



St. Paul's News

Pastor's Corner

By Pastor Dave Heckler



The early believers in Christ devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

[Acts 2.42-47]

"I've come that they may live, and have it abundantly," Jesus tells us in John 10.10—and after all His previous talk in this chapter of thieves coming to steal, kill, and destroy, who of us isn't breathing a sigh of relief? Who of us, indeed, doesn't want to have abundant life for ourselves and our children and grandchildren after us? So we strive to secure that "abundant life" through all the typical means: hard work, exercise, diet, involving ourselves and our kids in a myriad of developmental activities, the accumulation of wealth, and of course, church. "God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life," the old "Four Spiritual Laws" began with; and of course, repenting of your sins and accepting Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior was the ticket to that "wonderful plan for your life" and its abundance. (And even though we Lutherans tend to shy away from that sort of language because we proclaim that salvation's by God's grace and not our decisionmaking no matter how pious, we point to Baptism and say "Here's where the grace is given. Here's where the abundant life Jesus promises us is given to us, now and for eternity. Come claim your winnings!")

But here's where that reading from Acts 2.42-47 upsets our individualistic apple cart—because it reminds us that when we're baptized into union with Christ Jesus and the completely new life He brings, **we're baptized into community!** Listen to these reflections by Shane Claiborne, the founder of the "new monastic" community called "The Simple Way":

*One of the first things that happened as the Church was born that first Pentecost 2000 years ago is that the newly baptized disciples of Jesus started sharing everything they had. Every bit as amazing as their speaking in tongues was that they **shared!** They worshipped in their homes. The Gospel was lived out of dinner tables and living rooms. Scripture says, "No one claimed any of their possessions were their own, but they shared everything they had... and there were no needy persons among them... They put their offerings at the feet of the apostles, and they were distributed as people had need." One of the first signs of the birthday of the Church is that they ended poverty because they held their possessions with open hands. It was a radical ethic of love... Indeed, it was a core ethic of the early Christians that no one has a right to more than they need while others have less...*

But here's the deal: Generosity can't be forced; it can't be legislated; it has to be provoked by love. Redistribution comes from community, not before community. The early Christians didn't have community because they shared stuff; it was precisely the opposite—they shared stuff because they had community. It's simply what happens when we're driven to love our neighbor as ourselves...

*The deepest tragedy in our world isn't that rich folks don't care about poor folks. The tragedy is that rich folks generally don't **know** poor folks. Statistics aren't enough. Campaigns aren't enough. We'll never make poverty history until we first make poverty personal. That's what happened in the early Church—they had a new vision of family. They no longer had "rich" and "poor", but only "brother" and "sister".*

And it's not about guilt! Jesus didn't come to give us guilt, but to give us life. Someone once said to Mother Teresa: "I couldn't live like you if someone paid me a million dollars." And she responded by saying, "I wouldn't do it if someone paid me a million dollars either. I do it because it's what I'm made for." In the end, what we're talking about is the life we're made for—a life of joy and love and freedom.

Pastor's Corner Continued

I'll never forget learning this from a homeless kid in India. Every week we'd throw a party for the street kids, kids 8-10 years old who were homeless, begging all day to survive. Each Tuesday we'd get about 100 of them together and throw a party, play games, eat a big meal. One week, one of the kids I'd grown close to told me it was his birthday—so I got him an ice cream. He was so excited, he stared at it mesmerized. I have no idea how long it'd been since he'd eaten ice cream. But what he did next was brilliant. He yelled to all the other kids and told them to come over. He lined them up and gave them all a lick. His instinct was, "This is so good I can't keep it for myself!" In the end, that's what this whole idea of generosity is all about. It's not about guilt; it's about the joy of sharing. It's about realizing the good things in life, like ice cream, are too good to keep for ourselves...

Of course, I can imagine what our general reactions to this Acts 2.42-47 passage are: "This is an idealized portrait of the early Church, not the likely reality..." "Sounds like socialism/communism to me..." "This is just plain un-American! Whatever happened to free enterprise and individual responsibility?" "The Bible itself testifies that this economic model didn't work; why else would Paul be moved to take a special offering from all his congregations to help the poor Christians in Jerusalem?" To our modern American ears, this description of life among the early Christians is as counter-cultural as one can imagine. (But as my ancestral Mennonite DNA is whispering at the moment, "Perhaps that's the point...")

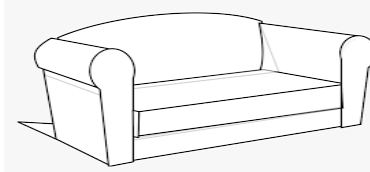
These days, a lot of Christians are concerned about the future of the church, and rightly so. Especially in the Western context, we've tended to see and promote the Church as an assembly of like-minded individuals all coming to get their personal "needs" met, and perhaps to get caught up and renewed by a really good show—but in our digital and cosmopolitan age, people can catch a "really good show" and "have their needs met" without ever having to deal with the messiness of community and the riskiness of sharing themselves in all their struggles and vulnerabilities as well as sharing their stuff. (And let's be honest about the messiness. Life in community *is* messy, as pretty much the entire Bible and certainly the letters of Paul abundantly testify...)

But as in every age in which the societal assumptions of the Gospel have been challenged, I believe that in our own age, what'll make the Church truly distinctive and life-changing in the world won't just be our message of God's power and grace in Christ Jesus, but how we live that message out in community—in our congregational community centrally, and from that, the way we extend that community into the community around us. Into that holy community born of the Spirit, we're baptized; in that community, we live and move and grow, we belong, become, and believe; and in that community of generosity extended beyond us into the world, those around us will come to discover that despite the people and forces that seek to steal, kill, and destroy, there's plenty of life to share, and enough for all to thrive, in Christ Jesus our Lord...

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

Parish House Cleanup

It's time to start clearing out the Parish House! As we move toward selling the Parish House, we need to clear out unneeded furniture, etc. You're invited to walk through the house ***April 30 after worship and Saturday, May 6, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM*** to identify furniture that you could use. There's no charge for any items you take, but a thank offering is greatly appreciated! You're responsible for removal of furniture. Items include tables and chairs.



Calling all graduates from St. Paul's!

We want to honor you! Please provide the office with your name and school you are graduating from (and your degree) so we may acknowledge you in both our bulletins and newsletters! Thank you and Congratulations!



May Worship News

Thank God it's springtime! Thank God it's May! The weather's getting warmer (and staying warm more consistently), the sun's higher in the sky, and we're rejoicing in the resurrection victory and the risen life of Christ Jesus our Lord. And this year, the month of May brings us into the season of Pentecost as well—and with it, the beginning of new opportunities for our worship life. Here's what coming up this month:

- ✠ We begin May solidly in the **Easter season**, using the traditional **LBW Holy Communion Setting 2** as our basic order of worship— but with the now-classic (and beloved) Easter **canticle “This is the Feast of Victory!”** borrowed from Setting 1. Many of you know this setting by heart already, so feel free to sing it and pray it with the joyful abandon of those “born anew into a living hope”!
- ✠ **May 14**, the Sixth Sunday of Easter, is also **Mothers' Day**— a great day to celebrate God's shepherding love displayed in the lives of all the women who've nurtured us with grace, wisdom, and self-giving love.
- ✠ On **May 21**, we'll celebrate **the Ascension of Our Lord**, rejoicing not in Jesus' departure from us, but the transformation of His presence with us from tangible visibility to ubiquity. As the classic hymn sings, “Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine, He comes to claim the here and now and conquer every place and time.” (And in Pr Dave's definitely unofficial terms, this marks the beginning of the “Spring Trifecta” of Ascension, Pentecost, and Holy Trinity...)
- ✠ **May 28** is **the Day of Pentecost**— the culmination of the Easter season in which we celebrate God's gift of the Holy Spirit to the disciples, birthing the Church as the body of Christ alive in the world. It's a time to wear our brightest red clothing in celebration of the fire of the Spirit. (This is also **Memorial Day Weekend**, so we'll be remembering those who died in the service of our country.)
- ✠ **June 4** is the **Feast of the Holy Trinity**, the Sunday in which we rejoice particularly not simply in what God's done, but in who God is— and so learn more fully what it means to be human beings created in God's image. We'll also be rejoicing in the **confirmation** of Aaron Shimalla on this day— so you won't want to miss this service!
- ✠ And after that Trinity Sunday service on June 4 and continuing through much of the summer, we'll be using a **more contemporary “blended” liturgy**. Our worship leaders won't even be “robing up” throughout the summer— so we'll definitely have a more contemporary feel. And while the choir may be “on vacation” after June 4, we're lining up plenty of our own homegrown musicians to provide special music through the summer.
- ✠ And remember that we're sharing in worship and fellowship together **both in person and online**. 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).

No matter which service[s] you attend, you'll find them to be great events for the whole family. So don't just be a “spectator”— invite your friends, neighbors, and relatives to join you for these marvelous services, and come on out!



DON'T FORGET TO ...

1. Save your aluminum tabs from Soda Cans, Soup Cans, etc. and give to Todd Silvius for the Ronald McDonald House.

2. If you have e-mail; sign up for the Electronic version of the newsletter by e-mailing us at

stpaulsqtown@gmail.com.

***Due to the closure of the Quakertown Redners we are no longer collecting receipts for Redners.**



Renewing Our Partnership with the Quakertown Food Pantry

Our Social Ministry Team is now helping **pack food bags at the Quakertown Food Pantry** the first Thursday of every month from 1:00-3:00 PM. No experience necessary— everyone's welcome to provide this vital ministry to the community. Contact Sara George, prim-rose40@aol.com or 215.538.3786 if you're interested in helping.

Food Pantry Volunteerism: In addition to our first Thursday of the month volunteerism at the Food Pantry, here are other opportunities:
Mondays, 10 am - 1 pm:
Front Desk -- keep record of customers
Shopper -- add the perishable items to the pre-packaged groceries

Thursday Morning Bible Study



Come join us each week for our **Thursday Morning Bible Study** from **10:00 AM-12:00 NN** via Zoom or Free Conference Call! (See article "Join us Online via Zoom" in this newsletter 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 join in and invite your friends to join you!

5/1 Kristin Hassler
5/2 Cori Barndt
5/3 Patricia Stever
5/3 Sascha Baringer

5/5 Alexandra Schnabel
5/8 Robin Beaumont

5/9 Michelle
Hunsberger

5/20 Denise Shaeffer

5/21 Gary Hertzog

5/24 Olivia Beaumont

5/30 Ethan Bauman

5/31 Rich Beaumont

5/31 Andie Silvius



Happy Birthday

Amy's Ride/Run/Walk May 20



"Amy's Ride/Run/Walk", a cycling, running, and walking event taking place on **May 20** this year, raises money to fund pancreatic cancer research, awareness, and advocacy efforts, with an emphasis on progressive research programs and initiatives. Our own Bob and Winnie Knapp and Bruce Krogslund have run a "refreshment station" at the Knapp's for cyclists riding through Haycock Twp. and are planning on doing so this year as well. This year's event features a 3-mile family and pet-friendly walk, a 5-K timed run, and 24-mile and 42-mile cycling options, as well as raffles and prizes. To register or donate online, go to www.AmysRideRunWalk.com. If you'd like to help with the Knapp's "Refreshment Station" (probably from 6:00 AM-12:00 NN), see Bob or Winnie Knapp.

May's "Monthly Special": Quakertown Food Pantry

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 May, our Monthly Special Recipient is the Quakertown Food Pantry.** We've been an integral part of this community-wide ministry through the years, but as springtime blooms in all its fullness, we have a special opportunity to support this life-giving ministry. Please give as you're able!



Finance News

On Going Business:

1. **Vanguard Account Balances:** As of March 31, 2023, **\$97,283.59**; February 28, 2023, **\$95,427.91**; January 31, 2023, \$98,223.28. Bank has sent paperwork approving Karen, Tom and Bob as signatories. Tom and Karen will meet this week to set up account for Karen to access records.
2. **Income statement:** As of March 31, 2023, expenses exceeded income (**\$9074.80**); February 28, 2023, expenses exceeded income (**\$7845.23 DRAFT**); January 31, 2023, expenses for the year exceed income (**\$2927.01**). Need to change signatory for checks to include Karen Roehner and drop Peter Flood (former council president).
3. **Cemetery:** As of March 31, 2023, balance is **\$83,193.58** (market fluctuations); February 28, 2023, balance is **\$89,052.03**; January 31, 2023, balance is **\$90,607**.

Baptismal Anniversaries!

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?

Happy Baptismal Birthday!

Angel Esquilin, Jr., Lauren Gibson,
Vanessa Hamlin, Linda Hertzog,
Austin Hunsberger, Winnie Knapp,
Robin Lawrence, Cole Sauerwald,
and Aaron Shimalla

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

Our church website:

www.stpaulsqtown.org

Our email address:

stpaulsqtown@gmail.com

Our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/StPaulsQtown

Joyful Noise Facebook:

www.facebook.com/joyfulnoiseatstpauls

For daily Morning and Evening Prayer:

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



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.
- ✦ Even though our **Sunday morning Fellowship Hour** is being held in person again after worship, Patty Schumacher's making sure you can still join in, even if you can't join us in person! To do so, follow the instructions above for Zoom, but use meeting ID **839 381 0896** and passcode **90e8Dm**.
- ✦ And if you want to check out the latest announcements, you can find "**This Week at St Paul's**" on **Google Docs** at



FaceTime

docs.google.com/document/d/1aZi_IL0SHaQ1BOGFS_s3bt0oHoTQ4fCy9tO372PZioE/edit#



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 the end of 2022, our congregation's expenses have exceeded our income by over \$29,000, even with very disciplined stewardship of our resources. 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.

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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.



Scouts BSA Troop 007 / 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 and Cub 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. If you know a parent or grandparent of kids from kindergarten to high school, encourage them to visit one of our Scout meetings on Thursday nights, or check us out at Scouts007.org.

Here are some of our upcoming activities:

May 6-7	Camping at Lake Towhee
May 11	"Swimoree" at Quakertown YMCA
May 13	Bake Sale @ Lowe's, Quakertown
May 19-21	Camporee at Tinicum Park
May 25	Open House @ St. Paul's to promote and encourage new members
May 29	Participation in the Quakertown Memorial Day Parade
May 31	Senior Awards at Quakertown Community High School

When someone dies,

you don't get over your grief by **FORGETTING**,

you get through your grief by *remembering*.

— author unknown

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 *Kamryn Jenkins, Martha Reumann, Pr John Stevens Kerr, Patti Jo Zackowski, Ray Constable, and Pr John Keating*. 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.



Vacation Bible School!

Announcing Operation Restoration VBS!

Welcome Back to St. Paul's as we host Vacation Bible School right here at the church this summer!

This year's theme is "*Operation Restoration: Mending God's World*". You can view the curriculum at: <https://www.augsburgfortress.org/promos/operation-restoration/>

During this exciting weeklong program, kids learn to be menders of the universe as they explore the daily themes of Feed, Heal, Forgive, Pray, and Rest.

Operation Restoration will be held:
Monday, August 7 – Friday, August 11, 2023
6 pm to 8 pm

We will also be providing a light meal for kids from 5:30 – 6:00 pm

- ✓ Are you able to help with or lead a craft?
- ✓ Participate in a skit???? – opportunity for 4 people daily
- ✓ How about music, music, music?
- ✓ Would you like to provide a snack?
- ✓ Would you be able to donate bottled water?
- ✓ Could you come ONE evening and we'll find a place for you to help out?
- ✓ Are you a GREAT decorator and would be able to help decorate?
- ✓ How about helping with check-in for the kids the first evening?

Please prayerfully consider being part of this wonderful ministry. Is God calling you and you are not sure what He wants? Well, pick up the phone already; this is a great way to "get your feet wet" and be involved in a fun filled ministry! God knows where He needs you, but YOU have to get out of the boat!

God's Blessings to you and many thanks for all that you do in "Sharing God's love in joyful service" ~

Please contact Rose Sutkins at rsutkins@gmail.com or 215-262-4782 if you are interested in hearing more about VBS.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday April 13th at 7 pm via zoom:

To join the Zoom meeting, go to:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3700147169?pwd=d0NsNi9VUkxEVWZhaeRlWHd4SUtVUT09>

Or go to zoom.us, click "Join a Meeting", and enter meeting ID 370 014 7169 and passcode 119805. Or call 929.205.6099 and use meeting ID 370 014 7169 and passcode 119805. (Or use Free Conference Call-- 857.232.0157, conference code 144261).

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SATURDAY JUNE 3RD

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QUAKERTOWN FOOD PANTRY

ADMISSION: DONATION OR 2 NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS

6:00 PM GATE OPENS AT 5:00 PM

UNIVEST CENTER IN QUAKERTOWN, PA

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Joyful Noise 9

As we get closer and closer to JN9, our planning keeps rolling on! See the JN Newsletter for details, but here are a few things that are important for you to know: Please continue to solicit local businesses and individuals for sponsorship. Be sure to follow JN on Facebook and share the posts so more people can find out about the festival. Post fliers wherever you can. Keep an eye out for volunteer needs for the bake sale and Wal-Mart table, among other things. And please attend as many planning meetings as possible. Meetings will be on April 30, 10:30 at the church; May 7, 11:30 at the park (to work out a layout for the grounds); May 14, 10:30 at the church (if necessary, since it's Mother's Day); May 28, 10:30 at the church; and June 11, 10:30 at the church (please try to attend this last meeting before the event—we'll wrap up any loose ends, get our t-shirts and get psyched up for the big day!). Thanks so much to everyone who has worked very hard to lead us toward a great festival!




JOYFUL NOISE 9
MUSIC FESTIVAL
SAT • JUNE 17 • 2023
10 AM – 7 PM

THE PARK AT 4TH • UNIVEST PERFORMANCE CENTER • QUAKERTOWN

→ **FREE ADMISSION – THANK OFFERING** ←

BENEFITING
QUAKERTOWN AREA FOOD PANTRIES
 BRING A CAN OF FOOD!

★ **MUSIC** ★
 RAFFLES • CRAFTS • KIDS ACTIVITIES

→ **PERFORMERS** ←

St. Paul's Joyful Noise Band Uplifting contemporary Christian music Senor Fancy pants Indie-pop tunes especially for children Once Called Saul Quakertown-based Christian rock band Craig Thatcher Internationally-known guitar master performs with Cliff Starkey on keyboard and vocals	Seasons Vibrant Celtic Mu-Folk Denia Shanelle and her band Philadelphia-based contemporary Christian artist Bob Halligan, Jr. Inspiring and joyful tunes from this nationally-known singer/songwriter and leader of Ceil Rain The 307 Pennridge-area rock band
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HELP FEED THE HUNGRY IN OUR COMMUNITY!
 QUESTIONS?
 Call the office weekdays at 215-536-5789 • STPAULSQTOWN.ORG

Social Ministry Updates/News

Palm Sunday activity: 6 children attended, ages 3-12. Included storytelling, activities related to Holy Week, snacks and craft; basket for each; and self selection of free books. Thanks to Cecelia, Pat and Sara.

Community outreach updates:

- ELCA sent us thank you for \$500 donation to Ukraine and Earthquake relief (\$250 each).
- Joyce provided our \$100 donation to Code Blue Shelter. Urged us to contact them in October to get feedback on needs and to schedule a tour, which she described as well organized.
- Food Pantry: although due to schedule conflicts, only 3 could work in the pantry this past Thursday, a new system set up by Cecelia allowed us to completely fill the empty shelves in less than 2 hours. Next volunteer date is Thursday, May 4, 1 pm.
- We filled 8+ bags of food donations for the Cub Scouts to deliver to the Food Pantry.
- Perfect Fit donations – completed collection of jewelry, clothing and hygiene items. Cecelia will deliver.
- Loaves and Fishes Dinner, July 6. FUTURE Discussion for planning



ARTS ALIVE!
MAY 20, 2023
10 AM - 4 PM

QNB
 YOUR COMMUNITY BANK

St Luke's
 UPPER BUCKS CAMPUS

New Vitae

PENNSYLVANIA
 ARTS ALIVE!

BROAD STREET - DOWNTOWN QUAKERTOWN

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT ALL DAY
FOOD COURT
WINE/ BEER/ SPIRITS TASTING AREA
CHILDREN'S COURTYARD FUN
CAPTAIN AMERICA
CHALK DRAWING
HARLEY HILL FARM ALPACAS

QUAKERTOWNALIVE.COM 215-536-2273 **RAINDATE: MAY 21**



Sharing God's love in joyful service!

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

The St. Paul's News

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
of Applebachsville

837 Old Bethlehem Road
Quakertown, PA 18951

Pastor David Heckler

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

Each Member of the Congregation, Ministers



May 2023