



# St. Paul's News



## Pastor's Corner . . . By Pastor Dave Heckler

*Can you believe in the miracle coming?*

*Can you believe it will take you away?*

*There will be living where once there was death; there will be living in Jesus.*

•     *John Michael Talbot, "Advent Suite" © Universal Music Mgb Songs/Birdwing Music*     •



Well, Advent is here again, much to the dismay of at least some of you. At least one of the responses to our recent congregational survey suggested we get rid of Advent and go straight to Christmas, especially since pretty much the entire society around us is celebrating Christmas before the Thanksgiving turkey's gotten cold. Besides, the month of November is pretty much a pre-Advent season anyhow. Who needs Advent anyway?

This year, it would seem **we** do. November's been a brutal month for us at St Paul's, with the deaths of Alice Lindsay, Imogene Croman, and others dear to our hearts. As I write this, three of our folks are having surgery on back-to-back-to-back days, and at least two others are battling cancer. For still others, long-trusted relationships have been torn asunder, and hearts with them. And of course, we're all experiencing the unveiling of a federal executive branch depravity the likes of which hasn't been seen since the Watergate era, and perhaps far worse. And to top it all off, the dark and chill of winter is setting in, topping our heavily laden hearts with seasonal affective disorder ("the winter blues")...

Is it any wonder our hearts are weighed down these days? "Even as we live each day, death our life embraces," Martin Luther once wrote; and as one of our Eucharistic prayers for November states, "Surrounded by evil and bordered by death, we appeal to You, our Wisdom, Life, and Judge".

But **this** is precisely where Advent and its Scriptures meet us: where darkness and death weigh heavily, where the people and institutions we always considered trustworthy betray our trust and eventually lie in piles of rubble, where we've long since given up on hope and have simply gotten ourselves into the rhythm of "getting by, one foot in front of the other". They bid us reframe our sorrows and dashed hopes through the words of strange and alien prophets and their promises: to see the darkness of the tomb as the darkness of the womb, and its pains as the pains of birthing; to see our grief as testimony to great love and great legacies that can now be shared with others; to see our loss of gifted people as opportunities for new gifted people to rise up and let their gifts shine; to hear God's call to leave our stable but exiled status quo as the invitation to a new Exodus to a new Land of Promise; and to behold the Lord of heaven and earth clothed in our flesh-and-blood humanity and lying in a borrowed feed trough. Advent calls us to embrace our pain, not drink and dance it away in false revelry; to find God in the wilderness place we ourselves would least prefer to be; and to dare to believe that the Miracle is coming—that there **will** be living where once there was death; there **will** be living in Jesus!

Having opened this reflection with a song, it's probably fitting that I close it with one:

*Each winter as the year grows older, we each grow older too.  
The chill sets in a little colder; the verities we knew seem shaken and untrue.*

*When race and class cry out for treason, when sirens call for war,  
They overshout the voice of reason and scream till we ignore all we held dear before.*

*Yet I believe beyond believing that life can spring from death,  
That growth can flower from our grieving; that we can catch our breath and turn transfixed by faith.*

*So even as the sun is turning to journey to the north,  
The living Flame, in secret burning, can kindle on the earth and bring God's love to birth.*

*O Child of ecstasy and sorrows, O Prince of peace and pain,  
Brighten today's world by tomorrow's; renew our lives again—Lord Jesus, come and reign!*

*William and Annabeth Gay*

## Advent and Christmas at St Paul's



On December 1, we begin a new Church year with the season of **Advent**. Advent isn't just about counting down the days until Christmas; it's about God bringing forth a new creation in our hearts, in our lives, in our neighborhoods, in our society, and ultimately in the whole universe, and about our being part of that new creation. Advent's about *our* "pregnancy" with God's new thing every bit as much as it's about Mary's pregnancy with the infant Jesus; it's about our being reshaped into the new wineskins of God's Spirit as Christ takes on human flesh and blood once more in Word and water, in bread and wine, in grace and forgiveness *in us*. The season of Advent will last for four Sundays; and even as the days outside our sanctuary darken and shorten, the candles of our Advent wreath will be lit against the darkness in an ever-growing light. Come join us as we watch and wait, hope and pray, and "live itchy" with anticipation of the new thing God's doing through Christ Jesus our Lord!

## "Kringle Shoppe" December 6-8

The annual **Kringle Christmas Shoppe**, sponsored by the Haycock Historical Society, will be held this year from **Dec. 6-8** at the **Haycock Community Center**. Everything at the Kringle Christmas Shoppe is the product of local artisans, authors, and specialty crafters, including our Latvian brothers and sisters; and throughout the event, live music is provided by local musicians. In addition, a new book will be presented at Kringle this year; *A Brief History of Haycock* by Thomas Moll and Robert Leight will debut on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 2:00-5:00 PM; author Kay Winters will sign her children's books from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM on Saturday, Dec. 7; from 10-2 on Sunday, Dec. 8, author Lynda Gene Rymond will be signing her children's books; and prints from the estate of Joanne Isaac will be on sale. And of course, you won't want to miss the Christmas goodies, including plenty of hot cocoa. Hours of the Kringle Shoppe are **Friday 10:00 AM-7:00 PM, Saturday 10:00 AM-6:00 PM, and Sunday 10:00 AM-4:00 PM**. Invite your friends and come on out!

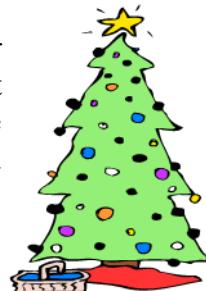


## St Paul's Cookie Sale Dec. 8

Our annual **Cookie Sale** will be held on Sunday, **December 8** following worship. Proceeds will go towards the parking lot project. Any donations of cookies, candy, or holiday items greatly appreciated. Donations can be brought to the fellowship hall before worship on Dec. 8.

## Christmas Carnival December 14

On Saturday, **Dec. 14** from **11:30 AM-2:00 PM**, we'll be serving as "Santa's helpers" at our Quakertown Ministerium's annual **Christmas Carnival** at Quakertown United Methodist Church (1875 Freier Rd., just off of Trumbauersville Rd.). As needy families in our area are receiving Christmas gifts through the Upper Bucks Unit of the Salvation Army, church and community groups from around the area will be involving children in various games and crafts and sharing the joy of the season.





## "Hanging of the Greens" Dec. 15

The “**Hanging of the Greens**” (decorating our sanctuary for Christmas) will take place on Sunday, **Dec. 15** after the service. If you’re able to stay after worship and help with this, please see Linda Hertzog for directions on how we’ll beautify the sanctuary. (The Christmas tree will be put up on the 14<sup>th</sup>, so no help is needed for that.) We’ll take the decorations and the tree down on January 5 after the service with your helping hands. Thanks for all your help as we prepare for the Birth of our Lord and Savior!

## Cocoa, Cookies, and Caroling Dec. 15

Come join us on **Dec. 15 @ 6:00 PM** for “**Cocoa, Cookies, and Caroling**” in the fellowship hall. Besides the aforementioned goodies, we’ll have a brass ensemble (and Pr Dave and Philip Diehl on guitar at least) accompanying our music, and our friends at St John’s Lutheran in Richlandtown will be joining us. We’ll need donations of home-baked goodies to share for the event. Please contact Karen Roehner by email or at 267.718.8830 to bake or RSVP for this event.



## St Paul's Christmas Card Box is Back!

Thanks to our Social Ministry Team, our annual **Christmas Card Box** is available in the Narthex. Save yourself a stamp and bring in your cards by Dec. 15 for those who worship at St Paul’s, placing your cards in this box for distribution. The cards will be sorted and available by Dec. 22 for pickup in the fellowship hall.

## Christmas Season Worship Schedule

**December 24:** Our annual **Christmas Eve Candlelight Eucharist** will be held on **December 24** at **7:00 PM** (only one service this year), with special prelude music beginning at 6:30 PM. Our worship will feature the beauty of our Christmas tree and poinsettias, the lighting of handheld (and this year, safer) candles to hail the Light of the World, your favorite carols, and festive Holy Communion with a strong Christmas flavor.



**December 25:** While the rest of the world is thinking that Christmas is over, we’re remembering that Christmas is twelve days long and celebrating like the party’s never over! On this Christmas Day at **10:00 AM**, we’ll share in a simple yet intimate service of Holy Communion Pr. Dave has come to call “**Christ-Mass**”, with plenty of carols familiar and new. Let’s gather as God’s family around the Christmas Tree of Life and bask in the joy of Christ’ self-giving!

**December 29:** On this First Sunday after Christmas, we’ll get ready to enter the new year by sharing in a service of **Christmas Lessons, Carols, and Communion**. Our readings and hymns will carry us through the entire Christmas story from Zechariah and Elizabeth through Simeon and Anna, with our hymns and carols serving as commentary on the story and plenty of different readers sharing it.



**January 5:** We’ll celebrate the **Epiphany of Our Lord** a day early this year! With the Magi of old, we bring our gifts and share in Holy Communion around Christ Jesus the Light of the World, the Light no darkness can overcome. We’ll still have our Christmas decorations up on this near end of the Christmas season too—so come and enjoy their beauty and fragrance!

So why keep the good news to yourselves? We’ll have plenty of flyers available in the church narthex to share with your co-workers, neighbors, and friends. Invite them to join you as we joyfully worship God with us in Christ Jesus this festive season!

Social Ministry will once again be collecting old cell phones and tablets for ***Cell Phones for Soldiers***. Please remove your sim card before donating. Your device will be wiped of all personal information left on the tablet or phone. These devices are then sold to an electronics refurbisher who will resell the device. ***Proceeds are used to purchase prepaid international calling cards for troops and to provide emergency funding to veterans.*** See Pat Stever for more information.

### December's Noisy Offering

In December, our noisy offering will take place on December 22nd. This month's offering will be going towards **AHUB (Upper Bucks Code Blue)**

Collect your spare change and bring it with you on November 24th. Thank you for all your contributions!



### Mitten Tree returns

**Mitten Tree:** Please help us bring a smile to a child this year. Proceeds from our Mitten Tree (see Fellowship Hall) will go to SmileTrain, the international organization providing surgery for children born with a cleft palate. A cleft occurs when the roof of the mouth or the top lip (or both) doesn't close properly during pregnancy. Babies with untreated clefts can experience difficulty eating, swallowing and drinking. Without sufficient nutrition, growth can be stunted, leading to developmental problems that can last a lifetime. \$250 pays for an entire surgery and medical care (the dentists actually provide their services free of charge). Now til December 15. Thank you!



### Caleb's Hot Cocoa Stand returns

**Sunday, December 22nd from 2:00—5:00 pm  
to benefit the AHUB Upper Bucks Code Blue Shelter**

Last year Caleb Byelich, now a 9 year old 3rd grader, wanted to raise \$100 for the Upper Bucks Shelter. His goal of \$100 was far surpassed thanks to the support of the community and God's abundant blessings. He was able to raise over \$1700.00 to help the shelter. We hope you will stop by and enjoy some hot chocolate with us! Live Music from some talented young musicians will be performed on the hour at 2:00, 3:00 and 4:00pm. Please consider stopping by on your travels through town. **Hot chocolate and cookies will be available for \$1.00/each.** (with free toppings for the hot chocolate!) Thank you!

**Location: 207 N. Ambler Street, Quakertown**



**Grandfamilies Group at St Paul's:** We typically think of "family" in terms of mother, father, and children—but families of different forms have always existed. Between the economic demands that both parents work outside the home and the scourges of addiction, domestic abuse, and other challenges, more and more grandparents find themselves becoming the primary caregivers to their grandchildren, forming "grandfamilies" with unique challenges and joys.

To help grandfamilies meet those unique challenges, we're starting a **Grandfamilies Support Group** for our Upper Bucks area. Our next **Grandfamilies Group Meeting** will be on **Dec. 18 @ 1:30 PM** here at St Paul's. For the time being, we'll try to meet once a month around this same time period as we establish ourselves more solidly. If you're interested in coming, please let Pr Dave know at 570.470.0716 or [prdaveheckler@gmail.com](mailto:prdaveheckler@gmail.com).

**Four More 2020 Bulletin and Flower Sponsors Needed.**  
Bulletin (\$20.00) 3/29, 12/6 and altar flowers (\$42.00)  
5/31, 8/23 sponsors are needed for the upcoming year.  
Flower sponsorships may be shared by two people to help alleviate the expense. If you're interested, please contact Linda Hertzog at 610-395-1114.



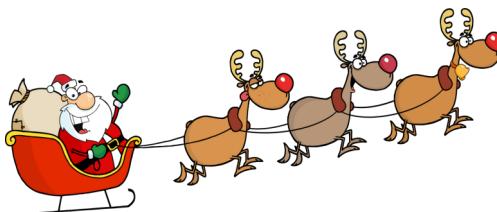
**The Annual Report Deadline will be Sunday, December 29th. Want to get a head start before the holidays? Feel free to submit your year end report to the office at any time.**



### "Loaves and Fishes" in Quakertown

On the first Thursday of each month @ **6:00 PM** (doors open 5:30 PM) at the Yerger Building at **Trinity Lutheran Church, Quakertown**, our Quakertown Ministerium hosts a free community dinner known as

**"Loaves and Fishes".** Different churches provide and serve the meal each month, but the meal's always at Trinity. For more information, contact Pr. Carolann Hopcke at 215.536.3193.





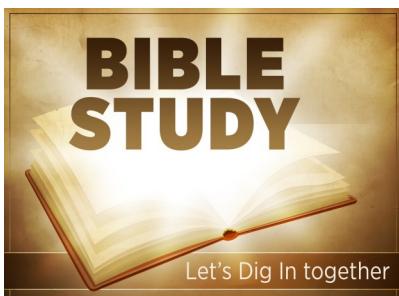
**Like Us on Facebook  
(and Otherwise Online)!**

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 Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/pages/St-Pauls-Evangelical-Lutheran-Church-of-Applebachsville](http://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Pauls-Evangelical-Lutheran-Church-of-Applebachsville)
- ⇒ Our WEBSITE: [www.stpaulsgtown.org](http://www.stpaulsgtown.org)
- ⇒ Our Joyful Noise Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/joyfulnoiseatstpauls](http://www.facebook.com/joyfulnoiseatstpauls)
- ⇒ Daily Bible readings and commemorations: [www.satucket.com/lectionary](http://www.satucket.com/lectionary)
- ⇒ Daily Morning and Evening Prayer liturgies: <https://dailyoffice.wordpress.com/>
- ⇒ Our e-mail address: [stpaulsgtown@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsgtown@gmail.com)



**106 Shoeboxes were collected** from St. Paul's to bring joy to children around the world through Operation Christmas Child. **Thank you to everyone** who sponsored and filled the shoe boxes; we surpassed our goal of 100 boxes! The total money collected towards this project was \$931.00. *A special thank you* to Sara George who sponsored the remaining empty shoeboxes, which helped us surpass our goal!



**Bible Study  
News**

Come join us  
**Thursday Dec. 5, 19, and 26** for our  
**Morning Bible Study** from **10:00 -12:00 PM** in the

parish house. We're **"Living with the Lectionary"**, digging into the Scripture readings for the upcoming week to discover the treasures that await us come Sunday.

In addition, Pr Dave's started a weekday **Bible Study at Christ UCC** in Trumbauersville. This month, we'll be meeting on **Wednesday, Dec. 11 @ 12:00 PM** in the church office., bringing our lunch with us as well as our Bibles and digging into what God's still saying to us through the Scriptures.

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!



**Christmas is coming;  
shopping at Amazon.com  
raises money for 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.



**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!**  
Laura Ulrich, Ray  
Constable, Laurie Bryan



Volunteer Schedule for December 2019

Date	Bulletin Collator	Nursery	Flower Delivery	Acolyte/Crucifer	Communion Assistant
1	Kelly Shaak	Aundie Hamlin	Brett and Marie Shaw	Linda Hertzog	Stefanie Bauman
8	Aundie Hamlin	Rhonda Diehl	Aundie Hamlin	Linda Hertzog	_____
15	Debbie Constable	Erik Hansen	Bob and Charyl Westervelt	Austin Hunsberger	Ethan Bauman
22	Phillip and Diehl	LouAnn Barndt	Bill and Sascha Baringer	Ethan Bauman	_____
29	Winnie Knapp	Rhonda Diehl	David Johnson Family	Linda Hertzog	Richard Baringer

**Counting Teams:**

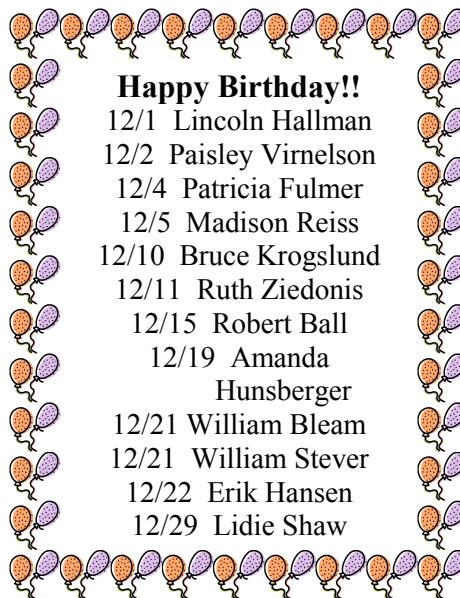
- 12/1: Team 2  
 12/8: Team 3  
 12/15: Team 4  
 12/22: Team 5  
 12/24: Team 1  
 12/29: Team 2  
 1/5: Team 3  
 1/12: Team 4  
 1/19: Team 5  
 1/26: Team 1

**Altar Guild:** Marie Shaw, Wendy Gullett, Volunteer Needed**Ushers:** Bruce Krogslund & Gordon Bryan**Food Pantry Volunteers:** Team # 2: Kelly Shaak, Bill & Pat Stever, Norm Diehl, Gordon Bryan, Sara George, Bruce Krogslund**Christmas Eve:**

- Bulletin Collator: Alicia Byelich  
 Nursery: Great Watkins  
 Acolyte/Crucifer: Linda Hertzog

**DON'T FORGET TO ...**

- 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.
- Save your aluminum tabs from Soda Cans, Soup Cans, etc. and give to Todd Silvius for the Ronald McDonald House.
- If you have e-mail; sign up for the Electronic version of the newsletter by e-mailing us at [stpaulsqtown@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsqtown@gmail.com).
- Pick up your special card, or go to Customer Service at Grocery Outlet, to use at check-out so St. Paul's receives 5% of your total order.

**Happy Birthday!!**

- 12/1 Lincoln Hallman  
 12/2 Paisley Virlnelson  
 12/4 Patricia Fulmer  
 12/5 Madison Reiss  
 12/10 Bruce Krogslund  
 12/11 Ruth Ziedonis  
 12/15 Robert Ball  
 12/19 Amanda Hunsberger  
 12/21 William Bleam  
 12/21 William Stever  
 12/22 Erik Hansen  
 12/29 Lidie Shaw

**Advent Workshop**

**Join us Sunday,  
 December 1st  
 following worship to  
 participate in an Advent  
 Workshop led by  
 Stefanie Bauman**





Youth & families, please join us on December 15 at 6pm for cocoa, cookies and caroling in the fellowship hall. We will be sharing this event with our sister church St. John's and hope to see you all there. We will need donations of home baked goodies to share for the event. Please contact Karen by email or at 267-718-8830 (cell phone/text) to bake or RSVP for this event. Thanks!



### **Advocates for the Homeless of Upper Bucks [AHUB] Code Blue News**

As the non-profit ministry called **Advocates for the Homeless of Upper Bucks (AHUB)**, our Code Blue sheltering ministry provides emergency shelter for homeless people when nighttime temperatures and/or wind chills reach dangerous levels—in our case, 26 degrees or below. Last winter, we provided such shelter on 98 nights; and we anticipate that this winter, we'll be sheltering even more of our neighbors in need at the Masonic Lodge building in downtown Quakertown. The sheltering ministry of Upper Bucks Code Blue requires volunteers sharing their time, organizational skills, relational skills, and of course, food and supplies to make this shelter available for folks in need.

- If you're interested in **volunteering with our Code Blue sheltering ministry**—and we really need overnight shift (8:00 PM-2:30 AM or 2:30-7:00 AM) volunteers—we have AHUB volunteer applications available in the fellowship hall. (We're asking all volunteers to complete a volunteer application.) And we'll probably be doing another **Volunteer Training Workshop** in December or January...

### **Finance News:**



### **Old Business:**

1. **Driveway discussion:** Three bids were received to improve the handicapped parking area next to the Fellowship Hall. The bid \$14,300 was presented to a congregational meeting November 10 and approved. We will finance through our Vanguard account and hold a 3-year capital campaign beginning in February 2020 to offset as much as possible. The project should be completed by the end of November.

### **On Going Business:**

1. **Vanguard Account Balance:** As of 10.31.2019 \$136,547.35, up from 9.30.19 of **\$135,682.47**, down from 8.31.19 of **\$138,057.75**.
2. **October Income Statement:** Year to date **Expenses exceed Income by (\$8272.14), a worsened deficit since September of (\$5526.08).** **NOTE: The deficit is expected to be less than projected for the 2019 budget.**
3. **Stewardship:** Pledge campaign concluded with 29 pledges (same as last year), for a total of \$61,557 pledges – about \$4000 more than 2019. Third quarter pledge giving results: \$5,819 given above pledged amount. 26 pledgers are meeting or exceeding their pledges. As noted above, the capital campaign to support the driveway reconstruction will begin February 2020. Proceeds from Social Ministry's December cookie sale will go toward the driveway project.
4. **Cemetery:** Account totals as of 10.31.2019 \$88,352.01 up from 9.30.2019 of **\$86,327.48**.



*The Lord God said when time was full, He would  
shine His light in the darkness;  
He said a Virgin would conceive and give birth to  
the Promise.*

*For a thousand years the dreamers dreamt and  
hoped to see His love,  
But the Promise showed their wildest dreams had  
simply not been wild enough!*

*The Promise was Love, and the Promise was Life;  
The Promise brought Light to the world,  
Living proof the Lord God saves, and the name of the Promise was Jesus!*

*May light and life beyond your wildest dreams  
come to fulfillment in your life in Christ Jesus  
in this Advent and Christmas season and throughout the new year!*

*Pr. Dave Heckler*

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### Poinsettia Sponsor Form

Help beautify the sanctuary for Christmas this year by  
sponsoring a Poinsettia.  
The cost per Poinsettia is \$7.25.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Envelope #: \_\_\_\_\_

# of plants: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$7.25/plant = total cost \$\_\_\_\_\_

Will you be taking your Poinsettia home? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Dedication: "Given to the Glory of God . . ."

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_ "

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_ "

Place the order form and money in a sealed envelope (with your weekly giving envelope number on the outside) and place in the offering plate by December 8th.



# 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      [www.stpaulsqtown.org](http://www.stpaulsqtown.org)

*Each Member of the Congregation, Ministers*



Join Us: Christmas Eve Candlelight Eucharist @ 7:00 PM  
“Christ—Mass” Christmas Day @ 10:00 AM

*Sharing God's Love in Joyful Service!*

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church  
837 OLD BETHLEHEM ROAD  
Quakertown, PA 18951