



St. Paul's News

Pastor's Corner

By Pastor Dave Heckler



Back on Oct. 15, I attended the (UCC) North Penn Association's Fall Meeting via Zoom. (For us Lutherans, UCC "Associations" correspond to our "Conference" level, as in the Upper Bucks Conference...) After we handled the usual business of the Association, conference minister Pr Bill Worley led a presentation and lively discussion on Andrew Root's book *Churches and the Crisis of Decline: A Hopeful, Practical Ecclesiology for a Secular Age*. Root is a professor of youth ministry and Christian formation at Luther Seminary in Minnesota; this latest book is volume 4 of a series of books exploring how a long history of cultural changes inside and outside of the church have reshaped what it means to be communities of faith doing ministry in the world. (The other books in the series include *Faith Formation in a Secular Age: Responding to the Church's Obsession with Youthfulness*, *The Congregation in a Secular Age: Keeping Sacred Time Against the Speed of Modern Life*, and the book I'm currently listening to, *The Pastor in a Secular Age: Ministry to People Who No Longer Need a God*. As you might imagine, even the title of this last volume is sobering...) Among the things Root points out is that until about 450 years ago, even the concept of "religion" as something distinct from fundamental reality didn't really exist; the human struggle with sin, death, and the demonic was every bit as fundamental to the way people understood the world (and maybe even more fundamental) than were the basic laws of physics. But since the Enlightenment and the rise of scientific thought, our understanding of and relationship with God and "the spiritual" has become increasingly individualistic and compartmentalized and decreasingly transcendent and institutional, leading us to where we find ourselves now—in the place to which all of Root's titles testify.

Needless to say, that conversation wasn't very comforting. "The Pastor in a Secular Age: Ministry to People Who No Longer Need a God": that title and that reality are a gut punch to those of us who've followed God's call to pastoral ministry in the church and now find ourselves, with our congregations, in a state of "malaise" (to use Root's word). And as I write this before we celebrate the Reformation's clarion call of Jesus that "you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free," I'm reminded of Ogden Nash's pithy reworking of that declaration—"You shall know the truth, and the truth will make you odd"—and recognizing that we're all struggling to understand (and feel good about) how we live out Christ's call to discipleship and ministry in the world given all our no-longer-quite-so-glorious "oddness"...

The month of November isn't officially its own season of the Church year, but it probably should be. (And personally, I'd lump Reformation Sunday in with that "Season of November".) Throughout November, our gospel readings take their stand "on the brink" of both Jesus' suffering and death and the fulfillment of the ages. Reformation Sunday leads it off with the utterly counter-cultural assertion that our lives are justified and made right with God by God's grace through the faithfulness of Christ Jesus and *not* by our works, pieties, credentials, or accomplishments. Then the Feast of All Saints meets us with a white-robed multitude gathered around God's throne, a multitude of people who've come through "the great ordeal" and whose robes have been utterly cleansed by "the blood of the Lamb"—people who surely come from the motley crew of "the blessed" in Jesus' Beatitudes. As November's Sundays move on, we get a taste of Advent's admonitions to "keep watch" and expect Christ's coming at an unknown hour; and as we come to the final Sunday in November and the Church year, we find the eternally enthroned Son of Man commending the righteous for a righteousness they don't even know they have—a righteousness displayed not via the usual protocols of welcoming royalty, but in their encounters with "the least of these" who turn out (to their surprise) to be Christ Jesus Himself in distressing disguise. It's a season that sings of Christ's triumph and glory, but locates that triumph and glory in the oddest and seemingly most inglorious encounters. To use religious terminology, it repeatedly locates God's awesome and mysterious transcendence in the midst of the immanent—and not through spectacle or miracle, but through presence and accompaniment: through walking with folks in their journeys of faith and life, not with a finger wagging at their mistakes and questions, but with a humility and grace and faithfulness that's so "odd" that it begs for explanation, or better yet, for testimony.

Spoiler alert: Even amidst our frustration as God's people at the changes going on around us, even amidst our haunting suspicions that we're somehow failing our calling or just aren't needed anymore, it's to precisely this >>

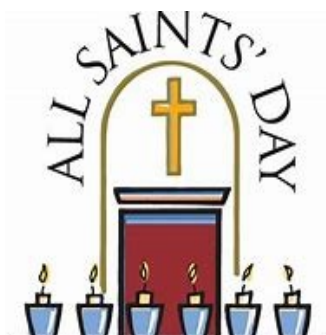
sort of “holy oddness” that Root points us and our ministries in this “crisis of decline”—to this “oddness” in which the strange and saving grace of God in Christ can be seen among “the least of these”. That’s not going to be easy, especially when we’re striving for institutional survival and making a living. But November reminds us that this is where the glory of God continues to show up and change people’s lives, even amidst our society’s riptides. And this, *this*, is where we’ll find Christ Jesus our Lord among us...

Yours in Christ Jesus our Lord, *Pr. Dave*

Worship in November: “For All the Saints!”

November’s the time of year when the Church remembers all those who’ve entered into the fullness of eternal life and begins looking forward to the consummation of history in the return of Christ Jesus. Here at St Paul’s, we’re celebrating the time in some neat ways:

Throughout the month of November, we’ll be using the classic **LBW Setting 2** as our base liturgy, singing “This is the Feast of Victory!” with gusto and chanting the Kyrie and Proper Prefaces joyfully, rejoicing in the beauty of the Lord’s holiness.



November 5 is the Feast of All Saints, when we remember our brothers and sisters who’ve died over the past year. We’ll light the Paschal Candle in remembrance of Jesus’ resurrection shared with them, and light votive candles in their individual remembrance. (Please call in the names of loved ones you want to remember on that day to Katherine at 215.536.5789 or stpaulsqtown@gmail.com by October 31.)

By the way, November 5 marks **the end of Daylight Savings Time**—so before you go to bed November 4, **make sure to make your clocks “fall back” one hour** (if they don’t already do so automatically) so you can enjoy the extra hour of sleep before joining us for worship Sunday morning!

On **November 12**, we’ll be celebrating Veterans Day with the “**Witting Tree**”, remembering and rejoicing in those who serve our nation in the armed forces, and also remembering the 20 veterans who take their own lives every day to end the pain of PTSD, moral injury, and deep woundedness of soul.

On **November 26**, we’ll celebrate **the Reign of Christ**, the last Sunday of the Church year, with a service that ponders where one might find Christ seated on His royal throne and reigning in glory.

Remember that we’re sharing in worship and fellowship together both **in person and online**. And **we’ll keep on “livestreaming” our worship services via Facebook Live** and streaming the audio of our services via our **Free Conference Call** line (857.232.0157, conference code 144261).

And remember as well that for in-person indoor worship, **we need a variety of ministry helpers**. There are many ways to get involved. **Bulletin collators** pick up the bulletins at their convenience on the weekend, fold them at home, and return them Sunday morning. **Crucifers/Acolytes** carry the cross and light the candles. **Communion Assistants** help distribute Communion. **Ushers** direct people to their seats and answer questions/guide visitors. **Readers** read Scripture during the service. The **altar guild** prepares the altar before service on Sundays and cleans up the altar after worship. If one of these ministry opportunities interests you, please reach out to the church office for more information. Thank you!

It’s a month full of special worship events—and certainly full of the presence, peace, and power of our Lord Jesus Christ giving Himself to us and for us in Word and Sacrament. So mark your calendars, invite your friends to join you, and come and share in an exciting month of worship here at St Paul’s!

Monday Morning Bible Study



Our formerly “Thursday Morning Bible Study” has moved to Mondays! Come join us each week for our **Monday Morning Bible Study** from **10:00 AM-12:00 NN** via Zoom or Free Conference Call! (See article below for instructions. For Zoom, use meeting ID number 370 014 7169 and passcode 119805.) We’re “**Living with the Lectionary**”, digging into the Scripture readings for the upcoming week to discover the treasures that await us come Sunday. You don’t have to be a biblical “expert” to get a lot out of this study—so come on out in the broad daylight and invite your friends to join you!

Happy Birthday, Friends!



11/1 Henry DePue
 11/1 Melanie Johnson
 11/2 Alyssa Barndt
 11/3 Jessica Hunsberger
 11/3 Sarah Hunsberger
 11/4 William Barndt Sr
 11/4 John Hunsberger
 11/7 Angel Knoedler
 11/13 Dean Sauerwald
 11/14 Linda Hertzog
 11/14 Rhonda Diehl

11/15 David Long
 11/15 Peter Flood
 11/17 Sarah Bryan
 11/19 Gordon Bryan
 11/20 Caitlyn Long
 11/23 Winnie Knapp
 11/24 Mervyn Brumbach
 11/24 Josh Roehner
 11/26 Beverly Johnson
 11/29 Stefanie Bauman

And Happy Baptismal Birthday As Well!

We rejoice to celebrate people's biological birthdays all the time, and rightly. But as wonderful as receiving the gift of life in this world is, receiving the gift of new and eternal life in Christ Jesus in our Baptism is even more wonderful (and best of all, it never grows old!). Why shouldn't we celebrate the anniversary of our new birth in Christ even more gladly? So **Happy Baptismal Birthday** this month to *Norman Diehl, Jr. Allyson Hassler, William Heckler, Thomas Roeder, Jr., Lidie Shaw, and Pat Stever.*



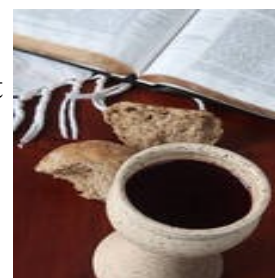
It's "Shoobox Christmas" Time Again!



For many years, we at St Paul's have joined with Samaritan's Purse and churches across our nation in "**Operation Christmas Child**" (often referred to as, "Shoobox Christmas"), filling shoeboxes with simple gifts for children around the world. This year, our Social Ministry Team is picking up the mantle under the leadership of Carole Eddings. We handed out shoeboxes on October 8 along with some ideas for appropriate gifts; then on November 12, we'll collect all the returned boxes and get them ready for shipment. **There are still boxes available for filling! Please return your filled boxes by November 12.** For more information on this ministry, go to www.samaritanspurse.org/index.php/OCC/index or see Cecelia Casey.

Interested in Communion Instruction?

If you're a baptized Christian (young or older) and you're not receiving the body and blood of Christ in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, you're missing out on the birthright of your Baptism. Pr Dave would like to do some **Communion Instruction** here at St Paul's this fall for **all** baptized young (and older) people who express interest in receiving the sacrament. If you're interested in participating in these classes, please contact Pr Dave at prdaveheckler@gmail.com or 570.470.0716.



On Going Business:

1. Vanguard Account Balances: As of September 30, 2023, **\$97,078.75**, August 31, **\$100,530.46**; July 31, 2023, **\$102,064.48**. Committee will discuss investment options next month with regards to house sale proceeds. Council approved adding Patty as liaison. Paperwork in process.

2. Income statement: Through September 30, 2023, expenses exceeded income (\$23,852.50)

3. Stewardship:

A. New rotation for counting: Karen 10.13, Tom 10.20, Sara 10.27, Bill 11.3, Patty 11.10, Karen 11.17.

B. Materials for fall stewardship were mailed to congregation and provided in pews. Promotion in newsletter and bulletins.

4. Cemetery: As of September 30, 2023, balance is \$77,828.42; August 31, 2023 balance is \$77,899.36; July 31, 2023, balance is \$81,125.47; June 30, 2023, balance is \$80,114.54. is \$78,448.26.

Note To The Church

I just wanted to thank everyone here at St. Paul's for all of your prayers and kindness over the past few years while Ray was sick and after he passed. I know it has been 6 months now, but it feels like it was yesterday that Ray was here. Thank you for your prayers, your calls, your cards and also for remembering him at the Joyful noise concert this past June.

He would thoroughly enjoy that day and working beside all of you as it was always a huge group effort, and one filled with laughs and smiles and excitement. I wanted to let you know that we had a private burial of his ashes in our cemetery here on Saturday, October 21st. Just me and the kids with Pastor, and Gordon who helped us set it all up. As Pastor sang the song, "The hand of God shall hold you", the wind blew through the trees, the birds flew in the air, and it was filled with memories of our kids and all you kids, 0 to 99 hunting for Easter eggs, Ray was always one of them, many VBS activities in the field, youth group camp outs, outdoor services, caili rain singing one of there songs, along with our own St Paul's singers, burgers cooking on the grill and definitely a joyful noise in the air, and the presence of God all around us, and I could feel that Ray was home with our Lord. Thank you all so much for everything, you meant so much to Ray, he loved you all, and you mean so much to me and Mariana and Raymond.

God bless you all:) - Love, Debbie Constable

Congregational Budget Meeting Nov. 19

On **November 19 after worship**, we'll hold our annual **Congregational Budget Meeting** to review and approve our 2022 ministry budget. (Copies of the budget will be available by Nov. 13 for your review prior to the meeting.) If you'd like to attend from afar, go to **zoom.us**, click "Join a Meeting" at the top right of the page, use meeting ID **370 014 7169**, and if it asks for a password, use **119805** and you should be in. If you're **using your phone**, these dial-in numbers will work to access Zoom: 929.205.6099 or 312.626.6799. After you dial, you'll be asked for the host's code, and you'll type in 370 014 7169, then 119805 and you're in. We'll email copies of the budget in advance, as well as have it viewable on screen during the meeting.



"I'm Glad You Asked:

Bible Questions for Grownups

During our recent "Operation Restoration" Vacation Bible School, a number of us got into a conversation about broadening our adult faith formation opportunities beyond our (now) Monday Morning Bible & Life Study. Many of us fondly remember our childhood and teenage experiences in Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and even confirmation classes; and maybe we learned a great deal in those classes. But as we get older, well, we don't think the same way we did as kids—and we find out that adult challenges require new examinations and understandings of old learnings and even familiar Scriptures. What if we could bring our grownup Bible and theology questions to an adult exploration of those questions?

Our Social Ministry Team has already brainstormed a set of questions for our consideration—so let's get to them! Come join us on Tuesday, **Nov. 21 @ 7:00 PM** via Zoom or Free Conference Call for our first **"I'm Glad You Asked"** gathering. (To join us via Zoom, go to zoom.us, click "Join a Meeting" at the top right of the page, use meeting ID **370 014 7169**, and if it asks for a password, use **119805** and you should be in. To join us using Free Conference Call, dial 857.232.0157, enter conference code 144261, and you're in.)

In this first gathering, we'll be considering a number of questions about **heaven and hell**, including "How do I get to heaven? Can you pray other people into heaven? Is there such a thing as "purgatory"—and if so, what is it? What is hell? What was Jesus "harrowing" before His resurrection—and has "hell" changed since the resurrection?" (Other questions we'll get to some other time include "How can we prepare for death?" and "Who are the children of God—only baptized Christians, or all people?") For more information or to RSVP, contact Pr Dave at prdaveheckler@gmail.com or 570.470.0716.



Sunday School is Back!



You're invited back to **Sunday School at St Paul's starting on Sunday, September 10**. We'll plan to meet from 10:15-11:15 AM on the **second and fourth Sundays of each month**. Here's the preliminary schedule. **Nov. 5**

Dec. 3 - Advent Workshop

Dec. 10 - Christmas Story Celebration (We'll have only one SS class in December, since Dec. 24 is the fourth Sunday—but this class may be a little longer, with some carol singing, a lesson about Christmas, and activity/craft, and a snack to make it a little more special. We're still working on the details...)

We have room for all students age 4 through fifth grade, with older kids being helpers/leaders—Spread the word and join us for Sunday School!

Supporting Our Ministries

Thanks for continuing to support our ministries here at St Paul's! Your tithes and offerings are much needed during this time. As of July 31, our congregation's expenses for 2023 have exceeded our income by around \$17,000. We know that right now, funds are tight for everyone; but we encourage you to prayerfully consider how you might be able to support our ministry together. If you'd like to give electronically (via Simply Giving, our church website, or some other electronic means) and would like some information on how to do that, please contact the church office.

You can financially support our ministries in several ways: [1] If you're already signed up for **Simply Giving**, you're already taken care of; [2] You can **mail your offerings** to the church; and now [3] You can go to our church website (www.stpaulsqtown.org) and make your contributions online, even using a credit or debit card. Whatever way you choose, your contributions help us continue to serve our congregation and community and build upon the good things God's doing through us.

And remember, if you tithe using "Simply Giving" and you've increased your tithe amount on your pledge card, you need to fill out a new Simply Giving authorization form noting the change. Please contact the church office for a form.



November is Diabetes Awareness Month

The CDC (Centers for Disease Control) reports that 37 million people in the United States have diabetes. More than 8 in 10 adults have prediabetes & do not know it.



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is li-

Type 1 diabetes, or what we used to call “childhood diabetes”, accounts for between 5% and 10% of all diabetes cases. It is important to point out that Type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune disease & not able to be controlled by diet or lifestyle changes. However, Type 1 diabetes can develop at any age with no know way to prevent it.

Type 2 diabetes, on the other hand, develops when the body is not able to utilize its own insulin properly. In the past, Type 2 diabetes was thought of as an older adult disease. Unfortunately, more & more young people are developing Type2 diabetes due to poor eating habits & lack of exercise. Type 2 diabetes also has a propensity to be linked to family history. The good news about Type 2 diabetes is that it can be successfully managed with lifestyle changes such as proper diet & exercise. Type 2 diabetes can need an addition of an oral diabetic medication or in some cases the addition of supplemental injectable insulin.

All that being said à eat a balanced diet, get some good exercise & reduce your stress . Diabetes Educational Information will be available in the Fellowship Hall for you. Please feel free to take any handouts that will be beneficial to you or a loved one.



**A
Dementia
Friendly
Webinar:**

**Promoting
Dementia Awareness
in African American
Faith Communities**

**Register
for this free
Zoom Webinar
<https://bit.ly/DFpa1205>**

December 5, 2023 | 12PM ET

Objectives:

- Understand why dementia disproportionately affects the African American Community.
- Learn more about the Alter program and how it empowers and supports African American faith communities.

Presenters:

Fayron Epps, PhD, RN, FGSA, FAAN
Founder, Alter
Associate Professor of Nursing, Emory University

Melita Terry, BS
Senior Community Engagement Coordinator,
University of Pittsburgh Alzheimer's Disease Research Center

  **University of Pittsburgh** | **Alzheimer's Disease Research Center**

Scan to register!

Join Us Online via Zoom or Free Conference Call!

If you'd like to participate in most of our activities taking place over **Zoom**, go to zoom.us, click "Join a Meeting" at the top right of the page, use meeting ID **370 014 7169**, and if it asks for a password, use **119805** and you should be in.

If you're **using your phone**, these dial-in numbers will work to access Zoom: 929.205.6099 or 312.626.6799. After you dial, you'll be asked for the host's code, and you'll type in 370 014 7169, then 119805 and you're in. (What's more, with your smart phone or computer, you can engage video as well as audio, so we can see and hear you—something that's precious right now!) You can also use **Free Conference Call [FCC]**: Dial 857.232.0157, enter conference code 144261, and you're in.

And if you want to check out the latest announcements, you can find "This Week at St Paul's" on Google Docs at docs.google.com/document/d/1aZi_IL0SHaQ1BOGFS_s3bt0oHoTQ4fCy9tO372PZioE/edit#

Scouts BSA Troop 007 and Cub Pack 007 News

We're so thankful for St Paul's welcome and support. But right now, there's one more thing we really need to continue to survive and hopefully, thrive: **We need more Scouts!** The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

Here are some of **Troop 007's upcoming activities**:

- 11.2 Scout uniform inspection**
- 11.6 Indoor rally**
- 11.11 Scouts Night at the Lehigh Valley Phantoms**
- 11.12 Walmart Bake Sale**
- 11.18 Corbin Babb Eagle Scout Ceremony at St. Paul's**



If you know a parent or grandparent of kids from kindergarten to high school, encourage them to visit one of our Cub Scout meetings Wednesday nights (7:00-8:00 PM) or Scouts BSA meetings Thursday nights (7:00-8:00 PM), or check us out at Scouts007.org.



November's "Monthly Special": Scouts BSA Troop 007 (and Pack 007)

Our "Monthly Specials" and "Noisy Offerings" are special opportunities for giving to help specific ministries in our community and beyond—some of them through the Lutheran church, others through the community organizations. For November, our **Monthly Special Recipient** is our own **Scouts BSA Troop 007 and Cub Pack 007**. The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout

"The Hand of God Shall Hold You..."

One of the great blessings of life in union with Christ is that the risen Christ binds us in holy and eternal communion with all His people who've **died**, enabling us to grieve in the freedom born of knowing that our loved ones are gone from our sight and for a time, but still joined with us in the body of Christ and alive in Him in far more than memory alone. So far in 2023, we've also said farewell (for now) to *Pr John Stevens Kerr, Patti Jo Zackowski, Ray Constable, Pr John Keating, Griffith Miller III, Bob Cope Sr., Connie Sheetz, Bob Westervelt Sr., Dr Robert Hughes, Dr Lyman Lundeen, Karen Blitch, Brittany Kane, Paul Ahlum Jr., and Jim McKelvey*. Please keep their grieving families and friends in your prayers in these days ahead, that they may come through the dark night of their grief into the resurrection joy born of their Baptismal union with Christ Jesus our risen Lord.





8/23

BC Grandfamilies Support Group

Grandparents Supporting Grandparents

Run by grandparents for grandparents and other relatives raising the children of loved ones. Build support, discuss topics related to challenges, celebrate successes, broaden knowledge, educate others through lived experiences and resources offered.
We service beyond Bucks County.

Meeting Dates & Speakers

6:30-8:30

September 8 **Camp Crossroads St. Luke's
Penn Foundation**
Megan Yoder

September 22 **Support Group Meeting**

October 6 **Bucks for Kids**
Becky Van Dine

October 20 **Support Group Meeting**

November 3 **Bethany Christian Services**
Safe Families
Lisa Dillard

November 17 **Support Group Meeting**

Lenape Valley Church
321 W. Butler Ave (At Ute Road)
For GPS Use Doylestown, PA 18901

Registration Required

of children and adults attending

✉ BCGrandfamilies@gmail.com

Childcare & Dinner at
No Cost to Families

Lenape Valley Church


Welcome • Inspire • Nurture • Serve

Like us on Facebook (and check us out online)!

🌐 Our church website: www.stpaulsqtown.org

📘 Our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/StPaulsQtown

✉ Our email address: stpaulsqtown@gmail.com

📘 Joyful Noise Facebook: www.facebook.com/joyfulnoiseatstpauls

For Daily Morning and Evening Prayer:

<https://dailyoffice.wordpress.com/>



November 2023

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Applebachsville

<i>Sun.</i>	<i>Mon.</i>	<i>Tues.</i>	<i>Wed.</i>	<i>Thurs.</i>	<i>Fri.</i>	<i>Sat.</i>
			1 7:00 pm Cub Scouts	2 1:00 pm Bagging Food at Quakertown Food Pantry 7:00 pm Scouts	3 1:00 pm Al Anon 7:00 pm A.A.	4
5 9:00 am Worship & Livestream worship www.facebook.com/ StPaulsQtown 10:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship Hour	6 10:00 am Zoom Bible Study	7 7:00 pm Scout Leader Meeting	8 7:00 pm Cub Scouts	9 7:00 pm Scouts	10 1:00 pm Al Anon 7:00 pm A.A.	11 Veteran's Day
12 9:00 am Worship & Livestream Worship www.facebook.com/ StPaulsQtown 10:30 am Fellowship Hour	13 10:00 am Zoom Bible Study 10:00 am Social Ministry Meeting 7:30 pm Zoom Finance Meeting	14	15 7:00 pm Cub Scouts	16 7:00 pm Scouts	17 1:00 pm Al Anon 7:00 pm A.A.	18 2:00 –6:00 pm Corbin Babb's Eagle Scout Ceremony
19 9:00 am Worship & Livestream Worship www.facebook.com/ StPaulsQtown 10:30 am Fellowship Hour / Annual Budget Meeting	20 10:00 am Zoom Bible Study 7:00 pm Council Meeting	21	22 Newsletter Deadline	23 Happy Thanksgiving	24 1:00 pm Al Anon 7:00 pm A.A.	25
26 9:00 am Worship & Livestream Worship 10:30 am Fellowship Hour	27 10:00 am Zoom Bible Study	28	29 7:00 pm Cub Scouts	30 7:00 pm Scouts		

Sharing God's love in joyful service!

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church
849 Old Bethlehem Road
Quakertown, PA 18951

The St. Paul's News

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
of Applebachsville

849 Old Bethlehem Road
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Pastor David Heckler

Church: 215-536-5789
stpaulsqtown@gmail.com www.stpaulsqtown.org

Each Member of the Congregation, Ministers