

Good News

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

March 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.



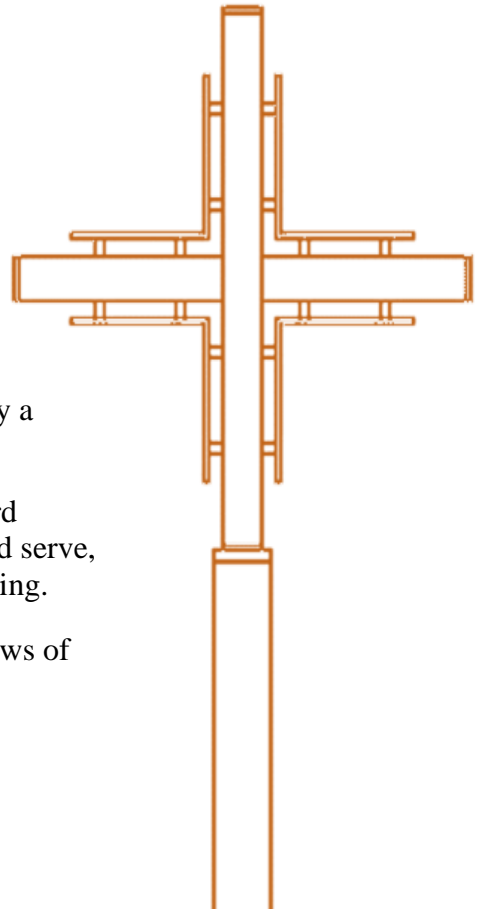
ST. PAUL'S MISSION STATEMENT

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, Julie Holbrook & Amanda Brezovsky	
Communications	Marissa Miller/Gail Smallwood	
Evangelism	Gail Ide	
Fellowship	Julie Holbrook, Larry Pierce	
Finance	Bruce Thomas, Pat Peiffer, Carol Fett	
Head Start/Early Intervention	Carol Fett	
Health Ministry	Cathy Ridout & Gail Ide	
Landscaping	Tony Linnen	
Long Range Planning	Frank Mariano/ Don Kretchmer, Amanda Brezovsky	
Property	Bruce Thomas, Pat Peiffer, Carol Fett & Frank Mariano	
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. James, Hobbie and St. James, Zenith.**

Pray for those suffering illness: *Members:* Linda Ash, Hope Beisel, Annie & Marty Bisher, Mary Lou Bowman, Mary Lou Button, Pam Cyphers, Margaret Edwards, Cheryl Everhart, Grace Fisher, Marge Fritzinger, Robert Kline, Marge McCarty, Rachelle Pryor, Ann Sabol, Bill Smith, 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, Len, Lori and Beth Bantel, Robert Binger, Marlene Blannett, Judy C., Marjorie Catania, Paul Davis, Paul Davis, Jr., Janice DeFebo, Don Dickson, Gene Eyeran, Candyce Fike, Teresa Flanagan, Jim Forker, Nora Gates, George Gwilliams, Sally Harris, Christine Ide, Paul Ide, Mary Ann Johnson, Mimi Johnson, Bradley Kessler, Audrey Mace, Carol Marker, Ernie McCarty, Rob Merritt, Sue Meyer, Carole (Eneboe) Moretti, Tim Nulton, Robert Olson, Alice O'Neil, Zoey Alson, Megan Sheehan Palmer, Ryleigh Phillips, Febe Quintanar, Donna Reistetter, Lloyd and Bonnie Ryman, Edward Sabol, Judi Shaver, Alan Shepherd, Nancy Shymanski, Sandra Stankiewicz, Joe Stephanovich, Stevens Family, Benjamin Szostak, Abigail Thomas, Jim Thomas, Arnold & Jean Thompson, Karen Wise, Frank Wright, Peg Wyda, Ashley, Bethann, Bruce, Cindy, Paul, Kim, Josh, Kika, Karen, Bruce, and Paul (no last names given).

SPECIAL DATES

- Women's World Day of Prayer, *March 1*
- Daylight Saving Time begins, *March 10*
- First day of spring, *March 19*
- New Members received, *March 17*
- Holy Week, *March 24-31*
- Palm Sunday, *March 24*
- Maundy Thursday, *March 28*
- Good Friday, *March 29*
- Easter Sunday, *March 31*

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE



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

Noon on Sunday, March 17.



Updates from the February 6, 2024 meeting:

Pastor Grube reported that St. Paul's and Prince of Peace's congregations will hold common services for Good Friday and Easter Vigil, alternating locations and incorporating worship leaders from both congregations. On Ash Wednesday, Prince of Peace offered worship, imposition of ashes and Communion at 12:10 pm and 4:30 pm; St. Paul's services were 7:00-9:00 am and 7:00 pm. A complete list of shared services will be printed in future bulletins and the March newsletter.

Christian Education: The committee planned a series of activities, such as making Valentines for shut-ins on Feb. 4, Bible Bowl on Feb. 11, Bear Creek Camp Day on Feb. 18, a Palm Sunday craft on March 24, and the last day of Sunday School on May 19. **Evangelism Committee:** The committee handed out additional copies of the Reconciling in Christ Survey on Feb. 10-11, and requests that surveys from the February newsletter and in church be placed in the basket in the Narthex by Feb. 29.

Health Ministry: The committee reported that they are considering two newer refurbished AED machines to replace the church's older device which is no longer useable. **Social Ministry:** The group will meet in March to assemble Easter baskets for our shut-ins. **Finance:** W2's were prepared and distributed to staff before January 31; all 4th qtr. 2023 local, state and federal tax forms were completed, paid and reconciliation reports submitted; Shepherd Staff Finance program was upgraded; 2023 audit is scheduled for the general fund (regular, savings and investments) and also for Brotherhood and Dorcas finances. **Property:** The drainage ditch work has been completed outside the sanctuary exit door, lighting control board in Sacristy has been repaired and drawing plans will be reviewed for Predella step railing when they are completed.

Vice-President Frank Mariano welcomed new members Amanda Brezovsky and Julie Holbrook to the council. The council re-elected Frank to the position of vice-president and Gail Smallwood to council secretary. Council members have been named to the following committees:

Communications, Marissa Miller and Gail Smallwood; **Landscaping**, Tony Linnen; **Worship and Music**, Pat Peiffer; **Christian Education**, Amanda Brezovsky, Julie Holbrook, Tony, Marissa; **Long Range Planning**, Frank Mariano, Amanda, Don Kretchmer; **Evangelism**, Gail Ide; **Fellowship**, Julie, Larry Pierce; **Head Start/Early Intervention**, Carol Fett; **Health Ministry**, Gail Ide, Cathy Ridout; **Social Ministry**, Larry; **Staff Support**, Don, Frank; **Salary Review**, Frank; **Property**, Carol, Frank, Pat, Bruce Thomas; **Finance**, Carol, Pat, Bruce.

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PROVE IT!

In *Jesus Christ, Superstar*, King Herod mocks the bound prisoner who's brought to his courtyard. "So, you are the Christ. You're the great Jesus Christ!" he sings. "Prove to me that you're no fool: Walk across my swimming pool!"

Likewise, the Pharisees demand evidence that Jesus is speaking for God (see Matthew 12:38). It's easy to poke fun at them, but have you ever faced a tough decision and thought, "If only God would give me a sign?"

Jesus tells the religious teachers about the "sign of Jonah," a metaphor for his upcoming death and resurrection. Though it's meant to be a sign for all, not everyone accepts it as truth. Luke 16:31 notes that if the rich man's brothers weren't predisposed to listen to Moses and the prophets, then "they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead (NIV). Signs are useful only to people who accept their messages and act accordingly.

--adapted from *The Wired Word*

PASSAGES

† IN MEMORIAM †

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

Helen Carey

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



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The story we tell of Jesus, starting Palm/Passion Sunday, continuing through Maundy Thursday and Good Friday,

and climaxing with the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday, is the most important, foundational, and defining story we could tell. It is Jesus' story, but it also is our story of salvation, redemption, resurrection and life. It makes us who we are and unites us with fellow members of the body of Christ around the world and throughout time. That makes what we do when we gather that week the church's most important liturgy of the year. I hope you take advantage of these special liturgies that mark this special week and take in the fullness and richness of what God has done for us in Christ Jesus.

Paschal Blessings,
Pastor Grube

OBSERVING LENT

As usual, we are 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. There also are copies of the Lent booklet on the greeter's table as you come and go for worship. There are also two opportunities each week to gather with others this Lent. We are taking 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.

Our regular weekly Bible study, The Bible This Week, continues throughout the month to serve as your special opportunity for Lenten season Bible study. We gather Tuesday mornings at 10:30 to encounter together the scripture readings for the coming weekend's worship. The gospel of John will become our focus this month and we will continue our survey of covenant promises of God through the Old Testament readings. We enjoy fellowship after that with a brown-bag lunch at 11:45, with drink and dessert provided, and end our time at about 12:15 pm with a closing prayer service featuring a reflection from Martin Luther. We will not meet on Tuesday of Holy Week (March 26) and will take a short Easter break before resuming our weekly gatherings again from 10:30 to 11:30 am in April.

† † †

"Everything that seems empty is full of the angels of God."

—Hilary, 4th-century bishop of Poitiers

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

The following is this year's schedule for Holy Week. Please note that the schedule differs from previous years because of our shared worship with Prince of Peace Episcopal Church in Dallas.

Sunday, March 24, Palm Sunday: 9:30 am worship

Thursday, March 28, Maundy Thursday: 7:00 pm worship

Friday, March 29, Good Friday: noon at St. Paul's; 7:00 pm Stations of the Cross at Prince of Peace

Saturday, March 30: Easter Vigil: 8:00 pm at Prince of Peace; no evening worship at St. Paul's

Sunday, March 31: Easter Sunday: 9:30 am; no Sunday School

While you are always encouraged to take advantage of the services, events, and activities of our local community of churches, we have made an intentional effort this year to partner with Prince of Peace Episcopal Church, Dallas, to share our Lent and Holy Week services with one another. Even more, we will celebrate Good Friday and the Easter Vigil together, taking turns hosting those services and offering leadership from both congregations.

Our Good Friday service March 29 will be at noon at St. Paul's and our Easter Vigil service March 30 will be at 8:00 pm at Prince of Peace. Both services will share leadership, there will be a joint choir for the Easter Vigil service, and both services will feature preaching by the pastor of the other church, Father Joseph Rafferty at St. Paul's on Good Friday and Pastor Grube at Prince of Peace at the Easter Vigil.

Our weekly Bible This Week Bible study is open to members of Prince of Peace and their weekly Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 7:00 pm are open to us. St. Paul's will be hosting the Wednesday ecumenical Soup and Scripture gathering on March 20. Join with our brothers and sisters across our community of churches and see how rich our Lent and Holy Week can be together.

Members of St. Paul's are invited to serve as lectors for the Vigil Service on March 30 at Prince of Peace. Please contact Pastor Grube or the church office if you would like to volunteer.



This month St. Paul's will host the 2024 Women's World Day of Prayer service on Friday, March 1 at 1:00 pm. The annual

event, organized by area churches, is free and open to the public. 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.

† † †

TIME TO SPRING FORWARD...

Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 10, so remember to set your clocks ahead one hour. It's also a great time to replace the batteries in your smoke and carbon dioxide detectors.

DID YOU KNOW?

If you missed Sunday's worship service or would like to read Pastor's sermon for the week, you can find it on our church website. Go to www.stpaulsdallaspa.org and click on the Sermons button at the top of the page. Video of services and copies of the sermon are posted early each week.

2024 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

We are grateful to Ray Mancke, Gail Ide, and Marissa Miller, who have offered themselves to be our voting delegates to the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Mission District Assembly and the Northeastern PA Synod Assembly. The Synod Assembly will be a one-day gathering June 8 at Atonement Lutheran Church, Wyomissing and online, and the Mission District will be Saturday, April 27 at our own St. Paul's church. Because of a schedule conflict, Gail will not be available for the Mission District assembly, so Marissa will be her back-up and our voting member.

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SOUPER BOWL RESULTS

The Souper Bowl of Caring, held on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 10-11, netted \$175.00, with the San Francisco 49ers receiving \$107.00 and the Kansas City Chiefs \$68.00. The big winner is definitely the Back Mountain Food Pantry! Thank you for your donations.

ECUMENICAL SOUP AND SCRIPTURE

—This Lenten season, St. Paul's and other local churches have again renewed the practice of coming together for mid-week Ecumenical Soup and Scripture evenings. Each event begins at 6:00 pm and will include a soup supper followed by a teaching from Scripture. The schedule for March is: March 6, Prince of Peace Episcopal; March 13, Lehman-Idetown United Methodist; and March 20, St. Paul's. You are cordially invited to attend any or all of the events.

† † †

“The story of Easter is the story of God's wonderful window of divine surprise.”

—Carl Knudsen



LABYRINTH WALKS

On Wednesday, March 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 -6:00 pm. Gail Ide will be present to offer guidance on walking the labyrinth. Watch for reminders about the labyrinth in church bulletins.



Hi Everyone,

Ok, I found an article that you can read when you can't find anything

else to do!

Loving biology, I was drawn to the topic of the nano plastics that I heard about in the news lately. I went to the National Center for Biotechnology Information to get the skinny but it turned out to be the long version. You're better if you go to section 8 for Conclusions at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7920297/> .

Yes, I did read it all. Maybe they'll find out in the future that plastics are the cause of most of our health problems – just speculating, mind you. In the meantime, when my husband and I eat out I'll bring my container from home for my doggy bag. Also, maybe I can mentally visualize all the nano particles in me going up to my face to fill in all the wrinkles!

I found an interesting article titled “A Cousin to the Mediterranean Diet Shows 2 Big Benefits” from WebMD. Looks promising. I'll have to talk to our nutrition guru, Mary Ehret.

I am still reading all the articles on Long Covid I can find. They've now proven the brain fog exists! Yeah!

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



The Soup Sale Fundraiser for Bear Creek Camp was a great success, thanks to your support and to Kendra Brosious and her family who conducted it. There was a rich variety of soups and lots of it. And we suspect many people ate very well as a result. The registration for camp is open now on the Bear Creek Camp website and those scholarship funds are available. Please don't let the cost of a week of camp, which admittedly is a bit of an investment, be a prohibiting factor to your children's experiencing camp. Contact the church office or Pastor to learn about how we can help you go to camp. Brochures are available on the table in the Narthex and you can learn more and register on the website: bearcreekcamp.org.

In fact, 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.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED

We are happy to announce that we will receive new members of St. Paul's on Sunday, March 17. We celebrate Affirmation of Baptism and welcome into our formal membership those who desire to become members. Those interested are invited to join Pastor Grube Sunday, March 10 during the Sunday School hour (10:45-11:45 am) for an orientation gathering. Then the following Sunday we will celebrate Affirmation of Baptism and welcome you into membership. Please contact the church office to let us know of your interest so we have enough materials for everyone, or if you have any questions.

FROM THE MAILBOX



Hi!

I want to thank the Social Ministry & Christian Education Committee's for the Christmas Gift Bag and the Valentine Card. It brightened my heart and put a smile on my face. It meant a lot!

Mary Lou Daley-Button

Thank you to the Sunday School children for Marty's Valentine card. We love you also! You are always so thoughtful to send shut-in's something special for all holidays. Teachers, you do a great job with the children.

Annie Bisher

A heart felt thank you to the boys and girls in the Sunday School for their thoughtful Valentine's card. It was displayed for all to enjoy and gave me a chance to proudly say it was made by the Sunday School children of St. Paul's. Thank you!

Betty Schray

† † †



The "Christ hymn" in Philippians 2 proclaims that after Jesus humbled himself even to the point of death, God exalted him, and that eventually all will worship him. What two body parts are named as part of that worship?

- A. knee; tongue
- B. hands; feet
- C. arms; lips
- D. heart; mouth

Answer: A (See Philippians 2:10-11.)