

The Beacon

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Issue 11 November 2026

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

Council Highlights

Worship & Music Info

PASTORAL CARE

Your Pastoral Care needs may be communicated to Pastor Roy, (717) 350-5057 or our Church Council President, Ron Colvin, (717) 574-8365. Pastor Roy is available by appointment.

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Advent & Christmas 2026

November 29: 1st Sunday in Advent - 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

December 06: 2nd Sunday in Advent - 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
St. Paul's Choir Musicale, *with flute, cello & drums*
Bring us Hope, Love, Peace and Joy

December 13: 3rd Sunday in Advent - 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
with the Handbells followed by
St. Paul's Congregational Meeting / with Coffee Hour

December 19: 4th Sunday in Advent - 6:30 p.m. - Worship of the Spoken Word

December 20: 4th Sunday in Advent - 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Wednesdays in Advent

6:00 p.m. in the Chapel

Wandering and Wondering in Darkness

December 02: *When God Began to Create the Heaven and Earth*

December 09: *Now, the Birth of Jesus the Messiah, Took Place in This Way*

December 16: *Surely, the Darkness Shall Cover Me*

Christmas Worship

December 24: **Christmas Eve - Worship Service**
7:15 p.m. Candlelight and Music Worship with Communion

December 27: 1st Sunday of Christmas - 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
Lessons & Carols



Jesus taught that government has an important function but that our loyalty belongs to God who holds us securely. In our day we may apply Jesus' teaching as an invitation to contribute to and participate in government even as we unwaveringly proclaim that Jesus is Lord in word and deed. Our truest life is not dependent on political operations and practices, but solely upon the abundant grace of God.

Whether we perceive government as friend or foe, we can faithfully participate in governmental decisions by voting, by communicating with legislators about issues related to care for the least among us, by paying our taxes, and even by running for office if so inspired. Once we have done these things, our faith in Christ gives us courage to let go and trust that God is at work and holds us in a peace which will never disappoint.

Early in November, when our chosen candidates are elected or not, we do well to let it go. Our truest life does not depend on candidates. When the policies of legislatures, courts, governors or presidents go against our preferences of compassionate justice for the least as Jesus called us to practice, we have done what we could do (of course, we can keep sending emails, letters and phone calls); and then it is time to trust and move on living freely in the mercy of Christ.



In this season, there is no reason for fear! We needn't fret over the perception of evil at work in the world today. Jesus is Lord. Not Caesar! Not one or another political party. Jesus is Lord. The unifying, courage-bestowing compassionate presence of God is what holds this universe in perfect peace, and nothing human can invalidate that. Granted, the peace of Christ is not a guarantee that we will not experience pain and discomfort. Meditating on that peace will help us resist the temptation to trust in human power instead of Jesus, as Lord.

To be clear, Jesus is Lord because Jesus surrendered fully and absolutely to God and God's Spirit moving in creation, despite extreme human resistance. Jesus' reign of self-sacrificing love will never end. His love continues in us. Jesus is Lord! –Pastor Roy

Financial Update as of Sept 30, 2026

							YTD	TOTAL
	04/30/2026	05/31/2026	06/30/2026	07/31/2026	08/31/2026	09/30/2026	09/30/2026	Budget YTD
General Giving Income	$ 11,826	$ 9,550	$ 11,156	$ 6,967	$ 8,663	$ 17,863	$ 93,751	$ 93,750
Designated Income	$ 7,878	$ 6,108	$ 6,718	$ 5,220	$ 3,916	$ 3,688	$ 49,117	$ 50,926
Total Income	$ 19,704	$ 15,657	$ 17,874	$ 12,187	$ 12,579	$ 21,551	$ 142,867	$ 144,676
Xfer From Investments	$0	$0	$5,000	$5,000	$10,000	$0	$20,000	$9,000
Expenses	$ 15,572	$ 16,684	$ 17,455	$ 17,728	$ 17,505	$ 18,928	$ 162,319	$172,372
Balance	$ 4,132	$ (1,027)	$ 5,419	$ (541)	$ 5,074	$ 2,623	$ 548	($18,696)

Worship at St. Paul's Serving You Today

Assisting Ministers

November	***December***
01 Lois Young	06 Grace Busch
08 Rebecca Buckham	13 Sue Wenger
15Sharon Colvin	20 Suzanne Sheaffer
22 Ted Shumaker	24 Lois Young
29 Stephanie Miller	27 Jill Busch

Lectors

November	***December***
01 Rebecca Buckham	06 Karen Peiffer
08 Suzanne Sheaffer	13 Mary Lutz
15Pam Shook	20 Sharon Colvin
22 Sue Wenger	24 Kim Sebestyen
29 Dave Gerstenlauer	27 Lisa Torio

Crucifer

November	***December***
01 Jeff Griffin	06 Grace Busch
08 Sam Smith	13 Sue Wenger
15Sharon Colvin	20 Jill Busch
22 Jill Busch	24 Jill Busch
29 Randy Miller	27 Jill Busch

Live Streaming Technician

November	***December***
01 Sharon Colvin	06 Suzanne Sheffer
08 Suzanne Sheaffer	13 Lisa Torio
15 Lisa Torio	20 Dave Gerstenlauer
22 Dave Gerstenlauer	24 Dave Gerstenlauer
29 Sharon Colvin	27 Sharon Colvin

Ushers

Randy Stough (Head Usher)
Dwight Lehman (Assistant)

Altar Guild

November	***December***
Sue Wenger/Shirl Busch	Viki Wonders / Jill Busch

Altar Flowers and Bulletins: **Notice: Altar Flowers $55.00 and Bulletins $10.00 Please use the envelopes next to the sign up sheets. Thank you.**

Altar Flowers

November
01 Pat Stough
08 Available
15Annetta Zea
22 Available
29 No Flowers Advent

In December no flowers are needed. Bulletin Sponsorship is available . Make sure you order your Poinsettias. (Order form on Page 15) They will decorate the Church for Christmas.

Bulletins

November	***December***
01 Available	06 Available
08 Available	13Available
15Annetta Zea	20 Available
22 Available	24 Available
29 Available	27Available



Please submit articles for the December2026 issue of the Newsletter to Annetta no later than November 20 2026.

For any website updates or additions, please contact Andy Buffington at andrewbuffington1@gmail.com

Annual Congregational Meeting



The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 13, immediately following the 10:30 a.m. Service. We encourage everyone to come out to hear a report on the state of the church, approve a 2027 Budget, and elect persons to positions on the Congregation Council.

Annual Reports will be available on Sunday, November 29th in the Sanctuary.

If you are in charge of a committee please have your Annual Reports and Budget requests to the church office by October 31st so they can be included in the report. Thank you.

The Outreach Committee is honoring our First Responders by hosting our Fourth Annual breakfast on Saturday, November 7th. The Responders invited are those 8 Agencies that would respond to an emergency at our church. However, they most likely would also respond to an emergency at our home!

We are asking for food donations. Items needed are on the sign-up sheet posted on the Outreach Bulletin Board. Food donations can be brought to the church and placed in the kitchen on **THURSDAY, Nov. 5th from 9am to 1pm and FRIDAY, Nov. 6th from 9am to 1pm** OR **at 7:30am on SATURDAY, Nov. 7th.** Put items in the refrigerator (if necessary, INCLUDING PASTRIES) In addition to food donations, we also need help with the event (setup, cooking and cleanup) and to mingle with our guests during the breakfast. The event setup begins at 7am. Breakfast is served from 9am to 10:00am.

Thank you for helping to make this event a success! It was a very enjoyable event last year and we are looking forward to it being even bigger this year!

Council Updates - October

- Jeff Gillis, account representative from Gunn Mowery Insurance, attended the meeting and presented an overview of the church's current insurance policies. The suggestion was made to assemble digital evidence of items to be insured.

- Due to how Advent falls this year, there will only be one Saturday service in December. That service will be December 19th.

- Investments sustained a loss this past month but the budget is still ahead of projected revenue for the year.

- The Outreach Committee purchased an additional 200 quarts of milk for New Hope.

Your Pastoral Care needs may be communicated to Pastor Roy, (717) 350-5057 or our Church Council President, Ron Colvin, (717) 574-8365.

Pastor Roy is available by appointment.

BLOOD DRIVE

The next *Blood Drive* at St. Paul's will be on December 23rd 9:00 a.m.— 6:00 p.m. You can donate anytime by calling the number below to get scheduled.

A form of ID is required.



SIGN UP—TO DONATE by calling

1-800-771-0059 **or** sign in online at **717giveblood.org**

Blood Drive Results

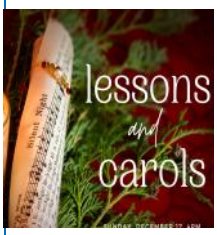
On October 21st, we saw 39 donors and we collected 35 units of blood. So with your help we will be able to save 105 local lives. Thank you for helping so many people.

November 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:30 a.m. Worship & FB 	2 7 p.m. Bible Study (Zoom) AA 7:00 p.m. (FH)	3 2-4 p.m. Bible Adventure (FH)	4 1:00 p.m. Bible Study (P) 6:30 p.m. Bells AA 7:00 p.m. (FH) 7:30 p.m. Choir	5 9:00 a.m. Quilters 6:30 p.m. O.A. (FH)	6 AA 7:00 p.m. (FH)	7 9:00 a.m. First Responders Breakfast
8 Harvest Home Sunday 10:30 a.m. Worship & FB 11:30 a.m. Worship & Music (P)	9 3:00 p.m. Church Council 7 p.m. Bible Study (Zoom) AA 7:00 p.m. (FH) Office closed Annetta on Vacation	10 2-4 p.m. Bible Adventure (FH)	11 1:00 p.m. Bible Study (P) 6:30 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. AA 7:30 p.m. Choir 	12 9:00 a.m. Quilters 6:30 p.m. O.A. (FH) Office closed Annetta on Vacation	13 AA 7:00 p.m. (FH)	14 6:30 p.m. Worship Service (C)
15 10:30 a.m. Worship & FB	16 AA 7:00 p.m. (FH) 7 p.m. Bible Study (Zoom)	17 2-4 p.m. Bible Adventure (FH)	18 1:00 p.m. Bible Study (P) 6:30 p.m. Bells 7 p.m. AA 7:30 p.m. Choir AA 7:00 p.m. (FH)	19 9:00 a.m. Quilters 5: 45 p.m. Desserts (OFA) 6:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Worship 6:30 p.m. O.A.	20 AA 7:00 p.m. (FH)	21
22 10:30 a.m. Worship & FB 	23 AA 7:00 p.m. (FH) 7 p.m. Bible Study (Zoom)	24 2-4 p.m. Bible Adventure (FH)	25 1:00 p.m. Bible Study (P) AA 7:00 p.m. (FH) 7	26 Office Closed 	27 Office Closed AA 7:00 p.m. (FH)	28 6:30 p.m. Worship Service (C)
29 10:30 a.m. Worship & FB 	30 AA 7:00 p.m. (FH) 7 p.m. Bible Study (Zoom)	November 1st 				

The Church office will be closed for Thanksgiving, **November 26—27.** Needs may be communicated directly to *Pastor Roy Stetler* at (717) 350-5057, contact our *Church Council President*, Ron Colvin, (717) 574-8365 or *Vice-President,* Ted Shumaker, (717) 319-3664. Thank you

December 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
December 6, Outreach Meeting 11:30 a.m.		1 2-4 p.m. Bible Adventure (FH)	2 1:00 p.m. Bible Study (P) 6 p.m. Vespers 6:30 p.m. Bells 7:30 p.m. Choir AA 7:00 p.m.	3 9:00 a.m. Quilters 6:30 p.m. O.A. (FH)	4 AA 7:00 p.m. (FH)	5 Advent Concert 7 p.m. Bells and Choirs at Monaghan
6 10:30 a.m. Worship & FB 	7 AA 7:00 p.m. (FH) 7 p.m. Bible Study (Zoom)	8 2-4 p.m. Bible Adventure (FH)	9 1:00 p.m. Bible Study (P) 6 p.m. Vespers 6:30 p.m. Bells 7:30 p.m. Choir AA 7:00 p.m.	10 9:00 a.m. Quilters 6:30 p.m. O.A. (FH)	11 AA 7:00 p.m. (FH)	12
13 10:30 a.m. Worship & FB Followed by Annual Meeting 	14 3 p.m. Church Council AA 7:00 p.m. (FH) 7 p.m. Bible Study (Zoom)	15 2-4 p.m. Bible Adventure (FH)	16 11:30 a.m.. Volunteer Luncheon 1:00 p.m. Bible Study (P) 6 p.m. Vespers 6:30 p.m. Bells 7:30 p.m. Choir AA 7:00 p.m.	17 9:00 a.m. Quilters (FH) 6:30 p.m. O.A. (FH)	18 AA 7:00 p.m. (FH)	19 6:30 p.m. Worship Service (C)
20 10:30 a.m. Worship & FB 	21 AA 7:00 p.m. (FH) 7 p.m. Bible Study (Zoom) 	22 2-4 p.m. Bible Adventure (FH)	23 1:00 p.m. Bible Study (P) Blood Drive 9-6 p.m. 6:30 p.m. Bells 7:30 p.m. Choir AA 7:00 p.m. (FH)	24 Office Closed 7:15 p.m. Christmas Worship 	25 Office Closed 	26
27 10:30 a.m. Worship & FB 	28 AA 7:00 p.m. (FH)	29	30 1:00 p.m. Bible Study (P) AA 7:00 p.m. (FH)	31 6:30 p.m. O.A. (FH)	**January 1, 2027** ***New Years Day*** **The Church Office will be closed.** 	

Office Closed

NOVEMBER 2026

November Birthdays

5 Robert Gochenauer
7 Karah Anderson
Brittany Grove
8 Baila Shoop
13 Tiffany Gross
14 Gail Stetler
16 Doris Clauser
Sharon Colvin
23 Diane Hallett
Andrew Swivel
29 Sue Grove



Anniversaries November

02 Ron and Sharon Colvin
13 Annetta & Dale Zea
26 Ian & Claire Markey
27 Greg & Viki Wonders

DECEMBER 2026

Birthdays December

11 Pat Stough
12 Vivian Knaub
16 Jillian Zook
17 Joseph Levendusky
20 Doug Sebestyen
21 Christina Martin-Anderson
22 Paulette Broody Alexander
23 Peter Dohner
25 Marlene Walter
27 Howard Walter
28 Georgia Kagle
29 Stephanie Miller
30 Jaxon Zook



If we have missed a birthday or anniversary we apologize. Please contact Annetta at the church office to update or add to our records. (717)432-3202 or **parishadmin@stpaulsdillsburg.com**

November 19, 2026

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
"Community Thanksgiving Service"
Churches of the Dillsburg Ministerium

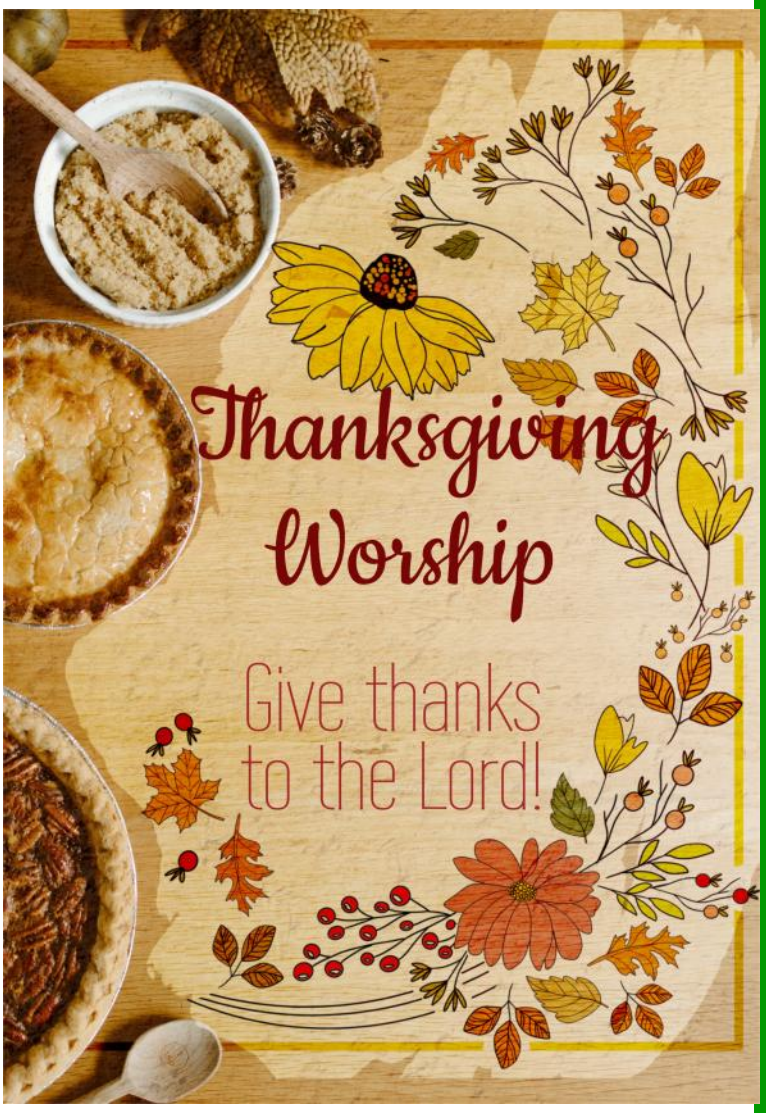
5:45 pm Fellowship time
with Desserts
Followed by
6:30 pm Worship in Sanctuary

If you have any questions
please contact the church office.

Please feel free to bring
cookies or finger foods to share!

All are welcome!





Remember Those Who Are Homebound

Sandy Banks, **1271 Gettysburg Pike, Apt.#314, Dillsburg, PA 17019**

Eleanor Burkhardt, **141 Hickory Rd, Dillsburg, PA 17019**

Paul & Kathy Eurich, **501 Oak Avenue, Apt.318, Waynesboro, VA 22980**

Jay & Vivian Knaub, **956 S. Mountain Rd., Dillsburg, PA 17019**

Bounty of Thanks



We thank thee, Lord, for the glory of the late days and the excellent face of thy sun. We thank thee for good news received. We thank thee for the pleasures we have enjoyed and for those we have been able to confer.

And now, when the clouds gather and the rain impends over the forest and our house, permit us not to be cast down; let us not lose the savor of past mercies and past pleasures; but, like the voice of a bird singing in the rain, let grateful memory survive in the hour of darkness. If there be in front of us any painful duty, strengthen us with the grace of courage; if any act of mercy, teach us tenderness and patience.

—Robert Louis Stevenson

Advent Choir Musicale

On Sunday December 6, at 10:30 our choir will present *Hope, Love, Peace & Joy,* an Advent Choir Musicale.



Beginning with Isaiah 12: 2-6, you will hear the prophecy of Isaiah, offering an Old Testament background to the Nativity theme. Exuberant joy comes from the handbells & drums being added to the singing.

Bring Us Hope song offers a reflection on our Advent theme, of waiting for our savior to come from above. Beautiful cello accompaniment will help us feel the hope, love, peace & joy that what we pray will fill our emptiness.

Next you will hear the flute & choir with Bethlehem Wind, asking for the wind to blow & carry the Spirit of truth.

Finally, The Heavens Are Telling, composed by Ludwig van Beethoven, will transcend listeners with its' glorious sound. The theme is from Psalm 19, as it transforms our life as the lyrics present us to adore the King of Kings.

West Shore Theatre

321 Bridge Street
New Cumberland, PA
17070

When a department store Santa claims he's the real Kris Kringle, his case gets taken all the way to the Supreme Court. Watch the miracle unfold when the belief of a little girl makes all the difference in this iconic story. Adapted from the 1947 Lux Radio Hour Broadcast and staged with live Foley effects and a score of holiday carols, Miracle on 34th Street is a beloved musical that will melt even the most cynical of hearts. **Running Time:** 2 hours including a 15 minute intermission



SATURDAY, DEC. 5TH
1:00 PM AFTERNOON SHOW

Please complete the form and return with payment payable to "St. Paul's Lutheran Church". Forms and payment due by SUNDAY Nov. 8th

The first 26 reservations will be guaranteed a seat. Others will be placed on a waiting list until availability is checked.

NAME _____ Phone _____

EMAIL: _____

ADULTS- $30.00ea # tickets _____ Due $ _____

SENIORS (60+) -$25.00ea # tickets _____ Due $ _____

STUDENT-$20.00ea # tickets _____ Due $ _____

Envelope # _____ Total Paid $ _____ Check # _____

No refunds will be given after Nov. 8th. If you have any questions please email Outreach@stpaulsdillsburg.com or contact Pam Shook at 717-576-6214

Honoring Faithful Service



Each year on Veterans Day, we pause to give thanks for the men and women who have served our country with courage, sacrifice and devotion. Their willingness to defend freedom reminds us that service often comes with great cost.

As Christians, we are called to honor those who serve and to pray for veterans, active-duty military members and their families. We also remember that true peace comes from God, who is our refuge and strength.

May this day lead us to gratitude, prayer and renewed commitment to serve others with humility, courage and love.

St. Paul's will be holding a luncheon on Wednesday December 16th to honor all of its parishioners who volunteer their time and talents to the church and the community.

If you are a volunteer and would like to attend this luncheon, please call the church office at (717) 432-3202 or e-mail Annetta at **parishadmin@stpaulsdillsburg.com.** to R.S.V.P.

Deadline to sign up will be December 7th. Hope to see you there.



Christian Symbol

DOOR — A door symbolizes our invitation to engage in prayer and a personal relationship with Jesus: "Knock and the door will be opened to you" (Matthew 7:7, NIV). A door can also represent Jesus' loving invitation to open our hearts to him: "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock" (Revelation 3:20, NIV). When we welcome him in, we receive the joy of fellowship and life with Christ.





The Journey begins at Advent

When Advent begins on November 29 this year, so does a new church year for liturgical congregations. The church seasons, which correspond to key events in Jesus' life, begin with the four-week Advent period of preparation for our coming Savior at Christmas. After the 12-day season of Christmas is Epiphany, which begins January 6 and continues through Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. That period of preparation culminates in Holy Week, and then Easter marks the pinnacle of every church year. Forty days after the Resurrection we celebrate Ascension, and 10 days after that, the Pentecost season begins; it lasts until Advent, when the cycle begins again. "Like a great waterwheel," writes Joan Chittister, "the liturgical year goes on relentlessly irrigating our souls, softening the ground of our hearts, nourishing the soil of our lives until the seed of the Word of God itself begins to grow in us, comes to fruit in us, ripens in us the spiritual journey of a lifetime."



New Hope Happenings Fall 2026



It is that time of year for the annual Harvest Home gathering which is planned for the weekend of **November 8th**. Donated boxed, bottled, and canned foods for this drive will be displayed in the nave and will go toward helping the clients of New Hope have a more fulfilling Thanksgiving and holiday season. Please place donated items on the table outside the chapel.



The other main event for the Fall is the Christmas Blessings Express. The Christmas tree has arrived. There are "tags" on the tree for a particular gender and/or age group. Please take a tag or two and purchase a gift related to that tag and return the **UNWRAPPED** gift to the appropriate overflow table outside the chapel with the tag that you took attached to the gift. Please return all gifts before **November 30th.**



Thank you for your continued support of
New Hope Ministries.



"St. Paul's hosted a successful Farmer's Fair event on Saturday, October 17th. We had a steady stream of participants for hot dogs, walking tacos and children's crafts. We raised $168.85 with the sale of food items and 38 crafts were completed by children visiting over the event.

Thanks for our wonderful St. Paul's family. We could not have done it without the blessings of those that donated the food and other items needed.

A special thanks to all that helped - Georgia for working with me to fine tune needed food items and support in the kitchen during the event., Gerry for hot dogs and checking back on us to make sure we had what we needed, Allison for manning the money station, Maegan for helping with crafts, Jane starting up (way too early) in the kitchen - and still smiling, Pastor for his cheerful greetings at the order window and vacuuming when we finished, Gail for help in the kitchen and with cleanup, Jim for early morning support and helping with clean up when we closed, Joyce for getting our signs ready, her chili and her recital performance at 12:30 and Dave for being a wonderful greeter to our guests.



Could not have done this without all of you!!" Blessings, Kathy

Poinsettia ORDERS

Red & White poinsettias will decorate the nave in celebration of the birth of Christ this Christmas Season.

All orders are due by Sunday, November 29, 2026

Poinsettias

Cost for a 6.5" Red or White Poinsettia Plant is $11.00.

Please complete this form and place it in the offering plate, turn it in to the church office, or mail it to the church. Cash or check payable to ***"St. Paul's Lutheran Church"*** must accompany each order form.

Name _____ Phone # _____ Env#_____

# of Red Poinsettias _____x $11.00 = _____ Total Enclosed _____

# of White Poinsettias _____ x $11.00 = _____ Total Enclosed _____

Wording for bulletin:

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Thanksgiving for: _____

I will be picking up my Poinsettia _____.

I will not be taking my Poinsettia _____.

Poinsettias can be picked up at the church on Thursday, December 24 after the 7:15 p.m. Worship Service

December 5th at 7:00pm.



Advent/Christmas Concert

St. Paul's Bells & Choir
plus
Monaghan Bells & Choir
will join with the Dillsburg Brass
appearing at
Monaghan Presbyterian Church
FREE
All are invited!

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

201 S. Baltimore St.
Dillsburg, PA 17019

Phone: (717) 432-3202
www.stpaulsdillsburg.com

