

Good News

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

November 2023

Phone: 570-675-3859
Fax: 570-675-5646
Email: stpaul@epix.net
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.



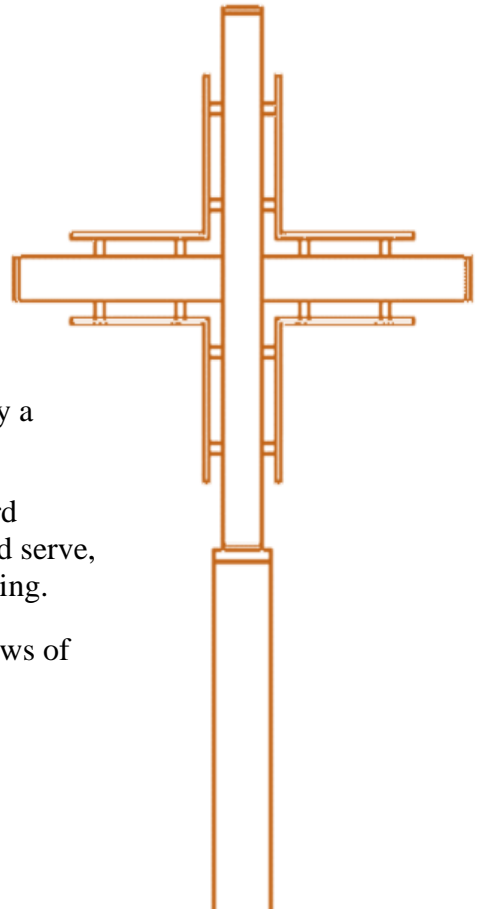
ST. PAUL'S MISSION STATEMENT

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 Congregation of Shepherd of the Hills, Dushore.**

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, Marianne Mancke, Ann Sabol, Bill Smith, Karen Tomalis, Mark and Mary Walters, 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, Bob Bell, Robert Binger, Kristy Brobst, Judy C., Ed Campbell, Marjorie Catania, Gabriel Day, Janice DeFebo, Gene Eyerman, Ron and Candyce Fike, Amyjo Garbus, Christine Ide, Glenn Ide, Lorraine Jones, Bradley Kessler, Thor Kvande, Gerti Latona, Audrey Mace, Carol Marker, Lillian McGrady, Rob Merritt, Tim Nulton, Alice O'Neil, Megan Sheehan Palmer, Ryleigh Phillips, Charlotte and Charles Prohaska, Febe Quintanar, Donna Reistetter, Lloyd and Bonnie Ryman, Edward Sabol, Nancy Shymanski, Gina Sigler, Sandra Stankiewicz, Joe Stephanovich, Stevens Family, Joe Switzer, Benjamin Szostak, Abigail Thomas, Jean Thompson, Carol Wall, Connie Wilbur, Karen Wise, Ashley, Bethann, Cindy, Paul, Linda, Kim, Josh, Kika, Greg (no last names given).

SPECIAL DATES

- Sat., Nov. 4: *Roast Beef Dinner*
- Sun, Nov. 5: *All Saints' Sunday;*
Daylight Savings Time ends
- Tues., Nov. 7: *Election Day*
- Sat., Nov. 11: *Veterans Day*
- Thurs., Nov. 23: *Thanksgiving*
- Sun., Nov. 26: *Christ the King Sunday*

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE



The next issue of the GOOD NEWS will be the December 2023/January 2024 issue and the deadline for all

submissions will be **Noon on Sunday, November 19, 2023.**



Updates from the October 3 meeting:

Worship and Music Committee reported that the return to traditional communion has gone well with some small adjustments being made. A Holden Evening Prayer service will be incorporated with the regular Saturday night service on December 9. Christmas Eve services will be held at 4 and 7 pm, and the 4 pm service will be available on Zoom.

Long Range Planning Committee will compile a report of St. Paul's financial condition, including the church's historical finances and future projections, and will make plans to present the information to the congregation.

Christian Education Committee reported there will be a First Communion training for children on Saturday, October 28 from 10 am-12 noon. The children will participate in their first Communion on Sunday, October 29 (Reformation Sunday). The Sunday School classes will have a bonfire that Sunday. The Sunday School classes also will decorate pumpkins which will be delivered to our congregation's shut-ins. In November Sunday School classes will create turkeys; voting for the best turkey will be held on Sunday, Nov. 19 and the congregation will vote using canned goods and non-perishable foods. All members of the church will be invited to participate in an Advent Day event on Nov. 26.

The Property Committee reported the depression in the church driveway has been repaired. The committee is considering installing a drain system outside the exit door at the back of the sanctuary to prevent water from coming in under the door. The annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, Jan. 21, 2024, and five council members will be elected at that meeting. Those who are interested in serving on council are invited to contact Pastor Grube or Frank Mariano, council vice-president.

PASSAGES

† IN MEMORIAM †

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

Andrew R. Denmon, Jr.

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

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,



The end of the liturgical year increasingly turns our attention to end-time things. All Saints' Sunday turns our thoughts heaven-ward. Christ the King Sunday focuses our thoughts on Christ's eternal reign. The remaining Sundays of November keep our attention on faithful discipleship as the time draws near. And that reminds us that those who spend all their time looking to heaven are no earthly good. Our loving service to our neighbors is how we live our lives in this meantime. May you know the profound blessing and deep gratitude that comes with loving your neighbor this month and always.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Grube



BIBLE STUDY UPDATE

This month brings the final sessions of our weekly Bible study, The Bible This Week, for the season. We gather to read and reflect on the readings for the coming week's worship each Tuesday morning at 10:30-11:30. This month, we will meet November 7, 14, and 21, then we will take a break from Thanksgiving week until after Christmas, when we will resume in the new liturgical year with Mark as our primary gospel. Join us. You can read the texts ahead – they are listed each week in the bulletin – or just come and listen and reflect together with those gathered.

† † †

“People will accept your ideas much more readily if you tell them Benjamin Franklin said it first.”

—David H. Comins

DORCAS REPORT

What with all the clothes, books, knickknacks, linens, household items, plants, jewelry and accessories, Dorcas had another successful fall rummage sale. In addition, with all the children's items, holiday décor and baked goods, the sale brought out hundreds of area residents in search of bargains.

Dorcas Society



Having hours Friday evening helped an extra 35 people that would not have been able to make it due to their work schedules. Many thanks to all who assisted or helped in any way. Our next spring sale will be held May 3-4, while the fall sale is scheduled for October 4-5. Mark your calendars now for our spring sale!

At the October meeting the group voted to give \$3,000 to the church for its general fund.

This year's Christmas luncheon will be held on Tuesday, December 12 at noon at Apple Tree Terrace at Newberry Estate, Dallas. The December hostesses are working on the menu and will have a sign-up sheet posted in early November in the Narthex. All women of the congregation are invited to attend.

The next Dorcas meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 14 at 7:00 p.m. and the hostesses will be Dianna Smith, Marissa Miller and Gail Ide. All women of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

CHURCH FAMILY DINNERS SCHEDULED

Our Congregational Family Dinners have begun. We have divided the congregation in small groups and we invite each group to one of our monthly covered dish dinners Sundays after the Sunday School hour at 11:45 am. A member of the congregation council and Pastor will host you and 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.



MISSION NEWS

The ELCA has long enjoyed a close relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and its Bishop Sani-Ibrahim Azar. The region in and around Gaza, of course, is perilous. Images in the news are heartbreaking, and we extend our prayers to all those who have lost loved ones and are living in fear and uncertainty.

In response to the war and violence there, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has extended a letter of support to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and its ministries, including especially Augusta Victoria Hospital, which is operated by the Lutheran World Federation. Lutheran Disaster Response is there, working to address the pressing needs of food, water and medical supplies. Support for hospitals will be another priority as the need for medical assistance continues to grow.

Additionally, Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with the Arab and Middle Eastern Ministries desk to provide interfaith emotional and spiritual care support for communities in the United States. Your gifts to LDR go directly to assist in the ministry they carry out there. Thank you for your support.



LABYRINTH WALKS: On Wednesday, November 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.



Hi Everyone,

As of this writing in mid-October, I just finally put up my autumn and Halloween decorations. Of course, that was with the help of our six-year-old grandson! What fun. He really kept me going! But then I went into two stores and they were all decked out for Christmas! Ugh. Please, one season and holiday at a time.

I was asked the other day about shingles. Now there is a really big UGH! Very painful and nothing to take lightly. The CDC has very good articles that you can print out at: www.cdc.gov/shingles/about/index.html. Click on the links. There are interesting facts about the varicella-zoster virus (VZV). Remember that only the shingles vaccine (Shingrix) can prevent the disease and the possible complications. Check out who should get the vaccine, when, and possible side effects.

I also ran across information on Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) at www.cdc.gov/rsv/about/symptoms.html. This information is important as RSV is on the rise this respiratory season.

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

NOVEMBER SUNDAY SCHOOL EVENTS

The Sunday School classes will once again craft turkey figures from a variety of materials during the Sunday School period on November 5 and November 12. The turkeys will then be on display in the Narthex on November 18-19. Children and adults are invited to vote for their favorite turkey by contributing a non-perishable food item to that turkey; all food will be donated to the Back Mountain Food Pantry. All members also will be encouraged to take part in a Preparing for Advent Event on Sunday, Nov. 26 during Sunday School; additional details will be printed in the weekly church bulletins.



ALL SAINTS DAY

Half of our November worship weekends are celebrations of festivals with All Saints' Sunday beginning the month and Christ the King Sunday ending the month. For us, All Saints' is a combination of two church festivals. One celebrates the community of believers across time and space, the baptized community known as the church. The other remembers those saints from that community whose baptism is complete and who have entered into eternal rest in death, but who are not celebrated on days set apart for their particular memory, like, for example, St. Paul or St. Matthew. So we celebrate both: those of our community who have died, and our whole community of baptized believers, all of whom are made saints by God in baptism. We particularly remember in our prayers that day those who in the past year have died and those who are newly baptized: *Constance Borchert, Maryan Daily, Andrew Denmon, Alice Hudak, Neil Kaiser, Ronald Kross, Thomas Lundberg, Marjorie L. McCarty, Steven Thompson and newly baptized Nathan Cohen, Briella Pyett, Nicholas Pyett and Camryn Hollingshead.*

Christ the King celebrates the reign of Jesus over that community as Lord and King in what we have called through this year of Matthew, the Kingdom of heaven – the kingdom Jesus came to announce and bring and into which we are brought in our baptism. This is the final Sunday of the liturgical year, and we will celebrate a new year with Advent in December. Come join the celebrations.

DID YOU KNOW?

According to Deacon Travis Woodfield of the NEPA Synod, the number of congregations in the synod has declined from 294 in the year 2000, to 245 in 2021.

WORLD FOOD DAY

Monday, October 16, was World Food Day, and on that day, Rev. Daniel Rift, Director of ELCA World Hunger shared this letter: Today is World Food Day — a time to be reminded of our millions of neighbors around the globe who struggle with food insecurity, and to act, together, to make a difference. One troubling trend is that the spike in hunger we have seen in recent years has not eased. Hunger is still “far above pre-pandemic levels” (Food and Agriculture Association, 2023). In 2022 up to 783 million people went hungry.

For 50 years we have joined together as Lutherans to address root causes of hunger and poverty around the world through ELCA World Hunger. Part of our church's long tradition of meeting human needs, ELCA World Hunger embodies our commitment to God's promise of a time when we will hunger and thirst no more. We have made great strides, but work remains as we once again face a startling increase in hunger.

As we reflect on our last 50 years of ministry together, we know that God calls us to respond to the needs of the world now more than ever. Can we count on your generosity this World Food Day to support neighbors in need? Your support of ELCA World Hunger makes a difference to many people around the world. Thank you for your support.



VETERANS DAY

HONORING OUR VETERANS

Veterans Day has its roots in what was called Armistice Day, when a peace agreement ended World War I on November 11, 1918. President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed that

Armistice Day was to be marked with solemn pride in heroism and with gratitude for victory as well as the “opportunity it has given America to show sympathy with peace and justice.” In 1954, the remembrance was renamed Veterans Day to honor all U.S. military personnel. It is a reminder to pray for and honor all who serve and sacrifice, to support and assist their families, and to pray that God will bring peace on earth.

FROM THE MAILBOX



Dear members of St. Paul's,

Thank you for all your calls, texts, emails, visits words of encouragement and especially your prayers for me as I recover from knee replacement surgery. I can't begin to tell you how much I appreciated every one, and how glad I am to be a part of St. Paul's family.

Recovery has been slow but steady and I hope to be back in action soon.

Carol Fett

Dear members of St. Paul's,

St. Paul's Church family is the best. Thank you all for your prayers, cards, calls and all that you have done for Marty and me. The prayers are certainly felt. God bless you all!

Love, Annie and Marty Bisher

Dear members of St. Paul's,

Thank you for all you do for our children and families here at Head Start! The children are so blessed to have new sneakers to start off the school year. A few of them wanted to say "thank you:"

Nathan says, "thank you very much! You got my favorite Paw Patrol shoes for me. I love them."

Erin says, "Thank you for my shoes. I love them."

Thank you!! Love, Waylon"

Maverick says, "thank you! Super cool shoes and very sweet."

Liam says, "I want to thank St. Paul's Lutheran Church for generously purchasing me some sneakers."

Max says, "Thank you for my new shoes."

A signed thank-you poster and the children's notes are on display in the Narthex.

Dear Friends at St. Paul's,

Thank you so much for collecting items from our SPCA wish list at your Blessing of the Animals service in September. We are truly grateful for all of the wonderful supplies for cats and dogs that you donated. You have helped us in our vital mission of caring for the thousands of animals in need that come through our doors each year.

Your friends at the SPCA



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Enclosed with this newsletter is an order form and envelope for you to place your order for poinsettias that will be used to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas Eve. Please note that you may also place your order online via St. Paul's website at www.stpaulsdallaspa.org and click on the Online Giving link. Be sure to include the name of the person in whose memory or honor you are giving the poinsettia(s). You may also specify a color, red or white. Deadline to place your order is Sunday, November 26.

† † †

A THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Dear Lord, we beg but one boon more: peace in the hearts of all men living, peace in the whole world this Thanksgiving.

—Joseph Auslander



ADVENT ANTICIPATION

We're looking ahead to a special worship event this Advent. Many have come to appreciate the Holden Evening Prayer setting which we have come to use for Evening Prayer in Lent and Advent. Some of the

melodies have become so popular across the church that some of the selections have been included in our hymnal as separate pieces. This year, we will use the setting for the regular Holy Communion worship on Saturday, December 9, celebrating the Second Sunday of Advent. We will incorporate texts and musical settings of both the Holden Evening Prayer and Holy Communion in one service. The Sunday morning service that weekend will be the usual Holy Communion service.

NEW VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

The Mission Outreach Committee at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Dallas is hosting a Rise Against Hunger event at the church on Saturday, November 18, at 10 am. The church is inviting volunteers to help pack up 10,000 pre-packaged meals by 12:30 pm; the meals will be distributed to communities facing food shortages around the world. Please contact Barbara Rinker at 570-574-5772 or barbrinker@ymail.com to volunteer.

BIBLE QUIZ

Fill in the blank: "Rejoice always, pray continually, give _____ in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

- A. alms
- B. praise
- C. thanks
- D. offerings

Answer: C (See 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NIV.)

PUZZLE

THANKS-FILLED GIVING

The virtues of gratefulness and generosity are connected. When we're truly thankful for all God provides, we want to sow generous seeds in other people's lives. What will be the harvest?

Directions: Solve the clues associated with each picture. Then write the words in the correct spaces to complete 2 Corinthians 9:10-11, NIV.

This becomes a plant _____

Willing to give _____

The result of planting seeds _____

The act of gratitude _____

Food made from wheat _____

Now he who supplies _____ to the sower and _____ for food will also supply and increase your store of _____ and will enlarge the _____ of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be _____ on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in _____ to God. 2 Corinthians 9:10-11, NIV

Answers: seed, bread, harvest, generous, thankful, giving

THANKSGIVING HUMOR

Why did the turkey decline dessert?
Because it was stuffed.

Why did the turkey cross the road twice?
To prove he wasn't a chicken.

What smells the best at Thanksgiving dinner?
Your nose.

Why didn't the chef season the turkey?
There wasn't enough thyme.

Why did the turkey leave the band?
People were fighting over the drumsticks.