

St. Paul's News

October 2024

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
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LUTHER AND LUTHERANISM

Martin Luther was eight years old when Christopher Columbus set sail from Europe and landed in the Western Hemisphere. Luther was a young monk and priest when Michaelangelo was painting the Sistine Chapel in Rome. A few years later, he was a junior faculty member at a new university in small-town Germany, intently studying the Scriptures, "captivated with an extraordinary ardor for understanding Paul in the Epistle to the Romans."

In these days Luther was tormented by the demand for righteousness before God. "I did not love, yes, I hated the righteous God who punishes sinners, and secretly, if not blasphemously, certainly murmuring greatly, I was angry with God." Then, in the midst of that struggle with God, the message of the Scriptures became clear, like a long-shut door opening wide. When he realized that a "merciful God justifies us by faith ... I felt that I was altogether born again and had entered paradise itself through open gates."

What Luther discovered is the freedom of Christians trusting God's mercy in Christ. As he later wrote, "Faith is God's work in us. It changes us and makes us to be born anew of God. This faith is a living, busy, active, mighty thing. It is impossible for it not to

be doing good works incessantly. Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace, so sure and certain that believers would stake their lives on it a thousand times."

This discovery set Luther's life on a new course—both his own life and his public service as a preacher and teacher. When a church-endorsed sales team came to the Wittenberg area in October, 1517, Luther was concerned that the promotion and sale of indulgences undermined the promise of God's unreserved mercy in Jesus and the faith that trusts that promise. His *95 Theses* or *Disputation on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences* became the first of a life-long stream of books, sermons, letters, essays, even hymns in which he expressed his confidence in this life-giving promise from God, the Gospel, and its liberating implications for all of life in church and society. [<https://elca.org/Faith/ELCA-Teaching/Luther-and-Lutheranism>]



Martin Luther (1483-1546)

STiC NEWS

Dear friends in Christ:

For October, the STiC table in the Gathering Room is featuring updates from Red Creek Wildlife Center and a display which gives us an amazing peek at life at the microscopic level, even celebrated on a set of postage stamps. We invite you to page through the book and be in wonder and awe at the details constantly being assembled by our amazing Creator. Because life IS dynamic, maybe we need to adjust our language of creation from “God made” to “God makes and continues to make”...

You will also find information about a group called the Xerces Society, whose goal is to enlist the help of citizens to find ways to enhance the habitats right around us to promote the lives of (perhaps unnoticed) creatures imperative to the survival of those we cherish, such as birds and butterflies (the ones which usually come to mind).

In Old Testament days, it was the tradition of farmers to leave a fair share of their crops available for poor folks to glean. Perhaps we could consider our leaf litter with the same sense, as those leaves are the cradles of life forms which winter over and emerge as the grubs essential as “baby food” for nestlings come Spring. Thus, the phrase “Leave the Leaves” becomes a practice of sustaining our wildlife and leaving us with some free mulch later on!

STiC walks will continue in October. For next year, I would love to have input from our members as to more convenient days to walk so we can build a fairly sized group. Friday mornings doesn't fit the bill, so in November, I will put a survey on the STiC table, and interested walkers can let me know what works.

All Friday Walks are at 10:00 a.m.

October 4	Tumbling Run
October 11	Landingville
October 18	Auburn
October 25	Tumbling Run

And, finally, the tally for all the great walking folks did over the summer! The first count had us to Cape May. A few more folks turned in miles, and an estimation of 650 miles had us to Orangeville, Georgia. For the final tally, we have a total mileage of 865.364 miles, which by my logging of trips to the south has us in the vicinity of the Okefenokee Swamp!

Congratulations, everyone (the swamp is protected and a beautiful place to visit).

SERVICE MINISTRY 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. Several sign-up sheets are in the gathering room.

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

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- A garden clean-up at the church is scheduled for Thursday, October 10 at 10:00 a.m. All interested volunteers can just show up with your gardening gloves and any tools you find helpful.
- Our beloved bells were shipped off for refurbishment in July with some needing repairs and a little more attention, but they should return by the end of September.
- Weik Capital Management representatives met with our Council and our Finance Committee to provide a review of our current investment portfolio. All groups found the appraisal to be favorable and consistent with current market trends.

“FALL” BACK ONE HOUR

Daylight Saving Time will end at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 3, this year. Please remember to set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, November 2.

Consider checking and replacing the batteries in your home smoke detectors when you change your clocks. A fresh battery can save your life

HARVEST HOME

This year, Harvest Home will be held on the weekend of October 12 and 13. Please bring your nonperishable food items to the church starting Sunday, September 29. A donation box will be provided in our narthex. Let us share our blessings with those in need!

SECOND SUNDAY SNACKS AND FELLOWSHIP

'Second Sunday' Snacks and Fellowship has come to St. Paul's! Every Second Sunday through the month of May there will be refreshments and coffee from 9:00 to 10:15 a.m. Individuals, families, or groups can host by bringing simple finger foods and juice to share. All paper goods and coffee will be provided by the church.

A sign-up sheet is in the gathering room. Please contact Jessica Swick for questions about hosting at 936-648-6809 or jessica@stpauls-orwigsburg.org.

10/10 @ 10:00 AM GARDEN PARTY

Volunteers are needed to pull some weeds, cut back some bushes, flowers, and plants, and generally clean up in our church gardens as we prepare them for new life next spring.

All interested volunteers can just show up with your gardening gloves and any tools you find helpful. You can contact the church office at (570) 366-2316 for more information.

WELCA

On Tuesday, September 10, twenty of St. Paul's women were welcomed to the home of Amy Dewald. A traditional German sauerbraten luncheon was enjoyed by everyone. Amy and her family are very active with the Auerhahn Schuhplattler Verein out of Oley, PA. Amy presented a brief history of this German dance and its popularity throughout the U.S. The various required attire and dance routines were explained. This was highlighted by viewing a video of their recent visit to Germany to see their daughter compete.

A brief business session was held and the topics were as follows:

1. WELCA has council approval to hold our upcoming meetings in Reidler Hall. All thought this was a good idea.
2. Until an official election, Glenda Bright will assist Barbara Sterner with treasurer duties.
3. We will continue to collect knitted, crocheted, or purchased dark-colored hats and scarves for Seafarer's International Christmas "Ditty Bags." This has been a Lutheran response to urgent needs since 1873. A brochure is on the WELCA bulletin board.
4. Designation of the December In-gathering offering will be voted upon at the October meeting. It had been suggested we cover the cost of the purchase of the shepherd for the nativity scene, however, a church family has volunteered to pay for this.

Although not discussed at the meeting, WELCA will donate a basket to the Service Ministry Bazaar. The theme will be "gift Cards" once again.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 8 at 1:00 p.m. at Reidler hall. The program will feature "Symbols of the Lutheran Church." We are looking forward to another nice gathering.

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.

“BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS”

We will hold our annual “Blessing of the Animals” service at Albright’s Woods Pavilion on Sunday, October 6, at 2:00 p.m. This event will take place rain or shine.

All friendly, leashed (or housed) animals—whether they slither, crawl, hop, walk, swim, or fly—are welcome to participate in this outdoor event.

We will not collect donations of food or animal care items this year. However, if you would like to make a monetary donation to either Red Creek Wildlife Center or one of the local SPCAs, their mailing addresses are listed below:

Red Creek Wildlife Center
300 Moonhill Dr.
Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

Hillside SPCA
51 SPCA Rd.
Pottsville, PA 17901

Ruth Steinert Memorial SPCA
18 Wertz Dr.
Pine Grove, PA 17963

ALL SAINTS

The feast of All Saints will be observed during our worship on Saturday November 2, and Sunday, November 3. Let us remember members and friends of our congregation who have passed on since our last All Saints services.

ADULT FORUM

Matthew chapters 5 – 7 are the basis for our discussions about the “Sermon on the Mount”. Join us at 9:15 am in the church parlor. For additional information, please contact Barbara Lafko at 570-366-1208 or e-mail at bjlafko@yahoo.com or the church office.

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 Orwigsburg. Come early for the best selection of chilis, tasty soups, and homemade baked goods. Please mark your calendars!

REMEMBRANCE TABLE

St. Paul’s will have a “Remembrance Table” honoring our loved ones who have passed away this year during our services on Saturday, November 2, and Sunday, November 3.

Our congregation is also encouraged to bring pictures of family and friends who have previously found their eternal home. Please bring your pictures to the church gathering room by Friday, November 1.

“GOD’S WORK. OUR HANDS”

Thank you to everyone who generously donated to our “God’s Work. Our Hands.” project for 2024. Servants to All – My Father’s House of Pottsville, PA, received our donations with joy. Let us continue to help those in need as the colors of fall give way to the whiteness of winter!

WE WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Clifford G. and Dee L. Mongrain of New Ringgold, PA, have been approved to be received as new members of our congregation. Please welcome Cliff and Dee into our community of faith and thank them for sharing in our ministry.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

It was wonderful to see everyone for the start of a new Sunday School year!! Thank you to everyone who came to the first session, and I can't wait to see everyone in October!

Sunday School will continue every second Sunday of the month. Young people aged 7 through 12 are invited to a youth group with Bible study and activities from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. (Parents are invited to stay and enjoy fellowship time with snacks and coffee while their children are in class.)

Children ages 1 through 6 are invited to join us for Bible stories, crafts, a snack, fun, and fellowship during the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

Below is a list of Sunday School dates for the 2024-2025 school year:

October 13, November 10, December 8,
January 12, February 9, March 9, April 13,
& May 11.

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

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

Our congregation will celebrate the 30th anniversary of Pastor Mike's ordination on Sunday, October 20. For this special event, we will worship together at 9:30 a.m. instead of our usual 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. services.

Donald Boyer, Treasurer of the Northeastern PA Synod, will be present, and the Reverend Chris Rothharpt, Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Pottsville, PA, will deliver the message. The service will also feature special music, and refreshments will be shared afterward.

Let us celebrate Pastor Mike's long and faithful service and give thanks to God for all the faithful men and women He has called to shepherd His sheep.

EVANGELISM: UPCOMING EVENTS

The Evangelism Committee will participate in the Orwigsburg Halloween Parade at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 23 and our Trick-or-Treat Night on Monday, October 31 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Our Evangelism Committee will meet on Monday, October 21 at 6:00 p.m. to fill candy bags and prepare for these events. New members are invited to attend!

CRAFTERS' GUILD NEWS

The Crafters' Guild will have tables with our creations for sale at two upcoming community events: the Annual Service Ministry Bazaar on Saturday October 5, and the Orwigsburg Library's Holly Trail on Saturday, December 7.

At the bazaar, we will have Fall and Christmas items, as well as our quilts, earrings, and many other handmade treasures. Our group is also donating a fall themed basket for the raffle featuring handmade items from our members. Stop by to see our creations and pick up some holiday gifts for your family and friends.

In preparation for these events, we will be scheduling some craft days to work on Christmas items to add to our inventory. Our first meeting will be Wednesday, October 2 at 12:00 noon in the church gathering room. Come and join us for crafting and fellowship and bring a friend.

If you are not able to craft with us but would like to help, we are always looking for flat bed sheets (neutral solid colors preferred) and gift cards to Amazon, Michaels, or Walmart to help with craft supplies. Donations are greatly appreciated.

For more information about our group or events, please contact Amy Dewald (801) 589-9314, Kristin Durkee (804) 380-9066, or the church office (570) 366-2316.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Linda Auteri
- 2 Danielle Otstott, Michael Lado
- 4 Christopher Wimbrow, Morgan Miller
- 5 Mary Ann Cunningham
- 6 Chase Sincavage, Alyssa Sklar,
Nolan Ingraham
- 7 Preston Sincavage, McKenzie Torola
- 8 Adam Williams
- 9 Kaitlin Brobst
- 10 Jaclyn Harris, Amanda Sincavage
- 13 Carol Mickalonis, Tyler Lotis
- 14 Jill Weidensaul, Carl Heintzelman
- 15 Beverly Hein, Madison Swick
- 16 Jeff Sterner, Tom Smith, Cheryl Witman
- 17 Tristan Foster, Kalina and Leilani Wade
- 19 Elisabeth Hannaway
- 20 Chuck Trubilla
- 21 Elizabeth Dewald
- 22 Mary Steinert
- 23 Emily Kaiser, Justin McClure, Bill Smoot
- 24 Jonathan Olmes
- 25 Beth Post, Claudia Fuller
- 26 Jeffrey Dillman
- 27 Christine Kaiser
- 28 Donna Correll, Kathie Frantz
- 29 Rick Rarick
- 30 Sophia Seigfried, Dutch Brensinger
- 31 Christine Marcusky, Joe Medica

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Darin & Crystal Brensinger
- 4 Jeff & Cindy Ritschel
- 6 Charlene & Kyle Knauss
- 7 James & Cheryl Riotto
- 8 Ed & Terri Keyworth,
- 9 Mark & Becky Herb,
Gerry & Stacey Goessel
- 10 Dale & Lil Dewald
- 11 Barry & Dana Jenkins,
Jeffrey & Amanda Ritschel
- 13 Eric & Diane Mengel
- 15 Mark & Sue Williams
- 17 Tina & Scott Butler
- 19 Scott & Melanie Rarick, Bob & Beth Krause
- 20 John & Paulette Sassaman
- 25 Elizabeth & Ryan Lamm
- 29 Joel & Cristi Ritschel

OCTOBER FLOWER SPONSORS

October 6

Altar: In honor of our 49th Anniversary by Jeff
& Cindy Ritschel

Chancel: OPEN

October 13

Altar: In honor of our wedding anniversary by
Barry and Dana Jenkins.

Chancel: OPEN

October 20

Altar: In loving memory of Gwen's parents,
Aubrey and Minnie Glover, and Gwen's
dear brother, Aubrey "Bubba" Glover II,
by Tom and Gwen Wehr and family.

Chancel: In memory of my parents, Kermit and
Cathlene Krammes and siblings, Jody,
Kevin, and Kirsten by Robin
Zimmerman.

October 27

Altar: In memory of Rachel E. Zehner by Sonny
and Connie Teter.

Chancel: OPEN

OCTOBER BULLETIN SPONSORS

October 6: In memory of Aubrey and Minnie
Glover's anniversary and Aubrey Glover's
birthday (10/2) by Tom and Gwen Wehr.

October 13: In memory of Dr. Michael Lado Sr.
by Michael and Elinda Lado.

October 20: In memory of Pearl Seigfreid by her
daughter, Gail Wolfe

October 27: In memory of daughter, Deborah
Moyer, by Fern Moyer on her birthday
10/26.

FOOD PANTRY

Volunteers are still needed to assist our
neighbors served by the Orwigsburg Food
Pantry. If you are interested, please join us at St.
John's United Church of Christ at 6:00 p.m. on
Friday, October 18, to assemble food boxes, or
at 8:45 a.m. on Saturday, October 19, to
distribute them. Let us continue to help our
neighbors in need.

OCTOBER 2024

SERVICE SCHEDULE

SUNDAY	OCTOBER 6 8:00 AM	OCTOBER 13 8:00 AM	OCTOBER 20 <u>SEE BELOW</u>	OCTOBER 27 8:00 AM
GREETER	Krista Harding	Krista Harding		Krista Harding
USHER	Pastor Mike	Pastor Mike		Pastor Mike
LECTOR/ COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Ruth Ann Withers	Amy Dewald		Kay Weidensaul

	OCTOBER 6 <u>10:30 AM</u>	OCTOBER 13 <u>10:30 AM</u>	OCTOBER 20 <u>9:30 AM</u>	OCTOBER 27 <u>10:30 AM</u>
GREETER	Deb Bolinsky	Greg Sklar	Doug Travor	Doug Travor
USHER	Tina Butler	Deb Bolinsky	Karen Travor	Madelyn Knecht
LECTOR	Leslie Guldin	Eric Eger	Deb O'Connor	Jim Emerich
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Cindy Ritschel	Greg Sklar	Pat Kunkle	Doug Travor
ALTAR GUILD	Hope Clarke Madelyn Knecht	Hope Clarke Madelyn Knecht	Crystal Brensinger Cindy Ritschel	Crystal Brensinger Cindy Ritschel
COUNTERS	Gwen Wehr Glenda Bright	Rosalie Wingle Diane Brobst	Joyce O'Rourke Gloria Dierwechter Pat Davis	Connie Teter Joanne Emerich Barb Sterner

DON'T WANT CHURCH ENVELOPES?

There are many good reasons to use church envelopes. However, if you prefer not to receive them, please contact our office as soon as possible. If you call outside office hours, leave a message with your name and phone number. We will assist in removing your information from our mailing list.

Please note that the service providing our envelopes cannot immediately remove any name and address. There is typically a delay of several months before the envelopes stop being mailed out.

CATECHISM

Parents of students in 8th grade or older who have not been confirmed (i.e., have not completed a catechetical program and publicly affirmed their faith) are invited to contact Pastor Mike as soon as possible.

CONGRATULATIONS

Our congratulations and best wishes go out to Jayse B. Callaghan of Schuylkill Haven, PA, and to his parents and all his family. Jayse has successfully completed his study of the Sacrament of Holy Communion, and he received the Sacrament for the first time on Sunday, September 8, 2024.

May God continue to bless him, strengthen him in his faith, and protect him from all harm.

OCTOBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 Crafters' Guild 12 noon @ the church Bell Choir 6 p.m. Chancel Choir 7 p.m.	3	4 STiC Walk in Tumbling Run 10:00 a.m.	5 SERVICE MINISTRY ANNUAL BAZAAR 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion 5:30 p.m.
6 Worship with Holy Communion at 8 & 10:30 a.m. BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS 2 p.m. at Albright's Woods Pavilion	7	8 WELCA 1 p.m.	9 Bell Choir 6 p.m. Chancel Choir 7 p.m.	10 Men of St. Paul's 6:30 p.m.	11 STiC Walk in Landingville 10:00 a.m.	12 "HARVEST HOME" Worship 5:30 p.m.
13 "HARVEST HOME" "SECOND SUNDAY" Snacks & Fellowship between services Worship with Holy Communion at 8 & 10:30 a.m. Adult Forum & Teen Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Youth Sunday School 10:30 a.m.	14 COLUMBUS DAY Our Church Office is closed. Council 7 p.m.	15 Service Ministry 6 p.m.	16 Bell Choir 6 p.m. Chancel Choir 7 p.m.	17	18 STiC Walk in Auburn 10:00 a.m.	19 Worship 5:30 p.m.
20 30 TH ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY SERVICE Worship with Holy Communion at 9:30 a.m.	21 Evangelism 6 p.m.	22	23 Halloween Parade in Orwigsburg 7 p.m. [Rehearsals may be held if the parade is rescheduled.]	24	25 STiC Walk in Tumbling Run 10:00 a.m.	26 Worship 5:30 p.m.
27 "REFORMATION SUNDAY" Worship with Holy Communion at 8 & 10:30 a.m. Adult Forum 9:15 a.m.	28	29 Rainbow Friends 10:00 a.m.	30 Bell Choir 6 p.m. Chancel Choir 7 p.m.	31 "Trick-or-Treat" in Orwigsburg 6 to 8 p.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



I put a cross of black inside
The heart that stands for me.
I put it there because I know
Christ died to make me free.

Behind the rose the sky is blue
Like heaven's sky may be.
I plan to live with Jesus there,
But first the world I'll see.

A rose of white holds up my heart
Just like my pillow soft.
God keeps me happy and so safe,
I never will feel lost.

Around this all I drew a ring
Of gold that has no end.
It's like a promise God will keep
To always be my friend.

Martin Luther

The most enduring symbol of the Lutheran Reformation is the seal that Luther himself designed to represent his theology. By the early 1520s, this seal begins to appear on the title page of Luther's works.

Here is how Luther himself explained its meaning:

First, there is a black cross in a heart that remains its natural color. This is to remind me that it is faith in the Crucified One that saves us. Anyone who believes from the heart will be justified (Romans 10:10). It is a black cross, which mortifies and causes pain, but it leaves the heart its natural color. It doesn't destroy nature, that is to say, it does not kill us but keeps us alive, for the just shall live by faith in the Crucified One (Romans 1:17). The heart should stand in the middle of a white rose. This is to show that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace—it puts the believer into a white, joyous rose. Faith does not give peace and joy like the world gives (John 14:27). This is why the rose must be white, not red. White is the color of the spirits and angels (cf. Matthew 28:3; John 20:12). This rose should stand in a sky-blue field, symbolizing that a joyful spirit and faith is a beginning of heavenly, future joy, which begins now, but is grasped in hope, not yet fully revealed. Around the field of blue is a golden ring to symbolize that blessedness in heaven lasts forever and has no end. Heavenly blessedness is exquisite, beyond all joy and better than any possessions, just as gold is the most valuable and precious metal.

(From: Letter from Martin Luther to Lazarus Spengler, July 8, 1530 [WA Br 5:445]; tr. P. T. McCain)

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

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PERMIT NO. 52

UPCOMING EVENTS

Service Ministry's Annual Bazaar on Saturday, October 5 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 6 at 2:00 p.m. at Albright's Woods Pavilion.

The 30th Anniversary of Pastor Mike's Ordination on October 20 at 9:30 a.m.

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

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