

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH,
156 W. WASHINGTON ST

St. Paul Lutheran Church is older than our nation; it established the area's first school; the Union Army nearly destroyed it; and its baptismal font was assembled like a jigsaw puzzle. German settlers from Pennsylvania organized St. Paul (ca. 1747), with church records dating back to 1769.

The congregation holds a land grant document (ca. 1771) signed by Lord Fairfax for 200 acres west of Strasburg. This property was sold to purchase the land the church currently occupies. The initial church was a log structure. The first school was conducted by the congregation and schoolmaster, Simon Harr, who also acted as a spiritual leader. The school operated from 1778 until 1815.

In 1844, the congregation built a brick church, one of the first in the area. During the Civil War, both sides occupied the building. It served as an arsenal, stable, and hospital. The damage was so severe that the church elders requested government reimbursement. That money was used to construct the bell tower. The educational wing was added in 1954. Perhaps the most significant change was turning the church nave to face Washington Street in 1984.

HISTORIC DOLL COLLECTION

This year Strasburg Heritage Association is pleased to display the doll collection of Virginia Beeler in the Fellowship Hall of St. Paul. Mrs. Beeler was a retired Strasburg elementary school teacher who began her career in a one-room school. Her doll collection began in the 1930s with seven of her childhood dolls, which her mother had saved, and it grew over the years. Some of the dolls on display were donated to her by local residents. Dolls from the 18th century to the 20th century that have been made from various materials are shown in this exhibit.

STRASBURG MUSEUM, 440 E. KING ST

Step back in time! The Strasburg Museum was built in 1890 and began operating in 1891 as the Strasburg Stone and Earthenware Manufacturing Company, making drain tile, pipe, and chimney pots, as well as flower pots and household goods. In 1909, the pottery closed due to competition from glass canning jars. In 1913, the building became a Southern Railway depot that handled passengers and freight and operated until the 1960s. The structure was opened as a museum on July 5, 1970.

The Museum boasts a large collection of highly prized Strasburg salt-glazed pottery as well as a variety of items that speak of the history of Strasburg from its earliest days in the mid-1700's to the 20th century. Highlights of the collection include the Miller Bible, partially burned in an Indian raid in 1764; a group of records and memorabilia from the Sunset Hill School for African American children; and the hose reel used by the Massanutten Hose Company No.1 to win the World Championship of reel racing contest in 1908! Artifacts from Native Americans and the Civil War are on display at the Strasburg Visitors Center on Hupps Hill.

Richard Kleese and co-authors will be signing their book "So Badly Routed, the Battle of Fisher's Hill" during the tour.

♪ THE ARTS CHORALE OF WINCHESTER ♪
OUTREACH GROUP WILL BE CAROLING AT EACH
LOCATION THROUGHOUT THE DAY.

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED ON THE DAY OF, AT
ANY LOCATION ON THE TOUR.
HOMES MAY BE VISITED IN ANY ORDER.

*We wish to express our sincere appreciation to our
hosts who have graciously opened their homes
during this busy season. We know you will enjoy
their individual decorating styles and interesting
collections.*

2026 Holiday Homes Tour

Presented by



Saturday, December 12th
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Tickets \$15.00



**Advance Tickets On Sale Thanksgiving
Weekend through December 12th at:**
Clementine Vintage - 148 E. King St.
Sager Real Estate - 111 E. King St.
Strasburg Visitor Center -
33229 Old Valley Pike

**Refreshments and restrooms will be available
at St. Paul Lutheran Church**

TOURS HELD RAIN, SHINE, OR SNOW

ACADEMY HALL, 211 HIGH ST

As one of the oldest brick houses in Shenandoah County, Academy Hall has been beautifully renovated by Megan and Adam Smith, who bought the home in 2023. The lot on which it stands was first owned by Jacob Stover, who gave it to his son. Christian Stover built a log cabin on the site, which no longer stands. In 1840, a German Academy was built, and in 1860, a schoolmaster's residence was added to the eastern side of the Academy.

The home maintains its original random-width pine floors where some of the black walnut pegs are visible. During restoration of the Academy wing, workers found the old ceiling joists and revealed Civil War-era graffiti on the plaster walls. A kitchen behind the dining room features a large fireplace. The original ceiling joists and part of the room's brick wall have been exposed.

The Smiths have chosen soft Williamsburg paint colors of mustard and blue for the doors and woodwork. Beautiful terraced flower beds and a paved patio have been added at the back of the house. Ornate antique wrought iron gates on the driveway were found in Ohio, made by the same foundry that made the wrought iron fencing that surrounds the front of the property.

COHEN HOME, 182 S. HOLLIDAY ST

This lovely brick Colonial Revival home was owned for many years by Judy and Jackie Troxell, and is now the residence of Sara and Norman Cohen, who bought it in 2025. Built in 1930, the home features a large, light-filled entry hall. Double doors lead to a spacious dining room on the right and a full-length living room on the left, which opens onto a comfortable screened-in porch.

The Cohens have decorated in an eclectic style featuring antiques, contemporary seating, exquisite Chinese lamps, porcelain pots, and artifacts. A variety of prints and paintings grace the walls, many of which are surrounded by beautiful, bespoke wooden frames stained in soft colors to complement the artwork.

A charming digital print by Norman Cohen hangs over the fireplace in the living room. A lovely French chandelier lights the center hall while a unique Dutch chandelier with light-reflecting mirrors hangs over the dining room table. The Cohens have brought new love and respect to a home that has been admired in Strasburg for almost 100 years.

CARDARO HOME, 165 W. WASHINGTON ST

John Oliver Eberly built this house in 1900 and later sold it for \$250 to Minnie L. Painter, a cousin to the Hupp family, to use as a country home. However, at some point it reverted to Eberly, and following his death in 1918, it became the property of his wife and daughter. Around 2005, St. Paul Lutheran Church bought the house and used it as an office, then for storage, and finally as rental property. It was bought, updated, and sold in 2017 to Lance and Pam Cardaro, the current owners of this historic home.

Comprising two rooms downstairs and two rooms up, there is also a large open-plan kitchen & den across the full width of the house at the back. A staircase and doors on either side, at right angles to each other and accessed via a small entry hall at the front, lead to a living room on the right and a dining room on the left.

The Cardaros have decorated in an early American style. The dining room features a pine table built in 1890, as well as a variety of antique family pieces. The fireplace surround in the living room is adorned with trailing ivy and tulip cutouts, adding a charming effect to the room.

THE QUEEN BEE, 220 S. MASSANUTTEN ST

Built in 1892, this beautifully preserved Queen Anne-influenced Victorian home leans heavily into the romantic, whimsical aesthetic of the era. It retains its original wood interior doors, historic hardware, nine-foot ceilings, and beautiful hardwood floors. When entering the home, you will be greeted by the graceful grand staircase. The owners, Karen Cox & John Preloh, chose tasteful furnishings to complement the flowing, light-filled spaces. An expansive porch that wraps around two sides is another feature of homes of that time. The original wood siding and robust stone foundations are a testament to the quality construction of the period.

In the early 20th century, the home served as an academy for girls. The finished third floor doubled as a recreation area, dormitory space, and a makeshift auditorium for theatrical skits. The tiny stage is flanked by nooks for storing props and costumes. The home next door served as the headmistress's residence and sleeping space for pupils.

Updates to this lovely home include a modern kitchen, additional bathrooms, walk-in closets, and a laundry and mud room. In the rear, a former carriage house has been restored and serves as a workshop and garage.