earned a degree in Environmental Economics and will return to Hobart College to earn a Master of Business Administration degree in the fall.

Erin McKivigan is a 2022 graduate of Blue Mountain High School. She will be attending West Chester University in the fall to pursue a degree in Communications.

Bryce Shappell is a 2022 graduate of Pottsville Area High School. He plans to attend STC classes to become an electromechanical technician.

Logan Shoener is a 2022 graduate of Blue Mountain High School. He will be attending Moravian University for a dual degree in Public Health/Nursing.

Maddie Swick is a 2022 graduate of Blue Mountain High School. She will be attending Western Michigan University in the fall to pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre Performance.

Katie Bryn Zehner graduated from the University of Scranton in May with a degree in History. She has begun her job search!

REBATES FROM BOYER'S

St. Paul's can earn a rebate of 1% of your grocery shopping bill if you participate in Boyer's Rebate Program.

On the gathering room table under the bulletin board, you will find a "mug" of Boyer's scannable keychain cards. Take one, shop at Boyer's Market, and present it to a cashier while your items are being scanned. That's it. Boyer's will rebate 1% of your total purchases (excluding tax, milk, and cigarettes) and send us a check twice every year.

There is no limit to the amount of money our church can earn from this program for our many needs. If you haven't done so already, pick a scannable keychain card today! Shop and donate to St. Paul's!

"The best thing about the future is that it comes only one day at a time."

Abraham Lincoln

“GOD’S WORK. OUR HANDS”

The Evangelism Committee will place a box in the narthex on August 1st to hold items donated to Opportunity House in Pottsville, PA. This will be our congregation’s “God’s Work. Our Hands” project for 2022.

The Opportunity House helps homeless veterans, their families, and those in need in our area. Victoria Spitler, who is a member of St. Paul’s, is a case manager at Opportunity House.

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

- shampoo and conditioner
- body soap
- hand sanitizer
- deodorant
- hand lotion
- feminine hygiene products
- toothbrushes and toothpaste
- razors
- blankets and towels.

Our donations will be presented to Opportunity House on September 11, 2020, “Gods Work. Our Hands” Sunday. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

SECOND SUNDAY SUNDAY SCHOOL

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer break! The Sunday School team is busy planning for the upcoming term which will begin the Second Sunday of September. Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 11th!

If anyone is interested in volunteering their time to help with the Sunday School program, please contact me. Any amount of time or effort would be greatly appreciated!

Sarah Eger
570-394-3522 (cell)
swoodring86@hotmail.com

CHANCEL FLOWER ORDERS

Chancel flower orders must be called in to Forget-Me-Not Floral by TUESDAY each week. Please make sure you write your information in the green dedication book or call the church office that day with your dedications.

SOCIAL MEDIA MINISTRY

Dates to Remember

The “Blessing of the Backpacks” will be held on Sunday, August 28, 2022, at 9:30 a.m. Teachers, students, and school staff are welcome! Please bring bookbags, devices, etc. to be blessed for hopes of a wonderful 2022-23 academic year!

Our annual “Blessing of the Animals/St. Francis” event will be held at 4 p.m. on Sunday, October 2, 2022, at the Albright’s Woods Pavilion. Bring your pet(s), no matter how big or small, to receive a blessing – and more!

GOD COMFORTS US IN OUR SORROW

Our sympathy and prayers go out the family of Carl L. Rarick of Orwigsburg, PA., who passed away on Monday, June 10, 2022.

Our sympathy and prayers also go out to the family of the late Joy A. Wolfe of Orwigsburg, PA., who passed away on Wednesday, June 16, 2022.

God is closer to us than our breath and when we grieve, God is there right beside us to comfort us in our sorrow!

“I have held many things in my hands,
and I have lost them all; but whatever I
have placed in God’s hands, that I still
possess. Martin Luther

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 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

A PATRIOTIC PRAYER

Lord, in our great gratitude for the freedom of this land and for ALL who live here, help us to remember to celebrate in ways which bring honor, safety, and dignity to both people and animals. Shield our creatures and our veterans from terrors associated with fireworks. Help us to be ever mindful, ever mindful. Amen.

JULY FLOWERS

JULY 3

Altar: OPEN
Chancel: OPEN

JULY 10

Altar: In memory of Willard Kramer by the Lafko family.
Chancel: OPEN

JULY 17

Altar: OPEN
Chancel: OPEN

JULY 24

Altar: In honor of Jeff's birthday by his wife.
Chancel: In honor of the baptism of Josephine LeClaire Novelli Jeff and Cindy Ritschel.

JULY 31

Altar: In memory of Duke's and my anniversary by Sue Schenck and in honor of our Mom's 32 year survival of breast cancer by Kurt and Juli Schenck.
Chancel: OPEN

JULY BULLETINS

JULY 3: OPEN

JULY 10: OPEN

JULY 17: OPEN

JULY 24: In memory of Franklin Kamp by Tina Butler and Victoria and Alexandria Spitler.

JULY 31: OPEN

FELLOWSHIP TABLE

Any church committee, family, or group of individuals can host a Summer Fellowship Table. A sign-up sheet has been placed in the gathering room for your convenience.

JULY 2022

SERVICE SCHEDULE

SUNDAY (9:30 AM)	JULY 3	JULY 10	JULY 17	JULY 24	JULY 31
GREETER	TBA	TBA	Sarah Eger	TBA	TBA
USHER	Chris Long	Joanne Emerich	Sue Reier	Jessica Swick	Gwen Wehr
LECTOR	Sue Reier	Jim Emerich	Sarah Eger	Jeff Ritschel II	Jim Spotts
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Julianne Schenck	Sue Reier	Greg Sklar	Jeff Ritschel	Sue Schenck
ALTAR GUILD	Hope Clarke Madelyn Knecht	Hope Clarke Madelyn Knecht	Crystal Brensinger Cindy Ritschel	Crystal Brensinger Cindy Ritschel	Sue Schenck Barb Sterner
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	Connie Teter Barb Sterner Glenda Bright

JULY 4 FACTS

--The United States Congress declared independence from Great Britain this day in 1776. Just two days prior, on July 2, the Congress secretly voted for independence, then, on July 4, the final wording of the Declaration of Independence was approved, and the document was published.

-- The declaration, drafted by Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and others, proclaimed that the (then) 13 American colonies were no longer subject to the monarch of King George III, and were now united, free, and independent states.

-- Amazingly, July 4 is also the day when three former presidents (Adams, Jefferson, and Monroe) died, while one president was born (Coolidge).

--The 13 original colonies were: New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.

UP-COMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Would your committee or group like to take part and represent our church in an up-coming community event?

FARM TO SQUARE

Thursday, August 11, 2022, 5 to 8 p.m.

ORWIGSBURG HERITAGE DAY

Saturday, September 10, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

If your committee or group is interested, please provide the following information:

- 1.) Committee/Group Name and Organizer:
- 2.) A description of what your committee or group will display, demonstrate, give away, or sell at your table:
- 3.) A list of volunteers who will “man” your table during the entire community event.

Please provide this information to our church office at least six weeks before the scheduled event.

THANK YOU!

JULY 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 STiC Walk in Auburn 9 a.m.	2 Worship with Holy Communion 5:30 p.m.
3 Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 a.m.	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY HOLIDAY	5	6	7	8 STiC Walk in Tumbling Run 9 a.m.	9 Worship 5:30 p.m.
10 Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 a.m.	11	12	13	14	15 STiC Walk in Landingville 9 a.m.	16 Worship 5:30 p.m.
17 Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 a.m.	18	19	20	21	22 STiC Walk in Auburn 9 a.m.	23 Worship 5:30 p.m.
24 Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 a.m.	25	26	27	28	29 STiC Walk in Tumbling Run 9 a.m.	30 Worship 5:30 p.m.
31 Worship with Holy Communion 9:30 a.m.						

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
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JULY 2022

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PERMIT NO. 52

DATES TO REMEMBER

Independence Day is Monday, July 4 – Enjoy the summer months and be safe!

Visit our website: www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org. Watch us on YouTube.

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