

# St. Paul's News

March 2025

St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
P.O. Box 156, 215 North Warren Street  
Orwigsburg, PA 17961  
Office: 570-366-2316  
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[www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org](http://www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org)

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## ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENT

Ash Wednesday is a significant day in the Christian calendar, marking the beginning of Lent, a 40-day period of fasting, repentance, and preparation for Easter. It falls on the first day of Lent, 46 days before Easter Sunday.

The name "Ash Wednesday" comes from the practice of placing ashes on the foreheads of believers as a sign of repentance and humility.

During Ash Wednesday services, priests and ministers often use ashes from the burned remains of palm branches from the previous year's Palm Sunday to mark a cross on the foreheads of participants. As they do this, they typically say, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return," or a similar phrase. This is meant to remind believers of their mortality and their need to repent for their sins.

The season of Lent is a time for Christians to reflect on their spiritual lives, engage in prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, and prepare their hearts for the celebration of Easter, the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The historical origins of Lent date back to the early Christian Church. Here are some key points:

1. **Early Practices:** Some Christian communities observed a 40-day period of fasting prior to the celebration of the Resurrection of Christ. They were inspired by Jesus 40 days of fasting in the wilderness, as described in the Gospels.

2. **Fourth Century:** By the fourth century, a regular practice of 40-day fasting became common in Christian churches.
3. **Council of Nicaea:** The 40-day period before Easter, known as Lent, emerged shortly following the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD. Initially, the fast applied mainly to new converts as a period of repentance and reflection before baptism at Easter.
4. **Pope Gregory I:** It was Pope Gregory I (590-604) who formalized the period of the fast churchwide, to begin on Ash Wednesday, 46 days before Easter, and not to include Sundays, which were perennial days of celebration.
5. **Evolution Over Time:** Lenten traditions and practices have evolved over time, but for believer's the essence of Lent as a time for fasting, prayer, and repentance has remained largely unchanged.

While not all believers begin the season of Lent by receiving ashes on their foreheads, this important season of faith continues to be observed by various Christian denominations, including Catholic, Orthodox, Lutheran, Anglican, and Methodist Christians.

The season of Lent has endured through centuries and continues to be a time of spiritual renewal and preparation for Easter.

Peace, Hope, Love, and Joy!

*Pastor Mike*

## ASH WEDNESDAY

The season of Lent starts with the observance of Ash Wednesday. This year, our Ash Wednesday service will take place on Wednesday, March 5 at 7 p.m. The service will include the imposition of ashes and the sharing of Holy Communion.

Please invite a family member, neighbor, or friend to join you for this special service.

## ADULT FORUM

During this Lenten season, the Adult Forum group will be using Adam Hamilton's "Final Words - from the cross" as the basis of our discussions.

For more information, contact the church office or Barbara Lafko at [bjlafko@yahoo.com](mailto:bjlafko@yahoo.com) or 570-366-1208.

## TIME TO ORDER EASTER FLOWERS

Easter flower order forms can be found later in this newsletter. The deadline to order Easter flowers is Sunday, March 30, 2025.

## WELCA NEWS

All women of St. Paul's are invited to attend the meeting on Tuesday, March 11 at 1:00 pm in Reidler Hall. Although there is no scheduled program, the meeting will have prayer, vote to designate the May In-Gathering offering, update reports, discuss up-coming programs and fellowship time. If able, please plan to attend.

### 2025 NEPA WELCA JUSTICE EVENT

Christ United Lutheran Church  
437 Airport Road, Ashland, Pa.  
Saturday, March 29, 2025  
9:30 a.m. to 2:30 a.m.

Program Topic: Protecting Our Children  
Light Breakfast & Lunch  
Cost: \$15.00

Deadline to Register: March 15<sup>th</sup>  
Information on the WELCA bulletin board

## ANNUAL REPORT

Our 2024 Annual Report is still available to church members. If you have not yet picked up a copy, you may request one by calling the church office at 570 366-2316. Please leave your name, address, and phone number, and we will mail one to you!

## STiC NEWS

Any Day Can be EARTH Day! So many important things start sprouting in a real hurry come Spring! Just like all the new growth pushing its way up in a "madding crowd", so our own self-imposed schedules fight for a moment in the sun...

That said, Holy Week and Easter is the most significant for us as Christians. This year, Earth Day officially comes 2 days later. In order to allow Easter all its honor, we have scheduled an Earth Day Event for the morning of Saturday, April 12, 2025.

"Welcome to the Woods; the Guardianship of Trees," ALL AGES will find interesting and enlightening activities, and here is just a taste of what's going on:

- For adults, a chance to meet members of Schuylkill County Conservancy's Woodland Stewards committee who will share information on taking care of woodlots, sharing concerns for management and health of trees.
- For children and adults: a chance to view the Seasonal Forest episode of Disney's "Into the Enchanted Forest".
- For anyone: printing of leaves on fabric swatches.
- Decorating wooden ornaments of forest critters (keep one, give one for the Walk In Art Center Christmas Tree next winter.)

Please stop by the STiC table in the Gathering Room to see the latest Green Team newsletter from our Synod!

En Cristo, Sue Reier

## SECOND SUNDAY SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

Children aged 7 through 12 will meet between the two services from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. between the two services. (*Parents and younger siblings are invited to stay and enjoy fellowship time with snacks and coffee while their older children are in class.*) Children aged 1 through 6 will meet during the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

**Sunday School dates remaining during this school year are as follows:** March 9, April 13, and May 11

**Upcoming events: Mark your calendars!**

### **April 13- Easter Egg-stravaganza**

Our fourth annual “Easter Egg-stravaganza” will be a little different this year. It will take place on **Sunday, April 13, from 12 noon to 2 p.m.** following Sunday School. Children up to age 10 are welcome to join the fun and fellowship. Please join us in the church gathering room, any time during the event, to participate in crafts and games and have a snack. This is a community event, so feel free to invite a friend to join in the fun! Sign up sheets will be in the gathering room, closer to the date of the event.

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

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

## DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Daylight Savings Time will begin at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 9, 2025. Set your clocks (or “spring”) ahead one hour before you go to bed on Saturday. Please use this change as an opportunity to check the batteries in your home’s smoke detectors, too. Fresh batteries could save your life!

## REBATES FROM BOYER’S FOOD MARKETS

St. Paul’s will earn a rebate of 1% of your grocery shopping bill if you participate in Boyer’s Rebate Program.

On the gathering room table under the bulletin board, you will find a mug of scannable keychain cards. Take one, shop at Boyer’s Food Market, and present it to a cashier while your items are being scanned. That’s it. Boyer’s will rebate 1% of your total purchases (excluding tax, milk, and cigarettes) and send us a check twice every year.

There is no limit to the amount of money our church can earn from this program for our many needs. If you haven’t done so already, pick up a scannable Boyer’s Food Market keychain card today! Shop and donate to St. Paul’s!

## ATTENTION GRADUATES!

Do you know a student that graduated late last year or one who will graduate in May or June of 2025? Please let us know so that we can celebrate his/her achievements on our Facebook page, in the newsletter, and on our website. Send the name of the graduate, school, degree, and any future plans. Also include a picture that you would like to share.

Send your info to Jessica Swick through our church Facebook page, email it to [jessica@stpauls-orwigsburg.org](mailto:jessica@stpauls-orwigsburg.org), or text it to her at (936) 648-6809.

## GOT INFORMATION TO SHARE?

The Evangelism Committee loves sending cards to brighten the day of those who can't join us for worship. We need updated information for military members and college students who are away from home.

If you have new information or address changes, please contact a member of the Evangelism Committee or call the church office at 570-366-2316. Thank you for helping us stay connected!

## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- We would like to encourage the congregation to support worship services by sponsoring the altar flowers, which draw our eyes to the altar and help convey our love for God and all of his beautiful creations. A binder for flower sponsors is located on the information table in the Gathering Room.
- We will soon roll out our very own QR code which will allow cell phone users to effortlessly access our church website to make a donation! This will be a useful tool for both guests and members.
- We would like to thank everyone that braved the nasty weather on Feb. 16 and attended the Annual Congregational Meeting. Your input and participation are vital to the success of St. Paul's. Please pray for an early Spring!! 😊

## CRAFTERS' GUILD NEWS

Join us on **March 4, 12, 19, and 25** in the church basement craft room at 12 noon for crafting and fellowship. We are excited to make some new Easter crafts and Mother's Day gifts.

On Sunday April 13, our Spring creations will be on display in the basement and available for purchase after the early and late services. The items will remain available through Mother's Day. Stop by to see our creativity "in bloom".

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

## ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

On Sunday, March 30, our congregation will celebrate Justin McClure's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as our Organist and Music Director. A reception with refreshments will be held in Reidler Hall following our 10:30 a.m. service for this event. Please join us to celebrate this very special day!

## LENTEN SOUP AND BREAD MEAL

Join us on Wednesday evenings during Lent for a simple meal of soup, bread, and butter together with good fellowship and words of faith. Our Lenten Soup and Bread Meals begin on March 12 at 5 p.m. in Reidler Hall.

Sign up to share soup or bread or just bring your appetite. A sign-up sheet with meal dates is located in the gathering room. Family, friends, and neighbors are welcome! For more information call our Church Office: 570-366-2316.

## SECOND SUNDAY SNACKS AND FELLOWSHIP

Join us at St. Paul's for Second Sunday Snacks and Fellowship! Every second Sunday through the month of 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).

## ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL EVENT!

In just over two hours, the Men of St. Paul's sold 354 quarts of soup and chili, and many baked goods, making a profit of nearly \$2,600 at their Chili & Soup Sale on Saturday, February 8, the eve of Super Bowl Sunday!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed by making soup or chili, providing baked goods, or supporting the event in any way. We also extend our gratitude to everyone who purchased, shared, and enjoyed the delicious food!



## LIBRARY CORNER NEWS

Hello and Happy "Almost Spring" to everyone at St. Paul's! You haven't heard from us during the winter because Herman, Lucy, and I have been "hunkered down" in a cozy spot in Reidler Hall near the Crafters' Guild workroom. We have really been trying to stay warm during this long, cold winter! This has been a very different experience for us, especially for Herman, who was born in New Iberia, Louisiana! We have been "snuggled up" with some good books, and we have also enjoyed St. Paul's Crafters at work on some spring projects.

The Library Ladies will be collecting crosses to get the sanctuary, Gathering Room, and church parlor ready for the Lenten season. If you have a cross that you would like to display, please bring it and place it on the table in the Gathering Room.

The Library Corner will be having some more new books added during March. It seems that more St. Paul's readers have been enjoying the previous new additions. Also, older books from the shelves will be offered to the congregation in the near future to make room for the new books to be added.

Just remember that another new season is approaching soon. So, let's "spring into reading" and enjoy some more good books! God bless you and have a wonderful springtime!

-----Melvin, Herman, and Lucy,  
your resident church library mice

## HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Our Palm/Passion services begin on Saturday, April 12 at 5:30 p.m. and on Sunday, April 13 at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Join us to hear about our joyful Lord's entry into Jerusalem as well as his suffering and death upon the cross.

On Maundy Thursday, April 17, we will gather to worship at 7:00 p.m. Our worship will focus upon Jesus' command for his disciples to love one another and commemorate the events of our Lord's Last Supper. This service will include the sharing of Holy Communion and the ceremonial stripping of the altar.

Our Good Friday, April 18, we will host a "Tenebrae" (or darkness) service at 7:00 p.m. The focus of our worship will be on our Lord's "Seven Last Words on the Cross." This solemn and reflective service aims to evoke the sense of grief and despair felt by Jesus' followers at His death, culminating in complete darkness and silence to signify His entombment.

We will worship together on the Resurrection of Our Lord (Easter Sunday) on April 20 at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Our worship will feature joyful music as we gather to share the very body and blood of our Lord and Savior, and celebrate the most timeless and blessed news, "Christ is Risen. He is Risen, indeed."

Please mark your April calendar for these special services!



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Sadie Bergman, Glenda Bright,  
Maci Dow
- 4 Hadley Pontician, Stan Bolinsky,  
Dominique Witman, Brent Stramara
- 5 Eleanor Dent, Mark Williams
- 6 Faith Wertman
- 7 Linda Pontician, Colleen Baer
- 8 Barbara Rozansky
- 9 David Krewson, Cheryl Koch,  
John Taylor III
- 11 Ronald Blew, Emily Beach,  
Carol Lutsey, Kade Spitler,  
Finley Mosher
- 12 Kevin Harkins, Brittany Kramer
- 13 Eric Mengel, Ed Sincavage,  
Hannah Glenn
- 14 Ronald Rozansky
- 15 Eric Lutsey, (Rev.) Rob Reier
- 16 Shannon Rogers, Katharine Yuengling
- 18 Colby Petrizzo, Cynthia Muntone
- 19 Steven Sterner, Larry Pauly
- 20 Cindy Moyer, Lorie Myers, Justin Durkee
- 21 Margaret Moyer, Jonathan Ferrar
- 22 Emily Heydt, Beverly Lupton
- 23 Wyatt Butler
- 24 Rodney Houser
- 25 Leslie Guldin, Nancy Tihansky,  
Janet Mertz Young
- 26 Kristen Rozansky
- 28 Steven Thomas, Sue Mato
- 29 Dale Dewald, Daun Phillips
- 30 Marie Blew, Joseph Medica
- 31 Cindy Ritschel, Carolyn Orwig, Justin  
Gilfillan, Ashley Post, Mary Donton



## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 Ron & Marie Blew
- 18 Dave & Michelle Davenport, Bill & Becky  
Smoot



**If you or someone that you know would like to receive a large print version of our newsletter, please call our church office with contact information.**

## MARCH FLOWER SPONSORS

### MARCH 2

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

Chancel: In honor of Glenda Bright's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, by Deb, Stan and Daughters.

### MARCH 9

Altar: In memory of my mother, Josephine Rohrer, on her birthday March 7<sup>th</sup> by her daughter, Joanne.

Chancel: OPEN

### MARCH 16

Altar: In memory of my son, Eric C. Shaud, by Nancy Kaiser.

Chancel: OPEN

### MARCH 23

Altar: OPEN

Chancel: OPEN

### MARCH 30

Altar: OPEN

Chancel: OPEN



## MARCH BULLETIN SPONSORS

### MARCH 2

OPEN

### MARCH 9

OPEN

### MARCH 16

OPEN

### MARCH 23

In memory of Dolly and Keihner Mertz by Janet Mertz Young, Sandra Mertz, and Brian Sharrow.

### MARCH 30

OPEN



## A NEW PASCAL CANDLE

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

# MARCH 2025

## SERVICE SCHEDULE

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<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b><u>MARCH 2</u></b>	<b><u>MARCH 9</u></b>	<b><u>MARCH 16</u></b>	<b><u>MARCH 23</u></b>	<b><u>MARCH 30</u></b>
<b>8:00 AM</b>					
<b>GREETER</b>	Krista Harding	Krista Harding	Krista Harding	Krista Harding	Krista Harding
<b>USHER</b>	Pastor Mike	Pastor Mike	Pastor Mike	Pastor Mike	Pastor Mike
<b>LECTOR/ COMMUNION</b>					
<b>ASSISTANT</b>	Ruth Ann Withers	Kay Weidensaul	Connie Teter	Amy Dewald	Ruth Ann Withers
*****					
<b>10:30 AM</b>					
<b>GREETER</b>	Deb Bolinsky	Kristin Durkee	Bill Smoot	Jill Krewson	Jill Krewson
<b>USHER(S)</b>	Karen Shoener	Glenda Bright	Gwen Wehr	Barb Sterner	Madelyn Knecht
<b>LECTOR</b>	Chris Long	Cindy Ritschel	Wendy Schuld	Hope Clarke	Sarah Eger
<b>COMMUNION</b>					
<b>ASSISTANT</b>	Deb Bolinsky	Sue Reier	Doug Travor	Pat Kunkle	Tina Butler
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Sue Schenck Barb Sterner	Glenda Bright Diane Brobst	Glenda Bright Diane Brobst	Tina Butler Chris Long	Tina Butler Chris Long
<b>COUNTERS</b>	Gwen Wehr Glenda Bright	Rosalie Wingle Diane Brobst	Joyce O'Rourke Gloria Dierwechter Pat Davis	Connie Teter Joanne Emerich Barb Sterner	Connie Teter Barb Sterner Glenda Bright

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### ASH WEDNESDAY at 7 PM ON MARCH 5

**GREETER** Deb Bolinsky  
**USHERS** Tina Butler and Tom Wehr  
**LECTOR** Jim Emerich  
**COMMUNION**  
**ASSISTANT** Cindy Ritschel  
**ALTAR GUILD** Sue Schenck and Barb Sterner

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### OUR PASTOR AND 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	no email address
Karen Travor, 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>

**OUR CHURCH OFFICE IS OPEN MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY FROM 9 A.M. to 12 NOON.**

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Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone,  
but in every leaf in springtime. – Martin Luther



# MARCH 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Worship w/Holy Communion 5:30 p.m.
2 <b>TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD</b> Worship with Holy Communion 8 & 10:30 a.m. Adult Forum 9:15 a.m.	3	4 Service Ministry 6 p.m. Crafters' Guild 12 Noon	5 ASH <b>WEDNESDAY</b> 7 p.m.	6	7	8 Worship 5:30 p.m. Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday at 2:00 a.m.
9 1 LENT Worship with Holy Communion 8 & 10:30 a.m. Adult Forum & Youth Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Refreshments between services Children's Sunday School 10:30 a.m.	10 Council 7 p.m.	11 1 p.m. WELCA	12 Crafters' Guild 12 Noon Lenten Soup & Bread Meal 5 p.m. Bell Choir 6 p.m. Chancel Choir 7 p.m.	13 Rainbow Friends 10 a.m.in Reidler Hall	14	15 Worship 5:30 p.m.
16 2 LENT Worship with Holy Communion 8 & 10:30 a.m. Adult Forum 9:15 a.m.	17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY	18	19 Crafters' Guild 12 Noon Lenten Soup & Bread Meal 5 p.m. Bell Choir 6 p.m. Chancel Choir 7 p.m.	20 SPRING BEGINS!	21	22 Worship 5:30 p.m.
23 3 LENT Worship w/ Holy Communion 8 & 10:30 a.m. Adult Forum 9:15 a.m.	24	25 Crafters' Guild 12 Noon	26 Lenten Soup & Bread Meal 5 p.m. Bell Choir 6 p.m. Chancel Choir 7 p.m.	27	28	29 Worship 5:30 p.m.
30 4 LENT Worship w/ Holy Communion 8 & 10:30 a.m. Adult Forum 9:15 a.m. DEADLINE TO ORDER EASTER FLOWERS!	31					



# Easter Flower Orders

Please detach the lower portion of this form and place it, along with your payment, in the Easter flower order basket in the Gathering Room or return it via US Mail.

**Deadline: Sunday, March 30, 2025**

Please **“PRINT”** all necessary information!

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Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

FLOWER TYPE	QUANTITY	PRICE	DEDICATION
Easter Lilies	_____ X	\$11.00	H/M_____
Daffodils	_____ X	\$9.00	H/M_____
6-bulb Tulips	_____ X	\$9.00	H/M_____
3-bulb Hyacinths (Purple)	_____ X	\$9.00	H/M_____
3-bulb Hyacinths (Pink)	_____ X	\$9.00	H/M_____
3-bulb Hyacinths (White)	_____ X	\$9.00	H/M_____
Hydrangeas	_____ X	\$19.50	H/M_____

[NOTE: H = In Honor of *or* M = In Memory of]

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ CASH ☐ CHECK # \_\_\_\_\_

**DON'T FORGET TO SAVE YOUR FLOWERPOT COVERS!**

☐ Please check this box if you wish to donate the flowers to the church and not take them home.

If more space is needed for dedications, please attach another sheet.

**MARCH 2025**

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

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Pottsville, PA  
17901

PERMIT NO. 52

**UP-COMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

**Ash Wednesday – Wednesday, March 5 at 7 p.m.**

**WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ST. PAUL'S?**

**Visit our office Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon or call 570-366-2316.  
Check out our website: [www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org](http://www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org) or find us on Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/StPaulsOrwigsburg](https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsOrwigsburg).**