

Good News

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

April 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.



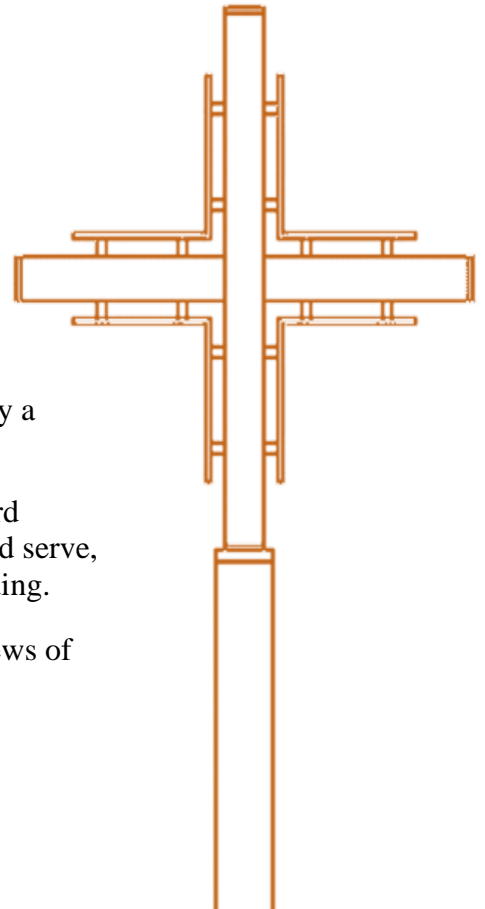
ST. PAUL'S MISSION STATEMENT

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>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 Congregations of St. John, Nanticoke and St. Mark, Pond Hill**

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, Marge Fritzing, 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, Courtney Crout, Paul Davis, Paul Davis, Jr., Janice DeFebo, Don Dickson, Gene Eyerman, Candyce Fike, Teresa Flanagan, Jim Forker, Nora Gates, George Gwillem, 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, Tabitha Walters, Karen Wise, Frank Wright, Peg Wyda, Ashley, Bethann, Bruce, Cindy, Paul, Kim, Josh, Karen, Bruce, and Paul (no last names given).

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE



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

Noon on Sunday, April 21.

SPECIAL DATES

- Brotherhood Roast Beef Dinner, *April 6*
- Labyrinth Walk, *April 17*
- Railroad Club Guest Speakers, *April 20*
- Scranton/W-B Mission District Assembly, *April 27*



Updates from the March 5, 2024 meeting:

Long Range Planning Committee reviewed efforts to keep the congregation and council informed regarding the numerous changes that are being seen in the church and acknowledged that it is important to keep providing information going forward. It was further acknowledged that the challenges that we face are not just confined to the committee, but to all members of St. Paul's. Committee also focused on the fact that we may have lost some ministries, but some new ones have or are emerging. For example, the soup sale, the Labyrinth, the development of a Meditation Garden, and the possibility of a retreat at Bear Creek Camp.

Property gave a listing of several on-going issues, including funding for additional roof repairs to the flat roof area and Social Hall; waiting for Elderhorst Bell Company to schedule a date to evaluate/quote the problem with the bell not ringing; received estimate from Mesko Glass to replace broken window in Head Start classroom due to attempted break-in February 25/26, (estimate was less than our insurance deductible); obtaining estimates from several security companies to install exterior cameras with monitor in church office; reviewed preliminary drawing for a Predella handrail and when drawing is finalized will seek quotes for installation.

Christian Education will host a Palm Sunday event with crafts; no Sunday School Easter Sunday; looking into possibility of joining with another church for Vacation Bible School.

Worship & Music reviewed Holy Week services with Prince of Peace – Maundy Thursday services will be in each church; Good Friday service at Noon at St. Paul's (will be on Zoom) and at 7 pm at Prince of Peace and the Easter Vigil Service

(March 30) will begin at 8:00 pm at Prince of Peace.

Evangelism Committee is tabulating survey results and will share information with congregation via bulletin and newsletter.

Health Ministry is in process of purchasing a refurbished AED machine and will have a demonstration scheduled at a date to be determined.

Social Ministry will be meeting on Thursday, March 21 to prepare Easter gift bags for homebound members. Council discussed request from Cub/Boy Scout Troop for storage space for their supplies; more information is needed before a decision can be finalized.

† † †

BLESSED ARE YOU

The Beatitudes receive little attention, lamented novelist Kurt Vonnegut. “But, often with tears in their eyes, [Christians] demand that the Ten Commandments be posted in public buildings. And, of course, that’s Moses, not Jesus. I haven’t heard [anyone] demand that the Sermon on the Mount, the Beatitudes, be posted anywhere.”

Jesus’ Beatitudes have much to teach about selflessness, mourning, peacemaking and more. Jim Berger, author of *Being Sermon on the Mount Christians*, explains that those teachings were once “viewed as a mandate for the faithful.” Post-Reformation, they became less law-like and more of a “liberating directive.” Berger writes, “For Jesus, being and doing are inseparable. The Sermon is at once theory and praxis. It is not enough to read it or hear it. Jesus intends it to be how we live.”

“Blossom by blossom the spring begins.”

—Algernon C. Swinburne

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.*

THE JOY OF JESUS

The joy that Jesus offers his disciples is his own joy, which flows from his intimate communion with the One who sent him. It is a joy that does not separate happy days from sad days, successful moments from moments of failure, experiences of honor from experiences of dishonor, passion from resurrection.

This joy is a divine gift that does not leave us during times of illness, poverty, oppression or persecution. It is present even when the world laughs or tortures, robs or maims, fights or kills. It is truly ecstatic, always moving us away from the house of fear into the house of love, and always proclaiming that death no longer has the final say, though its noise remains loud and its devastation visible. The joy of Jesus lifts up life to be celebrated.

—Henri J.M. Nouwen, *Lifesigns*



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The Easter morning empty tomb is an earth-shattering event, literally so in the Easter Vigil's proclamation of Matthew's version (Mt 28:1-2). The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is such a monumental event that it takes the church seven weeks and a day - fifty days - to celebrate it. But more personally, it makes a fundamental difference for us for a lifetime two millennia later. We get to live in the baptismal promises of salvation from sin and death and in forgiven and reconciled relationship with God and one another because of it. In a world that surrounds us with violence, self-centeredness, and vengeance, this is important good news for us. These worldly ways are not the final word to us.

In the midst of whatever might cause you suffering, anxiety, shame, or grief, know that by our Lord's extreme love for us and obedience to his calling, joy comes out of sorrow and life comes out of death. That is just part of what we celebrate in these fifty days.

Easter joy to you,
Pastor Grube

BIBLE STUDY UPDATE

It was a good series of *The Bible This Week* weekly Bible studies we shared through the Lent season, having lunch together with delicious desserts provided by participants, and hearing from Martin Luther as part of our closing prayer each week. Our Easter break will end when we resume our weekly gathering on Tuesday, April 16, at our usual 10:30 hour. We will continue to explore the readings for the coming weekend's worship together, which will be a series of stories from Acts and gospel readings from John. The readings are listed each week in the bulletin, but you need not read ahead. Come and join the conversation.



SHARING EASTER JOY



It was wonderful to share Holy Week's Good Friday and Easter Vigil services this year with our brothers and sisters of Prince of Peace Episcopal Church. We hosted Good Friday and Father Rafferty preached, then Prince of Peace hosted the Easter Vigil and Pastor Grube preached. Not only is our worship enriched by sharing the gifts and talents of each other and worshipping together, but we are a witness to the community and to ourselves that the Church of Jesus Christ, though it comes in a variety of denominational institutions, is one. Do you have ideas for how we might share ministry, events, activities, or worship with other churches in our community? Share your ideas with Pastor, any member of the Council or committee, or the church office.

CONFIRMATION

The Confirmation program year is winding down, ending this year's study of Luther's Small Catechism with the Sacrament of the Altar, or Holy Communion. Three of our young members will be confirming their faith and affirming their baptisms on Pentecost Sunday, May 19. As they make final preparations for that day, please keep them in your prayers.



† † †

A REASON TO LAUGH

Easter is the only time when it is perfectly safe to put all your eggs in one basket.

What should you do after eating so many Easter treats? *Eggs-ercise!*

Why shouldn't you tell an Easter egg a joke? *It might crack up!*

WORSHIP & MUSIC UPDATE

The committee would like to thank the members of St. Paul's for your enthusiastic response to the Hymn Request Cards.

The following requested hymns will be used from March 31 (Easter) through the month of April:

- 3/31: Jesus Christ Is Risen Today
The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done
Thine Is the Glory
- 4/7: Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!
- 4/14: Alleluia! Sing to Jesus
Here Is Bread
- 4/21: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice
and Sing!

Hymn Request Cards may be found in the pew holders; place your card in the yellow box in the Narthex.

† † †

TIME TO SERVE THE ROAST BEEF!



St. Paul's Brotherhood will sponsor a "sit-down" dine-in spring Roast Beef Dinner on Saturday, April 6. Serving will be from 4:00 to 6:30 pm. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children under 12 and they will be available at the door the night of the dinner.

Take-outs will be available starting at 3:30 pm

As always, your help is needed to make sure this dinner is a success! Please check out the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Volunteers are needed to help make pepper hash, set up tables, work the steam tables and help in the kitchen, wait on tables, clean up, and bake desserts, to name but a few areas where you could help. Remember, no experience is necessary; on-the-job training is gladly provided!

HELP NEEDED

It's **FLEECE BLANKET** making time! Please join the Social Ministry Committee in the social hall to make fleece blankets for the children attending Grief Camp at Hillside Farm this summer. No special skills are needed. We will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays on the following dates: April 15, 17, 22, 24 and May 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22. If you have any questions, please contact Marianne Mancke.

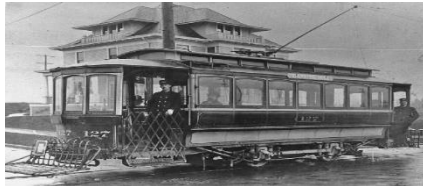
Thanks for your help,
Marianne

+ † +

GUEST

SPEAKERS –

presented by the
Back Mountain
Railroad Club, at
St. Paul's,
Saturday, April



20 at 1:00 pm. "Steel Wheels on Steel Rails" – the history of the Back Mountain and Wyoming Valley Trains and Trolleys during the first half of the 20th century, is the title of the program. Presenters: Harry Owens, a local railroad historian of the area who has an interest in the Bowman's Creek Branch of the Lehigh Valley Railroad; Dr. Harrison Wick, author and photographer of trains and trolleys in the area, Board member of Anthracite Trolleys and Advocate for Restoration of Trolley #790; Peter Baut, chairman of Anthracite Trolleys and dedicated to the restoration of the last known Wilkes-Bare Trolley, #790. A "Meet & Greet" will follow along with light refreshments. Free admission; free will donations appreciated. Please mark this date on your calendars and tell your friends.

+ † +

DID YOU KNOW?

St. Paul's was founded in May, 1925, and we will celebrate our 100th anniversary throughout 2025. If you would like to help with planning and organizing the events, please contact Annie Bisher at monarch1023b@hotmail.com.



RUMMAGE/BAKE SALE SCHEDULED

Now that spring- and spring-cleaning days are here, it's time to get excited about the Dorcas May Rummage Sale!

The Dorcas Society will sponsor the two-day rummage/bake sale, to be held Friday, May 3, 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. and 5:00-7:00 p.m.; and Saturday, May 4, 8:00 a.m.-12 noon (Bag Day all day).

Donations of good clean, usable clothes, household items, dishes, pots and pans, holiday decorations, jewelry, books, games, puzzles, etc., are happily accepted. The church building will be open on the following days/times for donation drop-off:

Monday, April 29	9:00 a.m.-5:00 pm
Tuesday, April 30	9:00 a.m.-7:00 pm
Wednesday, May 1	9:00 a.m.-5:00 pm
Thursday, May 2	9:00 a.m.-2:00 pm

(Donations not accepted after 2:00 pm so Dorcas members will 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, VHS tapes, electrical cords, and old telephones.

All bakers of St. Paul's are asked to donate homemade baked goods for the Bake Sale; the items should be brought to the church by 1:00 pm on Thursday, May 2 so they may be packaged and priced.



LABYRINTH WALKS

On Wednesday, April 17, 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.



COMING TOGETHER FOR CONVERSATION

This month will be the last of our monthly congregation family dinners. We have invited groups of you throughout the year to gather for a meal, fellowship, and for conversation about the state of the church and our own future.

The numbers reflect a hard truth that the church generally is trying to address, and which we specifically will need to address, too. Thank you for your input, reflections, and ideas throughout the process.

The council and specifically the Long-Range Planning committee have continued the conversation throughout the year and will continue to do so. We have the great advantage of a very strong community and ministry life compared to many congregations, but we must be intentional about thinking about our future, too, rather than just reacting to what happens. Be watching for more opportunities to join the conversation, and share any thoughts or ideas you might have along the way with any member of council or Pastor.



BLANKET SUNDAY

This year we continue to support Church World Services with gifts of blankets in honor and remembrance of mothers, grandmothers, wives, aunts, sisters, daughters and friends. These blankets are very basic and provide warmth and shelter for those less fortunate around the world—

and this year, with even more devastation from the war in Ukraine and natural disasters, the need is greater than ever.

“Blanket Envelopes” are included in this newsletter, or you may make your donation via our website, stpaulsdallaspa.org, and click on the Online Giving link and following the prompts. If you have questions about online giving, please contact Carol Fett at cafett54@gmail.com, or call the church office at 570.675.3859. Checks should be made payable to St. Paul's/Blankets for your donation of \$5.00 per blanket. An order form is also enclosed which may be folded and placed inside the envelope if you would like your name included in the bulletin on Mother's Day. Please remember to return your envelope no later than Sunday, May 5.



GERANIUMS FOR PENTECOST

Pentecost will be celebrated at St. Paul's on Sunday, May 19, and we will place our order for geraniums during the first week of May. In order to give everyone time to place their order for geraniums used to decorate the sanctuary on that Sunday, please use the order form and payment envelope enclosed with this newsletter; deadline for orders will be Sunday, April 21. You may also go to our website and use the Online Giving link to place your order.



After making people in his own image, God entrusted them with the rest of his creation. He wants us to manage well our bodies, our minds and our earthly home. Consider this stewardship quote from a Christian thinker: “We ourselves are not masters of our own ability and knowledge. They, like our talents and health, are a loan presented for our use. We must live as people who know that such temporary possessions are not true belongings and that we must give account for our management of them.”

—Albert Schweitzer



Hi Everyone,

WATCH OUT!!! Ticks, those voracious, extremely tiny monsters, want their spring meal, mainly your blood! Please check out

the latest from Centers for Disease Control and Protection (CDC) at <https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/avoid/index.html> .

I know I speak about this every year, but I can't stress it enough. Ticks need blood to grow, anybody's, and they'll share any diseases they carry, gladly! They don't die over the winter and with the warmer weather they carry more diseases!

Now about the Reconciling in Christ (RIC) survey that you participated in.... First of all, thank you for doing this survey as we find ways to expand our love of Christ to all communities, in this case the LGBTQIA+ community! With the possible average of 101+ average from the 23 participants, we had an average of 65.5. This puts us in the St. Cautious pace (25-75). Step One of the Eleven Steps includes conducting one-to-one visits and gathering a Core Team. When I contact you, this is what it will be about (other than for a health ministry call). Let's see how we can blossom this spring along with the flowers.

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

† † †

BIBLE QUIZ

What does the newly risen Jesus tell his disciples — twice — when he appears in the locked room where they are hiding?

- A. "Love one another as I have loved you."
- B. "Peace be with you."
- C. "The last shall be first and the first shall be last."
- D. "I am risen!"

Answer: B (See John 20:19, 21.)



BEAR CREEK CAMP

Explore, celebrate & grow in God's creation!

Bear Creek Camp reported that they hosted a long-standing winter reunion weekend last month for a group of former summer staff and their families. Staff from nearly all of camp's history were represented - from those who had been at Bear Creek in 1974 when the camps moved from the Delaware River all the way to some of this year's summer staff who are now second and third-generation.

As part of their 50th Anniversary celebration preparations, they wanted to digitally scan each of the staff photos hanging in the dining hall. As each photo was taken down and passed around, the alumni who were gathered recognized the faces of themselves, their friends, and their counselors when they were campers. The identification of a person usually came with a story. Throughout all the sharing was the overarching story of the caring community that these alumni had felt as BCC campers, had carried on as staff, and now are seeing their children experience as campers and the next generation of summer staff.

Soon these role models, leaders, and world-changers will arrive at camp for staff training, ready to make their impact as they inspire the next generation and facilitate memorable experiences for all our campers this Summer. Our summer staff are supported in this important work by our entire Bear Creek Camp community. Thank you for your prayers, your financial contributions, and for sending your campers to fill up their cabins!

† † †

"The cross is both the symbol of our salvation and the pattern of our lives."

—Brennan Manning

FROM THE MAILBOX



To my dear St. Paul's family:

Thank you so much for the prayers, beautiful cards and messages. Believe me when I say it was truly appreciated. Love and miss you all.

Rachelle Pryor

† † †

† † †



MISSION NEWS

St. Paul's will be hosting the annual Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Mission District Assembly

Saturday, April 27. Ray Mancke and Marissa Miller will serve as our voting members, but the event features more than the Mission District's business, and visitors are encouraged to attend for free.

We'll begin at 10:00 am with worship followed by a celebration of ELCA World Hunger's 50th anniversary, featuring a presentation by our Northeastern PA Synod's ELCA Hunger coordinator, Pastor Eileen Smith LeVan starting at 11. Lunch will be served at noon, and the assembly will be called to order at 1:00 pm to conduct the Mission District's business.

Please contact the church office or Pastor if you would like to attend as a visitor because we will need to register you.

In their March and April Global Links newsletter, ELCA Global Mission featured women leaders in honor of International Women's Day March 8. Featured in their News Around the World was the Rev. Paulina Hławiczka-Trotman. She was consecrated as bishop of the Lutheran Church in Great Britain

on Jan. 20. Bishop Hławiczka-Trotman is originally from the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland (ECACP), which began ordaining women as pastors of Word and Sacrament only in 2022. The bishop of the ECACP, along with many other Polish pastors, attended Bishop Hławiczka-Trotman's consecration in a show of support for women leadership in the church. Other church leaders from around the world — including representatives of the ELCA — attended to celebrate this joyous event.

PLANT, WATER, GROW

Building a faith community takes work. How did the church in Corinth come to be?

Directions: Use the code to fill in the words and complete a teaching of the apostle Paul.

KEY

= God	= grow
= seed	= one
= planted	= anything
= watered	= only

I _____ the _____, Apollos _____ it,
but _____ has been making it _____.
So neither the _____ who plants nor the
_____ who waters is _____,
but _____, who makes things _____.

1 Corinthians 3:6-7, NIV

Answer: planted, seed, watered, God, grow, one, anything, only, God, grow