

Good News

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

Summer Edition 2024

(July & August)

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.



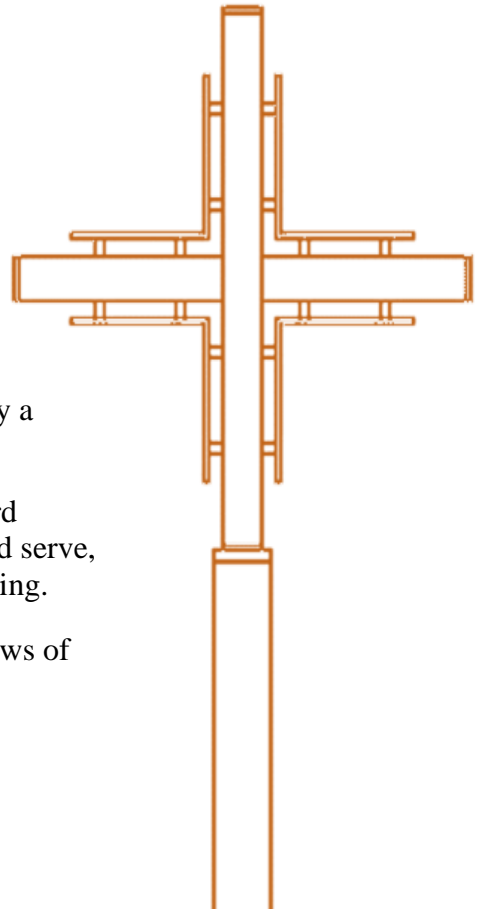
ST. PAUL'S MISSION STATEMENT

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 Trinity, Towanda and Good Shepherd, Wilkes-Barre.**

Pray for those suffering illness: *Members:* Linda Ash, Hope Beisel, Annie & Marty Bisher, Mary Lou Bowman, Mary Lou Button, Pam Cyphers, Fran Dierolf, Margaret Edwards, Cheryl Everhart, Marge Fritzinger, Ruth Ide, Robert Kline, Marge McCarty, Albert Pritchard, Rachelle Pryor, Ann Sabol, Bill & Dianna 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, Robert Binger, Kathy Boston, Judy C., Marjorie Catania, Paul Davis, Paul Davis, Jr., Janice DeFebo, Pamela Donnas, Gene Eyerma, Jeff Farley, Candyce Fike, Chuck Gomer, George Hrubowchak, Ruth Hummel, Christine Ide, Willis Ide, Michael Kaminski, Bradley Kessler, Lloyd L., Todd Lozo, Audrey Mace, Carol Marker, Ernie McCarty, Dwight McKee, Rob Merritt, Baby Miles, Ann Muddiman, Andrea Nielsen, Tim Nulton, Zoey Olson, Alice O'Neil, Nancy Ott, Megan Sheehan Palmer, Ryleigh Phillips, Febe Quintanar, Judy Roeder, Lloyd and Bonnie Ryman, Edward Sabol, Bob Schooley, Judi Shaver, Nancy Shymanski, Sandra Stankiewicz, Lonnie Stella, Joe Stephanovich, Stevens Family, Benjamin Szostak, Abigail Thomas, Arnold & Jean Thompson, Fred Weiss, Karen Wise, Peg Wyda, Linda Zeiser, Alice, Ashley, Bethann, Bruce, Cindy, Paul, Keith, Kim, Josh, Bruce, Patty N., Mary Z., Chloe, Nancy, Diane, Paul, Brenda, Ian, Keith, and Diane B. (no last names given).

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SPECIAL DATES

- *U.S. Independence Day, July 4, 2024*

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE



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

Noon on Sunday, August 18.



Updates from the June 4, 2024 meeting:

Worship and Music Committee: Considering holding an outdoor worship service this summer at Frances Slocum State park, but no pavilions are available this year; committee will consider this idea again for next year.

Christian Education Committee: Working on choosing dates for Vacation bible School, either three consecutive days in July or one Sunday in July and one in August; also contacting Prince of Peace Church to see if there is interest in a joint VBS. Rally Day will be held on Sunday, September 15.

Health Ministry Committee: Six members attended the recent AED/CPR training session.

Head Start/Early Intervention:

Last day for Head Start was Friday, June 14. The Early Intervention program will be moving their classrooms and Speech Therapy program this coming fall to Misericordia University and will not be renewing its contract with St. Paul's; this will cause a \$32,000 drop in revenue for the church.

Finance/Property Committee: Risk Inspector for our Property Liability Insurance carrier (Erie Insurance) toured the building with a few recommendations: Cardboard boxes should not be stored in the electrical room; no deep fat frying in the kitchen; replace water damaged ceiling tiles in Christian Education wing; keep organ chamber walkway clear and accessible at all times. Committee is still searching for a kit or fabricator to build a new railing for the predella. The piano in the choir room needs extensive maintenance costing upwards of \$1500.

Staff Support: Council approved summer office hours – Monday thru Thursday will remain the same (9:30 am till 4:00 pm) but the office will be closed on Fridays.

Council discussed a Lake Lehman senior high student plan to complete her graduation project by holding a three-day Summer Day Camp, July 10, 11, and 12 from 9:30 am till 3:00 pm., for second and third graders. She is now in the process of sending out flyers, looking for volunteer helpers and soliciting funds from local businesses to help cover expenses.

Council also discussed the NEPA Synod's 6-2-6-1 program which is intended to bring six congregations into partnership and sharing leadership, ministry and life. Council is working through the program to see how it could help support our church's ministries and work in our community and will share the results with the congregation when finished.

THE POWER OF WARMTH

In one of Aesop's fables, the North Wind and the Sun debated who was stronger. When they saw a traveler approaching, the Sun sensed an opportunity. He said whoever could make the man remove his coat would win — and even let the Wind go first.

So the Sun ducked behind a cloud as the Wind began blowing mighty blasts of air at the traveler. But the harder the Wind blew, the closer the man pulled his coat around himself. Finally, the Wind gave up in despair.

Then the Sun emerged and smiled down on the traveler. Feeling the gentle rays, the man soon found it too hot to walk with his coat on. He felt so warm he removed one garment after another and bathed in a nearby stream.

The Sun knew that warmth, friendliness and a gentle touch are always stronger than fury and force.

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100th ANNIVERSARY “FUN FACT”

By June 1925, a Ladies Auxiliary was formed. Determined to raise funds for furniture and supplies, they began their 46-year tradition of service. What could they do to raise money? They baked – thousands of pasties, sweet rolls, and doughnuts. They sold tea towels and dish cloths and bottles of vanilla. Later, their baked goods would appear in Wally Gosart’s grocery store on the corner of Main and Center Streets in Shavertown. For these wives and mothers, home and church were the heart of their social lives, and with as much laughter as hard work they rolled up their sleeves and set out to build St. Paul’s. In times of financial crisis, the first question asked was “How much is in the Ladies Auxiliary treasury?” In fact, in 1934, at the height of the Depression, these down-to-earth homemakers made a gift of \$4,888 to the church, an astonishing sum for those hard times. Also in June of 1925, the new congregation of St. Paul’s had bought some land, the property of George Travis on the corner of Main and Franklin Streets in Shavertown. It was a wonderful location: Main Street, a wide, well-packed dirt thoroughfare, was the main street from Trucksville to Dallas, busy with cars, horse-drawn carts, and farmers’ wagons. The trolley car ran behind the church where route 309 now lies, its route stretching from Wilkes-Barre all the way to Harveys Lake. It was a location people would notice and could get to easily. (To be continued....)



“The greatest thing that we can do is to help somebody know that they’re loved and capable of loving.”

—Fred Rogers



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Next year at this time, we will have marked our congregation’s 100th Anniversary. A Committee has already been meeting to plan events throughout the coming year, and it has provided some of us moments of nostalgia, fond memories, and reminiscences of some beloved and faithful members and leaders who have joined the church triumphant. It also reminds us how much we and times have changed. We were formed as an outreach mission from an existing congregation to serve a developing and expanding community, and the spirit of change, growth, transition, and newness have always marked our congregation. More is coming; it is for the whole church, and for congregations of our Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Mission District and across the Northeastern PA Synod, these changes are significant.

We have introduced some of that significant change to you through the monthly congregation family dinners we had through this past year. The synod’s 6261 plan is taking shape around us. Our Council is considering it, learning about it, and talking about it, and you should know. Fortunately for us, we can view such a plan not for survival but for sustainability, not out of weakness or dying, but out of strength and vitality. Talk to your council members about it and watch and listen for more about our congregation’s heritage and future.

In the power of the Spirit,
Pastor Grube



JUST A REMINDER

The church office will be closed on Thursday, July 4 and Friday, July 5, in observance of the Independence Day holiday.



ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

After the disruption of the Covid-19 pandemic that postponed, then canceled the 2021 Gathering, the ELCA Youth Gathering is back this summer meeting in New Orleans at the Smoothie King Center (the NBA arena next door to the Super Dome). *Created to Be* will be held July 16-20, 2024, and this event will include a Young Adult Gathering in addition to the usual Youth Gathering. This will give those who were not able to attend a Gathering because of the pandemic cancellation a chance to experience a Gathering, even if it is from an older perspective. We have had youth attend every Gathering since 2006 in San Antonio, Texas, including Kendra Brosious's intended attendance at the 2021 Gathering in Minneapolis. But for the first time since then, we have no youth attending this Gathering. It is a life-changing event for many, and you can watch it unfold. You can follow it at the Gathering website, www.elca.church/gathering, or by searching "elcagathering" on social media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, and TikTok.

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SYNOD ASSEMBLE UPDATE

The first fully hybrid Northeastern PA Synod Assembly, "Hungry for Life Together in Christ," was held at Atonement Lutheran Church, Wyomissing and online on Saturday, June 8. Ray Mancke traveled to Wyomissing to attend in person while Gail Ide and Pastor Grube joined the assembly online. The host congregation's pastor and musicians planned and led the Holy Communion worship that began the assembly, and lunch was provided by the staff of Hope's Table and Café Esperanza, the pay-what-you-can ministry of the Synodically Authorized Worshiping Community in Reading. The Assembly celebrated the 50th anniversary of the ELCA Hunger Appeal (an offering for World Hunger totaled \$2365) and adopted a \$2.3 million synod budget for 2025. Elections were held for Synod Council and for the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix, Arizona, with only two people from our Mission District to be elected to offices: our Mission District's Treasurer, Jim Doxsey (Synod Council), and

Deacon Dawn Tally (Churchwide Assembly), who serves as a Chaplain in the Geisinger health system and teaches at the University of Scranton. We also voted on Resolutions and Constitutional Revisions to update the synod's RIC Affirmation Statement to include racial justice, to change the rules about who can serve as a Mission District Dean, to celebrate the Rite of Ordination for synod Deacons at next year's assembly (it was scheduled for 2020 when the assembly was postponed), to give voice and vote to the newly formed Licensed Lay Ministers at future assemblies, and to create an Archive Committee to work with the synod's archivist. But the time was so short and an electricity blackout just as the assembly resumed after lunch put the agenda so far behind that even the Bishop was unable to give his report, promising instead to video record it and share it later. Please share your thanks with Ray Mancke and Gail Ide for serving as our congregation's delegates and voting members.

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WORSHIP & MUSIC UPDATE

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

Hymn Request Cards may be found in the pew holders; place your card in the yellow box in the Narthex. Please continue to submit your requests.

The following requested hymns will be used during the months of July and August:

July 14:	781 – Children of the Heavenly Father
	414 – Holy God, We Praise Your Name
July 21:	332 – I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
	883 – All People That on Earth Do Dwell
July 28	592 – Just As I Am, without One Plea
August 18	485 – I Am the Bread of Life
August 25	638 – Blessed Assurance Onward, Christian Soldiers

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LABYRINTH WALKS

On Wednesday, July 17 and August 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 pm. Gail Ide will be present to offer guidance on walking the labyrinth. Watch for reminders about the labyrinth in church bulletins.



ELCA Global Mission and LIRS (Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service) have long been on the forefront (since 1939) of guiding, supporting, and providing relief for immigrants and refugees. At the 2016 Churchwide Assembly the ELCA adopted the AMMPARO strategy. AMMPARO is an acronym that stands for Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities, and cleverly takes its name from the Spanish version of Psalm 46:1. *"Dios es nuestro amparo y fortaleza"* (*"God is our refuge and strength"*). The AMMPARO network grew to include partners across the Americas, from Chile to the United States, that can provide respite and resources for people forced to leave their homes. Yet the number of people displaced globally continues to grow due to conflict, economic shocks, natural disasters and more — and all these hardships have been compounded by COVID-19. In response AMMPARO is expanding to reach more people on the move around the world. The AMMPARO network now includes partners in countries such as:

- Zimbabwe: The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe's Symbols of Hope program is raising awareness about human trafficking and creating job opportunities at home. About 13,000 program participants are learning skills in masonry, sewing, soap-making and more.
- Serbia: The Ecumenical Humanitarian Organization provides shelter and

resources for individuals and families fleeing countries such as Afghanistan and Syria.

In addition to the expansion of the scope of the AMMPARO strategy, ELCA Global Mission recently welcomed two new missionaries: Steffen Riley, serving in Kumamoto, Japan, as an ESL teacher with the Japan-3 (J3) program, and Hannah Kurtz, serving in Cambodia as a country coordinator for Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM). Also, the Rev. Kristin Engstrom began in her new roles as country representative and as YAGM country coordinator in Madagascar. Thank you for your support of ELCA Global Mission and the important work they do around the world.



BEAR CREEK CAMP

Explore, celebrate & grow in God's creation!

It has begun. Another summer camp season at Bear Creek Camp got underway this past month, and our own Kendra Brosious is once again serving as a counselor. Several children from our congregation will be enjoying the spectacular experience that is Bear Creek Camp as campers. A week at camp is filled with fun, friendships, new experiences, and life-long memories, and it changes people's lives. It's a special year at BCC, too, because this year marks the 50th anniversary of summers at BCC. A special day of fun, food, fellowship, and a celebration worship to commemorate this milestone year is scheduled for July 5, 10 am – 3 pm. The event is free, and everyone is welcome! You can learn more at the BCC website, bearcreekcamp.org. There is also sad news from camp, though, at least for us. Kaitlyn Blend, the Associate Director who celebrated our St. Paul's Bear Creek Camp weekend with us two springs ago, will be moving on at the end of the summer season to become Executive Director at Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center. We wish her God's richest blessings as she transitions into that new position.



Hi Everyone,

Yes, I'm reading everything I can on bird flu. Remember the gentleman who died in Mexico died from H5N2,

not from the H5N1 that's been found in the U.S. Of all the articles that I've read, this one from USA Today seems to sum all the articles: www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2024/06/16/bird-flu-spreading-concerns-grow.

For Deeper Divers from LiveScience read: www.yahoo.com/news/increased-evidence-alert-h5n1-bird, and lots more articles on bird flu.

For those of you who have had or know someone with long lasting symptoms from COVID, here's an interesting article on the new definition of Long COVID: www.medscape.com/viewarticle/national-academies-issue-new-broad-definition-long-covid.

On a personal note, COVID 19 and its variants are still around. Since a close relative recently caught it, I wanted to find out the latest information. The information is not in your face everywhere like it used to be! Remember how you used to see comparisons between the flu, colds, and allergies? Now the CDC compares Covid to the flu, which helped a lot. Go to www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index to see the latest.

While you're having a great time this summer, remember HYDRATE, HYDRATE, HYDRATE!!!

In Love, Service and Gratitude,
Gail Ide, member of the Health
Ministries Team

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"If you can't pay it back, pay it forward."
—Catherine Ryan Hyde

LESSONS FROM HIKING

Whether I'm hiking an easier stroll or a 20-mile trek, I've noticed parallels to my journey with Christ.

- This is my journey. Too often I waste time comparing my stride, pace or equipment to that of fellow hikers.
- I don't know what's around each bend, but God does. I can't let anxiety steal my joy.
- It's best to balance hiking in silence with sharing the trail with friends.
- I'll be sore tomorrow, and that's okay. Engaging new muscles leaves a reminder that growth is uncomfortable.
- Being prepared is good; being *too* prepared makes for a heavy backpack. I need to do my due diligence and let God handle the rest.
- It's not a race, so finishing quickly offers no reward. When I'm not in a hurry, I tend to notice more of God's blessings.
- I need to look up, enjoying God's creation as I let him determine my steps

—Janna Firestone

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Vacation Bible School – 11:00 am on July 28 and August 18
- Brotherhood Mtg. – Tues., Aug. 13, 7pm
- Roast Beef Dinner – Sat., Sept. 14
- Healing Service – Wed., Sept. 25, 7 pm at St. Paul's with Prince of Peace Episcopal
- Blessing of the Animals – Sat., Sept. 28, 11:00 am
- Dorcas Rummage & Bake Sale, Friday & Saturday, October 4 & 5