

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany  
February 22/23, 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](mailto:stpaul@epix.net)  
Website: [www.stpaulsdallaspa.org](http://www.stpaulsdallaspa.org)

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

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

## TODAY'S WORSHIP

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP.** Friends and friends-to-be, we welcome you to this time of worship, faith education and Christian fellowship. May the Word of God nourish you for your life and ministry in the days to come.

**MERCY. MERCY. MERCY.** Joseph lives it in Egypt. Jesus preaches it in the gospel. The Spirit guides us into merciful lives with the power of forgiveness to reconcile what is fractured and divided. Such merciful living is the baptismal blessing of having put on Christ. It is the gift of the life-giving Spirit. It is a reflection of God's glory revealed in Christ.

**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: Exodus 34:29-35, 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2, and Luke 9:28-36.

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## GATHERING

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

### PRELUDE

*Oh, Praise the Gracious Power*  
Fanfare and Trumpet Tune

Wayne L. Wold

### 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 #707

*Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us*

## **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.

O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Sit.*

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## **WORD**

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### **CHILDREN'S SERMON [SUNDAY]**

#### **FIRST READING**

**Genesis 45:3-11, 15**

*Many years after being sold into slavery by his jealous brothers, Joseph reveals himself to them. Now the second-in-command in Egypt, Joseph reassures his brothers that God has used their evil intentions for good to preserve life during a devastating famine, and Joseph forgives them.*

A reading from Genesis:

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all

Egypt; come down to me; do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there, since there are five more years of famine to come, so that you and your household and all that you have will not come to poverty.' ...And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

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

## **SECOND READING**

## **1 CORINTHIANS 15:35-38, 42-50**

*In the Apostles' Creed, we speak of the "resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting."*

*Using the metaphor of a planted seed and the story of Adam, Paul preaches passionately about the mystery of following Christ's perfect life into eternity.*

A reading from 1 Corinthians:

But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen and to each kind of seed its own body...So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first but the physical and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, made of dust; the second man is from heaven. As one of dust, so are those who are of the dust, and as one of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the one of dust, we will also bear the image of the one of heaven. What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

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 6:27-38**

*Jesus continues to address a crowd of his disciples. He invites his followers to shower radical love, blessing, forgiveness, generosity, and trust even on enemies and outsiders. Living in harmony with God's intent brings the reward of overflowing blessing.*

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

“But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again. Do to others as you would have them do to you. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running

over, will be put into your lap, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

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

*Sit.*

## **SERMON**

*Stand as you are able for the Hymn.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY #651**    *Oh, Praise the Gracious Power*

## **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 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

*Oh, Praise the Gracious Power*  
Aria [Organ]

Wayne L. Wold

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



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## MEAL

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*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.*

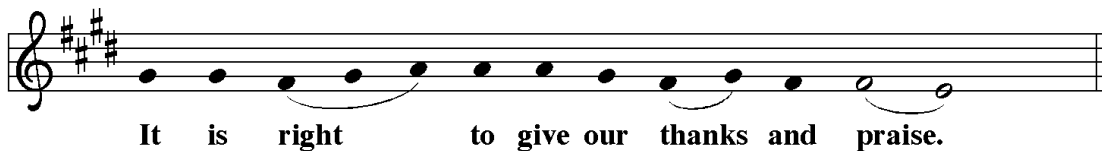
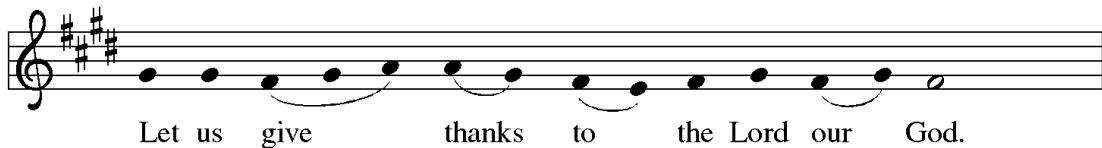
Let us pray.

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.**

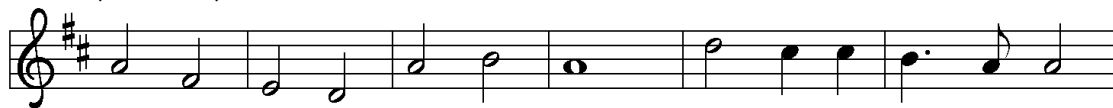
## GREAT THANKSGIVING

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



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.*

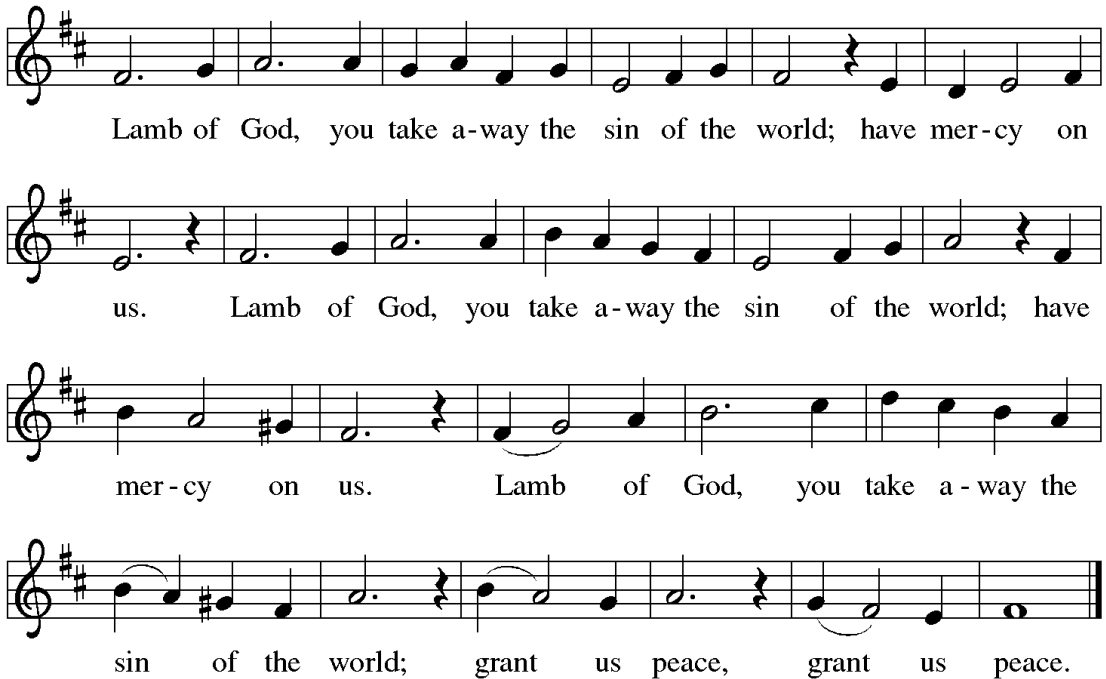
### ***Distribution around the predella step***

*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.**

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## SENDING

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*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 # 608

*Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling*

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope.

**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

Finale: *Oh, Praise the Gracious Power*

Wayne L. Wold

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### SERVING AS WORSHIP LEADERS

Greeter: Karen Mertz  
Acolyte: Nick Pyett  
Assisting Minister/Lector: 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 Loving Memory of Tom Mertz, by his family. **BULLETINS** are given to the Glory of God in Memory of Patrick Duffy, by the Duffy family.

**TALENT SHOW** – St. Paul's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration continues with our Mardi Gras Celebration and Talent show! On Tuesday, March 4, at 6:30 pm, join the party before the discipline of Lent begins. Enjoy desserts, silly games, friends and all the talent! Sign up in the Narthex to attend and to enter your song, dance, joke, slam poem, improv, skit, performance art, dramatic reading, experimental rhythmic quartet, instructional video or whatever else you want to show off. Get in touch with Trish Brosious ([foundationsdressage@hotmail.com](mailto:foundationsdressage@hotmail.com) or text 570-499-2774) with any questions.

**THE SOUP IS FOR SALE!** – You can buy your soup this weekend after services. If there is soup left after this week, it will be for sale next week, and so on until it is sold out. \$10 for a container and \$2 for a loaf of sourdough bread. Donations of any amount gladly accepted. All proceeds go toward sending interested youth from St. Paul's to Bear Creek Camp.

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER** service is scheduled for Friday, March 7, beginning at 1:00 pm at Prince of Peace Episcopal Church, 420 Main St., Dallas. All are welcome to attend. Also, cookies are needed for the reception; if you are willing to donate a dozen, please contact Annie Bisher at 570.674.1277.

**PYRAMID COLLECTION:** Male clients of Pyramid Health often need clothes, shoes and coats, in addition to underwear and socks. If you have any used men's clothing, shoes and coats you would like to donate, please place them in bags and bring them to the church during the month of February. Please place your bags by the grocery cart in the hallway by the Social Hall doors. Many thanks from the Social Ministry Committee for your help.

**RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE** – Monday, March 3 from Noon until 4:30 pm. Walk-ins are welcome but appointments are helpful; please visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and use Sponsor Code: St Pauls Dallas or you can enter your zip code to search for St. Paul's Blood Drive. All presenting donors will receive an American Red Cross St. Patrick's Day-themed T-Shirt while supplies last. The Red Cross is looking for a minimum of 20 donors so if you are planning to donate, either by going on-line or as a walk-in, please sign the sign-up sheet in the Narthex; this is a community wide event so please share with family and friends.

**PALMS REQUESTED** – If you kept your palms from last year's Palm Sunday service, please bring them to church by Wednesday, February 26. In keeping with tradition, palms from the previous year are burned on Transfiguration (March 2) to make the ashes to be used on Ash Wednesday.

**ASH WEDNESDAY IS APPROACHING**– Ash Wednesday, March 5, will begin with Private Meditation with Imposition of Ashes (optional) from 7:00 – 9:00 am, followed by the Ash Wednesday Service with Communion and Imposition of Ashes (optional) at 7:00 pm. Prince of Peace Episcopal Church is offering Ash Wednesday services at 12:15 and 7:00 pm.

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

**THE ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP** will meet at St. Paul's on Thursday, March 6, at 10:00 am in the Narthex. This group is open to anyone who might be a caregiver or dealing with a loved one with Alzheimer's.



## THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Today: 8:30 am Chime Practice  
9:30 am Worship  
10:45 am Sunday School  
Monday: 6:30 pm Back Mountain Railroad Club meeting  
Tuesday: 10:30 am Bible Study  
7:00 pm Worship and Music meeting  
Thursday: 7:00 pm Choir Practice  
Saturday: 5:30 pm Worship  
Sunday: 8:30 am Chime Practice; 9:30 am Worship  
10:45 am Sunday School  
11:45 am 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee meeting  
5:00 pm Cub Scouts; 6:30 pm Boy Scouts

**PRAYER LIST** - Please remember to ask permission from the person you are placing on the prayer list. **Pray for our Congregation – St. Paul's Dallas.**

**Pray for those suffering illness:** *Members:* Jim Bellezza, Annie & Marty Bisher, Mary Lou Button, Pam Cyphers, Margaret Edwards, Cheryl Everhart, Marge Fritzinger, Jean Grube, Robert Kline, Rachele Pryor, Greta Ruckno, 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](mailto:stpaul@epix.net) if you desire a name to remain on the list beyond that time.

***Family & Friends:*** Robert Binger, Tammy Blair, Judy C., Marjorie Catania, Janice DeFebo, Manfred Diel, Gene Eyeran, Rich Fufaro, Jenn Hubbard, Christine Ide, Jack Jones, Michael Kaminski, Joe Kerestes, Bradley Kessler, Alice Laskowski, Carl London, Todd Lozo, Audrey Mace, Carol Marker, Sue & Dan McConnell, Dwight McKee, Rob Merritt, Carl Miers, Patty N., Tim Nulton, Helen O'Brien, Alice O'Neil, Nancy Ott, Megan Sheehan Palmer, Ryleigh Phillips, Paul Pryor, Febe Quintanar, Lloyd and Bonnie Ryman, Nancy Shymanski, Sandy Sprau, Sandra Stankiewicz, Joe Stephanovich, Stevens Family, Benjamin Szostak, Raymah Tasco, Abigail Thomas, Arnold Thompson, Judi Vietz and family, Jere Vietz, Bill Ward, Karen Wise, Woody Wolfe, Peg Wyda, Mary Z., Paul Zawadzki, Ashley, Bethann, Bruce, Cindy, Keith, Kim, Diane, Mary, Rosemary, Morgan, Lori, Greg, Josh, Ryan and Rebecca (no last names given).