

# PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Breinigsville, PA

## NOVEMBER 2015

All Saints' +



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
The Reverend Laura L. Stoneback, Pastor  
8227 Hamilton Boulevard  
Breinigsville, PA 18031  
Telephone: 610-398-7000



Dear Friends,

Can you believe it is almost November? I guess I am one who is getting older, for they say time flies as you age. November is an exciting month in the church year. By November, most folks are settled in, most vacations are over, and school is in full swing. And yes, people are very aware that Christmas is around the corner. While some might groan at the sight of Christmas decorations in stores and Christmas music in the background, I believe it might just help people to remember that November is a good month for spiritual renewal.

The church calendar in the month of November offers a number of opportunities for us to refocus ourselves on our dependence upon and relationship with God. There are 3 festival days in November: All Saints day, Christ the King Sunday, and the First Sunday in Advent. Each of these festival days helps us to recall and receive the gift of love that God has given to each of us.

So, if you have not been to church for a while, or are just looking forward to the opportunity to continue to worship and grow in your faith, November might just be the month for you. Come and see, come and receive all the gifts of love that God offers to you.

Looking forward to worshipping with you as together we grow in faith.  
Pastor Laura

**VETERANS DAY IS NOVEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>**

Thank you to all of our veterans for your service.

## **WORSHIP AND MUSIC**

November 1<sup>st</sup> is All Saints Day. On this day we recall the promises of baptism, the promise that we are saved by God's grace, and through the waters of baptism, we are made a child of God. Those who have been baptized and those who have died in the faith during the past year will be lifted up in the prayers of the church.

November 22<sup>nd</sup> is Christ the King Sunday. On this day we recall that Jesus is the King of Kings and Lord of Lord's every day. God's amazing love never takes a day off. Come and celebrate and give thanks to God for God's faithfulness to you.

November 29<sup>th</sup> is the first Sunday in Advent. Advent is the season we once again prepare our hearts to receive anew the wonder of God in human flesh. Worshipping throughout Advent helps us to not become entrapped with the worldly "holiday" happenings, but keeps us focused on the true meaning for the season.

## **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

An annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup> immediately following worship. The purpose of this meeting is to present the proposed 2016 budget and to nominate council members for the New Year. Please plan to stay for this brief but important meeting on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

## **CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS NEEDED**

We are in need of a few new members for the term beginning January 2016. Please prayerfully think if this is something God is calling you to do. If you would like more information as to what is involved, please speak to any current or former member.

## **STEWARDSHIP**

What a joy it was to gather with nearly 90 people for our celebration/thanksgiving meal on October 4<sup>th</sup>. A wonderful meal was catered by A & L Catering, and all had plenty of good food to eat.

Our theme this year was "This Act of Grace", and throughout the month, our focus was on the wonderful and gracious things that God has done and continues to do for God's people. As we recalled the story of the Israelites in captivity, we watched how God used God's chosen people to free them.

We are very pleased that on the first week of pledging, 60 giving units brought forth their pledge and of these, nearly 25 units indicated a growth in their financial stewardship.

As a church, we have been blessed in many ways, one of which has been through the faithful financial giving of our members. Like all organizations, people come and go, some through death, and others move on. We have experienced a decrease in giving due to some deaths and life changes of members. Yet our expenses rise yearly. So we thank you for returning thanks to God through your offerings so that St. Paul's can continue to be a place where God's Word and Love is shared with others. Thank you for being a faithful steward.

## **FELLOWSHIP NEWS**

Our thanks to all who made the Blessings of the Pets a wonderful event. Because of Thrivent Financials grant, we were able to raise \$360 for Road Trip Rescue, Inc. Around 17 pets were blessed as we thanked God for the joy they bring to our lives. Again, thanks to everyone who helped with this project!

Our next event will be on November 29<sup>th</sup>. Following worship, we will have a pot-luck lunch and then decorate the church for the Christmas season. We need many hands to help. Hope to see you there.

## BIBLE STUDY

If you are an art lover, consider attending our next small group study which will begin on November 16<sup>th</sup>. The course is A Thrill of Hope: The Christmas Story in Word and Art. This will be a wonderful way to prepare for the Christmas season and a great way to share our reflections on various works of art. All are welcome. As usual, classes will be held Monday mornings, repeating Tuesday evenings.

## HELP NEEDED ON NEW CHARITY PROJECTS

Peggy Kern and Steph Wagaman recently attended a Prayer Shawl Ingathering at First Presbyterian Church in Bethlehem, PA. Many prayer shawl groups from area churches and charity knitters from Knitter's Edge attended and shared their knitting and crochet projects. We met a lot of great people and received free knitting patterns from Knitter's Edge.

Currently, there is a need for **knitted or crocheted mittens** for children in our inner-cities. If you would like to help out, please see Steph or Peggy for a pattern. Also, we're planning a get-together after church on **November 15** to work on the mittens project. If you are interested, please bring crochet hook size G or H or knitting needles size 5 or 7. For more info, talk to us at church, email, or call: [stepbillwagaman@rcn.com](mailto:stepbillwagaman@rcn.com) / 610-395-0355 (Steph); or [peggyekern@gmail.com](mailto:peggyekern@gmail.com) / 610-481-9086 (Peg).

Additionally, we learned that there is a **great need for men's socks** for homeless or sheltered men. We would like to join the Knitter's Edge charity group in collecting new men's socks (cotton only please) which will be distributed in our community through local soup kitchens. **Men's cotton socks typically sell for about \$1- \$2 a pair at Walmart and Dollar stores. We will place a box in the narthex for the socks.**

**Lastly, in November we will be doing our annual coat drive, and will be collecting gently-used coats for people in need. As you go through closets to prepare for colder weather, keep us in mind and bring in any extra coats that you can spare.**

## ST. PAUL'S ADDRESS CHANGE

In order to help people find our church, especially visitors and new community members, the church is doing away with our Post Office box and will have mail delivered right to our location at 8227 Hamilton Blvd. Today, more and more people are using smart phones and GPS services, and if they put in Trexlertown as our address, the church is not listed. One must use Breinigsville as the name of the town. If you need to mail anything to the church, please begin to use our street address as **8227 Hamilton Blvd., Breinigsville, PA 18031-1222**. We hope that the change of address will assist new comers as well as Fed EX and UPS who deliver various products to us.

## NOVEMBER FOOD BANK ITEMS OF THE MONTH

The congregation has donated to the Food Bank throughout the year but the needs of those less fortunate continue. So please continue to bring nonperishable food items along to worship.

Each month we plan to feature a food item, but any item will be acceptable.

**THANK YOU** to all who brought in Macaroni & Cheese for our monthly collection for the food bank. We had about fifty items brought in during the month.

During November our "food of the month" will be tuna or canned meat.

## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDERS

Yes I know, Halloween isn't here yet, we haven't celebrated Thanksgiving and I'm asking you to think about and order your poinsettias.

The deadline to place your order is November 22<sup>nd</sup> and the price will stay the same at \$9.00.

An order form can be found in the newsletter or after the calendar, if you are receiving this on line as an emailing. You can also find extra forms on the table in the Narthex, or call the church office at 610-398-7000.

## HOSPITALIZED?

If you are in the hospital, please let the church office know. The hospitals have updated their computers, and unfortunately, we are not getting accurate reporting of members in the hospital.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

November 29<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Tree Decorating and Potluck

## SAVE THE DATE!

I am pleased to announce that our church will make its first appearance at the NEPS Bike for World Hunger Event in 2016. The event takes place at the Rodale Fitness Park. Runners, Walkers, Bikers, and Rollerbladers of all ages and athletic abilities are encouraged to participate and cheer on participants. The date will be confirmed in January, but mark it on your calendars now; it is traditionally third Saturday in May. Additional information will be forthcoming. If you have any questions about this event, please reach out to Angie Kropf, [angenk@verizon.net](mailto:angenk@verizon.net).

Sincerely,  
Angie Kropf

## SCRIPT/GIFT CARD ORDERS

Perhaps you heard of people celebrating "Christmas in July". Stores, TV shows and some radio stations wanted to remind us that we are half way through the year, only 6 more months till Christmas.

With that in mind, we will be taking **pre-paid orders** for Script/Gift cards. Many people like to give gift cards as Christmas presents or to celebrate other occasions as well. Since the postage is costly, we are looking to place one order by Nov. 1. So, go over your list, check it twice and place your order along with a check to reserve your gift cards. Envelopes are available in the narthex. The profit the church makes on the sale of script cards is used for outreach ministry. So, it's a win/win situation. You get your shopping done early, and the church is able to help others with the funds received. Don't forget, you can also use them to do your own shopping.

## WELCA

On Wednesday, December 2, 2015, the Lehigh Mission District Lutheran Ingathering will take place at St. John's Lutheran Church, 501 Chestnut Street, Emmaus. Gifts will be sorted and packed beginning at 10:30 a.m. The dedication of gifts will take place at 12:00 p.m. followed by a light lunch.

St. Paul's will again collect donations of gift items to be taken to the Ingathering. These **unwrapped** items can be placed in the boxes in the Narthex marked for the Ingathering. Lists of gift items is included separately in this newsletter.

Our church is also responsible for providing some specific **wrapped** gift items for children at Keenan House (10 total) and The Topton Children's Home (7 total). There will be tags for you to pick up on the table in the Narthex stating the price range, age group and sex of the child and sometimes a wish list is included.

All donations need to be at the church by Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup>.

If you have any questions, contact Sandi Wagaman 610-395-6387.

## TREXLERTOWN SENIOR ASSOCIATION

The Trexlertown Seniors are looking for new members. We meet every Tuesday at St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Our meetings start at 1:00 p.m. Some come a little early to socialize. Light refreshments are served.

From time to time we have a speaker come in. We play bingo, have trivia, play cards, pinochle and more. Once in a while we have entertainment with a piano player and a sing-a-long.

If you have any questions, please speak with Dawn Moyer or stop in and attend one of our meetings.

### THANK YOU'S

Thank you for keeping me in your prayers during my recent surgeries. Your prayers always mean so much to me.  
Peggy Apgar

September 22, 2015

Dear Pastor Laura,

Thank you so much for your generous contribution to Project Child's "Make Parenting a Pleasure" parenting class. It was so wonderful of Amy Brenfleck to work on our behalf for this gift.

These parenting classes are one of the main programs of Project Child. Giving parents the tools to rear their children in a safe and nurturing environment is what we need to provide for those who need help.

Most of our parents are without extra funds to buy snacks for themselves and their children. This generous donation will allow us to provide healthy snacks and water for the parents and their children, who we care for during the class.

Thank you again for helping to make a difference in these children's lives.

Sincerely,

Pam Wallace, program Coordinator

## PASTORAL ACTS

### FUNERAL

On Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Laura officiated at the funeral service for Arlene Rohrbach.

### MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The following memorial contributions have been received in memory of Jean Bastian:

Roger & Jackie Anderson  
Carolyn & Douglas Ambler  
Patricia Petko  
Jan & Judy Walker  
Ann Wlazelek

It is with sorrow we announce the death of The Rev. Jan Walker. Members of St. Paul's are invited to attend a memorial service on Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup> at 2:00 p.m. at the church.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT  
NEWSLETTER IS

**NOVEMBER 15, 2015**

PLEASE HAVE YOUR  
ARTICLES SUBMITTED TO  
THE CHURCH OFFICE  
BY THIS DATE.



**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31<sup>ST</sup>  
TURN YOUR CLOCKS  
BACK ONE HOUR**

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**CHURCH OFFICE: 610-398-7000**

**HOSPITAL CODE: #321**

**HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE**

**EMAIL: [stpauls.trexlertown@gmail.com](mailto:stpauls.trexlertown@gmail.com)**

**Website: [www.stpaulslutherantrexlertown.org](http://www.stpaulslutherantrexlertown.org)**

**STAFF**

Pastor..... The Reverend Laura L. Stoneback  
Organist/Choir Director ..... Mrs. Judy Noll  
Handbell Director..... Mr. Richard Steltz  
Parish Secretary ..... Mrs. Cindy Krasnansky  
Sexton ..... Mr. Charlie Meitzler