

# Good News

THE  
NEWSLETTER OF  
ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH  
474 Yalick Road - PO BOX 802  
DALLAS, PA 18612

## December 2022/January 2023

Phone: 570-675-3859  
Fax: 570-675-5646  
Email: [stpaul@epix.net](mailto:stpaul@epix.net)  
Web Page:  
[www.stpaulsdallaspa.org](http://www.stpaulsdallaspa.org)

Rev Charles H. Grube, Pastor  
Home Phone: 570-696-2688

**In-person worship and communion**  
**Saturday, 5:30 pm | Sunday, 9:30 am**  
**Sunday School 10:30 am (Sept. thru May)**  
Please continue to visit our website at  
[www.stpaulsdallaspa.org](http://www.stpaulsdallaspa.org) for worship  
resources to use as you are able, and to  
join our **Live Stream Zoom meeting at**  
**9:30 am on Sunday.**



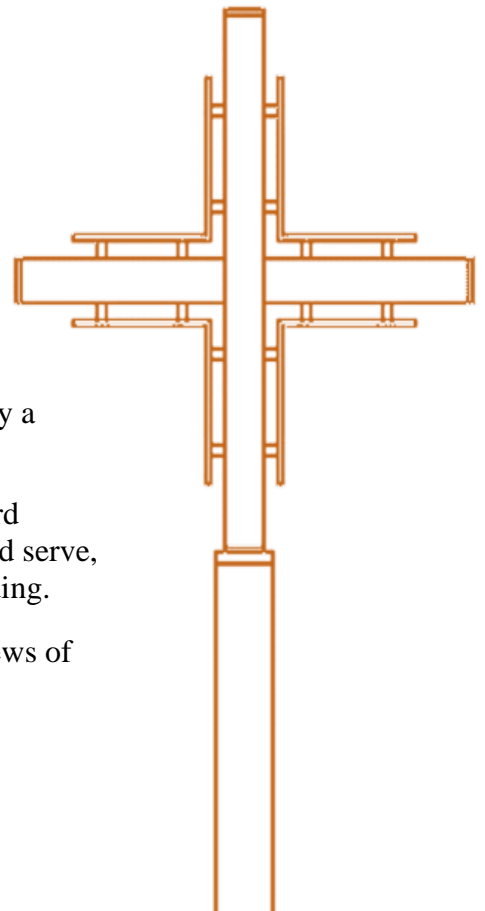
### ST. PAUL'S MISSION STATEMENT

St. Paul's Lutheran Church is a family called together by God and united by a common faith.

Our mission is to share with all people God's Love and Grace through Word and Sacrament. Through the Holy Spirit, we are empowered to witness and serve, treating one another with Love, Compassion, Forgiveness, and Understanding.

By our commitments, actions, deeds, and resources, we share the Good News of Jesus Christ, reaching out to our Community, Nation, and World.

Adopted May 1993



ST. PAUL'S STAFF		
Pastor	Rev. Charles H. Grube	
Office Staff	Gail Smallwood & Carol Fett	
Dir. of Music/Organist	Margaret Quintanar	
Chapel & Emmanuel Choir Dir.	Jean Grube	
Minister of Technology	Marissa Miller	
Sexton	James Madonna	
Sunday School Superintendent	Tony Linnen	
Financial Secretary	Ruth Ide	
<b>CONGREGATION COUNCIL</b>		
<u>2022/2023</u>	<u>2023/2024</u>	<u>2024/2025</u>
Cathy Ridout	John Waschek*	Larry Pierce
Scott Schukraft*	Gail Smallwood	Bruce Thomas
Karen Mertz*	Marissa Miller	Gail Ide
Don Pheasant*	Frank Mariano	Pat Peiffer
*Final Term		
<b>CONGREGATION OFFICERS</b>		
President	Rev. Charles H. Grube	
Vice-President	Scott Schukraft	
Secretary	Gail Smallwood	
Treasurer	Carol Fett	
<b>STANDING COMMITTEES</b>		
Christian Education	Marissa Miller	
Communications	Marissa Miller/Gail Smallwood	
Evangelism	Gail Ide	
Fellowship	Marissa Miller & Larry Pierce	
Finance	John Waschek/Don Pheasant/Carol Fett Bruce Thomas	
Head Start/Early Intervention	Carol Fett / Cathy Ridout	
Health Ministry	Cathy Ridout & Gail Ide	
Landscaping	Scott Schukraft	
Long Range Planning	Scott Schukraft/Don Pheasant/ John Waschek/Frank Mariano	
Property	Bruce Thomas, Pat Peiffer, Carol Fett	
Salary Review	Scott Schukraft	
Social Ministry	Karen Mertz, Larry Pierce	
Staff Support	Scott Schukraft Frank Mariano, Karen Mertz	
Worship & Music	Frank Mariano, Pat Peiffer	
* * *		

**PRAYER LIST** - Please remember to ask permission from the person you are placing on the prayer list.

**Pray for the Congregations of** .(December) St. John, Sayre and (January) St. Luke, Archbald.

**Pray for those suffering illness:** *Members:* Hope Beisel, Jim Bellezza, Marty Bisher, Connie Borchert, Mary Lou Bowman, Helen Carey, Pam Cyphers, Mary Lou Daley-Button, Maryan Daily, Margaret Edwards, Cheryl and Marty Everhart, Grace Fisher, Marge Fritzing, Kay Hometchko, Alice Hudak, Robert Kline, Tom Lundberg, Marge McCarty, Margie McCarty, Catherine Ridout, Ann Sabol, Betty Schray, Bill Smith, Mark and Mary Walters, Colette Weaver, Justin Yost, Shirley Zimmerman.

**Please note:** Those people listed as Family and Friends will be listed here for a four-week period. Please contact the church office at 570-675-3859 or [stpaul@epix.net](mailto:stpaul@epix.net) if you desire a name to remain on the list beyond that time.

**Family & Friends:** Dick Armbrust, Hank Banaszek, Robert Binger, Ed Campbell, Marjorie Catania, Gabriel Day, Janice DeFebo, Bishop Christopher deForest, Kathleen DePow, David & Toby Drake, Ron and Candyce Fike, Pastor Kurt Garbe, Mike Hage, Bob Hughes, Christine Ide, Bradley Kessler, Jim Lorah, Audrey Mace, Laela Martin, Rick McCarty, Rob Merritt, Skip Milford, Dr. Gerard Morretti, Jean Mullen, Carolyn Nevins, Tim Nulton, Alice O'Neil, Ryleigh Phillips, Carol Powell, Ingrid Prater, Frank Rollman, Bonnie Ryman, Nancy Shymanski, Joe Stephanovich, Stevens Family, Benjamin Szostak, Donna Thiessen, Jean Thompson, Janice Tucker, Carol Wall, Connie Wilbur, Karen Wise, Peg Wyda, Nora, Lennon, Jack, Jaimy, Ari, Bill, Ashley, Bethann (no last names given).

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- “The Lord is coming, always coming. Life is Advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord.”

— Henry Nouwen

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE



The next issue of the GOOD NEWS will be the February 2023 issue. The deadline for all submissions will be **Noon on**

**Sunday, January 15, 2023.**



Updates from the November Council meeting held on November 1, 2022.

Synod has announced a July 2023 trip to Slovenia open to church youth; please contact Pastor for more information.

There will be a Holden evening worship service on Tuesday, Dec. 6 at 7:00 pm, and the December Council meeting will be held following the service; Christmas Eve services will be held at 4:00 pm (also on Zoom) and 7:00 pm.

The Social Ministry committee will set up a mitten tree near the Social Hall and members are invited to decorate it with warm mittens/gloves, hats and scarves (and socks) for the Head Start and Early Intervention children. This year the Advent Giving Tree will be placed in the church foyer to collect donations for the ELCA's World Hunger and Disaster Relief efforts. The committee also will be sending Thanksgiving cards to our shut-ins, and will invite our Sunday School students to decorate our Narthex Christmas tree with Chrismons.

The Finance committee is working on finalizing the church budget for 2023.

The January Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 15; committee, Brotherhood & Dorcas reports are due in the church office no later than December 28.

Property committee plans to work with Brotherhood in cleaning out unneeded items in the garage & shed; plumbing & electrical issues in restrooms and Sanctuary will be addressed.



### **2023 FLOWER CHART**

The 2023 flower chart is posted on the table in the Narthex. This is an excellent opportunity to celebrate births, birthdays, anniversaries, special holidays and/or a thank you to God for his blessings. Altar flowers and side vases are \$50.00 per Sunday payable to Dorcas. If desired, two families may share a Sunday. Payments may be placed in the collection plate or placed in the Dorcas mailbox located outside the choir room; they may also be mailed to St. Paul's, PO Box 802, Dallas, Pa 18612.



### **CONSIDER YEAR-END DONATIONS AND ONLINE GIVING**

Many thanks to all the members and friends of St. Paul's who have faithfully continued to support the ministries of our church throughout this year. Your contributions are gratefully accepted and needed for everything from special programs to basic operating expenses; both are deserving of your support.

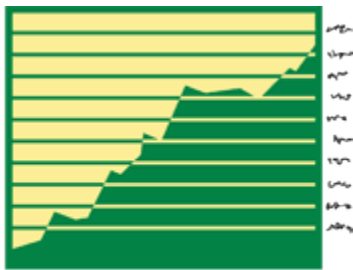
As you consider donations this holiday season, please keep St. Paul's in mind. Please be as generous as possible this holiday season and in the year ahead. Remember that St. Paul's offers online giving options by Vanco Payment Solutions through our website ([www.stpaulsdallaspa.org](http://www.stpaulsdallaspa.org)). Simply click the Online Giving link to set up your account. There

is no cost to you to participate; it is convenient and provides much-needed consistency for our church. And when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis.

Another advantage of online giving is eliminating the need/cost of preparing your household's offering box. We are able to cut back on the total number of offering boxes needed with a cost of at least \$6.00 per box (with additional cost if we need to mail them out). All envelopes found in your offering box are available online (weekly, Lent/Easter, Thanksgiving, Advent/Christmas, Theological Education, Improvement Fund, etc. You can even order Easter lilies and Christmas poinsettias and make Memorial donations.

If you have any questions or need help setting up your account, please contact Carol Fett at 570-852-9176 or via email at [cafett54@gmail.com](mailto:cafett54@gmail.com).

## YEAR-END FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



*Annual Giving Statements*

IRS regulations state that for tax purposes, you must be sure your contributions are received no later than December 31. After that date, 2022 contributions

received by St. Paul's in 2023 may be credited to your financial statements only if they are mailed and postmarked in 2022. The IRS also requires that taxpayers receive their financial statement acknowledgments before the date he/she files a tax return. If the taxpayer does not have the acknowledgment by then, the taxpayer cannot claim a charitable deduction.

When mailing offering envelopes, please use the correct mailing address:

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church**  
**ATTN: Carol Fett, Treasurer**  
**PO Box 802**  
**Dallas, PA 18612**

Statements will be mailed in early January. Please review your statement as soon as possible and refer any questions to Ruth Ide or Carol Fett, since all 2022 envelopes will be disposed of after six months. Thank you.

† † †

## 2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES

For our members using offering boxes, they are available for you to pick up in the Narthex through the month of December; please remember, do not use envelopes from the new boxes until January 1 as some household numbers may have changed from 2022 to 2023. If you can't locate your box or if you currently don't have offering envelopes but would like to be issued a box, please contact Carol Fett at 570.852.9176 or [cafett54@gmail.com](mailto:cafett54@gmail.com). Members who contribute via Vanco online giving will not find an offering box on the table; anyone who might be thinking of going green and saving the church the cost of providing an envelope box should consider starting in January.

## PASSAGES

† **IN MEMORIAM** †

*May the light and promise of  
the Resurrection  
shine in the lives  
of the family and friends of*

**Vivian Richardson**

*Rest eternal grant her, Lord,  
and let light perpetual  
shine upon her.*



**Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,**

Advent is as clear an example as any of just how complex the Christian faith can be. Many churches for whom faith is black and white don't even bother with it.

Advent is for waiting and watching for Jesus to come. Placed as it is before Christmas, we naturally think of his coming as a baby born in Bethlehem in history's past. Waiting for something that happened 2000 years ago has its own complexity. But we begin the season by turning our attention to Jesus' second coming at the end of time to judge, to save and redeem us, and to bring all God's promises to completion. Jesus clearly calls us to be vigilant for that coming, but we're still waiting 2000 years later. Living in such ambiguity on a promise in this meantime is another complexity to our faith. But the real zinger is the truth that while we wait and watch for Jesus to come throughout time, Jesus is also already truly present with us. He is with us in the word read, preached, prayed, and shared in the community. He is with us through the sacraments of communion, baptism, and in forgiveness. He is with us in the love, care, and charity shared among neighbors. And he is with us in the Holy Spirit of God dwelling in us.

Like being fully saint and sinner, like being fully human and fully divine, or like bad things happening to good people, Advent is another experience of our faith that reminds us that if someone has made it all simple and black and white, there's something missing. Faith is rich and complex, deep and experiential, thought-provoking and heart-filling. It's why we do it best together in community. May you have a rich, fulfilling, and blessed Advent.

In faith,  
Pastor Grube



## **CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY**

Christmas is a special time, a special time for family gatherings and a special time in the church year, a special time to celebrate the birth of our Savior. Sometimes, however, those special times conflict. The adult choir and the chimes choir are in a bind this year — family gatherings conflicting Christmas Eve worship services. We cannot field full choirs at either the 4 pm or the 7 pm services and also our Christmas Day service “Lessons & Carols.” Therefore, we would like to invite you to become a temporary choir member. You do not have to read music; just come to choir rehearsal on Thursdays at 6:30 pm for the adult choir and on Sundays at 8:30 am for the chimes choir.

We are also looking for volunteers with musical abilities to offer their talents, individually or in small groups, during the half hour before either the 4 pm or 7 pm Christmas Eve service or on Christmas Day at 9:30 am. Maybe you could read aloud a favorite Christmas poem or dance to a special rendition of a Christmas hymn. Whatever offering can you give our Savior this Christmas, please contact Margaret Quintanar.

† † †

## **SPECIAL DATES**

- Holden Evening Service, December 6
- Dorcas Christmas Party Luncheon, December 13 – Noon at AppleTree Terrace
- Sunday School Christmas Program, December 18
- Christmas Eve Services at 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 pm, December 24
- Christmas Day Service of Lessons and Carols, December 25

## ADVENT DEVOTIONALS AND EVENING PRAYER

We mark this Advent season as we usually do with booklets for your home devotional reading and prayer and a special paper chain devotional for children. In addition to those seasonal resources for prayer and devotion, we will gather on Tuesday evening, December 6, at 7:00 pm for Holden Evening Prayer. Evening Prayer is a collection of prayers and canticles Christians have long used to mark the end of the day. Holden Evening Prayer has set those canticles to music composed by popular church composer Marty Haugen for the Holden Retreat community in Washington state, and it has become very popular among us since we introduced it for Lent midweek prayer over six years ago. Some of the melodies have become familiar to us all as hymns sung for our regular weekend worship. Mark your calendar now and make Holden Evening Prayer part of your Advent season this year.



## INVITATION TO TRY...

Have you ever been curious about labyrinths? Labyrinths are circular paths used by many different faiths for prayer and contemplation, and have been part of religious practices since the early days of Greek civilization. Walking a labyrinth can be a very calming, meditative and relaxing experience. St. Paul's now has a moveable labyrinth, and you are invited to try it out! On **Sunday, December 4**, immediately after service, the labyrinth will be on display in the church Narthex. Gail Ide, of the evangelism and health ministry committees, will be on hand to guide members through **Walking the Labyrinth** and to describe the benefits of labyrinth walking. To keep the surface of the labyrinth clean, please wear socks—no shoes.



As usual, we will mark the Christmas season with some special worship celebrations. We begin on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 18, with a special program by our Sunday School children called "Living Word." The following Saturday, Christmas Eve, we will worship at 4 and 7 pm with holy communion and candlelight. The 4:00 service will be live streamed on Zoom, and our Birthday Party for Jesus will follow that 4:00 pm service. There will be no 5:30 pm service that Saturday. The next day, Sunday, Christmas Day, we will celebrate with a simple service of Lesson and Carols with Holy Communion at 9:30 am, and there will be no Sunday School. The following weekend, we will return to our regular worship schedule with services Saturday at 5:30 pm and Sunday at 9:30 am as we celebrate the seventh and eighth days of Christmas. There will be no Sunday School January 1.



Our weekly Bible Study, The Bible This Week, will resume after the Christmas season break on Tuesday, January 10. We meet on Tuesday mornings, 10:30 to 11:30 am, and share our thoughts and reflections on the readings for the coming week's worship. With the new year of the church, our attention will shift from Luke's gospel as our primary gospel for the year to Matthew, with its themes of righteousness, the Kingdom of Heaven, Jesus' teaching, and the fulfillment of the Old Testament scriptures. You'll find the readings for the coming week's worship in the worship bulletin and on our web site. But whether or not you read them ahead of time, you are always very welcome to join the conversation.

## SOCIAL MINISTRY UPDATE

November activities included: Thanksgiving cards mailed; helped distribute small pumpkins decorated by the Sunday School children.

Giving Tree and Mitten Tree were put up and decorated; the Sunday School children colored the World Hunger ornaments.

December projects will be assembling and distributing gift bags for our Care and Concern list.

Plans are underway for a collection for new underwear for Pyramid Health Care clients. See next article.

**HELPING HANDS UPDATE:** Pyramid Health Care in Dallas houses men and women who are working to rehabilitate their lives, and some clients come to the facility with very little clothing or personal items. Beginning in January 2023, we would like to help by holding a collection of new men's and women's socks and underwear in various sizes. Clean, new undergarments make people feel fresh and comfortable and are so greatly appreciated! There will be a basket in January in the Narthex to accept your donations. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Mertz.



### CHRISMAS CRACKUPS

Enjoy these kid-friendly holiday jokes!

- What did Adam say the day before Christmas?  
*It's Christmas, Eve!*
- What does the gingerbread man put on his bed?  
*Cookie sheets.*
- What kind of photos do Santa's helpers take?  
*Elfies.*
- What goes "Oh, Oh, Oh"?  
*Santa walking backward.*



## BEAR CREEK CAMP NEWS

Registration is now open for St. Paul's youth to register for Winter Connect Weekend Retreats. These events are perfect for infusing camp spirit and energy back into this past summer's campers OR as an excellent introduction to those new to the camp community. Activities include outdoor fun like sledding and winter hiking, and indoor activities like games and cookie decorating., as well as camp-style worship and devotionals. The retreat for campers in grades 9-12 will be held on January 6-8, 2023; the retreat for campers in grades 4-8 will be January 13-15, 2023. For more information visit [bearcreekcamp.org/connect-winter-camp/](http://bearcreekcamp.org/connect-winter-camp/)

The theme for Bear Creek Camp's summer 2023 is In the Midst. Campers will explore the surrounding presence of our Triune God and the role of faith within their daily lives and life in the world. More information will soon be available at St. Paul's.

## RAISING FUNDS FOR CAMPERS

Last year, when the National Youth Gathering was cancelled due to pandemic concerns, Kendra Brosious decided to use her fundraising efforts to help St. Paul's kids attend Bear Creek Camp. Those efforts made it possible for two members of St. Paul's to attend a week of camp for the first time.

This year we want to make it possible for more kids to go to camp! Fundraising starts in January. Get ready to hear stories about how great camp is and watch the bulletin for information on the 'fun' in Fundraising!



### COLLABORATION ACROSS TIME & PLACE

For Christmas Day worship, many churches use Psalm 98. It is fitting, then, that Isaac Watts, who interpreted 132 psalms as hymn texts, based a now-beloved carol on it.

Watts (1674-1748) was a student of language, religion and philosophy. He wanted to make Scripture more relevant to lay people and thought hymns could help. Watts composed more than 600 hymn texts, many still in use. But Psalm 98:4-9, “Joy to the World,” needed music to fit its words.

Enter Lowell Mason (1792-1872), an American choir director. He came across Watts’ Psalm 98 hymn text and sought inspiration for a melody from the famous oratorio *Messiah* by George F. Handel (1685-1759). Mason pulled musical phrases from sections of Handel’s work, resulting in the tune we now recognize as “Joy to the World.”

So it is that three men who lived across three centuries and never met — along with the composer of the original psalm more than two millennia earlier — together produced a hymn to the Christ-child, which millions have sung and continue to love.

† † †

- “To prepare our hearts for Christmas, we must cultivate the spirit of expectancy.”  
— Handel H. Brown
- “Bless us, Lord, this Christmas, with quietness of mind; teach us to be patient and always to be kind.”  
— Helen Steiner Rice

### DORCAS LUNCHEON

All women of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church (and guests) are welcome to attend the annual Dorcas Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 13, 2022. This year’s event will be a delicious luncheon served at the Apple Tree Terrace in Dallas. Plans include Christmas themed devotions, a buffet style meal followed by captivating musical entertainment.

A sign-up sheet is posted in the church narthex; price per person is \$29.00 and the deadline to sign up for the luncheon is Sunday, December 4. If sign-up is inconvenient, please call the church office at 570.675.3859 or email at [stpaul@epix.net](mailto:stpaul@epix.net) to place your name on the sign-up list.

We’d love to see you at Apple Tree!

† † †



### ST. PAUL’S ANNUAL MEETING

Please mark your calendars for St. Paul’s annual meeting, scheduled for Sunday, January 15, 2023 immediately after worship. At that meeting we will review committee reports, adopt the 2023 proposed budget and ratify the church’s amended constitution. Once the constitution is ratified it will be forwarded to the synod for review, and St. Paul’s will begin operating under its rule on June 1, 2023.

† † †





Hi Everyone,

In today's world, many people, including me, use supplements, herbs and complimentary modalities besides our western medicine and doctors. National Institute of Medicine's (NIH) National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH) reminds people that "Natural doesn't necessarily mean safer, or better; Medications and supplements can interact." Two very important issues.

I find it extremely important for everyone to know where to find out information on herbs, supplements and complementary modalities (even the Healing Touch that I do)!!! One very reliable site is PubMed. Here you will find publications related to your search. For example, put in the herb, Echinacea, in the search box when you go to PubMed at [pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov](http://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov). Press the Search button. Over one thousand articles appear of which many are free.

While thinking of looking things up, everyone should check the Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) to check for recalls on many products from baby items to toys to adult merchandise to BBQ grills for your grilling chef; all at [www.cpsc.gov/recalls](http://www.cpsc.gov/recalls). In fact, I just saw one for Generac generators. You can sign up for specific subjects.

Sorry, everyone, I couldn't resist this from the Washington Post via MedPageToday/Morning News from Nov. 9: *Please, Stop Licking Toads*. Apparently, some people in some western/southern states are licking toads that give off potent psychedelic toxic secretions for hallucinogenic enlightenment! It can be fatal! Remind me to stop reading so much!

FYI, my cat, Mimi, still believes breakfast should be served at 6:45 EDST! When there is light there should be food.

In Love and Service and Gratitude,  
Gail Ide, Health Ministry

## NO ROOM AT THE INN

More than 500 Nativity sets from the personal collection of Lynn Prociak will be on display at the Forty Fort Presbyterian Church, 1224 Wyoming Avenue, Forty Fort, on Saturdays, December 3 and 10 and Sundays, December 4 and 11 from noon to 4:00 pm. The Nativity sets tell the story of the birth of Christ through the lenses of diverse cultures and peoples from around the world. A Christmas Shop and cookie sale will be available, and retired Nativity sets will be on sale. Admission is free; donations will be accepted for the Kirby Family Home in Wilkes-Barre, which provides shelter and social services for families struggling with homelessness, and Keystone Mission.



## FROM THE MAILBOX

Dear St. Paul's Sunday School,

Thank you for the hand decorated pumpkin delivered to our door by Morgan and Mrs. Julie Holbrook. My mother and I enjoyed their visit and the loving care that went into the pumpkin design. It has a place of honor in mom's living room where her friends and family who visit may also enjoy it right through the Thanksgiving Holiday. To all those who participated in the pumpkin project, I'm sure you created many, many smiles.

Rhonda Kaiser and  
Mom, Betty Moore

# TASTY CREATIONS

Make this yummy treat to remember what happened on each day of Creation.

## What you need:

- 6 large pretzel rods
- Candy melts (white, chocolate and blue)
- Green sprinkles
- White or star-shaped sprinkles
- Fish crackers
- Animal crackers
- Adult help



## What you do:

1. With help, melt the three colors of candy melts in separate dishes. Microwave for 30 seconds at a time, stirring until soft.
2. Decorate one pretzel for each day of Creation:
  - Dip half in white and half in chocolate to show light and darkness.
  - Dip half in white and half in blue to show separation of the atmosphere.
  - Dip half in chocolate, add green sprinkles and dip half in blue to show land, plants and water.
  - Dip in chocolate and add white or star sprinkles to show the stars.
  - Dip in blue and add fish crackers to show sea life.
  - Dip in chocolate and add animal crackers to show land animals.
3. Share the Creation story — and the snack — with a friend!