

# St. Paul's News

November 2024

St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
P.O. Box 156, 215 North Warren Street  
Orwigsburg, PA 17961  
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## A GOOD CITIZEN AND A FAITHFUL BELIEVER

As citizens, we hold a crucial responsibility in shaping our society. By choosing to vote, we exercise our right to influence the direction in which our community, state, and nation move. Choosing not to vote allows others to decide on our behalf, potentially leading to outcomes that may not be consistent with our values or the greater good.

For Christians, this responsibility is even more significant. Our faith calls us to do justice, love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God (Micah 6:8). Participating in elections is one way we can live out this calling.

By voting, we ensure that our voices contribute to the decision-making processes that affect our communities. Our vote can help uphold justice, promote mercy, and reflect the love and teachings of Jesus Christ.

Furthermore, the Bible encourages us to be good citizens. In Romans 13:1-7, St. Paul emphasizes the importance of believers being "subject to governing authorities." Voting is one way to respect and engage with the authorities which God has put in place.

Our faith and our citizenship are not separate; they are intertwined. As faithful believers in Jesus Christ, we have a duty to contribute to the common good, and voting is a powerful tool to do just that!

**VOTE ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5!**

## TRUE THANKSGIVING

Martin Luther, in his Small Catechism, reminds us to give thanks and praise, serve and obey God for all he gives us. However, Luther warns us that an "ought" never implies a "can." True thanksgiving cannot be forced or manufactured; it must come spontaneously from recognizing God's gifts.

God has given us many things according to Luther including our bodies, minds, food, clothing, family, and protection from harm. True gratitude arises not from our efforts to be thankful, but from recognizing God's divine generosity.

If you're struggling to feel thankful, make a list of God's blessings. Like Luther, you may come to realize that everything good that we have comes from God. This understanding can lead to genuine, spontaneous thanksgiving.

Even when we fail to be truly thankful, Luther's Second Article of the Creed reassures us that Jesus Christ has freed us from debt by his sacrificial death. We owe everything to God, yet it is only through Jesus that we can freely "thank and praise, serve and obey."

This is most certainly true. Amen!

Peace, Joy, Hope, and Love!

*Pastor Mike*

## **WELCA NEWS**

On October 8, eighteen women from St. Paul's attended a meeting in Reidler Hall and agreed it was a good location.

During the business portion, Barbara Sterner resigned as treasurer. We thank her for her years of service. Glenda Bright was then elected to replace her.

The group unanimously voted to send \$200 from the WELCA treasury to Lutheran Disaster Relief for Hurricane Helene damage. The December In-Gathering offering will go to Zion Red Church for steeple repairs. This offering will be received at the Christmas luncheon on Wednesday, December 5 at the McKeansburg Hotel.

WELCA will continue supporting Diakon Foster Children's Christmas gifts by accepting the names of two children, with a budget of \$50 each.

We will also collect dark-colored knitted or crocheted hats and scarves for the Seaman's International Project. A donations box is in the narthex. In January, we will also collect pet food, blankets, and other items for local animal shelters.

The meeting's program featured pictures and explanations of the symbols of the Lutheran Church.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 12 at 1:00 p.m. in Reidler Hall, focusing on "Thankfulness." All women of the church are cordially invited to attend!

## **ALL SAINTS**

All Saints will be observed during our worship on Saturday November 2, and Sunday, November 3, 2024. The following are members of our congregation who have passed on since our last All Saints services: Nicole A. Just and Harry L. Detwiler

If you know any other names which should be added to this list, please contact Pastor Mike (570-366-2316) as soon as possible.

## **REMEMBRANCE TABLE**

We will have a "Remembrance Table" honoring loved ones who are no longer with us for our All Saints observances on Saturday, November 2, and Sunday, November 3. Please bring your pictures to our gathering room by Friday, November 1.

## **SPONSOR A HOLIDAY FOOD BOX**

In November and December, Orwigsburg Food Pantry clients will receive two boxes of food: the regular monthly distribution and a second box with everything needed for a Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner. They expect to distribute about 140-160 dinner boxes each month.

For only \$30 you can sponsor a holiday dinner for a local family. Just write a check to Orwigsburg Area Food Pantry with "Holiday Dinner Box" in the memo line and drop it in the offering plate. We will ensure it reaches the Pantry. Thank you for your continued generosity to the Orwigsburg Food Pantry.

## **COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE**

This year St. John's UCC in Orwigsburg will host a Community Thanksgiving Eve service on Wednesday, November 27, at 7:00 p.m. Let us gather as a community to give thanks to God for all the gifts and blessing given to us.

## **"FALL" BACK ONE HOUR**

Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 3. Remember to set your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday, November 2. Also, replace the batteries in your smoke detectors. A fresh battery can save your life!



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School continues every second Sunday of the month.

For children ages 7 through 12, our class runs from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. During this time, parents and younger siblings are invited to enjoy fellowship with snacks and coffee.

For children ages 1 through 6, Sunday School is held during the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

The Sunday School dates for this school year are as follows: November 10, December 8, January 12, February 9, March 9, April 13, and May 11.

### Upcoming events include:

- Our Sunday School Family Supper on Thursday, November 7 at 6:00 p.m. Join us for a family meal in Reidler Hall. The whole family is welcome to attend. Please RSVP to help us plan for food.
- Our third annual Holly Jolly Christmas Party on Saturday, December 7, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in our gathering room. This event includes Christmas crafts, games, and hot chocolate. It is open to children up to age 10 from our church and community. Bring a friend!
- Our second annual No Rehearsal Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve, December 24, at 5:00 p.m. service. There are no lines to learn and no practices to attend. Simply come to church, pick a costume, and join us in celebrating the birth of our Savior. Kids and adults of all ages are welcome to participate. Please arrive at least 10 minutes early to pick your costume.

Thank you for your continued support of the Sunday School program!

**"To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing." Martin Luther**

## CHILI & SOUP SALE

The Men of St. Paul's will host a Chili & Soup Sale on Saturday, November 2, beginning at 8:30 a.m. "on the square" in downtown Orwigsburg. Come early for great chili, tasty soups, and homemade baked goods.

## SERVICE MINISTRY

Thank you! We are so blessed to have such loving supporters in our congregation. Your generous donations make our Annual Bazaar a success, allowing us to help others in our church family and community in their time of need.

In 2024, we have helped 4 families in need, spending over \$2,600. Thanks to your generosity, we provided support when and where it was needed.

We thank you and our many volunteers who keep our Annual Bazaar a "Church Family Tradition" here at St. Paul's.

## SECOND SUNDAY SNACKS AND FELLOWSHIP

Join us at St. Paul's for Second Sunday Snacks and Fellowship! Every second Sunday through May, enjoy refreshments and coffee from 9:00 to 10:15 a.m.

Individuals, families, or groups can host by bringing finger foods and juice. The church provides paper goods and coffee.

Sign up in the gathering room. For questions about hosting, contact Jessica Swick at 936-648-6809 or [jessica@stpauls-orwigsburg.org](mailto:jessica@stpauls-orwigsburg.org).

## IT'S TIME TO ORDER POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS!

Poinsettias are priced at \$9.00 each this year. Please choose red or white red blooms and fill out the form included in this newsletter.

Poinsettia orders and money must be received by Sunday, December 1!

## STEWARDSHIP IN CREATION

“Every Little Bit Counts”...just as on the STiC water bottles we printed “Every Drop Counts”. It seems that this wisdom will be a likely mantra moving forward in our efforts to bring restoration to our precious planet. All the “little” things help: every bug, every leaf, every cell, every gene...and we as people! Every one of us counts!

So, we are asking a seemingly “little” thing: the donation of your used newspapers, (those who still get them) for use at Red Creek Wildlife Center. There is a box under the STiC table in the Gathering Room for that purpose, and then I will be very glad to take over a collection when it grows to a feasible amount. But don’t stop bringing them, even when the box looks full.

Looking toward Spring walks, for Wellness and Fellowship: if you have wanted to go on trail walks but have not been able to fit them in your schedule, add your name to the chart in the Gathering Room as to when a walk would usually be convenient for you. We’ll try to find something in common!

## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Council members discussed the many examples of *Fellowship*, *Teamwork* and *Outreach* that we’ve witnessed at St. Paul’s in September and October. The involvement from our congregation was encouraging, uplifting and truly gave us warm and fuzzy feelings! 😊

- “God’s Work, Our Hands”
- Lively church picnic
- Annual Church “Bazaar”
- “Blessing of the Animals” event
- “Harvest Home” offering
- Garden party clean-up morning

*“For wherever two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”* Matthew 18:20

## Angel Tree

*Our Angel Tree will arrive Thanksgiving weekend! 😊 This annual project provides gifts to local school-age children whose families visit the Orwigsburg Food Pantry.*

*Each child will have 2 gift tags and a stocking. The tags will contain the first name & age of the child and their gift wish. We ask that spend about \$20 per tag. Each child will also have a stocking that you can fill with age-appropriate goodies. You do not need to select all the tags for the same child.*

*Please contact Deb Bolinsky at (570)789-3540 or [debbolinsky@gmail.com](mailto:debbolinsky@gmail.com) with questions or concerns.*

## GOT INFORMATION?

The Evangelism Committee regularly sends cards to lift the spirits of those members who cannot join us for worship. They need updated information for military members and college students away from home.

Please contact any Evangelism Committee member or call the church office (570-366-2316) with new information and any changes of address.

## WELCA HAT & SCARVE DRIVE

The women of our church are collecting new knitted, or crocheted, dark-colored hats and scarves for Seafarer’s International Christmas “Ditty Bags” project. There is a box in our narthex for donations. The deadline for this drive is Sunday, November 17.

## ADULT FORUM

The “Sermon on the Mount” is the basis for our discussions in Adult Forum. We meet on Sunday mornings in the church parlor at 9:15 a.m. For additional information, please contact Barbara Lafko at 570-366-1208 or [bjlafko@yahoo.com](mailto:bjlafko@yahoo.com) or the church office.

## **A PRAYER FOR VETERANS DAY**

O Gracious God, we give thanks for the men and women who have served our country with dedication and courage. We honor their sacrifices, and the sacrifices of their families, who have endured long separations and uncertain futures.

Bless our veterans with peace and healing. Comfort those who bear physical, emotional, or spiritual wounds from their service. May they know our deep gratitude for their sacrifices.

Grant them strength and support from their communities. Help us to remember our veterans not just today, but every day, and to advocate for their needs and well-being. Teach us to walk beside them, offering respect, compassion, and care.

We pray for the day when peace will reign, and the world will be free from conflict. Until that day, grant wisdom and discernment to our leaders, and protection and guidance to those who serve.

In the name of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, we pray. Amen.

## **CRAFTERS' GUILD NEWS**

Need to do some holiday shopping? On Saturday, December 7, the Crafters' Guild will participate in the Orwigsburg Library's Holly Trail. They will display and sell their creations, including new Christmas items, inside the Orwigsburg Library from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Stop by to shop or visit as they represent St. Paul's in our community and raise money for the library.

## **WELCOME OUR NEWEST FAMILY**

The Chapman Family from Cressona, PA, have been approved by our Council to join our congregation by transfer. Please welcome William and Erin, their son Braden Furman, and their daughters Adelyn and Amara into our community of faith!

## **A THANK YOU!**

My heartfelt thanks to the Reverend Chris Rothharpt, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Pottsville, PA, and Dr. Donald Boyer, the Treasurer of the Northeastern PA Synod, ELCA, for participating in our service on Sunday, October 20, celebrating the 30th anniversary of my ordination. Thanks to Council President Greg Sklar and Council Member Doug Tavor for their kind words and for planning the day's activities.

Special thanks to Justin McClure, our Music Director and Organist, along with our handbell and chancel choirs, for providing beautiful music for this special service. And thanks to everyone involved in preparing the reception which followed the service.

Your kindness, support, and generosity are greatly appreciated by myself and my family. God bless you all! Pastor Mike

## **WELCOME OUR NEW BROTHERS AND SISTER!**

We welcome Ada James Lee, daughter of Kayleigh Elser-Lee and James Lee of Darlington, S.C. Ada was baptized at St. Paul's on Sunday, August 18.

We also welcome Daxton Michael Ganter, son of Katelyn Grustas and Kalyb Ganter of Schuylkill Haven, PA. Daxton was baptized at St. Paul's on Saturday, October 5.

Lastly, we welcome Krow Dutch Brensinger, son of Tanya and Dutch Brensinger of Auburn, PA. Krow was baptized at his family's home on Sunday, October 13.

God bless Ada, Daxton, and Krow, our new brothers and sister in Christ Jesus. May God help them to grow in faith and keep them safe from all evil until Christ comes again!



**IN JESUS CHRIST  
GOD HAS MADE US  
ONE FAMILY!**

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Amy Lafko, Cody Berger
- 5 Mikayla Torola, Josh Grove,  
Hadley Bolinsky, Julie Kaiser
- 6 Mike Zimmerman, Aidan Medica
- 7 Jeffry Ritschel II, Cole Swick, Josephine  
Novelli
- 8 Ethan Dewald
- 10 Martin Stine, Kay Weidensaul
- 11 Daniel Riotto, Alexander Lotis
- 12 Tracey Kemp, Katie Stramara
- 13 Faye Baranowsky, Pr. Lee Diefenderfer,  
Janet Geist
- 15 Melanie Seigfried
- 17 John Riegel III, Paul Lysek, Victoria Wagner
- 18 Heidi Glenn
- 20 Nicole Campbell, Jim Emerich, Diane Miller
- 21 Mika Torola
- 23 Alexander Sklar, Kristin Durkee
- 25 Margaret Bair
- 27 Sandra Zendrosky, David Aregood
- 28 Kevin Long
- 29 Jeremy Miller, Bryan Ludwig,  
Susan Wimbrow, Laura Wimbrow

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## NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 6 Wayne & Carol Lutsey
- 7 Dom & Janet Just  
Michael & Cherie Zimmerman
- 14 Mike & Glenda Bright
- 15 Ed & Amanda Sincavage
- 22 Allen & Carol Mickalonis
- 23 Frank and Diane Madeira

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## “NEW MEMBER” SUNDAY

Our Evangelism Committee will honor our newest members on Sunday, November 17. A reception for them will follow the 10:30 a.m. service. Let us give thanks to God for our newest members!



## NOVEMBER FLOWER SPONSORS

### November 3

ALTAR: In honor of Hadley Bolinsky's birthday by Deb and Stan.

CHANCEL: In memory of mother, Margaret B. Piacine, by daughter, Danielle Richards.

CHANCEL: In honor of Jeffery II's and Josephine's birthdays on Nov.7 by Cindy and Jeff Ritschel.

### November 10

ALTAR: In loving memory of Tom's parents, Leighton and Ruth Wehr, and Ruth's birthday (11/11) by Tom and Gwen Wehr.

CHANCEL: In memory of my brother, Eric C. Shaud, on his birthday by Crystal Brensinger and Family.

### November 17

ALTAR: In honor of my parents' 59<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary by Deb and Stan Bolinsky.

CHANCEL: In honor of my husband, Jim Emerich on his birthday (Nov.20<sup>th</sup>), by his wife, Joanne.

### November 24

ALTAR: OPEN

CHANCEL: OPEN

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## NOVEMBER BULLETIN SPONSORS

November 3: In memory of John A. and G. Roger Lengel, my brothers, by James W. Lengel and the Lengel Family.

November 10: In memory of Wrone and Rose Peifley by Tina Butler.

November 17: In memory of Robert Ebinger by Michael and Elinda Lado.

November 24: In honor of Richard and Diane Miller by Tina Butler and Victoria and Alexandria Spitler.

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Martin Luther was born in Eisleben, Saxony (modern Germany) on November 10, 1483.

**HAPPY 561<sup>ST</sup> BIRTHDAY!**

# NOVEMBER 2024

## SERVICE SCHEDULE

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	<u>NOVEMBER 3</u>	<u>NOVEMBER 10</u>	<u>NOVEMBER 17</u>	<u>NOVEMBER 24</u>
<u>SUNDAY ~ 8:00 AM</u>				
<b>GREETER/USHER</b>	Krista Harding	Krista Harding	Krista Harding	Krista Harding
<b>LECTOR/ COMMUNION ASSISTANT</b>	Amy Dewald	Connie Teter	Kay Weidensaul	Ruth Ann Withers
<u>SUNDAY ~ 10:30 AM</u>				
<b>GREETER</b>	Greg Sklar	Wayne Lutsey	Sarah Eger	Wayne Lutsey
<b>USHER</b>	Joyce O'Rourke	Carl Heintzelman	Jeff Ritschel	Wendy Schuld
<b>LECTOR</b>	Gwen Wehr	Becky Smoot	Tom Wehr	Sue Reier
<b>COMMUNION ASSISTANT</b>	Evan Davis	Deb Bolinsky	Bill Smoot	Deb O'Connor
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Chris Long Barb Sterner	Sue Schenck Barb Sterner	Glenda Bright Diane Brobst	Glenda Bright Diane Brobst
<b>COUNTERS</b>	Gwen Wehr Glenda Bright	Rosalie Wingle Diane Brobst	Joyce O'Rourke Gloria Dierwechter Pat Davis	Connie Teter Joanne Emerich Barb Sterner

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### WE GIVE BECAUSE WE CARE!

The closure of the Growing Tree Daycare Center has deeply affected our community and impacted our congregation's budget. We are losing \$2,000 each month in rental payments due to this closing.

While giving to our ministry and outreach has been consistent, it is likely that we will face a shortfall of more than \$8,000 by year's end.

Thanksgiving and Christmas have always been a time of great generosity and kindness from our congregation. Those in need and the work of our congregation have historically benefited from your generosity.

Let us continue to trust in God and take comfort in His provision for all our needs. Let's also share our blessings—our time, our talents, and certainly, our worldly treasures!

### MOW VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Meals on Wheels (MOW) volunteers provide essential nutritional meals and wellness support for many older adults in Schuylkill County. To learn more about this important community service or to volunteer your time, please call Bill Smoot at (267) 261-9101.




### PASTOR ON VACATION

Pastor Mike will be on vacation on November 30 and December 1. Unfortunately, there will be no worship service on Saturday, November 30. Pastor David Rowe will lead worship at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, December 1.

### COMBINED ISSUE COMING

The next issue of "St. Paul's News" will be a combined December-January edition. Please get your meeting dates and articles to our office by November 15. Thank you!

# NOVEMBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 <b>ALL SAINTS</b> Chili & Soup Sale at 8:30 a.m. on the square. Worship with Holy Communion 5:30 p.m. Please “fall” back one hour before you retire!
3 <b>ALL SAINTS SUNDAY</b> Worship with Holy Communion at 8 & 10:30 a.m. Adult Forum 9:15 a.m.	4 Finance 6:30 p.m.	5 <b>ELECTION DAY</b> 	6 Bell Choir 6 p.m. Chancel Choir 7 p.m.	7 Second Sunday Family Supper in Reidler Hall 6 to 7 p.m.	8	9 Worship 5:30 p.m.
10 <b>SECOND SUNDAY!</b> Worship with Holy Communion at 8 & 10:30 a.m. Snacks & Fellowship between services Adult Forum & Youth Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Children’s Sunday School 10:30 a.m.	11 <b>VETERANS DAY HOLIDAY</b>  The Church Office is closed. Council 7 p.m.	12 WELCA in Reidler Hall 1 p.m.	13 Bell Choir 6 p.m. Chancel Choir 7 p.m.	14	15	16 Worship 5:30 p.m.
17 <b>“NEW MEMBERS” SUNDAY</b> Worship with Holy Communion at 8 & 10:30 a.m. Adult Forum 9:15 a.m. A reception will follow the 10:30 a.m.	18	19	20 Bell Choir 6 p.m. Chancel Choir 7 p.m.	21 Rainbow Friends 10 a.m.	22	23 Worship 5:30 p.m.
24 <b>CHRIST THE KING</b> Worship with Holy Communion at 8 & 10:30 a.m. Adult Forum 9:15 a.m.	25	26	27 Community Thanksgiving Eve Service at St. John’s UCC 7 p.m.	28 <b>THANKSGIVING DAY!</b> The Church Office is closed. 	29	30 No Scheduled Worship.

## OUR PASTOR & STAFF

Reverend Michael T. Petresky	570-366-2316 - Ext 11	<a href="mailto:pastormike@stpauls-orwigsburg.org">pastormike@stpauls-orwigsburg.org</a>
Justin McClure, Organist/Choir Director	570-573-4076	<a href="mailto:justin@stpauls-orwigsburg.org">justin@stpauls-orwigsburg.org</a>
Amy Dewald, Office Support Staff	570-366-2316	<a href="mailto:office@stpauls-orwigsburg.org">office@stpauls-orwigsburg.org</a>
Carl Heintzelman, Sexton	484-408-5152	
Karen Tavor, Treasurer	610-507-2797	<a href="mailto:karen@stpauls-orwigsburg.org">karen@stpauls-orwigsburg.org</a>
Wayne Lutsey, Financial Secretary	570-617-9617	<a href="mailto:cwlutsey@gmail.com">cwlutsey@gmail.com</a>
Jessica Swick, Social Media Manager	936-648-6809	<a href="mailto:jessica@stpauls-orwigsburg.org">jessica@stpauls-orwigsburg.org</a>



# POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Poinsettias for Christmas Eve will again be ordered from  
Blue Mountain Farms in New Ringgold, PA.  
The cost of a 6.5" bloom plant is **\$9.00**.

Please indicate red or white blooms and to whom you wish to dedicate.  
If you choose not to dedicate the plants, you will be listed as a sponsor.

**THE DEADLINE TO ORDER POINSETTIAS IS DECEMBER 1!**

Please complete the bottom of this form and return it with payment to the plate  
marked "Poinsettias" in the gathering room.

-----  
NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ red poinsettia(s),

I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ white poinsettia(s),

at \$9.00 each. If you wish to dedicate your plant(s) "in honor/memory of,"  
please circle one for the lines you complete below. **PLEASE PRINT.**

Honor/Memory: \_\_\_\_\_

Honor/Memory: \_\_\_\_\_

Honor/Memory: \_\_\_\_\_

Honor/Memory: \_\_\_\_\_

Honor/Memory: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you paying with CASH? ☐ or CHECK? ☐ CHECK # \_\_\_\_\_

Total # of Poinsettias: \_\_\_\_\_ Total amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOVEMBER 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

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**CHILI & SOUP SALE ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2 AT 8:30 A.M. "ON THE SQUARE"**

**COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE AT ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST ON  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27 AT 7 P.M.**

**WATCH US ON YOUTUBE. VISIT US AT OUR WEBSITE. FIND US ON FACEBOOK.**