

Good News

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

October 2023

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Web Page:
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 10:45 am (Sept. thru May)
Please continue to visit our website at
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.



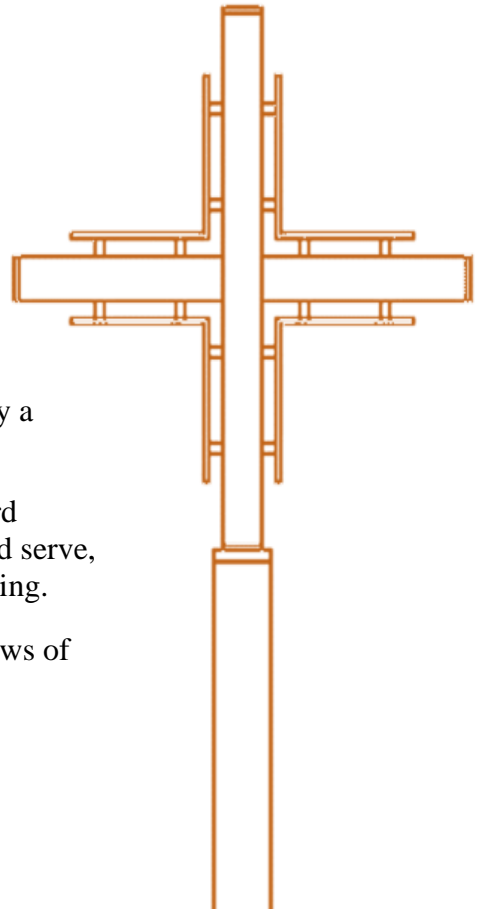
ST. PAUL'S MISSION STATEMENT

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	
Youth Choir Dir.	Jean Grube	
Minister of Technology	Marissa Miller	
Sexton	James Madonna	
Sunday School Superintendent	Tony Linnen	
Financial Secretary	Ruth Ide	
CONGREGATION COUNCIL		
<u>2023/2024</u>	<u>2024/2025</u>	<u>2025/2026</u>
John Waschek*	Larry Pierce	Cathy Ridout*
Gail Smallwood	Bruce Thomas	Karen Mertz
Marissa Miller	Gail Ide	Tony Linnen
Frank Mariano	Pat Peiffer	Don Kretchmer
*Final Term		
CONGREGATION OFFICERS		
President	Rev. Charles H. Grube	
Vice-President	Frank Mariano	
Secretary	Gail Smallwood	
Treasurer	Carol Fett	
STANDING COMMITTEES		
Christian Education	Marissa Miller, Tony Linnen	
Communications	Marissa Miller/Gail Smallwood	
Evangelism	Gail Ide	
Fellowship	TBD	
Finance	John Waschek, Bruce Thomas, Pat Peiffer, Carol Fett	
Head Start/Early Intervention	Carol Fett / Cathy Ridout	
Health Ministry	Cathy Ridout & Gail Ide	
Landscaping	TBD	
Long Range Planning	John Waschek/Frank Mariano/ Don Kretchmer	
Property	Bruce Thomas, Pat Peiffer, Carol Fett	
Salary Review	Frank Mariano	
Social Ministry	Karen Mertz, Larry Pierce	
Staff Support	Frank Mariano, Karen Mertz, Don Kretchmer	
Worship & Music	Pat Peiffer	
* * *		

PRAYER LIST - Please remember to ask permission from the person you are placing on the prayer list. **Pray for the Congregations of St. Matthew United, Scranton and St. Peter, Scranton.**

Pray for those suffering illness: *Members:* Hope Beisel, Annie & Marty Bisher, Mary Lou Bowman, Mary Lou Button, Helen Carey, Pam Cyphers, Cindy Eck, Margaret Edwards, Cheryl and Marty Everhart, Carol Fett, Grace Fisher, Marge Fritzing, Kay Hometchko, Robert Kline, Ann Sabol, Bill Smith, Karen Tomalis, Mark and Mary Walters, Joan Williams, Justin Yost.

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 if you desire a name to remain on the list beyond that time.

Family & Friends: Dick Armbrust, Hank Banaszek, Gwen Bartolacci, Bob Bell, Robert Binger, Marlene Blannett, Judy C., Ed Campbell, Marjorie Catania, Gabriel Day, Janice DeFebo, Joan Devens, David Estock, Ron and Candyce Fike, Amyjo Garbus, Christine Ide, Glenn Ide, Mimi Johnson, Lorraine Jones, Frank K., Bradley Kessler, Gerti Latona, Audrey Mace, Carol Marker, Rob Merritt, Tim Nulton, Alice O'Neil, Megan Sheehan Palmer, Ryleigh Phillips, Febe Quintanar, Sandy Rebo, Donna Reistetter, Bonnie Ryman, Nancy Shymanski, Gina Sigler, Sandra Stankiewicz, Joe Stephanovich, Stevens Family, Benjamin Szostak, Donna Thiessen, Jean Thompson, Carol Wall, Connie Wilbur, Wyatt Wilson, Karen Wise, Ashley, Bethann, Bonnie, Diane, Gilbert & Carol, Kelley, Cindy, Paul, Freyda, Linda, Kim (no last names given).

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE



The next issue of the GOOD NEWS will be the November 2023 issue and the deadline for all submissions will be

Noon on Sunday, October 15, 2023.

SPECIAL DATES

- Fri.-Sat., Oct 6-7: *Rummage/Bake Sale*
- Monday, Oct.9: *Columbus Day; church office closed*
- Sat.-Sun., Oct. 14-15: *Healing Services*
- Saturday, Oct. 28: *First Communion practice*
- Sunday, Oct. 29: *Reformation Sunday*
- Tuesday, Oct. 31: *Halloween*



Updates from the September 5 meeting:

Pastor's Report: The council watched a recording of Bishop deForest's speech during the NEPA Synod summer meeting and discussed strategies for sharing that information with the congregation. Members of the Long-Range Planning committee will meet to continue the discussion.

Christian Education Committee: Sunday School classes will return on Rally Day, Sept. 10. The SS calendar includes Bonfire Day, Oct. 29; Turkey Decorating, Nov. 5 and 12, and voting with food items for Best Turkey on Nov. 19; Preparing for Advent, Nov. 26; and SS Children's Christmas Program, Dec. 17.

Evangelism Committee: St. Paul's will take part in the Dallas Harvest Festival on Sunday, September 17. Gail Ide will attend a Reconciling with Christ session on Nov. 4. Don Kretchmer and Joe Hardisky are working on clearing the walking path around the church property and are looking for assistance to remove downed trees. They plan to ask the Boy Scout troop meeting at the church to help with path maintenance.

Health Ministry Committee: Cathy Ridout and Gail Ide have contacted a local CPR trainer about providing classes in CPR and AED use at the church. They are working on developing a schedule for classes.

Social Ministry Committee: The Social Ministry Committee will have a series of projects beginning in September with a Sneakers for Head Start collection, "God's Work. Our Hands." project, Harvest Home celebration, and a collection for the SPCA.

Old business: The church office will soon be sending out letters of invitation to the congregation to attend Congregational Dinners, beginning in October.



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Gospel music singer and composer Doris Aker's song has played in my thoughts recently: "There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place." September has brought so much that is new and renewed. With the return of familiar ways of worshiping, choirs, lay assisting ministers, Sunday School, congregation-wide service projects, Bible study, and the beehive of activity it has been through September with many familiar and some new faces and families involved, and several ministries under new leadership, I have been inspired and encouraged in our mission and ministry. Come and be part of it, and let's see where the sweet, sweet Spirit takes us.

In the Spirit's power,
Pastor Grube



BIBLE STUDY RESUMES

Our weekly gathering to dwell in the word of God has resumed. The Bible This Week is the name of our weekly Bible study on the texts for the coming week's worship. We continue these final weeks of the church year to dwell in Matthew's gospel. We meet on Tuesday mornings, 10:30-11:30, and you are invited. The texts are included in each week's worship bulletin so you can read ahead, but you don't need to. Simply come and share in the discussion.



CONFIRMATION INSTRUCTION

Our Confirmation program will begin regular classes Sunday, October 1, and this year, we meet during the Sunday School hour, 10:45-11:45. Other parts of the program continue, like meeting with a mentor and performing service projects. This year, we will explore Martin Luther's teachings from the Small Catechism on The Lord's Prayer and the sacraments, Holy Baptism and Holy Communion. Keep these young members in your prayers as they prepare to take on their baptismal promises for themselves and enter into a new phase of their lives as disciples of Jesus.



"Old gardeners never die. They just spade away and then throw in the trowel."

—Herbert V. Prochnow

CHURCH FAMILY DINNERS SCHEDULED

This month brings the first of our Congregational Family Dinners. We invite you in small groups to gather for a covered dish luncheon on a Sunday, one each month. You'll be hosted by a member of the congregation council and Pastor. We'll share fellowship and food and talk about St. Paul's, the church, and our future. Watch for your invitation in the coming months.

Dorcas Society



FALL RUMMAGE AND BAKE SALE

It's coming....the Dorcas Society's two-day rummage/bake sale will be held on Friday, October 6 from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm and from 5:00 to 7:00 pm, and Saturday, October 7 from 8:00 am to Noon (Bag Day).

Available for sale will be good clean, usable clothes (men's, women's & children's), household items, dishes, pot and pans, holiday decorations, jewelry, books, games, puzzles, etc.

The church will be open on the following days/times for donation drop-off:

Monday, October 2	9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Tuesday, October 3	9:00 am to 7:00 pm
Wednesday, October 4	9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Thursday, October 5	9:00 am to 2:00 pm

(Donations will not be accepted after 2:00 pm so Dorcas members may have time to price items).

Anyone (men and women) can assist during the week with setting up tables, unloading, displaying and/or pricing items to be sold. PLEASE DO NOT BRING televisions, computers/printers, exercise equipment, large appliances, encyclopedias, cribs, strollers, artificial Christmas trees or old telephones.

All bakers of St. Paul's are asked to donate homemade baked goods for the Bake Sale; your goodies should be brought to the church by 1:00 pm on Thursday, October 5 so they may be packaged and priced.



MISSION NEWS

Some transitions have taken place recently among our Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Mission District churches. Good

Shepherd, Wilkes-Barre and Holy Trinity, Kingston have formed a Yoked Ministry agreement and are scheduled for congregational meetings to extend a call to Pastor Wes Poole as

pastor of the joint parish. Pastor Poole currently serves both congregations, one as called pastor and one under contract. Meanwhile, Pastor Mary Owens has resigned as pastor of St. Matthew United, Scranton to accept a new call. St. Matthew's is served in the interim by Father Dan Fitzsimmons, a retired Episcopal priest, as they complete the process for a new pastoral call. Finally, at the end of this month, St. Luke, Archbald will celebrate its 175th anniversary with a special liturgy and dinner. Remember all these congregations in your prayers during these important moments in their lives and ministry.

The ELCA Global Mission monthly newsletter, "Global Links," recently shared these stories. Since the Russia-Ukraine War began in February 2022, over 1.4 million refugees have arrived in Poland and registered to stay there — more than in any other country.

Several Lutheran churches are providing support for them, including the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland. This is the church Kornelia Rudkowska, an International Women Leaders scholarship recipient, calls home. Last year her mother, Katarzyna, became one of the first nine Lutheran women to be ordained in Poland. Katarzyna is local director of the "I Overcome Barriers" program, which helps Ukrainian refugees master the Polish language.

"Refugees, despite the fact that they often have high professional qualifications, do not find work," Kornelia says. "The biggest barrier is the poor knowledge of the Polish language." The project is supported by the Lutheran World Federation and contributions from member churches and institutions, including Newberry College (South Carolina), where Kornelia is a sophomore. Meanwhile, Lutheran Disaster Response and Lutheran World Relief are partnering on a \$1 million grant to help fund the project Supporting Farmers to Restore Resilient Livelihoods in Kharkiv, Ukraine. Participants in newly liberated areas of Ukraine are receiving input depending upon their needs, whether that be restoring old farms or establishing new ones.



LABYRINTH WALKS: On Wednesday, October 18, 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.

SOCIAL MINISTRY

The Social Ministry committee wishes to thank all the bakers who made all the luscious Lutheran cookies last month that were given to the staff of the Meadows Nursing Home and the Meadows Manor. They were greatly appreciated!

The Head Start sneaker project is almost completed and will be presented to the children in the near future.

Marianne and Ray Mancke presented 40 blankets to the grief camps last month. Here are some of the comments made by the children upon receiving their blankets:

"My blanket is so soft and amazing. How did they know I liked prehistoric creatures?"
"I am going to use my red blanket as a super cape and scare all the bad people away!"
"My blanket is filled with hearts and hearts remind me of my mom."
"I can sleep with my blanket and hide under it too."
"I love purple, blue AND butterflies. Now I have all three!"
"My blanket is soft and I think seals are soft so that is why I picked this blanket."
"My dad liked baseball and I like baseball."

Our new blanket project will begin shortly. We welcome everyone who can use scissors to come and join us for some cutting and conversation in the social hall. The time and date of our new project will be announced shortly.

Also, don't forget to pick up your Boscov's "Friends Helping Friends" shopping passes which are on sale for \$5.00 each in the Narthex. By

using the pass you will receive 25% off on all purchases made in Boscov's on Wednesday, October 18. Proceeds from sales of the passes benefit St. Paul's.

Thank you for your continuing help with these projects of ministry! Karen Mertz, Social Ministry Committee.



Hi Everyone,

I know you all are tired of hearing about COVID but it's still around. I just found out two of our friends have it and got it at different events. And here comes our respiratory season! Now add the flu and RSV and you have, what I have heard called, is a "triple-demic." Yowie!

I'm trying to keep up with all the news, research, and recommendations. Check out this CDC(Center for Disease Control) article on respiratory viruses at <https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/whats-new/2023-2024-season-outlook.html>.

Here is what PA DOH (Department of Health) has on Covid:
<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Coronavirus.aspxv>.

Even though all links are interesting, on that site I always like to look at the data. Yes, as of September 9, Luzerne County is in the low category for Covid. As with all respiratory diseases, keep up-to-date with all vaccines, wash your hands frequently, stay in well-ventilated areas, watch your spacing, and respect those that wear masks as they may have underlying conditions or are protecting loved ones with those conditions. Definitely follow your health care providers' directions. If you have any questions or can't find something, let me know.

Here's an interesting commentary that I ran across on average human temperatures:
<https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/996080>

?src=FYE#vp_2. At least now I know why my temperature is usually lower than most other people!

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

HEALING SERVICE SCHEDULED

St. Luke, in addition to being commemorated as the evangelist who wrote the gospel attributed to him, is noted in Colossians (4:14) to be "the beloved physician." So, it has become our regular practice to mark a Sunday close to the feast day of St. Luke (October 18) with a celebration of the church's ministry of healing by including a service of healing, laying on of hands, and anointing. Our service of healing will be October 14 and 15. Those who desire will be invited forward to receive the imposition and anointing, and prayers for healing for all will be an important part of our worship.



† † †

DID YOU KNOW?

According to Deacon Travis Woodfield of the NEPA Synod, the average number of congregants needed to sustain a worship community is 130 congregants a week. According to St. Paul's weekly attendance records, our church has an average of 90 congregants per week.

PASSAGES

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF

Viola Rae Orgitano
September 17, 2023

Daughter of Clara and Ryan Orgitano and granddaughter of Pastor Charles and Jean Grube. Congratulations to all!

REPORT FROM THE LWF

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) recently concluded its 13th Assembly, "One Body, One Spirit, One Hope," Sept. 13-19 in Krakow, Poland. The Assembly elected Danish Bishop Henrik Stubkjær as the new President of the LWF, succeeding outgoing President Archbishop Dr Panti Filibus Musa, Nigerian Archbishop of the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria. And, LWF's Estonian General Secretary Rev. Dr Anne Burghardt and the Roman Catholic Prefect of the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity (DPCU) Cardinal Kurt Koch presented the *Common Word* to the Assembly.

This shared reflection between Catholics and Lutherans, preparing for the 500th anniversary of the Augsburg Confession in 2030, "could lead to another 'milestone' on the way from conflict to communion, comparable to the landmark Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification" of 1999.

FIRST COMMUNION TRAINING

It is our congregation's tradition to celebrate First Communion for our younger members on Reformation Sunday. We will gather with those beginning school or sharing interest in receiving Holy Communion along with their parents on Saturday, October 28, 10:00 am-12 noon, to introduce our young members to Holy Communion and train them for receiving it. They will receive their first communion in worship that weekend.



died this year. We will also include photos of the newly baptized members. These photos will be displayed on a table in the Narthex. During the liturgy, names of those who have died this year and names of those who have been baptized this year will be remembered out loud in prayer.

We become saints with Jesus in our baptisms. When celebrating All Saints' Day in the church, we remember all God's saints; those baptized, and especially those who have died. We describe the great homecoming in the new Jerusalem "where every tear will be wiped away." The autumn image of bounty, as in harvest, brings forth the image of the dead as God's harvest gathered as the treasures of heaven.

We invite you to bring a photo of any loved one who has died to add to the display in the Narthex. You can include loved ones who died many years ago, images of saints from old, and historic church leaders. Please bring a framed photo and include a label with the name of the departed. While the prayers at church that weekend will include the names of the saints who have died this year only, the Narthex display will include the faithfully departed of many years.

Please bring your framed photos to the church office from October 29 to November 3. You may take your photo home after the November 5 service.

Also, included in this newsletter is a form and envelope for our Annual All Saints' Day appeal, or you may make your donation via our on-line giving link (Vanco) by visiting our web site at www.stpaulsdallaspa.org and clicking the link to on-line giving.



ALL SAINTS DISPLAY **NOV. 4-5**

We are preparing a collection of photos for All Saints' Sunday, November 5. As in past displays, we will include photos of church members who have