

# St. Paul's News

April 2023

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

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And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men.

Matthew 28:2-4

## 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!

## CEMETERY FUND

Your donations to the Cemetery Fund help defray the cost of regular mowing and maintenance during the summer months. Moving forward, we plan to straighten and right headstones and keep our grass and shrubbery well-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.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Classes will continue every second Sunday of the month during the 10:30 service for students up to age 10. Below are the remaining dates for Sunday School this school year:

- April 2 \*1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month due to Easter
- May 14

### **Volunteers are needed for April and May!**

(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. Please call/text/email me via the information below.

Our annual "Easter Egg-stravaganza" is on **Saturday, April 1 from 10 a.m. to 12**

**Noon.** Please join us in the church gathering room at any time during the event to participate in crafts and games, 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 our Sunday School!

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

## FREE FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

The Schuylkill Area Outreach (a group of three area Lutheran churches) will be "joining hands" to provide a free family movie night on Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church in Friedensburg, PA. The movie to be shown is "Wonder." All are welcome to attend.

Please call Linda Covert at Jerusalem Lutheran Church in Schuylkill Haven, PA, to make your reservation no later than April 30th at 570-385-2657.

All children under age 16 Must be accompanied by an adult.

## WELCA

WELCA will next meet on Tuesday, April 11, at 1 PM at church. All St. Paul's women are automatically a member of WELCA are encouraged to attend whenever possible. The next In-Gathering offering will be received at the May meeting and has been designated for Red Creek Wildlife Center.

Our group has offered to host the WELCA Schuylkill County Spring Cluster event, scheduled for April 29, 2023. As a host church, we are responsible for registration, a light breakfast, devotions, and the serving of lunch, Pastor Mike Petresky will lead the devotions and Justin McClure has agreed to provide music. 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 that will be 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 begins at 8:30 AM, with the entire event, including lunch, should be over by 2 PM. Registration and a sign-up sheet with details are available at the WELCA bulletin board. You have until April 22 to register and pay, but if you plan to attend, please register as soon as possible. An envelope for your check is available on the table beneath the bulletin board. The cost is \$11 (\$1 for registration and \$10 for lunch). Lunch is optional.

Another sign up sheet is there for you to volunteer your talents, and/or your ability to prepare or shop for food items, paper products, etc.

Thank you!



## 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.

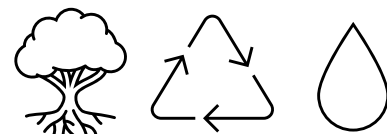
Please send your info to Jessica Swick through our church Facebook page, email it to [jessica@stpauls-orwigsburg.org](mailto:jessica@stpauls-orwigsburg.org) or text it to her at (936) 648-6809.

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.]

## EARTH DAY IS APRIL 22

After a massive oil spill off the coast of California in 1969, the "modern environmental movement" began in the US. By 1970, Earth Day was founded as a national holiday. Try these tips below to start making a difference today, and "Together, we can Restore Our Earth™" ([earthday.org](http://earthday.org)). Remember, a few small changes can make a BIG difference.

- Rethink how natural resources are precious and limited
- Recycle plastic, metal, paper, and glass
- Compost leftover food
- Refuse single-use plastics
- Reduce energy emission
- Repair, re-use, repurpose
- Switch out paper towels with terrycloth
- Shop with reusable bags
- Conserve paper
- Simply think about generations to come



## **EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS WANTED**

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!

## **STIC**

**FRIDAY WALKS (ALL AT 10 AM)**

April 7 in Auburn--join us for reflection.

April 14 in Auburn--help scoop up some river water for our Earth Day Festival the next day!

April 21 in Tumbling Run: testing a graffiti cleaner...come see if it works!

April 28 is ARBOR DAY, come to the Yuengling Mansion at 10 for the dedication program!

## **KEEP IT UP!**

Please continue to sign cards for members who cannot worship with us in person (e.g., those who have long-term health problems, military personnel, and college students far from home.) These cards are in the back of our sanctuary on the small table with our prayer list.

This small kindness can bring a smile and lift the spirits of someone -- who might just need some encouragement and support!

## **THE LENTEN CROSSES**

Last year before the beginning of Lent, Barbara Lafko gave me a gold pin, depicting the cross and crown of thorns. A year later, I continue to wear the pin given to me by Barbara. So, this Lenten season, I decided to have two wreaths made for the front church doors that look very much like the pin that I appreciate and love.

As you enter the church and see the wreaths, I hope that you will take a minute to remember God's greatest gift, Jesus Christ, who suffered and died for us so that we might have forgiveness for all our sins. Then, on Easter, He arose and gave us the lasting promise of eternal life. May you feel the love of God surround you and have a most blessed Easter.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Tom Wehr

## **EVANGELISM NEWS**

The Evangelism Committee will meet on Tuesday, April 4, at 6:30 p.m. Please mark your calendars now for the events happening below:

### **NEW MEMBER RECEPTION**

The Evangelism Committee will host a reception following the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, April 16 for all new members who have joined our church family in the past year. If you have not yet met our newest members, please join us to welcome them.

### **BRING A FRIEND SUNDAY**

Bring a friend to visit St. Paul's and worship with us on Sunday, May 21 at both services. A small reception will be held following the 10:30 a.m. service.

### **GRADUATES CELEBRATION SUNDAY**

All students who graduated in December 2022 or will graduate in May or June of 2023 will be celebrated at the 9:30 a.m. service on Sunday, June 4. A reception honoring the graduates will be held following the service. Please join us as we celebrate with our "grads" and their families.

## **BOOK DRIVE FOR OUR FOOD PANTRY**

Our Service Committee is sponsoring a book drive for area families through the work of the Orwigsburg Food Panty.

Did you know that the Orwigsburg Area Food Pantry offers more than food and household items to those in need? It also offers books to families and their children.

Books for toddlers and preschool children are especially helpful, but books for teenagers and even adults are also appreciated. Your donations of new or gently used books can be placed in a box in the narthex beginning Sunday, April 30. This book drive will continue through Sunday, May 28.

Now might be a good time for families to go through their own books so that outgrown favorites might be shared with children eager to have them.

Remember: A Book Is a Gift You Can Open Over and Over!

## **COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**

- 1.) Bill Smoot was installed to fill the final council seat vacancy. Congratulations! Please see the Council bulletin board located near the stairwell for a complete list of current council members.
- 2.) New railing was installed on the back porch of the parsonage to comply with insurance requirements.
- 3.) The Synod Assembly will be held at the Kalahari Resort in the Poconos from June 1-3, 2023. We are searching for two (2) members (preferably a male and female) to attend. St. Paul's will pay for all registration & lodging fees. Please contact Pastor Mike for more information or to volunteer.



## **EASTER: MORE THAN A DAY!**

Easter, which celebrates Jesus Christ's resurrection, is Christianity's most important holiday. It is a 'moveable feast' because it doesn't fall on a set date every year. Instead, Christian churches in the West celebrate Easter on the first Sunday following the full moon after the spring equinox which was on March 20 this year. Therefore, Easter is observed anywhere between March 21 and April 25.

Easter is really an entire season of the Christian church year, as opposed to a single-day observance. The 50-day period following Easter Sunday is called Eastertide and includes a celebration of Jesus' ascension into heaven. Ascension Day is always on a Thursday, this year it's on May 18.

Eastertide ends with the celebration of the Day of Pentecost. This is celebrated on the seventh Sunday after Easter, commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles. This year Pentecost falls on May 28.

## **GET TO KNOW OUR COUNCIL**

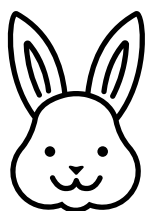
Our Council includes President Greg Sklar, Vice President Evan Davis, Secretary Deb Bolinsky, Treasurer (and non-voting member) - Karen Tavor, as well as Tina Butler, Sarah Eger, Krista Harding, Carl Heintzelman, Jill Krewson, Wayne Lutsey, Cindy Ritschel, Bill Smoot, and Doug Tavor.

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Michelle Davenport
- 2 Ashlyn Hannaway
- 3 Kent Eisenhuth
- 4 Mark Heim, Riccardo Muntone
- 5 Julia Kunkel, Krista Callaghan,  
Wayne Lutsey
- 6 Ian Correll, Erin McKivigan
- 7 Lindsay Ritschel Novelli
- 8 Janet Just
- 9 Cindy Sklar, Corey Scheipe
- 10 Erin Winkel, Hunter Teter,  
Nicole Lutsey
- 11 Matt Drey
- 12 Tyler Moyer
- 13 Robert Krause, Jr., Cara Pelletier
- 14 Heather Jenkins, Davin Hine
- 15 Julianne Schenck, Jonathan Phillips
- 17 Jennifer Brueninghaus
- 19 Sarah Kramer, Robin Zimmerman
- 22 Victoria Spitler, Matthew Blair
- 23 Jennifer Steely
- 24 Brandon Eschbach, Evan Davis
- 26 Connor Callaghan
- 27 David Miller
- 28 Jim Spotts

## APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Jim & Jodi Spotts
- 7 Kevin & Janice Blair
- 13 David & Nancy Kaiser
- 16 Carsten & Jennifer Brueninghaus
- 18 Rick and Andrea Dancheck
- 20 Gerald & Barbara Hinnershitz
- 22 Sonny & Connie Teter
- 23 Greg & Cindy Sklar
- 27 George & Lynn Smith



## APRIL FLOWER SPONSORS

### APRIL 2

Altar: In loving memory of Dr. and Mrs. F.S. Olmes by the Lafko family.

Chancel: In loving memory of Carl Long by Christine and Dr. Kevin Long.

### APRIL 9

Altar: In memory of Charles A. Pitts, Jr. by the Withers family.

Chancel: In honor of Lindsay's, Lily's, and Jayda's birthdays by Cindy and Jeff Ritschel.

### APRIL 16

Altar: In honor of Victoria Spitler by her parents, Tina and Scott Butler.

Chancel: OPEN

### APRIL 23

Altar: In honor of Sonny and Connie Teter on their wedding anniversary.

Chancel: OPEN

### APRIL 30

Altar: OPEN

Chancel: OPEN

## APRIL BULLETIN SPONSORS

### APRIL 2

OPEN

### APRIL 9

OPEN

### APRIL 16

In honor of Juli's birthday, 15 April, by Sue and Kurt Schenck.

### APRIL 23

OPEN

### APRIL 30

In honor of Nate Dixon's 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday by grandparents, Stu and Danielle Richards.

# APRIL 2023

## SERVICE SCHEDULE

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SUNDAY	<u>APRIL 2</u>	<u>APRIL 9</u>	<u>APRIL 16</u>	<u>APRIL 23</u>	<u>APRIL 30</u>
8:00 AM					
<b>GREETER</b>	Krista Harding	Krista Harding	Krista Harding	Krista Harding	Krista Harding
<b>USHER</b>	Pastor Mike	Pastor Mike	Pastor Mike	Pastor Mike	Pastor Mike
<b>LECTOR/ COMMUNION ASSISTANT</b>	Connie Teter	Kay Weidensaul	Ruth Ann Withers	Ruth Ann Withers	Amy Dewald

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10:30 AM					
<b>GREETER</b>	Tina Butler	Tina Butler	Cindy Ritschel	Cindy Ritschel	Cindy Ritschel
<b>USHER(S)</b>	Karen Travor	Dani Bolinsky Deb Bolinsky Jerry Goessel Jeff Ritschel	Joanne Emerich	Sue Reier	Glenda Bright
<b>LECTOR</b>	Sue Schenck	Samantha Clarke	Robin Zimmerman	Leslie Guldin	Jim Emerich
<b>COMMUNION ASSISTANT</b>	Tina Butler	Greg Sklar	Cindy Ritschel	Chris Long	Pat Kunkle
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Sue Schenck Barb Sterner	Tina Butler Chris Long	Tina Butler Chris Long	Joyce O'Rourke Jean Premich	Joyce O'Rourke Jean Premich
<b>COUNTERS</b>	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

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**MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
7 P.M. THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2023

**GREETER:** TBA

**USHER:** Deb Bolinsky and Wayne Lutsey

**LECTOR:** Pat Kunkle

**COMMUNION ASSISTANT:** Ruth Ann Withers

**ALTAR GUILD:** Glenda Bright and Diane Brobst

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## REBATES FROM BOYER'S FOOD MARKETS

St. Paul's will 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 scannable keychain cards. Take one, shop at Boyer's Food Market, and present it to a cashier while your

**GOOD FRIDAY**  
7 P.M. FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 2023

**GREETER:** TBA



**ALTAR GUILD:** Glenda Bright and Diane Brobst

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 up a scannable Boyer's Food Market keychain card today! Shop and donate to St. Paul's!



# APRIL 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 10 a.m. to 12 Noon Easter Egg- stravaganza Worship w/ Holy Communion 5:30 p.m.
2 <b>PALM/PASSION SUNDAY</b> 8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School	3	4 6:30 p.m. Evangelism	5 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Chancel Choir	6 <b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b> 7 p.m. Worship w/Holy Communion	7 <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> 10 a.m. STiC SRT Walk in Auburn 7 p.m. Stations of the Cross	8 <b>HOLY SATURDAY</b> 5:30 p.m. Silent Prayer, Meditation, and Reflection
9 <b>THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD (EASTER)</b> 8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship	10 7 p.m. Council  EASTER MONDAY	11 1 p.m. WELCA 6:30 p.m. Evangelism	12 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Chancel Choir	13	14 10 a.m. STiC SRT Walk in Auburn	15 Earth Day Event 9:30 a.m. – Noon 5:30 p.m. Worship w/ Holy Communion 5:30 p.m.
16 8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship 9:15 a.m. Adult Forum Reception for New Members Following 10:30 a.m. Worship	17	18	19 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Chancel Choir	20 6:30 p.m. Constitution	21 10 a.m. STiC SRT Walk in Tumbling Run	22 EARTH DAY  5:30 p.m. Worship
23 8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship 9:15 a.m. Adult Forum 3 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #31129	24 6:30 p.m. Property	25	26 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Chancel Choir	27	28 ARBOR DAY 10 a.m. Dedication Program at Yuengling Mansion	29 8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. WELCA Spring Cluster Event 3 p.m. Crafters' Guild at Durkee Home Worship 5:30 p.m.
30 8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship 9:15 a.m. Adult Forum	1 6:30 p.m. Worship & Music					

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

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Reverend Michael T. Petresky	570-366-2316 - Ext 11	<a href="mailto:pastormike@stpauls-orwigsburg.org">pastormike@stpauls-orwigsburg.org</a>
Justin McClure, Organist/Choir Director	570-573-4076	<a href="mailto:justin@stpauls-orwigsburg.org">justin@stpauls-orwigsburg.org</a>
Juli Schenck, Office Support Staff	570-366-2316	<a href="mailto:office@stpauls-orwigsburg.org">office@stpauls-orwigsburg.org</a>
Carl Heintzelman, Sexton	484-408-5152	
Karen Travor, Treasurer	570-366-8757	<a href="mailto:karen@stpauls-orwigsburg.org">karen@stpauls-orwigsburg.org</a>
Wayne Lutsey, Financial Secretary	570-617-9617	<a href="mailto:cwlutsey@gmail.com">cwlutsey@gmail.com</a>
Jessica Swick, Social Media Manager	936-648-6809	<a href="mailto:jessica@stpauls-orwigsburg.org">jessica@stpauls-orwigsburg.org</a>

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**APRIL 2023**

**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**

**Saturday, April 1 – Easter Egg- stravaganza from 10 AM to 12 Noon**

**Sunday, April 2 – Palm/Passion Sunday with Holy Communion at 8 & 10:30 AM**

**Thursday, April 6 – Maundy Thursday with Holy Communion at 7 PM**

**Friday, April 7 – Good Friday (Stations of the Cross) at 7 PM**

**Sunday, April 9 – Easter Sunday with Holy Communion at 8 & 10:30 AM**

**Saturday, April 15 – Earth Day Festivities from 9:30 AM to 12 Noon**

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

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