

# St. Paul's News

March 2023

St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
P.O. Box 156, 215 North Warren Street  
Orwigsburg, PA 17961  
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[www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org](http://www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org)

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## THE SEASON OF LENT

The word "Lent" comes from an old Anglo-Saxon word "Lencten," as in "lengthen." The sunlight lengthens as we approach the beginning of Spring. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and is a 40-day period (not counting Sundays) before we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday. This year we will celebrate Easter on Sunday, April 9.

At its heart, Lent is about our need for personal examination and repentance which can lead to spiritual renewal and growth. It is about becoming a true disciple of Jesus Christ and following closely in his path.

Did you know that the word "disciple" occurs 269 times in the New Testament, and "discipline" and "disciple" come from the same root? In many ways, to be a disciple is to be a person of discipline. A true disciple pays attention to what is most important and focuses his or her attention on doing what is most needed.

And what is most important and most needed?

During the season of Lent, we begin our worship with these words of exhortation:

"As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to contend against all evil and resist everything that leads us away from the love of God and neighbor.

I invite you, therefore, to take up the disciplines of Lent: self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, charity and works of love, as together we are strengthened and renewed by God's Word and Sacraments."  
[Underlining mine.]

On Ash Wednesday, we were called to accept two "hard" truths: 1) that we are mortal and will die one day, and 2) that we are sinners who cannot free ourselves from sin. We were also reminded that time is passing, and this "wake-up call" should not be ignored. The only one who can save us from death and eternal condemnation is Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Now some believers find that giving something up for Lent is a helpful practice. Others prefer to take on something new. In any case, it is good to remember that what we give up or what we take on does not make us holy or righteous. As one writer put it, "Our works do not bring God closer to us. At best, they bring us closer to God."

Let us become true disciples of Jesus Christ during this season of Lent. Now is the time!

May God bless you and yours.

*Pastor Mike*

## MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES

Pastor Mike will begin a series of five (5) midweek Lenten services entitled, "Gathered Around the Cross" at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 1, 2023. This series will continue each Wednesday at 7 p.m. during the month of March.

As we prepare to enter the season of Lent, let us consider the people who gathered at the foot of the cross and watched as our Lord was crucified, suffered, and died. In some ways they were like us, but in some ways, they were very different people than we are today!

## ADULT FORUM

We will prepare for Easter by studying Lamentations on March 5, 12, 19, and 26. We meet at 9:15 a.m. in the church parlor. Please note that there is NO Adult Forum on Palm/Pasion Sunday (4/2/23) or Easter Sunday (4/9/23). We resume on April 16 to continue our discussions of Daring Faith.

## EASTER FLOWERS

Now is the time to order! An order form has been provided in this newsletter and additional forms are available in our Saturday and Sunday bulletins.

**THE DEADLINE TO ORDER EASTER FLOWERS IS SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2023!**

## DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Daylight Savings Time will begin at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 12, 2023. Set your clocks (or "spring") ahead one hour before you go to bed on Saturday. Please use this "change" as an opportunity to check the batteries in your home's smoke detectors, too. Fresh batteries could save your life!

## THANK YOU

Dear Pastor Mike and St. Paul's Family,

We want to thank y'all very much for all the wonderful kindnesses you've shown Tom and me during my recuperation from foot surgery. We are so appreciative of all your prayers, beautiful cards, delicious meals (so Tom did not have to tax his cooking ability too much!), and cheerful phone calls and texts!

A thank you goes to the ladies who filled in for my Altar Guild service, counting duties, and Library responsibilities. Thanks, also, to my fellow Alto buddies who have done such a great job for St. Paul's Choir in my absence! Y'all have truly shown us Christian love and caring! God bless all of you!

Sincerely in Christ,  
Tom and Gwen Wehr

## ATTENTION 2023 GRADUATES!

Do you know a student that graduated in December 2022 or will graduate in May or June of 2023? Please let us know so that we can celebrate his/her achievements on our church Facebook page, in our church newsletter, 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.

We invite all graduates & their families for an in-person celebration at the 9:30 a.m. service on Sunday, June 4. [Please note that we will be on our Summer Worship Schedule.]



## EAGLE SCOUT

On February 2, 2023, Cole Swick successfully completed his Eagle Board of Review and was named an Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts of America, Hawk Mountain Council.

Cole began his Scouting journey as a Lion Cub in the Fall of 2012 when he was 5 years old as part of a then pilot program for kindergarten-aged boys. He advanced through the Cub Scout ranks, earning his Arrow of Light badge, and crossed over to the Boy Scouts as a new Scout in 2018. As a Boy Scout, he was elected by his peers to the Order of the Arrow Honor Society and completed 25 merit badges.

His Eagle project was in service to the Schuylkill County Historical Society in Pottsville. His project titled, "Keep History Moving" involved building display case bases and preparing a room in the Historical Society for a new exhibit that will feature items that were inherited by the Port Clinton Historical Society. This exhibit will showcase the significance of the coal, canal, and railroad industries and how those industries have shaped Schuylkill County. The new exhibit is scheduled to open in 2023.

He and his parents would like to thank the St. Paul's congregation for their support in his religious upbringing, Pastor Mike and Doug Travor who served as references on his Eagle Application, and Greg Sklar who served on his Eagle Board.

## ANNUAL REPORT

Our 2022 Annual Report is still available to church members. If you have not yet picked up a copy at church, you may request one by calling the church office at (570) 366-2316. Please leave your name, address, and phone number, and we will gladly mail one to you!

## STiC

Dear friends in Christ,

Stewardship in Creation is thrilled to have two major upcoming events in the planning stages! As 2020 eliminated many opportunities, it is especially JOYful to anticipate the coming together of God's people in activities we've not been able to celebrate for what seems like a decade. Please mark these dates on your calendar:

Saturday, April 15, 9:30 a.m.-Noon: EARTH DAY at Saint Paul's with a focus on the gift of WATER. We are inviting families (ALL ages!) from the churches in town and our local Lutheran cluster to join us for a wide range of explorations: art, literature, music, faith, flavors, and of course, concerns centering around the miracle of water. Please plan to stay for the duration so that we can culminate the morning with a group celebration! Any and all interested people are being asked to call and register for the event so that we can accurately gauge our space and supplies. Through early March, the topic table in the Gathering Room will continue to feature seed swapping opportunities, and then later, offer some clues about our water activities in April.

Sunday, August 6, 2023, 7 p.m., *Jump for Joy* concert to benefit Red Creek Wildlife Center. Peggy Hentz will be our guest of honor as we gather some fine local musicians who will be donating their time and talents to bring us some beautiful, happy tunes in the cool of the evening. Refreshments will be served afterwards. Ticket sales will begin in June. Please check the calendar in this newsletter for the March STiC meeting and walk dates.

## A NEW PASCAL CANDLE

The new Pascal Candle located in our chancel is dedicated in honor of Isabella and Xavier by their grandmother, Barbara Lafko.

## WELCA

On February 14, a planning session was held to have success in our hosting of the WELCA Schuylkill County Spring Cluster event on Saturday, April 29. 13 women attended.

As a host church, we are responsible for registration, a light breakfast, devotions, and the serving of lunch. This is an opportunity for St. Paul's women to share worship and fellowship with the women of 12 other Lutheran Churches in our area. Arrangements have been made for a program on health and wellness presented by Jenny Wagner of Diakon Community Services. A Bible study will be under the leadership of Pastor Dana Heckman-Beil of Good Shepherd, Ashland. The event will begin at 8:30 a.m., and the entire event, including lunch, should be over by 2 p.m.

A registration and sign-up sheet with details are available at the WELCA bulletin board. The cost is \$11 (\$1 for registration and \$10 for lunch). Lunch is optional. Deadline to register is April 22. A sign-up sheet is also there for you to volunteer your talents, and/or your ability to prepare or shop for food items, paper products, etc. Our next scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, April 11 at 1 p.m. at church. Red Creek Wildlife Center has been designated to receive our In-Gathering offering at the May meeting.

## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- New officers were installed: President Greg Sklar, Vice President Evan Davis, and Secretary Deb Bolinsky. Congratulations!
- We installed Krista Harding and Jill Krewson as new Council members, each with a 3-year term.
- We are still in need of one (1) council member. Please contact Pastor or any council member if you're interested in serving.

## SECOND SUNDAY SUNDAY SCHOOL

Classes will continue every second Sunday of the month during the 10:30 service for students ages one through ten. Below are the remaining dates for Sunday School this school year:

- March 12
- April 2 \*1st Sunday of the month due to Easter
- May 14

Volunteers are needed for March, April, and May! Remember, 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 via the information below to volunteer.

## THANK YOU!

A special THANK YOU to Sue Reier and STIC for allowing the Sunday School class to create a project to include with the plants for our shut-in members. Students created a button "worm" and painted a little flying critter to hang on a hook, placed in the planters.

## EASTER EGG-STRAVAGANZA

Our second annual Easter egg-stravaganza is slated for **Saturday, April 1 from 10 AM-12 NOON**. Please join us in the church gathering room any time during the event to participate in crafts and games and to have a snack. The Easter Bunny may even hop by! Children up to age 10 are welcome to join the fun and fellowship.

Thank you for your continued support of the Sunday School program. See you on March 12!

Sarah Eger  
570-394-3522 (cell)  
[swoodring86@hotmail.com](mailto:swoodring86@hotmail.com)



## **WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Last month we received Andrea and Rick Dancheck of Auburn, PA, into our community of faith via transfer of church membership.

Please welcome them members into our community of faith and thank them for joining us and sharing our ministry.

## **CHILI & SOUP SALE -- A GREAT SUCCESS**

The Men of St. Paul's received \$2,978 during their recent Chili & Soup Sale on Saturday, February 12. This broke their previous sale record of \$2,300 set last November.

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!

## **CRAFTERS' GUILD**

The Crafters' Guild of St. Paul's will gather on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> from 3 to 5 p.m. at the home of Kristin Durkee, 1097 Grove Street, Orwigsburg, PA.

All crafters or people interested in learning a craft are welcome! Please call Kristin Durkee (804-380-9066) or Amy Dewald (570-449-4816), if you are interested in this new group.

## **WILL WORSHIP BE CANCELED?**

In case of inclement weather, 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 changes to our schedule. Be safe, not stuck-- check before you leave home!

## **PLEASE KEEP IT UP!**

Many of our members continue to sign cards which will be sent to members who cannot worship with us in person (e.g., military personnel and college students away from home.) These cards are in the back of our sanctuary on the small table with our prayer list. Please remember to sign our card(s) as you enter or before you the church. Thank you!



## **HOLY WEEK & EASTER**

Our Holy Week worship will begin with the 5:30 p.m. worship service on Saturday, April 1 and then at both Palm/Passion services on Sunday, April 2. Join us to hear of our Lord's triumphal entry into Jerusalem as well as the story of his Passion.

Our Maundy Thursday worship will be held on April 6 at 7:00 p.m., as we reflect upon the events of our Lord's Last Supper. The Sharing of Holy Communion and the stripping of the altar are part of this service.

Then we will share a "Stations (or Way) of the Cross" service on Good Friday, April 7 at 7:00 p.m. Our worship will focus on our Lord's passion and death as described in the four Gospels. During this service, Scriptures will be read and hymns will be sung that remind us of the price Jesus paid for the sin of the world.

We will joyously worship together on the Resurrection of Our Lord (Easter Sunday) on April 9 at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Our worship will be filled with festive music as we celebrate the most timeless and blessed news, "Christ is Risen. He is Risen indeed."

Please worship with us and ask your family and friends to join you!

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Sadie Bergman, Glenda Bright,  
Maci Dow
- 4 Hadley Pontician, Stan Bolinsky,  
Dominique Witman, Brent Stramara
- 5 Eleanor Dent, Mark Williams
- 6 Faith Wertman, Shirley Dull
- 7 Linda Pontician, Colleen Baer
- 8 Barbara Rozansky
- 9 David Krewson, Cheryl Koch,  
John Taylor III
- 11 Ronald Blew, Emily Beach,  
Carol Lutsey, Kade Spitler,  
Finley Mosher
- 12 Kevin Harkins, Brittany Kramer
- 13 Eric Mengel, Ed Sincavage,  
Hannah Glenn
- 14 Ronald Rozansky
- 15 Eric Lutsey, Finley Mosher,  
(Rev.) Rob Reier
- 16 Shannon Rogers, Katharine Yuengling
- 18 Colby Petrizzo, Cynthia Muntone
- 19 Steven Sterner, Larry Pauly
- 20 Cindy Moyer, Lorie Myers
- 21 Peggy Moyer, Jonathan Ferrar
- 22 Emily Heydt
- 23 Wyatt Butler
- 24 Rodney Houser
- 25 Leslie Guldin, Nancy Tihansky,  
Janet Young
- 26 Kristen Rozansky
- 28 Steven Thomas, Sue Mato
- 29 Dale Dewald, Daun Phillips
- 30 Marie Blew, Joseph Medica
- 31 Cindy Ritschel, Carolyn Orwig, Justin  
Gilfillan, Ashley Post, Mary Donton



## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 Ron & Marie Blew
- 18 Dave & Michelle Davenport
- 20 Andrew & Jean Premich

## MARCH FLOWER SPONSORS

### MARCH 5

Altar: In loving memory of my mom, Josephine Rohrer, by her daughter, Joanne Emerich.

Chancel: OPEN

### MARCH 12

Altar: In loving memory of our parents, Edgar and Edith Kriner, by their children Kathie, Cherie, Janet, and Phil, and their families.

Chancel: OPEN

### MARCH 19

Altar: In memory of G. Roger Lengel and Jack A. Lengel by brother Jim W. Lengel and family.

Chancel: OPEN

### MARCH 26

Altar: In honor of Cindy Ritschel's birthday by her loving family.

Chancel: OPEN



## MARCH BULLETIN SPONSORS

### MARCH 5

In loving memory of Russell and Rachel Zehner by Sonny and Connie Teter.

### MARCH 12

In loving memory of my brother, Eric C. Shaud, by Crystal Brensinger and family.

### MARCH 19

In memory of my husband, Dave, by Barb Sterner.

### MARCH 26

OPEN



## HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!

– MARCH 17 –



# Easter Flower Orders

Please detach lower portion of this form and place it along with your payment in the offering basket located in the Gathering Room or return it to church by US Mail.

**Deadline: Sunday, March 12, 2023**

Please **“PRINT”** all necessary information!

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Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

FLOWER TYPE	QUANTITY	PRICE	DEDICATION
Easter Lilies	_____ X	\$9.50	H/M_____
Regular-sized Daffodils	_____ X	\$8.00	H/M_____
6-bulb Tulips (Red)	_____ X	\$8.00	H/M_____
3-bulb Hyacinths (Purple)	_____ X	\$8.00	H/M_____
3-bulb Hyacinths (Pink)	_____ X	\$8.00	H/M_____
3-bulb Hyacinths (White)	_____ X	\$8.00	H/M_____
Hydrangeas (Pink)	_____ X	\$17.00	H/M_____

[NOTE: H = In Honor of *or* M = In Memory of]

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ CASH ☐ CHECK # \_\_\_\_\_

If more space is needed for dedications, please attach another sheet.

# MARCH 2023

## SERVICE SCHEDULE

SUNDAY	MARCH 5	MARCH 12	MARCH 19	MARCH 26
	<u>8:00 AM</u>	<u>8:00 AM</u>	<u>8:00 AM</u>	<u>8:00 AM</u>
GREETER	Krista Harding	Krista Harding	Krista Harding	Krista Harding
USHER	Pastor Mike	Pastor Mike	Pastor Mike	Pastor Mike
LECTOR/ COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Ruth Ann Withers	Kay Weidensaul	Connie Teter	Amy Dewald
	<u>10:30 AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>
GREETER	Doug Travor	Jill Krewson	Jill Krewson	Jill Krewson
USHER	Tina Butler	Carl Heintzelman	Madelyn Knecht	Barb Sterner
LECTOR	Sarah Eger	Jeff Ritschel	Elinda Lado	Mike Lado
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Dave Krewson	Sue Reier	Jeff Ritschel	Madelyn Knecht
ALTAR GUILD	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

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### PLEASE CALL OUR OFFICE

... if you or a loved one are (or plan to be)  
admitted to the hospital

... if your address or phone number changes

... if you want to donate flowers or bulletins

... if you know of a situation  
where the church can help someone in need

... if you have a question about  
what the church is doing

... if you would like to talk to the Pastor

... if you want to be more active  
in the life of the church.

Help us be a blessing to others  
as we share the good news of the Gospel  
and spread the love of God!

### CONSIDER BECOMING A EUCHARISTIC MINISTER


Eucharistic ministers:

1. are lay people who visit members who are unable to regularly worship with us in order to share Holy Communion, offer care, and support them.
2. receive instruction on how to share the Sacrament in a private setting as well as how to "visit" with people whom they might not know well.
3. do not take the place of the pastor, rather they assist the pastor and their congregation to minister to people who often have chronic health or transportation problems.

Please contact Pastor Mike if you are interested in learning more about this important ministry!



# MARCH 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Midweek Lenten Service Chancel Choir will follow this service	2	3 10 a.m. STiC walk in Tumbling Run	4 5:30 p.m. Worship
5 8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship 9:15 a.m. Adult Forum	6 6:30 p.m. Property	7 6:30 p.m. Evangelism	8 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Midweek Lenten Service Chancel Choir will follow this service	9	10 10 a.m. STiC walk in Landingville	11 5:30 p.m. Worship Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday at 2:00 a.m.
12 8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship 9:15 a.m. Adult Forum 10:30 a.m. Sunday School Deadline for Easter Flower Orders 3 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #31129.	13 7 p.m. Council	14	15 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Midweek Lenten Service Chancel Choir will follow this service	16 6:30 p.m. Constitution	17 10 a.m. STiC walk in Auburn  ST. PATRICK'S DAY 	18 10 a.m. STiC  5:30 p.m. Worship
19 8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship 9:15 a.m. Adult Forum	20 FIRST DAY OF SPRING! 6:30 p.m. Finance	21 6 p.m. Service Ministry	22 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Midweek Lenten Service Chancel Choir will follow this service	23	24 10 a.m. STiC walk in Tumbling Run	25 3 p.m. Crafters' Guild @ Durkee Home 5:30 p.m. Worship
26 Worship w/ Holy Communion 8 & 10:30 a.m. Adult Forum 9:15 a.m. Girl Scout Troop #31129 3 p.m.	27	28	29 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Midweek Lenten Service Chancel Choir will follow this service	30 10 a.m. Rainbow Friends	31 10 a.m. STiC walk in Landingville	APRIL 1 10 a.m. – Noon Easter Egg-stravaganza  5:30 p.m. Worship

**[HOLY COMMUNION IS SHARED ON THE FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH AND AT EVERY SUNDAY SERVICE.]**

**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** 570-617-9617 [cwlutsey@gmail.com](mailto:cwlutsey@gmail.com)  
**Jessica Swick, Social Media Manager** 936-648-6809 [jessica@stpauls-orwigsburg.org](mailto:jessica@stpauls-orwigsburg.org)

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**THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD (OR EASTER) SUNDAY IS APRIL 9, 2023!**

**MARCH 2023**

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

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PERMIT NO. 52

**INTERESTED IN WHAT IS GOING ON AT ST. PAUL'S?**

**Call us at 570-366-2316.**

**Visit our office Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.**

**Check out our website: [www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org](http://www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org)**

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