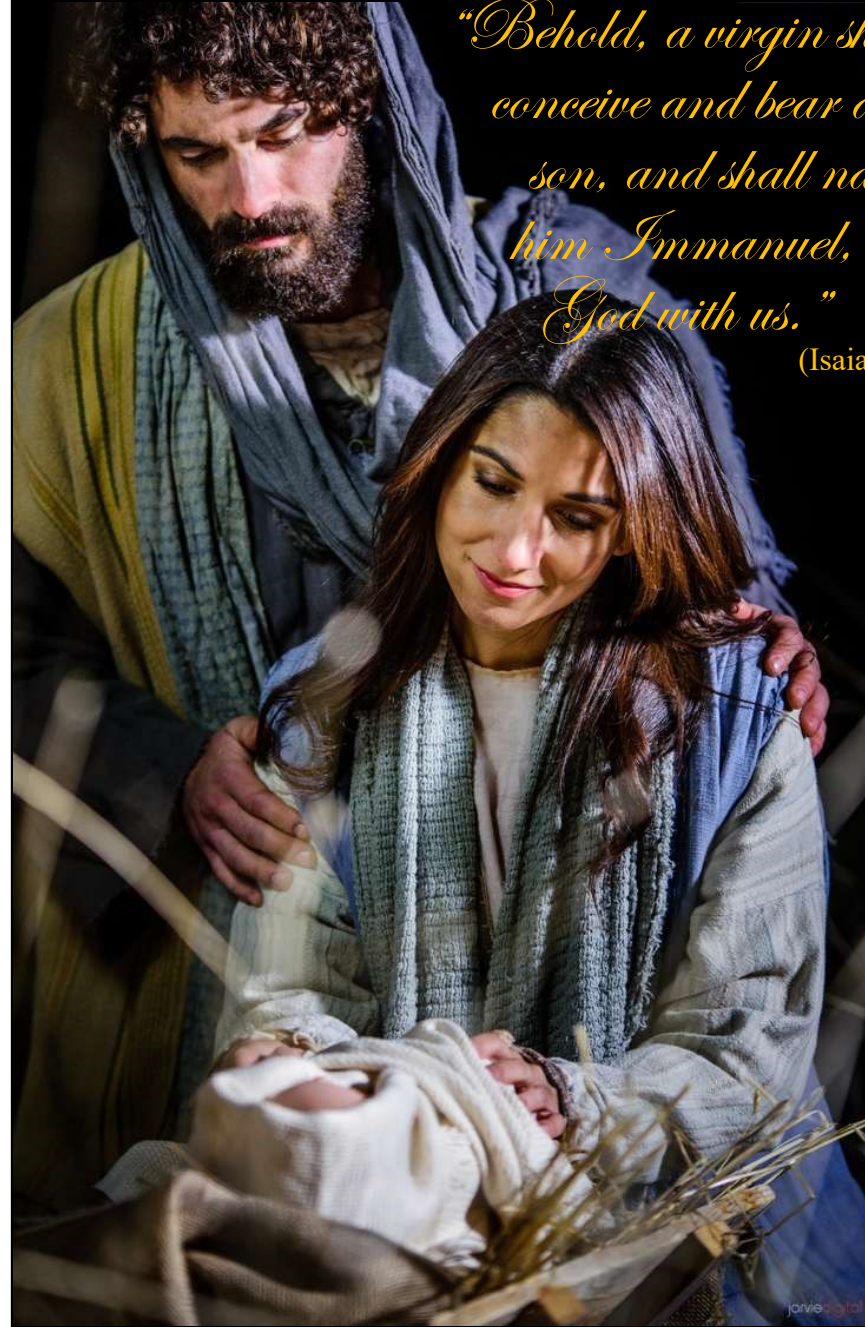


St. Paul's Letter

December 2023

*"Behold, a virgin shall
conceive and bear a
son, and shall name
him Immanuel,
God with us."*

(Isaiah 7:14)





St. Paul Lutheran Church

222 North George Street Millersville, Pennsylvania 17551

CHURCH COUNCIL 2023-2024

Rev. Mark Kopp, Pastor

Dave Ellenberg, Pres.

Sylvia Lashley

David Sykes

Tim Brooks

Dee Perry

Michele Carpenter

Bruce Hampton

Sue Swartz

Kay Dommel

Polly Irwin, Treasurer

(non-voting)

Bill Napier, Recording Sec.

(non-voting)

Other Contacts

Church office 717-872-7392

Email: office@stpaulmillersville.org

Website: www.stpaullutheranmillersville.org

Sunday: 9:00 a.m.-Worship & Holy Communion

A message from our Council: Please remember to silence all cell phones/devices during our worship together.

Staff

Preaching and Presiding Minister: Rev. Mark Kopp
pastorkopp@stpaulmillersville.org
Pastor David Fisher: Pastor Emeritus
Dave Ellenberg: Church Council President
Lucy Esbenshade: Choir Director
Cathy Regitz: Sexton
Bill Napier: Secretary, Organist, Council Recording Secretary
Church Office Hours: M-F 8:00 a.m. to 12:00p.m.
Email: office@stpaulmillersville.org

Hilarity

So the organist asked the dentist, "What's your favorite hymn?" With a big toothy grin he replied, "Crown him with many Crowns.." of course.

December Birthdays



Michele Carpenter 1st
Sandy Miller 3rd
John Detz 16th
Peg Siglin 16th

If you have a DECEMBER birthday and are not listed, contact the office to correct our records. Also, if you do not have a birthday, inform the office...we'll assign one for you.

December 10th there will be a brief congregational meeting after the service to approve the 2024 budget. Please be there to vote.

Focus on Our Family

A deep dive into the secret lives of those who make us who we are!



This month's victim is a relatively new member. Linda Geist-Hiney.

It was a cold and stormy night when Linda was born at Lancaster General Hospital on March 31, 1951. Her Dad was in the Marines at the time and her mother had been working at Bell Telephone, but when it became noticeable that she was pregnant she had to quit. Fun times for women! Her Dad was raised in the Zion Lutheran Church Lancaster and her mother was a member of "the church on the corner". She had a diverse religious background with her mother being Amish and her father was Mennonite...there were many arguments about buggy color one might assume. Her Dad's family was staunch German Lutherans going back several generations, almost to Luther himself! (Gott im Himmel!) She was baptized, confirmed, and married in the Lutheran Church, and attended Bible School at her aunt's Methodist church. (please don't judge, she was just a child) At Zion, Linda served as a Lay Reader (much to the chagrin of her pastor and organist), Council Secretary, and worked with LCW as a District Chairperson. She attended Lancaster City schools, Lafayette, Reynolds, and McCaskey, graduating in 1969. She grew up on Hershey Avenue having moved there before it was fully paved!



In 1972, she graduated from Franklin & Marshall College. (oops, make that 1972, just a little dyslexia) having "helped" make that a coeducational institution. Her mother worked at F&M until her retirement and her Dad worked at RCA until it closed. While attending college, she worked at Watt & Shand and stayed on there when she couldn't get a position teaching. Leaving Watt & Shand in 1982, she moved on to the Paralegal Institute in Philadelphia, then went to work in an accounting firm in Rochester, New York where they put up this sign just for her. She decided not to commute. While in fabulous center city Rochester, she met her husband, Ralph. Ralph was



a computer specialist. Linda held various positions in Rochester, ending up working in the Monroe County Tax Office (yes a tax collector, but give her a break, its still better than the IRS). She attended Incarnate Word Lutheran Church there and served on the Church Council and as a Lay Reader. It was a huge church and she found herself lost there, not being able to know everyone's name. It is so large, you cannot even see Linda sitting in the back row under the lovely Holtkamp Organ.



They decided to take early retirement after Ralph attended a seminar in the California desert and fell in love with the desert area. So they went from 144 average inches of snow in Rochester to less than 2” of rain a year in the desert. Whew! Desert heat is hot even if it is dry. 112 degrees is still 112 degrees dry or damp! There she worked for Home Depot as the Cashier auditor and as the Human Resource contact, hiring, training and firing. She missed Lutheran Church services as the nearest Lutheran Church was a 45 minute drive each way. So she attended irregularly. It was hard to imagine so few Lutheran Churches!

After 6 years, the heat got to the best of her! She longed for the “green” and the seasonal changes of Lancaster County. Promising Ralph it wouldn’t snow, she convinced him to move to Lancaster; they moved here in 2012. Her parents had both died by this time and she had little family left here, but it was still “home”. That winter there was a mere 14.6” of snow, though we don’t to mention the 61.9” the following winter. She attended her parents’ church, St John Lancaster, where she served there as lay reader, church council secretary, and assistant treasurer. She also served as a Board member of the Synodical Women of the ELCA (and still does).

Searching for a Church to be her own, she attended several this year and found St. Paul Millersville. “What a welcoming group this is. I even found a few old friends from school here” she says. She is slowly acclimating herself to worship and the cycle of events at St. Paul. She is happy to be here! “You may have to tell me your name more than once, as names were never my thing especially at this age!” she says. She is diabetic so always look for her at the treats table ogling things she should not eat. “St Paul’s eats well!” she says. She is so glad she found this welcoming congregation. Welcome Linda. Not that we have your resume, we can put you to work! A “choir” deficiency, however, has been determined.

Finance, Finance, Finance

October Finance Update:

October's Income	\$21,679.98
Capital campaign	\$15,758.66.
October Expenses	\$19,563.93
October surplus	\$ 2,118.05
Year to date surplus	\$ 6,454.02.



Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA

Do you want to do something with your Required Minimum Distribution (RDA) that will make it a non-taxable event? If you are over age 70½, you can gift directly from your IRA to the church (or any charity). By doing this you will not pay tax on these dollars that you would have taken as your required minimum distribution. Talk to your financial advisor or the institution that holds your account. You can set this up to take the place of your monthly or quarterly or annual giving to the church. If you have questions, contact Polly Irwin.

Save major denarii (money, you learned about this several weeks ago) on postage this year using our own, in-house, Christmas Post. For those “not-in-the-know”, you will see, suddenly appear, as if by divine intervention, a set of bins and a donation box in the narthex.



Place your postage free Christmas greetings in the appropriate bin (by last name) and place a donation in the box that is less \$\$ than what you would have paid uncle Sam to **possibly** deliver them, or wait, you could even put in MORE – Reminder from last year, do not put your PP&L bill in the bin it will not be paid for you! Please remember to check the bins and remove envelopes addressed to you. The proceeds benefit the Lutheran Camping Association. (Nawakwa, Kirchenwald, & The Whittel Farm)

Important Announcement

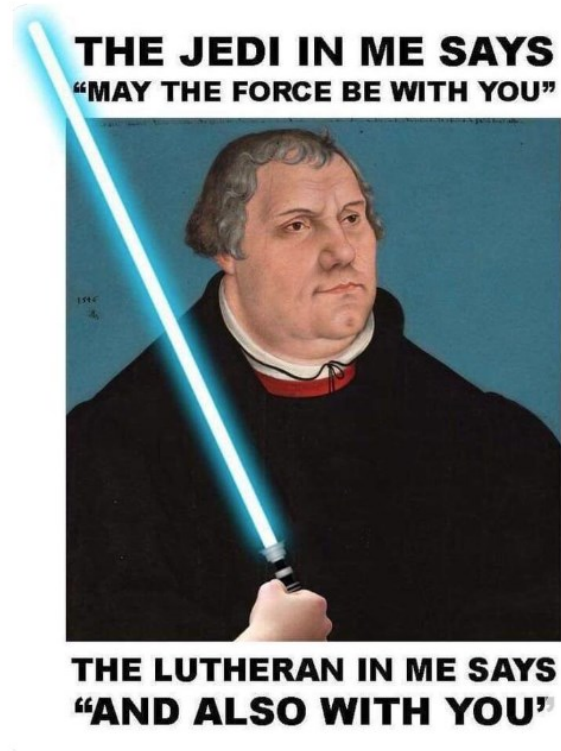
It is imperative when raising chickens and turkeys to keep them separated...otherwise there might be some fowl play.

The front Cover Image

This use of this image is compliments of LDS Daily (Latter Day Saints). You can access this image and more information with the following address:

<https://www.ldsdaily.com/entertainment/exclusive-makers-worlds-largest-live-nativity/>

A Little “Light” Humour



S O U P

The Fellowship Committee found itself elbow deep in soup while raising funds for our Capital Campaign for the Narthex and other areas.



While Lois Detz showed remarkable restraint, the excitement of prepping carrots took Lori Dierolf to another level.

Below we see more veggie preparation by Loren, Sue, Dave, and Sandy. Notable quotes from the event included: “Hey Dave, did you wash your hands?” To which Dave replied “you mean today, right?”



DU JOUR

Culinary expert and noodle aficionado Jim Dierolf puts on a smile as he demonstrates his superior knife skills dicing onions without tears. What a Guy! What a Guy!



Sylvia and Greg were in charge of selfies and other candid portraiture while helping with the event. (aren't they cute together)

A GREAT BIG ST. PAUL THANK YOU for the work, dedication, and seasonings of this, our St. Paul soup troupe.

Little Known Christmas Facts

Just before entering Bethlehem, one of the wise men asked the others what they brought for the Christ child. One answered “Gold”. And immediately the other two got upset saying that they had agreed on a 500 denarii limit. Then they said “well we’ll put all our names on them and say its from all of us. The king with the gold said, “No...I don’t think so”, and the rest is history.

While Joseph and Mary were travelling to Bethlehem, Mary asked, “are we there yet?” a biblically 70 x 7 times...and Joseph wept.

What a Lovely Bunch of Students



We are entering another semester of student dinners. MANY, I repeat, MANY of you are missing this opportunity for fellowship and home cooked dinners or suppers (defining the difference can be as touchy as settling the difference between a shindig and a hootenanny) A brand new sign-up sheet is available in the narthex. If you are not up to the task of a whole meal, team up with someone. The more the merrier. If you have questions or concerns about anything, especially student dinners, call or speak to Sharon Engle.

December 10th Survival guide:

What's Happening at St. Paul!

9:00 Worship

10:30ish Congregational Meeting

to approve the budget.

After the meeting: 10:45ish

Confirmation Class

Coffee & Cookie Fellowship

Sweet Treat Sunday (bring some)

Cheer Basket Assembly (need help)

3:00pm

Short Devotions

Hanging of the Greens (need help)

5:00pm

Chili Pot Lunch

(Yes, of course there's a signup sheet!)

December Sponsors & Volunteers

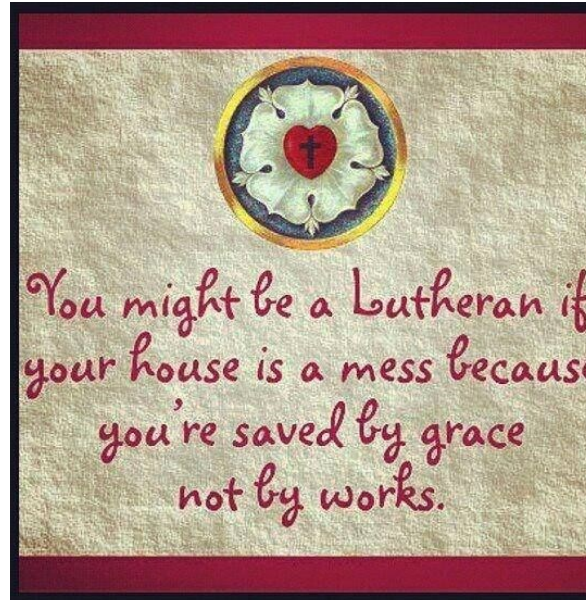
December	Bulletin Sponsors	Sunday School
December-3	Lori & Jim Dierolf	Holly
December-10	Boots & Don Horn	Rehearsal
December-17	Carol Heintzelman	Rehearsal
December-24am	Kay & Jim Dommel	Presentation
December-31	Lois & John Detz	No Class

December Flowers	Vase 1	Vase 2
December-3	Sharon & Bill Engle	Sharon & Bill Engle
December-10	Carol Heintzelman	Carol Heintzelman
December-17	Karen & Bill Napier	Kay & Jim Dommel
December-24	Joe Duschl	Joe Duschl
December-31	Karen Hallacher	Karen Hallacher

December Ushers	1	2	3	4
December-3	Dolores Garrett	Dick Shipman	Lois Detz	John Detz
December-10	Doris Shank	Bill Shank	Carol Heintzelman	Gail Miller
December-17	Sue Ellenberg	Dave Ellenberg	Mary Fritz	Cy Fritz
December-24am	needed	needed	needed	needed
December-24pm	Sylvia Lashley	Greg Lashley	Evan Schwebel	John Detz
December-31	Bill Engle	Evan Schwebel	Pat Hefner	Tim Brooks

December	Lay Reader	Assistant
December-3	Linda Hiney	Jim Dierolf
December-10	Greg Lashley	Lauren Buchmann
December-17	Jan Sylte	Ray Sylte
December-24am	Carol Heintzelman	Michele Carpenter
December-24pm	Linda Hiney	Holly Freas-Webster
December-31	Holly Freas-Webster	Tim Brooks

Home Sweet Home



December 24th

You will not have this opportunity again until 2028, or 2034, or 2051, or 2056, when Christmas eve is on Sunday and you'll get to experience an



Advent service in the morning and a Christmas Eve service that very evening. We will be holding the 4th Sunday of Advent service at 9am as usual, and then the candlelight Christmas eve service with music beginning at 6:30pm. While attendance at both is not exactly mandatory, it will reflect well on your permanent record if you attend



both...plus it will be fun. Wear a nice sweater to one and your ugliest Christmas sweater to the other. Either way, we look forward to you being there. Don't forget to check the Christmas Post for envelopes with your name!

Alright Folks, Wrap it Up!

So, Loft is running an event that collects gifts for its Penn Manor children of struggling families. All the Schools are collecting gifts and St. Paul members may also contribute. (cast your eyes to the right) When gifts arrive, they are unwrapped so that they may be sorted. BUT THEY NEED TO BE WRAPPED ONCE SORTED! That's where you come in. If you can wrap, are allowed to have sharp objects, and recognize that tape other than duct tape exists, we would love to have you help. At the church:

Friday, December 14th

9am - 12pm (some setup) (2-3 needed)

12pm-2pm (2 volunteers)

2pm-4pm (2 volunteers)

4pm-7pm (will include clean up) (2-3 needed)

Saturday, December 15th

Saturday 8am-10am (some setup) (2-3 needed)

Saturday 10am-12pm (store closing) (2-3 needed)



If you can help make this Christmas something for those children to remember, sign up to help in the narthex.

Thank you!

Happy Christmas!

(as we anglophiles say.)

Well, that's the goal anyway.

There are 400+ children in the Penn Manor school system that are part of a family in need, a family that the LOFT serves on a weekly basis. Penn Man-



or schools are collecting gifts that will be distributed to the 400+ children. YOU have an opportunity to be part of that. "How?", you may ask...excellent question. The Loft is collecting gifts here at the church as well from November 27 through December 11. You may bring a gift or gifts to the church and drop them off from 8am-12pm M-F or just

bring the gifts to church on Sunday. Gifts are NOT to be wrapped as they will be sorted into age appropriate designations by Loft volunteers. "What should I buy for my gift?"...another excellent question. Large items, like motorcycles, are discouraged. A gift buying guide PDF was emailed to every member. It is NOT necessary to buy the specific items that are shown, it is merely a reference; something to point you in the right direction. If you end up gifting a gift card and are concerned about security, put it in the secretary's mail box at any time marked "Loft". What does "for it is in giving that we receive" mean? Well, you'll have to try it to find out!



"God Bless Us, God Bless Us Everyone"

More On the Organ

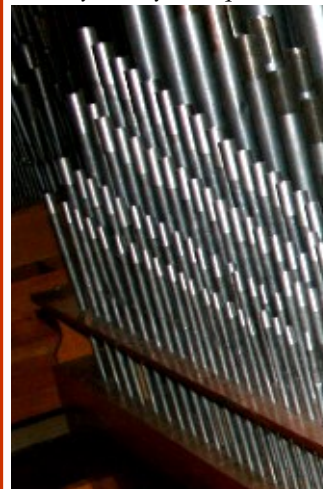
We will now look at two more organ pipe “families” or categories; Diapasons (also called Principals) and Mixtures. The basic foundation sound of an organ is the Diapason. It is not meant to be imitative of any orchestral instrument, it is the basic organ sound. It is a flue pipe, meaning no reed, but may or may not have a lid. The collection of Diapasons or Principals in a typical organ division, include ranks starting at the following lengths: 16’ (sometimes), 8’, 4’, and 2’.



Here you can see a selection of metal flue pipes of different sizes and shapes. The one on the far left is a Diapason. All these pipes have the same pitch, but each has a different tone quality. (timbre)

Our organ has these in 8, 4, and 2 foot lengths, which means there are 183 of

these in the open section of our organ. I would like to touch on Mixtures now briefly. They are quite complicated to the average person. On the left is part



of an chest of pipes. There are 4 rows of pipes at the front of it representing 4 different pitches. When 1 key is pressed, all 4 pipes play. For example, say middle C key is played, you will hear, higher than middle C, a C, a higher G, a higher C, and an even higher yet E. I would be glad to demonstrate this and go into more detail if someone is interested, but Mixtures, although powerful and wonderful, are very complex in many ways. I will be the first to admit that there is more that I don't know about them than what I do know.