

St. Paul's Letter

February 2024



"for dust you are and to dust you shall return"

Genesis 3:19

Ash Wednesday February 14th



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

A young man goes to the doctor complaining that he has always fatigued. He says that he collapses when he gets home from work every day. The doctor asks him what he does for work. The young man explains that he installs mufflers. The doctor says, "Well no wonder young man, that's exhausting work!"



"Valentines day is nice and all, but what is truly important, is that there is chocolate involved."

Napier

February

Elaina Van Aulen 2nd
Jim Dierolf Feb 8th
Judy Kirchner 6th
Lori Dierolf Feb 14th
Steve Daugherty 15th
Dolores Garret Feb 16th
Linda Hampton 23rd

If you have a February 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. (*warning*: a birthyear will also be assigned!)

Focus on Our Family



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

This month's victim is Sandy Elliot-Kreider! She too is relatively new and something of an enigma. Well, this article will put all your questions to rest. (except for shoe size and favorite Italian dish, they remain confidential, so don't ask)

In the Beginning

Sandy is another "local" who left Lancaster but found her way back to the promised land. She was born and raised in Lancaster County starting out in the outskirts of Millersville, where few may wander, but rarely return. Many may know her father, Allen Kreider, who was the electrical contractor in the area. She began her education in the Penn Manor Schools and finished at Manheim Township. This transition may have caused great internal conflict when rooting for football teams; she hasn't said either way and we may never know what she went through sports team wise.

Sandy started working at age 12 with a paper route, back when you carried them door to door, delivering an estimated 412 papers daily. (just guessing, that's why it's an estimate, but the mental imagery is great). She was also a Candy Striper at Lancaster General Hospital. That is where she got her love for candy nursing. During her High School tenure, she obtained her Certified Nurse's Aide certificate. This certification enabled her to advance from candy to actual patients. She continued many years until going back to school to be a Registered Nurse.

The Great Escape

After getting married, she fled to northern New York by the Canadian border, across from Kingston Ontario. With a little practice she could correctly pro-noun-ciate "good day eh?" and "fur shur". Although tempted to learn metric, so she could be conversant with her Canadian neighbors, she remained proudly American and refused to learn looking up the conversions only when necessary. She had 6 children, 5 boys and then a daughter.

Triumphant Return

She lived in New York for 35 years then divorced. At that point, her uncontrollable homing instinct made her long for the comfort of home. Re-

turning to the “scene of the crime”, she packed her bags and moved back home...even replacing “fur shur” with “you bet”. This was a scary time, leaving her children and grandchildren and coming back after 35 years. Sandy and her children made it work with visits throughout the year. With “FaceTime” use, she doesn't miss out on too much.

The Time of Temptation

She was raised Methodist and has always been active in the church. While her children were growing, she was involved with VBS, teaching Sunday school, and attended Women’s retreats. However, when she returned to Lancaster, she felt like she wanted a change. The Methodist Church was changing so, she was tempted, and started to look into the Catholic Church. However, a very good, apparently, Catholic friend told her she should try a Lutheran Church first!

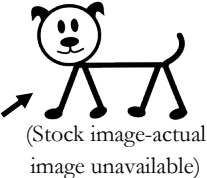
Once You Go Lutheran, You Never Go Back

So, a (Lutheran) angel appeared and said “Sandy, to go to St. Paul’s Millersville”. And it came to pass that she did come to St. Paul’s to check us out. Needless to say, she loved it here! Who wouldn’t? Sandy found us very welcoming, we still had traditional services, plus we were close to home. The Holy Trifecta! While attending St. Paul’s, she’s become involved with the Altar Guild and helped with VBS this past summer. Since retiring this year she’s looking forward to attending the Bible Study group.

Favorites



Her best friend is her Golden Doodle Rusty! You will find them taking hikes and walks in her neighborhood. She also likes to bike on some of the trails in the area. Once April gets here thru November, she’ll head to her camper at Rehoboth just to make the rest of us jealous. (Perhaps a massive surprise visit is in order! Look



for the sign up sheet)

Conclusion

“I would like to say I’m so happy to have found my church family and, I look forward to us growing in faith and sharing with our community. God is good! One last thing is my favorite Hymns: Amazing Grace and, It is Well with my Soul.”

Finance, Finance, Finance

December Finance Update:

Giving Income	\$19,232.00
Other Income	\$ 5,612.67
December Expenses	\$19,077.90
December balance	\$ 5,766.77



Thank You

From Betty Bringman:

“A special thank you to everyone who helped me with the flowers in the church and planting geraniums for the last 13 years.

Linda Hampton helped taking flowers to shut-ins this past year. She will be taking over for me.

Bill Napier did many a task helping in many ways, it was his first full year in the office. I appreciate all his help.”

*Fondly,
Betty Bringman*

Also from Betty Bringman:

I was surprised to have gotten a Cheer Basket this year, I do thank you for thinking of me, the thought was appreciated. Thank you John and Lois for the delivery.

Also a heartwarming thank you to the church for giving me a beautiful bouquet of flowers. That was touching and the flowers were my favorite colors. Sue and Dave brought me the flowers. Your kindness touched my heart forever St. Paul's church.

*Fondly,
Betty Bringman*

More Thanks

We received gifts from Nga Haduong, May Haduong, and Josie Haduong, (now Valentes). Many here may not remember them or might not have been a part of the church when we sponsored them. Here is their letter.

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

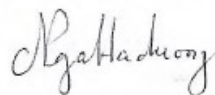
I apologize for not responding to you last year about who we are and our history with your church.

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,



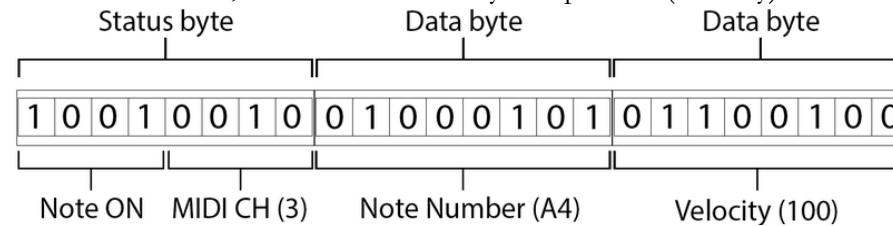
Nga Haduong

December 14, 2023

Look Ma! No Hands!

How perplexing is it when the organist comes down for communion and the organ is still playing? Well, few have asked, but here it is anyway.

It all starts with MIDI, an acronym for Musical Instrument Digital Interface. It is a standard, like USB, that manufacturers have agreed upon. The MIDI standard was established in 1983 by a consortium of musical equipment manufacturers. The standard was so successful that very popular products that did have MIDI capabilities were soon removed from the market. MIDI allows up to 16 different synthesizers or musical instruments to be controlled (played) from ONE keyboard or computer. Simplicity is part of the reason that this format has been so successful and enduring. How many computer standards last 41 years? So what is the MIDI standard or language? I could show a graphic that detailing the complexity of the Midi messages, however, the essentials will do for this article. Each MIDI message communicates what channel is to respond, what note (C,D,E,F,G etc.) is to be played, when the note (key) is played, when it is released, and how fast the key was pressed (velocity).



There is a plethora of additional information that is communicated, but for our purposes, this diagram is sufficient. Fortunately, one does not have to be fluent in binary or hexadecimal (base 16) programming (both are used). There are programs that do that for you. The program used for the church is called Sibelius. It allows the user to use a piano/MIDI keyboard and play the music into the computer. Sibelius then displays the music you just played as regular music notes and rests...mistakes and all. Here you can correct mistakes, embellish, or arrange the music however you like. At the church, a hymn is entered into Sibelius either by playing or other means. When it is displayed in Sibelius, it is displayed using

No Hands (cont'd)

typical two staff notation. Shown here the beginning of “Here I Am Lord” in piano notation:



But the organ can't handle that...well...it could play it, but it would sound strange. It needs to be divided into three staves: Great (the lower set of keys), Pedals, and Swell (our topmost set of keys),

So it needs to be manipulated (by Bill) into this:

A three-staff organ notation for the beginning of "Here I Am Lord". The tempo is marked as ♩ = 100. Above the staves is a series of stop numbers: ~X 0,32,28,1,1,0,0,0,0,96,68,6,32,6,1,0,32,0,247. The first ~X series turns all stops off, and the second turns the desired stops on. The Great staff (top) has a treble clef and contains the main melody. The Pedal staff (middle) has a bass clef and contains a bass line. The Swell staff (bottom) has a treble clef and contains the melody. The Swell staff is labeled "Intro" and the Pedal staff is labeled "Intro & 3vs".

This is an actual screen shot of “Here I Am Lord” that I used a few weeks ago. The ♩ = 100 is the tempo, in this case 100 beats per minute. The top line of music is for the Great keyboard, the middle staff is for the Pedals, and the bottom staff is for the Swell keyboard, which in this case has the melody. The long series of numbers following the tilde (~X) tells the organ what stops to use. The first ~X series I have turns all the stops off (safety precaution) and the next ~X series turns the stops I want on. I have written an Excel program to generate those series based on a graphic interface I developed that simulates the actual draw knobs on the organ (stop knobs). *(Turn the page for more fun and excitement)*

No Hands (cont'd)

After I get all the subtle nuances added: parts may look like this. The tempo changes are subtle but allows for a more natural singing of the hymn(s). Some notes are made longer and some shorter to reflect how we sing the hymn. If the nuances were not added it would be tricky, if not annoying, to try to sing along with the organ. For example, there would be no slight slowing at the end of a verse and you would have to immediately jump into the next verse without that little gap between the verses -literally, without missing a beat. These are some of the many nuances added. Now this is just for the hymn introduction. Once that is completed, it is copied the requisite number of times needed for the verses. More tweaks are added to change stops periodically and harmonic changes are made to add interest. Some can get quite complex such as the end of ELW770, Give Me Jesus:

Intro Refrain

Tempo markings: ♩ = 90, ♩ = 60, ♩ = 20, ♩ = 40, ♩ = 90, ♩ = 85

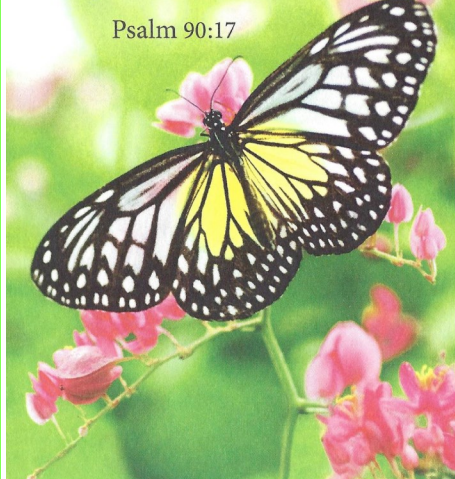
So this Easter, when we sing the Halleluia chorus, the timpani and strings are from the same file as the organ, thanks to MIDI.

Great, Pedal, Swell, Violin 1, Violin 2, Timpani

Merci Beaucoup, Danke schön

Let the beauty
of the Lord our God
be upon us...

Psalm 90:17



To the members of St. Paul
I would like to express
my sincere thanks + gratitude
for your most generous gift.
As most of you know, music
is a very important thing in
my life. I consider it a
privilege to be a small
part of bringing music
to our service.

Thank-you all so much,

Sincerely
Lucy Esbenshade

To my fellow members from Gail Gilday
I wish that I had adequate words to
express my appreciation for the many
ways that our ministry blesses my
life each and every day. From inspiring
worship experiences to warm welcomes,
visits from Pastor Kopp, altar flowers,
and Christmas Cheer Baskets.
We are "letting our light so shine"
Thanks be to God!

Sincerely,
Gail Gilday

February Sponsors & Volunteers

February	Bulletin Sponsors	Sunday School
February-4	Dee Perry	Linda Hampton
February-11	Bernice & Mike Althouse	Karen Napier
February-18	Barb & Peter Conforti	Linda Hampton
February-25	Marty & Bill Kahler	

February Flowers	Vase 1	Vase 2
February-4	Celeste & Tim Brooks	Celeste & Tim Brooks
February-11	Lori & Jim Dierolf	Dolores Garrett
February-18	Carol Heintzelman	Barb & Peter Conforti
February-25	Betty Bringman	

February Ushers	1	2	3	4
February-4	Carol Heintzelman	Betty Bringman	Suzanne Herr	Denny Herr
February-11	Karen Napier	Pat Hefner	Sylvia Lashley	Greg Lashley
February-18	Tim Brooks	Dolores Garrett	Jan Sylte	Ray Sylte
February-25	Maureen Klingaman	Loren Klingaman	Gail Miller	Kathy Trissel

February	Lay Reader	Assistant
February-4	Frank Witmer	Sue Ellenberg
February-11	Suzanne Herr	Lauren Buchmann
February-14	Linda Hiney	Michele Carpenter
February-18	Greg Lashley	Michele Carpenter
February-25	Carol Heintzelman	Tim Brooks

It's Lutheran Thing

You Know You're a Lutheran If:

- you believe in prayer, but would practically die if asked to pray out loud.
- you like to sing, except when confronted with a new hymn or a hymn with more than four stanzas.
- you believe your pastor will visit you in the hospital, even if you don't notify them that you are there.
- you still have coffee after the service when it is 100 degrees out with 100% humidity.
- you carry silverware in your pocket to church just in case there's a potluck
- the only mealtime prayer you know is "Come Lord Jesus."

So technically Moses was the first man to download files from the cloud using a tablet.



Why and How Do We Use Ashes on Ash Wednesday?

Background: Why? Ash Wednesday is the Wednesday of the seventh week before Easter and the first day of Lent. The day is named for the practice of imposing ashes, a practice that many Lutheran congregations have found to be a very meaningful part of the Ash Wednesday liturgy.

Using ashes as a sign of repentance is an ancient practice, often mentioned in the Bible (e.g., Jonah 3:5-9; Job 42:6; Jeremiah 6:26; Matthew 11:21). The early Christians adopted the use of ashes from Jewish practice as an external mark of penitence.

Ashes symbolize several aspects of our human existence:

- Ashes remind us of God's condemnation of sin, as God said to Adam, "Dust you are and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19).
- Ashes suggest cleansing and renewal. They were used anciently in the absence of soap. Even on Ash Wednesday, this most penitential day, we receive ashes in the form of the cross, the same symbol placed on our bodies with water in our baptism. Even in this ashen mark of death, we anticipate the new life of Easter.
- Ashes remind us of the shortness of human life, for it is said as we are buried into the ground or as ashes are placed in a columbarium* "We commit this body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust".
- Ashes are a symbol of our need to repent, confess our sins, and return to God.

The liturgy for Ash Wednesday can be found in both the Evangelical Lutheran Worship (p. 251) and Leaders Desk Edition (p. 615). In the liturgy, the confession and imposition of ashes follow the sermon and hymn of the day. Following an Invitation to Lent, confession marks the beginning of a season of penitence. The Maundy Thursday absolution is the structural response to the Ash Wednesday confession, marking off Lent as a penitential time. At the conclusion of the Ash Wednesday confession and imposi-

tion of ashes, a declaration of grace is used, coupled with a plea for mercy.

Practice: How? Those who desire to receive ashes come forward and may stand/kneel. Ashes are applied with the minister's thumb in the form of a small cross on the forehead of each person with the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Pastors and one or more assisting ministers may impose ashes, depending up the size of your assembly and local practice. Several prie-dieu (kneelers) can be stationed in appropriate places for the imposition so that people can freely move to them as they choose. Silence may be kept or appropriate music can accompany the imposition of ashes. The music may continue until the ministers have cleansed their hands and all have returned to their places.

Making Your Own Ashes- Ashes are made from the palms used to observe the Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday. Cut the palms into small pieces with scissors. Burn them in a brazier or steel bucket. Store the ashes in a sealed plastic bag or container. They will last for years.

Preparing for the imposition of ashes

- Mix the ashes with a few drops of olive or mineral oil until the ashes are just moist enough to bind together and will adhere to one's skin.
- Place the ashes in a small bowl. The quantity of ash needed will not be large.
- A lavabo bowl¹ and towel should be provided for cleansing the minister's hands after the imposition. Fresh lemon can be quartered and placed in bowl to help cut the oil down. Adding a few drops of liquid hand soap to the water in the bowl can also help.
- Place the ashes, lavabo bowl and towel on a credence table

*A columbarium is a room, building, or wall that is designated for the interment of the ashes of people who have died and been cremated. The term "columbarium" comes from the Latin "columba," meaning dove because columbaria usually have niches to hold the urns that resemble those in dovecotes, or dove houses.

Source: ELCA Worship Resources FAQs webpage

Thank You Quilters!

Our quilting/gift wrapping team received a letter of thanks from the Lutheran World Relief. Here is an excerpt from the thank you letter:



Thank You!


The kindness and love you show your neighbors in Christ is truly transformational. Quilts and kits are both practical and comforting. Wherever they are in the world and whatever challenges they face, the families who receive them can truly feel the love and care that quilters and kit makers put into them.

In colder regions of Tanzania, quilts are actually helping children grow! Researchers recently discovered that many children in these regions did not have adequate bedding and were using too many calories to keep their bodies warm — taking away valuable energy they need to grow. For children who are already hungry or malnourished, this can create long-term problems with their physical growth and mental development. But, wrapped in a warm and cozy quilt, they can sleep soundly and grow up healthy.

And that is just one example of how your generosity helps. Whether a quilt or kit reaches a family in a refugee camp, a new mother in an urban slum or a child in a remote village, your kindness brings comfort and hope to people when they need it most.

I am so grateful for the love you are bestowing on our neighbors around the world.

Thank you,


Ambassador Daniel V. Speckhard
President and CEO

P.S. God bless you and your generous spirit.

Thank you to our quilters.
Here's a little something I found, it just seemed ok to include it:

