



St. Paul's News



Pastor's Corner

Welcome to July! This month, we get to enjoy a fairly rare opportunity: we'll be gathering for worship on July 4, America's Independence Day, since it falls on a Sunday this year. Our Episcopal brothers and sisters observe July 4 as a major feast day, a day to pray in thanksgiving for the founders who "won liberty for themselves and for us and lit the torch of freedom for nations then unborn." Other faith communities will hail the American colonies' Declaration of Independence as a unique and perhaps even saving act of God's providence for the world, the establishment of "a city set on a hill" and a "new Jerusalem/Israel" raised up to set in motion the end times and the reappearing of Christ in conquering glory. And many other faith communities will struggle with how to properly navigate the combination of a patriotic holiday and the worship and service of a God whose sovereignty, grace, mercy, and saving embrace are extended to **all** nations and not just the United States. (And of course, pastors will be sweating with anxiety over whether and how to "talk about politics" on this occasion...)

So in the spirit of the cartoon character Darkwing Duck ("Let'th get dangerous!"), allow me to make a few observations about this strange conflation of July 4 and the work of God:

- **If you want to talk about God, talking about politics is inescapable.** Politics is all about the nature and dynamics of relational power within and among communities— and given that the first characteristic of god[s] that comes to mind for most people is that they're "powerful", the way we understand God speaks volumes about how we understand the nature of power and its uses for good or evil. If your God is Thor or Zeus or Baal, for instance, you probably think of power (and glory) in terms of the ability to level destruction upon your enemies. If your God is "the God and Father of our [crucified and risen] Lord Jesus Christ [of Nazareth]" (or even the God of Psalm 113, for instance), you'll be challenged to understand the nature of divine power and glory very differently. And if you try to cast the crucified and risen Jesus in the mold of Thor— well, then saying you have a theological problem is an understatement. (You also have a major problem if you assert that God's automatically on your nation's side because you're inherently so wonderful. Alas, those two problems often go together, and result in all sorts of chaos and destruction...)

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We continue to offer LIVE STREAM services each Sunday Morning at <https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsQtown/live>

If you do not have a facebook account; that is okay, you may still view the live services. If you do not have facebook, and you go to the live facebook site, you will see this:

See more of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Applebachsville on Facebook

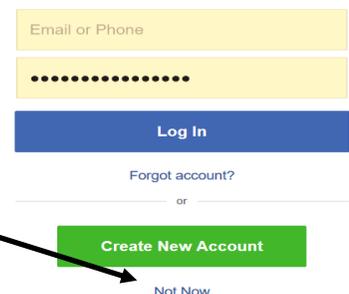


You can try to click on the video you want to watch while ignoring the box above, the video should pop up in a new screen and you should be able to watch. BUT, if facebook does not allow you to, continue with the following instructions:

On the right hand side of the screen scroll down to the bottom and this box should pop up instead of the one above:

At the bottom you will see NOT NOW. Click on Not Now then scroll up to The video. You will be able to watch. You may also watch older videos you may have missed. When you click on the video you want, it should pop up in a new tab.

See more of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church o...



Pastor's Corner Continued

- One of the most wonderful gifts the Hebrew Scriptures offer us is the witness of the **prophets**. Early on in their national history, the people of Israel seek to have a king to rule over them “to be like all the other nations around us and to have someone to fight our battles.” The prophetic leader Samuel warns them that having kings comes with baggage (rulers tend to use their power to enrich themselves and their pals and exploit those they’re supposed to care for), but the people demand kings anyway. But God makes sure that those rulers are held accountable to an authority greater than themselves, the God who’d made a divine covenant with them after liberating them from slavery in Egypt; and God sends prophets as “holy gadflies” to remind rulers and people alike of who they are—liberated slaves, people who belong to the God who moves heaven and earth to deliver the exploited from their misery, people called to represent God and God’s ways authentically in the world— and when they need to correct their course to remain true to that covenant. The prophets were (and are) rarely folks in positions of power, and so they tended to suffer much opposition from “the powers that be”. (Indeed, one of the most frequent criticisms of the early Christians was that they were “unpatriotic” because they wouldn’t offer worship to the Roman emperor; and they were persecuted and sometimes killed for their lack of “patriotism”.) But God made sure to raise up these prophets time and again to challenge the status quo, to call out injustice wherever they saw it, and to challenge a complacent “chosen people” to exhibit among and beyond themselves the same grace and compassion and challenge that God had first given them. Prophets drove God’s people nuts, proving that before the truth sets us free, the truth makes us really angry— but God gave God’s people, and God still gives God’s people, such prophets. The question is, do we listen to them and act accordingly?
- Finally, there’s the issue of **the role of religious communities in the body politic**. In most cultures throughout the ages, governments have asked religious communities to serve as “priests” in the body politic— to identify the present government and its ways as God-ordained and blessed without qualification or reserve, and to bless its ways in the eyes of the faithful. (If you’re recoiling at this definition of priesthood, I understand— it’s why I put “priests” in quotes.) In our times of great patriotic fervor in the American context, we tend to demand that our religious leaders be such “priests” in our communities, extolling the divine virtues of our history as we prefer to tell it. We’re convinced such behavior preserves and/or reinforces our comfortable place as authorities in society, and we like being comfortable and authoritative...
- But as Martin Luther King Jr. once said, “The Church must be reminded that it’s not the master or the servant of the state, but rather the conscience of the state. It must be the guide and critic of the state, and never its tool. If the Church doesn’t recapture its prophetic zeal, it’ll become an irrelevant social club without moral or spiritual authority.” And as King both proclaimed and demonstrated, that voice of conscience is most powerful and transformative when it rises “from below” and without leveraging violence of any sort, not when it seeks to “talk down from above” from the seats of power. (Exhibit A: Jesus...)

These are surely weighty things to think about on a day in which we’d rather have picnics, detonate fireworks, and bask in the glory of our nation. But God’s gift is precisely that God makes us think about these things, and calls and empowers us to follow the way of Jesus in all its strangeness and prophetic power. So sometime during this day of booming celebration, set aside a time and place of quiet in your day. Take some time to read and meditate upon the appointed readings for the day (in the Episcopal church, they’re Deuteronomy 10.17-21, Psalm 145, Hebrews 11.8-16, and Matthew 5.43-48; in the Revised Common Lectionary, they’re Ezekiel 2.1-5, Psalm 123, 2 Corinthians 12.2-10, and Mark 6.1-13). Gather with us in worship of God. And let God use this strange collision of occasions to challenge and re-shape your life in community.

Yours in Christ Jesus our risen Lord,

Pr. Dave

Stay Tuned for Conversations about Joyful Noise 9!

Keep your eye out for the date for our first Joyful Noise 9 meeting coming up soon. If you did not receive an email from Rich Baringer regarding Joyful Noise and would like to be added to the list, please send him an email at richmbjake@comcast.net.



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!

Benjamin Bauman, Emily Bryan, Jennifer Hallman, Amorita Johnson, Gwen Pascoe, and Kelsey Shaak!

A Note from Stewardship/Finance Committee

Dear Friends at St. Paul's,

It was lovely seeing so many attending Sunday worship service and the congregational meeting, whether live or via zoom. The spirit is surely alive at St. Paul's!

This note is intended to give you an update on finances and stewardship.

First, a big thank you to Bob Westervelt who applied for the **PPP loan last year -- \$17,000+**. We were successful in being awarded this loan. And here's the even better news: he applied for forgiveness of the loan, which was granted! This means that we actually finished 2020 without debt and in the black.

Unfortunately, PPP resources were quickly used up this year and we were not able to secure one for 2021. So, we are on our own for balancing our income and expenses. As of May 31, **our expenses were \$9795.70 more than income.**

On the other hand, among those who pledge support, **overall you have met and even exceeded your pledge.** THANK YOU for your generosity! By the way, we have used your pledge from 2020 to complete the 2021 report. In other words, if you pledged to give \$50/week throughout 2020, we have assumed the same amount for 2021. If, in fact, you need/want to change that pledge, please contact Wendy Gullett with the change.

As for the Lots of Love Driveway and Parking Lot renovation project, we have collected more than **2/3 what was pledged -- \$10,000+ on \$15,000** pledged. And we're not even half way through the 3-year collection period. So, another reason to thank you and God for your faithfulness. Wendy will provide an update on your individual campaign contributions when she completes the June (2nd quarter) report.

In closing, thank you for your continued generosity in all things supporting our ministry here at St. Paul's. God knows, it's not just money that keeps us going, but our spirit of willingness, love for each other, caring. But, money helps!

God bless you!

Tom Sutkins, Finance Chair; Bob Westervelt, Treasurer; Sara George, Stewardship; Rich Strouse, Patty Schumacher, Bill Shaeffer
The Finance Committee

Bulletin and Flower Sponsors Needed



If you'd like to sponsor a bulletin, the following dates are available: July 25; Aug. 1, 22, & 29; Oct. 24 & 31; Nov. 7; Dec. 5 and Dec. 19th The following available dates for flowers are: Sept. 5 & 26; Oct. 24, & 31; Dec. 19. If you'd like more information or would like to sponsor, please contact Linda at 610.395.1114. Thank you!

July and August weekly Altar Guild volunteers needed!
Please sign-up for a slot (set up or clean up) if available any Sunday during June or July. The sign up sheet is hanging in the narthex on the bulletin board. Please see Marie Shaw for more information. Thank you!

DON'T FORGET TO ...

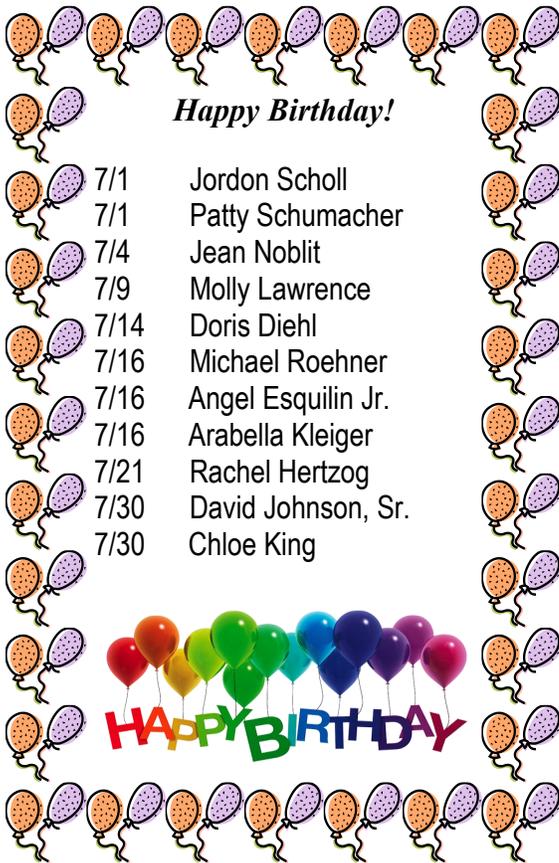
1. Save your Redner's receipts and place in the envelope on the Narthex Bulletin Board. This is a simple way to financially help St. Paul's.
2. Save your aluminum tabs from Soda Cans, Soup Cans, etc. and give to Todd Silvius for the Ronald McDonald House.
3. If you have e-mail; sign up for the Electronic version of the newsletter by e-mailing us at stpaulsqtown@gmail.com.

We are looking for a **new congregational coordinator** for our Food Pantry efforts here at St Paul. Many thanks to Denise Shaeffer for her fine work over the years! If you're interested, please contact Pr Dave.

**July Monthly Special:
Bucks County Opportunity Council**

The mission of the Bucks County Opportunity Council is to reduce poverty and partner with the community to promote economic self-sufficiency. Our vision is to elevate the awareness of poverty, and to create and lead partnerships to make our community a "Bridges Out of Poverty" community.

Throughout July drop off your spare change, or write a check with Monthly Special listed in the memo line, to St. Paul's, to support this community ministry. For more information on the BCOC check out their website at: www.bcoc.org



Happy Birthday!

- 7/1 Jordon Scholl
- 7/1 Patty Schumacher
- 7/4 Jean Noblit
- 7/9 Molly Lawrence
- 7/14 Doris Diehl
- 7/16 Michael Roehner
- 7/16 Angel Esquilin Jr.
- 7/16 Arabella Kleiger
- 7/21 Rachel Hertzog
- 7/30 David Johnson, Sr.
- 7/30 Chloe King



Order from Amazon? Benefit's St. Paul's!

Help support St. Paul's every time you shop at Amazon by bookmarking this link and using it when you shop at Amazon: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-6272047>. You will see an amazon log-in screen which states on the left .5% of all eligible purchases will be given to Saint Paul's Lutheran Church of Applebachsville. Sign in with your account/password and continue with your purchase and check out. The total donation by Amazon for all eligible purchases will be credited to the church's bank account on a quarterly basis. Once you register St. Paul's as your preferred charity, it becomes a part of your Amazon account and all future purchases will automatically be credited to the church. Any questions regarding this program can be directed to the Finance Committee or just use the information tabs on the Amazon site. This last quarter, St. Paul's made \$37.96!! Every penny helps thank you!



Like Us on Facebook (and Otherwise Online)!

Did you know that St Paul's maintains an active church website, as well as several Facebook pages? Check out our online presence at the following sites:

- Our church website: www.stpaulsgtown.org
- Our email address: stpaulsgtown@gmail.com
- Our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/StPaulsOtown



- Our Joyful Noise Facebook page: www.facebook.com/joyfulnoiseatstpauls
- For daily Morning and Evening Prayer: <https://dailyoffice.wordpress.com/>

Finance Meeting Notes Ongoing Business

1. **Vanguard Account Balances:** As of May 31, 2021, \$142,566.56, from which Bob requested \$5000 to pay bills. April 30, 2021, balance was \$141,554.86. Although we have about \$25,000 in cash that could be invested, it was agreed to hold off until the decision about painting is made and pending the need for further cash infusions to pay operating expenses.
2. **Income statement:** As of May 31, 2021, expenses exceeded income by (\$9795.70); April 30, 2021, expenses exceeded income by (\$9493.65) year to date.
3. **Cemetery:** Account totals as of May 31, 2021, \$94,981.45; April 30, 2021, balance was \$95,130.22.

July Worship News



- Now that Pennsylvania's indoor COVID protocols have expired and most of our adults are fully vaccinated, **we've returned to in-person worship in the sanctuary at St Paul's.**

Even so, however, **we're adapting our worship protocols somewhat to make sure we keep our most vulnerable members and visitors safe.** Remember, our younger kids and perhaps a third of our regular worshippers haven't been vaccinated yet; and with even nastier and more contagious variants of the coronavirus in circulation right now, we can't just assume we're "all clear" yet. So in consideration for our most vulnerable members— and since we're singing and using responsive litanies in our worship (activities that project viral particles much further than mere soft speech)—

- ⇒ We've moved the lectern into the chancel area so that [1] readers are closer to the livestream microphone for ease of hearing online and [2] readers and worship leaders can speak and sing without wearing masks while maintaining maximum distance between themselves and the rest of the congregation, thus making them easier to hear and understand.
 - ⇒ We strongly encourage you to keep observing the COVID safety protocols of safe distancing, the wearing of face masks if you're not fully vaccinated (and preferably even if you *are* fully vaccinated— we have plenty of the disposable surgical face masks available for your use, and they're much easier to breathe through and sing through than the cloth masks), and limited physical contact.
 - ⇒ We're keeping our exterior and interior doors open to increase airflow and ventilation through the space for increased safety.
 - ⇒ We're distributing Holy Communion by "**stations**" rather than gathering everyone around the altar rail—but we're **not receiving the wine by intinction** (dipping the wafer into the wine), and we're sticking with wafers for the time being rather than loaves of bread;
 - ⇒ And **we're continuing to "livestream" our services online**, so our more distant and/or infirm members can continue to share with us in worship, fellowship, and service.
- We're well into "the long green season" of **Sundays after Pentecost**, also known as "**Ordinary Time**" ("ordinary" meaning "counted by number"). For much of the summer's "Ordinary Time", we're using a more "blended" liturgy, with both contemporary and traditional music included. And our worship leaders aren't "robing up" throughout the summer— so we'll definitely have a more contemporary feel.
 - Now that in-person indoor worship has resumed, **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. Altar guild prepares the altar before service on Sundays and cleans up the altar after worship. Nursery volunteers help both parents and children during the service. If one of these ministry opportunities interests you, please reach out to the church office for more information. Thank you!

Sharing God's Love In Joyful Service!

Join Us During Social Distancing on Zoom!

- ✦ 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.
- ✦ Our **Sunday morning Fellowship Hour** is now being hosted on Zoom by Patty Schumacher— even when we're also able to meet in person for worship— and we'd love for you to 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!

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.

COMMUNION BREAD RECIPE

Sift dry ingredients together **three times** (this is important):

- 3 cups flour (2 c. whole wheat, 1 c. white if possible)
- 1¼ tsp. baking powder
- 1¼ tsp. salt

Stir in 4 tsp. [olive] oil. Set aside.

Mix wet ingredients together until dissolved:

- ¾ cup + 2 Tbsp. very hot water (180+° F)
- 3 Tbsp. honey
- 3 Tbsp. molasses

Add wet ingredients to dry ingredients and mix well. Dough should be slightly sticky. Don't knead the dough.



Divide dough into four balls and flatten each ball into a ¼-in.

thick disk. With a knife, score a cross onto the top of each loaf (or score it like a pizza might be cut).

Lay the loaves on a baking sheet. Bake at 350° F for 10 mins. Remove from oven and brush the tops of the loaves with [olive] oil. Then bake them for an additional 5 minutes. Then pull them out and let them cool. After sharing the bread in Holy Communion, after the service is over, reverently eat the rest of the loaf together.



Congratulations to Our Graduates!

Even though the coronavirus pandemic has messed up a lot of the typical highlight events of senior year for so many of our young adults, they've not only persevered, but excelled and come through the challenges of this year with grace and honor. So we extend our heartfelt **congratulations** to our **graduates** from high school and college:

From Quakertown Community High School, *Haley Gordon*;

From American Military University, *Lauren [Roehner] Keller*;

From Quakertown Community High School, *Amorita Johnson*;

From Arcadia University, *Beverly Johnson*;

From Saucon Valley High School, *Lydia Apple* (Tom & Rose Sutkins' granddaughter);

From Cairn University, *Isabelle Ulrich* (Laura Ulrich's granddaughter).

"We give You thanks, O God, for all of life and for our common calling as Your servants. Look with favor upon our young people who've completed another milestone in their education.

Give them courage, patience, and vision as they go their way;

and strengthen us all in our vocation of witness to the world and of service to others,

for the sake of Your whole creation and to the glory of Your holy Name both now and forever."

(ELW Prayers for Occasional Services)

May God bless them in their ongoing learning and serving, that they and those they serve may together behold the wonders of God's grace anew each day! (And if we've inadvertently omitted anyone, please let us know at the church office— stpaulsqtown@gmail.com or 215.536.5789. We'll note them as soon as possible!)



Calling all potential ministry volunteers! As in-person indoor worship begins again we are in need of 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. Altar guild prepares the altar before service on Sundays and cleans up the altar after worship. Nursery volunteers help both parents and children during the service. If one of these ministry opportunities interests you; please reach out to the church office for more information. Thank you!



Thursday Morning Bible Study News

Come join us each week for our **Thursday Morning Bible Study** from **10:00-12:00 NN** via Zoom or Free Conference call. We're 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— invite your friends and join us on zoom!

To participate in Thursday Morning Bible Study or any of our other **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: 929.205.6099 or 312.626.6799. After you dial, you'll be asked for the host's code, and you'll type in 3700147169#, 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 really precious right now!) You can also use **Free Conference Call [FCC]**: Dial 857.232.0157, enter conference code 144261, and you're in.

Community Fireside Fellowship

“Get Fired Up for the Lord”

At St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Applebachsville



August 18th, 2021

6-8 pm

Rain Date: August 19th

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

Join us around the bonfire for an evening of conversation, singing, crafts, and hot dogs. Please bring your own chair and roasting stick. (Hot dogs, rolls, marshmallows and drinks will be provided.)

Apple I-PADS Available to a Good Home



Two used Apple I-PADS have been given to the church with the request that they go to a home where they can be used. Please note, these I-PADS do not have charging cords so a cord would need to be purchased by you. If you are interested in the I-PAD please contact the church office.

There are FOUR additional Apple I-PADS that are damaged. We are looking for an organization who will take the I-PADS and use them for a good cause (or if you think you can fix it yourself and use it, please reach out to the church). If you are aware of any organizations that could use the damaged I-PADS in a positive way, please pass along this information to Alicia in the church office. One I-PAD is unable to be charged; two have broken screens, and one has a broken screen and is slow to charge.

The St. Paul's News

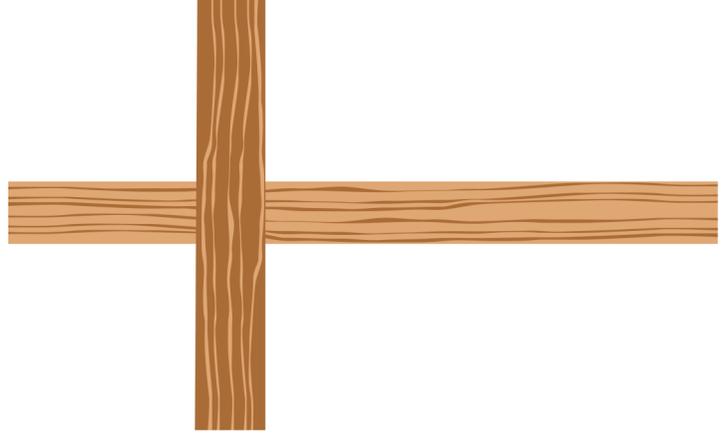
St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
of Applebachsville

837 Old Bethlehem Road
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Pastor David Heckler

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stpaulsqtown@gmail.com www.stpaulsqtown.org

Each Member of the Congregation, Ministers



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