

St. Paul's News

August 2024

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 156, 215 North Warren Street
Orwigsburg, PA 17961
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www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

The Growing Tree Learning & Daycare located in Reidler Hall is scheduled to close no later than Friday, August 23, 2024, "due to financial challenges."

Our Council was shocked at this unexpected news. They had not known that the Growing Tree was having problems until the operator told them that she didn't want to continue to lease our property any longer.

The closing of the Growing Tree is a great loss to the families in and around Orwigsburg. There simply are not enough daycare centers in our area. But the closing of the Growing Tree is also a loss to our congregation's financial health and our on-going ministry.

This closure will mean that our congregation will lose as much as \$7,000 of income this year, and that we may need to find as much as \$24,000 in new income next year.

Unfortunately, to this point, no one has agreed to lease our property later this year to operate a daycare or for any other purpose.

Our Council has already met to discuss this situation and will continue to look for ways to deal with this unexpected problem.

Our Finance Committee will also meet to discuss our current financial situation, even as they are beginning to craft a proposed budget for the upcoming year.

If you have ideas which may help in the near term or as we look towards 2025, please share them with members of our Council or our Finance Committee.

If you can contribute a bit more to our ministry and mission this year, you are encouraged to do so. Your kindness and generosity will surely be rewarded.

Peace to All!

Pastor Mike

"Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit." Jeremiah 17:7-8

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

What is WELCA? It's an easy way to say Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Our organization includes Lutheran women who gather in more than 6,000 locations in the U.S. and the Caribbean, for service, study, advocacy, fellowship and more! WELCA embraces ministries that support our mission of mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. We have a place for you in Women of the ELCA.

There will not be an August meeting, however, WELCA will provide light refreshments for the "Jump for Joy" concert on Sunday, August 4. Please join us for an enjoyable evening.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 10 at 12:00 noon. We have been invited to the home of Amy Dewald. Amy plans to serve a traditional German sauerbraten meal. She will also present a brief history of German Schuhplattler dance and tracht. Her family is very active with the Auerhahn Schuhplattler Verein out of Oley, Pa. Their group will be performing in the square on Saturday, September 7 at the Heritage Day Celebration. Stop by to watch them perform as a preview to her presentation.

The In-Gathering offering received at this meeting will be donated to the family of the late Nicole Just.

ADULT FORUM NEWS

Our Adult Forum will resume on September 8, at 9:15 a.m. in the church parlor. We will discuss chapters 5 through 7 of the Gospel of St. Matthew, known as, "The Sermon on the Mount."

If you would like to join this group, please call our church office (at 570-366-2316) or Barbara Lafko (at 570-366-1208) by August 26, so that study materials can be ordered. You can also send an email to Barbara Lafko at bjlafko@yahoo.com. Thank you!

"REGULAR" WORSHIP RETURNS

Beginning on Sunday, September 8 (the Sunday AFTER Labor Day), 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 and 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion will be shared on the first Saturday of each month and at every Sunday service.

CHURCH PICNIC

Everyone, young and old, is invited to participate in our annual church picnic on Sunday, September 29, immediately following the 10:30 am service.

Bring a lawn chair and a covered dish to Albright's Woods Park. Hot dogs and beverages will be provided by the Evangelism Committee. Donations for Bingo prizes are appreciated.

A signup sheet will be in the gathering room in September. Please sign up by Friday, September 27 so we can provide enough hot dogs and beverages for everyone. Hope to see you at the picnic!

SERVICE MINISTRY BAZAAR

Our Service Ministry will host its annual Bazaar on Saturday, October 5, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Reidler Hall.

This event will feature lots of good food, a large Chinese auction of gift baskets, local vendors and crafters selling their wares, a variety of homemade candies and pies for purchase, and an opportunity to visit with your friends and neighbors. Proceeds from this annual fundraiser will benefit those in need in our community. Please mark your calendar for this special event!

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Our church office will open Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. through the month of August.

GWOH 2024 DRIVE

We will again be collecting items for Servants to All - My Father's House, as this year's "God's Work. Our Hands." project. Donations will be received from July 1 to August 31.

Donations of brand-new or very gently used items include:

Hygiene Items - 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 (not comforters), pillows, and pillowcases.

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

A box for donations is in the narthex.

We will begin collecting items on July 1 and continue through August 31. "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday is set for September 8, 2024.



PROGRESSIVE PICNIC

A progressive picnic will be held on August 17, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Steve and Robin Zimmerman. At 8:00 p.m., dessert will be enjoyed at the home of Lee and Amy Dewald. A sign-up sheet is in the gathering room.

CONGRATULATIONS!

On Sunday, July 14, 2024, the Reverend Dr. Joseph J. Scholtes, Jr., celebrated fifty years of ordained ministry. Rev. Scholtes was pastor of this congregation from 2000 to 2013.

May God continue to bless Pastor Scholtes and his family and may God keep them safe in his care!

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- Pastor Petresky and Barbara Lafko represented St. Paul's at the 37th annual Synod Assembly held on June 8th in Wyomissing, both attending virtually.
- We would like to encourage the congregation to consider using the Simply Giving automatic withdrawal method for your weekly offering. You select the donation amount and the withdrawal schedule (i.e. every week, every other week, once a month) and the church receives your offering on a consistent schedule.

Automatic payments help the church by making budgeting predictable and help members by taking a weekly task off their plate, especially on weeks when you're unable to attend church.

Please contact Karen Travor for the Simply Giving form or if you have questions.

WALKING IN GOD'S BEAUTIFUL CREATION



Please continue to walk and log your miles. Let's see how far we can travel together.

There are no scheduled STiC Walks in August, but everyone is encouraged to get out and use the trails. Directions to the trailheads are posted on the STiC table in the gathering room.

The next group activity is at Frog Hollow on Sunday, August 11 at 2 p.m. Rose Galuska is coordinating a walk with yoga opportunities. Come on out, everyone! Remember, you "double your miles" at these activities

Your coordinator, Sue Reier

SOCIAL MEDIA NEWS

The “Blessing of the Backpacks” will be held on Sunday, August 25, at our 9:30 a.m. service. Teachers, students, school staff, parents, and guardians are invited to attend. Refreshments and fellowship will follow.

Our annual “Blessing of the Animals/St. Francis” event will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 6, at the Albright’s Woods Pavilion “rain or shine.” Bring your pet(s), no matter how big or small, to receive a blessing – and more!

“JUMP FOR JOY” CONCERT

Our Stewardship in Creation (STiC) Team will host their second annual “Jump for Joy” Concert here on Sunday, August 4, at 7 p.m. This concert will benefit the Red Creek Wildlife Center located in Schuylkill Haven, PA. Music, fun, and more than a few surprises are promised. Peggy Hentz from the Red Creek Wildlife Center will even bring one of her animal friends to this event.

A free-will offering will be taken at this event, door prizes will be awarded, and refreshments will follow the concert. Come, bring a neighbor, and help save our wildlife “friends!”

CRAFTERS’ GUILD

Our Crafters’ Guild will meet on Thursday August 15 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at Kristin Durkee’s house to plan and work on new Fall items. We also welcome handmade items from anyone who prefers to craft at home.

Please stop by the Crafter's Guild tent at the **Orwigsburg Heritage Day Event** on Saturday, September 7 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Join us as we celebrate our town’s past, enjoy its present, and anticipate its future. All day fun, food & entertainment for all ages.

Anyone interested in crafting or helping at this event should contact Kristin Durkee at 804-380-9066 or Amy Dewald at 801-589-9314.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Thank you to everyone who participated in our “Snacks and Games” event!

Don’t forget to bring your backpacks to the “Blessing of the Backpacks” on Sunday August 25 during the 9:30 service.

Sunday School for children aged 1 to 10 years old will resume Sunday, September 8 during the 10:30 a.m. worship service! Please mark your calendars! We can't wait to see you!

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

BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP GROUP TO MEET

Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) is an international, scripture-based non-denominational Bible study that recently established an Orwigsburg location. Women of all denominations and those wanting to learn more about Jesus are warmly invited to study the Book of Revelation together.

By studying in community, participants have an opportunity to explore God’s Word through question & discussion groups. There is no expectation of coming into the study with the “right answers.” Scripture, it is said, “speaks for itself.”

If you would like to participate, please register by August 15, so that a book order may be placed in time for the start of this group. You can register at www.bsfindernational.org. Free Bible lessons are also available on the BSF website.

The Orwigsburg BSF women’s group will meet at 7 p.m. on Thursday, September 12, at St. John’s United Church of Christ, located at 236 E. Market St., in Orwigsburg, PA.

For more information, please contact the Administrative Leader, Elinda Lado at 570-573-0898 or send an email to bsf.schberks@gmail.com.

37TH. NEPA SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The 37th. Synod Assembly was held Saturday June 8, 2024, at Atonement Lutheran Church in Wyomissing. Participants were able to attend in person or by Zoom Meeting (I attended by Zoom). The theme for the assembly was: “Hungry for Life Together in Christ” with special attention to their 50-year partnership in ELCA World Hunger.

Prior to June 8, participants attended 3 on-line sessions to prepare for the assembly. These sessions included information about synod business (such as budget, elections, etc.) and resolutions that were voted on during the assembly. Also, during these sessions, stories of activities/projects happening in our synod were shown. Mentioned too was the announcement that the synod is preparing a workshop for church secretaries and treasurers to help them in their roles in their churches.

The assembly opened with a worship service with Bishop deForest presiding and preaching. John 6:1-14 was the basis of his sermon asking “Who is hungry” in this story of the feeding of the five thousand? People hunger for Jesus to help change their lives. Jesus hungers for us to “get it”. Christ can and will feed us. Bishop deForest said that he thought the reference to the “12 baskets of food that was left over” was to remind us that all the fragments were gathered so that nothing is lost. We are followers of Christ, the one who wants to feed everyone. Christ is the bread of life.

The business of the synod followed the worship service. Pastor Samantha Drennan spoke about the resolution concerning the synod land acknowledge statement (copy on bulletin board in gathering room). Voting for synod council members and 2025 church wide assembly representatives was conducted.

Charlotte Gross spoke about our “God’s Work, Our Hands” (celebrating 10 years) on-going program emphasizing the theme of fighting world hunger. The ELCA World Hunger efforts are taking place in 64 countries. Pastor Eileen Smith-Levan also addressed the hunger theme.

She reminded us of the June 22 Hunger Walk being held at Conrad Weiser Middle School. ELCA representative, Marie Sliwinski, addressed the assembly as a Senior Director of the “Building Resilient Communities”.

Four resolutions were presented and adopted during the assembly. Resolution S7.28 gives “voice and vote” to Licensed Lay Ministers. Dr. Donald Boyer presented the budget as well as explaining plans/ideas for re-structuring the synods’ finances. The budget for 2025 was approved.

The 2025 Synod Assembly will be held May 30 and 31, 2025, with location to be announced.

All the reports for this assembly are found on the synod website – godslove.org/assembly 2024. Also, Bishop deForest’s verbal report will be found on the same site (he did not give his verbal report at the assembly due to time restraints – his written report is found on the website). Videos of the whole assembly gathering can be viewed at this website.

Respectively submitted,
Barbara Lafko ---June 12. 2024

A PERSONAL NOTE

It is with great gratitude that Rob and I extend our thanks to all those who have cooked, sent cards, washed dishes and tablecloths, and transported me hither and yon when Rob could not! You have made it possible for me to come to worship and stay as active (as my restrictions allow) through not one but two eye surgeries.

My last checkup got a thumbs up, and we will know more in mid-August. I cannot wait to be back out on the trails!

En Cristo, Sue Reier

GIVE TO OUR FOOD PANTRY

We encourage everyone to continue to support our Community Food Pantry over the summer months. A box for non-perishable food items is in the narthex. Let’s continue to help feed our hungry neighbors!

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

3 Thomas Wagner
4 Colin Kane
5 Dawn Leibold
6 Candice Schuld
7 Jeremy Houser
8 Diane Madeira, Deb Maurer
9 Loretta Leymeister, Rebecca Wehr Miller
10 Stuart Blair
11 Mark Herb, Debra Trubilla, Kayleigh Elser,
Sarah Davenport
12 Leona Yeager, Deric Mosher
14 Dakota Butler, Patrick Drenzo
15 Diane Long, Tyler Post
16 David Kaiser, James Riotto, Logan Shoener
17 Emily Zehner
19 Rachel Burke
20 Lucas Shoener, Alicia Kunkel
21 Barbara Sterner, Sharon Otstott,
Sherri Yorski, Courtney Dukmen
23 Steven Mintz, Lynn Smith, Shirley Correll,
Carol Heydt
24 Crystal Brensinger, Ned Eisenhuth
25 Sydney Riegel, Jayce Pelletier
27 Ashley Keyworth, Christine Hylan,
Gabrielle Krause
28 Linda Frampton
31 Jennifer Correll

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

2 Dean & Janet Geist, Nicholas & Shannon
Rogers
3 Evan & Pat Davis
7 Tim & Marissa Horbal, Joe & Darcy Medica
9 Andrew & Erin Winkel
10 Mike & Barbara Barner
13 Tom & Gwen Wehr, David & Jill Krewson,
Doug & Marcy Hinnershitz
14 Bob & Linda Frampton
15 Larry & Joyce O'Rourke
19 Bill & Cindy Moyer, Rob & Sue Reier

*The LORD is my strength and my shield; in
him my heart trusts; so I am helped, and
my heart exults, and with my song I give
thanks to him.*
Psalm 28:7

AUGUST FLOWERS

August 4

Altar: In memory of Russell C. Zehner by
Sonny and Connie Teter.

Chancel: OPEN

August 11

Altar: In honor of our 58th anniversary by Tom
and Gwen Wehr.

Chancel: In loving memory of the anniversary
of Kenneth Sr. and Miriam Miller.

August 18

Altar: In memory of G. Roger Lengel and Jack
A. Lengel, my brothers, by James Lengel
and the Lengel Family.

Chancel: OPEN

August 25

Altar: OPEN

Chancel: OPEN

AUGUST BULLETINS

August 4: OPEN

August 11: OPEN

August 18: OPEN

August 25: OPEN

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, there is a mug of scannable keychain
cards. Take a keychain card, shop at Boyer's
Food Market, and present your card to a cashier
while your items are being scanned. And you
are done! Boyer's will rebate 1% of your total
purchases (excluding tax, milk, and cigarettes)
and send us a check twice every year.

If you have not done so already, pick up a
scannable Boyer's Food Market keychain card
today! Shop and donate to St. Paul's!

AUGUST 2024

SERVICE SCHEDULE

SUNDAY (9:30 AM)	<u>AUGUST 4</u>	<u>AUGUST 11</u>	<u>AUGUST 18</u>	<u>AUGUST 25</u>
GREETER	Tina Butler	Deb Bolinsky	TBA	Deb Bolinsky
USHER	Gwen Wehr	Joanne Emerich	Wayne Lutsey	Jerry Goessel
LECTOR	Tina Butler	Chris Long	Pat Kunkle	Wendy Schuld
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Tom Wehr	Becky Smoot	Evan Davis	Wayne Lutsey
ALTAR GUILD	Tina Butler Chris Long	Joyce O'Rourke Becky Smoot	Joyce O'Rourke Becky Smoot	Kathy Miller Connie Teter
COUNTERS	Gwen Wehr Glenda Bright	Rosalie Wingle Diane Brobst	Joyce O'Rourke Gloria Dierwechter Pat Davis	Connie Teter Joanne Emerich Barb Sterner

DONATIONS ARE NEEDED!

In July, the Orwigsburg Food Pantry fed 120 families. We have been told that they are 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. Thank you!

DON'T WANT CHURCH ENVELOPES?

There are lots of good reasons to use church envelopes, but if you don't want them, please call our church office as soon as possible. Leave a message with your name and phone number if the office is closed when you call. We can help take you off our envelope mailing list.

PLEASE DRIVE SAFELY!

Area schools will be starting up again later this month. Let's keep children safe by being alert and watching for school buses or vans when they are picking up in the morning or dropping off at home in the afternoon. Be safe and keep our children safe, too

INFORMATION NEEDED!

The Evangelism Committee would like to continue sending cards to lift the spirits of those members who cannot join us for worship, college students, and military personnel.

Please call Connie Teter (at 570-366-0255) or contact any member of the Evangelism Committee with new names and addresses as well as any changes of address.

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 the green dedication book or call Sue Schenck at 570-386-2647 (or the church office) that day with your dedications.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

If you are the parent or guardian of a young person who has not yet received the Sacrament of Holy Communion and would like to do so, please contact Pastor Mike ASAP. If there is interest, a new Holy Communion class may start shortly.

EXCERPTS
FROM AN ARTICLE BY
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
ON EDUCATION

It seems to me that education has a two-fold function to perform in the life of man and in society: the one is utility and the other is culture. Education must enable a man to become more efficient, to achieve with increasing facility the legitimate goals of his life.

Education must also train one for quick, resolute and effective thinking. To think incisively and to think for one's self is very difficult. We are prone to let our mental life become invaded by legions of half-truths, prejudices, and propaganda. At this point, I often wonder whether or not education is fulfilling its purpose.

A great majority of the so-called educated people do not think logically and scientifically. Even the press, the classroom, the platform, and the pulpit in many instances do not give us objective and unbiased truths. To save man from the morass of propaganda, in my opinion, is one of the chief aims of education. Education must enable one to sift and weigh evidence, to discern the true from the false, the real from the unreal, and the facts from the fiction.

The function of education, therefore, is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. But education which stops with efficiency may prove the greatest menace to society. The most dangerous criminal may be the man gifted with reason, but with no morals.

We must remember that intelligence is not enough. Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education.

[From the Morehouse College Newspaper, the Maroon Tiger, February 1947]

**A PRAYER FOR THE START
OF A NEW SCHOOL YEAR**

Gracious and Loving God,

As we begin this new school year, we ask for Your blessings upon all students, teachers, and staff. Grant them wisdom, patience, and understanding as they embark on this journey of learning and growth.

Guide the students to be diligent in their studies, respectful to their teachers, and kind to their peers. May they find joy in learning and discover the gifts You have placed within them.

Bless the teachers with the strength and inspiration to educate and nurture their students. Help them to create an environment where every child feels valued and supported.

We pray for the parents and guardians, that they may be a source of encouragement and support for their children. Give them peace and confidence in Your providence.

Lord, we entrust this school year to Your care. May Your presence be felt in every classroom, and may Your love guide us all in our daily interactions.

In Jesus' name, we pray.

Amen.

AUGUST 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3 5:30 p.m. Worship w/ Holy Communion
4 9:30 a.m. Worship w/ Holy Communion “Jump for Joy” Concert 7 p.m.	5 6:30 p.m. Worship & Music	6 6:30 p.m. Evangelism	7	8 “Farm to Square” Event 5:00 p.m.	9	10 5:30 p.m. Worship
11 9:30 a.m. Worship w/ Holy Communion 2:00 p.m. Frog Hollow Yoga Walk	12 7:00 p.m. Council	13 6:00 p.m. Service Ministry	14	15 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Crafters’ Guild	16 6 to 7 p.m. Food Pantry (fill boxes).	17 8:45-11 a.m. Food Pantry (distribute boxes). 5:30 p.m. Worship 6:30 p.m. Progressive Picnic
18 9:30 a.m. Worship w/ Holy Communion	19	20	21	22	23	24 5:30 p.m. Worship
25 9:30 a.m. Worship w/ Holy Communion “The Blessing of the Backpacks”	26	27	28	29	30	31 5:30 p.m. Worship

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 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

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 our church office.

ST. PAUL'S NEWS - AUGUST 2024

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

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UPCOMING EVENTS

"Jump for Joy" Benefit Concert on Sunday, August 4 at 7 p.m.

Progressive Picnic on Saturday, August 17 at 6:30 p.m.

"Blessing of the Backpacks" on Sunday, August 25 at 9:30 a.m.

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

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