

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany  
January 31/ February 1, 2026



St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
*The People of St. Paul's, the Ministers*  
474 Yalick Road

PO Box 802 – Dallas, PA 18612

Phone: 570-675-3859; email: [stpaul@epix.net](mailto:stpaul@epix.net)

Website: [www.stpaulsdallaspa.org](http://www.stpaulsdallaspa.org)

Rev. Charles H. Grube, Pastor  
Margaret Quintanar, Director of Music/Organist  
Senior Choir & Chimes  
Jean Grube, Youth Choir Director

Church Office Hours:  
Monday through Thursday: 9:30 am till 4:00 pm

## **TODAY'S WORSHIP**

**WELCOME!** We're so glad you're here for worship today. Our prayer is that you experience God's presence in a meaningful way. Take a moment to greet someone nearby — we're a family in Christ, and we're grateful you're part of this gathering.

**WHO ARE** the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the Poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

**WORSHIP BEGINS** in our gathering. Please enjoy greeting and conversation in the Narthex, and respect those who have entered the Sanctuary to pray, meditate, and listen to the prelude with silence and an atmosphere of reverence and peace as we all prepare to hear God's word.

**IF YOU'D LIKE** someone's name to be added to our prayer list spoken in worship and printed in the bulletin, please be sure to contact the church office or complete the prayer request card on the table in the Narthex before worship. Cards added after worship will be included in the following week's prayer list. In either case you will continue to have the opportunity to say aloud or remember silently that person's name during the intercessory prayers.

**HEARING ASSISTANCE** devices are available; please ask an usher for help.

**THE BLUE WELCOME PAD** in the pew rack is our record of your attendance and communion (or you may leave a message for Pastor Grube, note a new address or phone number).

**LEAVING THE SANCTUARY** during worship? Please use the side doors with the panic bar latches; they open and close silently.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS** for February 7/8: Isaiah 58:1-9a, Psalm 112:1-9, 1 Corinthians 2:1-12, and Matthew 5:13-20.

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## GATHERING

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*PLEASE NOTE: Parts of this service are omitted for Saturday's worship.*

### PRELUDE

*Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart*

Flor Peeters

### BELL, WELCOME, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Stand as you are able to face the font for the confession.*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters. **Amen.**

Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Reconciling God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have not practiced your righteousness. Our hearts have turned away from you. For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one another for the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

*The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness with these or similar words.*

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in + Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others and bless you with the gift of peace. **Amen.**

### GATHERING HYMN # 873

*Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart*  
(Saturday verses 1,2,5,6)

### GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*Sit.*

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## WORD

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### CHILDREN'S SERMON

#### FIRST READING

**Micah 6:1-8**

*With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has wearied Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God's service.*

A reading from Micah:

Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the Lord has a case against his people, and he will contend with Israel. "O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord." "With what shall I come before the Lord and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 15

*Spoken responsively by lector and congregation*

<sup>1</sup>LORD, who may dwell in your <sup>1</sup> tabernacle?  
Who may abide upon your <sup>1</sup> holy hill?

<sup>2</sup>**Those who lead a blameless life and do <sup>1</sup> what is right,  
who speak the truth <sup>1</sup> from their heart;**

<sup>3</sup>they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil <sup>1</sup> to their friends;  
they do not cast discredit up- <sup>1</sup> on a neighbor.

<sup>4</sup>**In their sight the wicked are rejected,  
but they honor those who <sup>1</sup> fear the LORD.  
They have sworn upon their health  
and do not take <sup>1</sup> back their word.**

<sup>5</sup>They do not give their money in hope of gain,  
nor do they take bribes a- <sup>1</sup> gainst the innocent.  
Those who do these things shall never be <sup>1</sup> overthrown.

## SECOND READING

## 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

*According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.*

A reading from 1 Corinthians:

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than

human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand as you are able to welcome the gospel.*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

### GOSPEL

**Matthew 5:1-12**

*Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children

of God. “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit.*

## **SERMON**

*(Stand as you are able .)*

**HYMN OF THE DAY # 651** *Oh, Praise the Gracious Power*  
*[Saturday verses: 1, 4, 5, 6]*

## **APOSTLES CREED**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.**

**Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of all creation. Merciful God, **hear our prayer.** Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say* Peace be with you *or similar words.*

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## MEAL

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### OFFERTORY #184

*Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-sing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

*The presiding minister unveils the paten and chalice and prepares for the communion.*



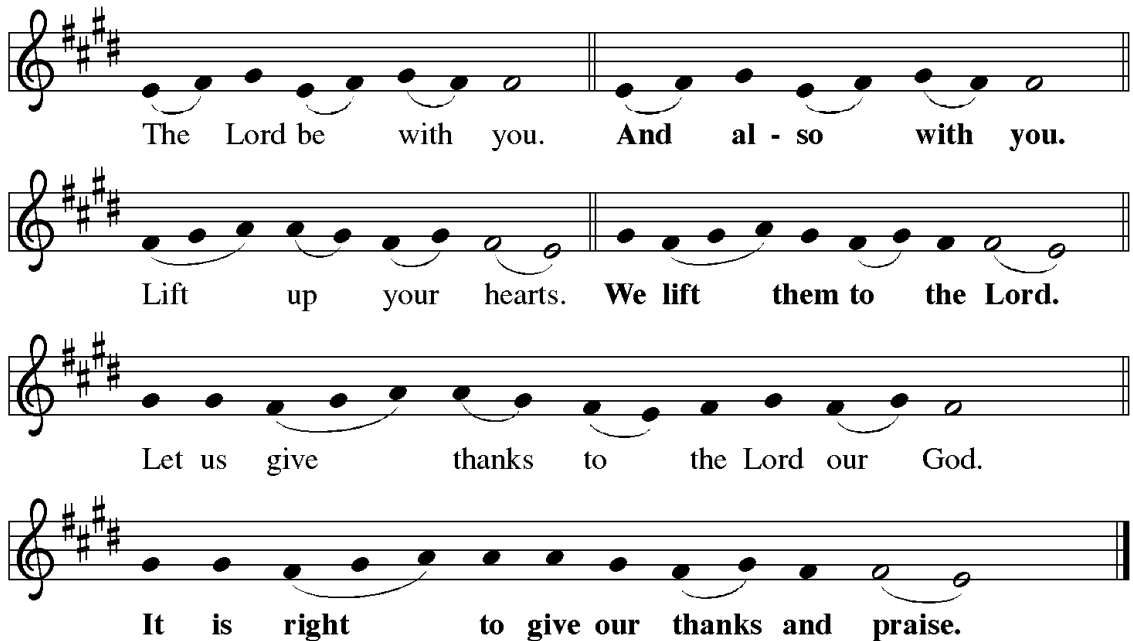
## OFFERING PRAYER

*The assisting minister leads the prayer.*

Let us pray.

God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

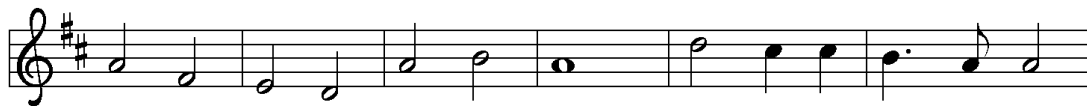
*The presiding minister continues:*

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise . . .

*Here the minister continues with the preface for the day, concluding:*

. . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy God, you alone are holy...we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

We pray for the gift...in your church, without end. **Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## COMMUNION

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.  
Come to the table; taste and see.

*The bread is broken for the communion and the assembly is seated. Online worshipers receive the word, The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.*

*We invite you to come forward to stand on the floor at the predella step beginning with the person seated closest to the ambo. The communion ministers will come to you, beginning with the bread. Then, take an empty glass from the tray to be filled with wine from the pouring chalice or a prefilled glass of juice for those who cannot or prefer not to receive wine. When you have communed, return to your seat by the opposite end.*

*We invite all Baptized Christians and those who commune in their own churches to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Small children and those not communing may come forward for a blessing. If you are unable to come forward to receive Holy Communion, please inform an usher or neighbor of your desire to commune so they can inform the communion ministers, and they will bring the sacrament to you in your seat.*

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say,*  
The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
*and each person may respond Amen.*

*During the distribution, Lamb of God is sung:*



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*When the assembly and ministers have communed, the table is re-dressed and the assembly stands.*

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*The assisting minister leads the prayer.*

Let us pray.

Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

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## SENDING

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*The service concludes with the blessing and the dismissal.*

### BLESSING

The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN # 669**    *Rise Up, O Saints of God!*

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

*Rise Up, O Saints of God!*

Barbara Harbach

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## SERVING AS WORSHIP LEADERS

|                         |                  |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Greeter:                | Cathy Ridout     |
| Acolyte:                | Volunteer Needed |
| Assisting Minister:     | Cynthia Mahalick |
| Lector:                 | Melissa Janoski  |
| Communion Bread:        | Joan Williams    |
| Saturday Altar Set Up:  | Cookie Fetterman |
| Sunday Altar Clean Up:  | Gail Smallwood   |
| Minister of Technology: | Marissa Miller   |

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BULLETINS** are given to the Glory of God, by Joe & Lois Hardisky.

**THE SIDE VASE** of flowers is given to the Glory of God, in Loving Memory of Allan Covert, by Robert & Nancy Kline.

**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING:** This event is celebrated the same day that Super Bowl LX is played. It is a time to enjoy the game while also thinking of those who do not have enough to eat. On February 7/8, two soup pots will be in the Narthex, one marked with the logo of the AFC champion and the other for the NFC champion. Youth of St. Paul's will be encouraging you to place your monetary gift in the pot representing the team for who 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.

**BEAR CREEK CAMP NEWS:** Pack your bags and press pause on routines – BCC is inviting you to laugh, explore, and reconnect together in the great outdoors during Spring Family Nature Retreat, March 20-22. Spend the weekend wandering 3,000 acres of forests, wetlands, bubbling streams, and mountain trails. Check out more information on their website: [bccamp@bearcreekcamp.org](mailto:bccamp@bearcreekcamp.org). Also available on the website is registration for Summer Camp 2026 – register early and you will receive a free Summer Camp themed T-shirt when you arrive at camp.

**PINOCHLE CARD GROUP** seeking players! A group meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 11:00 am starting with a bag lunch and then playing pinochle from 11:30 am till 3:00 pm. We would like more players – men and women. Please feel free to join us. For more information call Annie Bisher at 570.674.1277 – please leave a message and she will get back to you!

**FEBRUARY 8** we will be celebrating Boy Scout Sunday, and we will welcome members and their families of our own Cub and Boy Scouts of Troop 241. We will witness meeting rituals as they present the colors and recite the pledge and their own Scout oath. Each Sunday evening, Scout Troop and Cub Pack 241 gather at St. Paul's for projects, meetings and activities, including on February 21 when they will hold their Pinewood Derby. The Scouts will also be taking orders for Krispy Kreme donuts for a fundraiser and will be delivering the orders on February 15.

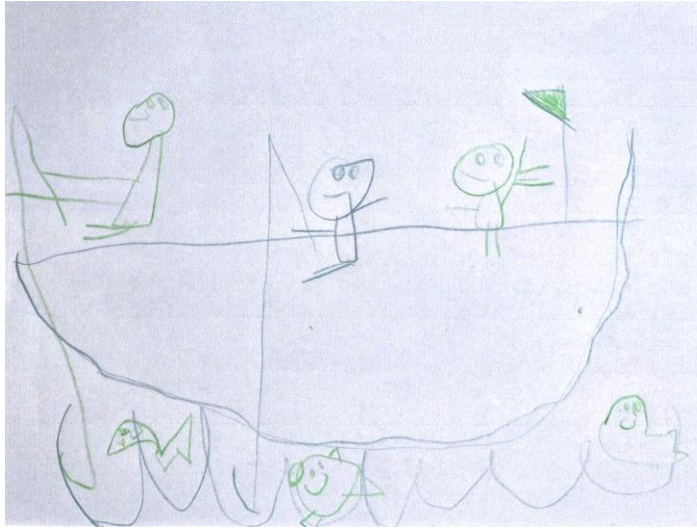
**PALMS REQUESTED** – If you kept your palms from last year's Palm Sunday service, please bring them to church by Wednesday, February 11. In keeping with tradition, palms from the previous year are burned on Transfiguration (February 15) to make the ashes to be used on Ash Wednesday.

**ASH WEDNESDAY IS APPROACHING** – Ash Wednesday, February 18, will begin with Private Meditation with Imposition of Ashes (optional) from 7:00 till 9:00 am, followed by the Ash Wednesday Service with Communion and Imposition of Ashes(optional) at 7:00 pm. The labyrinth will be set up and available for all who may wish to walk it.

**LENTEN BIBLE STUDY** – We will again enhance our Lenten practice with a Midweek Lenten Gathering at 10:30 am every Tuesday in Lent, beginning on Tuesday, February 24. The event will start with our regular Bible Study, followed at 11:30 am with a Bring-your-Own bagged lunch; beverages and dessert will be provided. At 12:15 pm we will conclude with a short liturgy.

**NEW DORCAS FUNDRAISER** – a new member of Dorcas, Grace Fisher, took a photo of the church last summer, had note cards made, and suggested that they be sold as a fundraiser for Dorcas. Following discussion at the Dorcas meeting, members enthusiastically agreed. They will be available for sale for \$15.00 in the Narthex this weekend before Saturday and Sunday's services. Thank you for your support!

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER** service will be held March 6 at Gate of Heaven Catholic Church beginning at 1:00 pm. The service was written by the women of Nigeria and a time for refreshments and fellowship will follow the service. If any women of St. Paul's would like to take part in the service, please contact Louise Roberts at 570.675.4237.



**BECAUSE OUR SUNDAY** church service was cancelled last weekend due to the snowstorm, we wanted you to see the bulletin artwork that was drawn by Milena Waschek. Her drawing depicted the gospel reading: As Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.”

### **THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL’S**

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| Today:      | 8:30 am - Chime Practice   |
|             | 9:30 am - Worship  |
|             | 10:45 am - Sunday School   |
|             | 11:45 am – Covered Dish Luncheon followed by Annual<br>Congregational Meeting in the Sanctuary |
| Tuesday     | 10:30 am - Bible Study   |
|             | 11:00 am – Card Group  |
|             | 7:00 pm – Council Meeting  |
| Wednesday   | 7:00 pm – Scout Pack Committee Meeting   |
| Thursday    | 10:00 am – Alzheimer’s Support Group   |
|             | 7:00 pm Choir Practice   |
| Saturday    | 5:30 pm – Worship – Souper Bowl Collection   |
| Next Sunday | 8:30 am – Chime Practice   |
|             | 9:30 am – Worship – Scout Sunday and Souper Bowl Collection                                    |
|             | 10:45 am - Sunday School – Bible Bowl  |



**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 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, Fran Dierolf, Margaret Edwards, Cheryl Everhart, Sandi Fassett, Marge Fritzing, Daniel Henderson, Robert Kline, Martha Kush, June Lorah, Linda Lundberg, Leah Pambianco, Pat Peiffer, Rachelle Pryor, Wally Richardson, Greta Ruckno, Ann Sabol, Mark Sabol, Dave Scheff, John Thomas, Anita Weiss, Geri Williams, Peter & Carol Wittkamp, Alyson Wood, 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, Kelly Bellezza, Michael Bowanko, Michelle Casey, Marjorie Catania, Susan Collini, Daniel Cornell, Susan Coslett, Paul Davis, Janet DeCosta, Katrina Diel, Bob Dymond, Denise Ekdahl, Grace Sunglee Emmett, Bob Evans, Abby Fett, Rich Fufaro, Jason Germani, Nancy & Christopher Gillies, Bonnie Goodrich, Ron Hall, Nancy Harm, Marty Hille, Scott Holbrook, Jenn Hubbard, Alyssa Hunter, Ashley Hutchins, Christine Ide, Frank Ide, Mimi Johnson, Jack Jones, Joe Kerestes, Debbie Kertesz, Bradley Kessler, Alice Laskowski, Carol Marker, Julie Marra, Lillian McGrady, Carol Eneboe Moretti, Becky Morgan, Patty N., Tim Nulton, Helen O'Brien, Alice O'Neil, Ryleigh Phillips, Paul Pryor, Febe Quintanar, Doris Rosencrance, Robin Rosencrans, Lloyd and Bonnie Ryman, Joyce Rutherford, John Sheeran and family, Nancy Shymanski, River Grace Siperko, Dorothy Smith, Sandy Sprau, Connor Spudis, Sandra Stankiewicz, Stevens Family, Benjamin Szostak, Abigail Thomas, Arnold Thompson, Corrine Varneke, Lisa W., Eileen Walsh, Tabitha Walters, Karen Wise, Peg Wyda, Debbie Young, Mary Z., Paul Zawadzki, Carl & Ruth Zimmerman, Ashley, Bethann, Keith, Megan, Diane, Mary, Lori, Greg, Justin, the M family, Evan, Dominick, Kara, Bea, Marion, Cortland, Autumn, Ramah, Holly, Johnny (no last names given).