

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 25/26, 2025



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

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, dear family in Christ. May you sense the care and guidance of Father, Son and Holy Spirit during worship, faith education and Christian fellowship today.

GOD'S GLORY is revealed in the reading of scripture. People stand at attention. People weep. People prostrate themselves in prayer. The unity of the church is another reflection of God's glory. Most gloriously, the promises of God are fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. Gather round. Listen up. Glimpse the glory of God.

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.

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). Please take a moment to complete it.

LEAVING THE SANCTUARY during worship, please use the side doors with the panic bar latches; they open and close silently. **TURNING OFF** cell phone and other electronic devices is greatly appreciated.

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.

SCRIPTURE READINGS for next weekend are: Malachi 3:1-4, Hebrews 2:14-18, Luke 2:22-40.

GATHERING

Please note: Parts of this service are omitted for Saturday's worship.

PRELUDE

Arise, Your Light Has Come!

Barbara Harbach

BELL, WELCOME, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stand as you are able and turn 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, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life. **Amen.**

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

Merciful God,

You speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In + Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN #314

Arise, Your Light Has Come!

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.

Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Sit.

WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON [SUNDAY]

FIRST READING

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

The exiles have returned and rebuilt Jerusalem. Now Ezra, the priest, reads the law of Moses to them in the public square. When they hear it, they weep for their sins and for the long years in exile, but Ezra reminds them that “the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

A reading from Nehemiah:

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand, and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law...And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people, and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces

to the ground...So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord, and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-31A

The apostle and pastor Paul uses the metaphor of the human body to describe how intimately connected we are in the church. For this struggling congregation in Corinth, Paul delivers a vital message of unity that is a mark of the church today.

A reading from 1 Corinthians:

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect, whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But

God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work powerful deeds? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

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

Luke 4:14-21

Near the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, he visits his hometown of Nazareth. In the words of Isaiah, he states and claims his identity, purpose and mission.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Then Jesus, in the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding region. He began to teach in their synagogues and

was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

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

Sit.

SERMON

Stand as you are able for the Hymn.

HYMN OF THE DAY #715 *Christ, Be Our Light*

COUNCIL INSTALLATION

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

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

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **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. Sit.

ANTHEM

We Are Marching in the Light
Senior Choir and Chime Choir

South African Traditional

Please sign the blue pew pads as you listen to the anthem.

MEAL

Stand as you are able as the offering is presented.

OFFERTORY #184

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful, Lord



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.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERING PRAYER

The assisting minister leads the prayer.

Let us pray.

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.

Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING


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




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



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



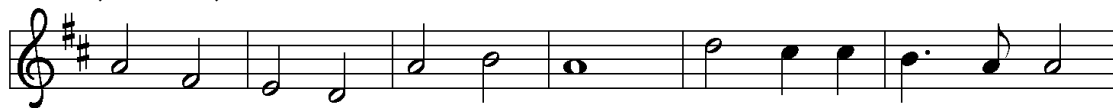
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ... 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, mighty Lord, gracious Father:...we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

Join our prayers with those of your servants...almighty Father, now and 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Break the bread.

The joy of the Lord is our strength.

Come, eat this meal of gladness.

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.

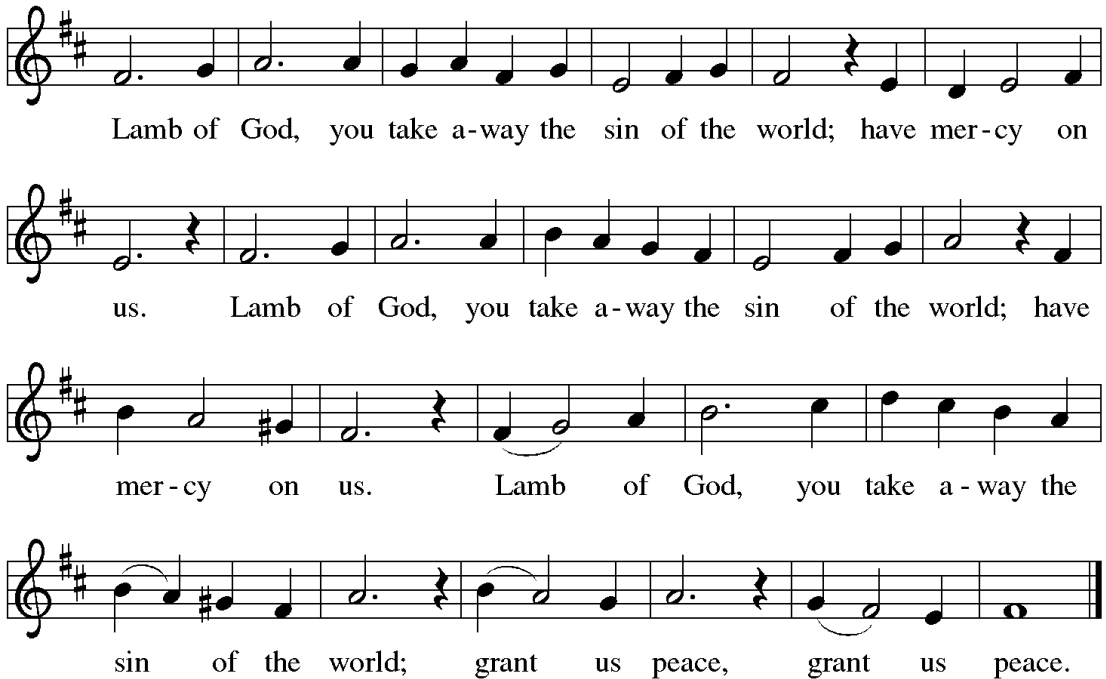
Distribution around the predella step

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The assisting minister leads the prayer.

Let us pray.

Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,

Amen.

SENDING

The service concludes with the blessing and the dismissal.

BLESSING

The Spirit of the triune God + bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN # 674

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Mark Sedio

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SERVING AS WORSHIP LEADERS

Greeter:	Annie Bisher
Acolyte:	Morgan Holbrook
Lector:	Gail Smallwood
Assisting Minister:	Gail Smallwood
Communion Bread:	Martha Kush
Saturday Altar Set Up:	Cookie Fetterman
Sunday Altar Clean Up:	Gail Smallwood
Minister of Technology:	Marissa Miller

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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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SANCTUARY FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God, in Memory of Loved Ones, by Diane Thompson.

COUNCIL INSTALLATION: Congratulations to Gail Ide, Pat Peiffer, Larry Pierce and Bruce Thomas for their re-election to St. Paul's Congregation Council during the annual meeting last Sunday. The first meeting of the new term will be Tuesday, February 4 at 7:00 pm and all Council members will be installed this Sunday for the 2025/2026 term.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS have been given in Memory of Bill Smith, to the Building Improvement Fund for Roof Repairs, by Geri Williams, Joan Williams, Fran Dierolf, Nancy Eckert, Joseph & Mary Wadzin, Judith Vietz, Lois Gdovin and Michael & Maureen Schuler.

SPAGHETTI DINNER and NEWLYWED GAME – The 100th Anniversary Committee will be sponsoring a Spaghetti Dinner and Newlywed Game in the Social Hall on Saturday, February 8, from 4:00-6:00 pm. Dinner includes spaghetti with meat balls, salad, rolls, dessert and beverages, all for just \$5.00! The Newlywed Game will begin at 6:30 pm and will feature three couples who will be quizzed on their knowledge of their spouses; sure to be an enlightening event! There is a sign-up poster in the Narthex or call the church office at 570.675.3859/email at stpaul@epix.net; deadline to sign-up is **February 2**.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: The meeting was held on Sunday, January 19 at 1:00 pm following a covered-dish luncheon. There being a quorum, Council Vice-President Frank Mariano began the meeting by thanking all those who attended, as well as the members of Council for their work and dedication to the church, and invited Pastor Grube to lead the group in prayer. In his report, Pastor shared his deep gratitude for the care and support he and Jean have received from the congregation, and expressed his optimism and hopes for the future of the church. He is looking forward to the celebration of the church's 100th year of ministry and the anniversary events. Frank reviewed the council committee reports and noted that 2024 had been a challenging year for St. Paul's finances and property. The loss of the Early Intervention program caused the church to lose more than \$30,000 in annual revenue and to date the church has not been able to find another non-profit tenant. He encouraged members to share ideas of possible tenants with the council. The next large property project is to replace the roofs over the social hall, administrative wing and Narthex; total cost will be at least \$47,500. Council approved a recommendation to complete a temporary repair over the winter to the roof over the Narthex, which will cost \$2,000. The council and the Long-Range Planning Committee are working with Synod Deacon Kat Tigerman to study the possibility of entering into a 6261 partnership with other area churches. Council is in the process of finding other churches who might be interested in a partnership. Frank noted that a 6261 partnership includes the involvement of licensed lay ministers (LLM) who can conduct worship and carry out some pastoral duties; if any member of the congregation is interested in learning more about LLMs, please contact Frank. A new grief support group, in conjunction with Prince of Peace Episcopal Church, has begun meeting monthly at St. Paul's. There was no Old Business; under New Business, the proposed 2025 budget was approved. Upon the conclusion of their first terms on council, Gail Ide, Pat Peiffer, Larry Pierce and Bruce Thomas agreed to run for second terms and were re-elected. Pastor presented recommended revisions to St. Paul's constitution and the revisions were approved. Annie Bisher, chair of the 100th Anniversary Committee, presented a schedule of anniversary activities for the year and thanked her committee for their ongoing efforts. Committee member Julie Holbrook is working on a photo history of St. Paul's and is looking for photos of St. Paul's pastors, especially those who served before Pastor Baer; if anyone has any such photos, please contact Julie. The meeting ended at 1:45 pm with the Dorcas Benediction.

UNDERWEAR COLLECTION – Pyramid Health Care in Dallas houses men and women who are making an effort to rehabilitate their lives. The administrator told us that some of their clients come to the facility with very little clothing or personal items and sometimes with only the clothes they are wearing. Many of the clients have helped St. Paul's by assisting with our Rummage Sales and Landscaping and we would like to show our appreciation and help them out in turn. Presently we are asking our members to purchase men's and women's socks and underwear in various sizes. Clean new undergarments make people feel fresh and comfortable. There will be a basket in the Narthex to accept your gifts. This project will run throughout the month of January. If you have any questions, please call Karen Mertz at 570.255.4065. Thank you for your support of this Social Ministry Project.

MAKE SOUP & BUY SOUP - Support Bear Creek Campers with Soup! Our annual Soup Sale is approaching. Now is the time to decide what soup you'd like to make and donate. Soon you'll get to decide what type of soup you want to eat. Here are some important dates for St. Paul's upcoming Soup Sale: **Starting Today** ~ Empty Soup Containers will be available for pick up after worship services. **February 8 to 15** ~ Place your frozen and labeled containers of soup in the white freezer just inside the pantry of the church's kitchen; **February 15 & 16 until Sold Out** ~ Soup is available after worship services. Take home to enjoy! This fundraiser helps to send interested children from St Paul's Sunday School to Bear Creek Camp for a week of outdoor fun and spiritual growth. **NEW THIS YEAR:** several loaves of homemade sourdough bread will be available to purchase to enjoy with your soup – thank you to Jodi Sprau for making and donating the bread for our sale.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS: Join us for the Annual Bible Bowl to be held February 8th during the Sunday School Hour. Work together as a team to see who has the most knowledge about the Bible. All are welcome to this event and the question is – who will be the winner?

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING: This event is celebrated the same day that Super Bowl LIX is played. It is a time to enjoy the game while also thinking of those who do not have enough to eat. On February 8/9, two soup pots will be in the Narthex, one marked with the logo of the AFC champion and the other for the NFC Champion. Please 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. Donations received will be given to the Back Mountain Food Pantry.



BEAR CREEK CAMP

Join us during the Sunday School hour on February 16 to hear more about the 2025 Bear Creek Summer Camp. This year's theme is All Together.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS – St. Paul's will be hosting an American Red Cross Blood Drive on Monday, March 3, from Noon until 4:30 pm in the Social Hall. This is a community wide event and the expectation of the Red Cross is that there will be at least twenty donors. Starting next week, there will be a sign up in the Narthex for you to indicate that you will be a donor.

COPIES OF THE 2025 Church Phone Directory are available in the Narthex; please feel free to take one. If you have had a change of mailing address, email address, and/or phone number, please notify the church office at stpaul@epix.net or (570.675.3859). Please help us to keep you informed!

THE BACK MOUNTAIN Food Pantry is in need of the following items: ramen noodles, applesauce, jelly, juice, pancake syrup, stuffing, pork & beans, canned fruit & vegetables, boxed mashed potatoes, Hamburger Helper, canned meats and soups. Your donations may be placed in the grocery cart in the hallway by the Social Hall. Thank you for your donations and continued prayers for the Food Pantry and their clients.

PRAYER LIST - Please remember to ask permission from the person you are placing on the prayer list. **Pray for the Congregation of St. Luke, Archbald.**

Pray for those suffering illness: *Members:* Jim Bellezza, Annie & Marty Bisher, Mary Lou Button, Pam Cyphers, Margaret Edwards, Cheryl Everhart, Marge Fritzingler, Robert Kline, Marissa Miller, Rachelle Pryor, Betty Schray, Carol Swanson, John Thomas, Anita Weiss, Alyson Wood.

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: Robert Binger, Tammy Blair, Kathy Boston, Judy C., Marjorie Catania, Larry Carroll, Mike D., Janice DeFebo, Manfred Diel, Gene Eyerman, Rich Fufaro, Lori H., Tom Hubbard, Jenn Hubbard, Christine Ide, Linda Johnson, Jack Jones, Michael Kaminski, Bradley Kessler, Jacqueline Kretz, Alice Laskowski, Carl London, Todd Lozo, Audrey Mace, Carol Marker, Wanda McCall, Sue & Dan McConnell, Dwight McKee, Rob Merritt, Carl Miers, Baby Miles, Patty N., Tim Nulton, Helen O'Brien, Peg O'Brien, Alice O'Neil, Megan Ortega, Nancy Ott, Pastor Mary Owens, Sarah P., Megan Sheehan Palmer, Ryleigh Phillips, Coleman Plecker, Paul Pryor, Febe Quintanar, Lloyd and Bonnie Ryman, Marilyn Roll Shaver, Nancy Shymanski, Sandy Sprau, Sandra Stankiewicz, Joe Stephanovich, Stevens Family, Benjamin Szostak, Raymah Tasco, Abigail Thomas, Arnold Thompson, Judi Vietz and family, Jere Vietz, Tabitha Walters, Bill Ward, Karen Wise, Woody Wolfe, Peg Wyda, Mary Z., Paul Zawadzki, Ashley, Bethann, Bruce, Cindy, Keith, Kim, Diane, Mark, Mary, Rosemary, Morgan, Lori, Lisa, Josh, Lisa, Greg, Megan, Rob, Josh (no last names given).

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

- Today: 8:30 am Chime Practice
 9:30 am Worship
 10:45 am Sunday School
 5:00 pm Cub Scouts
 6:30 pm Boy Scouts
- Monday: 6:30 pm Back Mountain Railroad Club Meeting
- Tuesday: 10:30 am Bible Study
 7:00 pm Worship and Music Meeting
- Thursday: 6:00 pm Set Up for Scouts Pinewood Derby
 7:00 pm Choir Practice
- Friday: Adult Pinewood Derby
- Saturday: 11:00 am Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby
 5:30 pm Worship
- Sunday: 8:30 am Chime Practice
 9:30 am Worship
 10:45 am Sunday School
 11:45 am 100th Anniversary Committee Meeting