

St. Paul's News

February 2025

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
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LOVE!

Valentine's Day approaches, millions of Americans prepare to express their love in meaningful ways. From giving chocolates and flowers to planning romantic dinners, the day is all about expressing love and appreciation to those who matter most.

Love in Popular Culture

In popular culture, love is often depicted as an intense, emotional rollercoaster. Movies, songs, and books paint love as a magical, passionate experience that thing that happens spontaneously. For many, it feels like a drug, leaving the lover helpless. The phrase "falling in love" suggests that love is accidental something that one stumbles into and out of, based more on fleeting emotions rather than steadfast beliefs.

Christian Love

For Christians, love is much more than those fleeting, fuzzy feelings. It's deeply rooted in Jesus Christ and his teachings. Love is seen in selfless acts reflecting God's unconditional love. This kind of love doesn't come and go with our moods; it's steady and committed.

In New Testament Greek, love has several different names, each with a distinct meaning. In 1 Corinthians 13, we find Saint Paul's exposition on *agape* love, God's gift of love. Saint Paul describes this love as patient, kind, not envious, boastful, arrogant, or rude. It does not insist on its own way, is not irritable or resentful, and does not rejoice in wrongdoing

but rejoices in the truth. This "godly" love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. Finally, we learn that God's love never ends and that it surpasses even the faith and hope that we receive from Him.

What you do on Valentine's Day is really up to you. But whatever you do, remember to love one another as Christ loves you!

In Christian love!

Pastor Mike

OUR ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our annual congregational meeting will be on Sunday, February 16, after the 10:30 a.m. service. Members are encouraged to pick up and review our 2024 Annual Report PRIOR TO this meeting. Reports are available in the narthex or can be requested by calling our church office. If there's bad weather or an emergency, the meeting will be postponed to the following Sunday at the same time. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

WEATHER ALERT!

For the latest updates on our worship services and activities during bad weather, give us a call at (570) 366-2316 or check out our Facebook page. We want you to stay safe, so remember to check before heading out!

“SECOND SUNDAY” SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School will continue every second Sunday of the month throughout the school year as follows: February 9, March 9, April 13, and May 11.

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 while their older children are in class. For children ages 1 through 6, Sunday School is held during the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

**Upcoming events: Mark your calendars!
April 13 - Easter Egg-stravaganza**

Our fourth annual "**Easter Egg-stravaganza**" will be taking place on **Sunday, April 13th from 12 NOON – 2 P.M.** Please join us in the church gathering room, any time during the event, to participate in crafts and games, have a snack, and the Easter Bunny may even hop by! Children up to age 10 are welcome to join the fun and fellowship. 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 event.

THANK YOU!!

A huge and heartfelt thank you for helping to make our No Rehearsal Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve a success! Thank you for all who participated and helped in the Pageant, including Maddie and Jessica Swick, Justin, and Pastor! It is one of my favorite events of the whole year, and it is wonderful to see so many children participating in this event. **THANK YOU!!!!**

Reminders

Looking ahead for when the snow starts flying. Parents, please make sure I have your cell phone number. If we have to cancel church on a Second Sunday, I will text you to let you know.

If you have not filled out a contact/information sheet and Media Release Form, please see me for one.

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

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

CRAFTERS' GUILD

The ladies of the Crafters' Guild are creating Spring-themed items while we wait out the cold winter weather.

We will meet each week in February from 12 noon until 3 p.m. in the basement craft room. Our work sessions are scheduled for **February 4, 12, 18, and 26**. We are excited to make new Easter crafts and Mother's Day gifts.

On Sunday April 13, we will host our Spring Open House. The Guild's creations will be on display in the basement and available for purchase through Mother's Day.

For more information or to join our email list, please contact Kristin Durkee (804-380-9066), Amy Dewald (570-449-4816), or the church office (570-366-2316).

ASH WEDNESDAY

The season of Lent commences 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.

SUPER BOWL EVE SOUP & CHILI SALE

As an "appetizer" to football's big event, The Men of St. Paul's will host a Super Bowl Eve Chili & Soup Sale on Saturday, February 8 beginning at 8:30 a.m. "on the Square." Come early for the best selection of delicious chilis, tasty homemade soups, and just baked breads and pastries.

STiC NEWS

The consistent, underlying theme in PA Master Naturalist training is that everything is connected.

EVERYTHING.

A new concept for me called the “butterfly effect” illustrates this beautifully. Perhaps it is counter-intuitive, or maybe just plain absurd, but the *extreme illustration* is this:

- A butterfly in Mexico beats its wings a little faster than usual.
- It causes a tsunami in Myanmar.

WAIT, WHAT?

The idea is that there is a trail of things happening between the two extremes, much like a domino rally, which grow in size and severity to eventually result in the catastrophe.

Well, for heaven’s sake, let’s flip the coin over to the sunny side and consider all the positives that connect our natural world together: the tangle of roots beneath the soil by which plants feed and support each other, and all the little microbes helping them by creating microscopic air pockets so water can seep through. The list is endless, and as we all learned in biology, this is the web of life, and when one thing drops out, all suffer to some degree.

In December’s Synod Green Team zoom meeting, we welcomed Bishop DeForest who had much to share. At the upcoming synod assembly, the theme is “Connecting the Dots”, with the connecting point being the environment and how WE are connected in our restoration efforts. Loving the land is partisan neutral and connects everyone. It is possible that we will have a representative visit our synod from the Israel-Palestine Environmental Education Center in Jordan which is connected to the school. Other representatives may also visit Iowa and Guam. Their area suffers a huge lack of water, and through collaboration and sharing, we can build a partnership. One pastor of our synod (and a longtime friend), The Rev. Michele Kaufman, deals with Global Connections in another area, Tanzania. Here the church built a small hydro-electric dam (they

work very differently than the US). It is run by the church and they sell power to the diocese. There too, the Secondary School is connected with the Lutheran Hospital. By exploring and sharing the creative ways people are meeting environmental and human need challenges, we can all grow stronger. As our Bishop urges: Let us love, heal, and engage like Jesus!

En Cristo
Sue Reier

A MINISTRY OF ENCOURAGEMENT!

Our Evangelism Committee loves to send cards to lift the spirits of those who can't join us for worship services. We need your help to keep our list updated with current information for military members and college students who are away from home.

If you have any new details or address changes, please reach out to any member of the Evangelism Committee or give the church office a call at 570-366-2316. Thank you so much for helping us stay connected!

HOPE IN THE PROMISE OF ETERNAL LIFE

Our sympathy and prayers go out to the family and friends of the late Barbara L. Seidel of New Ringgold, PA, who passed away on Tuesday, November 19, 2024.

Our sympathy and prayers also go out to the family and friends of the late Anna K. Kruk of Orwigsburg, PA, who passed away on Thursday, December 26, 2024.

As we grieve the loss of those we love, let us take comfort in God’s promise of eternal life. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live" (John 11:25, NRSV).

One day, God will gather all His children together in the peace and joy of eternal life!

PTO SHOE DRIVE

Blue Mountain Elementary East PTO is organizing a "Shoe Drive" to raise funds and support families in developing countries. Justin Durkee, a member of our congregation, is collecting and delivering donated shoes.

Please bring new or gently worn shoes (any type) when you come to worship. A donation box is in the narthex. The deadline is Sunday, March 1. Thank you for your support.

ADULT FORUM

Having completed our discussion on "The Sermon on the Mount," using John Stott's study guide, we will examine the Nicene Creed during February. In March, we will prepare for the resurrection of Christ with a Lenten study "The Final Words".

For more information, contact the church office or Barbara Lafko at bjlafko@yahoo.com or 570-366-1208.

PROGRESSIVE DINNER

The Evangelism Committee invites all adults to the Progressive Dinner on Saturday, February 22. Appetizers, soup and salad will be at the home of Barbara Lafko from 6 to 7:30 p.m. At 7:30 p.m. we will proceed to the home of Barbara Sterner for dessert until 9 p.m. A sign-up sheet for this event is located at the gathering place. Please sign up by February 20.

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 hosting questions, contact Jessica Swick at 936-648-6809 or jessica@stpauls-orwigsburg.org.

SAVE YOUR POINSETTIA FLOWERPOT COVERS!

Save your pot covers! After three years of saving and storing special event flowerpot covers, we finally have "recycled" enough of them to reuse. When the 2024 poinsettia order was tallied, we saved over \$40.00 in costs which were not passed on to you, the consumer. This is significant because it means we can easily save approximately \$150.00 a year when ordering Easter flowers, geraniums for Pentecost, and poinsettias for Christmas. The pot covers can be used over and over again, and we are not only saving money, but we are also keeping them out of landfills. Please use the collection box in the narthex and thank you for participating.

WELCA PET FOOD AND BLANKET DRIVE

St. Paul's Women of the ELCA are sponsoring a blanket and animal food drive to support our local SPCAs and Red Creek Wildlife Center. Please bring clean, used (but not knitted or crocheted) blankets and dry or canned dog and/or cat food to our choir room prior to rehearsals on Wednesday nights and/or prior to our 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday mornings. Donations will be accepted from Sunday, January 12 through Sunday, February 9.

Please help us help those who have no voice!

For more information, please contact, Tina Butler, Sue Reier, Cindy Ritschel, or Sue Schenck

A CALL TO MORE FAITHFUL GIVING!

Our church needs your support more than ever. Every donation, big or small, helps us follow Christ's teachings and serve our community.

Your contributions keep our church running, aid those in need, and offer a welcoming space for all. Please consider increasing your giving to the church!

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jean Premich
- 3 Kate Bolinsky, Janice Blair
- 4 Fern Houser, Kathleen Miller,
Chris Kerzman
- 5 Walter Kennett, Grayson Dewald
- 6 Dominick Just
- 7 Trisha Bachman
- 8 Wayne Withers, Sydney Spotts, Lee Dewald
- 9 Tom Wehr, Kurt Schenck, Cadey Spotts,
William Wimbrow
- 10 Lindsay Cable, Lauren Cable,
Riley Pontician, Brady Seigfried
- 12 Kim Rismiller
- 14 Debbie Ferrar
- 15 Dan Mosher
- 16 Barbara Kaunas
- 18 Cheryl Riotto
- 19 Sharon Starr
- 20 Gail Wolfe, Skyla Baer
- 21 Abigayle Krewson, Amy Kokitus,
Greg Shappell, Elizabeth Tomko,
Patty Marcusky, Carol Hannaway
- 22 Tonya Shappell, Mya Kline,
Ivey Hinnershitz
- 23 Joanne Emerich
- 25 Fritz Miller, Ryan Miller, Nora Goessel
- 26 Doug Hinnershitz
- 27 Karen Shoener
- 28 Chase Horbal, Mateo Patterson

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 14 Leslie & Bruce Guldin

VALENTINES FOR THE HOMEBOUND

Our STiC group has potted plants, gift bags, and Valentine's Day cards for our homebound members. Please stop by the Gathering Room to sign our "Valentines."

Every drop counts, and so does every penny! Thanks to the generosity of folks who put change in our penny jar, we were able to completely cover the costs of sending plants and cards to our homebound!

FEBRUARY FLOWER SPONSORS

FEBRUARY 2

Altar: In honor of Kate Bolinsky's 25th Birthday
by Deb and Stan

Chancel: OPEN

FEBRUARY 9

Altar: In memory of Tom Wertman by Faith,
Cody, and Kendra

Chancel: OPEN

FEBRUARY 16

Altar: In memory of Dave Sterner by Barbara
Sterner

Chancel: OPEN

FEBRUARY 23

Altar: OPEN

Chancel: OPEN

FEBRUARY BULLETIN SPONSORS

FEBRUARY 2

In memory of Irma Kamp by Tina Butler and
Victoria & Alexandria Spitler.

FEBRUARY 9

In honor of our son's and brother's birthday,
Kurt's, by Sue and Juli Schenck

FEBRUARY 16

OPEN

FEBRUARY 23

In honor of Jackson Ritschel's 10th Birthday by
Jeff and Cindy Ritschel

ANGEL TREE

Thank you to the many elves who generously bought gifts and filled stockings for 11 local youths at the Orwigsburg food pantry! Your kindness brightened the lives of many on Christmas morning. Wishing you all a joyous and healthy 2025!
Deb

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME?

Daylight Savings Time will begin at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 9, 2024. Get ready to "spring forward" one hour.

FEBRUARY 2025

SERVICE SCHEDULE

SUNDAY	FEBRUARY 2	FEBRUARY 9	FEBRUARY 16	FEBRUARY 23
	<u>8:00 AM</u>	<u>8:00 AM</u>	<u>8:00 AM</u>	<u>8:00 AM</u>
GREETER	Krista Harding	Krista Harding	Krista Harding	Krista Harding
USHER	Pastor Mike	Pastor Mike	Pastor Mike	Pastor Mike
LECTOR/COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Amy Dewald	Kay Weidensaul	Connie Teter	Ruth Ann Withers
	<u>10:30 AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>
GREETER	Jill Krewson	Evan Davis	Wayne Lutsey	Wayne Lutsey
USHER	Deb Bolinsky	Wendy Schuld	Diane Brobst	Gloria Dierwechter
LECTOR	Gwen Wehr	Becky Smoot	Pat Kunkle	Wayne Lutsey
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Mike Lado	Doug Travor	Deb O'Connor	Kristin Durkee
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



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS JANUARY 2025

- 1.) The Orwigsburg Library selected St. Paul's to be the featured church on their annual Holly Trail event. We are excited to show off our beautiful, historic church during the Christmas season. The Crafters Guild will hold a holiday sale during the event and we are planning to add more components to complete the open house. The Holly Trail will be held on Dec. 6, 2025.
- 2.) We would like to thank Doug Travor and Carl Heintzelman for their dedication and service to St. Paul's by serving on Church Council. Both gentlemen served two consecutive terms and Doug has also served as Secretary and President during those 6 years. Thank you!!
- 3.) We now have 2 openings on Church Council, each being a 3-year term. Nominations will be accepted and voted on by all attending our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 16, 2025, following the 10:30 a.m. service. Please plan to attend the meeting.

CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

Wildfires in Los Angeles County, California, have devastated thousands of homes and businesses, leading to numerous injuries and fatalities. To support immediate relief efforts and recovery through Lutheran Disaster Response, please give your donation to our congregation with a note specifying "LDR - California Wildfires." We will ensure that your contribution is sent to the ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response Office. Every cent you give will help those affected by this disaster.

LARGE PRINT NEWSLETTERS ARE AVAILABLE

If you or someone you know has difficulty reading our newsletter and would like to receive a large print version, please contact Pastor Mike, Amy, or a message on our answering machine in our church office.

FEBRUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
X	X	X	X	X	X	1 Worship with Holy Communion 5:30 p.m.
2 PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD Worship with Holy Communion 8 & 10:30 a.m. Adult Forum 9:15 a.m.	3	4 Crafters' Guild 12 Noon Evangelism 6:30 p.m.	5 Bell Choir 6 p.m. Chancel Choir 7 p.m.	6	7	8 Super Bowl Eve Chili & Soup Sale on the Square 8:30 a.m. Worship 5:30 p.m.
9 5 EPIPHANY "Second Sunday" Worship with Holy Communion 8 & 10:30 a.m. Refreshments & snacks between services. Adult Forum & Youth Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Children's Sunday School 10:30 a.m.	10	11 Rainbow Friends 10 a.m.	12 Crafters' Guild 12 Noon Bell Choir 6 p.m. Chancel Choir 7 p.m.	13	14 VALENTINE'S DAY 	15 Worship 5:30 p.m.
16 6 EPIPHANY & CONGREGATIONAL MEETING Worship with Holy Communion 8 & 10:30 a.m. Adult Forum 9:15 a.m. Annual Congregational Meeting follow the 10:30 a.m. service	17 PRESIDENTS' DAY HOLIDAY Church office is closed! Council 7 p.m.	18 Crafters' Guild 12 Noon	19 Bell Choir 6 p.m. Chancel Choir 7 p.m.	20	21	22 Worship 5:30 p.m. Progressive Dinner 6 p.m.
23 7 EPIPHANY Worship with Holy Communion 8 & 10:30 a.m. Adult Forum 9:15 a.m.	24	25	26 Crafters' Guild 12 Noon Bell Choir 6 p.m. Chancel Choir 7 p.m.	27	28	X



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 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

ST. PAUL'S NEWS - FEBRUARY 2025

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

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DATES TO REMEMBER

FEBRUARY 8 – CHILI & SOUP SALE AT 8:30 A.M. ON THE SQUARE

FEBRUARY 16 – ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AFTER THE 10:30 A.M. SERVICE

**WATCH US ON YOUTUBE. VISIT US AT OUR WEBSITE. FIND US ON FACEBOOK.
COME AND SEE. EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**