

# Good News

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

## Summer Edition 2026 (July and August)

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.



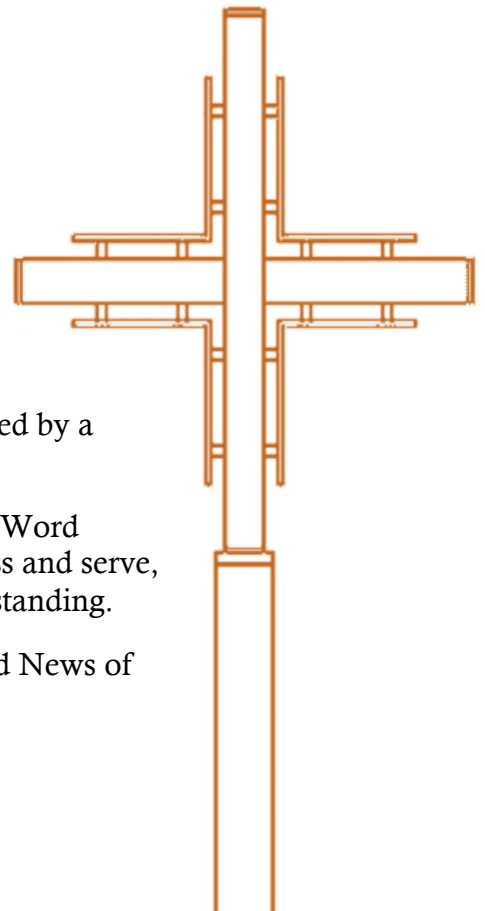
### ST. PAUL'S MISSION STATEMENT

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	
<b>CONGREGATION COUNCIL</b>		
<u>2026/2027</u>	<u>2027/2028</u>	<u>2028/2029</u>
Frank Mariano*	Larry Pierce*	Don Kretchmer*
Gail Smallwood*	Bruce Thomas*	Julie Holbrook
Marissa Miller*	Gail Ide*	Keith Brosious
Amanda Brezovsky	Pat Peiffer*	Open Position
*Final Term		
<b>CONGREGATION OFFICERS</b>		
President	Rev. Charles H. Grube	
Vice-President	Frank Mariano	
Secretary	Gail Smallwood	
Treasurer	Carol Fett	
<b>STANDING COMMITTEES</b>		
Christian Education	Marissa Miller, Julie Holbrook, Amanda Brezovsky and Keith Brosious	
Communications	Marissa Miller/Gail Smallwood	
Evangelism	Gail Ide	
Fellowship	Julie Holbrook, Larry Pierce	
Finance	Bruce Thomas, Pat Peiffer, Frank Mariano, Carol Fett	
Head Start	Carol Fett	
Health Ministry	Gail Ide	
Landscaping	Position Open	
Long Range Planning	Frank Mariano/ Don Kretchmer, Amanda Brezovsky and Keith Brosious	
Property	Bruce Thomas, Pat Peiffer, Carol Fett and 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, Good Shepherd, Wilkes-Barre, and Prince of Peace Episcopal Church, Dallas.

Pray for those suffering illness: *Members:* Tom Ash, Chris Bellezza, Annie and Marty Bisher, Pam Cyphers, Mary Lou Daley Button, Fran Dierolf, Margaret Edwards, Cheryl Everhart, Grace Fisher, Marge Fritzingler, Lois Gdovin, Daniel Henderson, Robert Kline, Martha Kush, June Lorah, Raelene Napierkowski, Leah Pambianco, Wally Richardson, Val Rothrock, Greta Ruckno, Dave Scheff, John Thomas, Anita Weiss, Geri Williams, Peter and 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:* Alanna Berger, Marjorie Catania, Paul Davis, Janet DeCosta, Debbie Demuro, Nancy Gillies, Theresa Hahn, Nancy Harm, Debbie Hilbert, Marty Hille, Jenn Hubbard, Christine Ide, Michael Kaminski, Patricia Kay, Joe Kerestes, Debbie Kertesz, Bradley Kessler, Alice Laskowski, John, Karen and Charlie Lulun, Jim Madonna, Carol Marker, Carleton McGrady, Becky Morgan, Patty N., Tim Nulton, Ryleigh Phillips, Paul Pryor, Abraham Quintanar, Febe Quintanar, Andy Reistetter, Robin Rosencrans, Lloyd and Bonnie Ryman, Karen Sadler, Sandra Serhan, Nancy Shymanski, Richard Skurski, Sandy Sprau, Benjamin Szostak, Abigail Thomas, Larry Titus, Corrine Varneke, Tabitha Walters, Wayne Williams, Karen Wise, Peg Wyda, Mary Z., Ashley, Bethann, Keith, Megan, the M family, Johnny, Betsy (no last names given).

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**



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

**Noon on Sunday, August 16.**



America stands on two great pillars — faith and morality. Without these, our foundation crumbles.

—George Washington



**Update on the congregational council meeting on Tuesday, June 2:** Council guest Rocco Pericich presented his suggested Eagle Scout project idea to council. He suggested refurbishing the outdoor fire pit with a gravel path, and new plantings surrounding the pit; he estimated the project cost to range between \$1,610-\$3,480, depending on cost of materials and any donations of money or materials that he might receive. His estimated date of completion is early fall. Council approved his project.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor, accompanied by Jean Grube, Gail Ide and Marissa Miller, will attend the annual Synod Assembly on June 4-6 at Split Rock Lodge. There will be a June 20 retreat at the Kirby Retreat House in Mountain Top for members of local Lutheran and Episcopal churches who are interested in joining together in 6261 groups.

**Evangelism:** The committee is looking for volunteers to help with planting and weeding the meditation garden. The garden will be dedicated during worship on Sunday, June 28.

**Property:** The organ will be tuned June 10. The subsidence in the driveway will be scoped out by DAMA and we will follow their recommendation for further explorations before addressing repairs to the driveway.



You are today where your thoughts have brought you; you will be tomorrow where your thoughts take you.

—James Lane Allen

WEEKLY WHITE OFFERING ENVELOPES		
	2026	2025
January	\$ 7,760.63	\$ 10,574.77
February	\$ 12,154.68	\$ 12,263.93
March	\$ 13,630.60	\$ 12,766.88
April	\$ 9,780.39	\$ 9,824.75
May	\$ 12,530.57	\$ 12,036.88
June	\$	\$
July	\$	\$
August	\$	\$
September	\$	\$
October	\$	\$
November		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 55,856.87</b>	<b>\$ 57,467.21</b>

**Budget Update:** St. Paul's finances as of **May 31, 2026**

	Jan.-May 2026 Year to Date	Jan. – May 2025* Year to Date
Total Income*	\$ 79,946.53	\$ 80,890.46
Transfer/Savings	\$ 38,846.64	\$ 57,638.00
Total Expenses	\$ 130,048.71	\$ 138,417.50

\*General Fund – does not include Special Appeals or Designated Funds

**General Fund Monthly Income vs. Expenses**

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>
January	\$ 14,391.01	\$ 30,745.97
February	\$ 14,203.61	\$ 24,588.29
March	\$ 15,507.78	\$ 26,955.25
April	\$ 14,278.14	\$ 19,794.57
May	\$ 21,565.99	\$ 27,964.63
June	\$	\$
July	\$	\$
August	\$	\$
September	\$	\$
October	\$	\$
November	\$	\$
December	\$	\$
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 79,946.53</b>	<b>\$ 130,048.71</b>



## SPECIAL DATES

- Labor Day, *September 7*
- Roast Beef Dinner, *September 19*
- First Day of Fall, *September 22*
- Blessing of Animals Service, *September 26*
- Rummage Sale Week, *September 28-Oct. 1*



Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

When I announced my retirement in early May, November 1 seemed so far away. Yet, we have come to a new month and I have scheduled summer vacation time. I look around at the over six shelves of books I need to take care of, and suddenly I get the sense that I better get to work preparing for that day. It feels like it's going to go by quickly.

I thank you for the reflections, wishes, and concerns you have shared with me, and I look forward to more of that in the time ahead. I pray for God's blessing on both of us as we experience this transition time.

Peace In Christ,  
Pastor Grube



If you are changing your phone number, or if you are dropping your landline in favor of using your cell phone number, please let the church office

know. We will update our records and thereby provide a more accurate annual church directory.



The June issue was the last totally printed and mailed copy; this July/August issue is the start of our new procedure.

If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 570.675.3859 or via email: [stpaul@epix.net](mailto:stpaul@epix.net).

And please note: our current monthly newsletters are always posted to our website! You can find the Good News easily by visiting our website at [www.stpaulsdallaspa.org](http://www.stpaulsdallaspa.org) and clicking on the newsletter link at the top of the page.



## NEW CROSS ON DISPLAY

There is a new addition to the Cross Cultures display in the Sunday School hallway. Kendra Brosious had a study abroad experience in Vienna, Austria, this spring and while she was there, she

purchased a miniature replica of the Melk Cross from 1363 for our display. The Melk Cross is a nearly 2 feet tall, highly ornamented, gold filigree cross encrusted with precious jewels that serves as a reliquary said to contain a shard of the cross of Jesus. It is housed at the Melk Abbey, an ornate Benedictine monastery that dates from 1089 on the Danube River near Vienna. The cross is kept under very tight security, made available to public viewing only on rare occasions. Thank you, Kendra, for remembering your church and sharing this token of your incredible experience this spring.





### **BUS TRIP FOR “JOSHUA” PLANNED**

The Women’s Ministry of Mount Carmel Church in Hunlock Creek are organizing a bus trip for the “Joshua Sight and Sound Theatre Experience” in Lancaster on Saturday, December 12. There are openings available and the Women’s Ministry members are inviting St. Paul’s members to join them.

Tickets for the Experience are \$155 per person, which includes bus transportation, lunch at the Shady Maple Smorgasbord and the show. Showtime is 3:00 pm. There will be time for shopping at the restaurant’s Christmas shop.

For more information or to reserve a seat, please contact Elaine Herceg at 570.578.8141.

### **THEY WALKED EVERYWHERE**

When a teenager earned his driving permit, he approached his father, a minister, to discuss using the car. His dad replied, “I’ll make you a deal. Raise your grades, spend some time in your Bible and get your hair cut. Then we’ll talk.”

A month later, the young man came back. “Son, I’m proud of you,” his father said. “Your grades are up, and you’ve been faithful in your Bible study. But you didn’t get your hair cut.” The teenager paused. “Well, Dad, I’ve been thinking. Samson had long hair. Moses had long hair. Noah had long hair. Even Jesus had long hair.”

His father nodded. “That’s true. And they walked everywhere they went.”

Summer camp has begun at Bear Creek Camp for another season. The first session began June 28 and will continue through the second full week of August. Our own Kendra Brosious will again spend the summer as a counselor, and we know of several other St. Paul folks who will spend some time at camp this season, including the annual Artist Camp for which Linda Keck and Frank Mariano guide the campers. Bear Creek Camp is an important ministry to our whole eastern Pennsylvania region, and it’s right in our own backyard. Thank you for your support of the camp through your contributions, fund-raiser support, and prayers.



### **PINOCHLE GROUP NEWS**



A pinochle card group meets at St. Paul’s on the first Tuesday of each month, and we would like to invite anyone who likes to play cards to join us! We start at 11:00 a.m. with a bag lunch and then play pinochle from 11:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Please feel free to join us. For more information leave a message for Annie Bisher at the church at 570-675-3859 and she will get back to you.



### **FREE LEGAL CLINIC**

Members of St. Paul’s and Prince of Peace have been invited to take advantage of St. Therese’s Catholic Church’s free legal clinic. When available, the clinic is open on Saturdays, usually 10:00 am to noon. Future sessions may be found on their “Parish Events Calendar” under the “Schedule” tab on their website, <https://stthereses-shavertown.com/> or by calling the parish office at 570.696.1144.

## LABYRINTH WALK



St. Paul's labyrinth will be open on Wednesday, July 15 and August 19, from 3:00-6:00 pm. Church members will be on hand to offer guidance in walking the labyrinth. The walk is free and open to the public. Shoes are not worn while walking the labyrinth; please wear or bring socks. For more information contact the church office at 570-675-3859.



The next shared event with our sister congregation, Prince of Peace Episcopal Church will be our quarterly Healing Service on

HEALING  
SERVICE



Wednesday, September 16 at 7:00 pm. This service will be at St. Paul's. We hear scripture readings and reflections and offer prayers for healing of physical, emotional, or spiritual needs in addition to offering the traditional laying on of hands and anointing with oil for those who desire. You are invited.



## Grief Support Group



On Thursday, July 16 and August 20, 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.

## ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP

If you or someone you know is caring for a family member with Alzheimer's disease, and if you are in need of support or advice, you may be interested in attending one of the Back Mountain Alzheimer's Support Group meetings. This group holds its meetings on the first Thursday of every month at 10:00 am here at St. Paul's. The meetings are free and open to the public. Summer meetings will be held on July 2 and August 6. For more information call the church office at 570.675-3859.



## Roast Beef Dinner!

### BROTHERHOOD TO MEET

St. Paul's Brotherhood will continue its discussions about the September roast beef dinner in a meeting on Monday, July 20, at 7:00 pm. All men of St. Paul's are invited to attend.



### GRADUATION ACCOLADES

Sora Miller, son of Marcus and Rachel Miller and grandson of Julie Holbrook, graduated from Nanticoke Area High School on June 9. He plans to join the Air Force and will be studying engineering.



LET'S HEAR IT FOR  
**OUR GRADUATES**

### FINDING FREEDOM

What does freedom look like to you? In *GraceLaced*, Ruth Chou Simons lists examples such as running unhindered, viewing a mountaintop overlook and enjoying iced tea with lemon. Because our good, creative God made us each different, our descriptions of freedom vary too. I think of deep breaths, an unhurried pace, genuine smiles, lack of regrets and deep belly laughs.

I love to laugh. Recently, during a demanding season of family celebrations, hardships and surprises, I realized I was laughing less. I felt bound to the next task on my long to-do list, but even good efficiency can shackle our spirits. A good laugh — beyond a quick chuckle — offers many physical and emotional benefits. According to the Mayo Clinic, laughter relieves stress and pain, boosts the immune system and stimulates organs and endorphins. So today I'm determined to laugh loudly and joyfully while remembering my freedom in Christ.

—Janna Firestone



The 2026 Northeastern PA Synod Assembly is in the books, and it was an historic event. It was an intense and grueling experience in the bishop's election process, uplifting and inspiring in its worship and prayer life, encouraging and hope-filled in the presentations on 6261 bundles and Licensed Lay Ministry, and fulfilling and heartening in the fellowship and community we shared. It took all five of the ecclesiastical ballots, which were accompanied with repeated rounds of presentations and interviews by seven, then three, and finally two candidates, to elect our new bishop. It is historic because our synod has elected its first female bishop, Pastor Jennifer Dee, pastor of Trinity Church, Robesonia, a congregation just west of Reading. It will now be a summer of transition as Bishop deForest completes his term and guides and assists our bishop-elect into the operations of the synod and the functions of a bishop. She will assume office on September 1.



We are delighted that both Keith and Trish Brosious have applied to become synodically authorized Licensed Lay Ministers (LLM). LLMs are members of congregations who are trained and supported by mentors to serve as leaders of worship and other ministries in their congregations who are licensed by the bishop to do those ministries, including Holy Communion worship. LLM's are an integral component of the 6261 model (they are the second 6 in the title) but are not limited to 6261 bundle congregations. As Keith and Frank Mariano and selected others

have served as worship leaders in the past during Pastor Grube's vacation under his authority, now Trish and Keith will eventually be licensed by the bishop to perform similar duties, having completed an intentional and intensive preparation process. Their preparation includes seminary-level coursework, four retreats with other LLMs to nurture a network of support, learn information around particular topics, and learn skills for ministry and on-going growth and development under the mentorship of a pastor.

We encourage you to encourage them and remember them in your prayers as they enter this formation process in service to our own congregation. And if you are sensing a call to a broader, more encompassing ministry, Pastor Grube invites and encourages you to talk with him.

### 6261 BUNDLE UPDATE

Our congregation has joined other Lutheran congregations and eight Episcopal churches of the county in forming Exploration Teams to work together to form 6261 ministry partnerships. Frank Mariano, Gail Ide and LLM candidate Keith Brosious joined Pastor Grube as our congregation's Exploration Team. In a retreat gathering on Saturday, June 20, that included Scranton area churches as well, St. Paul's came to be aligned with Prince of Peace, Grace Episcopal, Kingston, and Trinity Episcopal, West Pittston in our own four-congregation bundle (the numbers are flexible!).

The first thing we did was to gather the Exploration Teams of those four congregations and set dates for congregational gatherings around four topics that serve as the steps to discerning whether and how we might form a bundle ministry community. These congregational gatherings are for all members of all four congregations (not just the Exploration Team members!) to build relationships, share faith, and learn one another's congregational histories and stories. Each of the four gatherings will begin at **6:30 pm** with light refreshments hosted by one of the four churches, and Deacon Kat Tigerman or Episcopal Canon Missioner Melinda Artman will serve as facilitators. The four gatherings and their purposes are as follows:

## 6261 Bundle Update Cont.

**Gathering 1** is “Who’s Who,” bringing people together to start forming relationships and begin the process of exploring 6261 and discernment together. Getting to know one another is the first step. **Prince of Peace**, Dallas will host this gathering on **August 20**.

**Gathering 2** is “Scripture,” encouraging people to think about what Scripture passages are important to them and share an important Scripture passage to them, why they connect with it, and how it impacts their faith life. **Grace Episcopal, Kingston**, will host this gathering on **September 15**.

**Gathering 3** is “Trends Tracing (History & Shared Stories),” reflecting on each congregation’s history, trends, and relationship with one another and the community. **Trinity Episcopal, West Pittston**, will host this gathering on **October 14**.

**Gathering 4** is “Impact/Experiential,” encouraging people to reflect on the positive impact that the church (not just their current congregation) has had on their lives, and think about how the 6261 Ministry Community could impact others. **St. Paul’s** will host this gathering **November 18**.

An additional **Gathering 5**, “Vision Reveal Gathering” is yet to be scheduled, revealing the collective guiding statements (values, mission, and vision) to the congregations, receiving feedback, and having a conversation about how the proposed values could help the exploring bundle live into being a ministry community.

The Exploration Team will be sharing literature and be available for your questions in the coming weeks as we prepare for our first Gathering August 20. In the meantime, you can mark your calendar for these important gatherings.

† † †

Belief is truth held in the mind; faith is a fire in the heart.

—Joseph Fort Newton



Hi Everyone,

It’s that time of the year, hot and humid! Here are some seasonal reminders and news about a new sunscreen ingredient while we enjoy the season.

The National Safety Council (NSC) has a very good article about hot weather at <https://www.nsc.org/community-safety/safety-topics/seasonal-safety/summer-safety/heat#/> with links to other summer activities on the left side of the screen. The CDC also has a good poster called Avoid\*Spot\*Treat Heat Stroke & Heat Exhaustion at <https://stacks.cdc.gov/view/cdc/138804>.

These are good tips given to help you avoid heat-related illnesses. This page also names the groups of people most susceptible to these problems.

Protect your skin from the sun with sunscreen! A new ingredient, bemotrizinol, that just got approved by the FDA, has been used in Europe for years. Here are the details:

<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-expands-sunscreen-options-first-time-20-years>.

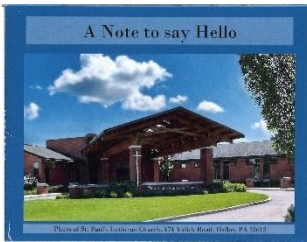
National Public Radio (NPR) has a good article on this with explanations at <https://www.npr.org/2026/06/13/nx-s1-5856385/sunscreen-skin-protection-bemotrizinol>, including which sunscreen brand is including it.

Stay hydrated, please!

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

† † †

## HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!



“A Note to Say Hello” picture cards of St. Paul's remain available in the church office Monday through Thursday; and before/after Saturday evening 5:30 pm and

Sunday morning 9:30 am services. All proceeds benefit Dorcas fundraising for service and community projects. Twelve cards/envelopes in durable folder for \$15.00. Cash or checks accepted--please make check payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Psalm 118:24 is included inside: “This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad.”



## JULY BIRTHDAYS

4 <sup>th</sup>	John Waschek
5 <sup>th</sup>	Carol Shields
6 <sup>th</sup>	Daniel Williams
7 <sup>th</sup>	Brooks Kutchma
8 <sup>th</sup>	Ethan Gdovin
11 <sup>th</sup>	Lily Wood
12 <sup>th</sup>	Linda Lozo
12 <sup>th</sup>	Gail Smallwood
14 <sup>th</sup>	Jonathan Mancke
14 <sup>th</sup>	Leah Pambianco
14 <sup>th</sup>	Karen Tomalis
15 <sup>th</sup>	Wayne Fassett
16 <sup>th</sup>	Marianne Mancke
18 <sup>th</sup>	Cody Pericich
19 <sup>th</sup>	Ethan and Jacob Thomas
20 <sup>th</sup>	Ava Rae Faux
20 <sup>th</sup>	Briella Pyett
21 <sup>st</sup>	Byron Race
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Jacob Doran
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Jennifer Moelling
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Alyson Wood
25 <sup>th</sup>	Kouper Bayer
25 <sup>th</sup>	Benjamin Stepniak
26 <sup>th</sup>	Robert Kline
27 <sup>th</sup>	Edward Lozo
27 <sup>th</sup>	Jack Miller
28 <sup>th</sup>	Marie Griffith
29 <sup>th</sup>	Martha Kush

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Julie Eneboe
4 <sup>th</sup>	Ava Brezovsky
4 <sup>th</sup>	Adalyn Moelling
5 <sup>th</sup>	Kyle Hall
6 <sup>th</sup>	Lena Pericich
7 <sup>th</sup>	Daniel Henderson
9 <sup>th</sup>	Debbie Miller
10 <sup>th</sup>	Steve Smallwood
12 <sup>th</sup>	Penny James
13 <sup>th</sup>	Bryce Hollingshead
13 <sup>th</sup>	Andrew Sabol
14 <sup>th</sup>	Hannah Cooper
14 <sup>th</sup>	William Drumin
15 <sup>th</sup>	Paul Pryor
17 <sup>th</sup>	Karen Cheskiewitz
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Frances Dierolf
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Pat Kowalek
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Chris Bellezza
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Linda Gillies
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Joseph Hardisky
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Robin Rogers
24 <sup>th</sup>	Alan Pugh
26 <sup>th</sup>	Hilary Grube
26 <sup>th</sup>	Henry Orgitano
26 <sup>th</sup>	Peter Wittkamp
27 <sup>th</sup>	Claudette Banks
29 <sup>th</sup>	Timothy Miller
29 <sup>th</sup>	John Thomas
30 <sup>th</sup>	Joel Eneboe
30 <sup>th</sup>	Dylan Shedlock
31 <sup>st</sup>	Shirley Zimmerman

## JULY ANNIVERSARIES

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Pastor & Jean Grube
4 <sup>th</sup>	Linda & Thomas Ash
8 <sup>th</sup>	Carol and Jeff Shields
9 <sup>th</sup>	Sandra Weaver-Charney & Kenneth Charney
11 <sup>th</sup>	Melissa & David Janoski
13 <sup>th</sup>	Cassandra & Timothy Miller
18 <sup>th</sup>	Gail & Steven Smallwood
31 <sup>st</sup>	Bryna & James Foresman

## AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Grace & John Fisher
5 <sup>th</sup>	Claudette & Bernard C. Banks, Jr.
6 <sup>th</sup>	Clara & Ryan Orgitano
11 <sup>th</sup>	Colette & John Weaver

**AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES (Cont.)**

11<sup>th</sup> Michele & Mark Weaver  
 13<sup>th</sup> Ellen & John Babuscak  
 17<sup>th</sup> Paula & Daniel Williams  
 24<sup>th</sup> Tammy & John Stochla  
 24<sup>th</sup> Linda & Jack Traver  
 27<sup>th</sup> Lauran & Jeffrey Hall  
 27<sup>th</sup> Stephanie & Miguel Younger  
 31<sup>st</sup> Anna & Martin Bisher  
 31<sup>st</sup> Brittany & Richard Siperko



**FROM THE MAILBOX**



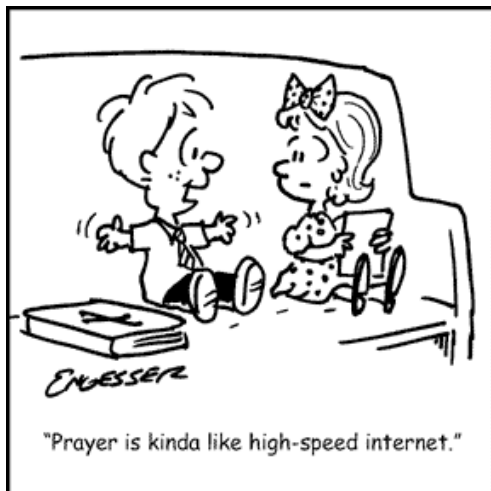
From our Head Start families:

To the members of St. Paul's,  
 Thank you so much! The gift cards will be a big help, especially with the kids being home for the summer. Very much appreciated,

The Danko family

We are so thankful for your generous gift.

The Davis family



**WORSHIP LEADERS MONTHLY CALENDAR—JULY**

*If unable to serve on the Sunday for which you signed up, please call either the coordinator or the church office at 570.675.3859.*

**July 5:**

Assisting Minister: Jean Grube  
 Greeters: Ellen Babuscak  
 Acolyte: Volunteer needed  
 Lector: Melissa Janoski  
 Altar (Cleanup): Gail Smallwood

**July 12:**

Assisting Minister: Volunteer needed  
 Greeters: Sabrina and Rocco Pericich  
 Acolyte: Volunteer needed  
 Lector: Rocco Pericich  
 Altar (Cleanup): Gail Smallwood

**July 19:**

Assisting Minister: Volunteer needed  
 Greeters: Bill Peiffer and Pat Peiffer  
 Acolyte: Volunteer needed  
 Lector: Melissa Janoski  
 Altar (Cleanup): Gail Smallwood

**July 26:**

Assisting Minister: Gail Smallwood  
 Greeter: Larry Pierce  
 Acolyte: Volunteer needed  
 Lector: Gail Smallwood  
 Altar (Cleanup): Gail Smallwood

**Communion Bread:**

July 5: Cookie Fetterman  
 July 12: Carol Fett  
 July 19: Volunteer needed  
 July 26: Volunteer needed

**Saturday Altar Setup**

July 4: Cookie Fetterman  
 July 11: Cookie Fetterman  
 July 18: Cookie Fetterman  
 July 26: Cookie Fetterman

**COORDINATORS:**

Assisting Ministers: Frank Mariano, 570.401.9611  
 Greeters: Pat Peiffer, 570.675.1210  
 Acolytes: Don Kretchmer, 570.855.2552  
 Lectors: Rachelle Pryor, 571.218.7188  
 Altar and Communion Bread: Martha Kush, 570.331.9979



## We Are Stronger When We Serve Together

*Submitted by Stacey Burke, NEPA Synod Director of Communications*

When a fire forced St. John's Lutheran Church in Allentown out of its building during Lent, neighboring congregations stepped in to help. Members of St. John's and Christ Lutheran in Allentown worshiped together, shared leadership, and supported one another through the challenge.

Reflecting on the experience during the 6261 Ministry Communities panel, Deacon Michael Krenz shared, "We have a sense of joy and we know that if we have trials and tribulations, the other congregations will say, 'Can I help?'"

Throughout the 2026 Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly, one theme surfaced again and again. Whether discussing ministry communities, new worshiping communities, global partnerships, or emerging ministries, participants shared a common message: we are stronger when we serve together. Mission Support helps create and strengthen those connections.

At assembly, participants heard stories from 6261 Ministry Communities, where congregations are exploring new ways to share leadership, resources, and ministry. Panelists spoke honestly about both the challenges and joys of collaboration. While the work requires patience, communication, and trust, many shared how relationships formed through these partnerships have strengthened congregations and expanded their ability to serve their communities.

The assembly theme, *Imagine*, was reflected in stories shared during the Fresh Expressions panel. Participants heard about ministries reaching people through community meals, recovery ministries, young adult gatherings, video game nights, mobile shower ministries, and other creative efforts designed to meet people where they are. Together, these ministries demonstrate how God is at work beyond traditional church walls. Speaking during the panel, April Mulvey of Hope's Table in Reading shared, "I serve a big God. So I dream big and I believe that God will just make it happen." Her words captured the spirit of ministries that are willing to try new things, build new relationships, and trust God to open new opportunities for sharing the gospel.





The assembly also celebrated the growth of the Indonesian Lutheran Church of Scranton, which was authorized as a Synod Authorized Worshiping Community (SAWC) in 2025. Worshiping in both Indonesian and English and building relationships with neighboring congregations, this ministry is a visible reminder that the church continues to grow in new and life-giving ways.

Beyond Northeastern Pennsylvania, assembly attendees were reminded that we are part of a much larger church. Through companion synod relationships in Tanzania, Saxony, Argentina and Uruguay, Slovenia, and our domestic partnership with the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, congregations are connected to a global community of faith. These relationships allow us to learn from one another, pray for one another, and discover new ways God is at work throughout the world.

As Bishop Christopher deForest reflected, "We're coming together not just to survive. We're coming together not just to thrive, but we're coming together to do mission of God in the world." Through relationships with congregations, ministry partners, companion synods, pastors, deacons, licensed lay ministers, and church leaders, we are continually discovering new opportunities to participate in God's mission.

Assembly also highlighted how Mission Support helps leverage additional resources for ministry. Through partnerships with the ELCA, seminaries, and grant programs, congregations and ministry leaders have received support for new worshiping communities, outreach ministries, leadership development, Fresh Expressions training, and collaborative ministry initiatives.

Following her election as bishop, Bishop-Elect Jennifer Dee reflected on her excitement for how God is calling the NEPA Synod to serve together, sharing that she is "incredibly excited to see how God calls us to do ministry together." Her words echoed what had already been demonstrated throughout the assembly: ministry is not something we do alone.



Every congregation that shares Mission Support is helping make these ministries possible. Together, through Mission Support, we are not simply sustaining ministry. We are strengthening congregations, raising up leaders, forming new ministries, and joining God's mission in the world. If you would like to learn more about the ministries and stories shared at assembly, recordings of the plenary sessions are available on the synod's YouTube channel, with links and assembly resources available at [godsllove.org/assembly2026](https://godsllove.org/assembly2026). Together, we are imagining what God can do next.



### Help Make Ministry Possible

Through Mission Support, congregations share resources, support leaders, and expand ministry. Thank you for helping strengthen congregations, support leaders, and launch new ministries. Learn more about Mission Support and how your congregation can support at [godsllove.org/missionsupport](https://godsllove.org/missionsupport).