

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, August 25, 2024

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
215 N. Warren St.
Orwigsburg, PA
570-366-2316
www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We gather in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit,
Amen.

If we say we have no sins, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us - from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

“Earth and All Stars”
[See back of bulletin]

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, your word feeds your people with eternal life. Guide us as we choose and keep us in your truth. Help us turn away from false and evil, that we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

A READING FROM JOSHUA

¹Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. ^{2a}And Joshua said to all the people, ¹⁴“Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

¹⁶Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; ¹⁷for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore, we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

(Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 34:15-22 (Read responsively)

¹⁵The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous,
and his ears are open to their cry.

¹⁶**The face of the LORD is against evildoers,
to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.**

¹⁷When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears,
and rescues them from all their troubles.

¹⁸**The LORD is near to the brokenhearted,
and saves the crushed in spirit.**

¹⁹Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
but the LORD rescues them from them all.

²⁰**He keeps all their bones;
not one of them will be broken.**

²¹Evil brings death to the wicked,
and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.

²²**The LORD redeems the life of his servants;
none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.**

A READING FROM EPHESIANS

¹⁰Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

(Ephesians 6:10-20)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Congregation:

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

Optional Repeat

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. John

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said,] ⁵⁶“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” ⁵⁹He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” ⁶¹But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. ⁶⁵And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

⁶⁶Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

(John 6:56-69)

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY “Our Father, by Whose Name”

[See back of bulletin]

THE BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

A new school year is starting soon. We invite all students with their backpacks, tablets, and school supplies, as well as all teachers, aides, and everyone involved in our educational system to come forward to receive a blessing.

In his letter to the church in Rome, St. Paul writes, “*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.* (Romans 12:2)

Students, will you listen and learn from your teachers and strive to grow in wisdom and learning every day? If so, please say: "We will, and we ask God to help us!"

We will, and we ask God to help us!

Teachers, aides, and educational staff, will you help our students grow in wisdom and learning and will you help them not only to follow, but prepare them to lead? If so, please say: "We will, and we ask God to help us!" **We will, and we ask God to help us!**

Students, teachers, aides, and everyone who is part of our community's education system, will you trust in God and pray for one another, seeking new opportunities to grow in faith and love? If so, please say, "We will, and we ask God to help us." **We will, and we ask God to help us!**

Let us pray. Bless these backpacks, tablets, and school supplies, O Lord. Bless our students as they begin or return to their studies. Bless our teachers and all who support them. Bless all parents, grandparents, and all caregivers who guide our young people. Help us to grow in faith and wisdom to follow in your path.

Remind us to pray for our students, for their teachers, aides, and everyone in our educational system, as well as for parents and caregivers. Give wisdom and courage to all our leaders and protect schools from harm.

Help us to love one another as you love us – in church, at home, at work, and especially, in school. This we pray in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

THE APOSTLES' CREED (In Unison)

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again;

He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Almighty God, prepare your church to share Christ's message everywhere. Make each of us an ambassador of the Gospel. Help us to be brave as we share what is good and lifesaving. Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

Good Creator, help us to praise and thank you for everything you have made. Teach us to take care of your good creation so future generations may treasure and enjoy it. Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, help world leaders see new ways to help their people. Open their hearts and minds to new possibilities. Guide them to do what is merciful and just, right and good. Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

Eternal Father, heal and comfort those who are grieving, in trouble, sick, or need care. Protect those living amid violence. We especially pray for those on our prayer list. Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

All-knowing God, prepare our students, teachers, aides, and everyone in our schools for a new year of learning. Help everyone to value knowledge, grow in wisdom, and follow you in faith. Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

Everlasting Hope, we thank you for our loved ones who rest in you. Keep their memories alive in us here on earth and one day gather us and all your children into your heavenly home. Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

(The Pastor concludes): We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY HYMN “As the Grains of Wheat”

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

The musical notation consists of three staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff begins with the word 'Refrain' above it. The lyrics are: 'As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were', 'gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from', and 'all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.'

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Lord Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table and invited us to this bountiful feast. As we share this meal, strengthen us in faith and transform us, so that we can be your living body for the sake of the world. **Amen.**

MEAL

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

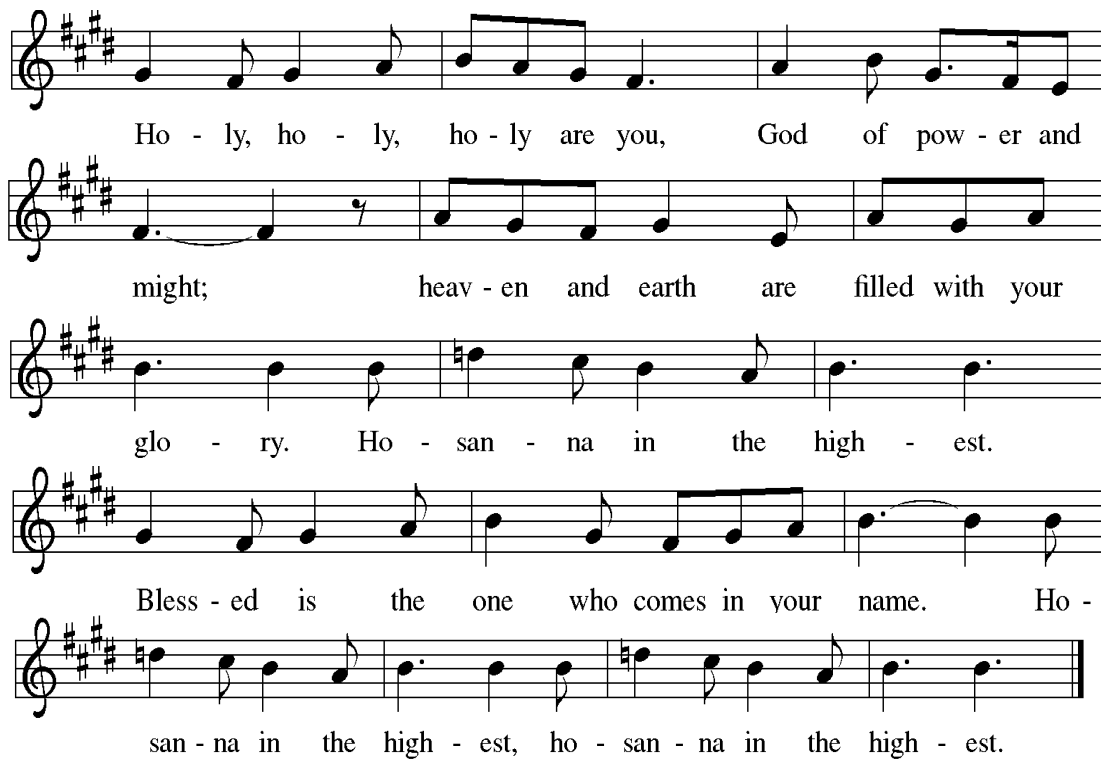
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (In Unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

INSTRUCTIONS

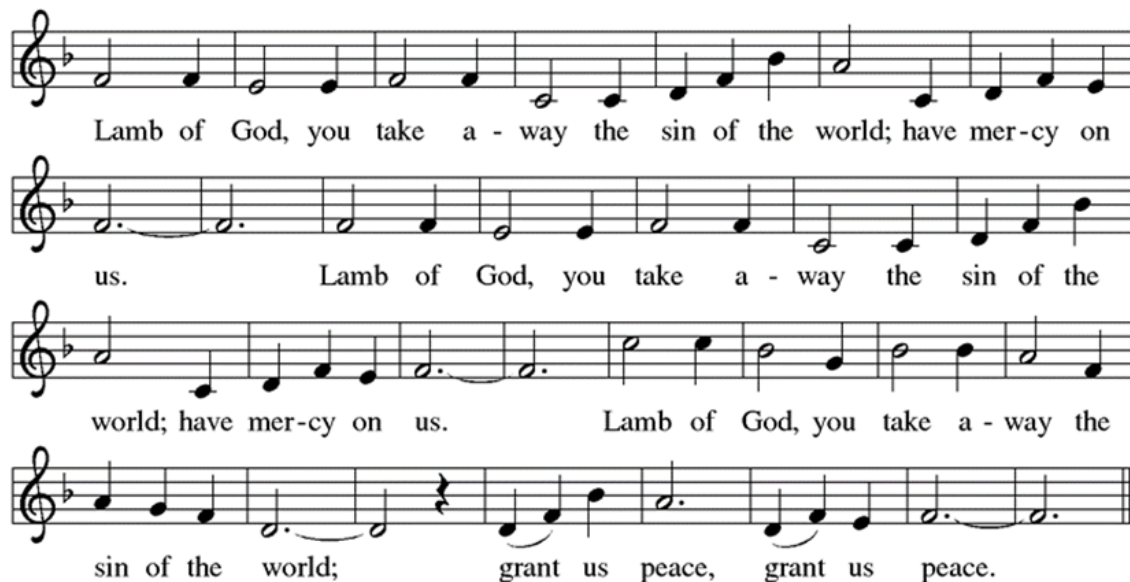
All who are baptized and seek forgiveness of their sins and the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion by intinction. Communicants may dip a wafer of bread (the Body of Christ) into a chalice of wine (the Blood of Christ) before consuming it. After you have received the Sacrament, you may choose to briefly stand at the chancel rail before returning to your seat.

If you or your child would like to receive a blessing rather than the Sacrament, please come forward and say, "A blessing," or cross your arms over your chest.

Those who are unable to come forward should indicate that they wish to receive the Sacrament and they will receive it as they sit in their pew.

Communion is shared with those seated on the pulpit side and then with those seated on the lectern side.

AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN "Let Us Break Bread Together" [See back of bulletin]

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN “Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus”
 [See back of bulletin]

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Our Liturgy and Music are used by permission through Augsburg Fortress License #20611.

Introduction to the day: In today’s gospel many people take offense at Jesus’ invitation to eat his flesh and drink his blood; even many of Jesus’ disciples leave him. This is the backdrop in John’s gospel for Peter’s confession of faith. “To whom can we go?” asks Peter, in words we sometimes sing just before the gospel is read. “You have the words of eternal life.” To take such a stand, as Peter and Joshua did, Paul tells us to arm ourselves with the Word of God. We pray in the Spirit that we might be bold ambassadors of the gospel.

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL’S

Sunday, August 25	9:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion “The Blessing of the Backpacks”
Saturday, August 31	5:30 PM	Worship
Sunday, September 1	9:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion

WHERE ARE OUR OFFERING PLATES?

Our offering plate is in the back of the church near the center aisle. If you would like to give an offering and have not already done so, please place your offering in the plate before worship begins or as you leave the church.

LOOKING FOR A CHURCH HOME?

Please worship with us again. Take a copy of our newsletter. Check out our webpage. Visit us on Facebook. Watch our weekly video on YouTube and get to know us better! We have a rich Lutheran tradition, but we are not old-fashioned. Everyone is invited to worship with us and work together to the glory of God!

SERVING TODAY (8/25/24)

9:30 AM

GREETER: Deb Bolinsky; USHER: Jerry Goessel
LECTOR: Wendy Schuld; COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Wayne Lutsey
ALTAR GUILD: Kathy Miller and Connie Teter
COUNTERS: Connie Teter, Joanne Emerich, and Barb Sterner

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (9/1/24)

9:30 AM

GREETER: TBA; USHER: Karen Shoener
LECTOR: Wayne Lutsey; COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Connie Teter
ALTAR GUILD: Kathy Miller and Connie Teter
COUNTERS: Gwen Wehr and Glenda Bright

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC!

Everyone, young and old, is invited to participate in our annual church picnic at Albright’s Woods Pavilion on Sunday, September 29, immediately following the 10:30 am service. Hot dogs and beverages will be provided by the Evangelism Committee. Covered-dish items to share are appreciated but not required. Donations for Bingo prizes are much appreciated. A signup sheet will be placed in the gathering room in September. Hope to see you at the picnic!

GWOH 2024

This year we will again collect items requested by Servants to All - My Father’s House, as our congregation’s “God’s Work. Our Hands.” project.

New (or very gently used) items requested include:

Hygiene Products - tampons/feminine pads, toothbrushes and toothpastes, deodorant, soap, wet wipes, disposable razors, lotions, bath towels, and washcloths.

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

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

We will collect items through August 31. “God’s Work. Our Hands.” Sunday is set for September 8, 2024.

GATHERING HYMN

“Earth and All Stars”

vs. 1, 4, 5



1 Earth and all stars! Loud rush - ing plan - ets!
4 Class-rooms and labs! Loud boil - ing test tubes!
5 Knowl-edge and truth! Loud sound - ing wis - dom!



Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!



Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blow - ing snow - storm!
Ath - lete and band! Loud cheer - ing peo - ple!
Daugh - ter and son! Loud pray - ing mem - bers!



Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Sing to the Lord a new song!



Refrain
God has done mar - vel - ous things.



I too sing prais - es with a new song!

ANNUAL BAZAAR

Our annual Service Ministry Bazaar is set for Saturday, October 5, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Reidler Hall. The event will feature good food, a large auction of gift baskets, local vendors and crafters selling their wares, homemade candies and pies for purchase, and an opportunity to visit with friends and neighbors. Proceeds will benefit those in need in our community.

NOTE: If you have glass quart jars from previous bazaar events, please bring them to the church so that they can be reused. Thank you!

HYMN OF THE DAY “Our Father, by Whose Name”

1 Our Fa - ther, by whose name all par - ent - hood is known,
2 O Christ, your - self a child with - in an earth - ly home,
3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, bind our hearts in u - ni - ty

in love di - vine you claim each fam - 'ly as your own.
with heart still un - de - filed to full a - dult - hood come:
and teach us how to find the love from self set free;

Bless moth - ers, fa - thers, guard - ing well, with con - stant love as
our chil - dren bless in ev - 'ry place that they may all be -
in all our hearts such love in - crease that ev - 'ry home, by

sen - ti - nel, the homes in which your peo - ple dwell.
hold your face and, know - ing you, may grow in grace.
this re - lease, may be the dwell - ing place of peace.

The musical score consists of four systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff of each system.

“REGULAR” WORSHIP RETURNS

Beginning on Sunday, September 8, we will return to our regular worship schedule. Services will be held on Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m. and on Sunday mornings at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion will be shared on the first Saturday of each month and at every Sunday service.

COMMUNION HYMN “Let Us Break Bread Together”

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
 2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
 3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
 let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
 let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

Refrain

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

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
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

SENDING HYMN

“Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus”

1 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, as sol - diers of the cross,
2 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus; the trum - pet call o - bey;
3 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, stand in his strength a - lone;
4 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, the strife will not be long;

lift high his roy - al ban - ner; it must not suf - fer loss.
stand forth in might - y con - flict in this his glo - rious day.
the arm of flesh will fail you, you dare not trust your own.
this day the din of bat - tle, the next the vic - tor's song.

From vic - t'ry un - to vic - t'ry his ar - my he shall lead,
Let all his faith - ful serve him a - gainst un - num - bered foes;
Put on the gos - pel ar - mor; each piece put on with prayer.
The sol - diers, o - ver - com - ing, their crown of life shall see,

till ev - 'ry foe is van - quished and Christ is Lord in - deed.
let cour - age rise with dan - ger, and strength to strength op - pose.
Where du - ty calls or dan - ger, be nev - er want - ing there.
and with the King of glo - ry shall reign e - ter - nal - ly.

DONATIONS ARE NEEDED!

Orwigsburg Food Pantry is greatly in need of toilet paper and paper towels. If you can help, you can put the items into the collection box at Boyer's or bring them to the Food Pantry at St. John's UCC each Tuesday around 12 noon to 1:00 p.m.