

# Good News

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

## December 2025 and January 2026

Phone: 570-675-3859  
Fax: 570-675-5646  
Email: [stpaul@epix.net](mailto:stpaul@epix.net)  
Web Page:  
[www.stpaulsdallaspa.org](http://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](http://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.**



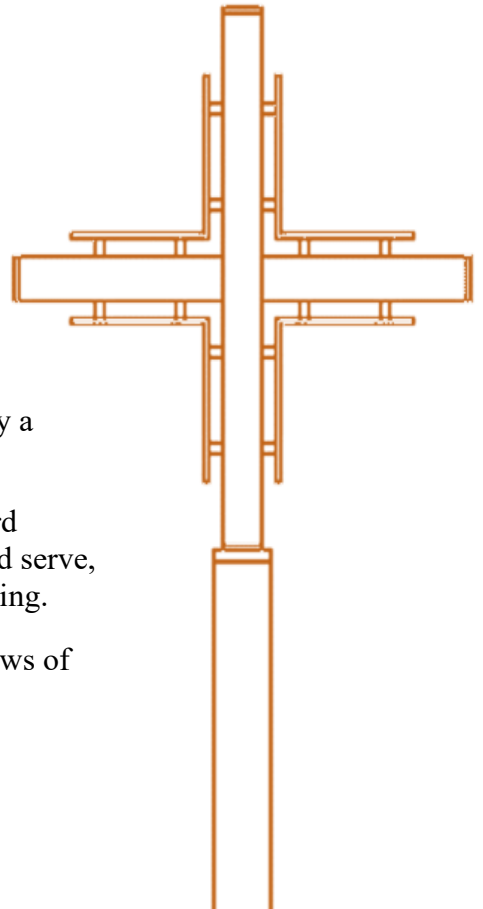
### ST. PAUL'S MISSION STATEMENT

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>2025/2026</u>	<u>2026/2027</u>	<u>2027/2028</u>
Cathy Ridout*	Frank Mariano*	Larry Pierce*
Don Kretchmer	Gail Smallwood*	Bruce Thomas
Tony Linnen	Marissa Miller*	Gail Ide
Julie Holbrook	Amanda Brezovsky	Pat Peiffer
*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	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, Sayre, St. Luke, Archbald and Prince of Peace Episcopal Church, Dallas.

Pray for those suffering illness: *Members:* Linda Ash, Chris Bellezza, Annie & Marty Bisher, Pam Cyphers, Mary Lou Daley Button, Margaret Edwards, Cheryl Everhart, Sandi Fassett, Marge Fritzinger, Daniel Henderson, Tony Kaiser, Robert Kline, June Lorah, Linda Lundberg, Pat Peiffer, Rachelle Pryor, Alan Pugh, Wally Richardson, Cathy Ridout, Greta Ruckno, Ann Sabol, Mark Sabol, Dave Scheff, Dianna Smith, Anita Weiss, Geri Williams, Peter & Carol Wittkamp, Alyson Wood, Susan Woodling, Shirley Zimmerman.

**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](mailto:stpaul@epix.net) if you desire a name to remain on the list beyond that time.**

*Family & Friends:* Ed Banaszak, Robert Binger, Michael Bowanko, Judy C., Michelle Casey, Marjorie Catania, Susan Collini, Paul Davis, Janice DeFebo, Grace Sungle Emmett, Rich Fufaro, Jason Germani, Nancy & Christopher Gillies, Bonnie Goodrich, Ron Hall, Nancy Harm, Scott Holbrook, Jenn Hubbard, Ashley Hutchins, Christine Ide, Frank Ide, Jack Jones, Michael Kaminski, Debbie Kertesz, Bradley Kessler, Alice Laskowski, Carol Marker, Sue & Dan McConnell, Lillian McGrady, Dwight McKee, Rob Merritt, Patty N., Tim Nulton, Helen O'Brien, Alice O'Neil, Megan Sheehan Palmer, Ryleigh Phillips, Paul Pryor, Toni Quinn, Febe Quintanar, Robin Rosencrans, Lloyd and Bonnie Ryman, Joyce Rutherford, John Sheeran and family, Nancy Shymanski, River Grace Siperko, Dorothy Smith, Sandy Sprau, Sandra Stankiewicz, Joe Stephanovich, Stevens Family, Benjamin Szostak, Abigail Thomas, Arnold Thompson, Corrine Varneke, Judi Vietz and family, Jere Vietz, Lisa W., Jonathan Wagner, Tabitha Walters, Karen Wise, Peg Wyda, Mary Z., Paul Zawadzki, Carl & Ruth Zimmerman, Ashley, Bethann, Bruce, Keith, Diane, Mary, Rosemary, Morgan, Lori, Greg, Justin, Jim, the M family, Evan, Dominick, Kara (no last names given).

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE



The next issue of the GOOD NEWS will be the February 2026 issue and the deadline for all submissions will be

**Noon on Sunday, January 18, 2026.**



#### UPDATE FROM NOVEMBER 4 MEETING:

**Pastor's Report:** On Saturday, Jan. 17, 2026 a meeting will be held at St. Martin in the Fields Episcopal Church in Mountain Top to explore possible 6261 collaboration between local Lutheran and Episcopal churches. The meeting will be led by leaders of the NEPA Synod and is open to all members of our congregation as well as other members of Lutheran and Episcopal churches in the area. **Landscaping:** The pine tree near the back door was trimmed of its lower branches. **Christian Education:** Sunday School students recently enjoyed a bonfire on Reformation Sunday and decorated pumpkins for shut-in church members. The committee will hold a turkey decorating contest this month and all church members are invited to decorate a turkey and bring it to the church by November 16. Judging will be held on Sunday, November 23. The committee also is planning an Advent Event on Sunday, November 30 (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent) and a Birthday Party for Jesus on Sunday, December 21. **Evangelism:** The walkway for the meditation garden has been poured, and daffodil bulbs have been planted; other plantings are expected to be completed soon. **Fellowship:** The committee will offer a reception following the Advent Lessons and Carols service on Sunday, December 14 at 3:00 pm. **Head Start:** On Sunday, November 30 a tree for mittens/gloves, hats/scarves, socks/underwear will be set up; this year the Head Start program is requesting Pull-Up diapers as well. **Property/Finance:** Repairs have been completed to the heating units in the Christian Education wing and Sanctuary; 2026 budget requests are needed from committee chairpersons & 2026 proposed budget will be presented at the December meeting. **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** The committee's final event will be a Birthday Party for Jesus on Sunday, December 21, following worship. **Annual Congregational Meeting:** The meeting will be held on Sunday, January 25, 2026, following worship and a

covered dish lunch. There will be four open seats on council, so anyone interested in running for council is encouraged to contact members of the nominating committee (Don Kretchmer, Tony Linnen, Julie Holbrook, Cathy Ridout). New council members will be elected at the annual meeting.

#### SPECIAL DATES

- Second Sunday of Advent, *December 7*
- Third Sunday of Advent, *December 14*
- First Day of Winter, *December 21*
- Fourth Sunday of Advent, *December 21*
- Christmas Eve, *December 24*
- Christmas Day, *December 25*
- New Year's Eve, *December 31*
- New Year's Day, *January 1, 2026*
- Epiphany, *January 6, 2026*

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#### AN INESCAPABLE DATE

We celebrate Christ's birth by referring to it in the date placed on all our coins, civil records and vital documents. It is inscribed upon metal and written on parchment and engraved on the cornerstones of great buildings. It is on every newspaper, every check, every deed, and it is universally acknowledged at the beginning of a new life.

Every human transaction is related to the birth of Christ. It cannot be avoided or evaded. God has seen to it that this event is more widely advertised than anything on earth that is or that ever has been.

—Dr. Walter Wilson

“Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas.”

—Calvin Coolidge



Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Happy New Year! As we turn the calendar to December, we mark the new year of the church and the season of Advent, waiting and watching for the coming of our Lord Jesus. But this two-month newsletter will also take us to the calendar new year as we welcome January 2026 and celebrate the birth of the Christ child and his Epiphany to the nations. Both new years provide us with the opportunity to look back and review where we've been and what we've done, and to look ahead to a new beginning and dreams and plans for our future. It's a full and busy time in the church. There are so many opportunities for service, fellowship, and worship on our calendar. I hope those celebrations and activities are part of your plans for the coming days. Come Lord Jesus!

In his peace,  
Pastor Grube



January 6, 10:30 – 11:30 am. During our weekly gathering, we read and discuss the readings for the coming week's worship, and that day we will read about the baptism of Jesus from Matthew's gospel. The texts will be included in the previous week's bulletin, but you need not read them ahead. Just come and join in the conversation. See you then.



The season of hope and expectation, waiting and watching for our Lord to come, is upon us. Advent is that four-Sunday season before Christmas in which we anticipate and celebrate Jesus' coming to us as a baby born in Bethlehem, as the judge and redeemer at the end of time, and as our present Lord and Savior in word and sacrament, community and acts of loving service today and every day. His coming is foretold by the prophets, announced by John, and prepared by Gabriel and Mary. These are the characters and events that will mark our worship this season.

### **SHARED ADVENT WORSHIP**

This Advent will include two special events for us and our sister congregation, Prince of Peace Episcopal Church. Our quarterly Healing Service will be Wednesday, December 10 at 7:00 pm at Prince of Peace and will focus our attention on healing from the grief that often comes with the holiday season, when losses of family can be particularly poignant. The second event is a new Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent on Sunday, December 14 at 3:00 pm at St. Paul's. Modeled after the more familiar Christmas Lessons and Carols, this service will feature readings and hymns of the Advent season and will provide our two congregations a new opportunity to gather together for worship and fellowship. We will have a light reception following the service so that we may meet and greet one another. Leaders, readers, and singers



### **BIBLE STUDY BREAK**

Our regular weekly Bible study, the Bible This Week, has taken its usual holiday season break. We will gather again in the new year on Tuesday,



from both congregations will join in leading the service and a combined choir will sing as well. Mark your calendar for this special event.

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Please pick up your copy of the Advent Daily Devotions booklet for your personal home use this season. The readings come from the daily lectionary and each reading is followed by a reflection. We are also sharing these booklets with our sister congregation, Prince of Peace, and with the second parish Father Joe pastors, Trinity Episcopal Church, West Pittston. In addition, Advent calendars for our children and families are also available. "A Stable Lamp Is Lighted" features thoughts, reflections, and activities for each day of December and includes a DIY nativity scene to assemble throughout the season, a different part each day.



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Sunday, December 21, will be a big day for us as we gather for the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Worship that day will feature our annual Sunday School Christmas program in the form of a Readers' Theater dramatic reading. You'll have parts too! Then immediately after worship we'll have a Birthday Party for Jesus reception hosted by the Anniversary Committee. Then we will continue our activity with a Hanging of the Greens party and decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas. There will be plenty of jobs to do for people of all ages and abilities, and many hands make light work. We hope you will be part of the festivities! Finally, when we have decked the hall, we'll end our time together with a pizza lunch. Please note that because of the Hanging of the Greens party and Christmas celebration, there will be no Sunday School on December 21 or 28. Regular Sunday School will resume Sunday, January 4, 2026.

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## ELCA GOOD GIFTS

Your holiday gift-giving can take on special meaning and greater impact again this year by taking advantage of the ELCA Good Gifts program. You can make a contribution in the name of a loved one to ELCA

World Hunger by purchasing Good Gifts, like a colony of bees, ten chicks, or a goat, for needy and industrious people around the world. Catalogs are available for you to peruse the many possibilities, and cards to announce your gift to the honoree are also available. In addition, God's Global Barnyard coin banks are also available to be colored and decorated, assembled, and filled. These can be brought to the church and we will forward your World Hunger gifts to the ELCA. Look for these resources in the entryway by the Good Gifts tree.



## *Lessons &* **CAROLS**



The first weekend after Christmas Day, Saturday and Sunday, December 27-28, will be our annual celebration of Christmas Lessons and Carols.

We'll tell the story in scripture and carols of humanity's fall, the prophets' proclamation of our redemption, and the birth of our savior, Jesus. Familiar carols and special music will mark our proclamation of the good news and Holy Communion will unite us with the present Christ who gives himself for us.

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"If you live right each day, you will be neither afraid of tomorrow nor ashamed of yesterday."

—E. C. McKenzie



## **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](http://www.stpaulsdallaspa.org)). Simply click the Online Giving link to set up your account. There is no cost for 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 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 \$7.00 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 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](mailto:cafett54@gmail.com).



*Annual Giving Statements*

IRS regulations state that for tax purposes, you must be sure your contributions are received no later than December 31. After that date, 2025 contributions received by St. Paul's in 2026 may be credited to your financial statements only if they are mailed and postmarked in 2025. 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 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 2025 envelopes will be disposed of after six months. Thank you.



**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 9 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.

## 2026 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 2025 to 2026. 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](mailto: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.



On Thursday, December 18 and January 15, 2026 and on the third Thursday of each month, the Grief Support Group will

meet at St. Paul's at 6:30 pm. These meetings are free and open to the public.



## HEAD START CHRISTMAS PROJECT

Starting on Sunday, November 30, the First Sunday of Advent, there will be a Christmas tree in the hallway by the Social Hall doors. As in the past, this tree will be decorated with your gifts for our Head Start children who are in need of warm hats/gloves, scarves, gloves/mittens, socks/underwear, etc. This year we've been asked to include Pull Up's diapers (all sizes) which can be placed in a box under the tree.



## NEW FLOWER CHART

The 2026 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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“Worry is interest paid on trouble before it falls due.”

—Dean Inge



The ELCA Global Mission Global Links newsletter shared this news: In October, Rinki Soren was ordained as the first woman pastor of the Nepal Evangelical Lutheran Church. On her journey to becoming a pastor, Rinki received an ELCA International Leaders Program scholarship when she attended Nepal Korea International College and pursued a degree in theology. As one of the youngest pastors in her church, she wants to strengthen the faith of other young people like her: “As a pastor, I want to teach theology to our Christian youth, and in particular, I want them to learn about our Lutheran identity.” Your support of ELCA Global Mission and Hunger appeal help to make scholarships like Rinki's possible. Thank you.



## **100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY WRAP UP**

Our 100th Anniversary celebration is winding down. We want to thank everyone for their support for all our activities this year.

I thank my committee members for all the work and time they put in for all my ideas. They kept me on the straight and narrow.

On the first Sunday in Advent we will hold a presentation of the monies we raised this year. This also will be the last meeting of the committee, wrapping up 12 months of meetings.

In December we will join the Sunday School in celebrating a Birthday Party for Jesus and then stay for the Hanging of the Greens and pizza party. Thank you all again.

God Bless,  
Annie Bisher



### **LABYRINTH WALKS**

On Wednesday, December 17 and January 21, 2026, 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. Watch for reminders about the labyrinth in church bulletins.



Hi Everyone,

After a visit with Keith and Trish Brosious, I was introduced to a health app college and high school people like. I am almost addicted to it as it is so enjoyable! It has basic self-care health reminders and involves pets. Now I tried to upload it and messed it up. My eight-year-old grandson can probably do it. That just shows how technically challenged I am. (Stop laughing,

Trish!) Since the app is legit, if you want to try it and have any questions, ask Keith or Trish! It is called Finch. Here is the link:  
[finch.go.link/aiatk?adjlabel=aoOQf](https://finch.go.link/aiatk?adjlabel=aoOQf).

With the Christmas activities in full swing, please, as I know you will, keep safety in the forefront when it comes to our children. Here is a link from Safe Kids and Holiday Safety:  
[safekids.org/sites/default/files/documents/holiday\\_safety\\_tips-2015\\_0.pdf](https://safekids.org/sites/default/files/documents/holiday_safety_tips-2015_0.pdf). I know it says 2015 but it is still appropriate. I used to warn people about those batteries!

And from the American Heart Association:  
[heart.org/-/media/Files/Get-Involved/Ways-to-Give/Heart\\_Happy\\_Holiday\\_Guide.pdf](https://heart.org/-/media/Files/Get-Involved/Ways-to-Give/Heart_Happy_Holiday_Guide.pdf).

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



Our annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, January 25, 2026. Among the usual reports and business will be the proposed adoption of amendments to our congregation constitution. These amendments are revisions to the ELCA Model Constitution as a result of action of the most recent Churchwide Assembly. Because they are amendments to the model constitution, we can adopt them in whole with a simple majority vote at our annual meeting. We will be providing a handout that outlines these revisions for your preview. And watch for more details about the meeting itself in bulletin and online announcements.

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## FROM THE MAILBOX

Pastor Grube and our Church Family,

Blessed are those who give of themselves. With warmest thanks for all our help.

Thank you,  
Pete and Carol Wittkamp

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for once again collecting items from our wish list to help us in our vital mission of caring for the 1000's of animals in need that come through our doors each year. The donation was incredible!

Your friends at the  
SPCA

To: Social Ministry and St. Paul's Sunday School,

Thank you so very much for the beautiful pumpkin and nice thoughts for the holiday.

With love and prayers,  
Greta Ruckno

Dearest sisters and brothers of St. Paul's,

Thank you for your kind words, cards, prayers, and expressions of love and care you have showered on us at my mother's recent death. You have always been a loving, supportive, and caring community, and once again you have shown that. We are deeply grateful.

Love in Christ,  
Pastor Grube

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"Getting me into hot water is often God's way of keeping me clean."

—Ruth Zimmerman



## A PURPOSEFUL NEW YEAR

The man who goes into the new year without some priorities governing his life and without some principles guiding his behavior, is prey to the tempting, unimportant and destructive things in life.

The new year is an opportunity to sort out the useless tasks and plan for the important; to review the failures and resolve to be successful; to take an inventory of causes and pledge life to purpose and service. These being done, the new will truly be new, different and better.

— C. Neil Strait