

St. Paul's Letter

January 2024



When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Matthew 2:10-11



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

(recording secretary)

Bruce Hampton

Sue Swartz

Kay Dommel

Polly Irwin, Treasurer

(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

Hilariocity

So the cows and the bulls were grazing in the field when a great wind came and knocked several cows down but none of the bulls. This happened several times and, at the worst, the bulls swayed a little. Finally a cow goes to ask a bull what is going on. The bull's response: "We bulls wobble but we don't fall down".



Ray Sylte 4th
Jim Siglin 5th
Marilyn Homsher 10th
Maureen Klingaman 12th

Kay Dommel 23rd
Dave Ellenberg 25th
Ann Nagle 26th
Bill Shank 26th

If you have a January 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 to you.

**January 21st there will be an
Annual congregational meeting after the service
Please be there to vote.
Jan 28th snow date. (think "no snow, no snow")**

Focus on Our Family

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



This month's victims are Suzanne and Denny Herr. In gathering information for this article, Suzanne, former teacher and principal, turned in the assignment late...but on the positive side, there is enough information about her and Denny that one might call it a dossier. They were born 37 days apart from each other and both at Lancaster General Hospital. It looked something like this back in the days of yore when they were born. The horseless carriage parking lot had not yet been built.



Suzanne is a middle child. Go figure. She has two sisters, one three years older and one 2 years younger. The daughter of Dr. Harvey Lehman, she is about as local as they come. She was baptized here at St. Paul

by Pastor Lebo. Although a picture of the church back then could not be found, it may have looked something like this. Suzanne went on to graduate from Penn Manor High School, Whittenberg University, and did graduate work at Millersville and Penn State for her Principal Certificate. She is also a ICEA Childbirth Educator...ouch? Suzanne worked as an educator and ultimately a principal. Students loved to go to her office for a dose of her gentle, heartfelt, guidance. She also taught childbirth classes for six years, although most of her students left after only a few weeks. (ouch?)



Meanwhile, back on the ranch, out in the sticks, in a rural town called Rawlinsville, Denny Herr was lurking. He was baptized Roman Catholic, however, since his mother did not drive, and therefore did not go to mass, Denny went to the local Rawlinsville church, which was Methodist. Growing up with an older sister in a house his father, Aldus, had built, he graduated from Penn Manor High School after studying Industrial Arts. In 1971 Denny popped the question and Suzanne agreed. In 1972, after the wedding, Denny saw the transforming light, and joined St. Paul's. At some point after proposing, it occurred to Denny that they'll need a place to live. So he whipped out his slide rule, protractor, and T-

square and designed a house for them to live in. I took Denny about a year to finish the house and they moved in following their wedding. They still live there to this day although some of the candy has been replaced.



Denny's career was working for High Steel Structures for 44 years. Retiring in 2012, Denny received a 20 foot I-beam which he treasures to this day.

Denny and Suzanne have two daughters, Kate and Beth, and thanks to them, they have four grandchildren. They currently have two dogs, and one cat. (there's something so good about dog people...right? No comment about the cat., we'll overlook that.)

Suzanne says, " the most unusual thing I have ever done: SCUBA diving, that's right up there, but the winner is the time my family and I walked the entire perimeter of Vatican City because my Dad kept saying 'I know the entrance is just around this corner on the right.' We had started just around the corner of the entrance on the LEFT!"

The Most unusual thing Denny has ever done: In the early years of employment at High Steel, he worked on the Columbia Bridge project. While on a break, on the top of a 70 foot high pier, unattached to any tie-off, he took a short nap while waiting for a crane to deliver steel masonry plates. This was in the middle of the Susquehanna River on an unattached pier where he had been previously placed by a construction crane. You read that right folks - he took a nap. WOW. Together their service to this church is amazing. Here is a listing of their contributions.

Denny

Property Committee
 Usher Coordinator
 Member of Worship and Music
 Member of Church Council
 Youth Advisor
 Advent Wreath installation
 Christmas Tree acquiring,
 putting up and taking down
 Putting up drapes on the large cross
 Chairman of the Memorial
 Garden Cemetery

Suzanne

Sunday School teacher
 S. S. Superintendent
 Youth Group Advisor
 Chair of Call Committee
 Chair of Capital Campaign
 Served on Church Council
 Member of Worship and Music
 Coordinator of Shut-in Communion Ministry
 Currently teaching Adult Forum
 Sang in vocal choir
 Played in the handbell choir

Denny Hobbies: NASCAR his 1971 Mercury Comet, Birds, television crime shows, music, lawn tractor rehabbing, Internet surfing, tinkering in the garage, playing with the dog.



Suzanne hobbies: guitar, piano, reading, music, birdwatching, swimming, sailing, anything to do with the ocean, SCUBA diving.

Finance, Finance, Finance

November Finance Update:

Giving Income	\$16,087.00
Other Income	\$11,354.78
November Expenses	\$32,504.73
November Deficit	\$(5,062.95)



Church Council Updates

- Much, not all, of the c. 1972 shrubbery around the building is slated to be removed. Much of it is overgrown and too woody and creating some drainage issues. The overhanging trees are also set to be trimmed.
- Beginning in January, Michele Carpenter will assume the role of council Secretary
- A Constitution Committee is being formed to review our constitution and, if necessary, suggest changes or additions to it. If you are interested, please see Dave Ellenberg.
- Property Committee is desperately seeking volunteers to help when the need arises. Having a call list would be very beneficial when help is needed. We recently had a significant amount of water in the basement (source and problem located and being addressed) but Polly, Scott and Cathy spent many hours cleaning it up.
- Property is also looking for someone to regularly clear leaves from the drain and the bottoms of the outside steps to Fellowship hall. When this fills with leaves, the drain fails and water enters Fellowship hall. Obviously, this is a seasonal thing. Talk to Scott or Bruce and ask them what YOU can do to help...it will be most appreciated

Millersville U Students Care Packages

Again, thanks to your generosity, and a grant from Thrivent, we were able to assemble around 200 care packages for students as they began their finals week. There were many hands on board assembling the packages.



Above and left is the assembly line putting them together. Below are Gaynel, Bill and Cy handing them out at the university.



Intergenerational Advent Event

Our own Holly Freas-Webster led a craft and snack event for all ages on December 3rd, the first Sunday of Advent.



Although this craft does not feature glitter, there was more than enough to go around... everywhere!

Here's Layla working on her craft giving us a wonderful smile for the picture. Elaina was receiving critical crafting strategies and advice from Conner. She was totally engrossed making her craft when the picture was taken.



Cheer Baskets 2023!

Using your many generous donations, plus more purchased with a Thrivent Grant, members of the congregation formed an assembly line to put together Cheer Baskets for the 100th year in a row. This ministry is something you all should be very proud of. After the baskets were assembled, many volunteers delivered the baskets to as far away as Delaware!



A
fun
time
was
had
by
all.



Congregational Meeting

December 10, 2023

Minutes from Special Congregational Meeting for 2024 Budget Approval

- The meeting was called to order by Dave Ellenberg at 10:20am
- Dave introduced the Finance team with worked to developed the budget (Karen Napier-Chair, Jim Dierolf, Michele Carpenter (new member), Mike Althouse, and Poly Irwin (treasurer)
- Meeting was turned over to Jim Dierolf
- Jim thanked all who were involved to get the budget to this point.
- Jim went over the overview (pie chart) and briefly covered staff costs and property costs.
- Jim acknowledged the fact that the budget is presented with a deficit of \$37,812 and explained that revenue gifts and additional congregational gifts typically make up the difference.
- Jim opened the meeting up to questions and answered them as they arose.
- Jim turned the meeting over to Dave Ellenberg.
- Ray Sylte made a motion that the budget be accepted as presented Sue Ellenberg Seconded the motion.
- The motion was passed with unanimous consent, there were no objections or nay votes.
- Pr. Kopp closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.
- Meeting was adjourned at 10:30am

O Tannenbaum

The process of raising the Christmas tree is rather complex. It requires an upper management team, a middle management team,



laborers, and a floor supervisor. (Dave)



Installing the tree stand is half the battle. The group seen here is forcing the tree to succumb to the will of the workers. “We will prevail” and “We shall overcome” was chanted repeatedly. (no, not really)

Proper Angel placement and installation is a most critical element. Putting it on before the tree is up makes it unnecessary to go up high on the ladder and fuss with it. The angel is placed high on top of the tree so that she may sing out about the birth of Christ...and so that, if we listen carefully, we can sing “Angels we have Heard in High.”

More on pg.13



January Sponsors & Volunteers

January	Bulletin Sponsors	Sunday School
January-7	Lori & Jim Dierolf	Linda Hampton
January-14	Celeste & Tim Brooks	Sue Swartz
January-21	Carol Heintzelman	Sue Swartz
January-28		Karen Napier

January Flowers	Vase 1	Vase 2
January-7		
January-14	Carol Heintzelman	Carol Heintzelman
January-21	Frank Witmer	Kay Dommel
January-28	Lois & John Detz	Marty & Bill Kahler

January Ushers	1	2	3	4
January-7	Jo Harris	Dave Harris	Marty Kahler	Bill Kahler
January-14	Polly Irwin	Scott Irwin	Lori Dierolf	Jim Dierolf
January-21	Linda Hampton	Bruce Hampton	Anita Roma	Mike Althouse
January-28	Maureen Klingaman	Loren Klingaman	Holly Freas Webster	Cathy Trissel

January	Lay Reader	Assistant
January-7	Linda Hampton	Sue Ellenberg
January-14	Jan Sylte	Ray Sylte
January-21	Karen Napier	Lauren Buchmann
January-28	Carol Heintzelman	Tim Brooks

O Tannenbaum (cont'd)



The angel, however, had other ideas, and is seen here attempting flight to leave the scene. After Pr. Kopp straightened her out. She made another attempt to flee.



Dave Harris made light work of it. Eventually, everything was in its place. And Gloria, the Angel, decided to cooperate, however, it was under duress.



Freakishly Tall Elves Spotted at Local Church

(Washington Post) Recent gift giving event to benefit children in the Penn Manor school district has given rise to rumors of merrily clad elves running about the church. Once the rumor started spreading, Christmas paparazzi immediately started pouring in with cell phone cameras at the ready. When the elves saw that pictures were being taken they scattered around the building, as if playing hide-and-seek, to avoid their picture being taken. (they may have been Amish elves) A few pictures were successfully taken.

The elf in charge, whose title is Supreme Leader Master Elf Jenna, when asked to explain herself, tried to pin the blame or on others stating that the event has been a big success and thanks to Sue, Dave, Cathy, Pastor for his blessing, and the amazing quilting team turned gift wrappers. She was grateful to all of the supporters of this event the blessed the Christmas of almost 375 Penn Manor area children this Christmas. Supreme Leader Master Elf Jenna is up for re-election next year, but is unopposed.

Below, six (look carefully) of the giant elves, one normal sized elf and one mini elf agreed to a picture. The normal six elf on the right is Supreme Leader Master Elf Jenna. After much coercing, S.L.M.E. Jenna convinced other mythical beings to have their picture taken as well.



In this picture,
Jenna
IS
standing!

Freakishly (cont'd)



One of our own, Sue, infiltrated the elf gang to gather information. Her next assignment, should she choose to accept it, is un-

dercover at Keebler.



Polly, a member of the quilters guild, was not in uniform



but helped to wrap gifts. It is estimated that she alone used 1.834 miles of tape and 2 acres of wrapping paper. Fellow quilters Dee and Gail, attempting to blend in, also wrapped many presents. EMT's were on hand for critical paper cuts and scissor related cuts and amputations. Fortunately, none were reported.

Many thanks to all St. Paul members who either donated their time and/or donated gifts.
There is, indeed, joy in giving.

Evidence of Possible Fencing Operation

A search warrant was executed at St. Paul Lutheran church looking for evidence of elves. During the raid, massive amounts of toys were out in plain view. Pictures were taken as evidence of what may be a toy-fencing operation. North Pole authorities are investigating. Supreme Leader and Master Elf Jenna, remained silent offering no information or comments about the accusation of toy fencing. The investigation is ongoing, but there are no charges currently pending.



More Gifting

As we approach Epiphany, January 6th and celebrated on the 7th, some of us will must ask ourselves, “self, what is this Epiphany thing?”. Epiphany, also known as "Theophany" in Eastern Christian tradition, is a Christian feast day commemorating the visit of the Magi, also known affectionately as the “wise guys”.

These travelers, who followed the star in the east , may have arrived when Jesus was about 2 years old. Most scholars believe Jesus was approximately 2 years old when the wise men came. Several things point to this. Two verses, in particular, can be used to help in determining the answer. “And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshipped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh” (Matthew 2:11). Matthew tells us that when Herod realized that the magi had not returned to tell him the exact location of where the Christ was living, he ordered every child two years old and younger to be murdered. “Then when Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he became very enraged, and sent and slew all the male children who were in Bethlehem and all its vicinity, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the magi. (Matthew 2:16) Verse 16 tells us that Herod had determined that the magi had seen the star two years earlier.

So what were these gifts? While one self appointed scholar believes that there was a 4th magi who brought fruit cake, which Mary and Joe kept for years and attempted to re-gift many times, there is no evidence remaining in the bible of such a gift. King James probably listened to Bill Shakespeare’s advice and cut that part out...we may never know. It is assumed that the Magi brought the gifts with them from their homeland since upscale gift shoppes were not that common yet. They brought gifts of Gold, Frankincense, and myrrh. While worth a fortune, they also give clues to where they came from. The online version of Encyclopædia Britannica states: "According to Western church tradition, Balthasar is often

Continued on pg 18

More Gifting (cont'd)

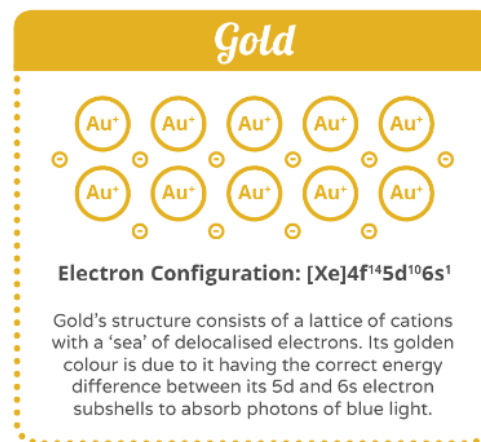
represented as a king of Arabia or sometimes Ethiopia, Melchior as a king of Persia, and Gaspar as a king of India." In the East, however, other names for the Magi appear. Many Syrian Christians call them Larvandang, Gushnasaph, and Hormisdas. Ethiopians name them Hor, Karsudan, and Basanater, while Armenians call them Kagpha, Badadakharida, and Badalilma.

The Western tradition of their names seems to have derived from a Greek manuscript most likely composed about the year 500 in Alexandria, Egypt, and translated into Latin. A second Greek document, from the eighth century, continues that tradition and adds other details. It is presumed to be of Irish origin and was also translated into Latin.

Matthew does not specify how many kings visited, which allows for the possibility of the fruit cake king, possibly from Italy, and possibly named Guido.



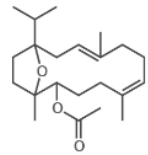
There may be a quiz on this information after church on January 7th. (and not, not an open book quiz)



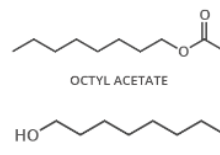
More Gifting (cont'd even more)



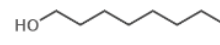
Frankincense



INCENSOLE ACETATE



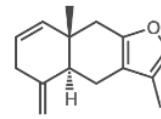
OCTYL ACETATE



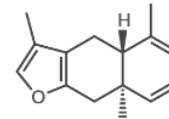
OCTANOL

Frankincense resin is used as incense, with its smell the result of various compounds produced when it is burned. These include those shown above, as well as several terpenoid compounds. Research suggests that the compound incensole acetate could help alleviate anxiety & depression.

Myrrh



LINDESTRENE






FURANOEUDESMA-1,3-DIENE

Myrrh resin, like frankincense, can be used in incense & perfumes, though it also has medicinal applications. Its aroma comes from a family of compounds called furanosesquiterpenes. Animal studies have suggested some compounds in myrrh can have an analgesic effect.

Just...One...More

An old lady went into a pet store, found a parrot, and asked the owner if she could buy it. The owner said, "No! That parrot has a bad mouth! Trust me - you do not want that parrot!" She said, "I can teach it good manners." But, when she got home the parrot immediately said a bad word, so she put it in the freezer for 10 seconds. She took it out and said, "Did you learn your lesson?" The parrot said another bad word so she put it back in for 20 seconds. She took it out and asked if it learned its lesson yet? The shivering parrot said "Yes, I learned my lesson, but what did the chicken do?" (no parrots were injured or frozen in the creation of this joke, the chicken, however...perhaps Paul Harvey can answer that one)

Wiseman
Old Fashioned ^ Fruitcake
Recipe

 Prep Time: 15 minutes	 Cook Time: 1 hour 45 minutes	 Total Time: 2 hours
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Servings: 20 servings
Calories: 350

Ingredients

1x
2x
3x

- 1 pound pecans
- 1 pound dates, pitted and chopped
- ½ pound candied cherries, (red and green)
- ½ pound candied pineapple, (red and green or yellow)
- ¼ cup sugar
- ¼ cup flour
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon kosher salt
- 3 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract, or 1 tablespoon rum, bourbon, or brandy

1. Preheat oven to 250° degrees (that is not a typo-TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY degrees)
2. Place a pan ⅓ filled with boiling water in the oven to create steam. Put it on the rack under the rack where the fruitcake pans will go.
3. Fill the pan with hot water as needed during baking.
4. Spray two 9-inch loaf pans with cooking spray and line with wax paper or parchment paper.
5. Spray wax paper with cooking spray.
6. Chop dates and nuts.
7. Add them to a large bowl.
8. Sift dry ingredients over fruit and nuts and mix in with your hands.
9. Beat eggs until light, add vanilla and pour over fruit, mixing well. (you will probably need to mix with your hands - it's messy.)

10. Spoon fruit cake batter into prepared pans, pressing down gently to remove large air bubbles and spaces.
11. Place the filled loaf pans onto the rack above the pan with hot water.
12. Bake at 250 for 1 hour and 45 minutes.
13. Let cool.
14. Wrap tightly and save for unexpected/unwanted guests.



Children's Presentation

Our church family is blessed to again have children in our midst. On Christmas Eve morning, the children presented a play about the Christmas story with a modern twist. (for example, one of the gifts presented to the baby Jesus was a soccer ball so that someday he might be able to play). Many thanks to Lucy for directing the children and to Sue Swartz for helping contain the children's "enthusiasm". Thanks to Gaynel for providing baby Jesus (which is another article in itself) and for ironing all the costumes. And HUGE thanks



to the parents/
Grandparents who had the children there for rehearsals and the presentation. (Apologies for the picture quality, it is a 20+ year old digital camera. I think a new one is in order)

The rather large child on the left is Holly, who was an understudy for one of the children who was ill and could not be there. Thank you to the children for presenting their musical. (well, there were hymns) We look forward to next year!



Something From Our Past

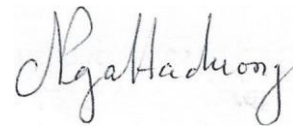
Dear Reverend Pastor and the Congregation of Saint Paul Lutheran Church,

I apologize for not responding to you last year about who we are and our history with your church.

In 1975, we were refugees from South Vietnam. At that time, we were a family of three: my husband, Duc Haduong, myself, Nga Haduong, and our 18 month old son Thang. Shortly after we landed in the US, Saint Paul Lutheran Church sponsored our family to come to Lancaster, PA. The pastor then was Pastor William O. Avery. We lived with Mr. & Mrs. William Edward Pederson, members of the church, for six months. Mr. Pederson gave our son his American name Teddy, and his full name is Thang Teddy Haduong. Our middle daughter was born in Lancaster in 1977 and we named her Josephine Hoatuyet after Mrs. Josephine Pederson. In November of that year we moved to Madison, Wisconsin and in 1978 our youngest daughter was born, May Hong. Later that year, we moved to southern California. My husband had earned a business degree from Cal State Long Beach in 1970 and was familiar with the area. (He came back to Vietnam in 1970, and we fled after the fall of Saigon in 1975.) My husband and I eventually opened a bookkeeping business that catered mostly to the Vietnamese community in Little Saigon. We bought a home and raised our kids in Huntington Beach. We retired in 2014. In 2020, my husband passed away at the age of 84. My eldest son Teddy works as a lab tech. My middle daughter Josie is a pediatric oncologist, she is married and has two children Lily 12 and Liem 6. My youngest daughter, May, is Director at UCLA Film & Television Archive. We all live within 35 miles of each other. I pick up my grandchildren from school several times a week.

Our family remains deeply grateful to the kindness and generosity of the American people, especially to all the members past, present, and future of Saint Paul Lutheran Church. What a wonderful blessing to have received upon landing in our new country! Please accept our very best wishes for joy and happiness! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to the Reverend pastor, the entire congregation of Saint Paul Lutheran Church, and all the members of Saint Paul Lutheran church!

Sincerely yours,



Nga Haduong

Joyeux Noël

Christmas Eve candlelight was celebrated again this year with children presenting the figures for the cheche and a visit from Santa to honor the Christ child as well. Pastor Kopp led Silent Night on the guitar as we passed the candle light from person to person. (see back page) The service was, as usual, meaningful and fulfilling, and at the end, full of smokey goodness as all the candles were all extinguished.



Pr. Kopp leading silent night by guitar.



All is calm,
All is bright.

Silent Night

Possible flood damage to the organ at St. Nicholas Church in Oberndorf, Austria, may have played a part in the creation of Silent Night and its guitar accompaniment. It was 205 years ago when "Silent Night" was first heard by Austrian villagers attending Christmas Eve mass. The words were written in 1816 by a young priest in Austria, Joseph Mohr, not long after the Napoleonic wars had taken their toll. The story goes that the priest went for a walk before he wrote it, and he looked out over a very quiet, winter-laden town, and was inspired...the town was at peace.

It was Christmas Eve, 1818, when the carol was first performed as *Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht*. Joseph Mohr, the young priest who wrote the lyrics, played the guitar and sang along with Franz Xaver Gruber, the choir director who had written the melody.

One thing that gives credence to the damaged organ lore, is the fact that an organ builder and repair man, working at the church, took a copy of the six-verse song to his home village. There, it was picked up and spread by two families of traveling folk singers who performed around northern Europe. In 1834, the Strasser family performed it for the King of Prussia. In 1839, the Rainer family of singers debuted the carol outside Trinity Church in New York City. St. Nicholas church was eventually destroyed by repeated flooding and replaced with the Silent-Night-Chapel.

This Christmas Eve we honored the tradition again with Pastor Kopp Leading us in the guitar.

Silent Night has been translated into over 300 languages.



Silent Night Chapel