# ORDER OF WORSHIP
## Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
November 7/8, 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
Website: www.stpaulsdallaspa.org

Margaret Quintanar, Director of Music/Organist
Senior Choir & Chimes

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

# TODAY'S WORSHIP

**WELCOME!** A friendly welcome to each worshiper! We are pleased to have each of you here to glorify God and sing praises to the Almighty.

**TODAY** the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the lamb.

**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 the church office, 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 November 14/15: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18, Psalm 90:1-8, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11, Matthew 25:14-30.

## GATHERING – SERVICE OF THE WORD

**PRELUDE** *Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying* Johann Sebastian Bach

**BELL, WELCOME, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Stand as you are able and turn to face the font for the Confession.*

**CONFESSION**

*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, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all creation.
**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

Faithful God,
**have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before our neighbors. Cast away our transgressions, forgive us our sins, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. In his + holy name and by his authority, we are forgiven all our sins. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN # 436 (Sat. vs. 1,2)** *Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying*

**GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

**And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*Sit.*

## WORD

**CHILREN'S SERMON**

**FIRST READING** **Amos 5:18-24**

*In the days of Amos, people thought that the day of the Lord would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. People who are wise are free from care.*

A reading from Amos:

Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord! Why do you want the day of the Lord? It is darkness, not light, as if someone fled from a lion and was met by a bear or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall and was bitten by a snake. Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them, and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 70**

*Spoken responsively by the lector and the congregation.*

Be pleased, O God, to deliver me.
O Lord, make haste to help me!
[2] **Let those be put to shame and confusion**
**who seek my life.**
**Let those be turned back and brought to dishonor**
**who desire to hurt me.**

[3] Let those who say, "Aha, Aha!"
turn back because of their shame.
[4] **Let all who seek you**
**rejoice and be glad in you.**
**Let those who love your salvation**
**say evermore, "God is great!"**

[5] But I am poor and needy;
hasten to me, O God!
**You are my help and my deliverer;**
**O Lord, do not delay!**

**SECOND READING** **1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18**

*Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life who Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.*

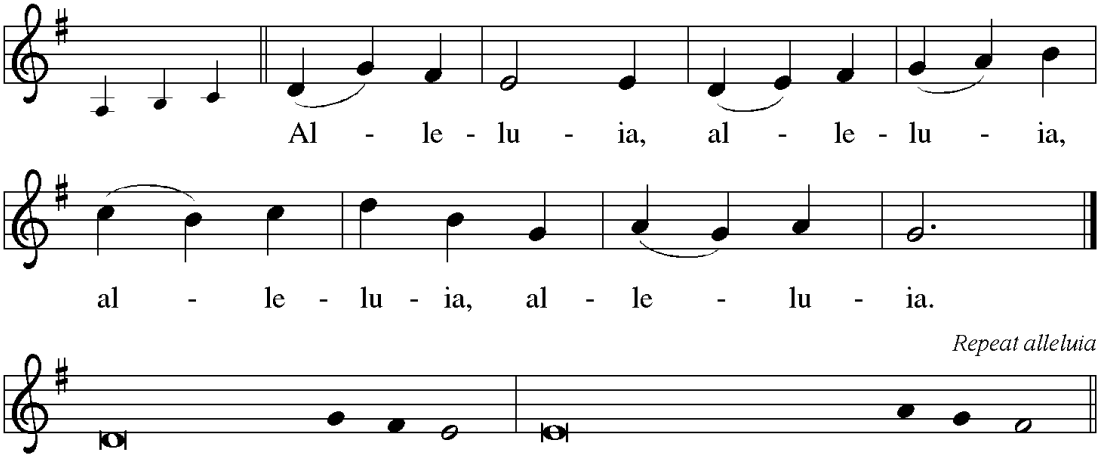
A reading from 1 Thessalonians:

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means

precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

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




Keep awake | and be ready,*
for you do not know on what day your | Lord is coming. Refrain.

**GOSPEL** **MATTHEW 25:1-13**

*Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.*

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

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

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

*Sit.*

**SERMON**

*Stand as you are able for the Hymn.*
**HYMN OF THE DAY #244** **(Sat. vs. 1, 4)** *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*
*(Requested Hymn)*

**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**

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Trusting in your mercy and goodness, we bring before you these prayers and whatever else you see that we need, in the name of the one who sets us free, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

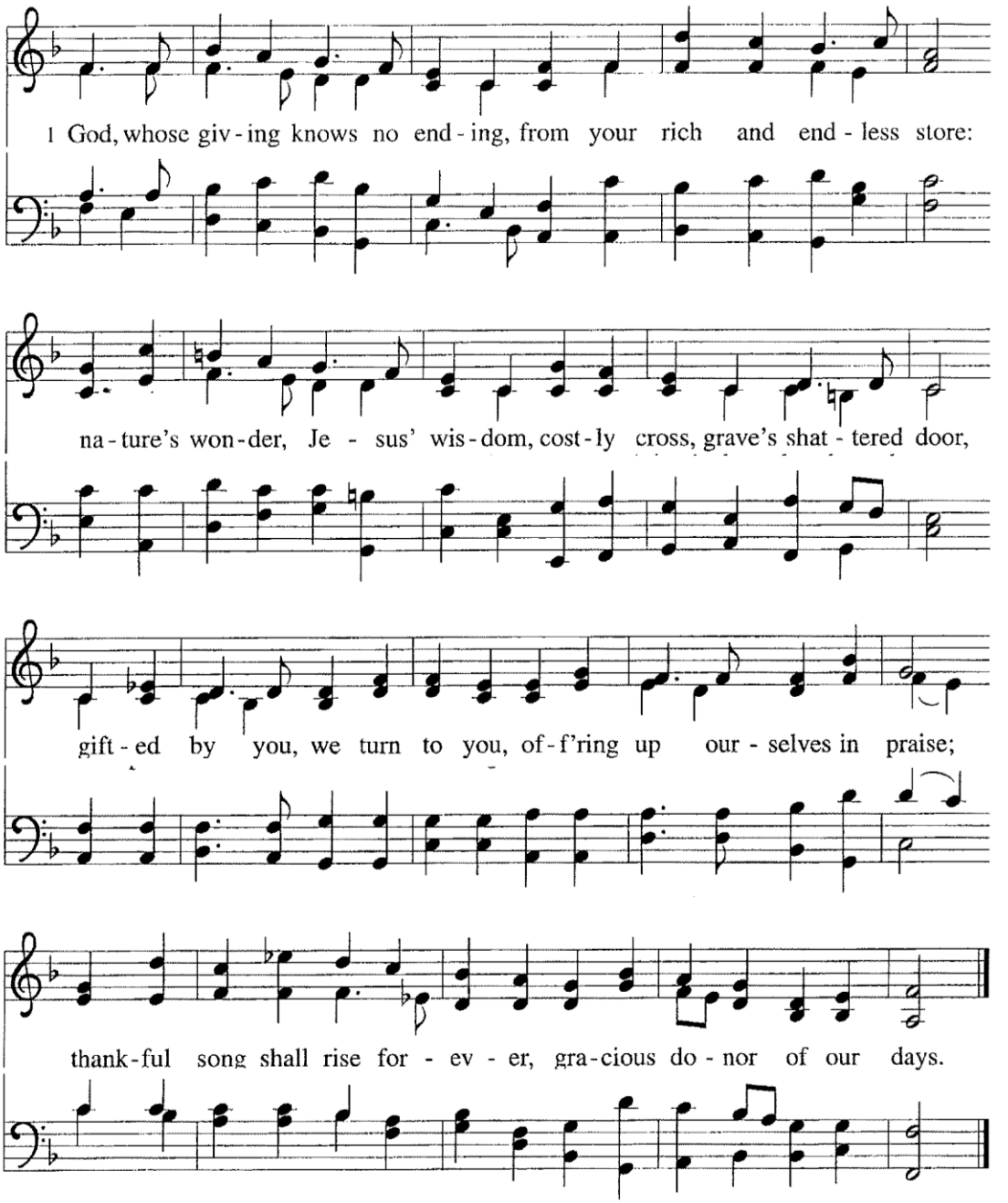
**PEACE**
The peace of Christ be with you always.
**And also with you.**

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

## THANKSGIVING

**OFFERTORY #678, v. 1** *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*






Text: Robert L. Edwards, 1915–2006
Music: C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918
Text © 1961, ren. 1989 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company

RUSTINGTON
8 7 8 7 D

*Alternate tune:* HYMN TO JOY

**OFFERING PRAYER**

*The assisting minister leads the prayer.*

Let us pray. God of all creation, all blessings are from you. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, through your Son, our Savior and Lord.
**Amen.**

**THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.
**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.**

## SENDING

**BLESSING**

The blessing of almighty God, the Father of glory, + Jesus Christ our peace, and the Spirit of truth, be upon us and remain with us always.
**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN # 638 (Sat. vs. 1, 3)** *Blessed Assurance*

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** *Blessed Assurance* J. Bert Carlson

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### SERVING AS WORSHIP LEADERS

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|---|---|
| Greeters: | Marianne and Ray Mancke |
| Acolyte: | Volunteer needed |
| Worship Leader: | Frank Mariano |
| Assistant Minister: | Cynthia Mahalick |
| Lector: | Melissa Janoski |
| Minister of Technology: | Marissa Miller |

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THANK YOU FROM BROTHERHOOD:** The Brotherhood wishes to thank all the volunteers who worked to prepare our roast beef dinner on Saturday. There is a lot of preparation involved in putting a dinner together and all the support and help is always greatly appreciated! A special thank you also goes to everyone who supported our dinner—both members and friends in the community.

**BIBLE STUDY RESUMES -** Bible study classes, led by Trish Brosious, will resume meeting on Tuesday, November 24 at 10:30 am. The classes will continue meeting on December 1, 8 and 15. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP by Tuesday, November 17 in the church office, or to Trish, so she knows how many members to expect. Thanks for your interest in Bible study!



**POINSETTIA(S) ORDER FORM:** Order forms for poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary Christmas Eve are included in the November newsletter (printed), and extra forms are available on the table in the Narthex. The flowers are available in red or white and are $15 each. Additional forms are also available on line at www.stpaulsdallaspa.org; click on the on-line giving link. Please make checks payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Deadline to order poinsettias is **Monday, November 23.**

**GOBBLE, GOBBLE! IT'S TURKEY TIME!** Get ready to show off your creativity! Our Sunday School is hosting its annual Turkey Decorating Contest, and we invite all church members and families to join in the fun! Let your imagination run wild and decorate your very own turkey. The more creative, the better! There are no limits to your gobble worthy ideas! Judging will take place on Sunday, November 22. We'll be collecting food donations for the Back Mountain Food Pantry. Bring a nonperishable food item to cast your vote for your favorite turkey and help support those in need in our community! So gather your supplies, bring your most creative turkey, and let's make this a fun and meaningful celebration for everyone!

**SIGHT & SOUND JOSHUA** is playing now through November 8 at Wilkes Barre 14 Theater. Filmed in front of a live audience, this special event invites you to experience one of the most redemptive stories of the Bible come to life like never before! Check out - https://www.rctheatres.com/movies/1000052007-sight.

**TOYS FOR TOTS COLLECTION:** Our Scout Pack 241 is doing a service project collecting new toys for children at Christmas. They will soon set up Toys for Tots containers in the foyer. If you would like to participate, please place unwrapped new toys in the foyer containers by Sunday, November 22, when they will be picked up by the U.S. Marines for distribution to families in need. Thank you for supporting our Scouts!

**COUNCIL UPDATE -** Meeting on, Nov. 3: **Worship & Music:** Planning is complete for our Advent services; members of the Art & Environment Committee will attend the next W&M meeting to discuss decorating for Advent/Christmas. **Christian Education:** The committee will hold its annual Turkey Decorating Contest on Sunday, November 22, and everyone is invited to enter a turkey of their own design, in addition to the Sunday School classes. Members may vote for their favorite turkeys with canned food that will be donated to the Back Mountain Food Pantry. A volunteer is still needed to manage the Cradle Roll Project. Annual Birthday Party for Jesus is likely to be held on Sunday, December 20; after the S.S. Christmas Program. **Evangelism:** The committee recommended that St. Paul's be designated a Reconciling In Christ (RIC) church. The recommendation will be presented for a vote by the congregation during the January 24, 2027, annual meeting. The committee is continuing to work on preparing nametags for all members of the congregation and hopes to have them ready soon. **Fellowship:** The next meeting of the 6261 Bundle churches will be held on Wednesday, November 18 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Paul's and the committee will prepare refreshments for meeting participants. **Property/Finance:** Three parking lot lights are burnt out and will be replaced; the compressor on the Social Hall HVAC unit will need to be replaced in the spring and repairs are needed on the HVAC unit in the Administration Wing. The Finance Committee has begun working on the proposed 2027 budget, taking into consideration expenses that will be incurred for supply pastors, mileage/lodging (if needed), Licensed Lay Minister training, etc. **Old Business: 6261:** Council is hoping for a good turnout of St. Paul's members for the November 18 6261 meeting. Following this meeting, the 6261 exploratory committee will analyze the feedback from all four meetings and look for trends. After the holidays, the exploratory committee will make presentations to each church in the bundle; following that meeting the churches will decide if they want to continue in the 6261 initiative. **Call Process:** A Ministry Site Profile is being completed by Council and will be submitted to the Synod Office. A call committee, composed of a broad-based representation of everyone in the congregation will be formed, and everyone is welcome to volunteer to serve on the committee. Volunteers must be available to travel. Anyone interested in serving on the Call Committee are asked to contact Frank Mariano at fmm329@gmail.com. **Council Election:** As of January 2027, there will be four vacancies on Church Council; Frank Mariano, Marissa Miller and Gail Smallwood have served two terms and are not eligible for re-election. A fourth open position from last year also needs to be filled. Council asks that all congregation members, during this time of transition, prayerfully consider serving on council to help the church continue its mission. Anyone interested in running for a council seat is asked to contact the church office. **New Business:** Sunday, January 24, 2027 (January 31 snow date) will be the date for the annual meeting.

**THE RETIRED RAMBLERS** will gather on Thursday, November 12 at 8:32am at the Skillet at Harveys Lake for their monthly breakfast. Everyone is invited to attend.

**CHURCH COUNCIL VACANCIES**: As of January 2027, there will be four vacancies on St. Paul's Church Council. Council encourages everyone to prayerfully consider running for a council position to enable St. Paul's to continue carrying out its mission and many ministries. If you are interested in serving, please contact the church office.

**6261 BUNDLE GATHERING**—All members of St. Paul's are invited to attend the fourth gathering of congregations in our 6261 Bundle, to be held on Wednesday, November 18 at 6:30 pm here at St. Paul's. The goal of this meeting is to bring people together from St. Paul's, Prince of Peace, Grace Episcopal and Trinity Episcopal to reflect on the role our church has in our lives. If you are interested in attending, please sign the gathering list on the table in the Narthex as soon as possible, so that we may give our Fellowship Committee a headcount.

## THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

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| Today: | 9:30 am – Worship |
| | 10:45 am – Sunday School |
| Monday: | 7:00 pm—Troop meeting |
| Tuesday: | 1:00 pm—Dorcas meeting |
| Thursday: | 8:32 am—Retired Ramblers Breakfast meeting |
| Saturday: | 5:30 pm—Worship with Baptism/Communion |
| Next Sunday: | 9:30 am—Worship |

**WORSHIP LEADERS FOR NOVEMBER:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Nov. 7/8 | Frank Mariano (No Communion) |
| Nov. 14 | Rev. Lynn Rothrock (Baptism/Communion) |
| Nov. 15 | Trish Brosious (No Communion) |
| Nov. 21 | Gail Smallwood (No Communion) |
| Nov. 22 | Rev. Reiner (Communion) |
| Nov. 28/29 | Deacon Talley (No Communion) |

**PRAYER LIST - Please remember to ask permission from the person you are placing on the prayer list.** Pray for the Congregation of Shepherd of the Hills, Dushore, Prince of Peace Episcopal, Dallas, Grace Episcopal, Kingston and Trinity Episcopal, West Pittston.

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 Fritzinger, Lois Gdovin, Colin Grube, Daniel Henderson, Robert Kline, Martha Kush, June Lorah, Karen Mertz, Raelene Napierkowski, Wally Richardson, Val Rothrock, Greta Ruckno, Carol Swanson, John Thomas, Colette Weaver, Anita Weiss, Aileen Whalen, Judy Wise, 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 if you desire a name to remain on the list beyond that time.**

*Family & Friends:* Jack Babuscak, Brenda Banaszek, Alanna Berger, Tim Brown and family, Cliff and Ron Bunt, Donna C., Marjorie Catania, Paul Davis, Janet DeCosta, Debbie Demuro, Julia Estock, Harrison Frye, Sharon Mary Golden, Nancy Harm, Debbie Hilbert, Marty Hille, Eileen Hoyson, Jenn Hubbard, Christine Ide, Doug Ide, Candace Jones, Michael Kaminski, Patricia Kay, Joe Kerestes, Debbie Kertesz, Ken Kertesz, Bradley Kessler, Alice Laskowski, Chuck Litkin, John, Karen and Charlie Lulun, Jim Madonna, Carol Marker, Cathy Martin, Becky Morgan, Patty N., Tim Nulton, Ryleigh Phillips, Paul Pryor, Abraham Quintanar, Febe Quintanar, Andy Reistetter, Bonnie Ryman, Chris Salazar, Sandra Serhan, Nancy Shymanski, MaryAnn Size, Richard Skurski, Wally Skurski, Gayle Smith, Jack Smith, Sandy Sprau, Benjamin Szostak, Abigail Thomas, Larry Titus, Corrine Varneke, Tabitha Walters, Nancy Weller, Karen Wise, Peg Wyda, Chris Z., Mary Z., Ashley, Bethann, Keith, Megan, the M family, Johnny, Betsy, Dawn, Jonathan, Joni, Beth, Stone Family, Stacey, Laura, Debra and their families, Josiah, Mary, Tommy, Sylvia and Kurt (no last names given).