

St. Paul's News

February 2024

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

A PRAYER FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

by Christine Sine

God

**we are marked with ashes,
symbols of repentant hearts,
and contrite spirits.**

**We want to be transformed,
to be made new,
to learn freedom,
of serving no other master than you.**

**Let us heed your call,
and walk with Christ,
into the wilderness.**

**Help us to see beneath the surface,
not denial and sacrifice,
not sin and death,
but transformation,
new life in Christ.**

**Let us seek to be changed,
let us seek to be transfigured
by your power and glory,
that we desire above all else
to become worthy citizens,
of your new world
of peace and justice.**

Amen.



ASH WEDNESDAY

The season of Lent begins with the observance of Ash Wednesday. This year our Ash Wednesday service will be held on Wednesday, February 14 at 7 p.m. The imposition of ashes and the sharing of Holy Communion will be offered at this service.

Why not ask a family member, neighbor, or friend to join you for this special service?

CHILI & SOUP-ER BOWL SALE

As an "appetizer" to Super Bowl Sunday, the Men of St. Paul's will host a Chili & Soup Sale on Saturday, February 10 beginning at 8:30 a.m. "on the Square." Please come early for the widest selection of soups and chilis.

A "Prayer Table" will also be featured during this event for all in our community who desire prayer.

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Members are invited to pick up and review our 2023 Annual Report PRIOR TO our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 18. Reports are available in the narthex or call our office to request a copy.

“SECOND SUNDAY” SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School will continue every second Sunday of the month with the following schedule:

Below is a list of Sunday School dates and times:

February 11	April 14
March 10	May 12

-Teen class (ages 11-18) will meet at 9:15 a.m.
-Youth class (ages 1-10) will meet during the 10:30 a.m. service

Call/text me at (570) 394-3522 (cell) or email me at swoodring86@hotmail.com.

Sarah Eger

PROGRESSIVE DINNER

The Evangelism Committee invites all interested adults to participate in a Progressive Dinner on Saturday, February 24, beginning at 6 p.m. Anyone who attends the Saturday service on that date will be able to join us.

Appetizers will be from 6 to 7 p.m. at the home of Barbara Sterner. At 7 p.m., we will proceed to the home of Michael and Elinda Lado for soup and salad. And at 8 p.m., we will enjoy desserts at the home of Lee and Amy Dewald.

A sign-up sheet for this event is located at the gathering place. If childcare is needed, please let our committee know.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our annual congregational meeting will be on Sunday February 18, 2024, immediately after the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

In case of inclement weather (or other emergency), our meeting will be held on Sunday, February 25, 2024, following the late worship service.

Please plan to attend this important meeting!

StiC NEWS

A Valentine for who? How about for the gift of God's Creation?

Stop by the table in the Gathering Room to find a different kind of display. This month, it's YOUR design, with plenty of materials to help! You will find a huge heart, empty and lonely, but not quite broken, on the background. Pause and reflect on something of Creation that brings you special delight, rummage among the photos on the table and if you find it, tack it up on the heart. Feel free to use the scissors available to trim it to a good size and shape. Chances are that maybe you don't find quite the right picture...there are also heart shapes on which you can write a word or two to tell of your favorite.

Peggy Hentz reminded us that she grew up learning from a pastor here at Saint Paul's that we praise God best by caring for His Creation. Let's fill up this huge heart with praise and gratitude.

Looking ahead: We will again host an Earth Day Festival on Saturday April 13, 2024. The focus is birds, and the activities begin Friday evening with an enjoyable film about the incredible way birds are guiding us in figuring out how to best care for our ailing planet. Then early Saturday morning, a local birder from Schuylkill County Conservancy will lead a bird walk around town. Indoor activities will be available from 9 a.m. until 12 noon. If you have realistic bird sculptures of wood or ceramics which you would like to share, we can find a spot in our sanctuary windows.

Winter Nature Series continues:

Sunday, February 25 at Salem United Methodist: Porcupine Pat and Girl Scouts will present "Ways of Wildlife" at 3 p.m.

Sunday, March 10 at Saint John's UCC: Cindy Ross will speak about the marvelous healing available in the out-of-doors, also at 3 p.m.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- 1.) A letter from Boyer's Food Market states that they have donated over one million dollars to organizations, like St. Paul's, since the inception of their Great Caring and Sharing Rebate Program!

Boyer's donates 1% of your purchase to St. Paul's every time you swipe your key tag at checkout and sends a rebate check to us twice a year. Extra key tags are located on the information table in the Gathering Room. Thanks to all who participate in the rebate program!

- 2.) The Schuylkill Area Council of the Yokefellow Prison Ministry is seeking volunteers to assist in prison ministry.

They are seeking volunteer drivers (for volunteers that don't drive), Bible study leaders, folks to correspond with inmates and volunteers to pray for this work.

If you feel called to prison ministry, please contact Rev. John Wallace at 570-622-8140 or jcw@reagan.com.

- 3.) Council would like to thank the congregation for their continued generosity during the busy month of December. Your offering donations helped us meet and exceed our 2023 operating budget goals!

SPONSORS NEEDED

The Worship and Music Committee will purchase six potted palm plants for our Palm/Passion Sunday and Easter services. Each palm plant will be about 4 feet tall and cost \$26.00.

If you are interested in sponsoring a palm plant, please contact our church office at (570-366-2316) or call Robin Zimmerman at (570-943-2520) by Sunday, March 3.

CLICK. LIKE. SHARE. SOCIAL MEDIA NEWS

We did it!

THANK YOU everyone for sharing and getting your friends and family to like and follow St. Paul's Facebook page. We hit the 500 followers milestone on December 31, 2023 and as of this article submission we are up to 504 followers! That is the number of unique followers that see St. Paul's Facebook content (pictures, posts, events, videos, etc.)

Please continue to spread the word of all the good things happening at St. Paul's ONLINE by liking and sharing! It is an easy way to be evangelists for Jesus Christ in the digital age.

WELCA

There is no meeting of the Women of St. Paul's during the month of February. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 12 at 1 p.m. at the church. No program will be presented, as it will be a planning session with focus on the upcoming months and the April Spring Cluster at Friedens Lutheran, Hegins, PA. The recipient of the May In-gathering offering will also be designated. If you are able, please attend.

ADULT FORUM

Adult Forum will continue their discussions about *Prayer* by Timothy Keller on February 4. We will then change our discussions to focus on Lent beginning Sunday February 11 and ending on March 17, after which we will complete our study of *Prayer*. For our Lenten discussions, we will use *The Third Day* by Tom Berlin.

Our Adult Forum group meets on Sundays in the church parlor beginning at 9:15 a.m. For further information, please contact the church office or Barbara Lafko (570) 366-1208 or bjlafko@yahoo.com.

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!

GIVE TO OUR FOOD PANTRY

We encourage everyone to continue to support our Community Food Pantry over the winter months. A box for non-perishable food items is in the narthex.

Let's continue to help our hungry neighbors!

CHANCEL FLOWER ORDERS

Chancel flower orders must be called in to Forget-Me-Not Floral by TUESDAY each week.

Please make sure you print your information in block letters in the green dedication book or call Sue Schenck at 570-386-2647 (or the church office) that day with your dedications.

CRAFTERS' GUILD

Already looking forward to Spring? The ladies of the Crafters' Guild are working hard this winter to create some Spring items. We will meet on Saturday February 10, and again on Saturday March 2 from 3 to 5 p.m. at Kristin Durkee's home. We are excited to be working on some new Easter crafts and Mother's Day gifts. Current crafters or anyone interested in learning a new craft is invited to take part.

If you would like more information, please contact Kristin Durkee (804-380-9066) or Amy Dewald (570-449-4816).

THE LIBRARY CORNER

Hello, St. Paul's Friends! It's that wonderful winter month of February! There are many holidays and happenings in which to participate and enjoy!

GROUNDHOG DAY—We love Punxsutawney Phil, our own PA weather prognosticator.

PRESIDENTS' DAY—We pause to remember two great men, Abraham Lincoln and George Washington, who helped make America strong!

MARDI GRAS—Our cousins, Boudreaux and Yvette, who are now celebrating in New Iberia, LA, dancing, singing, and eating gumbo.

VALENTINE'S DAY—We think of love, valentines, flowers, candy, and tokens of friendship shared with sweethearts and loved ones.

ASH WEDNESDAY—This is the first day of Lent, which is a time of prayer, contemplation, and repentance. It is when we focus on how Jesus fulfilled His earthly life and ministry by taking our sins and dying on the cross for them so we can be forgiven and receive eternal life.

As you can see, this month is very busy! The Library Ladies will be working on adding books to our new bookshelf, organizing materials, and continuing to decorate the Library Corner, sanctuary, and narthex. (We, the church library mice, are anxious to see what new changes are ahead!)

So, stay warm, enjoy a mug of yummy hot chocolate, cuddle up with a good book, and enjoy where your reading takes you! God bless you all!

Melvin, Herman, and Lucy



TIME TO ORDER EASTER FLOWERS

Easter flower order forms can be found later in this newsletter. The deadline to order Easter flowers is Sunday, March 3, 2024.

A MINISTRY OF SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT!

The Evangelism committee would like to continue sending cards, signed by our church family, to members who cannot worship with us in person (e.g., military personnel, and college students away from home.) Cards are normally located on the small table with the prayer list in the back of the church.

Please remember to sign our card(s) upon entering or before leaving church.

MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES BEGIN ON ASH WEDNESDAY!

Pastor Mike will begin a series of six (6) midweek Lenten services entitled, “Symbols of Lent” beginning at 7 p.m. on Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2023, and continuing each Wednesday at 7 p.m. as follows:

February 14 – “Ashes”

February 21 – “The Color Purple”

February 28 – “Barren Stones”

March 6 – “Praying Hands”

March 13 – “A Money Bag”

March 20 – “Fish”

The season of Lent is a time to reflect on our lives and an opportunity to grow in our faith.

Please join us for our mid-week Lenten series!

WHEN DOES DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGIN?

Daylight Savings Time will begin at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 10, 2024.

THE SEASON OF LENT

Lent is a period of 40 days that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday, the day before Easter Sunday. It is a time of reflection, repentance, and spiritual growth for Christians around the world. Here are some activities that can help us grow in faith:

- **Confession:** Confession is an important part of the Lenten season. As we confess our sins, ask for forgiveness, and strive to follow Jesus, we can grow in faith and deepen our relationship with God.
- **Prayer and meditation:** We can grow in our prayer life as we talk with God, and we can meditate on Scripture to listen as God speaks to us. This practice can help us to reflect on our life, values, and goals.
- **Fasting:** This is a way to discipline our body and focus on our spirit. While we can fast from certain foods, we can also avoid watching some television programs, social media, or any other distractions that may hinder our life with Christ.
- **Service to others:** We can set aside time to serve others in our community. As we volunteer at a local food bank, visit the sick, or help those in need, we may find that our “earthly” concerns become less important.
- **Bible study:** It is always the right time to study the Bible and learn more about the teachings of Jesus. Consider joining a study group or thoughtfully read portions of Scripture on your own during Lent.
- **Supporting others:** We can find time to support our brothers and sisters in Christ who are nearby or across oceans. We can help those who are struggling and offer encouragement and support.

By engaging in these and many other activities, we can grow in our faith, deepen our relationship with God, and prepare our hearts for the celebration of Easter Sunday.

(Revised and edited from several internet articles.)

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jean Premich
- 3 Kate Bolinsky, Janice Blair
- 4 Fern Houser, Kathleen Miller,
Chris Kerzman
- 5 Walter Kennett, Grayson Dewald
- 6 Dominick Just
- 7 Trisha Bachman
- 8 Wayne Withers, Sydney Spotts, Lee Dewald
- 9 Tom Wehr, Kurt Schenck, Cadey Spotts,
William Wimbrow
- 10 Lindsay Cable, Lauren Cable,
Riley Pontician, Brady Seigfried
- 14 Debbie Ferrar
- 15 Dan Mosher
- 16 Barbara Kaunas
- 18 Cheryl Riotto
- 19 Sharon Starr
- 20 Gail Wolfe, Skyla Baer
- 21 Abigayle Krewson, Amy Kokitus,
Greg Shappell, Elizabeth Tomko,
Patty Marcusky
- 22 Tonya Shappell, Mya Kline,
Ivey Hinnersthit
- 23 Joanne Emerich
- 25 Fritz Miller, Ryan Miller, Nora Goessel
- 26 Doug Hinnersthit
- 27 Karen Shoener
- 28 Chase Horbal, Mateo Patterson

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 8 Danielle & Stu Richards
- 14 Leslie & Bruce Guldin

LARGE PRINT NEWSLETTERS ARE AVAILABLE

If you or someone you know has difficulty reading our newsletter and would like to receive a large print version, please contact Pastor Mike, Amy, or a message on our answering machine in our church office.

FEBRUARY FLOWER SPONSORS

FEBRUARY 4

Altar: OPEN

Chancel: OPEN

FEBRUARY 11

Altar: In honor of Tom Wehr's birthday from
his wife, Gwen.

Chancel: OPEN

FEBRUARY 18

Altar: OPEN

Chancel: OPEN

FEBRUARY 25

Altar: OPEN

Chancel: OPEN

FEBRUARY BULLETIN SPONSORS

FEBRUARY 4

In memory of Irma Kamp by Victoria &
Alexandria Spitler, and Tina Butler.

FEBRUARY 11

In honor of Kurt's "big" birthday by Sue & Juli
Schenck.

FEBRUARY 18

In memory of Rachel Zehner by her family.

FEBRUARY 25

OPEN

GIVE TO OUR CEMETERY FUND

We have been notified that the cost of mowing the grass in our cemetery during the summer months will go up in 2024. Your donations to our Cemetery Fund can go a long way in helping us cover these costs.

You may give a donation to our Cemetery Fund at any time. Envelopes for our Cemetery Fund are also available in the narthex. Please mark "Cemetery Fund" on the memo line of your check if you do not use a special envelope.



FEBRUARY 2024

SERVICE SCHEDULE

SUNDAY	FEBRUARY 4	FEBRUARY 11	FEBRUARY 18	FEBRUARY 25
	<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	Bill Smoot
USHER	Pastor Mike	Pastor Mike	Pastor Mike	Pastor Mike
LECTOR/COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Connie Teter	Ruth Ann Withers	Kay Weidensaul	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	Doug Travor	Tina Butler	Jill Krewson
USHER	Tina Butler	Joyce O'Rourke	Cindy Ritschel	Karen Shoener
LECTOR	Sue Schenck	Robin Zimmerman	Chris Long	Pat Kunkle
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Tina Butler	Becky Smoot	Sue Schenck	Evan Davis
ALTAR GUILD	Barbara Lafko Amy Dewald	Barbara Lafko Amy Dewald	Hope Clarke Madelyn Knecht	Crystal Brensinger Cindy Ritschel
COUNTERS	Gwen Wehr Tom Wehr Glenda Bright	Rosalie Wingle Diane Brobst	Joyce O'Rourke Gloria Dierwechter Pat Davis	Connie Teter Joanne Emerich Barb Sterner



ST. VALENTINE'S DAY?

Some Christians celebrate St. Valentine's Day as a day to express their love for God and for others, especially their spouses or significant others.

Other Christians do not celebrate it, either because they believe it has pagan origins or because they think it is a commercialized and materialistic holiday.

Ultimately, the decision to celebrate or not celebrate St. Valentine's Day is a matter of personal conviction and conscience.

There is no clear command or prohibition in the Bible regarding this holiday, so Christians have the freedom to choose what is best for them and their relationship with God.

However, whatever Christians decide, they should do it in a way that honors God and does not cause other brothers or sisters in Christ to stumble. (Romans 14:5-6, and 1 Corinthians 10:31-33) *(Revised and edited from an internet article.)*

ASH WEDNESDAY at 7 PM (2/14/24)

GREETER	Deb Bolinsky
USHERS	Glenda Bright & Chris Long
LECTOR	Gwen Wehr
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Greg Sklar
ALTAR GUILD	Hope Clarke & Madelyn Knecht

If I sit next to a madman as he drives a car into a group of innocent bystanders, I can't, as a Christian, simply wait for the catastrophe, then comfort the wounded and bury the dead. I must try to wrestle the steering wheel out of the hands of the driver.

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer —

FEBRUARY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD (& Groundhog's Day)	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	5	6 6:30 p.m. Evangelism	7 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Chancel Choir	8	9	10 8:30 a.m. Chili & Soup Sale on the Square 3 p.m. Crafters' Guild at Home of Kristen Durkee 5:30 p.m. Worship
11 TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD 8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship w/Holy Communion 9:15 a.m. Adult Forum & Teen Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Youth Sunday School	12 7 p.m. Council	13	14 ASH WEDNESDAY (& St. Valentine's Day) 7 p.m. Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion	15	16	17 5:30 p.m. Worship
18 8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship 9:15 a.m. Adult Forum Annual Congregational Meeting follow the 10:30 a.m. service	19 PRESIDENTS' DAY HOLIDAY	20	21 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Mid-Week Lenten Series Chancel Choir will follow this service	22	23	24 5:30 p.m. Worship 6 p.m. Progressive Dinner
25 8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship 9:15 a.m. Adult Forum 3 p.m. Winter Nature Series at St. John UCC	26	27	28 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Mid-Week Lenten Series Chancel Choir will follow this service	29		



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
Amy Dewald, Office Support Staff 570-366-2316 office@stpauls-orwigsburg.org
Carl Heintzelman, Sexton 484-408-5152 No Email Address
Karen Travor, Treasurer 610-507-2797 karen@stpauls-orwigsburg.org
Wayne Lutsey, Financial Secretary 570-617-9617 cwlutsey@gmail.com
Jessica Swick, Social Media Manager 936-648-6809 jessica@stpauls-orwigsburg.org



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 3, 2024

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

Your name: _____

FLOWER TYPE	QUANTITY	PRICE	DEDICATION
Easter Lilies	_____ X	\$10.50	H/M_____
Daffodils	_____ X	\$8.50	H/M_____
6-bulb Tulips (Red)	_____ X	\$8.50	H/M_____
3-bulb Hyacinths (Purple)	_____ X	\$8.50	H/M_____
3-bulb Hyacinths (Pink)	_____ X	\$8.50	H/M_____
3-bulb Hyacinths (White)	_____ X	\$8.50	H/M_____
Hydrangeas	_____ X	\$18.00	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.

FEBRUARY 2024

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

Non-Profit Org.
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Pottsville, PA
17901

PERMIT NO. 52

DATES TO REMEMBER

FEBRUARY 10 – CHILI & SOUP SALE AT 8:30 A.M. ON THE SQUARE

FEBRUARY 14 – ASH WEDNESDAY - WORSHIP BEGINS AT 7:00 P.M.

FEBRUARY 18 – ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AFTER THE 10:30 A.M. SERVICE

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).