

Good News

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

February 2024

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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.



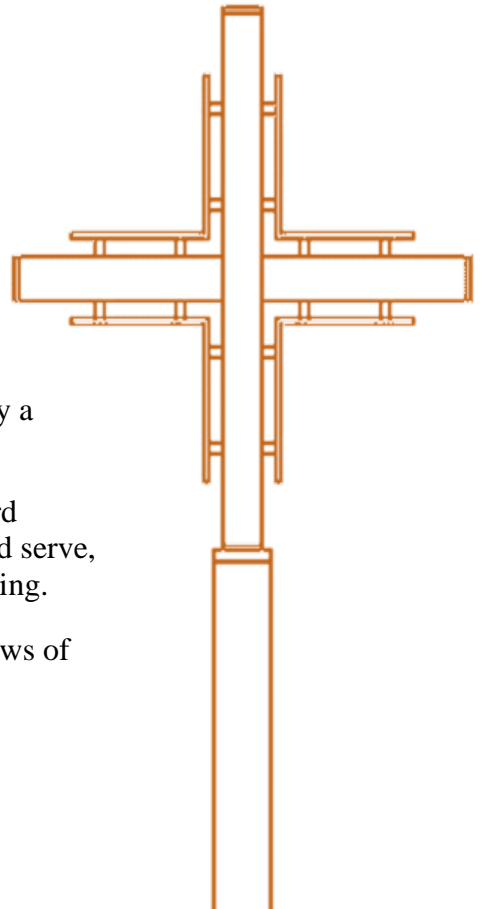
ST. PAUL'S MISSION STATEMENT

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>2024/2025</u>	<u>2025/2026</u>	<u>2026/2027</u>
Larry Pierce	Cathy Ridout*	Frank Mariano*
Bruce Thomas	Don Kretchmer	Gail Smallwood*
Gail Ide	Tony Linnen	Marissa Miller*
Pat Peiffer		Julie Holbrook
		Amanda Brezovsky
*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	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	Frank Mariano/ Don Kretchmer	
Property	Bruce Thomas, Pat Peiffer, Carol Fett	
Salary Review	Frank Mariano	
Social Ministry	Larry Pierce	
Staff Support	Frank Mariano, 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 St. Paul's, Dallas, PA.**

Pray for those suffering illness: *Members:* Linda Ash, Hope Beisel, Annie & Marty Bisher, Mary Lou Bowman, Mary Lou Button, Helen Carey, Pam Cyphers, Margaret Edwards, Cheryl Everhart, Grace Fisher, Ed Fritzinger, Marge Fritzinger, Robert Kline, Marge McCarty, Rachelle Pryor, 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, Shirley Breymeier, Judy C., Marjorie Catania, Paul Davis, Paul Davis, Jr., Janice DeFebo, Gene Eyerman, Candyce Fike, Teresa Flanagan, Jim Forker, George Gwilliams, Sally Harris, Charmaine Hirsch, Christine Ide, Paul Ide, Bradley Kessler, Steve L., Tina Lewis, Audrey Mace, Carol Marker, Ernie McCarty, Lillian McGrady, Rob Merritt, Sue Meyer, James Miller, Carole (Eneboe) Moretti, Judy Murray, Tim Nulton, Alice O'Neil, Zoey Alson, Pastor Mary Owens, Megan Sheehan Palmer, Ryleigh Phillips, Charlotte and Charles Prohaska, Febe Quintanar, Lloyd and Bonnie Ryman, Edward Sabol, Carol Sheldon, Alan Shepherd, Nancy Shymanski, Sandra Stankiewicz, Lorraine Steinhauer, Joe Stephanovich, Stevens Family, Joe Switzer, Benjamin Szostak, Abigail Thomas, Arnold & Jean Thompson, Tom Wasilewski, Jack Watkins, Karen Wise, Ashley, Bethann, Carolyn, Cindy, Paul, Linda, Kim, Josh, Kika, Greg, Karen, Wanda, and Paul (no last names given).

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE



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

Noon on Sunday, February 18.

SPECIAL DATES

- African American History Month
- Transfiguration of Our Lord, *February 11, 2024*
- Ash Wednesday, *February 14, 2024*
- Valentine's Day, *February 14, 2024*
- Presidents Day, *February 19, 2024*
- Leap Day, *February 29, 2024*



Updates from the January 2, 2024 meeting:

Landscaping Committee : Council thanked Bill Sprau and Personal Touch Landscaping for clearing landscape beds around the entrance sign and the building. **Evangelism Committee:** St. Paul's is the designated host for the 2024 Women's World Day of Prayer Service, which will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, March 1. This event is open to the public.

Social Ministry Committee: A drive to collect underwear and socks for clients of Pyramid Healthcare will be taken in January. **Property/Finance**

Committee: A new system to route water away from the rear exit door of the sanctuary will be installed over the winter. A gift from an anonymous donor will cover the cost.

Old Business: Plans are being made for the 2024 annual Congregational Meeting to be held January 21, 2024 at 1:00 a.m. A covered-dish lunch will precede the meeting. **New Business:** There will be four vacancies on council this year, and an election to fill those vacancies will be held at the meeting. Karen Mertz and John Waschak have completed their terms and will be leaving council; Frank Mariano, Marissa Miller and Gail Smallwood are eligible to run for second terms and have agreed to run. Carol Fett was re-elected church treasurer.



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The earliest possible date for Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, happened last in 1818 and won't happen again until

2285, but this year comes pretty close. Ash Wednesday will be February 14, Valentine's Day, which begins the forty-day season of repentance, spiritual discipline, and preparation for baptism that is Lent. This year's texts for worship re-root us firmly in the covenants of God with us, the promises that come to be fulfilled in the life,

ministry, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus and which form the basis for our baptismal covenant and life in the faith. Come and worship and join the community in returning to the Lord, who is gracious and merciful, and abounds in steadfast love.

In His love,
Pastor Grube

† † †

PASSAGES

† **IN MEMORIAM** †

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

**Martin (Marty)
Everhart**

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

† † †

RECEIVED INTO MEMBERSHIP

We welcomed Viola Rae Orgitano, daughter of Clara and Ryan Orgitano and granddaughter of Pastor Charles and Jean Grube, who was baptized on Saturday, January 20, 2024. Her sponsors were Colin and Alicia Grube.

LENT BEGINS FEBRUARY 14

We begin the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 14. This usual day of romance as St. Valentine's Day becomes for us a day for God's love and our personal commitment to return to life lived in that love through the season of repentance. We continue our congregation's tradition with a time for personal reflection, reading, prayer, and the imposition of ashes from 7:00 to 9:00 am in the church. We will provide a pamphlet at the door with suggestions for readings and prayers, or simply sit in silence for your own reflections. Pastor will be available to those who desire to receive a cross of ashes on their forehead. That same evening we will gather for a service of Holy Communion that begins with the intentional confession of our sins and being marked with ashes for those who desire that begins our repentance and turning back to God. That service begins at 7:00 pm.

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As usual, we will be providing resources for keeping a holy Lent at home as well as special opportunities for gathering in community this Lent. "Guided to the Cross" is a daily devotional booklet

specifically for Lent which you can use in addition to the regular daily devotional booklet, "The Word in Season." Current seasonal copies of this regular resource are still available on the literature rack in the Narthex. Watch for copies of the Lent booklet on the greeter's table as you come and go for worship. In addition to that booklet, we will also provide a colorful calendar designed for families to guide you through each day of Lent by performing an act of service or generosity called "40 Acts Family Wallchart." Each day will suggest an act of service or generosity toward others which can supplement your devotion, reading, and prayer with action. There are also two opportunities each week to gather with others this Lent. We will take part in an ecumenical Soup and Scripture series each Wednesday evening, 6:00-7:30 pm, at one of our

area churches. The host will provide a soup supper, then the host pastor will lead us in a Lenten-themed presentation. We will host the gathering March 20. Meanwhile, our regular weekly lectionary study, The Bible This Week, will meet each Tuesday at 10:30 am for a discussion about the texts for the coming week's worship, then we'll gather for a brown-bag lunch and end with a short prayer service by 12:30. This would be a great opportunity to try this study for a time if you have been considering it. Take advantage of any or all of these resources to make this Lent season an intentional and holy Lent.

+ + +

We look forward to celebrating Boy Scout Sunday on February 11. We will be honored to host members of our own Troop 241 with Cub and Boy scouts and their families in attendance. We will also be awarding the God and Me medallion to Ava Brezovsky who worked with Pastor Grube and completed the requirements for the award this summer.



+ + +



February 11 is Transfiguration Sunday when we hear the story of Jesus transfigured on the mountaintop glowing with bright light in the glory of God. It's the final Sunday before Ash Wednesday and Lent, so we end the service preparing for Lent by burying the "Alleluia" for the season and burning palms from last year's Palm Sunday, when they were waved in glory, to become the ashes for our Ash Wednesday repentance. If you have kept your palms from last year, you may bring them to the church to be included in the burning.



COUNCIL ELECTION UPDATE

With our revised congregational constitution, we gathered for the usual January annual meeting, but this time, in addition to our usual business, we elected our new council members. Three of the four members whose terms expired were eligible for reelection. But unlike our past elections, we were able to receive nominations from the floor, and were privileged to receive two additional nominations. We welcome Frank Mariano, Marissa Miller, and Gail Smallwood to their second term and newly elected Julie Miller Holbrook and Amanda Brezovsky to the council. And we extend our hearty gratitude for their diligent and faithful service to John Waschek, who completed his second term and to Karen Mertz, who agreed to serve a one-year term at her election last year. The council will select their committee assignments and elect officers at their first meeting February 6.

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BISHOP'S CONFERENCE SCHEDULED



The annual Bishop's Conference for pastors and deacons takes place February 6-7 at the Pocono's Shawnee Inn. The conference leader is a pastor from Dallas, Texas, called to Congregational Development and Support for the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod, serving as a coach and consultant to pastors and church leaders in these difficult days of the church. Please call the church office if you have a pastoral concern during these days since Pastor Grube will be attending the Conference.

† † †

"Pray, and let God worry." —Martin Luther

This fun event is celebrated the same day that Super Bowl LVIII (58) is played. It is a time to enjoy the game while also thinking of those who do not have enough to eat. On February 10/11, two soup pots will be in the Narthex, one marked with the logo of the AFC Champion (Kansas City Chiefs) and the other for the NFC Champion (San Francisco 49ers). 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.

Souper Bowl of Caring



† † †



Next month St. Paul's will host the 2024 Women's World Day of Prayer service on Friday, March 1 at

1:00 p.m. The annual event, organized by area churches, is free and open to the public. Rehearsal for the service will be held at St. Paul's on Thursday, February 22 at 1:00 p.m. The service is written by Christian women of Palestine and features a theme of "I beg you—bear with one another in love." The service will include a series of prayers, readings from the Bible, hymns and personal reflections by the writers. Light refreshments will be served following the service. The Women's World Day of Prayer is a global, ecumenical grassroots movement of Christian women. Its centerpiece is a church service in which the liturgy is prepared by women in a different country each year. It is celebrated worldwide on the first Friday in March. Christians of various denominations prepare this service together and everyone is invited.

† † †



ELCA Global Links, which usually features news and notes about Global Missions, this month features the global reach of the ELCA hunger ministry on its 50th anniversary. They report: In 1974, as hunger increased at an alarming rate around the world, Lutherans in the United States launched the World Hunger appeals. Members of Lutheran congregations across the country participated by fasting for one meal per week and donating the cost of that meal to their neighbors experiencing food insecurity. Those appeals eventually grew into ELCA World Hunger, which is now at work addressing the root causes of poverty in 67 countries around the world, including the United States. Over the last 50 years, hundreds of thousands of generous people from across this church have contributed more than \$650 million to support ELCA World Hunger. Countless more have prayed for our shared mission, led their congregations in special fundraising efforts, volunteered at local hunger ministries, or advocated to change policies and systems that perpetuate injustice. Together we have made great strides against hunger and poverty, providing food to meet immediate needs while equipping communities to foster long-term change through access to education and quality health care, sustainable solutions in agriculture, and advocacy for just laws that make ending hunger possible. Thank you for your continuing support of ELCA World Hunger and the millions of lives they serve.

2024 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The Northeastern PA Synod Assembly will be one day this year, Saturday, June 8. And it will be a hybrid assembly with people meeting in person at the Lutheran Church of the Atonement in Wyomissing (west of Reading) and meeting online with electronic voting. Among the business to conduct, we will elect voting members to the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix, AZ. If you have questions, are interested in serving as St. Paul's representative to the Synod Assembly, or would like to enter your name for nomination as a voting member of the churchwide assembly in 2025, please see Pastor.



Please remember orders for Easter lilies are due in the church office no later than Sunday, February 25. Once our order is placed on Monday, February 26, we can not place additional orders. Order forms are included with this newsletter, but there are extra forms on the table in the Narthex. You may also use our website to place your order through the on-line offering link.



LABYRINTH WALKS: On Wednesday, February 21, 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 per Webster's Universal College Dictionary here are some definitions:

- Health – soundness of body or mind; freedom from disease or ailment. (I'm adding spirit and also saying dis-ease)
- Community – a social, religious, occupational, or other group sharing common characteristics or interests; a group of people who reside in a specific locality, share government, and often have a common cultural and historical heritage.
- Evangelism – the preaching or promulgation of the Christian gospel.

Now add in our St. Paul's Mission. In case you have forgotten, it is on the front cover of this newsletter. We as a community of faith should be reaching out to all kinds of communities sharing "... God's Love and Grace through Word and Sacrament." Yes, we do evangelism in many ways; here is another way.

Reconciling in Christ Program (RIC), a national Lutheran program, has a survey (included in this newsletter) to help us understand where we are in reference to other communities. We can help create good health to many others.

Please read and take this survey seriously. Think about the questions. Please fill out and return it to us so we can see how we can go forward. This survey will also be handed out prior to each service on February 10 and 11. You can bring yours with you to church or mail it in. So many thanks.

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

† † †

"Where there is love there is life."

—Mahatma Gandhi

DID YOU KNOW?

According to Deacon Travis Woodfield of the Northeast Pennsylvania Synod, 86 percent of first-time churchgoers said they came to church because of a personal invitation from a congregation member. Only four percent came because of an invitation from a pastor's invitation and two percent came because of advertisements in the media.

† † †



BEAR CREEK CAMP

Explore, celebrate & grow in God's creation!

Bear Creek Camp weekend is February 17-18 when Camp Executive Director Collin Grooms will join us for worship Saturday and Sunday and will do a special camp presentation during the Sunday School hour. Everyone is invited to that presentation – not just the children! This coincides with the third annual Kendra Brosious and Family soup sale fundraiser for Bear Creek Camp. Pick up soup containers the previous weeks, make and freeze your special soup, and bring them to the church for the sale that Bear Creek weekend. The proceeds provide scholarships for our own campers. Meanwhile, things are ramping up at Bear Creek as registration for summer camp is now underway. All summer campers who register before March 31 will receive an exclusive Early Bird T-Shirt when they arrive at camp featuring this year's theme logo! And in addition to the usual selection of camps, rafting day trips are returning as an option for Junior High and Senior campers! Campers who register for Sessions 4, 5, 6, or 7 can add on this off-site excursion to whitewater raft on the Lehigh River. All this is happening as Bear Creek Camp celebrates its 50th year! Congratulations Bear Creek Camp!

† † †

FROM THE MAILBOX



Dear Carol:

This card is to acknowledge St. Paul's most generous gift of \$592.67, check #8354, for our Back Mountain Food Pantry. Contributions donated by members of St. Paul's will help to allow us to continue providing food within our Back Mountain community. Our pantry is being challenged weekly as the need continues to grow.

Thank you!
Joe Hardisky
Associate Manager

Dear Senior Choir and Chimes Choir,

Thank you so much for your generous gift and for the wonderfully appropriate, very large bag in which everything will fit. Perhaps you noticed that I put it to work before Christmas, bringing more music to the church.

Yours in Christ,
Margaret

† † †

THE REALM OF THE IMPOSSIBLE

The wonderful thing about praying is that you leave a world of not being able to do something and enter God's realm, where everything is possible. He specializes in the impossible. Nothing is too great for his almighty power. Nothing is too small for his love.


—Corrie ten Boom

BIBLE BOWL TIME



Please join the fun on Sunday, February 11 for the annual Sunday School Bible Bowl. The event will be held in the

Sunday School Gathering area and everyone is invited to attend. Another Sunday School event will be Bear Creek Camp weekend on February 17 and 18 when Executive Director Collin Grooms will join us for worship and will do a special camp presentation during the Sunday School hour. Everyone is invited to that presentation – not just the children!



CONNECTED BY LOVE

God's Word is filled with messages about love, which connects us to God and to one another.

Directions: Draw a line from the beginning of each Bible verse (on the left side) through the heart to the rest of the verse (on the right side). Use the Scripture references for help.

a. We	1. each other as I have
b. Above all,	loved you. John 15:12
c. My command is this:	2. has no one than this: to
d. And over all these virtues put on	lay down one's life for
e. Greater	one's friends. John 15:13
f. See what great	3. But perfect love drives
g. There is no fear in	out fear. 1 John 4:18
	4. each other deeply,
	because love covers
	over a multitude of sins.
	1 Peter 4:8
	5. the Father has lavished
	on us, that we should
	be called children of
	God! 1 John 3:1
	6. because he first loved
	us. 1 John 4:19
	7. which binds them all
	together in perfect
	unity. Colossians 3:14

