

PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Breinigville, PA

FEBRUARY 2016



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Dear Friends,

As I write this, there is much talk about our ‘first big snow of the year’. It seems like winter got off to a slow start this year, with many warm days in the month of January. Now maybe, winter has arrived. I don’t know if you are aware that this year, lent is very early. Ash Wednesday is on February 10 and Easter falls on March 27th. I am hoping for a very short winter, and praying that bad weather does not interfere with our corporate worship life.

Why is worship so important? Does it matter if we miss a week or two? I think it does. When I do not gather with the Body of Christ for more than a week, I feel a void. I miss hearing the Word of God, I miss seeing my church family, and I miss partaking of the Lord’s Supper. It is very easy to grow weak in faith when we are not spiritually fed.

As we enter into the season of Lent, I want to encourage you to seek out devotional time. Spend time reading scripture, sit quietly in the presence of God, and listen for God’s word for you. Awake each day with the certain knowledge Christ is with you, and is counting on you to carry on his mission.

If you are looking for a Lenten spiritual disciple, try adding something to your life. Add prayer time, add an extra canned good to your shopping cart and bring it in for the food bank. Spend with family and friends, away from electronics and build memories and relationships. Carve out some time to visit with someone who doesn’t get many visitors, or send a greeting card to someone reminding them that they are precious in the sight of God. As we approach and journey though Lent, let us remember that Christ loved each one of us enough to die for us. May we die to self and rise to bless God and others.

Growing with you in faith,
Pastor Laura.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

It's hard to believe that early in the month of February, we find ourselves in the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday is on February 10th and Easter is March 27th. This year is one of the earliest Lent/Easters that there will be. While we hope to one year have an outdoor Easter Dawn service, we know it will not be this year.

Sunday, February 7th is The Transfiguration of our Lord. On this day we recall how Jesus took his closest followers up the mountain where he was changed before their very eyes into the glory of God. Certainly as the disciples looked back from the resurrection, this event flashed in their minds.

Worship services will be held at 10:30 A.M. and 7:00 P.M. on Ash Wednesday. Both services will include the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion. Please try to come and worship at the time that fits your schedule. This is also a great day to invite friends and neighbors to come with you.

Our Easter joy is enhanced as we focus on the love of God given in Christ Jesus our Lord. We hope to see you in worship throughout this Lenten season and to rejoice with you on Easter Sunday.

ST. PAUL'S ADDRESS CHANGE

If you need to mail anything to the church, please use our street address as **8227 Hamilton Blvd., Breinigsville, PA 18031-1486.**

NEW WEB ADDRESS

Given the church's mailing address change from Trexlertown to Breinigsville, the Web site address (domain name) has been changed to www.stpaulsbyville.org.

We have a new look. Check it out.

POT-LUCK AND ANNUAL MEETING: FEBRUARY 7TH

Following worship on the 7th, we will gather in fellowship hall for a pot-luck meal. Since it is the Sunday before Lent, a “King Cake” will be provided. It will be fun to see how gets the ‘baby’ this year.

At our annual meeting, we will review reports from the past year, and then turn our attention to this year and the years ahead. There are some concerns that we need to address as a church family, so I hope you will make every effort to attend this meeting.

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY FEBRUARY 7th

St. Paul’s will take part in the national Souper Bowl day by collecting both cans of soup and cash donations which will be given to the local food bank. Vote for your favorite football team by placing your can goods and cash in your team’s area. Let’s see if we can pick the winner of the game while having the good feeling that we are providing much needed items for others.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

From now through Easter, Sunday school children will be collecting change to benefit ELCA’s Good Gifts program. Children will use red barns to collect change to benefit the cause.

Money collected will help provide tools and gifts to help families struggling with hunger and poverty worldwide. Items we can help fund include: chicks, pigs, goats, wells, fish farms, trees, farming tools, mosquito netting and more. Prices for each item ranges from \$10 to \$2,500. The more we collect, the more we can help fund.

Each Sunday children will have barns in church. When you see any Sunday school child, please consider donating!

For more information on the Good Gifts program, visit www.elca.org/goodgifts

SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY BEGINS MONDAY FEBRUARY 8

All are invited to join in our study WHAT WONDROUS LOVE: HOLY WEEK IN WORD AND ART. Those who came for the Advent study of word and art really enjoyed how the artist made us think outside the box as we looked and listened to various well know texts. We look forward to a similar experience with this Lenten study. Classes will only be held on Monday mornings at 9:30. All are welcome.

CHILDREN CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

In the winter 2016 SEEDS FOR THE PARISH, there is an article about an 8 year old boy who was having a birthday party. Instead of seeking gifts for himself, he asked his guest to bring something that he could put into the churches food collection box. The boy still got to have his party, and he felt extra good about being able to help others. Sometimes, maybe more than we know, “a little child shall lead them”.

SNOW/CANCELLATION INFORMATION

Winter advisory...Please be sure to check St. Paul’s website, stpaulslutherantrexkertown.org or WFMZ storm center to see if any church service or event is cancelled due to snow or ice.

WHAT DEFINES US

When their minivan was hit by a drunk driver, Gerald Sittser lost his mother, wife and daughter all at one time. Sittser, a religion professor, escaped without physical injury but was then forced to navigate his extreme loss. Eventually he concluded that “the experience of loss does not need to be the defining moment of our story” (quoted in *AHA*, by Kyle Idleman). Instead, “the defining moment can be *our response* to the loss,” Sittser says.

“In this world you will have trouble,” Jesus warns in John 16:33 (NIV) — no sugar-coating or pretending there. But then he says, “Take heart!” Jesus doesn’t want our troubles to define us; he wants to define us! The defining truth of our story is that Jesus has “overcome the world” — even at its worst. He’s stronger than our struggles and sorrows. And in him, so are we.

—Heidi Mann

CONGRATULATIONS TO CAROLE BECK

Carole Beck had been the secretary at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Allentown for the last 35 years. She retired on December 31, 2015.

She was honored at their services on Saturday and Sunday January 16th & 17th. A reception followed the worship services.

We wish Carole all the best in her new venture of retirement.

ALTAR FLOWER AND BULLETIN SPONSORS FOR 2016

Beginning in January, the church has switched to a new florist. We are getting our altar flowers from the Posey Patch located in Macungie. This switch has resulted in a higher cost for the flowers, but we are giving sponsors the opportunity to sponsor either one vase at \$22 or both vases at \$44 (the 2015 prices for two vases was \$35). If you are sponsoring both vases, please put your name on both lines on the flower chart. Also of note concerning the flowers is that we do not have enough people willing to deliver flowers to home bound or hospitalized people. Therefore, we are asking sponsors to please take their flowers with them following service.

The cost for the bulletin sponsors will remain at \$20 per week.

Your sponsorship of the flowers and the bulletins is a great way to pay tribute to someone special in your life and also to help offset the cost of these weekly items for the church.

The flower chart and bulletin chart are posted on the bulletin board.. If you would like to call the church and reserve a spot for a date, please feel free to do so.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND IRON PIGS GAME

We are scheduled for the Iron Pigs on Sunday, June 19, 2016. Game time is 1:35 p.m. Watch for more information.

WELCA

January 3, 2016, they had their Soup and Sandwich lunch.

Our January meeting was held on January 13, 2016, which was a very lengthy business meeting.

Our Thankoffering for 2015 amounted to \$211.00. Rosemary Lehman is our new treasurer.

We planned for the Spring Day of Renewal here at St. Paul's to be held on April 9 at 9 a.m. More information next month.

The Spring Cluster meeting will be April 23, 9 a.m. at Luther Crest with a speaker.

The WELCA Lenten Breakfast will be at Daisy Pearson's residence on March 9.

Our next meeting will be on February 17 at 9:30 a.m.

Submitted by
Sharon Bortz

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.

Sincerely,
Angie Kropf

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 7 – Congregational meeting and pot-luck lunch

February 7 – Souper Bowl Sunday

February 10 – Ash Wednesday Services 10:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

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.

FEBRUARY 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 tuna or cans of canned fruit for our monthly collection for the food bank.

During February our "food of the month" will be peanut butter and jelly.

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. Our code # is 321.

THANK YOU NOTES

A special thank you to my St. Paul's family, for all the get well notes and Christmas cards that I received during my surgery and recovery. Every day is a new day to be grateful to God, for the healing and for my family, friends and my family at St. Paul's. Special thanks to Pastor Laura for her visits. If all goes well with my appointment on the 18th, I may be able to join you all, to thank God for our blessings every day. Thank you again for thinking of me. God Bless you all....

Linda Krotzer

1/17/16

An open letter to the Congregation of St. Paul's:

I was just received as a member of St. Paul's after having attended services for nearly a year as well as assisting in Vacation Bible School last summer & participating in whatever events I could during the year. I had decided that before I committed to membership, I wanted to be sure that this would be a good place for me.

My search for a home/church has been a long one, as not all congregations are like St. Paul's; not only have I been warmly welcomed, but the atmosphere here is such that I believe that everyone does feel accepted as they are. In my estimation, this congregation embodies the name "people of God". To have found such a warm, loving, non-judgmental, cooperative & giving group has restored my faith in "organized" religion.

I am most grateful to have the privilege of joining the fold, & thank God for bringing me here.

Jennifer Bentsen

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank, we would like to thank you for your donation of 6 boxes of food.

Because of your caring and sharing, we are able to feed those less fortunate in our community. We are currently serving between 200 and 250 families per week.

Again, thank you for your donation.
AAEFB - Margaret Rosenbeger, Corres. Sec.

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Leroy Bortz, Ruth Glase, Dorothea Grammes, Peggy Kern, Helen Kessler, Linda Krotzer, Judy Kresley, Bill Moyer, Katherine Plarr, Kathy Shryock

FEBRUARY



- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Robert Miller | 13 Doris Fenner |
| 2 Ronald Carson | 14 Jill Kellogg |
| 3 Kyle Morgan | 15 Amanda Mesko |
| 5 Dick Steltz | 16 James Feimster |
| 6 Kathy Shryock | 17 Priscilla Wiswesser |
| 8 Zack Dimovitz | 21 Skip Eisenhard, Jr |
| 8 Jessica Sallet | 21 Cindy Krasnansky |
| 9 Rosalie Gallagher | 23 Cecilia Ajamu |
| 9 Hadleigh Kim | 24 Mark Maslany |
| 10 Sandy Christoffersen | 26 Ruth Glase |
| 10 Tom Firth | 28 Dawn Moyer |
| 10 Tom Kellogg | 29 Alan Brumbach |
| 12 Lacey Edwards | |



FEBRUARY

- 10 Tom & Susan Firth
- 14 Kyle & Amy Morgan
- 14 Matt & Nicole Wiswesser
- 22 Hughey & Claudia Haughney

PASTORAL ACTS

NEW MEMBERS

The following individuals were received into membership at St. Paul's on January 17th. Jennifer Bentsen, Wes and Laurin Mironov and their children Joseph, Madison and Briana, and Pam Zahour.

FUNERALS

Pastor Laura officiated at the graveside service for Margaret Roemig December 31, 2015.

Pastor Laura officiated at the funeral service for Myrtle (Mickie) Becker on January 18, 2016.

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The following memorial contributions have been received in memory of
Mary Hartley:

Gertrude Milliken

Daisy Pearson

Cynthia & Gary Schoonover

Our Servant-King

Jesus began his ministry by being hungry,
yet he is the Bread of Life.

Jesus ended his earthly ministry by being thirsty,
yet he is the Living Water.

Jesus was weary,
yet he is our rest.

Jesus paid tribute,
yet he is the King.

Jesus was accused of having a demon,
yet he cast out demons.

Jesus wept,
yet he wipes away our tears.

Jesus was sold for 30 pieces of silver,
yet he redeemed the world.

Jesus was brought as a lamb to the slaughter,
yet he is the Good Shepherd.

Jesus died,
yet by his death he destroyed the power of death.

—Gregory of Nazianzus (fourth-century church father)

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER IS**

FEBRUARY 14, 2016

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

For God so loVed the world
thAt He gave His
onLy
begottEn
SoN,
thaT whoever
belIeves
iN Him should not perish
but havE everlasting life.
(John 3:16, NKJV)

On Valentine’s Day, we remember that God is the source of all love in the world. His perfect love for us has made all human love possible.

CHURCH OFFICE: 610-398-7000
HOSPITAL CODE: #321
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE
EMAIL: stpauls.trexlertown@gmail.com
Website: www.stpaulsbbv.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