

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church Dallas, Pennsylvania

ANNUAL REPORT

**January 1, 2022
to
December 31, 2022**

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

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CONGREGATION COUNCIL OFFICERS

President Rev. Charles H. Grube
Vice-President Scott Schukraft
Secretary Gail Smallwood
Treasurer..... Carol Fett

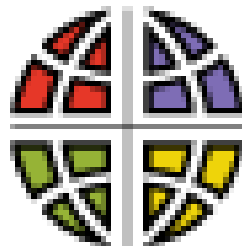
Congregation Council Members:

2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
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

STAFF

Pastor Rev. Charles H. Grube
Director of Music/Organist, Sr. Choir, & Chimes DirectorMargaret Quintanar
Chapel & Emmanuel Choirs DirectorJean Grube
Minister of Technology..... Marissa Miller
Church Office..... Gail Smallwood & Carol Fett
Custodian / Sexton James Madonna
Sunday School SuperintendentAnthony Linnen
Financial Secretary Ruth Ide



AGENDA

- 12:30 pm
1. Opening Prayer and Acceptance of Agenda
 2. Approval of Minutes from 2021 Congregational Meeting held January 24, 2022 (via Zoom)
 3. Approval of November 13, 2022 Special Congregational Meeting
 4. Pastor's Report - 2022
 5. Reports of Standing Committees and Organizations
 - A. Christian Education
 - B. Communication
 - C. Evangelism
 - D. Fellowship (No Written Report)
 - E. Finance
 - F. Head Start & Early Intervention
 - G. Health Ministry
 - H. Landscaping
 - I. Long Range Planning
 - J. Property
 - K. Social Ministry
 - L. Worship & Music
 - M. Brotherhood
 - N. Dorcas Society
 6. 2022 Income and Designated Funds Savings Reports
 7. Old Business
 - A.
 - B.
 8. New Business
 - A. Adoption of 2023 Proposed Budget
 - B.
 - C.
 9. Adjournment

In Memoriam

During this past year, eleven members of our congregation died.

We know all of us will face death someday, but we, as Christians, also know that God promises eternal life to those who believe in Him.

So, in memory of these members and the lives of those of our loved ones who are already with God, we dedicate this annual report.

Adam Belenski

Florence (Flo) Belenski

JoAnn Brown

Maxwell Bowman

David Kowalek

Elizabeth (Betty) Weaver

Alice Baer

Barbara Kessler

Vivian Richardson

Maryan Daily

Thomas Lundberg

**Minutes of Annual Congregational Meeting
Calendar Year 2021**

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
JANUARY 23, 2022
President the Rev. Charles H. Grube
Vice-President Scott Schukraft
Secretary Alice Baer / Gail Smallwood
Treasurer Carol Fett

NOTE: Due to the illness of Alice Baer, who as St. Paul's Congregation Secretary, took the minutes of the 2021 annual meeting, she was unable to forward them to the church office. The following minutes are presented by memory after discussion with our Executive Officers, Pastor Grube, Scott Schukraft, Gail Smallwood and Carol Fett.

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary, by Council Vice-President Scott Schukraft, and Pastor Grube opened the meeting with prayer. Note: Meeting was also available via Zoom.

A moment of silent prayer was observed for those members who passed away in the past year.

Committee written reports were reviewed.

Property: A question was raised regarding the new water inspection requirements by DEP – since well was struck by lightning and a new pump was installed, DEP is now requiring additional testing and also requiring the services of a certified water inspector to perform the necessary testing. DEP has also changed our occupancy status from a “transient community” to a “non-transient” community due to the number of people inside the building during the week.

Long Range Planning: Scott explained that St. Paul's Constitution needs to be revised and brought in line with current ELCA Constitution guidelines. Question was raised regarding changing council elections from currently being held in May to having the election at January Annual Meeting; Scott replied that the committee would take the change into consideration.

All reports were approved as written.

Ruth Ide was thanked for her time and accuracy in posting weekly offerings.

No Old Business.

New Business.

The proposed 2022 budget was presented and without any questions, it was approved unanimously.

10. Adjournment. Motion to adjourn meeting: Motion carried.

SPECIAL CONGREGATION MEETING MINUTES

Meeting of November 13, 2022

Rev. Charles H. Grube, President
Scott A. Schukraft, Vice-President
Gail Smallwood, Secretary
Carol Fett, Treasurer

Present: Scott Schukraft, Pastor Charles Grube, Don Pheasant, Karen Mertz, Pat Peiffer, Larry Pierce, Carol Fett, Marissa Miller, John Waschak, Bruce Thomas, Frank Mariano, Gail Ide, Catherine Ridout and Gail Smallwood

Vice-President Scott Schukraft called the special Congregational meeting to enable the congregation to vote on proposed amendments to the church constitution. About 25 members of the congregation and the council were in attendance. Scott called the meeting to order at 10:45 am.

With only one item of business on the agenda being approval of the amendments, Scott asked the group if there was any discussion of the amendments. There being none, he asked for a motion to accept the amendments to the constitution. Gail Ide made a motion to accept the amendments and Annie Bisher seconded it. Scott called for a voice vote to accept and the vote was unanimous to accept.

There being no further business to discuss, Scott called for a motion to adjourn. Frank Mariano made the motion and Bill Peiffer seconded it. The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Smallwood,
Secretary

2022 PASTORAL ACTS

Baptisms: None.

Confirmation: Isabella Definnis
Carleigh Thomas

Marriages:
Bradley Johnson to Marcia Davis*
Amy Lynn Roberts to Justin Stockford
James Duffy to Casey Conway

Funerals: Frederick J. Buss*
Adam Belenski
Florence Gauthier*
Robert H. Schalm*
JoAnn Brown
Florence Belenski
David C. Kowalek
Betty Weaver
Alice G. Baer
Barbara A. Kessler
Joan C. Hiller*
Maryan N. Daily

*Non-Member

Transfers:

Ron & Judy Loeffler to:	First Christian Church Junction City, Oregon
David Koch to:	Trinity Lutheran Church Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania
David & Heidi Manning Zachary & Ian	St. Mark Lutheran Church Storm Lake, Iowa

New Members: Andrew & Jeanette Denmon
Kelly Schaper, Aiden and Wyatt
Donald Kretchmer
Linda Gillies



If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

1 Corinthians 12:26-27

I feel a bit like the first phrases of Charles Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities* applies for this year, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times."

In many practical ways, we have returned to a pre-Covid era mode of operation in our gathering, worship, Sunday school, meeting, and fellowship. This fall we experienced a gentle rejuvenation of our Sunday school with families and children returning to activity and learning, and they are led by a diligent and caring staff of teachers and leaders. We are moving ahead with traditional projects that highlight our year, like roast beef dinners and rummage sales. Under the leadership of music director Margaret Quintanar, who celebrated her first anniversary with us on the First Sunday in Advent, the choir has resumed, the chime choir is more active than ever, and occasionally our enthusiastic chapel choir, led by Jean Grube, inspires us in worship.

We have people leading our ministries with integrity and care, our council works diligently, and our worship and music staff continue to guide us in holy worship while we continue to share that holy worship with others who join us online thanks to our minister of technology, Marissa Miller. Our office is staffed by two faithful and conscientious members, Carol Fett and Gail Smallwood, and our building and property is caringly kept by Jim Madonna, and all three are dedicated overachievers. We have nurtured a mutually supportive relationship with the Pyramid community whom we assist with collections and support for them in their needs while they have contributed greatly to providing hard work for the sake of our property.

Our contributions and ministry to the greater community continue in significant ways, including our project to support our Head Start families and service to the St. Vincent de Paul soup kitchen. We continued to serve the greater church by providing gathering space for synod events with gracious hospitality. We were thrilled to welcome Bear Creek Camp executive director Collin Grooms, and celebrate the faithfulness of Kendra Brosious when she turned her canceled Youth Gathering fundraiser into a Bear Creek Camp fundraiser, then sponsored two new young members of our community to experience camp for the first time.

And personally, it was a banner August as we celebrated the wedding of our youngest daughter, served as a voting member of the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Columbus, spent an inspiring, restful, and rejuvenating week at the Chautauqua Institution, then celebrated the anniversary of our twenty-five years together in ministry. These are some of the things that mark the best of times from this past year.

But it has also been a hard and challenging time. We have lost some significant members and ministry leaders this year. We continue to be challenged in our activities and projects by an increasingly limited number of willing and able workers. The Covid era has exacerbated trends in the church in decreasing numbers of members, activity, and financial support, and in the bigger picture, of pastors and congregations. Our own regular, active membership has followed that trend and simply decreased, and our financial status is increasingly challenging. And we still don't have a regularly hired administrative assistant in the church office. Calling the year the worst of times because of these things is hyperbole, but these things have certainly been a challenge.

One thing that has served us well and continues to make a difference, even in the face of these challenges, is our sense of community. Our congregation stands out among many because of the responsibility, care, love, and support we share with one another, and in real and tangible ways, with our community and neighbors. We share the suffering, burdens, grief, and challenges of one another together, and we rejoice, honor, celebrate, and encourage one another. And by extending our care and work, ministry and support to groups, agencies, and ministries of our community, we do the same on a larger scale.

This is the community Christ has made of us in baptism, and the living out and fulfillment of our commission as disciples of Jesus. And for that reason, I have every reason to be hopeful and even rejoice in the life and mission of St. Paul's now and into the future. Things will change – they always do, and in these recent times, it seems they do so more quickly and more dramatically than ever. But rooted in the discipleship and mission of our baptismal identity and loving one another and our neighbor, the church of Christ will flourish among us.

So, I encourage you to continue to remember and reach out to one another and our neighbors, welcome one another and our neighbors, care for one another and our neighbors, and serve one another and our neighbors. And in that way, we are the church of Christ bringing the ways of the kingdom to our own community and neighborhood.

I am honored to continue to live and work with you to do that. And I pray that the Holy Spirit continue to move among us to be the body of Christ alive here and now.

Together in Christ,
Pastor Grube



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Committee Members: Pastor Grube, Julie Miller Marissa Miller, Cheryl Brosius, Tony Linnen, Jean Grube, Heidi Schukraft, Ray Mancke, Joe Hardisky, Amanda Brezovsky, Rachelle Pryor.

The Christian Education Committee was happy to host many events this year, in trying to create this “new normal.” Some events were past favorites, as well as some new ideas we got together to work on.

- Bible Bowl – A Superbowl Sunday Bible Trivia Day
- Mardi Gras Party – Teaching Sunday School students about Mardi Gras
- Head Start Project – Purchasing Gifts for our Head Start families
- Palm Sunday Event – This year featured resurrection eggs
- Planting Sunday – Featuring Joe Hardisky during Sunday School Hour
- One Day Vacation Bible School Event
- Rally Day – Introduce new WHIRL Curriculum and Continuing Theme of Prayer
- Reformation Bonfire and Fire Safety Talk – Thanks, Don Kretchmer
- Turkey Decorating Contest – Voting on our favorite Turkey Decoration while donating to the Back Mountain Food Pantry
- Advent Event – Featured Advent Wreaths and Chrismon Decorating
- Christmas Play – The Living Word – Thanks to Jean Grube for directing
- Birthday Party for Jesus – After Dec 24 Service

We also worked on projects in conjunction with Social Ministry, such as our Valentine’s Day Cards and Fall Pumpkins. The children love putting these crafts together and have heard nice responses from those that have received these gifts. Thank you to Karen Mertz and others on the Social Ministry team that helps deliver these items.

Thank you to all those that serve on this committee. I am always surprised in how much we can get done in a meeting to make sure our events run smoothly.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marissa Miller

COMMUNICATION

2022 was a busy and productive year for the Communications Committee. Marissa Miller and Gail Smallwood focused their efforts on updating and developing the church's social media efforts and website, and streamlining its Zoom broadcasts.

On behalf of St. Paul's and the church council, we would like to express our deep gratitude to Jackie and Jim Siperko for their years of service to the church, through the building and maintaining of the church website. Their design, maintenance, expertise and hosting support of the church's website and its domain name is very much appreciated and has made it possible for the church to serve its members, as well as provide a faithful representation of our church community to the public. Thank you.

Below is a list of the committee's efforts in 2022:

1. Updated the church website with a monthly listing of services and events easily accessible on the website homepage; updating Dorcas, Brotherhood and other pages on a regular basis as well as revising the church's Covid statement.
2. Enacted a plan to post to the church's Facebook account at least once a week, highlighting activities and children's programs and using as many photos as possible; also regularly posting items about church events and worship to the Back Mountain Community Facebook page.
3. Worked closely with Jim and Jackie Siperko to move the website to a new hosting company, WPENGINE, which provides continuous backup and updates of the website. The website's domain name also is now registered to St. Paul's.
4. Marissa was named Minister of Technology in 2022 and has developed and refined the weekly Zoom broadcasts of worship services, making them more effective and more pleasant to view.
5. Continued to post the order of worship and weekly bulletin to the website and added PowerPoint pages with prayers, psalms and hymns to the weekly Zoom broadcasts, making it easier for viewers to follow along with the service.
6. Began editing and posting the weekly Zoom worship videos to YouTube and placing a link to the videos on the Sermons page, along with Pastor's sermons, early each week.
7. Assisted with the church's display at the Dallas Fall Festival.
8. Sent out news releases and photos to local daily and monthly newspapers and publications, highlighting church events such as the Roast Beef dinners, rummage and bake sales, confirmation and other church activities.
9. Revised and updated the committee's job description.
10. Created and placed ads for Easter and Christmas services to run in daily newspapers.

Respectfully submitted,
Marissa Miller and Gail Smallwood

EVANGELISM

The Evangelism project for 2022 started in October. This was a portable Labyrinth setup in the Narthex of the church, with the time, location and dates of use coordinated with the office staff. The Labyrinth was setup twice for Council members to have the availability to see, ask questions and try it out. The third time was for the 9:30 am Sunday church community to do the same. (The next time will be after the Dorcas meeting on January 10, 2022.) Gail Ide has been explaining to interested people how and why people do the Labyrinth in many churches. Through suggestions and recommendations, a brief outline for directions was composed to help participants to “Walk the Labyrinth.” Pastor made a rack in the sacristy to keep the Labyrinth when it’s not in use. This other form for praying will be available to the general public starting in February 2023 with help from Gail Smallwood for dates and publicity.



Several members of our congregation have offered their help in designing and creating a Meditative Garden. This will be located near the handicapped parking to left of the main church entrance. It is almost triangle-shaped area with 2 sides being church walls. All help is appreciated for this 2023 project!

The Long-Range Planning Committee has been given a report for additional Evangelism projects.

In addition, the Boy Scouts are now meeting at the church. This is a form of Evangelism.

ALL IDEAS AND HELP ARE WELCOME!!!

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Ide

FELLOWSHIP

No written report.

FINANCE

2022 was a year of both great successes and great challenges. We appreciate the support of our members that made it possible to tackle some large projects this year, and we are both grateful and hopeful in knowing that ongoing commitments will make it possible to take on 2023 expenditures in a timely manner.

Committee work in 2022 included:

Fulfilling financial obligations while adhering to our 2022 budget. Projects carrying expenses considered outside of the-day-to-day operations of the church included a massive bell tower repair, roof repair, added DEP testing expenses, and this year accounting for an inflation rate that has put a strain on all areas of the budget.

Change was made to Xfinity to supply our internet services.

In 2023 repairs/replacement to the roof, kitchen equipment, electricity, plumbing, and outer doors are some of the projects that will have to be at least planned if not addressed.

A detailed 2023 proposed budget can be seen later in this annual report.

Thank you to all for all that you do for St. Paul's. Your contributions allow us to enjoy our facility.

Respectfully submitted,
John Waschek, Don Pheasant, Bruce Thomas, Bill Peiffer, Raymond Mancke
Carol Fett, Treasurer

HEAD START AND EARLY INTERVENTION

This past year was full of frustration and change for both Head Start and Early Intervention.

EI staff and children returned to the classroom at the end of January and classes continued basically all year long. Head Start, due to Covid cases and staffing issues, didn't return to the classroom until April and then with only one "in-session" classroom, the second class was taught virtually.

Early in the year, the Hazleton School District closed their Early Intervention site in Wyoming County and notified us that they would like to make the additional classroom they were currently using three days a week for speech therapy into a full five day a week classroom and then would also need a smaller area for their speech therapy services. After checking with the Christian Education Committee and with Council approval, it was decided to approve their request for the additional classroom and to share the Christian Education Office so that it could be used for their speech therapy services. The lease was adjusted accordingly to account for the change and during the summer months, classrooms were cleaned out, furniture was moved so that the two Head Start classrooms and the two Early Intervention classrooms are now side by side and the Christian Education office was rearranged to accommodate their needs for speech therapy.

Head Start staff and children were very appreciative of all the new sneakers our members so generously donated in September as part of "God's Work. Our Hands." weekend. Thank you to everyone who supported this Social Ministry project.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Fett and Cathy Ridout

HEALTH MINISTRY

Due to relaxed COVID-19 restrictions, we have been able to slowly get back to “normal.” Masking is optional. We are starting personal visits, including giving holy communion as part of the Home Eucharist team. Many “Thinking of You” cards have been sent out. Contacts have mostly been made through calls, emails and texts.

As to equipment: Our first aid kits are up-to-date; The AED remains functioning.

Monthly newsletter articles continue with links to in-depth health related issues. Participation in District 7 and 8 Parish Nursing monthly zoom calls continue.



Please, if you have any health issues that we can help with, let us know.

In Love, Service and Gratitude,
Your Health Ministry Team,
Cathy Ridout and Gail Ide

LANDSCAPING

With approximately 11 acres to cover, it takes a considerable amount of time to maintain our beautiful Church property. A special thank you to Jim Madonna who tirelessly mows, trims, weeds, and does whatever is needed throughout the yearly seasons.

With the assistance of several work crews from Pyramid Health Services, we were able to weed and mulch all of the landscape beds located throughout the property. They were a big help and we anticipate enlisting their assistance as an ongoing mutually beneficial relationship. Thank-you, Karen Mertz, for establishing and fostering this relationship.

As you may have noticed, late this summer, The Dallas Area Municipal Authority did commence working on our two Water Retention Basins as a part of their ongoing sedimentation erosion control efforts. Their work was completed fairly quickly and with minimal disruption to any surrounding areas. It is anticipated that they will be responsible for the ongoing maintenance of these structures.

The Landscaping Committee would like to acknowledge and thank all the numerous volunteer assistants who plant, fertilize, spray, weed, water, remove snow and ice and facilitate many other odd jobs here and there throughout the year. To any and all gardeners in the congregation, we welcome any spare time you may have. There is always something to be done.

Members of the Committee are Carol Fett and Scott A. Schukraft.

Respectfully submitted,
Scott A. Schukraft
Vice-President, Church Council

LONG RANGE PLANNING

It has been a busy but productive year for the Long-Range Planning Committee.

The Committee has met on several occasions over this past year to continue discussions to update and revise the Church Constitution, utilizing the 2019 Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as our guideline. At the August 2022 Church Council meeting, the proposed revised Church Constitution was presented and unanimously approved by Church Council. Copies of both the revised document and a summary review page listing the major changes were made available through several means to all members of the Congregation.

Following a period of Congregational review and informational sessions, the revised St. Paul's Constitution was unanimously adopted by the St. Paul's Congregation on November 13, 2022. This revised Constitution is now set for a Ratification Vote at our scheduled Annual Meeting on January 15, 2023 with an anticipated effective date of June 1, 2023.

I would like to thank all the members of the Committee for their hard work, attention to detail and invaluable input as we worked toward completion of this all-important document. I would especially like to thank Pastor Charles Grube for spear-heading and shepherding through this entire process. His tireless efforts and leadership have truly made this multi-year but long overdue Constitutional update all possible.

Members of the Committee are Pastor Charles Grube, Carol Fett, Don Pheasant, Frank Mariano, John Waschek and Scott A. Schukraft.

Respectfully submitted,
Scott A. Schukraft
Vice-President, Church Council

PROPERTY

2022 turned out to be a very busy and productive year for our committee and also costly.

First of all, we would like to thank Jim Madonna, our sexton, for his continuing efforts in meeting our day-to-day needs including but not limited to sidewalk snow removal, lawn mowing, restroom cleaning, floor maintenance, moving tables and chairs around and especially his assistance during the two Dorcas rummage sales and Brotherhood's take-out roast beef dinners. He is also the "go-to" person whenever Head Start or Early Intervention staff needs maintenance in their classrooms/restrooms.

We also need to thank the numerous volunteers who assist Jim when called upon to help out and a special thank you to the members of St. Paul's who contribute to the on-going maintenance of St. Paul's via their offerings to the general fund and especially to the Building Improvement Fund.

Some of the 2022 property issues dealt with include:

- Snow plowing, salt & cinders – as of this writing cost to keep our sidewalks & parking lots clear and as safe as possible stands at \$7,648.
- All four external spigots needed replacing in part to pipes freezing, faulty valves and clogs. It was noted by the plumber that all spigots should be turned on & off with proper square key because all the squares on the spigot were damaged by using wrenches, or other means. Replacement costs: \$1,800.
- Quoted Bell Tower repairs were completed by Mason Preservation Services along with additional coping and sealant which was placed around windows and skylight over the baptism font. Total repair costs: \$173,800.00.
- DAMA completed repairing, regrading and cleaning out the two large water retention basins and will continue to maintain them. Cost to St. Paul's: \$0.00
- Roof Replacement – four invitations to bid on replacing shingles on the building were sent out; two companies declined to bid. One company quoted \$184,573 and the second company quoted \$158,400. Since our funds were limited, it was decided to replace the Christian Education Wing only at a cost of \$42,550. The Social Hall and Kitchen roof will be completed next followed by the Sanctuary once funds are available.
- A Head Start restroom fan motor timer and relay needed replacement – Cost: \$300.00.
- Repairs to the hot water heater – Cost: \$95.00.
- Electric Room Smoke Detector Replacement – Cost: \$493.00.
- Kitchen Refrigerator Repair – Cost: \$421.00.
- Mandated monthly DEP water sample testing and licensed Water Inspector – Cost: \$11,755.00. (Note – still waiting for December billing invoice).

In December, DEP scheduled a complete inspection of our water system (well, well pump, garage holding system, etc. Several deficiencies were noted and while we're still awaiting the final written report, we do know that a new water spigot needs to be installed inside the garage by the well water holding tank, several gauges are not operating properly, the large fire water holding tank needs to be opened and inspected by an outside environmental firm and we are no longer permitted to store any lawn mowers, snow blowers, weedwhackers, gas/oil containers, etc., inside the garage. This will necessitate cleaning out the shed and

hopefully this equipment can then be stored in the shed; if there isn't enough room, we're looking at either purchasing a much larger shed or some type of pole barn.

One last note of thanks needs to be extended to Brian Doran for his invaluable assistance and willingness to serve as our Building Consultant!

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Fett with
Jon Moelling, Pat Peiffer, Bruce Thomas
Building Consultant: Brian Doran

SOCIAL MINISTRY

This report begins with an expression of deep gratitude and great sadness at the passing of Alice Baer, who for many, many years was the moving force and backbone of St. Paul's Social Ministry efforts. Alice was a vital and active member of many other committees as well and served the Church most faithfully as its secretary. The St. Paul's congregation is in deep debt to her for all her many contributions and decades of support.

The following is a list of projects completed by the Social Ministry committee in 2022:

January: collected underwear for Pyramid clients.

February: organized the Souper Bowl of Caring.

March: organized the church Penny Wars.

April: collected Easter packages for those on our Care and Concern list.

June: our committee began work on making blankets for Grief Camps for Children and completed 40 blankets. The blankets were donated to Hillside Farm's summer Grief Camps, where they were very happily and gratefully received.

July: began organizing a sneaker project for Head Start students; organized first landscape clean-up project featuring volunteers from Pyramid Health.

September: during the Harvest Home season, we gathered a different food item each week to benefit the Back Mountain Food Pantry. The Sneaker Project was completed and collected 33 pairs of sneakers, which were donated to Head Start.

October: Blessing of the Animals service was held on Oct. 11, and was open to the congregation and the public.

November: Mailed Thanksgiving cards and delivered small pumpkins decorated by the Sunday School students to our shut-ins.

December: assembled ornaments for the Giving Tree; assembled Christmas gift bags for those on our Care and Concern list; and continued to collect aluminum tabs for St. Jude's Hospital, used greeting cards for St. Jude's Ranch, used eyeglasses for the Lions Club, used printer cartridges, and hats, gloves and scarves for the St. Vincent dePaul Kitchen.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Mertz

WORSHIP & MUSIC

The responsibilities of the Worship and Music Committee include guidance to those who contribute to our worship services and the coordinators of our various subcommittees.

The COVID pandemic continued to present a number of challenges for worship. At each meeting, the current protocols were reviewed, with attention given to any changes that may be recommended. Zoom services continued for our Sunday service at 9:30 p.m., to serve as a complement to our in-person services.

To facilitate the Zoom services and to ensure continuity of services, Marissa Miller was appointed Minister of Technology.

Some of the notable events that were held at St. Paul's in addition to regular Saturday and Sunday services are:

- Holy Week Services were held in person and were also available via Zoom.
- Pentecost was celebrated with two confirmands.
- We celebrated Harvest Home, with the food collection and harvest decorations.
- There was a service of healing with congregants having the ability to participate in the traditional laying on of hands and the anointing with oil.
- There was the celebration of the Reformation with the customary exchange of letters with St. Theresa's Catholic Church, but due to Covid we did not exchange elements.
- In November, we celebrated All Saints.
- We continued to have Christmas Eve services at 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

During the Fall, Eucharistic Minister services were resumed in order to visit the sick and homebound, and to distribute the elements of communion during the visit. Gail Ide agreed to coordinate that ministry.

Also reinstated was a modified role of the Assisting Minister. The Assisting Ministers are responsible for representing the congregation by writing and reading the prayers of intercession. However, they do not play a role in the distribution of communion at this time.

Our thanks to the Worship and Music committee members, worship coordinators, and musicians who supported our services throughout the year. Committee members are Pastor Grube, Margaret Quintanar, Carol Fett, Marianne Mancke and Jean Grube.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank Mariano and Pat Peiffer
Co-Chairpersons

ST. PAUL'S BROTHERHOOD

For the year 2022, St. Paul's Brotherhood served two drive-through take-out dinners. This is more than the one dinner served in 2021 and no dinners in 2020. The dinners were successfully staged and raised funds for St. Paul's. Thank you to all our volunteers!

The dates for the 2023 roast beef dinners are April 15, May 20, September 16 and November 4. Dates are subject to postponement or cancelation, depending on circumstances that may arise. March 14, 2023 is the next Brotherhood meeting. All are welcome to attend. We will be discussing the possibility of serving our dinners in a different manner.

For the year 2022, Brotherhood made donations of \$2,000.00 to St. Paul's General Fund and \$1,000.00 to St. Paul's Roof Repair Fund.

Dave Kowalek passed away in 2022. Dave not only was an officer of Brotherhood, serving as secretary, but had great spirit that lifted all of us around him. He will be missed by St. Paul's.

The officers for 2023 are:

President: Bill Peiffer
Vice-president: Dave Janoski
Secretary: Keith Brosious
Treasurer: Brad Ide

For the Brotherhood,
Bill Peiffer, President

ST. PAUL'S DORCAS SOCIETY

It is hard to believe that another year has come and gone. The Dorcas year started a month late, since January's meeting was cancelled due to the extreme cold.

In February we donated \$2,500 to the General Fund, due to our limited budget, In October, we donated an additional \$5,000.

Dorcas women agreed to serve the breakfast/lunch for Pastor Grube's Synod Meeting on May 16, and also served refreshments on Confirmation Sunday on June 5.

Marissa Miller treated the Dorcas women to a "pampering party" following the May 10 meeting. This was in conjunction with Marissa's Mary Kay Face Race.

We were able to have our two Rummage sales this year. The Spring Rummage sale was held on May 6 and 7. The Fall Rummage sale was held on October 7 and 8. I would like to thank all the members of Dorcas, and other church members, who came out to work the weeks prior to the sales. This included sorting, finding places for everything, pricing, baking - everything that needs to be done behind the scenes.

I would also like to thank Jim Madonna, our sexton, members of the Brotherhood, and the guys and gals from Pyramid Health for their help with our sale and the clean-up. Without everyone's help, there would be no sale. The totals for our Rummage sales: Spring sale: \$5,847.35 and Fall sale: \$5,665.97

We ended the year with our Annual Christmas Luncheon which was held at the Appletree Terrace. There was great food, music and fellowship. Thanks to Jean Grube we all have a better understanding of the Moravian Star. Entertainment was provided by George Rittenhouse. We even got to see Ruth Ide and Judy Weis do the twist with George. In lieu of exchanging gifts, we donated to the Back Mountain Food Bank. We donated a total of \$178.

Officers for the 2023 year are:

President: Chris Bellezza

Vice-President: Gail Ide

Secretary: Cheryl Brosious

Treasurer: Ruth Ide

Our meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m., except January through March, when they are held at 1:00 p.m. We do not meet in July or August. All women of the church are cordially invited to join us; we serve refreshments after each meeting and it gives us some time for fellowship.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Bellezza, President



Our Heartfelt Thanks

and

Deep Appreciation to



the Members of St. Paul's

for the TIME, TALENTS and FINANCIAL SUPPORT

given to us in 2022!

From the Congregation Council of St. Paul's

Dorcas Benediction

*May God be with us to refresh us,
Around us to protect us,
Before us to guide us,
Above us to bless us,
Beneath us to hold us up,
And watch between us,
When we are absent
One from another.*

Amen.