

# Good News

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

## February 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.**



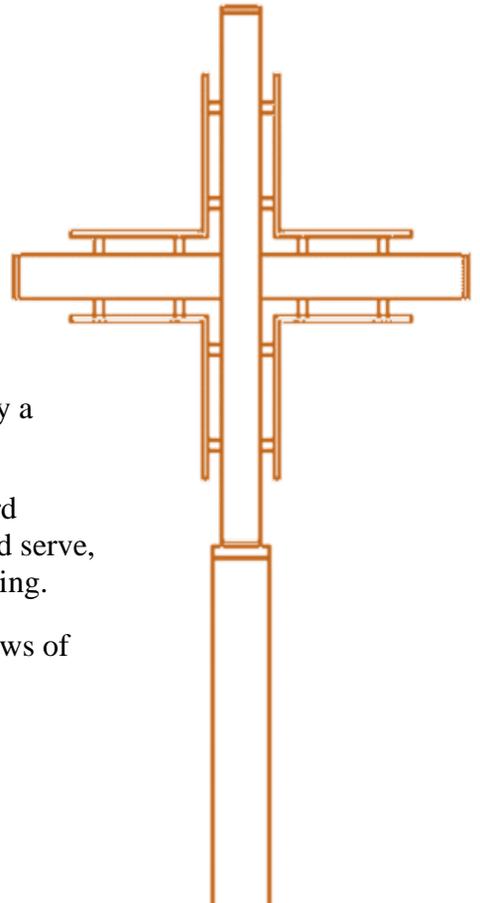
### ST. PAUL'S MISSION STATEMENT

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.

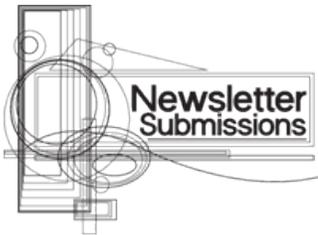
**Pray for the Congregation of St. Paul's, Dallas.**

**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, Margaret Edwards, Cheryl and Marty Everhart, Grace Fisher, Marge Fritzingler, Lois Hardisky, Karen Henderson, Kay Hometchko, Alice Hudak, Robert Kline, Ron Kross, Margie McCarty, Ann Sabol, Betty Schray, Bill Smith, Mark and Mary Walters, 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, Patrick Beisel, Robert Binger, Amy Bush, Ed Campbell, Marjorie Catania, Gabriel Day, Janice DeFebo, Peggy Dennis, Kathleen DePow, Richard Disque, David & Toby Drake, Ron and Candyce Fike, Bob Hughes, Christine Ide, Glenn Ide, Bradley Kessler, Jim Lorah, Audrey Mace, Rick McCarty, Louise Menapace, Rob Merritt, Jean Mullen, Carolyn Nevins, Tim Nulton, Alice O'Neil, Ryleigh Phillips, Carol Powell, Bonnie Ryman, Nancy Shymanski, Sandra Stankiewicz, Joe Stephanovich, Stevens Family, Gary Sullivan, Benjamin Szostak, Donna Thiessen, Jean Thompson, Janice Tucker, Carol Wall, Connie Wilbur, Karen Wise, Ashley, Bethann, Jaimy, Bill, Cindy, Paul, Debbie, David, Herb & Sue (no last names given).

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE



The next issue of the GOOD NEWS will be the March 2023 issue. The deadline for all submissions will be

**Noon on Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>.**

† † †

## SPECIAL DATES

- African-American History Month
- Valentine's Day, February 14
- Transfiguration Sunday, February 19
- President's Day, February 20
- Ash Wednesday, February 22



Updates from the January 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting:

Council approved the 2023 proposed budget which will be presented to the congregation for final approval during the annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 15. The meeting will be available on Zoom. Carol Fett was nominated and re-elected church treasurer. Council members reviewed a Pa. Department of Environmental Protection water system inspection report and discussed current plans to address concerns presented in the report. A representative of Bear Creek Camp will attend worship on February 25-26 to speak with the congregation about the camp and its programs. The church's moveable labyrinth will be available for use on Tuesday, January 10 following the Dorcas meeting at 1:00 pm.

† † †

**PASSAGES**

† **IN MEMORIAM** †

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

**Neil Kaiser**

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



**Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,**

Through these final weeks of this season after Epiphany, we hear passages from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount from Matthew's gospel, and it gets more and more obvious with each successive week how the ways of the kingdom of heaven, or God's ways for our living, contradict the ways of our world. Our priorities, our relationships, our goals and our perspectives in this world make most of what Jesus teaches sound impossible to fulfill, especially when we think of real-life implications and applications. And Jesus pulls no punches when he summarizes individual teachings with lines like, "Unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven," and "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

Yet, by our baptism into his death, God's claim on us as child and heir, and our calling as disciple of Jesus, we are as firmly planted in that kingdom of heaven as we are the world. And by God's grace and the power of the Holy Spirit, we actually can and do live according to Jesus' teaching. It's not easy, but that's why we are joined to a community of disciples, the church, where we can live and obey and serve and minister together. May God continue to bless our community in all the ways we live according to the kingdom of heaven.

In His righteousness,  
Pastor Grube



## CONSTITUTION UPDATE

At our annual meeting in January, we ratified our revised congregational constitution

according to the ELCA model constitution for congregations. The final step to its official adoption was a review by the Synod. We have received that review, made the few editorial corrections provided, and will begin to operate under the new constitution June 1, 2023. In his comments about the review, Rev. Dr. D. Michael Bennethum, the Senior Advisor to the Bishop and reviewer of our constitution commented, “This is one of the best prepared updates of congregational governing documents that I have seen over the past nine years! Please commend all who were involved.” The committee involved in the revision work deserving that commendation included Scott Schukraft, Carol Fett, John Waschek, Don Pheasant, Frank Mariano and Pastor Grube. The most noticeable change to our governance is that we will have one congregational meeting in January to receive the bulletin of reports and approve a budget as we have, but also to elect congregation council members. We have had this election at worship in May, and we will do that for one final time this coming May, but thereafter, we will hold our council elections at our regular January meeting.

† † †

† † †

## EPIPHANY TO LENT

Because the date of Easter is set according to the lunar and solstice calendar, and Lent is fixed at 40 days before Easter, and because Epiphany is a fixed date (January 6), the season after Epiphany is a flexible season with varying numbers of Sundays, depending on the start of Lent. This year, there are seven Sundays after Epiphany, ending with the feast of Transfiguration February 19. Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, is February 22.

## WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

The Bible This Week is our weekly Bible Study on the scripture texts for the coming weekend’s worship. We meet each Tuesday morning at 10:30 am to hear the readings and share our thoughts and reflections together. Our conversations often go in directions we hadn’t anticipated, but that’s because we take those reflections and questions seriously. During this season after Epiphany, Matthew, Paul in 1 Corinthians, and Isaiah and the prophets stir us and guide us in our discipleship. You are invited to join the conversation.

† † †

## ASSEMBLY UPDATE

At the 2022 Churchwide Assembly last August, voting members adopted a memorial concerning restructuring the ELCA’s governance. In November the ELCA Church Council responded to this by authorizing the establishment of a Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church (CRLC). Nominations for the commission are being accepted through March 9. More information about the commitment and expectation of serving on the CRLC, and instructions regarding the nomination form, can be found at [ELCA.org/CRLC](http://ELCA.org/CRLC). If you feel a calling to engage in this important work, please contact Pastor Grube.

† † †

- “Be more concerned with your character than your reputation, because your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are.”

— John Wood



## PALMS FOR ASHES

Palms requested – If you kept your palms from last year’s Palm Sunday service, please bring them to the church by **Sunday, February 12**. In keeping with tradition, palms from the previous year are burned on Transfiguration to make the ashes to be used on Ash Wednesday.



## OUR LENTEN PLANS

Lent begins this month with Ash Wednesday on February 22. As usual, we will mark this Lent season with special components in our worship, special resources for your prayer and devotion at home, and special gatherings for the community. The details of that last component – special gatherings – are still to be determined, so be watching for announcements about what they will be in bulletins and online.



## SYNOD NEWS

With the retirement of long-time Associate of the Bishop and ELCA Director for Evangelical Mission (DEM) Rev. Dr. D. Michael Bennethum, the Northeastern PA Synod has been partnering with the ELCA in a search and call process to select a new DEM. The synod has recently announced that Deacon Kathleen (Kat) Tigerman is our new DEM. She currently serves as co-director of a spiritual retreat center in Minnesota, and will come to northeastern Pa. to begin her new position in April. You can read more about her and the position of DEM on the synod’s website: <https://nepasynod.org/special-bulletin-new-director-of-evangelical-mission/>. We welcome Deacon Tigerman to Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod!

The Northeastern Pa. Synod Assembly this year, “Going Beyond,” will be big! We will return to an in-person assembly at Kalahari Resort, Pocono Manor, June 1-3. We will conduct very important business for the life of the synod, including electing a new Vice-President (the senior-most lay leader of the synod) and a new Secretary. We will be led in inspiring worship by David Scherer, otherwise known as Agape, who has performed several times at St. Paul’s and the ELCA Youth Gathering over the years, and Joe Davis, a spoken word poet who has also performed at the Youth Gathering and whose play, “Living Word,” was our Sunday School Christmas program this year. And the assembly planners are holding their breath while the final arrangements are being made for a special guest preacher for the festival worship. If you would like to serve St. Paul’s and the Northeastern Pa. Synod by being a voting member, or if you have questions about that, please contact Pastor Grube.



## LENTEN PENNY CHALLENGE

It will soon be time to check the couch cushions and bring in all those pennies you’ve been collecting for the Lenten Penny CHALLENGE! All the money collected will benefit the Back Mountain Food Pantry. The challenge will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 22 and run until Easter on April 9. There will be a jar in the Narthex for loose coins and a basket for rolled coins.



## GOT LOVE?

Love asks nothing in return but seeks those who need it. And who needs our love more than those who are consumed with hatred and are utterly devoid of love?

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer



**BCC NEWS**

Bear Creek Camp weekend is coming February 25-26! We look forward to welcoming Kaitlyn Blend, Program Director, to join us in worship, lead our Sunday School children in a camp experience, and answer your questions. Registration for Summer Camp 2023 is now open at [bearcreekcamp.org/summer-camp](http://bearcreekcamp.org/summer-camp). All campers who register before March 31 will receive an exclusive Early Bird t-shirt featuring this year's theme logo, "In the Midst." Meanwhile, we continue with our second annual fundraisers for camp with hopes for assisting our own children in attending summer camp. Thank you for your support of our camp and our children.

**AND**



What makes the cold, grey days of winter bearable? Soup! The Soup for Camp fundraiser is back! Starting February 4 and 5,

soup makers can pick up the 'Soup Sale Checklist' and containers to package their soup. Bring your labeled and frozen soup to store in the church freezer between February 11 and February 19. Then, starting on February 25 and 26, buy soup! All the proceeds from this fundraiser support sending children from St. Paul's to Bear Creek Camp this summer. Your soup purchases last year helped send two children to Bear Creek. We'd like to make camp available to more families this year.

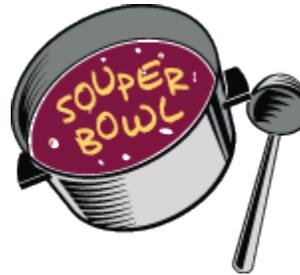
† † †

**SCOUT NEWS**



Our Scout Troop and Cub Pack 241 is back and meeting regularly again at St. Paul's. They gather Sunday evenings for projects, meetings, and activities, including the end of this month when they will hold their Pinewood Derby. Our own Brian Doran is part of the leadership team who leads and guides these scouts. We will be honored to welcome them to worship Sunday, February 19 for their annual celebration of Scout Sunday, and we will witness their own meeting ritual as they present the colors and recite the pledge and their own Scout oath. Welcome back, Scouts!

† † †



**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING** is celebrated the same day that Super Bowl LVII (57) is played. It is a time to enjoy the game while also thinking of those who do not have enough

to eat. On February 11/12, two soup pots will be in the Narthex, one marked with the logo of the AFC Champion and the other for the NFC champion. Please place your monetary gift in the pot representing the team for whom you are cheering. You may also bring a can or two of soup and place them in the grocery cart next to the soup pots. Donations received will be given to the Back Mountain Food Pantry.

† † †

Please use the order form and payment envelope included with this newsletter – or go online and place your order through the Online Giving link on our website



([stpaulsdallaspa.org](http://stpaulsdallaspa.org)) to place your order for Easter lilies that will be used to decorate the church on Easter Sunday. Please note that the deadline to place your order is Sunday, March 12.



**LABYRINTH UPDATE:** The Evangelism Committee is now ready to move forward with providing a schedule for use of the church's new moveable labyrinth.

On Wednesday, February 15, and on the third Wednesday of each month thereafter, the labyrinth will be available for anyone from St. Paul's and the public to use from 3:00-6:00 p.m. Gail Ide will be present to offer guidance on walking the labyrinth. Watch for reminders about the labyrinth in church bulletins and the Good News newsletter.

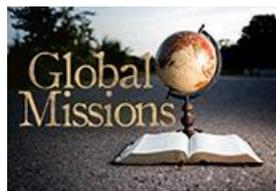
† † †



**Food Donations**

### **FORTY DAYS OF GIVING**

The Social Ministry Committee is busy preparing for this year's 40 Days of Giving project. This annual Lenten Food Challenge will benefit the Back Mountain Food Pantry, and will begin on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22. For this project, the committee will collect a variety of food items and will have a separate theme for each week of the collection, ending on Easter Saturday, April 8. The themes are: canned vegetables and fruit; breakfast items such as cereal and pancake mix; canned soup; pasta and sauce, macaroni and cheese; snacks, peanut butter, energy bars, etc.; canned meat and fish; and pantry staples such as flour and sugar. Monetary donations will also be welcome! Watch for the collection display and table in the Narthex. For more information, contact Karen Mertz at 570.255.4065. Thank you for your support!



### **MISSION NEWS**

January's ELCA *Global Links* reports: At the Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) orientation, Sol Namir was introduced to the Senegalese value of Mjaboot: "the responsibility to care for your family." When Sol first learned about the concept, she figured Senegalese people practiced Mjaboot out of a sense of courtesy and obligation. However, over the first few months of her YAGM year in Senegal, she developed a different understanding. "When I'm not home at my usual arrival time, my host father calls and asks if I'm OK and on my way," she writes in a recent newsletter. "When I felt sick, my host mother kept on checking that I was doing OK." This past Thanksgiving, Sol missed being with her family in Puerto Rico, but she was grateful for her new connection with her host family in Senegal: "We are building our relationship." Sol belongs to the first YAGM cohort to enter service since the COVID-19 pandemic began in 2019. She and her fellow volunteers are now walking alongside communities around the world, and the YAGM team is recruiting its next group of volunteers, to enter service in 2023. Thank you for your support of ELCA Global Mission and the life- and perspective-changing experience it is for young adults of our church who serve as YAGM's around the world.

† † †



The Shavertown United Methodist Church, at 163 N. Pioneer Ave., Shavertown, will offer a Weekly Grief Support Group, running February 16-May 18, 6:30-8:00 pm. This group will offer help and encouragement to anyone who has experienced the death of a spouse, child, family member or friend. The fee is \$25 for a workbook, and scholarships are available. Call 570-675-3616 for more information, or visit [griefshare.org](http://griefshare.org) for a full schedule.



Hi Everyone,

Remember how I've been advocating washing your hands? Well, I just thought I'd put this in for something to give kids to do on an "off day" of any kind:

<https://henrythehand.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/5.Henry-the-Hand-Activity-Book-1.pdf> .

Speaking of an "off day," whether it's a blizzard, hurricane, fire, active shooter or whatever event; do you have an emergency kit available? I'm not referring to the first aid kit. Yes, I am very much aware of how expensive everything is!

But, please, consider adding one item to that emergency kit every week. Check out Pennsylvania's emergency website at:

<https://www.ready.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx>  
[tps://www.ready.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx](https://www.ready.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx).

There you'll find information on all kinds of events, before, during and after. You can find downloadable prints of the Guide in different languages and more information at:

<https://www.ready.pa.gov/BeInformed/EmergencyPreparednessGuide/Pages/default.aspx>.

There are printed copies of these documents available in the church office.

As you can tell I am a firm believer in preparedness and prevention!

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

† † †

## FROM THE MAILBOX



Dear Friends,

On behalf of all of us here at The SPCA of Luzerne County, please accept our sincere thanks for your September donation of blankets, comforters, towels and cat beds. Your generosity is truly needed and appreciated...now more than ever. Your donations allow us to continue in our vital mission of being the voice of those who cannot speak for themselves. We thank you, once again, from the bottom of our hearts, the pads on our paws and the tips of our wagging tails.

Sincerely,  
Your Friends at the SPCA

Dear St. Paul's Friends, Social Ministry and Pastor Grube,

A big thank you for all the prayers, cards, phone calls and offers of assistance while I fight the biggest challenge of my life. A special thank you to Social Ministry for the wonderful bag of goodies. As always, the cookies were delicious!

St. Paul's members are a rare treasure. Thank you for all you've done.

Bill Smith and  
Dianna too

Dear Members of the Senior and Chimes Choirs,

Thank you for your generous gift to me and for your combined participation in St. Paul's music program. I look forward to another year serving God and this congregation. I could not do so without you.

Yours in Christ,  
Margaret Quintanar

**FROM THE MAILBOX** (Cont.)

Dear members of the Social Ministry Committee:

Thank you for your great Christmas gift bag. Your kindness means the world to me.

Love,  
Marge Fritzing

Dear Social Ministry Members,

Thank you so much for the lovely Christmas gift bag – the cookies were delicious and I enjoy doing word search puzzles so the gift was just perfect. I also wore the socks on Christmas Day! A special thank you to Carol Fett for delivering it to our house. It was very thoughtful of all of you to remember me for the holiday. Wishing everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Sincerely,  
Robert Kline

Dear St. Paul's,

I would like to thank the Social Ministry Committee for the Thanksgiving pumpkin, the Christmas gift bag and to Pat Kowalek for delivering them. I am especially thankful for the cards and calls over the past months and especially for the prayers; please continue to pray for me. Also, thank you to Gail Ide for the offers of communion. I am grateful to be part of a caring congregations.

Humbly,  
Ann Sabol

† † †

**LENTEN SIGNALS**

Slow down and uncover this message and Bible verse, using the code below.

# Puzzle!

Slow down and uncover this message and Bible verse, using the code below.

A	B	F	G	K	L	O	R	U	V
D	1	H	2	M	3	S	4	W	5
E		I		N		T		Y	

W  
5 1 3 5 4 4

4 1 3 3 4 4 2 4 1

1 3 1 3 2 4 4 1 3

2 4 4 2 4 1

" 1 1 4 4 2 3 3 1 3 1

3 3 4 5 4 2 1 4

2 1 3 2 4 1

Answer: We must talk to God and listen for God. "Be still, and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10)

