

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church Dallas, Pennsylvania



**January 1, 2024
to
December 31, 2024**

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

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CONGREGATION COUNCIL OFFICERS

President Rev. Charles H. Grube
Vice-President Frank Mariano
Secretary Gail Smallwood
Treasurer..... Carol Fett

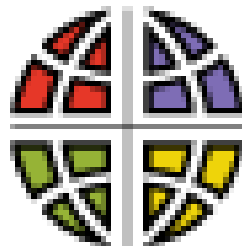
Congregation Council Members:

<u>2024/2025</u>	<u>2025/2026</u>	<u>2026/2027</u>
Larry Pierce	Cathy Ridout*	Frank Mariano*
Bruce Thomas	Don Kretchmer	Gail Smallwood*
Gail Ide	Tony Linnen	Marissa Miller*
Pat Peiffer	Julie Holbrook	Amanda Brezovsky

(*Final Term

STAFF

Pastor Rev. Charles H. Grube
Director of Music/Organist, Sr. Choir, & Chimes DirectorMargaret Quintanar
Youth Choir DirectorJean Grube
Minister of Technology..... Marissa Miller
Church Office..... Gail Smallwood & Carol Fett
Custodian / Sexton James Madonna
Sunday School SuperintendentAnthony Linnen
Financial Secretary Ruth Ide



AGENDA

- 1:00 pm
1. Opening Prayer and Acceptance of Agenda
 2. Approval of Minutes from 2023 Congregational Meeting held January 21, 2024 (Social Hall & Zoom)
 3. Pastor's Report - 2024
 4. Reports of Standing Committees and Organizations
 - A. Christian Education
 - B. Communication
 - C. Evangelism
 - D. Fellowship (No Written Report)
 - E. Finance
 - F. Head Start & Early Intervention
 - G. Health Ministry
 - H. Landscaping
 - I. Long Range Planning
 - J. Property
 - K. Social Ministry
 - L. Worship & Music
 - M. Brotherhood
 - N. Dorcas Society
 5. Old Business
 - A.
 - B.
 6. New Business
 - A. Adoption of 2025 Proposed Budget
 - B. Election of Council Members
 - C. Constitution Revisions
 - D. 100th Anniversary Committee Announcement
 7. Adjournment

In Memoriam

During this past year, four members of our congregation died.

We know all of us will face death someday, but we, as Christians, also know that God promises eternal life to those who believe in Him.

So, in memory of these members and the lives of those of our loved ones who are already with God, we dedicate this annual report.

Helen Carey

Marjorie McCarty

Hope Beisel

Mary Lou Bauman



**Minutes of Annual Congregational Meeting
Calendar Year 2024**

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
JANUARY 21, 2024
President the Rev. Charles H. Grube
Vice-President Frank Mariano
Secretary Gail Smallwood
Treasurer Carol Fett

There being a quorum of voting members, Frank Mariano called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm. He thanked all those who attended in person and on Zoom and who prepared the luncheon. Pastor Grube led the congregation in prayer.

Frank called for a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Ray Mancke moved to accept the agenda and Cathy Ridout seconded it. The agenda was approved unanimously.

Frank called for approval of minutes from the 2023 congregational meeting. Don Kretchmer moved to approve the minutes and Annie Bisher seconded it. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Frank called for a moment of silence for deceased members of the congregation.

Pastor's report: Written and approved. Pastor thanked the congregation for its dedication, encouragement and financial support of the church and his ministry, and thanked the council members for their leadership, commitment and efforts on behalf of the church. He noted he is hosting monthly dinners to share information about St. Paul's and about the 6261 Initiative, developed by the Northeast Pennsylvania Synod. Ray Mancke asked about the 6261 plan and when it might be implemented in our area. Pastor noted the initiative is in the information-sharing and planning stage, and that Bishop deForest has established milestones for the plan. Kat Tigerman is the synod's new director of evangelical mission and is working to help congregations work through the plan. Licensed Lay Ministers (LLM) will be important components of the initiative, and each congregation in a 6261 program will be expected to have a LLM. LLM training is a two-year process and is now available for those interested in becoming an LLM.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Christian Education Committee: Written report. The Sunday School program is always looking for new teachers.

Communications Committee: Written report.

Evangelism Committee: Written report.

Fellowship Committee: No report; there is no formal committee in place, but council would like to have one.

Finance Committee: Written report.

Head Start/Early Intervention Committee: Written report.

Health Ministry Committee: Written report.

Landscaping Committee: Written report. Frank noted there are many volunteers such as Pyramid clients who are working hard to keep the landscape beds in shape.

Long Range Planning Committee: Written report. Frank discussed several aspects of the 6261 plan and how it would support the work of St. Paul's. He added that a congregation which is involved, informed and able to help the church move ahead is necessary to ensure the church's future and enable it to overcome ongoing and future challenges. The congregation needs to continue welcoming families and children. He reported that this year there are five openings on church council and only three people have agreed to run for the open positions.

Property Committee: Written report. There was a discussion regarding concerns about the safety of the predella; several members have expressed concerns about the steps up to the predella when going to the lectern to read the lessons during worship. Frank reported that the Property Committee and the Worship and Music Committee are working together to find a solution, and that installing a handrail could be a possibility. The committees will work on making a decision by May, 2024.

Social Ministry Committee: Written report. Committee chair Karen Mertz reported the committee is very active and needs more volunteers, especially for the fleece blanket project, Easter gifts and the upcoming World Day of Prayer event.

Worship and Music Committee: Written report. Members remarked that they are happy to have an organist for worship and requested that more familiar hymns be included in services, especially those services which visitors are likely to attend.

Lutheran Brotherhood: Written report. The Brotherhood expects to offer four roast beef dinners in 2024 and thanks all the volunteers for their hard work and many contributions to the success of the dinners.

Dorcas Society: Written report. The society members are happy to continue helping to fund the church and thank all those who help make the rummage sales successful.

2023 Income Report: Written report.

OLD BUSINESS:

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Annie reported that March 1, 2024 is the Women's World Day of Prayer, and the service will be held at St. Paul's. Everyone is invited to attend. She is chairing the church 100th Anniversary Committee, to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of the church's founding in May, 1925. She is asking members of the congregation to serve on the committee.

Proposed 2024 Budget: There was a request for clarification on a \$400 request for a designated supply secretary on page 28 of the budget. That figure is a holdover from the years when the church employed a full-time office secretary and was used to pay a fill-in person for vacation relief. In response to a comment that the church cannot make its budget with the income it is currently receiving, Frank noted the church is doing the best it can with its limited resources, and Treasurer Carol Fett and the finance committee members have re-negotiated as many contracts as possible to help lower expenses. Church council members are very grateful to the Brotherhood and the Dorcas Society for their ongoing financial support. Frank observed that the proposed 2024 budget is only \$1,000 more than the 2023 annual budget. Don made a motion to approve the budget and Gail Ide seconded it. The budget was approved.

Election of New Council Members: Pastor announced there are five open positions on church council: three three-year terms, one two-year term, and one one-year term. He thanked departing council members John Waschek (six years' service) and Karen Mertz (two years' service) for their hard work and dedication to council and the church. Frank, Marissa Miller and Gail Smallwood have all agreed to run for second three-year terms, and he opened the floor for nominations for the two remaining open seats. Marissa nominated Julie Holbrook and the nomination was seconded by Scott Schukraft. Julie agreed to serve. Ruth Ide nominated Karen Mertz, who declined the nomination. Ruth then nominated Pat Kowalek, who declined the nomination. Ruth then nominated Amanda Brezovsky and the nomination was seconded by Don. Amanda agreed to serve. Karen nominated Scott, who declined the nomination. Ray moved that the nominations be closed, and Gail Ide seconded the motion. Julie and Amanda were approved by acclamation as council members, and council will determine who will serve the two-year term and the one-year term.

Frank opened the floor to any other new business, and none was brought forth. He thanked all those present for their support, ideas and comments.

ADJOURNMENT:

Karen moved to adjourn the meeting, and Annie seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 1:50 pm with the reciting of the Dorcas Benediction.

Respectfully submitted, Gail Smallwood, Congregation Secretary

2024 PASTORAL ACTS

Baptisms: Viola Rae Orgitano
James Patrick Wyatt
Lyanna Kay Aiple-McDonald
Willow Rose Aiple-McDonald
Ronan Paul Miller

Confirmations: Nadia DeFinnis
Nathaniel Linnen
Sora Miller

Marriages: None

Funerals: Helen Carey
Rudite Juta Avotins*
Betty Moore
Marjorie E. McCarty
Hope Beisel
Mildred (Pauline) Richardson*

*Non-Member

Removed from Rolls:

Marjorie Marquart
Emilia Policare
Thomas, Laura and Nigel Stearns
Dr. James and Jodee DeFinnis, Isabella, Nadia and Mila
(transferred to Isle of Palms United Methodist Church, Isle of
Palms, S. C.)
Mark and Mary Trexler Walters, (transferred to Church of
Christ Uniting, Kingston)
William Eimers (moved to West Virginia)
Lori Dunn and Dillon (moved to Myrtle Beach, SC)

New Members: Kelly Spudis
John and Jo-Ann Thomas
Nicky D'Agostino
Peter and Carol Wittkamp
Maureen Aiple
Wayne & Sandra Fassett



I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43:19

Well, yes, in fact, we have perceived it, haven't we? The ways of the wilderness and desert the church has been enduring for over a decade has come to St. Paul's congregation too, and like those of congregations across the mainline churches of our country, our numbers have fallen, too – numbers of people, dollars, inquirers, and resources have all decreased. We have experienced a dramatic transition in our financial revenue resources because of the loss of some significant contributors and our contract with Early Intervention, who has moved from St. Paul's to Misericordia University. The challenges that face our finance committee each month are increasingly worrying. And we have all seen the effects our aging population and fewer helpers and workers have had on even our biggest annual events.

Our congregation's leaders have wrestled very intentionally with these matters this past year and have taken a hard and honest look at life in the church and specifically at St. Paul's these days. To their great credit and with my gratitude for their leadership, they are taking steps to pave the way for our congregation's future that is rooted in vitality and the legacy of our one hundred years of active ministry. Our Northeastern PA Synod has also set before the congregations of our synod a vision for vitality and sustainability in the coming years, and it is this vision that St. Paul's leaders have engaged in to discover ways to use our own vitality, legacy, and ministry not only for our own sake, but for the sake of the greater church in our community. This is the new thing God is doing among us.

Sharing and partnerships are integral to this vision, and it is in this spirit that we have reached out to our community's churches to work together. We have a long history of doing that with a variety of neighboring congregations over the years. Our primary partner most recently has been Prince of Peace Episcopal Church. We began by sharing our Holy Week services, with us hosting the Good Friday service and them hosting the Easter Vigil for both our congregations. Our liturgies and liturgical heritage and resources are so similar that this seemed an easy way to partner in our common ministries. We are committed to sharing these same services this coming year, alternating the hosting from last year. We also scheduled healing services quarterly throughout the year alternating locations between us and sharing leadership. These, too, we have committed to continue. We also shared locations and leaders for a two-part summer Vacation Bible School experience. We committed to praying for one another, and to sharing news and publications about our events and activities. The pastoral leaders and lay leaders from our two congregations together with Grace Episcopal Church in Kingston have taken to providing weekly Christian worship for the clients and residents of Pyramid addiction treatment center in

Dallas. And soon, a grief support meeting will begin a monthly schedule of gatherings to support and provide resources for those suffering grief with experienced counselors from both our congregations convening the group. Our thanks to Frank Mariano and Linda Keck for offering this valuable opportunity to minister to our community. This is just one partnership we have intentionally nurtured to pave the way for our continuing legacy of important ministries for our community. As time goes on, we may also reach out to others to work together sharing their resources and doing new things in God's name with them.

We also have a long history of connecting with our community and a wide variety of groups, institutions, and activities, and our continuing outreach puts us in good stead to continue our legacy in that way as well. Scouts, the local Alzheimer's association, a card club, the Greenbriar association, Back Mountain Youth Soccer, Head Start, and others have all found a hospitable home among us, taking advantage of one of our greatest resources, our building and property. Expanding those community resources, like the monthly labyrinth prayer walk and the meditation garden under construction, are more ways we can be a resource for our community.

All this comes amid a year-long celebration of our 100th anniversary as a congregation. Events throughout calendar year 2025 will climax with a grand congregational celebration May 25 when Bishop Christopher deForest and a host of special guests will join us for worship and a pig-roast picnic following worship to mark that day in May 1925 when charter members took the steps to incorporate as St. Paul's church. We still have children of those charter members among us.

Celebrating an anniversary becomes an obvious opportunity to look back at the events in our history that have formed and shaped us as a congregation and to celebrate the legacy those forerunners have handed on to us. We are a wonderful congregation with a wonderful legacy of vital life and ministry in our Back Mountain community. As we review and celebrate that, we also dedicate ourselves to a future according to that same legacy. True to that legacy, God is doing a new thing among us.

I am grateful to you and your partnership in the gospel as the congregation of St. Paul's, making our own mark in this particular moment in history as a vital congregation of the church of Christ. It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy to live and minister, worship and serve as the congregation God has called us to be in this place and in this time. May God continue to bless us to do new things in his name.

Gratefully in his name,
Pastor Grube



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Committee Members: Amanda Brezovsky, Pastor Grube, Jean Grube, Joe Hardisky, Julie Holbrook, Tony Linnen (Sunday School Superintendent), Ray Mancke, Marissa Miller, Lavonna Thomas.

The Christian Education Committee was happy to host many events this year to enrich the learning of our young children and the adults in our congregation. Some events were past favorites. One of the highlights of the year was our Vacation Bible School in which we collaborated with Prince of Peace Episcopal Church.

- Bible Bowl--a Superbowl Sunday Bible Trivia Day
- Bear Creek Sunday--We welcomed Colin Grooms to our Sunday School to talk about all the exciting activities that are available at Bear Creek Camp
- Valentines for Shut-ins--all the classes got to decorate Valentine cards that were delivered to those on our Care and Concern List
- Palm Sunday Event
- May Ice Cream Social--this was the finale for our 2023/2024 Sunday School year
- Vacation Bible School, with two Sunday events: one in July, hosted at St. Paul's and one in August which was hosted at Prince of Peace. We used the Sparkhouse curriculum-Renew and our themes were "Planting Seeds" and "Roots."

Rally Day--The first day of Sunday School where we introduced our themes for the coming year that included Building on our Foundations with events and activities that will incorporate St Paul's 100th anniversary; and our Lutheran Heritage and our continued focus on prayer. We are continuing into our third year using the Whirl curriculum from Sparkhouse.

- Fall Bonfire that included singing around the bonfire and our annual Pumpkin decorating for the members on our Care and Concern List. The social committee was gracious enough to deliver or make sure the pumpkins were picked up.
- Reformation Event which included a video explaining Martin Luther's journey, Luther's Seal craft, information on the printing press with a bookmark craft using stampers, and the "Nailing up our 95 Theses"

- Turkey Decorating--three Sunday School groups decorated turkeys, with voting completed using donations to the Back Mountain Food Pantry. The younger SS students have bragging rights this year!
- Advent Event--we “journeyed” to the Stable using a “human” size game board and made prayer stars.
- Birthday Party for Jesus--this was held after the 4:00 pm Christmas Eve service.
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Thank you to all those who serve on this committee. It is amazing to me that after all these years, we are still inspired to come together and provide meaningful, creative activities for the children and young adults of our church. May our ministry continue to be blessed throughout the new year!

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Holbrook

COMMUNICATION

Below is a list of the communication committee’s efforts in 2024:

1. Maintained the church’s website with a monthly listing of services and events easily accessible on the website homepage; updating Dorcas, Brotherhood and other pages on a regular basis.
2. Continued to post to the church’s Facebook account at least once a week, highlighting activities and children’s programs and using as many photos as possible; also regularly posting items about church events and worship to the Back Mountain Community Facebook page.
3. Marissa continued to refine the weekly Zoom broadcasts of worship services, featuring PowerPoint pages with prayers, readings, psalms and hymns, making it easier for viewers to follow along during worship and more pleasant to view. She also has trained one St. Paul’s youth to run the Zoom broadcasts when she is away and would like to train more.
4. Continued editing and posting the weekly Zoom worship videos to YouTube and placing a link to the videos on the Sermons page, along with Pastor’s sermons, early each week.

5. Assisted with the church's display at the Dallas Harvest Festival in September.
6. Sent out news releases and photos to local daily and monthly newspapers and publications, highlighting church events such as the Roast Beef dinners, rummage and bake sales, confirmands, and labyrinth walks.
7. Created and placed ads for rummage sales and Easter and Christmas services to run in daily and monthly newspapers.

Respectfully submitted,
Marissa Miller and Gail Smallwood

EVANGELISM

I want to thank immensely everyone who has helped with these endeavors!!!

- Harvest Festival
 - Great success at Dallas HS in September.
- Labyrinth
 - Open to the public the third Wednesday of every month.
 - For 2024, twenty one people, parishioners and people from different faiths, walked this scared spiritual path.
- Meditative Garden
 - It is started!!!
 - It is to the left of the church by the handicap parking and the 3 trees.
- Pathway and Firepit
 - The weather has not been cooperating for this venture this year.
 - Praying Mother Nature will assist in 2025.
- Reconciling With Christ
 - Survey was sent out with 20 returns.
 - With the average score of 65.5 in answer to the questions, that means we will be following the St. Cautious pace.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Ide

FELLOWSHIP

No written report.

FINANCE / PROPERTY

This past year, joint committee meetings were held in order to keep better tabs on property issues and expenses. We appreciated the efforts of all various committees for staying within budget whenever possible and for the continued financial support of our members.

Committee work included but was not limited to:

- Fulfilling financial obligations to the best of our abilities. We finished one month with a positive balance; the other eleven months resulted in negative balances, also knowing that outstanding invoices still needed to be satisfied, necessitating transfers from our savings account. The following is a breakdown of our General Fund Income vs. Expenses by month; these are the funds used for utilities, inspections, repairs, supplies, compensation, taxes, etc.
- Detailed outside audits were performed of our general fund, savings account, long-term accounts, as well as Dorcas and Brotherhood accounts; all were noted as having no discrepancies, all invoices marked with payment date and account to which they were applied.
- Accounting for planned projects including roof repair, repair of kitchen equipment, electrical problems, plumbing issues, the installation of a drainage system outside an exit door to prevent water from entering the sanctuary, musical equipment repair and continuing mandated DEP water testing.
- Accounting for unplanned projects/repairs including HVAC repairs, replacing a window in a Head Start classroom due to an attempted break-in and the installation of three outside security cameras.

Special notes on 2024 property issues:

1. Sanctuary handrail was installed. Original estimate was for \$2,500 for materials and installation; final invoice from Champion Builders was for \$894.00 – a pleasant surprise!
2. In March the Travelers Insurance Company sent us a non-renewal letter regarding our workers compensation insurance; coverage would expire on April 1, 2024. Thankfully Erie Insurance agreed to pick up our coverage at a savings of \$929.00 annually. And, at the same time, we received a letter from Brethren Mutual, the carrier for our Property & Liability and Umbrella coverage, stating they were raising our deductible from \$1,000 to \$10,000 per claim at renewal on June 1, 2024. This was totally unacceptable and we asked Erie if they would pick up this coverage also keeping the deductible at \$1,000. The answer was a resounding yes and the net annual savings for this coverage came to \$1,660.00.
3. In September of 2025, our contract with Waste Management expires for trash and recycling pickup and we will, at that time, contact other facilities for quotes in order to bring this expense lower.
4. In November, due to a heavy snowstorm, water leaked into the Sanctuary over the Baptism Font, which is under the flat portion of the roof, causing more damage to the

drywall. Discussion is underway with Green Rhino to make temporary repairs to the flat roof decking to at least spare us more damage through the winter months; we are also looking at replacing shingles on the Social Hall wing and the small Administrative Wing roof. We are exploring the possibility of obtaining a loan in order to cover the expense of these repairs.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to St. Paul's Brotherhood for their donation to the Roof Repair Fund and to the General Fund; and to Dorcas for their donations to the General Fund. And, to all the members and friends of St. Paul's for their faithful, committed on-going financial support given us in 2024.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Fett, Treasurer,
Bruce Thomas, Pat Peiffer, Bill Peiffer, Don Pheasant, John Waschek
and Ray Mancke

HEAD START AND EARLY INTERVENTION

In 1965 the Luzerne County Head Start opened; one of the first programs in the nation with enrollment of 90 children. By 2001, enrollment in Head Start Centers totaled 724 preschool children and a classroom was opened at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. In 2008, the Lehman-Jackson Center consolidated with Dallas, opening a second classroom at St. Paul's. Total enrollment at all centers totaled 988. In 2024, enrollment in all Luzerne County Centers reached 1,195. St. Paul's is honored to be a part of the Luzerne County Head Start program.

In April, the Property & Finance Committee began working on the three-year renewal lease with Head Start. Following considerable discussion and with Council's approval, it was agreed to present a proposed renewal at 0% increase for the 2024/2025 school year and 2% increases for the 2025/2026 and the 2026/2027 school years.

In May we received notification from the Hazleton Office of Early Intervention that they would not be renewing their lease with St. Paul's for the coming 2024/2025 school year and beyond. They made a decision to consolidate and move all their classrooms and services to Misericordia University. Early Intervention's departure from our premises results in a loss of income. St. Paul's Congregation Council is looking for a person or group that would benefit from renting some classroom space, would be classified as a non-profit so that the church doesn't lose its non-profit status, and at the same time be a good fit for our current Head Start tenant.

HEALTH MINISTRY

- First Aid kits continued to be kept well stocked.
- AED replaced.
- Narcan always available in the AED wall cabinet.
- 32 Calls, Texts, Emails
96 Cards
2 Visits to Hospitals, Drives to Appts and other
130 Total
- In May, eight church members received AED and CPR training and instructed on Stop Bleeds by Jack Laskey.
- Monthly newsletter articles continued with links to in-dept health related information.

In Love, Service and Gratitude,
Cathy Ridout and Gail Ide

LANDSCAPING

We would like to thank Personal Touch Landscaping and the clients of Pyramid Healthcare for their generous gifts of time and attention they have given to maintaining the church landscaping beds and plantings around the entrance sign, parking lot and the Columbarium. We also want to thank Jim Madonna, Scott Schukraft, Karen Mertz and Larry Pierce for the time and work they gave to maintaining the lawns and landscape beds. Your dedication is deeply appreciated.

LONG RANGE PLANNING / Visioning Committee

Committee Chair: Frank Mariano

Committee Members: Pastor Grube, Don Kretchmer, Amanda Brezovsky, Keith Brosious

The Long-Range Planning and Visioning Committee focused on two major areas during 2024. One area of focus was a continuation of the exploration of the 6261 process. There were a number of discussions of how does the 6261 process fit both the situation at St Paul's, as well as the Back Mountain area at large.

During the past year, the committee recommended to Council the Narrative Inventory Form that is on the Synod's website. The Inventory was completed by Council over a period of three months and a copy is included with this report for your review. This process culminated with a visit to our November Council meeting with Deacon Kat Tigerman from the Synod Office.

A second area of focus was to continue to work toward the development of a ministry community with Prince of Peace Episcopal Church. To that end we have taken the following steps to work in a cooperative manner with Prince of Peace:

- A sharing of Holy Week Services
- Quarterly Healing Services
- Vacation Bible School
- Development of a Grief Management Group
- Outreach to Prince of Peace Vestry
- Shared worship at Pyramid

A note regarding the Grief Management Group. The co-facilitators of the group are Deacon Barbara Gessner, Linda Keck, and Frank Mariano. The group will meet monthly at St Paul's, and it is anticipated that it will begin during January 2025.

Respectfully Submitted by
Long Range Planning and Visioning Committee

SOCIAL MINISTRY

The Social Ministry Committee ministers to members of our own congregation, our local neighbors, our nation and the world through the following programs:

CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT:

- Mailing weekly bulletins and Word in Season booklets to shut-ins
- Birthday and Anniversary roses
- Sent Valentines Day cards to shut-ins
- Easter gift bags to shut-ins
- Delivered pumpkins to shut-ins from Sunday School children
- Harvest Home donations sent to Back Mountain Food Pantry
- Thanksgiving cards to shut-ins
- Christmas gift bags to shut-ins

COMMUNITY SUPPORT:

- God's Work. Our Hands project – care packages to St. Vincent dePaul
- Collected underwear for Pyramid Healthcare clients
- Collected new sneakers for Head Start children
- Souper Bowl of Caring – cash donations & food collected for Back Mountain Food Pantry
- Prayer Shawl Ministry
-

NATIONAL & WORLD SUPPORT:

- Lutheran Disaster Response
- ELCA World Hunger

All of these programs/projects are completed through the cooperation of our committee members and more importantly, you, the members of St. Paul's. Thank you for your gifts and support to all our endeavors.

Karen Mertz,
Council Liaison

WORSHIP & MUSIC

The responsibilities of the Worship & Music Committee include guidance to those who contribute to our worship services and the coordinators of our various subcommittees.

During Lent we had a mid-week gathering on Tuesdays with Bible Study followed by a brown bag lunch and a short liturgy.

This year, we shared Holy Week Services with Prince of Peace Episcopal Church. Holy Thursday and Easter Sunday were celebrated in our respective churches. Good Friday was held at St. Paul's and the Easter Vigil at Prince of Peace. We had positive feedback so we will continue in 2025 with Prince of Peace hosting Good Friday and St. Paul's the Easter Vigil. We continued working with Prince of Peace by scheduling four healing services, two in each church and starting a monthly grief support group in 2025.

Hymn request cards were placed in the pew racks; you are encouraged to fill them out and deposit them in the "Hymn Box" located in the Narthex.

The committee decided to have a hymn played softly during communion instead of congregation singing hymns.

Listed are some of the notable events that were held in addition to regular Saturday and Sunday services include:

- Holy Week Services were held in conjunction with Prince of Peace Episcopal.
- Pentecost was celebrated – three youth were confirmed.
- Harvest Home was celebrated in conjunction with the Social Ministry Committee; harvest decorations and food display courtesy of the Art and Environment Committee.
- A Healing Service was observed with congregants having the ability to participate in the traditional laying on of hands and anointing with oil.
- There was a celebration of the Reformation with the customary exchange of letters with St. Theresa's and we also exchanged communion elements.

- In November, we celebrated All Saints' Day and this year included a tree branch in the Sanctuary with name tags of those who passed away this year, loved ones from passed years, including names of St. Paul's Charter Members.
- A "Hanging of the Greens" event was held after the Sunday service on December 15. There were over 30 who worked about two hours preparing the Sanctuary and Narthex for Christmas; following the work period, hymns were sung and snacks/pizza were provided.
- Christmas Eve services were held at 4:00 pm (also available on Zoom) and at 7:00 pm.

Thanks to Worship & Music Committee members, worship coordinators, and musicians who support our services throughout the year. Committee members are Pastor Grube, Margaret Quintanar, Marianne Mancke, Jean Grube, Rachele Pryor, Martha Kush and Carol Fett.

ST. PAUL'S BROTHERHOOD

In 2024, St. Paul's Brotherhood served four roast beef dinners for the first time since the Covid 19 outbreak. Thank you to all our volunteers including our church family and friends who have given their time and many talents. Special mention to Boy Scout Troop 241 who helped and provided enthusiastic assistance.

The dates for the 2025 roast beef dinners are April 5, May 17, September 13 and November 1. Dates are subject to postponement or cancelation depending on circumstances that may arise. March 11, 2025 is the next Brotherhood meeting and all are welcome to attend.

During the year, Brotherhood made donations to St. Paul's General Fund and to the Roof Repair Fund. Brotherhood's mission is to serve and support the ministries of St. Paul's.

Officers for 2024 were:	President	Bill Peiffer
	Vice President	Dave Janoski
	Secretary	Keith Brosious
	Treasurer	Brad Ide

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Peiffer, President

ST. PAUL'S DORCAS SOCIETY

Reflecting on 2024, the Women of the Dorcas Society experienced a year of significant accomplishments and generous contributions. The Society's dedication to supporting the General Fund resulted in substantial donations.

Our annual rummage sales proved exceptionally successful. The Spring sale, held on May 3rd and 4th, achieved record-breaking revenue. This success is a testament to the tireless efforts of numerous individuals. We extend our deepest gratitude to all Dorcas members and church members who contributed their time and talents in the weeks leading up to the sales, encompassing donations, sorting, organization, pricing, and baking. Special thanks are also extended to Jim Madonna, Ray Mancke, Shirley Nicely, Stephanie Younger, Peggy Dennis, Tabitha Walter, Debbie from Head Start, Anita Weiss, Pat Kowalek, members of the Brotherhood, and the team from Pyramid Health for their invaluable assistance with the sales and cleanup. Their collective efforts were indispensable to the success of these events.

The year culminated in our Annual Christmas Luncheon on December 10, 2024, at Appletree Terrace. Attendees enjoyed excellent food, music, and fellowship, with entertainment provided by Carl Chimi. In lieu of gift exchange, a donation of \$157.00 was made to the Back Mountain Food Bank.

Looking ahead to 2025, the Society's leadership will comprise: President, Chris Bellezza; Vice-President, Pam Cyphers; Secretary, Rachelle Pryor; and Treasurer, Ruth Ide. Following a recent vote, our monthly meetings will continue to be held on the second Tuesday of each month, but will now commence at 1:00 pm. The exception will be our June meeting, which will be our Annual Picnic/Covered Dish event at 6:00 pm. We will not hold meetings in July or August. All women of the church are warmly invited to join us. Refreshments will be served following each meeting to foster fellowship.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Bellezza, President

Our Heartfelt Thanks

and

Deep Appreciation to



the Members of St. Paul's

for the TIME, TALENTS and FINANCIAL SUPPORT

given to us in 2024!

From the Congregation Council of St. Paul's

Dorcas Benediction

May God be with us to refresh us,

Around us to protect us,

Before us to guide us,

Above us to bless us,

Beneath us to hold us up,

And watch between us,

When we are absent

One from another.

Amen.