

# PAUL'S PARISH NEWS



SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Breinigville, PA

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**APRIL 2016**



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



Dear Friends,

Have you ever wondered: What if He didn't? What if Jesus did not rise from the dead? Can you imagine your life if that statement was true? To do so, I guess we would need to look back to Old Testament days, days where the people resorted to many gods, hoping that they might just appease at least one of them. We would have to wonder, day in and day out what we must do in order for some god to like us, let alone love us. As I thought about the question, I wondered if I could walk around as confidently as I do, or would I fear death so much that I might be spiritually paralyzed.

As we celebrate the truth that Christ is indeed risen from the grave, I am so thankful I never have to wonder or worry about such things. For on the cross, God poured out God's love for the world, by giving His only Son to die for us, and freeing us from the power of sin and death. We can enjoy each and every day knowing that we are beloved children of God, and that God is with us and promises never to leave us.

The empty tomb, the Risen Christ makes all the difference in the world to me, and I hope to you as well. Our God is a personable God, one who knows us and knows what it is like to journey through the joys and trails of life. God's deepest desire is to be in relationship with you, so that you will indeed be confident that you never journey alone. May the songs of Christ's victorious resurrection from the dead live in your heart each and every day, and may each of us respond to this gift of love, by loving, praising and serving God and neighbor each and every day.

Growing with you in faith,  
Pastor Laura

## **SYNOD ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIONS NEEDED**

This year's synod assembly will be held in Allentown at the PPL center on June 17 and 18. Each congregation is to have one female and one male lay voting delegate the assembly. If you would be interested in attending the assembly as a voting delegate, please let Pastor Laura know of your interest.

## WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Many of you come to worship on Easter Sunday knowing the hymns that will be sung. Jesus Christ is Risen Today; Christ is Risen! Alleluia; Thine is the Glory; I Know That My Redeemer Lives. We know these songs because we sing them each year. As we enter into the seven weeks of the Easter Season, we invite you to hear these songs anew. Focus on the words to these marvelous hymns and let these hymns and the truth they bare carry you throughout your days and weeks.

We want to thank all those who added to the joy of our Easter services. The choirs, all in placed flowers in the nave, and all who came and joined in the celebration.

As we move through the Easter season and beyond, remember that each and every Sunday we have the opportunity to come and worship our Living Lord. We are blessed to know Christ promises to be present in our midst. So come. Come and worship, come without fear or hesitation. Christ is waiting for you, and so are we. As always, we look forward to seeing you in church.

### FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

A first communion class will be offered on Saturday, April 2 at 9:30 a.m. If you are interested in attending, please speak with Pastor Laura as soon as possible.

### ST. PAUL'S ADDRESS CHANGE

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

## **THINKING ABOUT ST. PAUL'S AND THE STEWARDSHIP OF OUR PEOPLE**

The last Sunday of March, was Easter Sunday. We rejoice at the good news that God has loved us so much that God would choose not to allow anything to separate us from God's love. Therefore, Jesus took our place upon the cross, as he died for our sins. What a wonderful gift of love! Now as we enter the month of April, a time when we see so much coming back to life, this might be a good time to look at our response to God's gift of love. Are we living out our faith in terms of our stewardship? Do our financial gifts to Christ's ministry reflect our thanksgiving to God? Certainly we can never 'pay' for God's gift of grace, but we have the opportunity to offer sacrificial offerings to the Lord on regular bases. Our church budget was built upon this premise. We want to thank all those who share their tithes and offerings to the church and, and at the same time encourage everyone to continue to support our ministry with their offerings. Though it is early in the year, we are behind budget by more than \$8000. With your generous gifts we can get back on tract and continue to serve God here and throughout the world.

## **WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS**

We are pleased that Reno and Priya Thomas and their children Aaliyah and Aman have joined our church family. They have been worshipping with us for quite a while and the weeks they were not here, they often traveled to Philadelphia to worship. Please be sure to introduce yourself and make all of the Thomas' welcome to the St. Paul's family.

## **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.stpaulsbville.org](http://www.stpaulsbville.org). We have a new look. Check it out.

## **FELLOWSHIP NEWS**

Thank you to everyone who enjoyed and participated in the St. Patrick's Day Event. Your creative green dishes were delicious!

On May 1st, we will have a Kentucky Derby Themed Potluck. Bring Kentucky Derby themed food. Mint Julep cupcakes will be provided. Those with horseshoe sets, bring them to play! Following tradition, ladies are encouraged to wear hats, and gentlemen should wear hats, bowties, or ties. There will be a derby race for all ages!

Best Regards,  
Angie

## **BETTER LIGHTING**

We have heard you, and now we are trying to see you! We have heard many comments about the lack of good lighting in the nave. It is very true, especially on cloudy days, that the lights seem very dim. We are in the process of changing out some lights to more cost efficient and brighter white lights and we are asking a lighting company to give us suggestions on how we might improve our lighting situation. Watch for more information to come on this topic.

## **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.

## SMALL GROUP STUDY

Small Group study **REFORMATION ROOTS** will begin on Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. and repeated on Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m.

If you have ever wondered why we have so many Christian denominations, and if there is really much difference between them, this study is for you. We will look, via DVD into the turbulent times of the Reformation era and see the stories and struggles that still impact us today. All are welcome to join in the learning, fun and fellowship of this course.

## PRAYER SHAWL GROUP NEWS

Our knitters and crocheters have been busy making mittens and hats for center-city school kids. In February, we delivered our first batch to Union Terrace School. We want to thank those who helped out on this project – Sharon Bortz, Peggy Kern, Daisy Pearson, Sandi Wagaman, Steph Wagaman, and Irene Wentz. We also want to thank Daisy Pearson for making this contact and taking care of the delivery.

We'd like to continue this effort during the year, so we have more to deliver in the fall, before it gets very cold. If you can knit or crochet, consider making hats or mittens for school-aged kids. Contact either Peggy Kern ([peggyekern@gmail.com](mailto:peggyekern@gmail.com) / 610-481-9086) or Steph Wagaman ([stepbillwagaman@rcn.com](mailto:stepbillwagaman@rcn.com) / 610-395-0355) for a free pattern.

## ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

The Endowment Committee is in need a new members. If you are interested in joining the committee, please speak with Pastor Laura.

## THE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

St. Paul's Cemetery is pleased to announce it has entered into contract with Earl Wenz Memorials to construct the cremation garden. The 64 niche columbarium will be a beautiful addition to our cemetery and will meet the needs of our parishioners for years to come. More details to follow in the coming weeks.

Regards,  
St. Paul's Cemetery Association

## EVANGELISM TIP

We draw people to Christ not by loudly discrediting what they believe, by telling them how wrong they are and how right we are, but by showing them a light that is so lovely that they want with all their hearts to know the source of it.

—Madeleine L'Engle



April 10 - 16  
National  
Volunteer  
Week

## "HIS GLORY"

God sends rainbows after showers  
arching 'cross the freshened skies.  
Every rainbow shows God's glory.  
Every wonder tells his story.

God sends Jesus down from heaven  
offering mercy, hope and life.  
On the cross he showed God's glory.  
Every blessing tells his story.

God sends me forth into this world  
sharing love that offers life.  
And I hope to show God's glory  
In the way I tell his story.

—MaryAnn Sundby

## A LOVE EXPLOSION

“Mommy, if Jesus comes to live inside my heart, will I explode?” One of missionary Katie Davis’ adopted daughters surprised her with that question as they headed to the Nile River for some baptisms.

Although Davis immediately replied, “No!” she later realized: “That is exactly what we should do if Jesus comes to live inside our hearts. We will explode with love, with compassion, with hurt for those who are hurting, and with joy for those who rejoice. We will explode with a desire to be more, to be better, to be close to the One who made us.”

—adapted from *Kisses From Katie*



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2016

Save the Date for VBS. Vacation Bible School 2016 will be SUNDAY, June 26th to THURSDAY, June 30th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Ages 3 to 12 are invited to join the fun! Make sure to invite your grandkids, neighbors, friends and family. We will have sign ups starting in April. Look for more info to come.

As always we need amazing volunteers to help us have a successful week. Contact Katie Pisauro in church or email her at [Katiepisauro@gmail.com](mailto:Katiepisauro@gmail.com) if you would like to help! Don't be shy we always have a great time!



We had a great turn out last year and look forward to another great year of VBS.

Katie Pisauro, Kimberly Schiffert

## WELCA

Our meeting for March was the annual Lenten Breakfast on Wednesday, March 9, at Daisy Pearson's residence with 10 attendees.

The Spring Retreat on April 9 will be at St. Paul's from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. We are anticipating about 30/35 attendees. Our service project is assembling personal care refugee boxes for Lutheran Congregational Services.

Items needed: toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, comb, brush, bar soap, razors, shaving cream, and sanitary napkins. You can drop off your donations in the box in the narthex.

Our April meeting will be on April 13, 9:30 a.m. at St. Paul's.

Submitted by  
Sharon Bortz

## **APRIL 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 Macaroni & Cheese for our monthly collection for the food bank.

During April our “food of the month” will be canned soup.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>** – Kentucky Derby Potluck

## **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, stop in and attend one of our meetings.

# TREASURES

One by one he took them from me,  
all the things I valued most,  
until I was empty-handed;  
every glittering toy was lost.

And I walked earth's highways, grieving  
in my rags and poverty  
till I heard his voice inviting,  
“Lift your empty hands to me!”

So I held my hands toward heaven,  
and he filled them with a store  
of his own transcendent riches,  
till they could contain no more.

And at last I comprehended  
with my stupid mind and dull,  
that God could not pour his riches  
into hands already full!

—Martha Snell Nicholson

“The greatest gift we can give back to our great God is to let his love make us glad.”

—Ann Voskamp, *The Greatest Gift*

“The devil knows your name but calls you by your sin. God knows your sin but calls you by your name.”

—Ricardo Sanchez

“If we are not planted in Christ, we'll be uprooted in crisis.”

—Unknown

## THANK YOU NOTES

To The Members of St. Paul's,

Thank you to everyone for the lovely get well card. Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Shirley Binkley

To The Members of St. Paul's,

A note to thank you for your thoughtfulness and to let you know it really meant a lot.

Thank you for the prayers and cards.

Peggy Kern

To The Members of St. Paul's,

A sincere thank you for all my cards and prayers from the members of St. Paul's and Pastor Laura for her visits and phone calls during my recent hospital stay.

It really helped my recuperation.

Martha Lindenmuth

# THANK YOU NOTES

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank, we would like to thank you for your donation of 2 boxes and 8 bags 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.

Members of St. Paul's,

Thank You! We just wanted you to know that we received your gift of \$200.00

Thank you very much for your support!

Bear Creek Camp

*“By this all people will know  
that you are my disciples, if you  
have love for one another.”*

JOHN 13:35. ESV



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

Leroy Bortz  
Dorothea Grammes  
Helen Kessler  
Martha Lindenmuth

Bill Moyer  
Katherine Plarr  
Kathy Shryock  
Larry Wingard

## APRIL



4 Dick Hartley	17 Jason Durback
5 Kimberly Schiffert	17 Horace Eisenhard
6 Nash Feimster	17 Janine Ritter
8 Jack Wetherhold	17 Frank Szukics
9 Gavin Wagner	18 Peggy Kern
10 Brooke Brumbach	18 Larry Wingard
10 June Kellogg	19 Hayden Kirn
11 Reagan Williams	19 Hildegard Wetzel
12 Reece Henichek	23 Sally Spall
15 David Walters	26 Bob Nickisher
16 Justin Christoffersen	29 Ayden Flores
16 Quinn Sallitt	30 Karen Feimster



## APRIL

1 Robert & Sandra Sensinger

## PASTORIAL ACT

### FUNERAL

Pastor Laura officiated at the funeral service for Ruth Glase on March 10, 2016

## MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The following memorial contributions have been received in memory of Ruth Glase:

Sharon Bortz

Carol Derr-Breinig

Carl & Sandra Glase Family & Kim Sloan Family

Chris Mesko-Holzer

David & Sarah Koechel

Daisy Pearson

Eugene & Lurea Reichard

Richard & Kathleen Reichard

Bruce & Sandi Wagaman

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT  
NEWSLETTER IS**

**APRIL 17, 2016**

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



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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.stpaulsbbville.org](http://www.stpaulsbbville.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