

St. Paul's News

July 2023

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 156, 215 North Warren Street
Orwigsburg, PA 17961
Office: 570-366-2316
Fax: 570-366-7357
www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org

BOUND IN LOVE - FREED IN CHRIST!

"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery... You, my brothers were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge in the sinful nature; rather serve one another in love."

Galatians 5:1, 13

On Independence Day, we celebrate our many freedoms. Among others, we celebrate the freedom of religion, speech, the press, bear arms, peaceably assemble, vote, and elect our leaders. And as we celebrate, we should thank God that we live in a land dedicated to "liberty and justice for all."

Adam and Eve thought that they knew how to exercise their God-given freedom in the Garden of Eden, but they were terribly wrong. In choosing to disobey God, they became enslaved to sin, shame, guilt, and death. Their wonderful relationships with God and one another were broken. They passed on the terrible burden of Original Sin to all future generations.

There is a great difference between "freedom" and "license." License is doing as one pleases, wherever and whenever one pleases, regardless of the consequences to others. It is toxic and an invitation to destruction and death.

The parable of The Prodigal Son provides a good example of the terrible results of license. The younger son wanted to be wealthy and free from his father's authority.

But this younger son soon discovered that he was not free at all. He was destitute and imprisoned by his own foolishness and wickedness. It was not until he repented and humbled himself to serve in his father's household that he discovered his father's forgiveness and real freedom.

Because of Adam and Eve, humankind is enslaved by sin, death, and bound to the devil. Yet many people do not understand that. They are like slaves who think that they are free. But thinking that one is free certainly does not make one free.

True freedom only comes through a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. It comes by grace (God's gift of unmerited favor) through faith (God's gift that allows one to believe and follow Jesus Christ).

In his treatise, "On the Freedom of a Christian," Martin Luther writes,

"A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all."

[Continued next page]

But how can one be lord of all AND servant of all?

Martin Luther states that through Jesus Christ, believers are no longer compelled to keep God's law in order to be justified (that is, considered by God to be righteous). Rather, through Jesus Christ, they are justified and can now strive to love God and serve their neighbors as faith-filled believers.

As we give thanks to God for our freedoms and for all of God's blessings on the 4th of July, let us also give thanks for God's love revealed to the whole world in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

In Christ, we are joyously bound to God and one another in unconditional love. In Christ, we free to live abundantly now and eternally together -- one day!

All our thanks be to God!

Pastor Mike

TIME & TALENT SURVEY

Our 2023 Time and Talent Survey is again included in this month's newsletter.

Please complete a survey for each member in your household aged 16 and above. The information you provide will not only assist us now but will be helpful as we move forward in faith.

Place completed surveys in the offering plate, drop them off at the church office, or mail them to us

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 156
Orwigsburg, PA 17961
Attn: T&T Survey

as soon as you have completed them.

Thank you!

WELCA NEWS

We are enjoying the summer days after a busy April & May. We are trying to arrange a picnic in August, and we will let you know of any plans through bulletins or announcements in church.

Once again, a special thank you to all who attended and donated items to the Spring Cluster event. We received a very nice note of thanks from Donna Wallace, Secretary of the Schuylkill Cluster, and she stated she hopes to see all 20 or more of our women at the next Spring Cluster at Friedens, Hegins.

A note of thanks was also received from the Orwigsburg Food Pantry for the In-Kind Gift of \$205.00 received at the Spring Cluster.

A letter of appreciation was received from Red Creek Wildlife Center for our May In-Gathering of \$182.00. These funds are being matched 2:1 by the Dietrick W. Botstiber Foundation.

Please stop by the WELCA bulletin board to read these notes of appreciation.

We have offered to host light refreshments following the Aug. 6th concert for the benefit of Red Creek Wildlife Center arranged by Sue Reier. There is a sign-up sheet beneath our bulletin board for item(s) you might be willing to supply.

Our September In-Gathering offering has been designated for the Orwigsburg Historical Society to help save the "red barn." Also, there is a petition you may sign if you wish to show your support.

Because we wish to have interesting programs as part of our regular meetings, we encourage you to suggest or share a topic which could be presented at a future meeting.

Please enjoy the summer days. They seem to disappear quickly.

WALKS WITH STiC

Walks with STiC in June are scheduled as follows:

July 7: Auburn

July 14: Tumbling Run

July 21: Landingville

July 28: Auburn

An ordinary STiC walk at Landingville this past week, our dog Raven was thrilled to be out smelling all the wilderness, and being the sole walker, I decided to walk toward the historic canal tunnel remains. Done so many times before and knowing each part of the path, I gazed across the marsh to my right and heard voices: woodpeckers, red winged blackbirds, crows, blue jays, humans, the breeze, the geese of course, ...and something was calling to me. I realized I simply had never been across to the other side. So instead of staying straight at the tunnel, I took the right, the path unknown. The gravel of the Schuylkill River Trail remained behind as I set off on a narrower dirt path with much greenery which sometimes closed in on us, sometimes opened in areas right at the water's edge so Raven and I could more easily spot the wildlife. It got a bit challenging as poison ivy seems to be having a heyday this year, and as the path seemed far longer than its parallel on the other side. We walked and walked, trying to decide whether to continue the expedition or double back, it didn't really matter muscle-wise; yet when you are unfamiliar with your surroundings, you still wonder these things! Just about that time, I happened to look down and found I'd come upon a Tulip poplar tree sapling...hardly enough to even see. So fresh...so vibrant even in the driest season we've had in a while, I couldn't resist peeking *down* into what would eventually be the *crown* of a tree which would tower over most trees in the overstory. Of course, I took a picture! And in the center, infant leaves unfolding, some still curled in so all you might see was the arc of the petiole pulling as if a marlin were on its line....

That very wonder of creation carried me on the new path till it finally met the road with which I was familiar. I'll be going back. Even more new paths await, and maybe you'll be along to hear the call!

Blessings to you, Sue Reier

LIBRARY NEWS

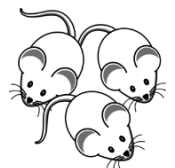
Hello and Happy Summer to all our St. Paul's family! We hope that you are enjoying your time with family and friends! Herman, Lucy, and I have been visiting our mouse cousins in Girardville, Mahanoy City, and Shenandoah. The picnics have been fun, and our travels have been made easier by going with Mr. Wayne Lutsey and Mr. Greg Sklar. They are really nice gentlemen and are so funny with their interesting stories and jokes!

We are looking forward to a cruise to Jamaica this month with Madeline, Sharon, and Bill, some of our Texas cousins. Who knows? We may find other cousins cruising on our ship, too! We are anticipating some fun activities, getting some sun, and especially eating the delicious crumbs and "leftovers" from the "big passengers." We hope we don't gain too much weight on our return!

Have a wonderful "4th of July," everyone! Be sure to love creating awesome new memories with family and friends as you enjoy fellowship, food, and relaxation! Also, look around at God's beautiful creation and appreciate its wonders which we are free to enjoy. Be thankful, too, for all the blessings which we receive each and every day. God bless you, and don't forget to pick up a good book to read as you enjoy the summer!

Your friendly library mice,

Melvin, Herman, and Lucy



GWOH 2023

This year's "God's Work. Our Hands." project will support "Servants to All – My Father's house" located in Pottsville, PA which was incorporated in 2012.

"Servants to All" is a faith-based program and homeless services provider that offers emergency shelter, homeless prevention, street outreach, case management, and supportive services to those in need in Schuylkill and the surrounding counties. They provide necessities such as food, clothing, and hygiene products to any community members in need, and there are no fees for any services provided.

"Servants to All" assists vulnerable groups such as veterans, persons with disabilities, re-entry population from incarceration, families, and youth. They also support the needs of the elderly in collaboration with local Senior Services and Adult Protective Services.

Donations requested by "Servants to All" include:

Hygiene Items - tampons/feminine pads, toothbrushes and toothpastes, deodorant, soap, wet wipes, disposable razors, lotions, bath towels, and washcloths (new or almost new).

Bedding - Bed linens (twin or full-sized sheet sets), blankets, pillows, and pillowcases (new or almost new).

Cleaning Items - All-purpose cleaners, laundry detergents, disinfectants, hand sanitizers, mops, brooms, and buckets.

A box will be placed in the narthex for your donations.

We will begin collecting items on July 1 and continue through August 31. "God's Work. Our Hands," Sunday is set for September 10, 2023.

WELCA TRIENNIAL CONVENTION

Attention all women of St. Paul's: An exciting opportunity is available to you. The WELCA Triennial Convention is meeting in Phoenix, AZ, on September 21-24, 2023, and you can attend! Most of the costs for this event will be underwritten, and we hope two women from our congregation will be able to attend.

Watch for additional details regarding registration, etc., in our church bulletin and check the WELCA.org website for more information about the Triennial. You may also indicate your interest to any member of WELCA.

ADULT FORUM

Adult Forum will begin meeting again in September. Please watch the August newsletter for our beginning date and topic.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Regularly scheduled Second Sunday-Sunday School classes will take a summer break and will resume in September. However, please keep an eye out for summer activities that are happening!

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

CHANCEL FLOWER ORDERS

Chancel flower orders must be called in to Forget-Me-Not Floral by TUESDAY each week. Please make sure you write your information in the green dedication book or call Sue Schenck at 570-386-2647 (or the church office) that day with your dedications.

NEPA SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2023

The Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod met in assembly from June 1-3, 2023, at the Kalahari Resort in the Poconos. Pastor Mike was not able to attend this event due to his summons to report for jury duty. He did, however, watch videos of the five plenary sessions and worship service from the assembly on the NEPA Synod website shortly after the event.

According to the synod's email, Assembly Rewind, we gathered around Word and Sacrament, Song, Service, friendship, and food." We prayed together, we worshipped together, and conducted the business of Christ's church for the first time, in person, in three years."

"In our time together, we adopted changes to our constitution from the ELCA, adopted three new resolutions concerning money management, chaplaincy at Diakon home, and land acknowledgement concerning first peoples.' These can be found on the Synod website."

"At our synod assembly, we spent time building relationships and trust with one another, so that we could have difficult conversations with one another around racism, and other '-isms.' We spent intentional time in worship, and it was evident that the Holy Spirit was working and moving in our midst."

"We came a people with potential always carrying the Holy Spirit within us and left invigorated to share God's message of love and grace, ready to adapt to challenges facing our churches, and excited to see what God will do in the Northeastern PA synod and beyond."

"Our assembly brought us together in ways we didn't expect because God was in the driver's seat. The Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod is a synod on the move, down each of our three lanes, and ready to adapt to the world we find ourselves in."

To find out more, check out:

www.godslove.org/assembly_23

WALKING TO BETHLEHEM

Whether on your own, or joining with friends, or participating in any of three specially planned events, simply logging your active time outdoors can help us achieve the equivalent number of miles as if we walked right across the ocean to Bethlehem!

"Walking Diaries" are available in the gathering room at our small display. St. John's, Salem, and St. Paul's have joined forces to make this happen this summer.

Twenty minutes of activity = 1 mile, so...having done a little math, each church would need 19 people (children, athletes, adults, swimmers, any and all comers) to walk (swim, garden, run errands, kayak, you get the picture) one mile (20 minutes) a day. Just write it down! That's all! We started on May 29 and will go to Heritage Day, September 9. On that day diaries will be turned in and tabulated.

To make it even better, we are hosting special outings for families (parents must accompany children) and anyone who wants to join. These activities will yield DOUBLE POINTS (miles).

All events are "rain or shine" and scheduled from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Our up-coming events are:

Saturday, July 15 – Schuylkill River Trail - Meet at the trailhead on PA 895. This one mile walk on an easy flat trail allows views of the Schuylkill River, some remnants of the canal, and wonderful "middle earth" landscape. You can participate in a nature scavenger hunt that adults and kids will enjoy.

Saturday, August 12 – Sweet Arrow Lake – Meet next to the pavilion at the Club House. Enjoy a morning of sensory interactions with nature. You will never experience a nature walk the same way again.

Come on out, everyone!

Your coordinator, Sue Reier

JULY BIRTHDAYS

1 Christian Muntone, Phoebe Glenn
4 Sue Kane
5 Kristen Cunningham
7 Beth Webber, Sandy Spotts,
Melissa Hartman
8 Morgan Myers, Taylor Beach
9 Jeffrey Kline III
10 Russell Teter
11 Dana Jenkins, Ross Myers, Ken Miller III
12 Lil Dewald, Karl Kunkel, Kevin Riotto,
Caitlin Shoener, Bode Hinnershitz
14 Bill Moyer
17 Katie Zehner, Beth Krause
18 Jill Krewson, Jessica Swick
19 Grace Krewson
20 Nancy Sterner, Nevaeh Houck,
Brooke Eschbach
22 Ruth Ann Withers, Dave Krewson,
Earl Fuller
24 Vickie Folk, Barbara Hinnershitz
25 James Lengel, Jeff Ritschel, Sr.
26 Ivan Leymeister
29 Tamara Tomko
30 Kevin Kramer, Sonny Teter,
Christian Keener, Janice Snyder
31 Samantha Clarke

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

5 Ned & Nan Eisenhuth
10 Kent & Beverly Eisenhuth
12 Robert & Sharon Otstott
20 Rich & Tracey Kemp
22 Greg & Tonya Shappell

SOCIAL MEDIA MINISTRY

The “Blessing of the Backpacks” will be held on Sunday, August 27, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. Teachers, students, and school staff are welcome! Please bring bookbags, devices, etc. to be blessed in hope of a wonderful 2023-24 academic year!

JULY FLOWERS

JULY 2

Altar: In memory of Mary Ebinger by the Lado Family.

Chancel: OPEN

JULY 9

Altar: In memory of Willard Kramer by the Lafko family.

Chancel: OPEN

JULY 16

Altar: In memory of loved ones by Diane Brobst

Chancel: OPEN

JULY 23

Altar: In honor of Jeff’s birthday and anniversary of Josephine’s baptism by Jeff and Cindy Ritschel.

Chancel: OPEN

JULY 30

Altar: In honor of Samantha Krista Clarke on her birthday (July 31) by her mother.

Chancel: OPEN

JULY BULLETINS

JULY 2: OPEN

JULY 9: OPEN

JULY 16: OPEN

JULY 23: OPEN

JULY 30: OPEN

OUR ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

WILL BE HELD ON

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

AT ALBRIGHT’S WOODS

PAVILION

FOLLOWING OUR

10:30 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

JULY 2022

SERVICE SCHEDULE

SUNDAY 9:30 AM	JULY 2	JULY 9	JULY 16	JULY 23	JULY 30
GREETER	Wayne Lutsey	Deb Bolinsky	Deb Bolinsky	Wayne Lutsey	Wayne Lutsey
USHER	Tina Butler	Diane Brobst	Connie Teter	Cindy Ritschel	Gwen Wehr
LECTOR	Kristin Durkee	Sandy Freeman	Cindy Ritschel	Bill Smoot	Tom Wehr
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Evan Davis	Greg Sklar	Madeline Knecht	Becky Smoot	Kay Weidensaul
ALTAR GUILD	Crystal Brensinger Cindy Ritschel	Crystal Brensinger Cindy Ritschel	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	Connie Teter Joanne Emerich Barb Sterner	Connie Teter Barb Sterner Glenda Bright

JUMP FOR JOY!!!

Grateful to support some restoration of God's Creation!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, AT 7 P.M.

Not only will we have some very fine musicians at our first benefit concert for Red Creek Wildlife, but our guest of honor, Peggy Hentz, will be giving us a presentation and bringing along one of her owl friends!

We are asking for free will donations and offering some door prizes, as well. Many thanks to WELCA for hosting the reception to follow, and you know that means something delicious!

See you there and bring a friend!

~Sue & the STiC team

FELLOWSHIP TABLE

Any church committee, family, or group of individuals is welcome to host a Summer Fellowship Table. A sign-up sheet has been placed in the gathering room for your convenience. Several dates are still available.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- 1.) All congregation members are reminded that our downstairs Growing Tree Daycare observes quiet time each weekday afternoon to allow their youngsters to nap, thus any activity generating loud noises in the church between 1PM and 3PM should be avoided.
- 2.) While Council's monthly meeting minutes have been posted on the bulletin board near the rear staircase for many years for anyone's perusal, the Pastor's monthly report as well as the monthly financial report will now also be posted as suggested by a church member.

**“LIFE’S MOST PERSISTENT
AND URGENT QUESTION IS,**

**‘WHAT ARE YOU DOING
FOR OTHERS?’”**

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

JULY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 5:30 p.m. Worship w/ Holy Communion
2 9:30 a.m. Worship w/ Holy Communion	3	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY HOLIDAY	5	6	7 10:00 a.m. STiC SRT Walk Auburn	8 5:30 p.m. Worship
9 9:30 a.m. Worship w/ Holy Communion	10	11	12	13	14 10:00 a.m. STiC SRT Walk Tumbling Run	15 10:00 a.m. Walking to Bethlehem Event at Auburn 5:30 p.m. Worship
16 9:30 a.m. Worship w/ Holy Communion	17	18	19	20	21 10:00 a.m. STiC SRT Walk Landingville	22 5:30 p.m. Worship
23 9:30 a.m. Worship w/ Holy Communion	24	25	26	27	28 10:00 a.m. STiC SRT Walk Auburn	29 5:30 p.m. Worship
30 9:30 a.m. Worship w/ Holy Communion						

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
Office 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

2023 TIME AND TALENT SURVEY

Please complete a survey for each member in your household aged 16 and above.

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. (1 Peter 4:10)

Make additional copies as needed. Place completed surveys in the offering plate, drop them off in the church office, or mail them to the church -- as soon as you have completed them. Thank you!

Full Name _____

Home Address _____

Email Address _____

Home Phone _____ **Cell Phone** _____

Instructions: Please mark an "A" next to those things you already do for the church.
Please mark an "L" next to new things you would like to do for the church.

ADMINISTRATION/COMMUNICATION

____ Advertising/Publicity ____ Computer Skills ____ Fund-raiser ____ Graphics/Artwork
____ Legal Advisor ____ Edit/Oversee Newsletter ____ Office Volunteer ____ Office Manager
____ Photographer ____ Security Advisor ____ Social Media Advisor ____ Sound Systems Specialist
____ Website Design/Maintenance ____ Video Editor

EDUCATION

____ Adult Teacher/Substitute ____ Advocate for People at the Margins ____ Library Support
____ Mission Advocate ____ Review Christian Ed Materials ____ Youth Helper
____ Youth Teacher/Substitute ____ Youth Mentor ____ Nursery Attendant
____ Youth Activities Organizer ____ Youth Advisor ____ Youth Advocate

FINANCE

____ Bookkeeping/Accounting ____ Counters (Mon. AM) ____ Provide Insurance Information
____ Provide Information and/or Monitor Investments

HEALTH

____ Health Advocate ____ Medical Information Provider ____ Parish Nurse
____ Exercise/Aerobics/Yoga Participant ____ Exercise/Aerobics/Yoga Instructor

HOSPITALITY

____ Activities/Events Organizer ____ Community Activities/Events Organizer
____ Create Visitor/New Member Materials ____ Hospitality Leader ____ Make Hobby/Craft Items
____ Invite people to activities/events ____ Hobbies/Craft Organizer

MUSIC

____ Hand Bell Choir ____ Assist Music Director ____ Instrumentalist ____ Vocal Choir
____ Pianist/Organist ____ Vocal Soloist ____ Youth Bell Choir ____ Youth Vocal Choir

PROPERTY

☐ Electrical ☐ Floor Work/Carpentry ☐ General Clean Up ☐ General Repair
☐ Gardening ☐ Heating/Air Conditioning ☐ Lawn & Garden Care
☐ Organize & Oversee Volunteers ☐ Oversee Maintenance Programs ☐ Painting
☐ Plaster/Dry Wall ☐ Plumbing ☐ Roofing ☐ Snow Shoveling/Removal

OUTREACH

☐ Cooks & Bakers ☐ Eucharistic Minister ☐ Meals on Wheels ☐ Pray for Those in Need
☐ Provide Transportation ☐ Soup Maker ☐ Team Orwigsburg Member ☐ Run Errands
☐ Perform Yard/Maintenance Work ☐ Set Up/Take Down Bazaar ☐ Work at Food Pantry

WORSHIP

☐ Acolyte ☐ Artist ☐ Communion Assistant ☐ Crucifer ☐ Greeter
☐ Lay Worship Leader ☐ Lectors ☐ Organize and Oversee Volunteers
☐ Prepare Altar and Worship Space ☐ Ushers

COMMITTEES/GROUPS

Instructions: Please mark an "A" next to those church committees/groups you already belong.
Please mark an "L" next to new church committee/groups you would like to join.

<input type="checkbox"/> Audit Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Forum	<input type="checkbox"/> Altar Guild
<input type="checkbox"/> Cemetery Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Chancel Choir	<input type="checkbox"/> Christian Education
<input type="checkbox"/> Church Council	<input type="checkbox"/> Craft Guild	<input type="checkbox"/> Evangelism Committee
<input type="checkbox"/> Finance Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Hand Bell Choir	<input type="checkbox"/> Library Ladies
<input type="checkbox"/> Men of St. Paul's	<input type="checkbox"/> Mutual Ministry Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Team
<input type="checkbox"/> Property Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Service Ministry Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Staff Support Committee
<input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship in Creation (STiC)	<input type="checkbox"/> Women of the ELCA
<input type="checkbox"/> Worship & Music Committee		

I am also willing to help the church in the following areas:

Things I would like to happen in the church.

Things I hope will change in the church.



JULY 2023

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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
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17901

PERMIT NO. 52

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