

St. Paul's Letter



Advent
December 2025



St. Paul Lutheran Church

222 North George Street Millersville, Pennsylvania 17551

CHURCH COUNCIL 2025-2026

Committee Liaison

Rev. Mark Kopp, Pastor

—

Bruce Hampton Pres.

Property

Dave Ellenberg

Mutual Ministry

David Sykes

Long Range Planning

Tim Brooks

Building Use

Dee Perry

Worship & Music

Michele Carpenter*

Finance

Barb Sensenig

Adult Education

Sue Swartz Vice Pres.

Children's Ministry

Linda Hiney

Finance

Mike Althouse,

Finance

Treasurer (non-voting)

*Recording Secretary

Other Contacts

Church office: 717-872-7392

Email: office@stpaulmillersville.org

Website: www.stpaullutheranmillersville.org

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

Our Staff

Preaching and Presiding Minister: Rev. Mark Kopp
pastorkopp@stpaulmillersville.org

Pastor David Fisher: Pastor Emeritus
Bruce Hampton: Church Council President
Lucy Esbenshade: Choir Director
Cathy Regitz: Sexton
Bill Napier: Administrator/musician

Church Office Hours: M-F 8:00 a.m. to 12:00p.m.

Email: office@stpaulmillersville.org

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Stephanie Dell'Estate 3rd

Dick Shipman 2nd

Don Harrold 7th

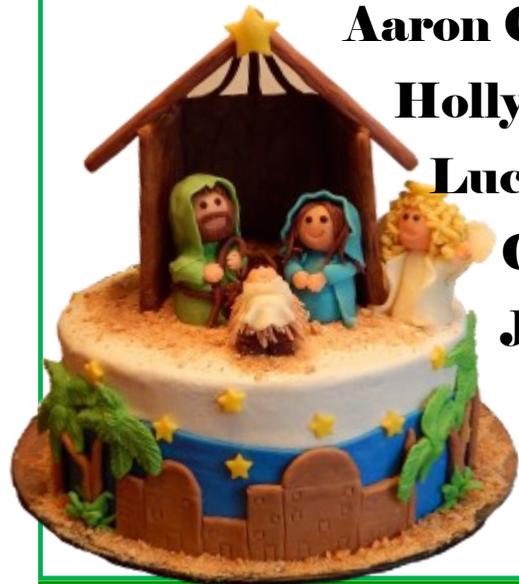
Aaron Copland 14th

Holly Freas Webster 18th

Lucy Esbenshade 21st

Gail Miller 24th

Jesus 25th



In a continuing effort of have our church database as accurate as possible, birthday data is being addressed. PLEASE, if your birthday is missing from this list, let the office know as soon as possible. Thank you.

Helping Hands

December	7	14	21	24	28
Bulletins	Lori & Jim Dierolf	Carol Heintzelman	Jody Kunzler	None Needed	
Sunday School	Holly Freas-Webster	Xmas Program Practice	Christmas Program	No SS	No SS
Flowers Vase 1	Sherry Symonds	Carol Heintzelman	Linda & Bruce Hampton	Deb Carello	
Flowers Vase 2	Dee Perry	Karen & Bill Napier	Linda & Bruce Hampton	Althouse Family	
Usher 1	Mike Althouse	Linda Hampton	Dick Shipman	Evan Schwebel	Lois Detz
Usher 2	Sherry Symonds	Bruce Hampton	Sandy Kreider	Bruce Thens	John Detz
Usher 3	Sue Swartz	Anita Roma	Suzanne Herr	Jeff Sensenig	Lauren Buchmann
Usher 4	Mark Swartz	Evan Schwebel	Denny Herr	Sylvia Lashley	Evan Schwebel
Altar Guild 1	Sandy Kreider	Sue Ellenberg	Sue Ellenberg	Sue Ellenberg	Sue Ellenberg
Altar Guild 2	Sylvia Lashley	Lori Dierolf	Lori Dierolf	Lori Dierolf	Lori Dierolf
Lector	Frank Witmer	Linda Hampton	Carol Heintzelman	Linda Hampton	Frank Witmer
Lay Assistant	Jim Bernheisel	Greg Lashley	Lauren Buchmann	Michele Carpenter	Barb Sensenig

Bev's Bakers



December

- 7 Ria Van Aulen
- 14 Carry Henry
- 21 Mary Fritz
- 28



Finance, Finance, Finance

October Update:

Giving Income	\$ 15,595
Other Income	\$ 1,756
Directed Fund Income	\$ 0
Expenses	\$ 26,876
Surplus/deficit	(\$ 11,281)



December Schedule At A Glance

December 7	2nd Sunday of Advent
December 14	3rd Sunday of Advent CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
December 21	4th Sunday of Advent Children's Christmas Program
December 24	Christmas eve service at 7pm
December 25	Christmas day
December 28	1st Sunday after Christmas

If you would like something included in the newsletter, please let the office know. There is almost always room to squeeze something in. If there is something you are curious about and believe the congregation might be interested...please let the office know...the search for content is continuous.

FREE MONEY for the church!



There's still time!

If you haven't already done so, you can still direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars to the charity of your choice. 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've already received
\$ 2,227 from Thrivent
Choice Dollars in 2025



YES!

Looking for Something in a Size 10?

Polly has some hearing aid batteries if anyone would like them. If you can use them, contact Polly Irwin.



MORE Free Money

The folks at the Park City Diner and the Knight and Day Diner offer a kick-back program. How does it work? Well, go to either establishment and full your gullet. When you are finished, show this the card and we get FREE MONEY. There are pamphlets that have an ID card that will identify St. Paul as the recipient of said FREE MONEY. Kick-backs huh? Has anyone been arrested for this? No, Not yet. **Look for pamphlets in the narthex.**



PARK CITY DINER



KNIGHT AND DAY DINER



Thank You for voting us
WINNER OF THE
READERS' CHOICE
AWARDS

For 2012 and 2013
In appreciation we would like to

"Share Our Success"

by making a **donation of 10%** to
your Organization **every time**
you enjoy a meal at either diner
using our
"S.O.S."

(Sharing Our Success)
Program

Cheer Basket Time



On December 13th, at 9am. Cheer Baskets are being assembled for the 102nd time! How can you help? (other than bringing a basket of puppies)

1. We need baked goods / candy & sweets packaged in baggies. We are making about 40 baskets.
2. We need helpers to join the assembly line and put items into the baskets
3. We need drivers to help deliver the baskets.

Congregational Budget Meeting

Hear ye, hear ye, know this and know it well: Sunday, December 14th, we will hold a congregational meeting, after the service, for approval of the 2026 budget. Please plan on attending. Your vote is important and we need to have a quorum in order for the vote to be valid.



Millersville Student Snack Bags

We are again packaging treats for Millersville Students to enjoy during finals week. Sunday, December 7th, after church, you are all invited to join the assembly line and fill Ziplock bags with treats. On the door by the piano in the narthex, over by the coffee, there are Post-it notes with items that are needed. Please stop by and grab a Post-it or even 10 of them to donate snack items.

$$\text{Fa} + \text{lax}8 = \text{Fun}^2$$

Pastor Kopp will be leading a worship service at Oak Leaf Manor. Fellowship committee is trying to get a group of people together, no more than 60 people, to sing some carols and possibly share some fellowship with the residents. Won't you please consider joining. Here are the key points:

- † It will be fun, possibly funny, you never know
- † Music will be provided for you
- † The pitch police will not be on site that day
- † Harmony is optional, melody required
- † The residents will love (they better)

DECEMBER 21ST 2PM!

*Joy to the world, a sign up sheet
Just waiting to be filled*



Remember Euell Gobbons asking “Did you ever eat a pine tree?”. Well, we’re not going to eat one, but we’ll have breakfast first then set one up in the church on Saturday, December 13th. There are, as expected, signup sheets for breakfast and raising of the tree. Breakfast is at 8am, the tree around 9am. There are, however, always a few sacrificial branches if you would like a taste.

If you Were Born In December

...you may share the spotlight with these famous folks:

Taylor Swift	Emily Dickenson
Frank Sinatra	Humphrey Bogart
Denzel Washington	Mary Queen of Scots
Sir Isaac Newton	George VI
Walt Disney	Jesus
Little Richard	

(who names their kid “Little”?)

Fine Art Moment



Titled “The Annunciation”, this painting is by Matthias Stom (or Stomer) (ca 1600—after 1652 he is believed to have died at 61) The painting depicts the Annunciation where the Archangel Gabriel announces to Mary that she will conceive a child by the power of the Holy Spirit. Little is known about Stom. Although Dutch, he was only known for works from his time in Italy.

Poem on a Theme by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Advent

By Pamela Cranston 2011

Look how long
the weary world waited,
locked in its lonely cell,
guilty as a prisoner.

As you can imagine,
it sang and whistled in the dark.
It hoped. It paced and pattered about,
tidying its little piles of inconsequence.

It wept from the weight of ennui,
draped like shackles on its wrists.
It raged and wailed against the walls
of its own plight.

But there was nothing
the world could do
to find its own freedom.
The door was shut tight.

It could only be opened
from the outside.

Who could believe the latch
would be turned by a pink flower —
the tiny hand
of a newborn baby?

Keeping Everyone In Line

Our very own Beth Defeo led a beginners line dancing class in November . We had an impressive 25 +/- people including folks from other churches and some who just saw our sign out front.

Only 1 cowboy hat!



All eyes on Beth!



The younger, more energetic dancers.....And Karen
It seemed like everyone had a great time...even Bill
tapped his foot. (a little)
Thank you Beth for leading this event.

EMAIL

Sending things via email is an amazing thing. Unlike USPS, it is instant, free (no stamps), and you are told if the email did not get to its destination. However, it has also become a tool for unscrupulous people to forage for your personal information.

Here at the office, I have received a number of phishing emails, that is emails that ask you to verify some-



thing or a receipt for something you don't remember paying, or to verify a new login to one of your accounts. PLEASE be very skeptical of emails like this. You should have your email tool set up to give you a preview where you can see the email. DON'T Click on anything. Look at the return email address carefully. I received one that said it was from Microsoft and they needed to verify our identity because of a suspicious attempt to access our Microsoft account. I MANUALLY typed in the return email address (do not cut and paste) into Google and it came back as some sort of financial group in India. Delete the message if you believe it to be malicious. DO NOT CLICK ANYTHING,

DO NOT give your Social Security number to anyone unless you are absolutely positive about what you are doing. If someone is offering you something, either cash, prizes, or anything else of value and all you need to do is provide information, be wary. Remember, it is seems too good to be true, it is.

From Our Knitters and Quilters



WOW! Our knitters have created 9 scarves, 71 hats, and 16 pairs of mittens, for a total of 106 pieces of clothing. All these handmade creations will be Donated to the Loft.. In addition to food, the Loft also helps families with clothing. Obviously, these woolen items will go a long way to stave off the cold. Thank you ladies for all your hard work and dedication.

Sooner Than You Think

Keep a watchful eye on the signup sheets in the narthex. New ones are popping up almost every week. Soon, and very soon, there will be a poinsettia order form.. Watch for it. DID YOU KNOW poinsettia information:

- The colorful parts are not flowers, but modified leaves called bracts, while the actual flowers are the small yellow centers in the middle.
- Poinsettias are native to Mexico
- They were introduced to the United States in 1825 by Joel Roberts Poinsett, the first U.S. ambassador to Mexico, which is how they got their name.
- There are more than 100 varieties available today.
- More than 35 MILLION potted poinsettias are sold every year in the US, accounting for almost one quarter of the potted plants sold.

Remember Family Members in Your Prayers

Gail Gilday
Marilyn Homsher
Ann Nagle
Mary Ann Oren
Marion Trimble
Peggy Bruce
Patty & Barry Leed
Charles Scharnberger
Nancy Eberle
Peg Siglin
Carol Evanko

Shirley Shuffelbottom
Ruth Derby
Louise & Bob Diamond

*Please contact the
office if you would
like to add some-
one to this list.*



**Never underestimate the
Power
of
Prayer**

**St. Paul Lutheran Church 222 North George Street
Millersville, Pennsylvania 717-872-7392**

The Rev. Mark S. Kopp, Pastor

Our mission statement:

**Called through the gospel of Jesus Christ, St. Paul Lutheran
Church seeks to hear and heed Christ's call to discipleship
through worship, learning, and serving the Millersville
Community with the love of God.**