

St. Paul's News

May 2023

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
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PASTOR'S MESSAGE

There are three kinds of financial giving that help us achieve a thoughtful, faith-filled balance.

1. Regular financial offerings or giving as "business as usual." You pay your monthly bills, you buy groceries, and you contribute regularly to help carry out God's mission in the world. Your generosity isn't an afterthought; it's part of your everyday joyful response as a child of God. These offerings first help to support local ministries, outreach and more. Your congregation then shares a portion of your offering—mission support—with your synod and the churchwide expression.

2. Continuing special financial commitments or giving to continuing special offerings or to specific causes is important. Such giving may include ELCA World Hunger, a program of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, your congregation's building or cemetery fund, or the local food pantry. We encourage your continuing support of these worthy causes, but we also recommend that these offerings be given above and beyond, and never in place of, your commitment to your regular congregational offering.

3.) Offerings to help those most in need are the most personal and spontaneous kind of giving. Donations for those who have recently lost their home in a fire or who face difficult choices because of unpaid medical bills, or have lost a loved one, or who face a lay-off often are often critical. Your outreach makes God's love for those in need feel very real and very immediate; your kindness and generosity reveal Christ's presence within them as well.

But your donations of time and talent also matter. It's important to remember that when we focus exclusively on giving in terms of money alone, we lose sight of the bigger picture. God calls us to be generous in all areas our lives and invites us to explore the many opportunities to share ourselves through our time and talent.

Let us remember that when we ground our giving in our faith, our financial generosity becomes an expression of our love for God, and our neighbor.

In Jesus Christ we are a new people: a forgiven people who are compassionate and eager to share. Let us give cheerfully - because God has given us abundant life, and so, so much more!

Peace to you and yours!
Pastor Mike

NEW WOODEN CROSS

This year, our Worship & Music Committee requested that a new cross be made for our Lenten worship. Steve and Robin Zimmerman paid local woodworker Ron Hikes to do the work, while Lee and Amy Dewald provided some beautifully weathered wood to make it. As a result, a beautiful, tall, "rugged" cross with a wooden base blessed our worship during Lent.

Our new cross is dedicated to the memory of our parents, H. Clair and Jane Zimmerman and Kermit and Cathlene Krammes by Steve and Robin Zimmerman. It is also dedicated to the memory of our uncle, William P. Kieser, Jr., by Lee and Amy Dewald.

From everyone at St. Paul's: Thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity!

APPRECIATION AND THANKS

Dear Friends,

Heartfelt and many thanks for your support during my health crisis. Your cards, notes, and gifts were so appreciated. My last infusion was in March and follow up appointments have gone well. I will never forget the many acts of kindness which were extended to me during my treatment from my wonderful church family.

Sincerely yours,
Robin Zimmerman

ADULT FORUM

... will continue discussing "Daring Faith" by Rick Warren during the month of May. We will then break for the summer months and return in September. We meet in the church parlor at 9:15 a.m.

BOOK DRIVE FOR OUR FOOD PANTRY

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

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!

Service Ministry will meet on Tuesday, May 9,
at 6 p.m.



**WE REMEMBER AND
WE GIVE THANKS!**

We remember and give thanks to God for the men and women who served in our nation's armed forces and gave their lives, so we and those who follow us might enjoy the fruits of liberty and justice for all.

This year Memorial Day will be celebrated on
Monday, May 29!

THANK YOU!!!

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who helped make our second annual Easter Egg-stravaganza a huge success! We had 24 children (from our church and community) take part in the event. The kids were able to make a faith necklace, a "joyful noise" Easter egg maraca, play Easter themed games, have a snack, and get pictures with the Easter Bunny!

This event couldn't have happened without the support of all those who volunteered, donated items, and brought children to the event. I truly appreciate everyone's support and am so happy to be a part of such a special church family!

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

"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.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

> Council expressed their appreciation to leader Sara Eger and her volunteer helpers for a very successful Easter Egg-stravaganza event held at the church on the morning of Saturday, April 1. Sarah reported that the number of participating children doubled to 24 from last year's inaugural event!

> All agreed that we had a very fruitful Lenten season concluding in Holy Week with well-attended worship services led by Pastor, Church Musician Justin, and our two choirs. Many thanks to all!

OUR SUMMER FELLOWSHIP TABLE RETURNS

Any church committee, family, group, or individual can host a Summer Fellowship Table beginning Sunday, June 11, following the 9:30 a.m. worship service. A sign-up sheet is located in the gathering room for your convenience.

OUR SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINS JUNE 4!

We will return to our summer worship schedule on Sunday, June 4, 2023. Instead of having 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. worship on Sunday mornings, we will share a single 9:30 a.m. worship service. Our Saturday worship service will continue at 5:30 p.m. Please mark your calendars!

ATTENTION: 2023 GRADUATES

Do you know a student who 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 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 or text it to her at (936) 648-6809.

We invite all graduates and their families for an in-person celebration at the 9:30 a.m. service on Sunday, June 4, 2023. Let us celebrate with our "Grads" and their families!



WELCA NEWS

Eighteen women attended the April meeting. All received a hand-crafted bookmark along with greetings from Betty Deibert, a former coordinator of our group.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 9 at 1 PM at church. A speaker or program will be announced in upcoming bulletins.

The May In-Gathering offering will be given to Red Creek Wildlife Center. In addition, to benefit them, we will provide light refreshments here at St. Paul's at the August 6 concert organized for them by Sue Reier.

Our collecting of dark-colored hats/scarves for the International Seamens' Christmas gift bags will continue. This project has been successful for the past several years. Acknowledgement of their gratefulness is posted on the WELCA bulletin board. Please continue to share your talents of knitting, crocheting, or shopping. A box will be placed in the narthex in the fall to collect these.

STiC

WHAT A TEAM!!!! The following folks all joined together both behind the scenes and on site to create an impressive Earth Day Festival: Cindy Ritschel, Bill and Becky Smoot and daughter Alyssa Imbesi, Chris Long, Gloria Dierwechter, Grayson and Elizabeth Dewald, Rob Reier, Tina Butler, Sarah Eger, Joyce O'Rourke, Robin Zimmerman, Kristin and Justin Durkee, Jessica Swick, Cindy Sklar, and Tom and Gwen Wehr. Also, many thanks for the generous grant from Thrivent Action Teams...so many supplies and our banner were made possible through this tremendous community-oriented resource. So thankful for y'all!

In (more than) great gratitude,

Sue Reier

STiC CONTINUED...

(Activities noted below take place at 10 a.m.)

Friday, May 5: Walking at Landingville

Saturday, May 6: "Exploring the Artful and Mathematical Hand of God": a workshop of shapes, patterns, painting, and wonderment. Wear messy clothes and expect a lot of fun! All ages, upstairs.

Friday May 12: Walking at Auburn, maybe in the river!

Friday, May 19: Walking at Tumbling Run

No walk is "scheduled" on May 26; anyone can go and enjoy the trails this day, of course!

LET'S WALK TO BETHLEHEM

...And then there were three... From Memorial Day to Heritage Day (5/29 to 9/9), a triumvirate of Orwigsburg churches including Saint John's, Salem, and Saint Paul's ("JPS"???) will attempt to achieve the feat of walking all the way to Bethlehem (the one across the ocean). That's 5,787 miles!!!

Keep your eyes open for more detailed announcements, but this is for ALL AGES interacting together, and will include scavenger hunts, photography contests centering around specific things, and adventures as they present themselves. Sign-ups and instructions will be soon to come. This will take a mighty team, so all feet on deck! Each walker records their walking activity, as well as gathering for about three planned group events loaded with fun ways to be outdoors, discovering the beauty of God's creation... and a culmination at Heritage Day. We will log everyone's miles together and see if we've met the goal.

~Sue Reier, your Saint Paul's rep



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 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!

M-O-T-H-E-R

M is for the million things she gave me.

O means only that she's growing old.

T is for the tears she shed to save me.

H is for her heart of purest gold.

E is for her eyes with love-light shining.

R means right and right she'll always be.

Put them all together they spell mother.

A word that means the world to me

Lyrics written in 1915 by Howard Johnson
(1887-1941)

A MOTHER'S DAY THOUGHT!

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 14. Let us give thanks to God for all the good things that we have received from our mothers -- and from everyone who was like a good mother to us!



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.

SEARCH FOR AN OFFICE SUPPORT STAFF PERSON BEGINS

Recently, Juli Schenck resigned from her position as our Office Support Staff person. We thank her for her service to our congregation.

The duties of the Office Support Staff position will be reviewed, and a revised job description will be posted soon.

"STAMP OUT HUNGER" DRIVE

A national "Stamp Out Hunger" drive is slated for May 13 this year. Donations in our area will benefit the Orwigsburg Area Food Pantry.

If you would like to participate all you need to do is place one or more non-perishable items in a bag at your mailbox on Saturday, May 13, and a letter carrier from the post office will do the rest. Even a single can of soup, bag of rice, or jar of peanut butter can go a long way in feeding a hungry family.

Thank you for your continued support of the Orwigsburg Area Food Pantry.

Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4.16

MAY BIRTHDAYS

4 Matthew Auteri, Phil Olmes
5 Scott Rarick, Steve Zimmerman
6 Kate Harkins
7 Troy Moyer, Jim Spotts
8 Connor Zimmerman
9 Michele Lyter, Christopher Mosher
10 Alexandria Spitler, B. J. Folk, Greg Sklar
11 Terri Keyworth
12 Nancy Kaiser, Cheryl Dukmen
14 Connor Spatz, Jason Swick
15 Dan Correll
16 Dan Aregood
18 Meredith Krewson, Jeffery Rarick,
Charles Stramara
19 Brayden Shappell
20 Patricia Kunkel, Stacey Goessel
24 Eric Hosler, Rosalie Wingle
25 Suye, Reier, Robert Schuld, Mark Travor
26 Jared Kane
27 Lola Rymarkiewicz, Laura Post
28 Rick Dancheck
29 Gloria Dierwechter, Gwen Wehr,
Reese Steely
30 Jesse Scheipe
31 Ed Keyworth, Bobby Schuld, Josh Miller

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

3 John & Linda Pontician
6 Rick & Karen Shoener
15 Amber & Jason Eisenacher
16 Phil & Priscilla Olmes
22 William & Carol Heydt
23 Dale & Janet Keener
27 Allen & Leslie Dahl
31 Lee & Amy Dewald

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

Our annual church picnic will be held at Albright's Woods Pavilion following the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, September 24. Please mark your calendars!

MAY FLOWERS

MAY 7

Altar: In memory of grandparents, George and Frieda Somers, by James Lengel and family.

Chancel: OPEN

MAY 14

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

Chancel: In loving memory of Gary for our anniversary by Gloria Dierwechter.

MAY 21

Altar: In memory of Frances E. Pitts by the Withers family.

Chancel: In memory of war dead by Danielle and Stu Richards.

MAY 28

Altar: OPEN

Chancel: In honor of Gwen's birthday from husband, Tom Wehr.

MAY BULLETINS

MAY 7: OPEN

MAY 14: OPEN

MAY 21: OPEN

MAY 28: In memory of war dead by Richards/Dixon families.

CRAFTS ON SALE

"The new Crafter's Guild of St. Paul's will be selling a variety of crafts at the 2nd Annual Strawberry Festival on June 10th from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The event is held at 35 West Catawissa St., New Ringgold, PA and includes many other vendors, food trucks, and live animals. Come and see what the creative minds of the Crafter's Guild have put together and enjoy some strawberry shortcake!"

MAY 2023

SERVICE SCHEDULE

SUNDAY	MAY 7 8:00 AM	MAY 14 8:00 AM	MAY 21 8:00 AM	MAY 28 8:00 AM
GREETER	Krista Harding	Krista Harding	Krista Harding	Krista Harding
USHER	Pastor Mike	Pastor Mike	Pastor Mike	Pastor Mike
LECTOR/ COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Connie Teter	Amy Dewald	Kay Weidensaul	Ruth Ann Withers
	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM
GREETER	Cindy Ritschel	Cindy Ritschel	Cindy Ritschel	Cindy Ritschel
USHER	Tom Wehr	Joyce O'Rourke	Karen Shoener	Carl Heintzelman
LECTOR	Sue Reier	Chris Long	Wendy Schuld	Wayne Lutsey
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Wayne Lutsey	Sue Schenck	Becky Smoot	Doug Travor
ALTAR GUILD	Kathy Miller Connie Teter	Kathy Miller Connie Teter	Joanne Emerich Gwen Wehr	Joanne Emerich Gwen Wehr
COUNTERS	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

A BRIEF HISTORY OF MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day, as Decoration Day gradually came to be known, originally honored only those lost while fighting in the Civil War. But during World War I the United States found itself embroiled in another major conflict, and the holiday evolved to commemorate American military personnel who died in all wars, including World War II, The Vietnam War, The Korean War and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

For decades, Memorial Day continued to be observed on May 30, the date General Logan had selected for the first Decoration Day. But in 1968, Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which established Memorial Day


as the last Monday in May to create a three-day weekend for federal employees. The change went into effect in 1971. The same law also declared Memorial Day a federal holiday.

[<https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/memorial-day-history>]

PATRIOTIC CONCERT SET

Our Hand Bell and Chancel Choirs will be featured during a patriotic concert at 7 p.m. on Sunday, May 28, the Day of Pentecost and Memorial Day weekend. Light refreshments will follow the evening's performance. This concert is free and open to the community!

MAY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 6:30 p.m. Worship & Music	2 6:30 p.m. Evangelism	3 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Chancel Choir	4 6:30 p.m. Audit Review	5 10 a.m. STiC SRT Walk Landingville.	6 10 a.m. STiC Event “Exploring the Artful and Mathematical Hand of God” 5:30 p.m. Worship w//Holy Communion
7 8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship 9:15 a.m. Adult Forum 3 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #31129	8 7 p.m. Council	9 1 p.m. WELCA 6 p.m. Service Ministry	10 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Chancel Choir	11	12 10 a.m. STiC SRT Walk Auburn	13 “Stamp Out Hunger” Drive 5:30 p.m. Worship
14 MOTHER’S DAY 8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship 9:15 a.m. Adult Forum 10:30 a.m. Sunday School	15 7 p.m. Eucharist Ministry	16	17 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Chancel Choir	18 ASCENSION DAY 6:30 p.m. Constitution	19 10 a.m. STiC SRT Walk Tumbling Run	20 5:30 p.m. Worship
21 “BRING A FRIEND” SUNDAY 8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship 9:15 a.m. Adult Forum 3 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #31129	22	23	24 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Chancel Choir	25 10 a.m. Rainbow Friends	26	27 5:30 p.m. Worship
28 DAY OF PENTECOST 8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship 9:15 a.m. Adult Forum 7 p.m. Patriotic Concert	29 MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY 	30	31			

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

Reverend Michael T. Petresky	570-366-2316 - Ext 11	pastormike@stpauls-orwigsburg.org
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GERANIUM ORDER SHEET

We plan to decorate the church with red geraniums on Pentecost Sunday, May 28.
The deadline to place an order is Sunday, **May 21** and the cost of each geranium pot is \$4.00. Checks may be made payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Please place your order and payment in the basket on the table under the bulletin board in the Gathering Room. Envelopes are available for your use.

Name: _____

If you wish to dedicate your flowers, please fill out the information below:

In honor of:

In memory of:

Total # of Geraniums: _____

Total amount enclosed: \$_____

MAY 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

Sunday, May 14 – Mother's Day!

Sunday, May 21 – Bring a Friend Sunday!

Sunday, May 28 – Day of Pentecost – Patriotic Concert at 7 p.m.

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

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