

St. Paul's Letter
March 2024

The Lord

has

Risen,

He is Risen

Indeed!



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 'cello player was found dead yesterday and police suspect foul play. They believe the crime was orchestrated but did not rule out random acts of violins.

Emma Landis 2nd

Drucilla Nace 5th

Gail Gilday 6th

Betty Bringman 7th

Greg Lashley 7th

Bev Arnold 10th

Peggy Bruce 13th

Glenda Hurtt 15th

Karen Napier 19th
(Yes, she's older than Bill)
Bill Napier 22nd

Gaynel Daugherty 22nd

Debbie Wismer 28th

Carole Symonds 30th

Mary Fritz 31st

Linda Hiney 31st



If you have a March birthday and are not listed, let the office know. If you feel you have been born in March by mistake, we will assign a different month. Unfortunately, birth YEARS cannot be reassigned.

Focus on Our Family

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

This month's reluctantly willing victim is none other than Frank Witmer! (and the crowd goes wild) He is another life-long Millersvillian. (is that right?) Born at LGH, he has lived adjacent to the church parking lot since 1949! He got lost once in West Chester for a whole year, but figured, while he was there he may as well take some Agway management training courses. Having Frank right next door has been a Godsend to the church as he served on the property committee for more than 35 years, he has served on council twice, he has been usher coordinator, served on building lockup patrol, and has been part of the winning team that fights to get the Christmas tree vertical annually!

He favorite pet is his 1974 Plymouth Duster which is unrestored and in original condition! Talk about a blast from the past....its a beautiful car. Garage tours are available with an appointment. (nominal fee, no photography, please)



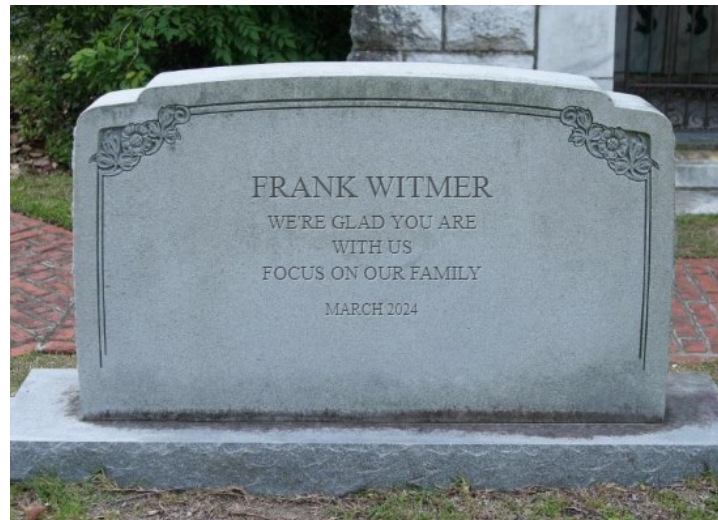
So what has kept Frank busy all these years you may ask. (go ahead...ask) He has enjoyed gardening, history, reading, model railroading, bicycling, and is a life long Phillies fan. It takes commitment to hang in there for so many years, waiting for a World Series victory, and a lot of patience waiting 28 more years for another. He is currently on year 15 awaiting a 3rd victory. Maybe someone should talk to him about the NY Yankees, since they have 27 World Series victories...but, I guess there is something about rooting for the underdog.

When Frank was asked, "what's the most unusual thing you've ever done", he replied, "can't think of any". Maybe the fame and fortune from being featured in **Focus on Our Family** might fit that bill now?

How did Frank get to where he is now? Like practically all life-long Millersvillains, he graduated from Penn Manor high school. He then went on to matriculate at Delaware Valley University and received his BS in horticulture while taking extra agronomy classes. Its dirty work, but someone has to do it. (note dirt reference)

Frank is another life-long St. Paul member as well having been baptized here by Rev. Lebo and confirmed by Rev. Rutter. His mother's family has been members at St. Paul since the 1860s. While in church, Frank's favourite hymns include O God Our Help in Ages Past, How Great Thou Art, A Mighty Fortress is Our God, and Now Thank We All Our God.

Frank began his career as a department manager in York with Agway, but, after a while, shifted gears and became a field representative. One might ask if he went door to door selling corn...well, there might be a kernel of truth in that. He worked with fruit and vegetable growers as well as field crops getting the soil tested (see...dirty work) making recommendations, developing spray schedules and trouble shooting. He was promoted to Lancaster to do more of the same, but wanted to milk the job for all it was worth...so he got involved with dairy production as well. With a Top Sales award in his pocket, Frank was ready to move on to greener pastures and got involved in the memorial business. Here he designed and sold memorials, building signs, date stones, head stones, etc. When Frank decided to retire, he held the top branch office position in the company. Dealing in rock and stone, he was the only one excited when Charlie Brown got a rock every Halloween.



Finance, Finance, Finance

January Finance Update:

Giving Income	\$25,528.38
Other Income	\$ 8,009.88
January Expenses	\$31,472.39
January Net Income	\$ 2,075.87



Musical Humour

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A VIOLA AND AN ONION?

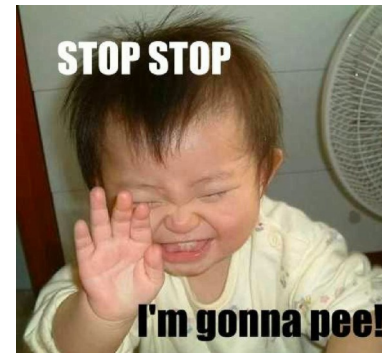
NO ONE CRIES WHEN YOU CUT UP A VIOLA.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A CONDUCTOR AND GOD?

GOD DOESN'T THINK HE'S A CONDUCTOR.

HOW MANY CHOIR DIRECTORS DOES IT TAKE TO CHANGE A LIGHT BULB?

NO ONE KNOWS...NO ONE'S EVER WATCHING!



A Note of Thanks (F#... probably)

I can get forgetful sometimes, and with the numerous times have I put thank you notes into the newsletter, I keep forgetting to add my own. I very much appreciated the staff appreciation Christmas gift...although I do feel a little self-serving putting the notices and reminders in the bulletins etc. Anyway, thank you again for the gift. Sincerely Bill Napier

A Reminder Note (Definitely Bb)

I am always looking for content for the monthly newsletter. If there is something you would like to contribute let me know. If there is something you would like to see added, please speak up. *Bill*

A Note of Thanks

Dear St Paul MEMBERS, JAN 2024
I want to take the time to thank you for remembering my Mom over the Christmas season. Pollyanna dropped off a lovely care basket. So many wonderful treats were inside. I enjoyed her visit with Linda Hampton too. She was so kind to bring flowers when she visited.

My mom is truly a member of St. Paul with benefits from such love, kindness and thoughtfulness. She is legally blind now, so she cannot drive, read or do some daily tasks. Your congregation is living out the

call in Matthew 25: 40. Thank you for caring for the elderly of your congregation and "showing up" for them in person. Your thoughtfulness and care touched us and we appreciate your loving care and time spent with her.

Hallmark

Fondly,
Stephanie
Hammelmaier
(Anne's daughter)



Anne Nagle
& Stephanie

You may remember Stephanie from this picture.

Lent & Easter

- **Maundy Thursday** is the day before Good Friday. The term “Maundy” is derived from the Latin word *mandatum* (commandment). The term refers to the commandment given by Jesus at the Last Supper: “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.” (John 13:34)
- **Easter Sunday** is celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the first day of spring.
- **Holy Week processions** are observed in many countries around the world, including Spain, the Philippines, Mexico, Italy, and Brazil, each with its unique customs and traditions. Traditional chants, hymns, and solemn music accompany the processions, enhancing the spiritual experience and evoking deep emotions among participants and spectators.
- **Palms and Ashes:** Because of the difficulty in some parts of the world of procuring palms for Palm Sunday, leaves from yew, willow, olive, or other native trees are frequently used. The Sunday was often designated by the names of these trees, as Yew Sunday, or by the general term Branch Sunday.
- **In Medieval Europe,** Christians would abstain from eating eggs and meat during Lent. Eggs laid during that time were often boiled to preserve them and were given as Easter gifts to children and servants. Some traditions claim the Easter egg is symbolic of the resurrection of Jesus, with the shell of the egg representing the sealed Tomb and cracking the shell representing the Resurrection. Christians in the Middle East and in Greece painted eggs bright red to symbolize the blood of Christ.



While some of these things may seem trivial, there will still be a written test after the service on Easter Sunday. Bring a #2 pencil please.

A Little Flower Power!

From the new “Sunshine & Flower” Lady: What happens to altar flowers designated to be given to “shut ins”? For quite sometime Betty Bringman has alerted me of such requests. I love flower arranging & see the joy in the faces of members whom I visit, as I represent our church membership. I take and separate the altar bouquet into smaller bouquets. (Pictures of bouquets will be on the table in the narthex soon). Last year, Ann Rannels surprised me with a birthday present of 10 small vases she purchased & wrapped from the Dollar Tree, encouraging me to continue “my ministry” as she called it! I remember her each time I visit someone.

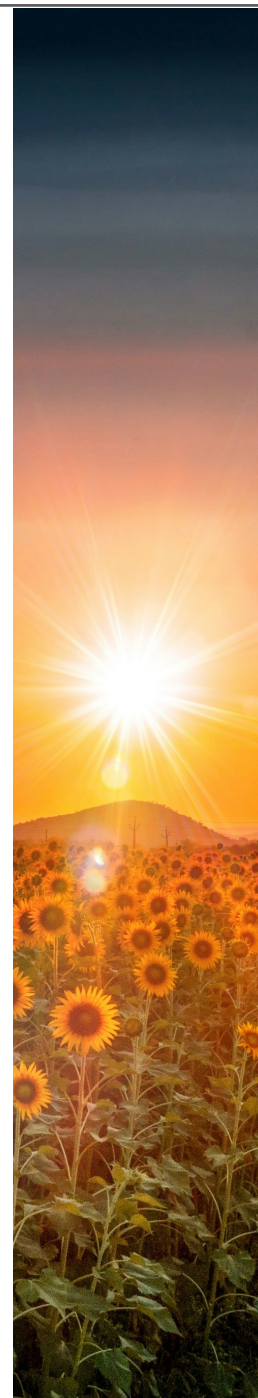
How can you help?

Perhaps you have the following items and are willing to share things you no longer need? I would be very grateful for small vases, bud vases, mugs, tea cups, jelly jars, for short stemmed flowers. Suppliers for Easter flowers tell me the foil has greatly increased in cost, so that too would be appreciated, preservative packets, pics to place a note with each arrangement, etc.

Rather than continuing to write cards, I will have a standard note: “This bouquet, made for you, is from the Altar flower arrangement(s) at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Millersville. Please know that members hold you in thought & prayer. You are missed, but not forgotten.”

Helpers-women & men- who have a love for plants, flowers, or gardening are needed to help plant geraniums and assist with Easter flowers and Christmas poinsettias.

Fun, fellowship, refreshments will be available to all who help!



Flowers (cont'd)

Thank you for your help, as I continue to visit with folks, many of whom are long term members - in their home, retirement home etc. I provide flowers & let them know we have not forgotten them! I also share a visit & flowers with members who may be sick, homebound, injured, recovering from something or celebrating something!

If you know of a member that would appreciate a visit, let me know. If you would like to assist in any way, call or text me 717-682-5722.

Thanks be to God for all our many faithful members!

Words to live by, “ Do unto others as you'd have them do unto you.”

Sincerely,
Linda Hampton

Thursday Vespers Services

This year we continue with Lenten services on THURSDAY nights at 7pm. It is a short, solemn, intimate service with piano. We celebrate the word of God. We join in prayer. We celebrate the Service of Light, which is one of the most moving and beautiful settings the Lutheran church has published to date. Consider coming to as many of these services as you are able. It's not too late to start!

What are the Canonical Offices?

We are familiar with the term “vespers” indicating a service in the evening, and maybe some are familiar with Matins being in the morning, but these are just two of the services that were held throughout the day.

Heavily rooted in monastic life and the early Roman Catholic tradition, these services, called Canonical Hours, or Office Hours, are as follows:

Vigils, or Night Office—originally separated into four, and later three “nocturnes”, these services were held from 9pm, or midnight until 6am. These varied in times and lengths throughout history.

Canonical Offices (cont'd)

Matins— typically at sunrise, this service often flowed into and/or was one with the next service—

Laudes— (pronounced “lawds”) meaning “the praises”. This service was originally combined with Matins. When Vigils started to be called Matins, Matins started to be called Laudes.

Prime— service was typically at 6am (one must assume that sunrise was fairly early when as these Offices became standardized) This was based on ancient Roman time and was the “first hour”, thus “Prime”.

Terce- (pronounced like “terse”) was the service held at the third hour, which was 9am by Roman standards.

Sext— service held at noon, the sixth hour.

None- (rhymes with “bone”) service held at 3pm, the ninth hour.

Vespers— service held at sunset, sometimes called Evening Prayer or Evensong.

Compline- (pronounced either kom’-plin or kom’-pline) service was held after sunset or just before bed.

All of these combined are called the Divine Office. Terce, Sext, and None were called collectively “The Little Hours” or “Prayer Through the Day”.

Attendance at ONE of these services was obligatory for the clergy or those wanting to pray the complete Divine Office.

The Triduum at St. Paul

Simply defined, The Three Days (Triduum in Latin) are the three days of Holy Week which focus intensely on Christ’s passage from death to life: Maundy Thursday evening through Easter evening.

Maundy Thursday

Thursday night service is at 7:00pm. We will strip the altar and exit in silence anticipating the events of Good Friday.

Good Friday

The service continues at 7:00pm. We remember the crucifixion of Jesus.

Easter Sunday

We celebrate the resurrection of our Lord 9:00am service.

Lutheran Composer Celebrates Birthday!

Johann Sebastian Bach, (March 31, 1685 – July 28, 1750) was a German Lutheran composer and musician of the late Baroque period. Often considered the most famous Lutheran composer, Bach exemplified the epitome of Baroque style compositions. He wrote mostly polyphonic music (many lines of independent voices...see example) However, he was hold-



Bach polyphonic Music



Homophonic music

ing on to the past a bit. Some of his children were more popular than he, so much in fact, that the only style period in music history with an absolute ending date is the Baroque, ending upon J.S. Bach's death. Bach was not famous in his own time and certainly not an international superstar like Handel. Felix Mendelssohn organized a performance of Bach's St. Matthew Passion, and that concert did much to popularize Bach. Mendelssohn is not solely responsible for launching Bach's posthumous popularity. Instead of marking the beginning of the Bach revival, Mendelssohn's performance was part of a larger Bach appreciation movement that was already underway.

“Big Daddy Bach”, as he was never called, was father to some 20 children with 2 wives, only half of which survived. (children and wives) Four children became notable composers. (get it...note-able composers!)😂



J.S. Bach after the birth of his first child.



J.S. Bach after the birth of his 20th child.

Missing Easter Eggs

Children needed to hunt unsuspecting Easter Eggs on Easter Sunday. We will be asking our Millersville Student dinner attendees to help fill the plastic eggs with treats. To that end, WE NEED TREATS! If you would like to be an accomplice to providing our young ones with a sugar rush, please bring “Fun Size” candies to church on Palm Sunday (March 24th). The candies need to be small enough to fit into the plastic eggs. The Eggs will be filled on the 25th.

Interesting pseudofact– the US Department of Truth in Advertising has made the following clarification: it requires 4 to 8 “fun size” candy bars to even begin having fun. Please snack responsibly.



I WONDER, WHY DO WE CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION OF THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS JEW WITH A HAM DINNER???
SOMETHING'S JUST NOT KOSHER.

Eating Ham at Easter Dates back to at least Sixth-century Germany

By Sally Pasley Vargas Globe Correspondent (June 2, 2015)

Just as sure as small children will hunt colored eggs and refrains of Peter Cottontail will lodge in your head, a ham will be front and center on most American tables this Easter.

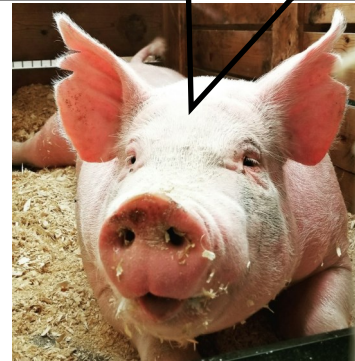
While the rest of the world celebrates the arrival of spring with lamb, the pink, salty-sweet slices of cured pork, slathered in a sticky glaze, have become the tradition. Eating ham at Easter dates back to at least the sixth century in Germany, says Bruce Kraig, founder of Culinary Historians of Chicago and author of “Man Bites Dog.”

Pigs, says Kraig, are ecologically forest-adapted animals. They thrived in Northern Europe, where farmers let pigs roam the abundant woodlands to forage for acorns and roots. Slaughtered and hung in the autumn, pigs were one of the few meats available to eat at the early spring

Batman & Ham (cont'd) Sorry Robin

Eat More Chicken!

festival. When Christianity spread northward, it merged with the pagan spring celebration of Eostre, the goddess of the rising dawn. A convenient uniting of traditions was born, with ham at the center of the feast. Early American settlers brought pigs from Northern Europe to the New World, where they were not native.



While We're on the Subject...

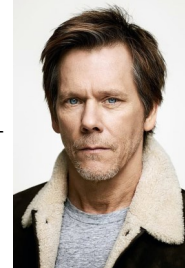
Feral swine were first brought to the United States in the 1500s by early explorers and settlers as a source of food. Repeated introductions occurred thereafter. The geographic range of this destructive species is rapidly expanding and its populations are increasing across the nation. Feral



swine are the same species, *Sus scrofa*, as pigs that are found on farms. They are descendants of escaped or released pigs. They are called by many names including; wild boar, wild hog, razorback, piney woods rooter, and Russian or Eurasian boar. No matter the name they are a dangerous, destructive, invasive species. It's ironic that such a problematic animal can make almost anything taste better. (Mmmmm Bacon.)

On a Related Note

National Bacon Day is December 30th. On December 30th each year, bacon lovers celebrate one of nature's greatest gifts on Bacon Day! The founders of Bacon Day encourage us to eat a variety of bacon while watching Kevin Bacon movies or something bacon-centric. Other suggested traditions, such as bacon toasts and kissing under pork fat mistletoe, are mentioned as well.



March Sponsors & Volunteers

March	Bulletin Sponsors	Sunday School
March-3	Mary & Cy Fritz	Sue Swartz
March-10	Lois & John Detz	
March-17	Carol Heintzelman	Sue Swartz
March 24	Sandy Miller	
March-31		NO SS

March Flowers	Vase 1	Vase 2
March-3	Gaynel & Steve Daugherty	Karen & Bill Napier
March-10	Polly & Scott Irwin	Sherry Symonds
March-17	Karen & Bill Napier	Linda & Bruce Hampton
March 24	Marty & Bill Kahler	Betty Bringman
March-31	Mary & Cy Fritz	Sandy Miller

March Ushers	1	2	3	4
March-3	Polly Irwin	Scott Irwin	Tim Brooks	Betty Bringman
March-10	Girl Scouts	Girl Scouts	Girl Scouts	Girl Scouts
March-17	Mary Fritz	Cy Fritz	Dee Perry	Glenda Hurtt
March 24	Betty Bringman	Dick Shipman	Sylvia Lashley	Greg Lashley
March-31	Linda Hampton	Bruce Hampton	Sue Ellenberg	Dave Ellenberg

March	Lay Reader	Assistant
March-3	Jan Sylte	Ray Sylte
March-10	Frank Witmer	Jim Dierolf
March-17	Suzanne Herr	Lauren Buchmann
March 24	Greg Lashley	Jim Dierolf
March-29	Linda Hiney	Jim Dierolf
March-31	Carol Heintzelman	Tim Brooks

Don't Panic!



There's still time!

If you haven't already done so, you can still direct your 2023 Thrivent Choice Dollars to the charity of your choice. The deadline for the 2023 dollars is March 31. Directing Choice Dollars is fast and easy. The money is Thrivent's Donation, not your money, but you may direct a portion of it based on your account with Thrivent:

- Go to thrivent.com/directnow
- You are prompted to put in your Username and Password.

[If you do not have these, you can Register. To register you will need your Thrivent ID# which is found on your account statements or contracts from Thrivent. Fill in the blanks, verify your email, and you will be registered. Next, go back to the thrivent.com/directnow address and then continue below].

- Put in your Username and Password.
- Do the Verification by selecting a phone number. Tap Continue
- Select it to be Texted to you or receive a call.
- Type in the verification number.
- Tap Verify.
- It will tell you how much you have in Choice Dollars and that you may direct your Choice Dollars to a participating organization. You can type in the name of an organization to see if they are participating. St Paul Lutheran Church, Millersville, PA, is a participating organization.
- Select the organization you want to donate to and how much of your Choice Dollars to go there.

We received about \$2,000
from Thrivent Choice
Dollars in 2023



YES!