

Good News

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

December 2023 and January 2024

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.



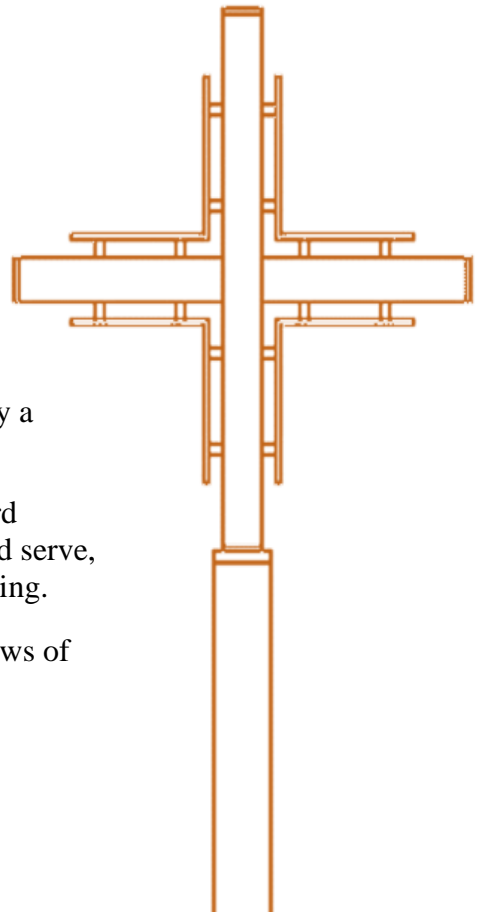
ST. PAUL'S MISSION STATEMENT

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, Grace Fisher, Marge Fritzinger, Robert Kline, Marianne Mancke, Ann Sabol, Bill Smith, Karen Tomalis, 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, Thomas Bosak, Kristy Brobst, Judy C., Ed Campbell, Marjorie Catania, Gabriel Day, Paul Davis, Paul Davis, Jr., Janice DeFebo, Gene Eyerman, Candyce Fike, Amyjo Garbus, Sally Harris, Christine Ide, Glenn Ide, Lorraine Jones, Bradley Kessler, Thor Kvande, Gerti Latona, Audrey Mace, Carol Marker, Rich Marker, Lillian McGrady, Rob Merritt, Judy Murray, 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, Lorraine Steinhauer, Joe Stephanovich, Stevens Family, Joe Switzer, Benjamin Szostak, Abigail Thomas, Jean Thompson, Tom Wasilewski, Jack Watkins, Connie Wilbur, Karen Wise, Ashley, Bethann, Cindy, Paul, Linda, Kim, Josh, Kika, Greg, Karen (no last names given).

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE



The next issue of the GOOD NEWS will be the February 2024 issue and the deadline for all submissions will be

Noon on Sunday, January 21, 2024.

SPECIAL DATES

- First Sunday of Advent, *December 3, 2023*
- Second Sunday of Advent, *December 10, 2023*
- Third Sunday of Advent, *December 17, 2023*
- First day of winter, *December 21, 2023*
- Fourth Sunday of Advent, *December 24, 2023*
- Christmas Eve, *December 24, 2023*
- Christmas Day, *December 25, 2023*
- New Year's Eve/Watch Night, *December 31, 2023*

SPECIAL DATES (Cont.)

- New Year's Day, *January 1, 2024*
- Epiphany, *January 6, 2024*
- Baptism of the Lord, *January 7, 2024*
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day, *January 15, 2024*
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, *January 18-25, 2024*



Updates from the November meeting:

Property Committee : During the November 7 meeting, Council approved the Property Committee's quote for the Simplex Fire Panel for repairs to the alarms/strobe lights and wiring, and reviewed the two quotes for the sanctuary roof repairs. However, additional information needs to be received on one quote before a final decision can be made. Building gutters are also scheduled to be cleaned.

Finance Committee: The proposed 2024 budget was presented by the Finance Committee and will be presented to the congregation at the January Annual Meeting, January 21, 2024. A Temple Talk will be held December 2/3 in regard to church finances.

Christian Education Committee: The Sunday School children decorated pumpkins which were delivered by the Social Ministry Committee to shut-in members. Christian Education Committee is planning a Turkey Decorating Contest to benefit the Back Mountain Food Pantry, as well as an Advent Event on November 26; no Sunday School December 24 and 31.

Annual Meeting: Council elections will be held in January 21, 2024 at the Annual Meeting – four positions need to be filled for three-year terms and one position for a two-year term.

NEW NATIVITY SCENE

Now that the season of Advent is here, it is time to unveil our church's new Nativity scene!

The old scene, which had been used for decades, had finally succumbed to the winter elements, and it was time for a new display. Just as we wait and watch for the coming of Christ throughout Advent, so the scene will expand with new figures throughout the month of December.

The figures are made of heavy, weather-resistant metal and are painted to look three-dimensional; the high-resolution paint is long-lasting and resists fading. The colorful and highly detailed figures fold up for compact storage.

Many thanks to the Dorcas Society, the quilting group and the Furniture & Fixtures Fund for making it possible to acquire the display.



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Happy New Year! Advent brings us the new year of the church calendar and another year of the calendar's cycle.

We wait for and anticipate the coming of the Messiah and celebrate his birth among us and his epiphany to the nations. Then we move forward in his life and ministry acknowledging our disobedience as his baptized followers and returning to following him all the way to the cross in his passion, crucifixion, and death.

On the third day, we celebrate his resurrection, then his ascension, and his commissioning us to take up his work, filling us with the Holy Spirit to accomplish that work. Finally, we end the year examining the life of a disciple and the church's work to love God and our neighbor as we serve Christ the King.

That's the story that lies before us, with Mark's and John's gospels informing us. Welcome to the new year!

In Christ's love,
Pastor Grube



CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY

Christmas is a special time, a special time for family gatherings and a special time in the church year, a special time to celebrate the birth of our Savior. Sometimes, however, those special times conflict. The adult choir and the chimes choir are in a bind this year; family gatherings are conflicting with Christmas Eve worship services. We cannot field full choirs at either the 4:00 pm or the 7:00 pm services and also our Christmas Day service "Lessons & Carols."

Therefore, we would like to invite you to become a temporary choir member. You do not have to read music; just come to choir rehearsal on Thursdays at 7:00 pm for the adult choir and on Sundays at 8:30 am for the chimes choir.

We are also looking for volunteers with musical abilities to offer their talents, individually or in small groups, during the half hour before either the 4:00 pm or 7:00 pm Christmas Eve service, or on December 31 for our Lessons & Carols service at 9:30 am. Maybe you could read aloud a favorite Christmas poem or dance to a special rendition of a Christmas hymn. Whatever offering can you give our Savior this Christmas, please contact Margaret Quintanar at margaret.quintanar@gmail.com or send a text message to 717.448.0295 no later than Sunday, December 17.

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.



"It is Christmas in the heart that puts Christmas in the air."

—W.T. Ellis



BIBLE STUDY UPDATE

Our weekly Bible study, The Bible This Week, is taking the holiday season off, but you can mark your calendars and prepare to return on Tuesday, January 9 at 10:30 am. We gather to read and reflect on the readings for the coming week's worship, this year centering our attention on Mark's gospel. We'll see you then.





Education, Improvement Fund, etc. You can even order Easter lilies and Christmas poinsettias and make Memorial donations.

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

† † †

CONSIDER YEAR-END DONATIONS AND ONLINE GIVING

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

As you consider donations this holiday season, please keep St. Paul's in mind. Please be as generous as possible this holiday season and in the year ahead. Remember that St. Paul's offers online giving options by Vanco Payment Solutions through our website (www.stpaulsdallaspa.org). Simply click the Online Giving link to set up your account. There is no cost to you to participate; it is convenient and provides much-needed consistency for our church. And when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to



offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis.

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

ADVENT CELEBRATIONS



We celebrate this Advent and Christmas season with special worship events this month. We count down the four Sundays of Advent with Advent candles as usual, this year placed at the baptismal font.

The Saturday, December 9 Advent 2 service will be a special service incorporating the beloved Holden Evening Prayer service with Holy Communion. And since December 24 is both the fourth and final Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve, it will be a full day of worship and celebration. We'll celebrate Advent 4 that Saturday at 5:30 pm and Sunday morning at 9:30 as usual. Then we'll celebrate our Christmas Eve services at 4:00 and 7:00 pm. The 4:00 pm service will be streamed live on our Zoom channel.

The following weekend we'll celebrate the First Sunday of Christmas with our traditional service of Lessons and Carols Saturday and Sunday, December 30/31. Come and worship!

† † †

Once again this year, we have special seasonal resources to help you mark the time and live the Advent season of anticipation and expectancy intentionally. There is a daily devotional booklet with scripture readings from the daily lectionary and a short devotional reflection you can use on its own or incorporate into a short prayer service based on Evening Prayer included in the booklet. For our families with children, we have a large poster with daily activity suggestions which help us shine our light in the world. These posters can

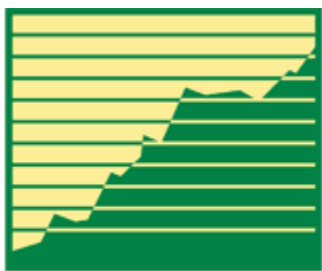
be colored or decorated by the children and hung on the refrigerator with a magnetic clip and the days indicated with a colorful clothespin provided. Both resources begin the First Sunday in Advent, December 3, and continue through the season.

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ELCA GOOD GIFTS

Wondering how to make a positive impact in the world right now? With ELCA Good Gifts, you can choose from more than 50 charitable gifts to give in honor of friends and loved ones. Each of these gifts makes a real impact in the world — one goat, water filter, or school uniform at a time.

Start your holiday shopping now and order free, customized cards for each gift. Give by Dec. 9 to ensure that your cards arrive in time for Christmas. Or, print-at-home and online cards are also instantly available at any time. You can learn more and purchase your gifts at the Good Gifts website: <https://goodgifts.elca.org>.



Annual Giving Statements

by St. Paul's in 2024 may be credited to your financial statements only if they are mailed and postmarked in 2023. The IRS also requires that taxpayers receive their financial statement acknowledgments before the date he/she files a tax return. If the taxpayer does not have the

IRS regulations state that for tax purposes, you must be sure your contributions are received no later than December 31. After that date, 2023 contributions received

acknowledgment by then, the taxpayer cannot claim a charitable deduction.

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

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

Statements will be mailed in early January. Please review your statement as soon as possible and refer any questions to Ruth Ide or Carol Fett, since all 2023 envelopes will be disposed of after six months. Thank you.

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2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES

For our members using offering boxes, they are available for you to pick up in the Narthex through the month of December; please remember, do not use envelopes from the new boxes until January 1 as some household numbers may have changed from 2023 to 2024. If you can't locate your box or if you currently don't have offering envelopes but would like to be issued a box, please contact Carol Fett at 570.852.9176 or cafett54@gmail.com. Members who contribute via Vanco online giving will not find an offering box on the table; anyone who might be thinking of going green and saving the church the cost of providing an envelope box should consider starting in January.



DORCAS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON: A sign-up sheet for the Dorcas Society's Christmas Luncheon is now available in the Narthex. The luncheon will be held on Tuesday, December 12 at

noon at Apple Tree Terrace at Newberry Estates, Dallas. Price for the buffet luncheon is \$31, payable at the door. Deadline to sign up is Monday, December 4. All women of St. Paul's are welcome and encouraged to attend.

† † †



2024 FLOWER CHART

The 2024 flower chart is posted on the table in the Narthex. This is an excellent opportunity to celebrate births, birthdays, anniversaries, special holidays and/or a thank you to God for his blessings. Altar flowers and side vases are \$50.00 per Sunday payable to Dorcas. If desired, two families may share a Sunday. Payments may be placed in the collection plate or placed in the Dorcas mailbox located outside the choir room; they may also be mailed to St. Paul's, PO Box 802, Dallas, Pa 18612.

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LABYRINTH WALKS: On Wednesday, December 20, 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.

ST. PAUL'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

This is only January 2024, but I need some people for the anniversary committee for 2025. There will be a meeting in January to discuss what we should plan. Please let me know if you have any ideas and/or are willing to work on the committee. Call me at 570.674.1277; leave a message on the answering machine. Please do not leave text messages as I do not receive them.

Thank you,
Annie Bisher

† † †

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.

† † †



ST. PAUL'S ANNUAL MEETING

Please mark your calendars for St. Paul's annual meeting, scheduled for Sunday, January 21. This will be the first meeting under our amended constitution and we will elect our new council members at this time. At that meeting we will also review committee reports and adopt the 2024 proposed budget. Following the meeting, everyone is invited to a covered dish luncheon in the social hall.

Please watch the bulletins for updated information regarding this meeting.



During October the committee delivered the pumpkins made by the Sunday School children giving them to our shut-ins.

Work was completed on the fleece blankets, 20 so far. Twenty more will be made in the spring. Thanks to ladies of the masonic Village for their help with the cutting and tying.

January will be our annual underwear project for Pyramid Health Care.

At the November roast beef dinner some of the leaders of the Boy Scout Troop that helped with the dinner, sat with some of the church members to eat their meal. They expressed their thanks for letting hem use our church for their meetings; the kids were very grateful also.

Karen Mertz,
Chairperson

about lead poisoning in children. PLEASE check out the CDC alert about applesauce with cinnamon pouches at <https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2023/han00500.asp>!!! Pennsylvania and Weis are even listed.

Thinking of food, I saw this on the Mayo Clinic:

www.mayoclinic.org/connected-care/a-guide-to-healthier-ingredient-substitutions

Sorry it's so long. Just checking to see if we're doing any of these substitutions at home. Maybe I can convince Chef Doug, my personal chef/husband, to try some. Or not!

Studying the back of my Bigelow Premium Green Tea box, I see that green tea has between 25 and 50 mg of caffeine per tea cup. Ok, that explains why many times I need TWO cups of tea in the morning before I feel like I can get going! (The same source says coffee in a coffee mug has between 100 to 120 mg of caffeine.) Sorry coffee lovers, I don't like coffee but I am getting more liquids into me! Yes, I needed two cups this morning.

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

† † †

DID YOU KNOW?

In the last 10 years, our Northeastern Pa. Synod has welcomed 28 newly ordained pastors. In that same time period, 108 pastors in the synod have retired.



Hi Everyone,

Since the holidays are here, with Thanksgiving just past and Christmas coming, I have been thinking about food. I

found several bits of information I thought you might be interested in. Here goes.....

Now this really caught my eye, since as part of my serving as a Pa. Department of Health, Maternal Child Nurse Consultant, I used to teach

FROM THE MAILBOX



Many thanks to the Social Ministry Committee for the beautiful and thoughtful card! Thanks, too, for your prayers. Also, I'd like to thank the children of the Sunday School for the pumpkin they so lovingly decorated and many thanks to the person who delivered it!

Gratefully,
Carol Swanson

Dear Sunday School Students,

Thank you so much for the decorated pumpkin that a member of the Social Ministry committee delivered to our apartment. It is very cute and our only pumpkin decoration this year. Thanks for always thinking of us. God bless you all.

The Bishers

Thank you to the Sunday School and Social Ministry Committee for sending me the artfully decorated pumpkin. It shares center stage on my table and it reminds me of the caring and kindness of the members of St. Paul's.

Betty Schray

To my St. Paul's Family:

Thank you so much for the phone calls, cards, texts, emails and prayers following my knee replacement surgery. I am working hard at physical therapy and find that I am making a little more progress every day; recovery is slow but steady. You are truly a very caring family.

Blessings,
Marianne Mancke

Dear Sunday School Students,

The pumpkin you gave me brightened my day and that of my daughter's. It is really beautiful. Thank you for thinking of me and I will remember the Sunday School with prayers.

Sincerely,
Greta Ruckno

To all the boys and girls of St. Paul's Sunday School:

You make thoughtfulness an art! I loved your pumpkin – thank you so much for thinking of me!

Marjorie Fritzing

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for collecting items from our wish list at your Blessing of the Animals Service. We are truly grateful for all of the wonderful supplies for cats and dogs 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

PASSAGES

† IN MEMORIAM †

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

William Monk

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

We welcomed into the membership of St. Paul's, Ava Rae Faux, daughter of Rebekah and James Faux, by Holy Baptism on Saturday, November 18. Ava's grandparents are Daniel & Paula Williams and she is the great-granddaughter of Geri Williams.



Tabitha Walters has transferred her church membership to Emmanuel's Lutheran Church in Bath, Pa.

New phone number for Annie Bisher: 570.674.1277. Please change your church phone directory.



BEAR CREEK CAMP

Explore, celebrate & grow in God's creation!

You think Bear Creek Camp is just a summer camp? Their November newsletter reported, "in the span of just thirty-six hours, our high ropes course hosted 63 fifth graders and their chaperones on an overnight school field trip, 12 college students participating in a retreat with their campus ministry, and 20 men on their annual church retreat. And that's just one weekend in October."

The high ropes course, built in 2013, is a popular destination at Bear Creek Camp, including ziplining to the flying squirrel, crate stacking, the giant's ladder, the leap of faith, and the high course. This past year, the high ropes course has had over 1000 participants.

And coming in January is Winter Connect! This camp, for 4th-12th-graders takes place January 12-14, 2024. Bear Creek Camp college-aged summer staff return to camp to lead activities and supervise campers throughout the weekend. Check their website to register or for more news and information at <https://bearcreekcamp.org/>.

Thank you for your support of Bear Creek Camp, which is doing such phenomenal ministry in our own back yard all year long.



The Latin cross is the simplest and most common form of the Christian cross, possibly dating from the second or third century. Roman Catholic and Orthodox Christians typically display a crucifix — an image of Jesus hanging on the cross — to remember his death for the sake of the world. Protestant churches often favor the empty cross, commemorating Jesus' resurrection.



PUZZLE

HAPPY NEW YOU!

Changing the calendar each January is a reminder that God makes all things new.

Directions: Use the clues and the calendar code to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV.

JANUARY 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	God	right	word	in	love	Jesus
glory	therefore	speech	give	light	Christ	a
saw	beginning	anyone	waters	help	is	many
he	again	through	earth	made	while	back
new	if	and	creation			

The second Monday _ _ _ _ _
 The last Monday _ _
 The 16th _ _ _ _ _
 One day before the 20th _ _
 The day before the first Friday _ _
 The last weekday of the second week _ _ _ _ _
 The day after the 20th _ _
 The day after 18th _ _
 The first day of the second weekend _ _
 The last Sunday _ _ _
 The last day of the month _ _ _ _ _

Answers: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.