

St. Paul's News

March 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

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Our Holy Week worship will begin with the 5:30 p.m. worship service on Saturday, March 23, and then at both Palm/Passion services on Sunday, March 24. Join us to hear of our Lord's triumphal entry into Jerusalem and the story of his Passion.

Our Maundy Thursday worship will be held on March 28, at 7:00 p.m. as we reflect upon our Lord's Last Supper. The Sharing of Holy Communion and the stripping of the altar are part of this service.

We will share a "Stations (or Way) of the Cross" service on Good Friday, March 29, at 7:00 p.m. Our worship will focus on our Lord's passion and death as described in the Gospels. Scriptures will be read and hymns will be sung to remind us of the price Jesus paid for the sin of the world.

On Holy Saturday, March 30, we will pray together at 5:30 p.m. Let us pray and meditate on the events of Holy Week.

We will joyously worship together on the Resurrection of Our Lord (Easter Sunday) on March 31, at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Our worship will be filled with wondrous music as we celebrate the most timeless and blessed news, "Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed!"

EASTER JOY

By Joanna Fuchs

Jesus came to earth,
To show us how to live,
How to put others first,
How to love and how to give.

Then He set about His work,
That God sent Him to do;
He took our punishment on Himself;
He made us clean and new.

He could have saved Himself,
Calling angels from above,
But He chose to pay our price for sin;
He paid it out of love.

Our Lord died on Good Friday,
But the cross did not destroy
His resurrection on Easter morn
That fills our hearts with joy.

Now we know our earthly death,
Like His, is just a rest.
We'll be forever with Him
In heaven, where life is best.

So we live our lives for Jesus,
Think of Him in all we do.
Thank you Savior; Thank you Lord.
Help us love like you!

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES

Pastor Mike continues his midweek Lenten series entitled, "Symbols of Lent" each Wednesday at 7 p.m. as follows:

March 6 – "Praying Hands"
March 13 – "A Money Bag"
March 20 – "Fish"

Please join us for our mid-week Lenten series!

WELCA NEWS

St. Paul's women will hold a business meeting on Tuesday, March 12, at 1:00 p.m. at the church. We will discuss and vote on the designated recipient of the May In-Gathering offering. We will also discuss the upcoming programs. Please bring your suggestions/ideas for future meetings with you.

The details of the WELCA Schuylkill Cluster Spring Event to be held at Friedens Lutheran, Hegins, PA, on Saturday, April 13 from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon, followed by an optional lunch and fellowship time will be discussed. These are always enjoyable and informative gatherings.

The topic "Taking Action Against Food Insecurity Today" will be presented by Kay Jones, of the United Church of Christ, Orwigsburg, PA.

Bible study will be led by the Dean of the Schuylkill Mission District, Rev. Brian Beissel of St. Peter Lutheran Church, Pine Grove, PA.

Information is available on the bulletin board along with a sign-up sheet. We will have carpooling available.

ANNUAL REPORT

Our 2023 Annual Report is still available to church members. If you have not yet picked up a copy, 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 NEWS

STiC is planning a very broad Earth Day/ Bird Day event on April 12 and 13...and this year, we have invited local bird experts to participate with us.

On the menu is a bird walk, a presentation about how birds are showing us the way to help restore our creation, personalized media creations by graduate students of the marvels of feathering, egg painting, a local bird photographer, and more.

We are looking for another great team of church members this year to pitch in during the event, there are activities for ALL ages. Maybe you would enjoy helping paint eggs or with an origami activity about Passenger Pigeons or helping children with a matching game.

Look for a notice of when we will gather to put together what everyone would enjoy doing, probably a little after Easter.

THANK YOU ALL! ~Sue Reier

ADULT FORUM

Adult Forum continues in its journey to explore the good news of Jesus' resurrection. We are studying *The Third Day* by Tom Belin. This book contains reflections from some of Jesus' followers about his Resurrection. Adult Forum meets on Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in the church parlor.

If you are interested in joining the group, please contact the church office or Barbara Lafko at 570-366-1208 or bjlafko@yahoo.com.

SECOND SUNDAY SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

Below is a list of our remaining Sunday School dates and times:

March 10

April 14

May 12

-Teen class (ages 11-18) will meet at 9:15

-Youth class (ages 1-10) will meet during the 10:30 service

Upcoming Events:

***March 23: Easter Egg-stravaganza!**

Our third annual "Easter Egg-stravaganza" will take place on **Saturday, March 23 from 10 a.m. - 12 noon.**

Please join us in the church gathering room, any time during the event, to participate in crafts and games, have a snack, and the Easter Bunny may even hop by! Children up to age 10 are welcome to join the fun and fellowship.

This is a community event, so feel free to invite a friend to join in the fun! Any adults or teens wishing to help out at the event may sign up in the gathering room or talk to Sarah.

Thank You!

A special THANK YOU to Sue Reier and STIC for asking the Sunday School class to be included with the plants for our church's shut-ins. Students decorated plant sticks to be placed in the planters.

**"Our Lord has written the
promise of resurrection,
not in books alone, but in
every leaf in springtime."**

Martin Luther

ELMER H. EICHE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Madison Swick was awarded a grant from the Elmer H. Eiche Scholarship Fund towards her studies at Western Michigan University. She will be using this money towards her course, Musical Theatre Workshop 1, which is part of her BFA in Musical Theatre Performance degree program.



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

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

ATTENTION GRADUATES!

Do you know a student that graduated late last year or one who will graduate in May or June of 2024?

Please let us know so that we can celebrate his/her achievements on our Facebook page, in newsletter, and 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 & their families for an in-person celebration at the 9:30 a.m. service on Sunday, June 2. [This Sunday is the start of our summer worship schedule.]

WHY IS EASTER ON MARCH 31 THIS YEAR?

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.

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.

Orthodox Christians use the Julian Calendar to calculate when Easter will occur and typically they celebrate the holiday a week or two after the Western churches, which follow the Gregorian Calendar.

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 9.

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 19.



A MINISTRY OF ENCOURAGEMENT!

The Evangelism committee would like to continue sending cards signed by our church family to members who cannot worship with us in person (such as military personnel and college students away from home).

Cards are in the back of the nave on the small table next to the prayer list. Please remember to sign our card(s) upon entering or before leaving our church.

ST. PATRICK, THE APOSTLE OF IRELAND

St. Patrick, known as the Apostle of Ireland, is one of the world's most celebrated saints.

Born in Britain, he was captured at the age of 16 and carried into slavery in Ireland. He spent six bleak years there as a herdsman, during which he found solace in prayer, and his faith grew strong.

Happily, he finally escaped his master and found passage back to Britain. There, he was reunited with his family and later became ordained as a bishop.

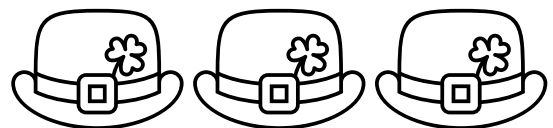
Patrick's life took a dramatic turn when he had a dream in which he heard a certain company of Irish begging him to once more walk among them. Despite his initial reluctance, he answered the call and returned to Ireland as a Christian missionary.

Once in Ireland, his hesitation vanished. Confident in the Lord, he journeyed far and wide, baptizing and confirming with untiring zeal.

Today, Patrick is credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland, converting a pagan society in the process.

St. Patrick's life serves as a powerful reminder of the transformative power of faith, the strength that often comes from adversity, and the impact one person can have when one surrenders to God's call. (Edited from several internet articles.)

**HAPPY
ST. PATRICK'S DAY!
- MARCH 17 -**



USHERS NEEDED

Hello, Friends,

We are in almost dire need of ushers for the 10:30 a.m. service. Thank you to our loyal ushers who serve more often than they should have to!

It's an easy task. On a "normal" Sunday you simply sit or stand in the back, greet people, count everyone in attendance, and write the number on the clipboard. Obviously, you should help people find a seat and usher them there, if need be.

If you are willing to serve St. Paul's in this way, I'd be so appreciative. Please call the landline below, email me at frausrs@yahoo.com, or send a Facebook Message.

Sincerely, Sue Schenck
570-386-2647

(Be advised that we live in a dead zone.)

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!

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

* Church Council would like to congratulate Pastor Mike on his 5th anniversary of serving at St. Paul's. Thank you for your guidance and leadership!

* The Property Committee purchased two wireless microphones and expect them to be in use by weekend services on February 17-18.

* Please continue to donate to the Cemetery Fund to help defray our 2024 mowing expenses. Envelopes are conveniently located in the narthex.

A THANK YOU FROM THE SWICKS

We would like to thank everyone for your calls, texts, cards, letters, meals, gas cards (those were such a surprise and completely unexpected), and most of all your prayers. We are so grateful to be surrounded by such a caring & generous community of faith.

Jason still has a long road ahead of him until full recovery, but we are all in good spirits and making the most of the time we have together.

Thank you again! We miss all of you and hope to be in church worshipping with you all again soon.

Jason, Jessica & Cole

CHILI & SOUP SALE ANOTHER SUCCESS

In less than 3 hours, the Men of St. Paul's sold 388 quarts of soup and chili and realized a profit of \$2,925 at their Chili & Soup Sale on Saturday, February 11.

Thanks to everyone who made quarts of soup or chili, 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 NEWS

The ladies of the Crafters' Guild are creating Spring items while we wait out the cold winter weather. Our next work session is on Saturday March 2 from 3 to 5 p.m. at Kristin Durkee's home. We are excited to make some new Easter crafts and Mother's Day gifts.

On Sunday March 10, our Spring creations will be on display in our gathering room and available for purchase after the early and late services.

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

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!

A NEW PASCAL CANDLE

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

SAUSAGE SANDWICH SALE

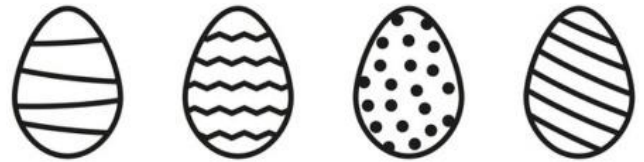
On Saturday, April 27, the Men of St. Paul's will hold a "Sausage Sandwiches on the Square" event beginning at 11 a.m. Enjoy our tasty sausage sandwiches with or without "the works." Homemade baked goods will also be on sale. Please mark your calendars!

**THE DEADLINE
TO ORDER EASTER
FLOWERS IS
SUNDAY, MARCH 3!**

CHANCEL FLOWER ORDERS

Forget-Me-Not Floral informed their customers that the price of flowers will be increasing on April 1, 2024. Altar flowers will now cost \$35; chancel flowers will remain \$30.

Sorry to be the bearer of bad news. Sue Schenck



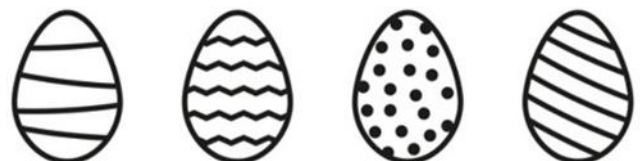
WHERE DID THE TRADITION OF EASTER EGGS COME FROM?

Easter eggs have both pagan and Christian associations. The tradition of Easter eggs can be traced back to ancient pagan traditions, where eggs were associated with fertility, rebirth, and new life. They were used in various springtime festivals in Persian, Egyptian, and Greek societies.

However, over time, these traditions were incorporated into Christian celebrations. From a Christian perspective, Easter eggs are said to represent Jesus' emergence from the tomb and resurrection. The egg, symbolizing new life, is seen as an illustration of the Resurrection itself - a chick emerging from its shell represents Jesus emerging from his tomb on Easter.

So, while the origins of Easter eggs are rooted in pagan traditions, they have been assimilated into Christian celebrations and gained a significant meaning in the Christian tradition.


Today, Easter eggs continue to be a prominent symbol of the Easter season in many cultures around the world. (Revised from internet articles.)



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, (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 3

Altar: OPEN

Chancel: OPEN

MARCH 10

Altar: In loving memory of my mother,

Josephine Rohrer, by her daughter, Joanne.

Chancel: In loving memory of Edgar and Edith
Kriner by their family.

MARCH 17

Altar: OPEN

Chancel: OPEN

MARCH 24

Altar: OPEN

Chancel: OPEN

MARCH 31

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

Chancel: OPEN



MARCH BULLETIN SPONSORS

MARCH 3

In loving memory of Russell and Rachel
Zehner by their children.

MARCH 10

In memory of: Roy Earle 4th Marine
Division WWII IWO JIMA by Danielle
and Stu Richards.

MARCH 17

OPEN

MARCH 24

In memory of Frank Kamp by Tina
Butler and Victoria and Alexandria
Spitler

MARCH 31

In honor of my dear friend, Cindy
Ritschel, on her birthday, by Sue
Schenck.



MARCH 2024

SERVICE SCHEDULE

| SUNDAY | <u>MARCH 3</u> | <u>MARCH 10</u> | <u>MARCH 17</u> | <u>MARCH 24</u> | <u>MARCH 31</u> |
|--|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 8:00 AM | | | | | |
| GREETER | Krista Harding | Krista Harding | Krista Harding | Krista Harding | Krista Harding |
| USHER | Pastor Mike | Pastor Mike | Pastor Mike | Pastor Mike | Pastor Mike |
| LECTOR/ COMMUNION ASSISTANT | Ruth Ann Withers | Ruth Ann Withers | Amy Dewald | Connie Teter | Kay Weidensaul |

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|
| 10:30 AM | | | | | |
| GREETER | Doug Travor | Doug Travor | Jill Krewson | Doug Travor | Tina Butler |
| USHER(S) | G. Dierwechter | Joanne Emerich | Wayne Lutsey | Jerry Goessel Jeff Ritschel | Amy Dewald Becky Smoot Victoria Spitler Barb Sterner |
| LECTOR | Wayne Lutsey | Elinda Lado | Sarah Eger | Tom Wehr | Tina Butler |
| COMMUNION ASSISTANT | Dave Krewson | Greg Sklar | Wayne Lutsey | Cindy Ritschel | Pat Kunkle |
| ALTAR GUILD | C. Brensinger Cindy Ritschel | Sue Schenck Barb Sterner | Sue Schenck Barb Sterner | Glenda Bright Diane Brobst | Tina Butler Chris Long |
| COUNTERS | Gwen Wehr Tom Wehr Glenda Bright | Rosalie Wingle Diane Brobst | Joyce O'Rourke Gloria Dierwechter Pat Davis | Connie Teter Joanne Emerich Barb Sterner | Connie Teter Barb Sterner Glenda Bright |

MAUNDY THURSDAY
7 P.M. THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2024

GREETER: TBD

USHER: Carl Heintzelman

LECTOR: Mike Lado

COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Tom Wehr

ALTAR GUILD: Glenda Bright and Diane Brobst

GOOD FRIDAY
7 P.M. FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2024

GREETER: TBD

USHER: Connie Teter

ALTAR GUILD: Tina Butler and Chris Long

MARCH 2024

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|----------------------|------------------------------|--|--|------------------------------------|---|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 3 to 5 p.m. Crafters' Guild at the Durkee Home 5:30 p.m. Worship w/Holy Communion |
| 3 8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship w/Holy Communion 9:15 a.m. Adult Forum <u>Deadline for Easter Flower Orders</u> | 4 | 5 6 p.m. Service Ministry | 6 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Midweek Lenten Service Chancel Choir will follow this service | 7 | 8 | 9 5:30 p.m. Worship Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday at 2:00 a.m. |
| 10 8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship w/Holy Communion Crafters' Guild display after worship services 9:15 a.m. Adult Forum & Teen Class 10:30 a.m. Youth Class | 11 7 p.m. Council | 12 1 p.m. WELCA | 13 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Midweek Lenten Service Chancel Choir will follow this service | 14 10 a.m. Rainbow Friends | 15 | 16 5:30 p.m. Worship |
| 17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY 8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship w/Holy Communion 9:15 a.m. Adult Forum | 18 | 19 SPRING BEGINS! | 20 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Midweek Lenten Service Chancel Choir will follow this service | 21 | 22 | 23 10 a.m. – Noon Easter Egg-stravaganza 5:30 p.m. Worship |
| 24 PALM/PASSION SUNDAY Worship w/ Holy Communion 8 & 10:30 a.m. | 25 | 26 | 27 6 p.m. Bell Choir 7 p.m. Midweek Lenten Service Chancel Choir will follow this service | 28 MAUNDY THURSDAY 7 p.m. | 29 GOOD FRIDAY 7 p.m. | 30 HOLY SATURDAY 5:30 p.m. |
| 31 RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD (EASTER) Worship w/ Holy Communion 8 & 10:30 a.m. | | | | | | |

OUR PASTOR AND STAFF

| | | |
|---|------------------------|--|
| 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 |

MARCH 2024

**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

UP-COMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

St. Patrick's Day - Sunday, March 17, at 8 & 10:30 p.m.

Easter Egg-stravaganza! - Saturday, March 23, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Palm/Passion Sunday, March 24, at 8 & 10:30 p.m.

Maundy Thursday, March 28, at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday, March 29, at 7:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday, March 30, at 5:30 p.m.

The Resurrection of Our Lord (Easter Sunday), March 31, at 8 & 10:30 a.m.

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ST. PAUL'S?

Visit our office Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon or call 570-366-2316.

Check out our website: www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org or find us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/StPaulsOrwigsburg.