

St. Paul's News

December 2022

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 156, 215 North Warren Street
Orwigsburg, PA 17961
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www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org



**...AND YOU SHALL CALL HIS NAME JESUS,
FOR HE WILL SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS!**

Matthew 1:21



ANGEL TREE

Our Angel Tree arrived during Thanksgiving weekend! This annual service project provides gifts to local, school-aged children who visit the Orwigsburg Food Pantry. Each child will have 2 gift tags and a stocking. The tags will contain his/her name and age as well as a gift wish. (We ask that you spend about \$20 per tag.) Each child will also have a stocking that you can fill with age-appropriate goodies. You do not need to select all the tags for the same child.

Please return your wrapped gift, filled stockings, and Angel Tree tag by Sunday, December 11.

Thank you in advance for your continued generosity! Kay Weidensaul is always proud of the support that St. Paul's gives to the Orwigsburg Food Pantry and the way we demonstrate "God's Work. Our Hands."

Please contact Deb Bolinsky at (570)789-3540 or debbolinsky@gmail.com with questions or concerns.

CALLING ALL CRAFTERS AND ARTISANS

St. Paul's is establishing a crafting guild that makes items to sell at local community fairs and events as a new outreach program and an opportunity for fellowship. All proceeds from the sale of craft items will go to support St. Paul's ministries.

We are looking for current crafters or anyone interested in learning a new craft. If you would like more information, please sign the interest sheet in the gathering room, or contact Kristin Durkee (804-380-9066) or Amy Dewald (570-449-4816).

LIBRARY CORNER

"A book is a gift you can open again and again."

Hi, Friends of St. Paul's! Chilly days of winter are here! After a beautiful fall (especially after all the leaf raking is done!), it's time to be thankful for all our many blessings and to look forward to the birth of the Christ Child. God bless all of you as we prepare our hearts during Advent to receive Him!

New additions to our Library Corner for your winter reading are:

1. MEMOIR OF THE LIFE AND TIMES OF HENRY MELCHIOR MUHLENBURG by Martin Luther Stover in honor of Barbara Lafko by St. Paul's Adult Forum
2. THE LACEMAKER by Laura Frantz in honor of Dana Jenkins by the Library Ladies
3. FRIEDENS CHURCH AT THE LITTLE SCHUYLKILL by Harvey Americus Weller in honor of Pastor Mike Petresky by the Library Ladies
4. THE THORN by Beverly Lewis (replacement) Book 1 of "The Rose Trilogy"
5. DIAMOND OF THE ROCKIES by Kristen Heitzmann: (3 book series): THE ROSE LEGACY- Book 1; SWEET BOUNDLESS- Book 2; and THE TENDER VINE- Book 3

These books will be found on the shelf marked "New Arrivals." Remember to fill out the card with your name and put it in the green box on the library shelf. When you have finished reading the book, just put it in the blue basket. The Library Ladies will check the books in and return them to the shelves.

Even though there is not a due date on which to return the book, please remember that others may want to read it, too. Thank you so much for utilizing the Library Corner!

Have a blessed Christmas with your family and friends!

Melvin, Herman, and Lucy,
your favorite library mice

HOLLY JOLLY CHRISTMAS PARTY!!!

Our "Second Sunday" Sunday School will host a "Holly Jolly Christmas Party" on Sunday, December 4, in the Gathering Room. Show up any time between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. for Christmas crafts, games, and hot chocolate!

This is an event for the children of our church and our community (up to age 10). Mark your calendar for the first ever Holly Jolly Christmas Party. Spread the word and bring a friend!

If you would like to help with the event by donating your time or an item needed for the party, there is a list on the table in the gathering room. Thank you for your help!!

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Our annual Christmas Concert will return on Sunday, December 18 at 4:00 p.m. The program includes traditional carols, music by St. Paul's Handbell Choir, Chancel Choir, and instrumentalists. Join us for light refreshments and fellowship following the concert.

CAROL SING AT SETON MANOR

Our congregation and the five (5) area Lutheran congregations which make up the Southeastern Schuylkill County Co-operative (SSCC) will host a "Carol Sing" for the residents at Seton Manor in Orwigsburg, PA at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 15, 2022. If you would like to sing with us, please gather in the Seton Manor parking lot beginning at 6:15 p.m.

Due to concerns about COVID-19, RSV, and Flu, carolers will be required to wear masks while inside the facility.

After the Carol Sing, everyone is invited to enjoy hot chocolate and seasonal snacks at Jerusalem Lutheran Church at 252 Dock Street in Schuylkill Haven, PA.

LAST CHANCE TO ORDER POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS!

This year poinsettias are priced at \$8.50 per plant. Please choose between red and white blooms and fill out the form found later in this newsletter.

Please note that poinsettia orders and money must be received by Sunday, December 4!

ADULT FORUM

We are using The Angels of Christmas by Susan Robb during the Advent season as we prepare for the birth of Christ. We resume on January 8, 2023 – topic to be announced. Adult Forum meets Sundays in the church parlor at 9:15 a.m.

CHILI & SOUP-ER BOWL SALE

As an "appetizer" to Super Bowl Sunday on February 12, 2023, The Men of St. Paul's will host a Soup-er Bowl Chili & Soup Sale on Saturday, February 12 beginning at 8:30 a.m. "on the Square." Our soup is \$7/quart or 3 quarts for \$20 and chili is \$8/quart or 2 quarts for \$15. Come for great chili, tasty homemade soups, and delicious baked goods.

WE WELCOME FOUR NEW MEMBERS

The following people have been approved by Council to be received as new members via transfer of church membership: William R. and Rebecca A. Smoot, and Kristin Durkee and son, Justin. They all live in Orwigsburg, PA.

Please welcome our church's newest members into our community of faith. We thank them for joining us and sharing our ministry.

WELCA

17 of St. Paul's women attended the Nov. 15th meeting with a focus on giving thanks. Sue Reier purchased a supply of Thanksgiving greeting cards for our personal mailing.

Cindy Ritschel displayed the gifts which were purchased for two boys aged 5 and 7 through the Diakon Foster Childrens' Christmas gift project. Gwen Wehr received word that the Mikaylees's Hope Memory Blanket project has ended. Our group had supplied 122 blankets and several infant hats.

The WELCA Christmas luncheon at the McKeansburg Hotel will be on Thursday, December 15th from 12 Noon to 3 p.m. Details and a signup sheet are at the Gathering Room table. The deadline to register and pay is Sunday, December 11th, and the in-gathering offering will be given to Lutheran Disaster Relief for the Florida Hurricane, 2022.

If you wish to send a "Message from Home" to local service people, a list of names and addresses can also be found on the Gathering Room table.

Although we had no success with our outreach to have women from the other six Lutheran churches in our area join our November meeting, Danielle Richards personally reached out to the Red Church and several of our women have agreed to make cookies for their early December Bazaar.

After the business meeting and program, social time was enjoyed with treats supplied by the hostesses Sue Reier and Barb Sterner.

LET'S BE CAREFUL!

People who are unvaccinated are encouraged to wear a mask in church and avoid close contact with others. People who are vaccinated may wear a mask in church and/or avoid close contact with others, if they choose to do so.

SECOND SUNDAY SUNDAY SCHOOL

Classes for children ages 1 to 10 years old continue every second Sunday of the month during the 10:30 a.m. service. Join us for Bible stories, crafts, a snack, fun, and fellowship.

Below is a list of Sunday School dates for the remainder of the school year.

December 11	March 12
January 8	April 2*
February 12	May 14

[*1st Sunday of the month due to Easter]



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



Scan the QR code to sign up to help our pre-school aged students! Helpers are NOT required to teach a lesson. Books to read, songs to sing, and toys to play with are all available in the preschool area. You can also call/text/email me to volunteer.

Parents, please make sure I have your cell phone number. If we need to cancel worship due to inclement weather on a Second Sunday, I will text you to let you know. Thank you for your continued support of the Sunday School program. See you December 11!

PASTOR ON VACTION

Pastor Mike will be on vacation Saturday, December 31, 2022 (New Year's Eve) and Sunday, January 1, 2023 (New Year's Day).

While no worship is scheduled for Saturday, December 31, we are again pleased to welcome Pastor Rob Reier, who will lead a single worship service with Holy Communion at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, January 1, 2023.

STiC

This month, our table display in the Gathering Room features some starter ideas for gift giving this Christmas season: gifts which are respectful and /or restorative to our planet, or which engage children in wonder for God's creation. You are invited to add items to the table which have been meaningful to you and might inspire others as we continue to wrestle with "too much stuff" in our highly material age.

Schuylkill River Ambassadors are not required to be on the trail through the colder weather but given the tremendous mental and physical health benefits of walking, I will be 'striking out' on some different trails and inviting YOU to come along even though this is a hectic month. Getting away in the outdoors may be just the ticket we all need to manage the hustle and bustle! All will be at 10 a.m. Remember, we aren't all-out power walkers; we like to mosey and chat! All walks will depend on the severity of the weather, AND please text me by Thursday if you plan to go (570-617-3741.) We can carpool or share directions.

December 2 Frog Hollow

December 9 Newtown Falls

December 16 the trail around the reservoir on
Tumbling Run Road

STiC meets the first Wednesday of the month: December 7 at 9:00 a.m. We are especially looking for ways to engage youth; on November 16, I did an activity about trees using music and watercolor for the homeschool group at Orwigsburg Library. Waiting in the wings is a bird protection project with our own Sunday School and a possibility of creating youth size banners for worship." Come and see" (and help!)

en Cristo, Sue Reier



UPCOMING HOLIDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

On Saturday, December 24, Christmas Eve, we will worship at 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. Candle lighting, carols, and Holy Communion will be featured.

On Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day, we will worship at a single 9:30 a.m. service with carols and Holy Communion.

While there is no worship scheduled for Saturday, December 31, New Year's Eve, join us for a single worship service on Sunday, January 1, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. Holy Communion will be offered. Please mark your calendars!

CHILI & SOUP SALE - A SUCCESS

The Men of St. Paul's received more than \$2,300 during their Chili & Soup Sale" on Saturday, November 5. This set a new record for the event.

Thanks to everyone who made quarts of soup or chili, or provided their baked goods, or supported this event in any way. Thanks also to the many people who purchased, shared, and enjoyed all food they had to offer!

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our annual congregational meeting will be on Sunday February 12th, immediately after the 10:30 a.m. worship service concludes. Please mark your new 2023 calendar for this important meeting!

EMERGENCY PASTORAL CARE!

If emergency pastoral care is needed while Pastor Mike is on vacation, please call 717-649-3532, as soon as possible!

ATTENTION: ALL COMMITTEE LEADERS

Your year-end reports for 2022 will be needed by Tuesday, January 3, 2023. Please have them completed, proofread, and ready for print by the deadline date. Email your file(s) to:

office@stpauls-orwigsburg.org

WILL WORSHIP BE CANCELED?

When the weather is dicey and you're not sure if we will have worship, please call the church office at (570) 366-2316 and listen to the outgoing message on the answering machine. You can also check our Facebook page for a possible cancellation of worship. Be safe, not stuck--check before you leave home!

“XMAS?” IS “CHRISTMAS?”

The "X" comes from the Greek letter *Chi*, which is the first letter of the Greek word *Christós* (Greek: Χριστός), which became *Christ* in English. The suffix *-mas* is from the Latin-derived Old English word for Mass. As far back as the 16th century, “Xmas” denoted the feast of Christmas to many Christian denominations and groups. Adapted from Wikipedia article: “Xmas.”

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 our Catechism program.

Please contact Pastor Mike or leave a message at the church office (570-366-2316) as soon as possible, if you are interested.

EVANGELISM

The Evangelism committee would like to continue sending cards, signed by our church family, to the homebound members, military personnel, and college students away from home. They are located on the small table with the prayer list. Please remember to sign our card(s) upon entering or before leaving our church.

SAINT NICHOLAS

Of the many saints commemorated by the Christian Church, Nicholas (d. 342 CE) is one of the best loved, yet very little is known about his actual life. Research has confirmed that there was a bishop by the name of Nicholas in the city of Myra in Lycia (now part of Turkey) in the fourth century. As early as the sixth century there was a church of Saint Nicholas in Constantinople.

Nicholas legends credit him as a giver of gifts, a rescuer of sailors, a protector of children, and a true friend to those in distress. In commemoration of Sinte Klaas (Dutch for “Saint Nicholas,” or in English “Santa Claus”), December 6 is a day for giving and receiving of gifts in many parts of Europe.

A PRAYER FOR ST. NICHOLAS DAY: DECEMBER 6

Almighty God, in your love you gave your servant Nicholas of Myra a perpetual name for deeds of kindness both on land and sea. Grant, we pray, that your Church may never cease to work for the happiness of children, the safety of sailors, the relief of the poor, and the help of those tossed by tempests of doubt and greed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1. Mel Letcher, Mary Ellen Hering
 2. Kimberly Haney
 4. Timothy Seigfried, Melissa Seigfried,
Landon Stover
 5. Josh Clarke
 6. Michael Murphy
 7. George Smith
 8. Nevin Zehner, Mallorie Dukmen
 9. Hope Clarke
 10. Travis Moyer
 11. Crawford Leibold
 12. Sandy Ludwig, Jared Sterner, Marcus Shin
 13. Kendra Wertman
 15. Shane Kokitus, Jordan Post, Becky Smoot
 18. Karen Travor
 19. Sandra Mertz, Lewis Sims
 22. Danielle Richards, Amber Eisenacher,
Haley Rymarkiewicz
 24. Brandon Miller
 26. Fern Moyer
 27. Krysta Seigfried, Diane Brobst
 28. Sharon Thomas, Lauren Sterner
 30. Cody Wertman, Marisa Auteri, Liz Lamm,
Samantha Schuld
 31. Wendy Schuld, Sean & Ryan Brueninghaus
- *****

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

4. Steven & Sharon Thomas
 6. Dave & Gail Wolfe
 18. Paul & Heidi Glenn
 21. Earl & Sue Fuller
- *****

ANOTHER REASON TO LIKE MARTIN LUTHER

The evergreen, an emblem of joy and delight for centuries, symbolizes belief in renewed life and the hope that dwells in all the world's peoples. Our own Martin Luther is said to be the first to decorate a tree with candles to show his children how the stars of heaven twinkled through tree branches in the dark night.

DECEMBER FLOWER SPONSORS

December 4

Altar: OPEN

Chancel: OPEN

December 11

Altar: In loving memory of Clark "Duke"
Schenck by Sue, Kurt, and Julianne.

Chancel: OPEN

December 18

Altar: In loving memory of Harry W. Lafko by
his family.

Chancel: In honor of Karen Travor's birthday
by mother, Barb Sterner.

December 25

Altar: In loving memory of our Fathers, Carl
Brensinger and Robert Shaud by Darin
and Crystal Brensinger.

Chancel: OPEN

DECEMBER BULLETIN SPONSORS

December 4: In honor of Doug Travor for his
hard work on the soup sale by Barb
Sterner.

December 11: OPEN

December 18: OPEN

December 25: OPEN

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

1) Through October-end, the congregation has generously given \$7,778 earmarked for Benevolence. By comparison, Benevolence giving at same time last year was \$4,362. Well done!

2) We recently received 4 new members to our church family. Welcome!

3) With the gracious support of the entire congregation, the Men's Group's recent soup and chili sale (complemented with lots of member-made sweets) raised over \$2,300. The monies will aid in the continued maintenance of the cemetery.

DECEMBER 2022

SERVICE SCHEDULE

SUNDAY ~ 8:00 AM

	<u>DECEMBER 4</u>	<u>DECEMBER 11</u>	<u>DECEMBER 18</u>
GREETER/USHER	Pastor Mike	Pastor Mike	Pastor Mike
LECTOR/COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Connie Teter	Amy Dewald	Ruth Ann Withers

SUNDAY ~ 10:30 AM

GREETER	Cindy Ritschel	Cindy Ritschel	Cindy Ritschel
USHER	Jerry Goessel	Joanne Emerich	Barb Sterner
LECTOR	Chris Long	Sue Reier	Tom Wehr
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Evan Davis	Wayne Lutsey	Doug Travor
ALTAR GUILD	Sue Schenck Barb Sterner	Sue Schenck Barb Sterner	Glenda Bright Diane Brobst
COUNTERS	Gwen Wehr Tom Wehr Glenda Bright	Rosalie Wingle Diane Brobst Marlene Eidam	Joyce O'Rourke Gloria Dierwechter Pat Davis

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24 (Christmas Eve)

	<u>5:00 PM</u>	<u>10:00 PM</u>
GREETER:	Deb Bolinsky	Doug Travor and Wayne Lutsey
USHER:	Hadley and Kate Bolinsky	Tina Butler and Victoria Spittler
LECTOR:	Deb Bolinsky	Tina Butler
COMMUNION ASSISTANT:	Ruth Ann Withers (Kay Weidensaul)	Greg Sklar
ALTAR GUILD:	Glenda Bright and Diane Brobst	

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 (Christmas Day) ~ 9:30 AM

GREETER:	TBA
USHER:	Chris Long
LECTOR:	Rob Reier
COMMUNION ASSISTANT:	Chris Long
ALTAR GUILD:	Tina Butler and Chris Long
COUNTERS:	Connie Teter, Joanne Emerich, and Barb Sterner



POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Poinsettias for Christmas Eve will again be ordered from
Blue Mountain Farms in New Ringgold, PA.

The cost of a 6.5" bloom plant is **\$8.50**.

Please indicate red or white blooms and to whom you wish to dedicate.
If you choose not to dedicate the plants, you will be listed as a sponsor.

THE DEADLINE TO ORDER POINSETTIAS IS DECEMBER 4!

Please complete the bottom of this form and return it with payment to the basket
marked "Poinsettias" in the Gathering Room.

NAME: _____

I would like to order _____ red poinsettia(s),

I would like to order _____ white poinsettia(s), at \$8.50 each.

If you wish to dedicate your flowers(s) "in honor/memory of,"
please circle one for the lines you complete below. **PLEASE PRINT.**

Honor/Memory: _____

Honor/Memory: _____

Honor/Memory: _____

Honor/Memory: _____

Honor/Memory: _____

Are you paying with CASH? or CHECK? CHECK # _____

Total # of Poinsettias: _____ Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

DECEMBER 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 10 a.m. STiC walk in Frog Hollow	3 5:30 p.m. Worship w/ Holy Communion
4 8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship w/ Holy Communion 9:15 a.m. Adult Forum Holly Jolly Christmas Party 1 to 3 p.m.	5 6:30 p.m. Property	6 COMMEMORATION OF NICHOLAS OF MYRA	7 9 a.m. STiC 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Chancel Choir	8	9 10 a.m. STiC walk in Newton Falls	10 5:30 p.m. Worship
11 8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship w/ Holy Communion 9:15 a.m. Adult Forum 10:30 a.m. "Second Sunday" Sunday School	12 7 p.m. Council	13	14 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Chancel Choir	15 Noon - 3 p.m. WELCA at McKeansburg Hotel 6:30 p.m. SSCC Carol Sing at Seton Manor	16 10 a.m. STiC walk in Tumbling Run	17 5:30 p.m. Worship
18 8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship w/ Holy Communion 9:15 a.m. Adult Forum 4 p.m. Christmas Concert	19	20	21 No rehearsals scheduled	22	23	25 CHRISTMAS EVE 5 p.m. Worship w/ Holy Communion 10 p.m. Worship w/ Holy Communion
25 CHRISTMAS DAY 9:30 a.m. Worship w/ Holy Communion	26	27	28 No rehearsals scheduled	29	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE No scheduled worship!

Reverend Michael T. Petresky

570-366-2316 - Ext 11

pastormike@stpauls-orwigsburg.org

Justin McClure, Organist/Choir Director

570-573-4076

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570-366-8766

cwlutsey@gmail.com

Jessica Swick, Social Media Manager

936-648-6809

jessica@stpauls-orwigsburg.org

DO YOU REALLY UNDERSTAND COMPUTERS?

Our congregation is looking for someone who understands computers and can help us better address our church's particular needs in this ever-changing digital world. If you or someone you know can help us, please contact Pastor Mike at your earliest convenience!



DECEMBER 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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 - CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT 4:00 PM.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE – WORSHIP AT 5:00 AND 10:00 PM.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY – WORSHIP AT 9:30 AM.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31 - NEW YEAR'S EVE - NO SCHEDULED WORSHIP.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1 - NEW YEAR'S DAY - WORSHIP AT 9:30 AM.

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

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

Call our church office at [570-366-2316](tel:570-366-2316).