

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 30, 2025

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

www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org

GATHERING

PRELUDE

(10:30 AM)

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"
Bell Choir

C. Dobrinski

EXHORTATION

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to contend against all evil and resist everything that leads us away from the love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to take up the disciplines of Lent: self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, charity and works of love.

CONFESSION

Let us now make our confession:

(Silence for self-reflection)

Almighty God,

I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended you and for which I justly deserve punishment. But I am sorry for them, and repent of them, and pray for your boundless mercy. For the sake of the suffering and death of your son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being. Forgive my sins, give me your Holy Spirit for the amendment of my life, and bring me to life everlasting. Amen.

God does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore, we implore him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things we do on this day may please him, that the rest of our lives may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to his eternal joy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

“Amazing Grace”
[See back of bulletin]

GREETING

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

KYRIE

1. Have mer-cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer. We
2. Have mer-cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin. Pour
3. Have mer-cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part. Re -

5
come to hear your li - ving word; it saves us from de - spair.
out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of all mercy, by your power to heal and forgive, graciously cleanse us from all sin and make us strong; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

ANTHEM (10:30)

"The Old Rugged Cross"
Bell Choir

C.Dobrinski

WORD

A READING FROM JOSHUA

⁹The LORD said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.” And so that place is called Gilgal to this day. ¹⁰While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹²The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year. (Joshua 5:9-12)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 32 (Read responsively)

Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

**Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

**For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and did not conceal my guilt.

**I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD."
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.**

Therefore, all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

**You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.**

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.

**Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."**

Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.

**Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.**

A READING FROM 2 CORINTHIANS

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

(2 Corinthians 5:16-21)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³So he told them this parable: ^{11b}“There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, “How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²²But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

(Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY “Our Father, We Have Wandered”
[See back of bulletin]

THE NICENE CREED (Read in Unison)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified,
He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Lead your church to be a community who forgives, shares, and celebrates. Send us to boldly transform a world plagued by fear and judgement. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Bless farmers and farm workers who till the soil. Heal the earth where it is poisoned or mistreated and teach us to treasure all that you have made good. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Bring an end to war and violence throughout the world. Empower leaders to create lasting solutions which lead to a just and lasting peace. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Comfort those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit and restore those who grieve. Hear our prayers for those in need and everyone on our prayer list. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

As we share bread and wine at your table, we experience your love. Bring an end to hunger in our community and around the world. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for those who have died confident in your steadfast love. Keep them safe from harm until you gather your children together at your heavenly banquet. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

(The pastor concludes): Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **Amen.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (8:00)

ANTHEM (10:30)

*"Once Upon a Tree"

P. Choplin

OFFERTORY HYMN

"Come to the Table"



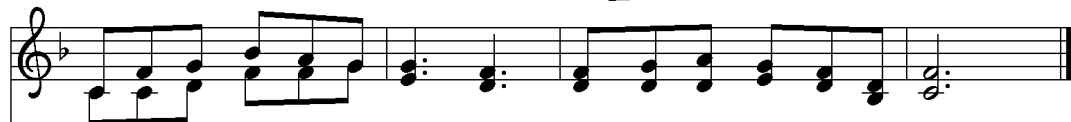
Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



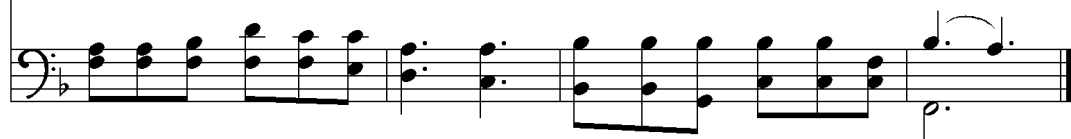
All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.



OFFERTORY PRAYER

O God our Redeemer, receive these gifts and the sacrifice of our lives. Refresh us with this food and drink and bring us newness of life for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and salutary that we should in all times and all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, Holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God.

And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, —

heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Bless - ed_ is he who comes in the name of the Lord. — Ho-

san - na in_ the high - est, ho - san - na in_ the high - est.

BLESSING AT THE TABLE

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

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Read in Unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.
Happy are those who are called to his supper.

**O Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

INSTRUCTIONS

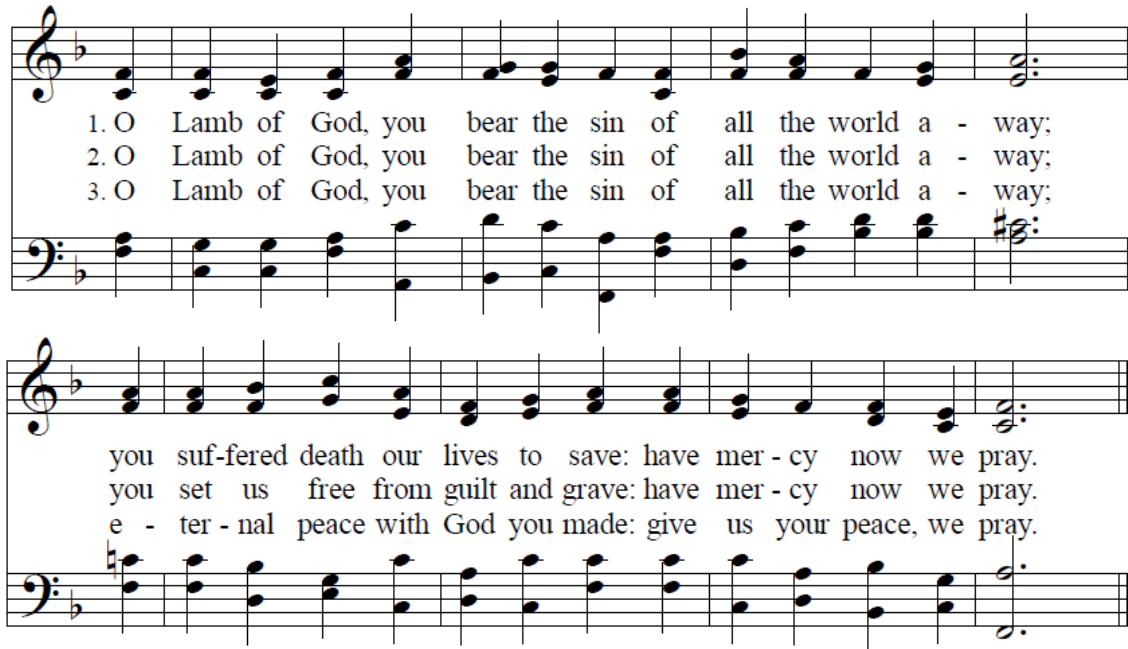
All who are baptized and seek forgiveness of their sins and the promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion by intinction. You may dip a wafer of bread (the Body of Christ) into a chalice of wine (the Blood of Christ) before consuming it.

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

If you are unable to come forward to receive the Sacrament, please raise your hand.

We will share the Sacrament with those on the pulpit side of the nave followed by those on the lectern side.

AGNUS DEI



1. O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2. O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3. O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer - cy now we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer - cy now we pray.
e - ter - nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

The image shows a musical score for the Agnus Dei. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble clef on top and a bass clef on the bottom. The treble clef part has three lines of lyrics underneath it. The bass clef part has a single line of lyrics underneath it. The second system also has a treble clef on top and a bass clef on the bottom. The treble clef part has three lines of lyrics underneath it. The bass clef part has a single line of lyrics underneath it. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and a steady rhythm.

COMMUNION HYMN “Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling” [See back of bulletin]

TABLE BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, almighty and gracious God, that you have fed us with heavenly food, the body and blood of your Son uniting us through him in the communion of the Holy Spirit.

(10:30 AM) We also thank you for raising up gifted servants throughout your church, especially for our Music Director and Organist, Justin McClure, who has been a blessing to the life of this congregation and this community.

Grant that we may all joyfully serve you all our days, and one day rejoice with all your saints in your glory, through Jesus Christ Our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

PRESENTATION & THANKS (10:30 AM)

SENDING

BLESSING

You were created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen to be holy and beloved, and freed to serve your neighbor. May God bless you that you may be a blessing to others, in the name of the Father, the †Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SERVING THIS SUNDAY (3/30/25)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Krista Harding; USHER: Pastor Mike
LECTOR & COMMUNION ASST.: Ruth Ann Withers

10:30 AM

GREETER: Jill Krewson; USHER: Madelyn Knecht; LECTOR: Sarah Eger
COMMUNION ASST.: Tina Butler
ALTAR GUILD: Tina Butler and Chris Long
COUNTERS: Connie Teter, Glenda Bright, and Barb Sterner

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (4/6/25)

8:00 AM

GREETER: Krista Harding; USHER: Pastor Mike
LECTOR & COMMUNION ASST.: Amy Dewald

10:30 AM

GREETER: Jill Krewson; USHER: Joanne Emerich; LECTOR: Elinda Lado
COMMUNION ASST.: Deb Bolinsky
ALTAR GUILD: Joyce O'Rourke and Becky Smoot
COUNTERS: Gwen Wehr and Glenda Bright

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, March 30	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 AM	Adult Forum
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion Anniversary Celebration after the 10:30 service DEADLINE TO ORDER EASTER FLOWERS
Tuesday, April 1	6:30 PM	Evangelism
Wednesday, April 2	5:00 PM	Lenten Soup & Bread Meal
	6:00 PM	Bell Choir
	7:00 PM	Chancel Choir
Thursday, April 3	12 Noon	Crafters' Guild
Saturday, April 5	5:30 PM	Worship with Holy Communion
Sunday, April 6	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 AM	Adult Forum
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion

GATHERING HYMN

“Amazing Grace”

1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour, I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

A MINISTRY OF ENCOURAGEMENT!

Our Evangelism Committee loves sending cards to those who can't join us for worship. We regularly need updated information for military members and college students who are away from home. If you have new information or address changes, please contact any Evangelism Committee member or call the church office at 570-366-2316. Thank you for helping us stay connected!

HYMN OF THE DAY "Our Father We Have Wandered"

1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,
3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,

in fool-ish-ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.
be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to you.
com-pas-sion-ate, for - giv - ing, and ev - er - car - ing Lord,

But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,
In haste you come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring,
grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.

as, dis - tant but com - pel - ling, we hear you call our name.
in glad-ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

The musical score consists of four systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

EASTER EGG-STRAVAGANZA

Our fourth annual "Easter Egg-stravaganza" 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. Please join us in the church gathering room at any time during the event, for crafts, games, and snacks. Feel free to invite a friend to join in the fun! Sign-up sheets are in the gathering room.

COMMUNION HYMN "Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling"

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain

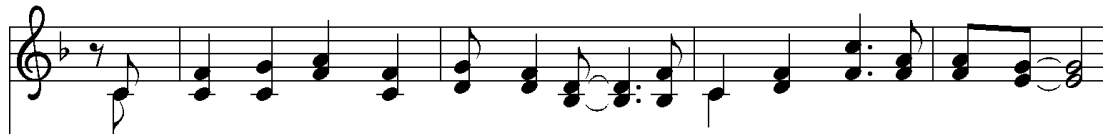
watch - ing for you and for me.
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!
 par - don for you and for me. Come home, come home!"

You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

SENDING HYMN

“My Life Flows On in Endless Song”



1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,
2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.
3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv - eth.
4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev - er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?



Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?



“SECOND SUNDAY” SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our next Second Sunday School class will be on Sunday, April 13! 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. 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. Please contact Sarah Eger with questions or to volunteer. (570) 394-3522 (cell) swoodring86@hotmail.com.

A CALL TO MORE FAITHFUL GIVING

Our church needs your support. Every donation, big or small, helps us gather new members, spread Christ's love, and serve our community. Your contributions keep our church running to aid those in need, and provide a safe and welcoming space. Please consider increasing your giving to St. Paul's ministry.



Also consider the benefits of giving through Secure Plus. →

LOOKING FOR A CHURCH HOME?

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

STiC NEWS

Please see the Earth Day Event flyer for “Welcome to the Woods,” theme of The Guardianship of Trees on Saturday, April 12, from 9 a.m. to 12 Noon. And, if you have a favorite haunt where you would be willing to post your copy, please do!

CRAFTERS' GUILD NEWS

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).

OUR PASTOR & STAFF

Reverend Michael T. Petresky	570-366-2316 - Ext 11	pastormike@stpauls-orwigsburg.org
Justin McClure, Organist/Choir Director	570-573-4076	justin@stpauls-orwigsburg.org
Amy Dewald, Office Support Staff	570-366-2316	office@stpauls-orwigsburg.org
Carl Heintzelman, Sexton	484-408-5152	No Email
Karen Travor, Treasurer	610-507-2797	karen@stpauls-orwigsburg.org
Wayne Lutsey, Financial Secretary	570-617-9617	cwlutsey@gmail.com
Jessica Swick, Social Media Manager	936-648-6809	jessica@stpauls-orwigsburg.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY 9:00 A.M. to 12 NOON

Easter Flower Orders

Please detach lower portion of this form and place it along with your payment in the offering basket located in the Gathering Room or return it to church by US Mail.

Deadline: Sunday, March 30, 2025

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

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.