

St. Paul's Letter



January 2026



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

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



Polly Ariano 1st

Ria Van Aulen 21st

Marian Trimble 3rd

Kay Dommel 23rd

Ray Sylte 4th

Dave Fisher 23rd

Marilyn Homsher 10th

Dave Ellenberg 25th

Maurice Duruflé 11th

Ann Nagle 26th

Maureen Klingaman 12th

Bill Shank 26th

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

January	4	11	18	25	
Bulletins	Lori & Jim Dierolf	Kay Cherry	Carrie Henry	Sue & Dave Ellenberg	
Sunday School	Sue Swartz	Jody Kunzler	Jody Kunzler	Carrie Henry	
Flowers Vase 1	Jan & Ray Sylte	Sherry Symonds	Glenda Hurtt	Sue & Dave Ellenberg	
Flowers Vase 2	Karen & Bill Napier		Frank Witmer	Sue & Dave Ellenberg	
Usher 1	Marty Kahler	Jim Dierolf	Stephanie Dell'Estate	Maureen Klingaman	
Usher 2	Bill Kahler	Dolores Garrett	Bruce Thens	Loren Klingaman	
Usher 3	Dan Kahler	JoAnne Harris	Sue Ellenberg	Carol Heintzelman	
Usher 4	Mason Kahler	Dace Harris	Dave Ellenberg	Cathy Trissel	
Altar Guild 1	Sandy Kreider	Carol Heintzelman	Carol Heintzelman	Sandy Kreider	
Altar Guild 2	Sylvia Lashley	Marty Kahler	Marty Kahler	Sylvia Lashley	
Lector	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	
Lay Assistant	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	

Bev's Bakers



January

4	Ria Van Aulen
11	Carrie Henry
18	None
25	None



Finance, Finance, Finance

November Update:

Giving Income	\$ 18,495
Other Income	\$ 386
Directed Fund Income	\$ 0
Expenses	\$ 24,725
Surplus/deficit	(\$ 5,290)



January Schedule At A Glance

January 4	Epiphany
January 11	Baptism of our Lord
January 18	Epiphany 3
January 25	Congregational Meeting

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.

hi-YAH

FREE SENIORS' SELF DEFENSE WORKSHOP



February 10, 2026

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Millersville Senior Center

Instructor Vic Lauer

RSVP vrlauer@yahoo.com

or call the Center at

717-871-9600.

Cheer Basket Thank You

To the people of St. Paul: Thank you very much for the basket of Christmas cheer. It is much appreciated. Merry Christmas to all and God bless. Charles Scharnberger

To our church family: Thank you so much for remembering us during a challenging time. Usually, Bill asks to not receive a Cheer Basket as he would rather see someone else receive it. This year, we truly appreciated it as we had many people come through our house after mom's passing and the treats were perfect for sharing.

Sincerely, Karen & Bill

Dear Church Members,

Thank you so very much for the Cheer Basket full of fruit and goodies. I am enjoying every bite. It was most thoughtful to think of me and I very much appreciate your kindness.

Nancy Eberle

Someone was thoughtful enough to send a picture of the children's Christmas presentation 10 years ago...that's 2015 folks!



A Blast From the Past

Service With A Smile

Your smile, that is, after feeling the satisfaction of serving your church, God, Jesus, and the whole bunch by helping with the service and/educating our younger ones. PLEASE sign up to teach Sunday School, sponsor flowers or bulletins, read lessons, or be an assistant minister. All these spots need to be filled for 2026.

ALSO, please note that, beginning January 18th, confirmation will be every-other-week rather than the 2nd and 4th Sundays.



Cheer Baskets



Our merry band of Cheer Basketeers (like musketeers, but with baskets) made quick work of assembly this year thanks to sherry Symonds (not pictured) and Lois Detz. Thank you to all who donated treats and goodies to go into the baskets. Also a big thanks to those who delivered the baskets.

MU Student Care Packages

Our annual Campus Ministry event of assembling and distributing “care packages” to MU students at the beginning of finals week went very well as usual. Why? Because we had so many hands helping!



Here you can see Sherry & Mary manning the tables indoors, and below, Cy braved the elements and handed out care bags outdoors.



Lauren was there to help too.

Photography by Lauren

Care Bags cont'd

It all started with a bag. Then two, then three, then we lost count. Volunteers assembled nearly 200 care bags for the MU Students.



Look behind Glenda...it's Greg...lurking in the shadows...you can always count on Greg!



Care Bags cont'd



Beth inspecting one of the goodies maybe thinking “I have to pick up some of these from Herr’s after this”!

Many thanks to Bill as he spent a lot of time organizing the goodies for this event.



In Memoriam



Dorothy Ellen Waybright Sitler Green, 93, passed away on Monday, December 8, 2025, in her home at Cornwall Manor, Cornwall, PA, with her loving husband, Milton, by her side. They were 16 days shy of celebrating their 63rd wedding anniversary on Christmas Eve. She was affectionately known as “Aunt Dot” to extended family members and “Dottie” to many of her friends.

Relatives and friends were invited to attend Dorothy’s Funeral Service at St. James Lutheran Church, 107 York Street, Gettysburg, PA, on Friday, December 19, 2025, at noon. Interment will be held in Evergreen Cemetery, Gettysburg, PA.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The Loft Community Partnership, P.O. Box 115, Millersville, 17551, or to St. James Lutheran Church.



If you Were Born In January

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

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Franz Schubert

Alexander Scriabin

Maurice Duruflé

Martin Luther King Jr.

Kevin Costner

Muhammad Ali

Oprah Winfrey

Jim Carrey

Elvis Presley

Rowan Atkinson (Mr. Bean)

Joan of Arc

Douglas MacArthur

Sir Francis Bacon

Benny Hill

Greek Orthodox Jesus

Annual Tree Putter Upper Breakfast

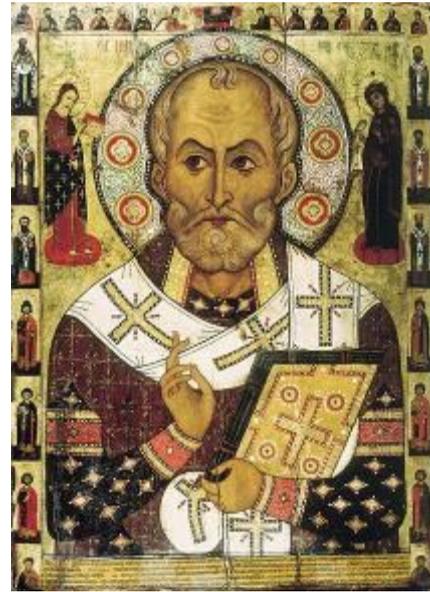


Before facing the unknown challenges presented by this year's Christmas tree, our army of tree specialists feast upon culinary creations at the Centerville Diner. We were fortunate to be there when friends of Sharon and Bill Engle (Santa and Mrs. Claus) were there to visit a few kiddies. Mrs. Claus visited us and gave coal to those who were still working on getting promoted to the "nice" list.



Tiny tots with their eyes all aglow..

Santa? Is that you?



It is often fascinating to compare our perceptions of how things **are** to how things **were**. Concepts are not immune from evolving over the course of many years. Look at Santa Claus for example. This image to the left is St. Nicholas "Lipensky" as he appears on a Russian icon dated to 1294 from Lipnya Church of St. Nicholas in Novgorod. Not exactly looking like ho, ho, ho's are his forte. Being the patron saint of children, St. Nicholas has long been associated with giving gifts to children. In his Dutch form of Sinterklaas, he was imagined to carry a staff, ride above the rooftops on a huge white horse, and have mischievous helpers who listened at chimneys to find out whether children were being bad or good. Compare that to our current perception of Santa who somehow just *knows* who has been bad and who has been good. Modern Santa, being very ecologically sensitive, travels via reindeer power and magically covers 750,000 square miles of ground in one night with no "pit stop" for the reindeer.



Well, our perception of the birth of Christ has also changed quite a bit. The bible tells us, "And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and

she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. (Luke 2:7). Based on archaeological digs in Bethlehem, average houses looked as shown in the picture. Most Judean houses had two levels. The upper level comprised of an open area where

the household would sleep under the stars during hot nights and an extra



room also known as the inn, which was reserved for guests. The main floor is divided into two areas. The entire family occupied an elevated living area 3 feet off the ground where they did chores, are their

meals and slept. The living area was about two-thirds of the ground level. The other third, the sunken area, was where animals like sheep were kept especially during the winters. Because the upper room, or inn, and the main living were already occupied, Mary (with the help of a midwife & other household women) would have most likely given birth in that lower level.

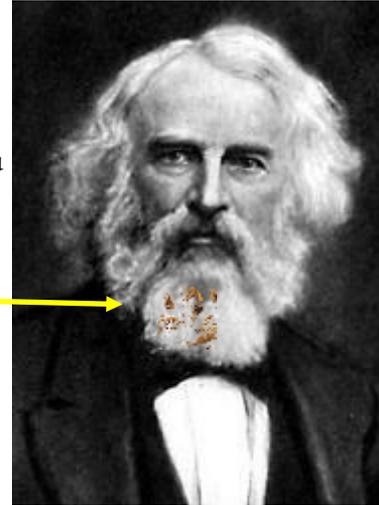


She would have wrapped Jesus in swaddling cloths and placed Him in a stone manger just like on the left. The manger would, most likely, be full of hay. Little is known about where Joseph would have been pacing while awaiting the birth. He was probably complaining about the long walk to Bethlehem just for some ridiculous census. One thing has not

changed, however, is the government's thirst for money. The census just happened to be tied to a tax for which everyone had to register.

O Henry!

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote “The Song of Hiawatha” (which has no melody), “A Psalm of Life”, and of course, “Paul Revere’s Ride”. (Can’t you imagine his wife, Fanny, hollering at him that he has cookie crumbs in his beard?!) →



Well, Henry also gave us some other very familiar words for this season:

**I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!
And thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!**

**Till ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime,
A chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!**

**Then from each black, accursed mouth
The cannon thundered in the South,
And with the sound
The carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!**

This carillon is located at St. Peter's in Morristown, NJ. This 49 bell carillon spans more than four octaves except for low C sharp. Because of the size and weight of the low tone bells, this tone is often omitted in favor of the more frequently used low A sharp (B flat), more than one octave below middle C. This bell, the Bourdon, weighs 4600 lbs. and is the largest in the carillon.



It was as if an earthquake rent
The hearth-stones of a continent,
And made forlorn
The households born
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head;
“There is no peace on earth,” I said;
“For hate is strong,
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!”

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
“God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men.”

O Tannenbaum



Dr. Witmer SCTS

Many are unaware that in our midst, is a self certified tree surgeon. (SCTS) Frank was at the ready in the event an offending limb or other defect needed to be excised.



Under the skilled hands of Dr. Herr, holes were bored to allow the patient to take in nutrients.

Getting ready to go vertical:



Our patient, apparently vertically challenged, undergoes a corrective procedure. Hardware was installed to force the patient into submission. The Angel, however, had her own ideas on which direction to face.



Cam offered a few words of Encouragement

The whole crew. The work was tiring, especially for Evan.



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.**