

St. Paul's News

September 2022

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 156, 215 North Warren Street
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www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

Try as we might, we can't turn back time. While that may seem obvious, we often hope to return to the church's "good old days."

Many of us remember

seeing the pews filled with people nearly every Sunday morning.

knowing that our regular offerings would meet our congregation's needs.

the clamoring and laughter of Sunday school classes filled with little children.

how nice it was to share Holy Communion with so many family members, and friends, and neighbors.

It's natural, even healthy, to look back with fondness to our treasured memories.

But time doesn't move backwards and while the joys of the past can warm our hearts, we neither can live in the past nor can we recreate it.

Nostalgia is not bad thing, but continually dwelling on the past can keep us from appreciating what God is doing for us now. It can also become an obstacle to us as we move into the future.

The church that many of us have grown up in, dearly loved, and hoped to share with future generations has changed and is changing.

The church has changed and is changing largely in response to technological, social, and cultural changes. It is also doing so because the people of God continue to change.

I wish I could tell you what our church might look like in twenty-five years, but I simply can't see that far ahead. I do believe that it will be something new and perhaps different from what we might otherwise expect.

The Bible tells us that God has done new things and I believe that God will continue to do new things far into the future.

Let us all trust in God. Let us also strive to forgive one another as we have been forgiven. And let us love one another as God so greatly loves us. Jesus calls us to do this.

Following in the path of Christ is not easy work, but it is a good way to greet what perhaps will be a new and different future – blessed by God.

Peace, Hope, Love, and Joy!

Pastor Mike

"Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

Isaiah 43:18-19

STiC

One of the reasons STiC offers walks every week is the opportunity to get back outdoors, something upon which people in general have improved (at the behest of the pandemic!) Yet, we can always use more time in nature; its sounds, sights, and smells in particular have always been healing, and the very action of walking lifts the spirits, but now science is able to testify exactly how.

Taking that into account, it occurs to me, with the wisdom given by mentors, to bring along our prayer list and speak aloud the names of those on it as we feel called. Walking and praying are nothing new...and saying the names aloud has a real purpose and need in us individually. The trails are not so packed with people as to lack confidentiality.

Walks: Come join us! We begin at 9:00 a.m.!

Sept 2 Tumbling Run
Sept 9 Landingville
Sept 16 Auburn
Sept 23 Tumbling Run
Sept 30 Landingville

MEETING: Thursday, Sept. 8 at 6:30 p.m.

Looking ahead, donations for Red Creek Wildlife are needed for Saint Francis Sunday on October 2. This non-profit operates exclusively on donations! Caring for all species of PA wildlife, Red Creek admits over 4,000 animals each year.

Everyday needs: Bleach (any brand), Dawn dish washing detergent, Simple Green cleaner, large and kitchen size trash bags, vinegar type window cleaner, paper towels, unscented facial tissues.

General Needs: gallon size Ziploc bags, batteries (AAA, AA, C, D,), heavy duty extension cords, heating pads, 2-quarts pitchers, and light bulbs 40W - 100W, and 4' fluorescent bulbs.

ADULT FORUM 2022

Adult Forum resumes September 18 at 9:15 a.m. in the church parlor. On September 18 and 25, we will be discussing the life of **Henry Melchior Muhlenberg**. October 2 through November 20 we will study the **10 Commandments**. November 27 through December 18 we will use **Advent** resources.

Plans for year 2023 will be announced in the December newsletter.

If you are joining **Adult Forum**, please contact the church office or Barbara Lafko (570-366-1208) or at bjlafko@yahoo.com, so we can provide you the materials for our group discussions. Any questions, please contact Barbara.

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

Everyone, young and old, is invited to attend the annual church picnic on Sunday, September 18, following the 10:30 a.m. service at church.

The covered dish social will be held at Albright's Woods Pavilion. Bring your lawn chair and favorite covered dish to share. Hot dogs and drinks will be provided. There will be games for all and BINGO. Donations for BINGO prizes are appreciated.

A sign-up sheet is available in the gathering room so that enough hot dogs and drinks can be provided. Members, neighbors, and friends are welcome.

"For flowers that bloom about our feet;
For tender grass, so fresh, so sweet;
For song of bird, and hum of bee;
For all things fair we hear or see,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee!"

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

WHERE WORDS FAIL, MUSIC SPEAKS

Hello, September, and all our St. Paul's Family!

There's music in the air and new experiences for us to share! Herman, Lucy, and I recently shared a wonderful musical evening with our field mouse cousins, Joseph and Lena. They asked us to come out to Bethel Wesleyan Church to join them for an Old-Fashioned Hymn Sing and Ice Cream Social. We mice love to sing, so we joined the crowd for almost two hours singing favorites like "I'll Fly Away" and "How Great Thou Art." Beverly Heisler played the piano, and Lucy said it reminded her of the hymn sings at the Mossy Grove Methodist Church in Texas which she attended. At Bethel, there were young and old alike praising God through the blessed words and tunes of long ago! We had a nice surprise when everyone was given a song sheet of Pennsylvania Dutch hymns! Can you imagine Lucy, who can speak Spanish, Herman, who is of Scotch Irish descent, and I, of course, who never learned much German (even if I AM Pennsylvania Dutch!) singing these hymns? We did sing these in English, too. What an inspiring and blessed time we shared with Joseph and Lena and some of our other Christian brothers and sisters! Praising God through music just lifts the soul! (Oh, and the spoonfuls of Neapolitan ice cream tasted soooo good!)

The Library Ladies will soon be decorating for fall to welcome the beautiful season. Take time to enjoy the changes which bring new colors, coolness, and the rich harvest to come. (Herman says to please remember in your prayers to ask God to bless our land with much needed rain.)

The following are new books that have been added to the library for fall reading:

Growing Up Amish, a Memoir by Ira Wagler; *Perdition House* (A Bay Tanner Mystery) by Kathryn R. Wall; *Tidewater Bride* by Laura Frantz (given in honor of Jan Snyder by the Library Ladies); and *Adventures*

Throughout the Bible by Ray C. Stedman in memory of Walter Bilger (given by Mary Ellen Hering.)

Be thankful, enjoy each day, appreciate and take care of God's creation, and love one another. God bless you!

-----Melvin, Herman, and Lucy

“GOD’S WORK. OUR HANDS”

The Evangelism Committee has placed a box in the narthex 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 (as well as the at-risk-of-becoming-homeless) veterans and neighbors 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 accepted until September 4, 2022. They will presented to Opportunity House on September 11, 2022, “Gods Work. Our Hands.” Sunday. Thank you for your generosity!

**You are not only responsible
for what you say
but also for what you do not say.**

Martin Luther

SECOND SUNDAY SUNDAY SCHOOL

Welcome to the start of a new school year! Sunday School will be starting back up every second Sunday of the month, starting September 11 during the 10:30 a.m. service.

Below is a list of Sunday School dates for the 2022-23 school year:

September 11	January 8
October 9	February 12
November 13	March 12
December 11	April 2*
	May 14

*1st Sunday of the month due to Easter

For our children to get the most out of their Sunday School experience, I will need a Sunday School helper each month. Scan the QR code to sign up to help with our pre-school aged students. You can also call/text/email me via the information below.



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



Thank you for your continued support of the Sunday School program. I look forward to another year of teaching God's love to our little ones!!

REHEARSALS RESUME

Chancel Choir will begin at 7 p.m. sharp on Wednesday, September 7. Bell Choir will resume practice promptly at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, September 14.

If you have any questions, please contact Justin at justin@stpauls-orwigsburg.org.

NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

ANNUAL BAZAAR

Our Service Ministry will host its Annual Bazaar on Saturday, October 1, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Reidler Hall. The event will feature lots of good food, a large Chinese auction of gift baskets, local vendors and craft dealers showing and selling their wares, a variety of homemade candies and pies for purchase, and an opportunity to visit with your friends and neighbors. Proceeds from this event will benefit those in need in our community!

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Given the uncertainty with inflation and energy costs, Council elected to lock in heating oil for both the church and the parsonage for this coming winter by pre-paying \$21,760 funded by a withdrawal from our +\$300,000 Weik unrestricted investment account.

With Christmas this year falling over a weekend, Council approved the Worship & Music Committee's recommendation to revise our Saturday Christmas Eve worship schedule to two services at 5 p.m. and 10 p.m., and our Sunday Christmas Day worship schedule to one service at 9:30 a.m.

We continue to be blessed with the addition of several new members through transfers from our area churches.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

In connection with our commemoration of the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, we will hold our annual "Blessing of the Animals" service at Albright's Woods Pavilion on Sunday, October 2 at 4:00 p.m. All friendly leashed (or housed) animals, who slither, crawl, hop, walk, swim, or fly, are welcome to participate in this fun and lively outdoor event!

WE WELCOME A BROTHER IN JESUS CHRIST

Please welcome Nolan Nicholas Ingraham, son of Laura Renee (Post) and Nicholas Wayne Ingraham of Dallastown, PA. He was baptized at St. Paul's on Saturday, August 20, 2022, and has joined our community of faith and our shared ministry in Jesus Christ.

May God bless our newest brother in Christ Jesus, keep him safe from harm, and richly bless him until Christ comes again!

HARVEST HOME

This year Harvest Home will be held the weekend of October 8 & 9. Please bring your nonperishable food items to the church beginning Sunday, October 2. A box will be provided in our narthex for your donations.

During Harvest Home weekend we will use food item donations to set up our display in the chancel and then donate them to our local food pantry.

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

During 2022, we have been fortunate to receive several new members into our community of faith via transfer of church membership.

If you have not done so already, please welcome Patricia Kunkle of New Ringgold, PA; Elinda M. and Michael D. Lado of Orwigsburg, PA; and Kim A. and Morgan E. Rismiller of Pottsville, PA.

Thank you for joining us and sharing our ministry. We are please to have you!

WE ARE PART OF A NEW COOPERATIVE MINISTRY

In keeping with our Synod's plans for renewal and revitalization by helping and encouraging every leader and every congregation to find partners that can share resources and combine strengths, our congregation is now participating in the Southeast Mission District Cooperative.

This cooperative ministry consists of six area Lutheran congregations including:

St. John's and St. Paul of Auburn, PA

St. John's of Friedensburg, PA

St. Paul's and Zion Red of Orwigsburg, PA

Jerusalem of Schuylkill Haven, PA.

Future ministry outreaches and shared activities and events are currently being planning and will be announced later this year.

FLOWER AND BULLETIN DONATIONS

Your flower and bulletin donations help us to share the memory of loved ones and give thanks to God for cherished events in our lives. These donations also benefit our congregation in that they provide additional income to our continued ministry.

If you haven't done so in the recent past, please consider donating altar or chancel flowers or worship bulletins in memory of a loved one or in honor of an event or person. Our "donation" binder is located in our gathering place.

If you have questions or would like to make a special request, please contact Sue Schenck at 570-386-2647 or frausers@yahoo.com.

*And now faith, hope, and love abide,
these three;
and the greatest of these is Love.*

1 Corinthians 13:13

CEMETERY FUND

Your donations to the Cemetery Fund help defray the cost of regular mowing and maintenance during the summer months. Our long-term plan is to straighten and right headstones and keep shrubbery 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.

ONLINE GIVING

Did you know that you can 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 would 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!

ONLINE WORSHIP VIDEOS

Please continue to watch our online worship videos. They 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."

HELP THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE

You can help the people of war-torn Ukraine through Lutheran Disaster Relief (LDR) as well as many other international relief organizations. LDR continues to minister to the millions of people of Ukraine by providing humanitarian aid through ecumenical partners such as Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service.

If you would like to donate to Lutheran Disaster Relief, please make your check payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church and write "LDR - Eastern Europe Crisis Response" on the memo line. If you give cash, please write "LDR - Eastern Europe Crisis Response" on the envelope and place it in the offering plate.

Your gifts designated for "Eastern Europe Crisis Response" will be used entirely (100%) to provide support for people impacted by conflict in the region.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2. Jody Mills, Ethan Hartman
3. Corey Huntzinger, William Heydt
4. Melissa Wilson, Marcy Hinnershitz,
Jack McKivigan
6. Dale Keener, David Kaiser, Samantha
Ludwig, Trisha Teter, Corey Krause,
Karissa Elser
7. Keri Ferrar, Mitchell Myers
8. Kamerin Hine
9. Allen Mickalonis
10. Justin Ege
11. Miah Hinnershitz
13. George Henry, Jr, Riley Kurau
14. Brian Murphy
15. Richard Murphy, Pamela Meisner
17. Robert Otstott
18. Scott Wolfe
19. Ashley Otstott, Bryce Shappell
21. Austin Correll
22. Tyler Sincavage
23. Danika Bolinsky, Tess Spitler
24. Rusty Cunningham
28. Nicole Just, Jonathan Dahl,
Eric Zimmerman, Jarrett Elser
29. Alexander Miller
30. Robert Wagner

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

5. Jennifer & Matthew Patterson
7. Susan & Bernie Bosak
10. Shelby & Nevin Zehner
12. Fern & Rodney Houser
15. Beth & Doug Webber
16. Karen & Doug Travor
17. Lori & Bill Elser
18. Barbara & Jim Kaunas
24. Patty & Joe Marcusky
28. Jane & John Ege II
30. Loretta & Ivan Leymeister

"NO SPRING NOR SUMMER BEAUTY
HATH SUCH GRACE AS I HAVE SEEN
IN ONE AUTUMNAL FACE."

-JOHN DONNE

SEPTEMBER FLOWER SPONSORS

- September 4
Altar: OPEN
Chancel: OPEN
- September 11
Altar: OPEN
Chancel: OPEN
- September 18
Altar: OPEN
Chancel: OPEN
- September 25
Altar: OPEN
Chancel: OPEN

SEPTEMBER BULLETIN SPONSORS

- September 4: OPEN
- September 11: OPEN
- September 18: OPEN
- September 25: OPEN

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

The Evangelism Committee would like to continue sending cards to lift the spirits of our home-bound, college students, and military personnel. Please call Connie Teter (at 570-366-0255) with new names and addresses as well as any changes of address.

OUR "REGULAR" WORSHIP SCHEDULE RETURNS

On Sunday, September 11, we will return to our regular worship schedule with services on Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m. and on Sunday mornings at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion will continue to be shared on the first Saturday of each month and at every Sunday service.

SEPTEMBER 2022

SERVICE SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 ~ 9:30 A.M.

GREETER: Greg Sklar
USHER: Glenda Bright
LECTOR: Doug Travor
COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Wayne Lutsey
ALTAR GUILD: Tina Butler and Chris Long
COUNTERS: Tom Wehr, Gwen Wehr, and Glenda Bright

SUNDAY ~ 8:00 A.M.

	<u>SEPTEMBER 11</u>	<u>SEPTEMBER 18</u>	<u>SEPTEMBER 25</u>
GREETER	Pastor Mike	Pastor Mike	Pastor Mike
LECTOR	Kay Weidensaul	Amy Dewald	Ruth Ann Withers
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Kay Weidensaul	Amy Dewald	Ruth Ann Withers

SUNDAY ~ 10:30 A.M.

	<u>SEPTEMBER 11</u>	<u>SEPTEMBER 18</u>	<u>SEPTEMBER 25</u>
GREETER	Greg Sklar	Greg Sklar	Greg Sklar
USHER	Tina Butler	Diane Brobst	Madelyn Knecht
LECTOR	Eric Eger	Deb Bolinsky	Jan Snyder
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Tina Butler	Sue Reier	Jeff Ritschel
ALTAR GUILD	Joyce O'Rourke Jean Premich	Joyce O'Rourke Jean Premich	Kathy Miller Connie Teter
COUNTERS	Rosalie Wingle Marlene Eidam Diane Brobst	Joyce O'Rourke Pat Davis Gloria Dierwechter	Connie Teter Joanne Emerich Barb Sterner

ELCA FEDERAL CREDIT UNION: AUTO LOAN RATES

ELCA members can access auto loan rates, as low as 1.99% APR*, from the ELCA Federal Credit Union. Whether you're buying a new or used car, or refinancing a current loan, ELCA FCU auto-loan rates are significantly lower than the national average. For a limited time, when you open a loan by Sept. 30, a \$100 gas bonus will be credited to your membership savings. Visit their website at <https://www.elcafcu.org/> for more information. [* = Annual Percentage Rate]

SEPTEMBER 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 STiC walk in Tumbling Run 9:00 a.m.	3 Worship w/ Holy Communion 5:30 p.m.
4 Worship 9:30 a.m.	5 LABOR DAY HOLIDAY	6 Council Evangelism 6:30 p.m.	7 Chancel Choir 7:00 p.m.	8 STiC 6:30 p.m.	9 STiC walk in Landingville 9:00 a.m.	10 Worship 5:30 p.m.
11 “God’s Work. Our Hands.” Worship 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. “Second Sunday” Sunday School Returns!	12 Council 7:00 p.m.	13 WELCA 1:00 p.m.	14 Bell Choir 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir 7:00 p.m.	15	16 STiC walk in Auburn 9:00 a.m.	17 Worship 5:30 p.m.
18 Worship 8:00 a.m. Adult Forum 9:15 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. in our church w/ Picnic to follow at Albright’s Woods	19 Service Ministry 6:00 p.m.	20	21 Bell Choir 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir 7:00 p.m.	22	23 STiC walk in Tumbling Run 9:00 a.m.	24 Worship 5:30 p.m.
25 Worship 8:00 a.m. Adult Forum 9:15 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.	26	27	28 Bell Choir 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir 7:00 p.m.	29	30 STiC walk in Landingville 9:00 a.m.	OCTOBER 1 Annual Bazaar 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Reidler Hall Worship w/ Holy Communion 5:30 p.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
Julianne 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

Since COVID-19 variants continue to pose a significant health risk, we encourage everyone who has not been fully vaccinated to consider wearing a face mask and allowing space between themselves and others during worship. Thank you!

SEPTEMBER 2022

**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

DATES TO REMEMBER

"GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS." ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, AT 10:30 A.M.

**ANNUAL PICNIC AT ALBRIGHT'S WOODS PAVILION ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18,
FOLLOWING 10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE AT THE CHURCH.**

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

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