

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

## **April 2025**

Phone: 570-675-3859 Fax: 570-675-5646 Email: stpaul@epix.net

Web Page:

www.stpaulsdallaspa.org

Rev Charles H. Grube, Pastor Home Phone: 570-696-2688 In-person worship and communion Saturday, 5:30 pm | Sunday, 9:30 am Sunday School 10:45 am (Sept. thru May) Please continue to visit our website at <a href="https://www.stpaulsdallaspa.org">www.stpaulsdallaspa.org</a> for worship resources to use as you are able, and to join our Live Stream Zoom meeting at 9:30 am on Sunday.



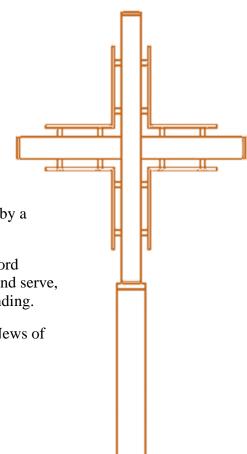
#### ST. PAUL'S MISSION STATEMENT

St. Paul's Lutheran Church is a family called together by God and united by a common faith.

Our mission is to share with all people God's Love and Grace through Word and Sacrament. Through the Holy Spirit, we are empowered to witness and serve, treating one another with Love, Compassion, Forgiveness, and Understanding.

By our commitments, actions, deeds, and resources, we share the Good News of Jesus Christ, reaching out to our Community, Nation, and World.

Adopted May 1993



#### ST. PAUL'S STAFF

Pastor Rev. Charles H. Grube
Office Staff Gail Smallwood & Carol Fett
Dir. of Music/Organist
Youth Choir Dir. Jean Grube
Minister of Technology
Sexton Marissa Miller
James Madonna

Sunday School Superintendent Tony Linnen Financial Secretary Ruth Ide

#### CONGREGATION COUNCIL

2027/2028 2025/2026 2026/2027 Cathy Ridout\* Frank Mariano\* Larry Pierce\* Don Kretchmer Gail Smallwood\* **Bruce Thomas** Tony Linnen Marissa Miller\* Gail Ide Julie Holbrook Amanda Brezovsky Pat Peiffer \*Final Term

#### CONGREGATION OFFICERS

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

#### STANDING COMMITTEES

Marissa Miller, Tony Linnen, Christian Education Julie Holbrook & Amanda Brezovsky Communications Marissa Miller/Gail Smallwood Evangelism Fellowship Julie Holbrook, Larry Pierce Finance Bruce Thomas, Pat Peiffer, Carol Fett **Head Start** Carol Fett Cathy Ridout & Gail Ide Health Ministry Landscaping Tony Linnen Long Range Planning Frank Mariano/ Don Kretchmer, Amanda Brezovsky Bruce Thomas, Pat Peiffer, **Property** Carol Fett & Frank Mariano Salary Review Frank Mariano Social Ministry Larry Pierce Staff Support Frank Mariano, Don Kretchmer Worship & Music Pat Peiffer

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#### **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**



The next issue of the GOOD NEWS will be the May 2025 issue and the deadline for all submissions will be

Noon on Sunday, April 20, 2025.

<u>PRAYER LIST -</u> Please remember to ask permission from the person you are placing on the prayer list. Pray for the Congregations –St. John, Nanticoke and St. Mark, Pond Hill.

Pray for those suffering illness: Members: Chris Bellezza, Annie & Marty Bisher, Mary Lou Button, Pam Cyphers, Margaret Edwards, Cheryl Everhart, Marge Fritzinger, Jean Grube, Robert Kline, Emilia Policare, Rachelle Pryor, Greta Ruckno, Betty Schray, Gerald Siperko, Carol Swanson, John Thomas, Jack Traver, Anita Weiss, 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 <a href="mailto:stpaul@epix.net">stpaul@epix.net</a> if you desire a name to remain on the list beyond that time.

Family & Friends: Robert Binger, Judy C., Marjorie Catania, Janice DeFebo, John Diel, Manfred Diel, Gene Eyerman, Jeffrey Farley, Thomas Fortner, Rich Fufaro, Nancy & Christopher Gillies, Jenn Hubbard, Christine Ide, Michael Kaminski, Joe Kerestes, Bradley Kessler, Elsie Kosmach, Rebecca & Ryan Kozloski, Alice Laskowski, Carl London, Todd Lozo, Audrey Mace, Carol Marker, Debbie Maskalis, Sue & Dan McConnell, Dwight McKee, Bryant Mesick, Rob Merritt, Patty N., Tim Nulton, Helen O'Brien, Peg O'Brien, Alice O'Neil, Nancy Ott, Megan Sheehan Palmer, Ryleigh Phillips, Paul Pryor, Toni Quinn, Febe Quintanar, Lisa Rowe, Lloyd and Bonnie Ryman, Marilyn Roll Shaver, Nancy Shymanski, Debbie Smith, Mark Sokolowski, 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, Justin (no last names given).

#### **SPECIAL DATES**

- Roast Beef Dinner, April 5, 2025
- Palm/Passion Sunday, April 13, 2025
- Maundy Thursday, April 17, 2025
- Good Friday, *April 18, 2025*
- Easter Vigil, *April 19, 2025*
- Easter, April 20, 2025



#### Updates from the March 11, 2025 meeting:

Worship & Music: Maundy Thursday service will be held at 7:00 pm here at St. Paul's; Prince of Peace Episcopal Church will host joint services at Noon on Good Friday; St. Paul's will host joint services at 7:00 pm for the Saturday Easter Vigil.

**Communication**: The laptop used for Zoom services is not working properly and we're sorry for the inconvenience – it has been taken for repairs.

Finance/Property: The 2024 outside audit of all financial and investment accounts, including Dorcas and Brotherhood, has been completed. Two HVAC units needed repairs in February; the temporary repairs to the flat roof have been completed. Pastor reported on the recent "Chat & Chew" discussion with Bishop deForest, Synod staff and members of the Scranton/WB Mission District at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Hughestown. It was noted that there are currently 40 Licensed Lay Ministers in the NEPA Synod and 10 more are on track to begin training. There are 237 congregations in the synod being served by 80 pastors, and there are 200 retired pastors. Nationwide, there are 120 pastoral graduates this year from seven seminaries.

**Christian Education**: will be continuing with the theme of our Lutheran Heritage and will be having a Palm Sunday "Lenten Eggs" event.

The next Council meeting will be on Tuesday, April 1 at 7:00 pm.

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"Resurrection means that the worst thing is never the last thing."

—Frederick Buechner

#### **EARTH-SHAKING VICTORY**

On Ash Wednesday in 2001, a 6.8 magnitude earthquake shook the Seattle area. Charlie and Ann Lewis, co-pastors in Snohomish, Washington, reflected on the timing: "While most years we prefer to think of Lent as a contemplative journey of faith as we walk with Jesus toward Jerusalem and the cross, this year we are thinking of how God turned the world upside down at Calvary. From the cross, Jesus cried out with a loud voice, and his life was finished. Then the earth shook violently, the curtain in the temple was torn in two and rocks were split apart. The God who identified with us in our humanity in the incarnation of Jesus Christ demonstrated in that moment the depth of divine love for us — a love that leads God to choose the path of suffering and sacrifice.

"Three days later, the earth shook again — another violent earthquake, and the stone in front of the tomb was rolled away. Then the crucified Christ threw aside the burial cloths, emerging from the darkness of the tomb to walk in the dew of the grass as dawn was breaking across the sky. God had declared victory over sin and death itself. That victory was for us. ... God has given us a glorious life that extends into eternity."

#### HOLY WEEK AT A GLANCE

**Sunday, April 13:** Palm/Passion Sunday; worship at 9:30 am, also on Zoom; worship starts in Narthex

**Thursday, April 17:** Maundy Thursday; worship at 7:00 pm, also on Zoom

Friday, April 18: Good Friday; worship at
Prince of Peace Church at noon, no evening
service at St. Paul's

**Saturday, April 19:** Easter Vigil; combined worship with Prince of Peace Church at St. Paul's at 7:00 pm, also on Zoom

**Sunday, April 20:** Resurrection of Our Lord, worship at 9:30 am, also on Zoom; no Sunday School



#### Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ.

The single most important event of our faith and salvation is marked this month with a single. three-day long liturgy that begins Thursday and ends Saturday. The passion, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus consumes our attention as we walk with him to his last supper

with his disciples, the new commandment, and footwashing, his arrest, trial, crucifixion, death, and burial, and the astonishing news of the empty tomb and his resurrection from death. That we share this continuous liturgy with our sisters and brothers of Prince of Peace Episcopal Church makes it an even richer experience. Plan on joining the community as we mark this story of our salvation. See the schedule of times and locations in this newsletter.

> Paschal blessings to you, **Pastor**



#### LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Our Lent season Bible This Week weekly Bible study continues this month for the weeks leading up to Holy Week. The final study will be April 8.

We gather Tuesday mornings at 10:30 to dwell in the scriptures for the coming week's worship, share our thoughts and reflections, and engage God's word to us. At 11:30 we move to the social hall for a brown bag lunch, with beverages and dessert provided. Then we end our time when we're ready with a short prayer service featuring Responsive Prayer, or Suffrages, with an introduction to our prayer time and with a look at our Monday saint, a saint of the church who is commemorated that Monday.

These commemorations feature a variety of saints known for a variety of works and give us a glimpse into the faith and lives of models for us in our own lives. Come join the gathering in these final weeks before Holy Week and Easter.







After our forty-day season of Lent, this month finally brings us to the passion and resurrection stories of Holy Week and Easter. We mark our second annual exchange with our sisters and brothers of Prince of Peace Episcopal Church for celebrating Holy Week together. We will again have our own service on Maundy Thursday, April 17, at 7:00 pm with Holy Communion and Individual Absolution. Our common Good Friday service, April 18, will be at Prince of Peace at noon with Father Rafferty presiding and Pastor Grube preaching. Our Easter Vigil service, April 19, will be at St. Paul's at 7:00 pm with Pastor Grube presiding and Father Rafferty preaching – please note the service will begin outside under the Porte Cochere; our usual Saturday service at 5:30 pm will not be held that evening.

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We celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Sunday, April 20 and bring back the Alleluia we have buried for Lent. Our regular worship begins at 9:30, and there is no Sunday School that day, as is

our usual practice.

What is unusual about this year's Easter Sunday is that in celebration of our congregational anniversary, there will be an Easter breakfast from 8:00-9:00 am before worship. Look for the sign-up sheet so those who prepare the breakfast will have an idea of how many to plan for. Break your fast that morning together with other Easter worshipers.



THE 100<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Committee is busy planning upcoming

events and wants to remind you of the next event on April 20: An Easter Breakfast! Sausage, French toast sticks, fruit, juice, coffee, muffins, etc. will be served from 8:00-9:00 am. Please sign up in the Narthex to attend by April 13 (Palm Sunday). Price is \$5.00, payable at the door. The committee is looking for members to help with setup and clean up; please look for a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Thank you!

† † †



It may seem rather early to have a sign-up poster for our May 25 Pig Roast Picnic, but by April 15, we need to give an approximate number attending to our Pigmeister. Per the anniversary flyer that was included in the March

newsletter, please RSVP as soon as you know how many in your household will be attending, by either signing up in the Narthex or by calling or emailing the church (570.675.3859 / stpaul@epix.net).

The following anniversary note was mailed to the church office:

Brothers and Sisters in Christ – Greetings!

As you celebrate 100 years of ministry with a major gathering on May 25, know that my thoughts will be with you. I will not be present due to a three week trip to the southern USA.

So congrats!!! But as always keep looking forward where God will be calling you to new ministries for many years to come! May God continue to bless the wonderful family of St. Paul's.

Peace, Pastor Rothrock When we celebrated our anniversary in January with a historical liturgy from the 1917 *Common Service Book*, more than one of our children asked about and



were disappointed and a little put out by the fact that the service did not include a children's sermon. Put out because they have come to expect that they are an integral part of our worshiping community, and in this case, from their perspective, they were excluded.

St. Paul's has long engaged and included the children of our community with integrity and value. Their participation in worship and the life of the community, including in leadership roles, and their formation in the faith and in worship by their parents in the pew and in their own home, are clear indications that they do belong. It is common for an acolyte to step in and help with the distribution of communion when the scheduled acolyte is absent, for example. One of our acolytes asks to stand and greet the people after worship even when they do not serve that day. Most of our young families are seated together close to the action and the children are engaged.

This is critical to the life and mission of our congregation now and for the future, and St. Paul's has a wonderful history and culture of nurturing that sees value in them, supporting their causes, engaging their activities, and encouraging their service. In fact, it has become so common and expected among us that it may be only when there is an exception, like a historical liturgy without a children's sermon, or a visit to another church where children are seen but not heard (if they are present at all), that it becomes obvious.

This is what our synod's emphasis on Growing Young is all about, and has long been an integral component of St. Paul's mission. Thank you for your role in forming and supporting one another, especially our children and youth, in faithful life and service, even if it's just with a simple smile from a distance.



#### **GRIEF BLANKET PROJECT**

It's fleece blanket making time! Please join the Social Ministry Committee to make blankets for the children attending Grief Camp at Hillside Farm this summer. We will meet in the social hall at 10:00 am on the following dates: April 7, 9, 14, 16, and 23; May 5, 7, 12 and 14. No experience needed –you just need to cut strips. If you have any questions, please contact Marianne Mancke.

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#### MOTHER'S DAY BLANKET PROJECT

This year we continue to support Church World Services with gifts of blankets in honor and remembrance of mothers, grandmothers, wives, aunts, sisters, daughters and friends. These blankets are very basic and provide warmth and shelter for those less fortunate around the world – and now, more than ever, with devastation for world conflicts and natural disasters, the need is greater than ever before.

"Blanket Envelopes" are included in this newsletter, or you may make your donation via our website, stpaulsdallaspa.org, and click on the On-line Giving link, then looking for the Mother's Day Blankets icon. If you have questions about on-line giving, please contact Carol Fett at cafett54@gmail.com, or call 570.852.9176. Checks should be made payable to St. Paul's/Blankets for your donation of \$5.00 per blanket. An order form is also enclosed which may be folded and placed inside the envelope if you would like your name included in the bulletin on Mother's Day. Please remember to return your envelope no later than Sunday, May 4.

Thank you for your support of this Social Ministry project!





### GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

The congregations of St. Paul's and Prince of Peace Episcopal Church have entered into a shared ministry

to offer a grief support group to people who have experienced a loss. The group is led by Frank Mariano and Lida Keck, from St. Paul's, and Deacon Barbara Gessner from Prince of Peace; local funeral director Ted Horn also is a group facilitator.

While the group usually meets on the third Thursday of each month at St. Paul's, the April session has been moved to Wednesday, April 16 at 6:30 pm, to allow for Maundy Thursday worship on April 17.

This group is an on-going group and is not timelimited; it is open to everyone in the community in need of support following a loss. Sessions also will be available on Zoom. For more information, please contact Frank at fmm329@gmail.com.

#### WHOSE JOB IS IT?

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

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"There are always flowers for those who want to see them."

—Henry Matisse

#### **MISSION DISTRICT NEWS**

Spring brings with it the assemblies of the church, and this spring is no exception. The Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Mission District will gather in assembly Wednesday evening, April 23, 7:00 pm on Zoom. The Northeastern PA Synod assembly will be Friday and Saturday, May 30-31, at Christ Hamilton United Lutheran Church, Stroudsburg. Voting members from congregations serve as delegates to these assemblies and we are looking for people interested in serving our congregation in that way. But both assemblies are open to anyone interested in attending as a visitor. Contact the office, Pastor Grube, or a member of the Congregation Council to share your interest or to answer your questions. Or learn more about the synod assembly on the synod's website, https://nepasynod.org/, under the Events tab, 2025 Synod Assembly.

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#### ARGENTINA – OUR COMPANION SYNOD

Are you curious about life and the church in our companion synod, Argentina? The Northeastern PA Synod and Bishop deForest are hosting a Global Companion Synod visit to Argentina/Uruguay June 12-22. While past visits to Argentina and Uruguay have been youth trips, this trip is for adults, and will cover the breadth of Argentina's vast country, from Buenos Aires and Iguazu in the north to Patagonia in the south, and will explore the Lutheran churches and their ministry in those regions, too. The cost will be about \$2000. Contact Pastor Grube or our synod's Global Partner Coordinator, Pastor Michele Kaufman, at kaufman19@verizon.net to share your interest or questions.

#### **LABYRINTH WALKS**



On Wednesday, April 16, and on the third Wednesday of each month thereafter, the labyrinth will be available for anyone from

St. Paul's and the public to use from 3:00-6:00 pm. Watch for reminders about the labyrinth in church bulletins.

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#### **REQUESTS FOR BIBLES**

Each month when Pastor Grube leads worship at Pyramid, he often receives requests from residents for a Bible. To support them in their recovery journey, Pastor would like to provide copies of a helpful version, the Life Recovery Bible. If you would like to contribute to the purchase of one of these Bibles, you can make a donation in the basket/box/receptacle located in the Narthex.

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St. Paul's Brotherhood will hold its first roast beef dinner of the year on Saturday, April 5, from 4:00-6:30 pm. This sit-down dinner will feature roast beef and gravy, mashed potatoes, two vegetables, a dinner roll, pepper hash, beverages and dessert. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$5 for children and will be available at the door the night of the dinner. Take-outs will begin at 3:30 pm.



## BEAR CREEK CAMP Explore, celebrate & grow in God's creation!

#### **MAY DORCAS RUMMAGE SALE**

It's time to start thinking about the Dorcas May Rummage Sale!

The Dorcas Society will sponsor the two-day rummage/bake sale, to be held Friday, May 2, 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. and 5:00-7:00 p.m.; and Saturday, May 3, 8:00 a.m.-12 noon (Bag Day all day).

Donations of good clean, usable clothes, household items, dishes, pots and pans, holiday decorations, jewelry, books, games, puzzles, etc., are happily accepted.

The church building will be open on the following days/times for donation drop-off:

Monday, April 28	9:30 a.m4:00 p.m.
Tuesday, April 29	9:30 a.m7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, April 30	9:30 a.m4:00 p.m.
Thursday, May 1	9:30 a.m2:00 p.m.

(Donations not accepted after 2:00 p.m. so Dorcas members will have time to price items)

Anyone (men and women) can assist during the week with setting up tables, unloading, displaying and/or pricing items to be sold.

PLEASE DO NOT BRING televisions, computers/printers, exercise equipment, large appliances, encyclopedias, cribs, strollers, artificial Christmas trees, VHS tapes, electrical cords, and old telephones.

All bakers of St. Paul's are asked to donate homemade baked goods for the Bake Sale; the items should be brought to the church by 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 1 so they may be packaged and priced.

Bear Creek Camp hosts a free Play Day and Open House on Saturday, May 3, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. This is your chance to explore camp, meet staff, boat, hike, try out high ropes, and enjoy fellowship with the camp community. Cookout lunch is freely offered to all! You can register at no cost on the Bear Creek website, https://bearcreekcamp.org.

While you're there, you can explore the other opportunities beyond the regular summer camps for children and youth under the "Camps" and "Retreats" tabs on the home page. Meanwhile, registrations are rolling in for the summer camping season, which begins June 15, and thanks to your generosity, especially through the annual soup sale, we are able to help defray the cost of camp for our campers. Thank you!





#### FROM THE MAILBOX

To everyone at St. Paul's,

Thank you to Pastor Grube and the congregation of St. Paul's for all your cards and prayers for my speedy recovery. Thank you again and Bless the Lord.

Anita Weiss



Hi everyone,

With the major outbreak of measles in Texas, I thought it would be interesting to dive a little deeper into the disease, as I know Pennsylvania has some cases. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have maps and stats that satisfied my curiosity and I hope they will satisfy yours as well: www.cdc.gov/measles/data-research.

Here is a topic that is personal for me; I just celebrated with a friend who is now breast cancer free. I have several other friends who have been cancer free for many years, and a couple who have just been diagnosed. Below are resources for everyone as breast cancer is being found in younger and younger women. Don't forget that men get it too.

You can type in "breast cancer" in both cdc.gov and nih.gov search engines to get unlimited info. In the National Institutes of Health site I was even able to calculate my risk as I've always been aware that my maternal grandmother died of breast cancer.

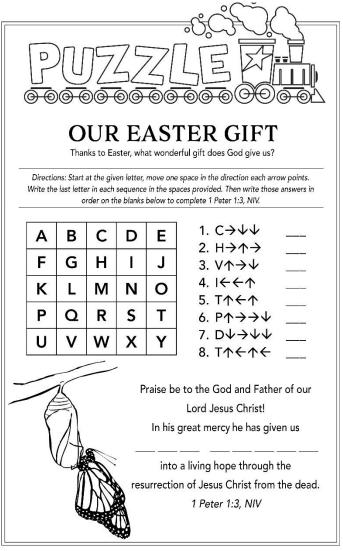
www.cancer.org/cancer/latest-news/breast-cancer-symptoms-what-you-need-to-know (and) www.cancer.gov/publications/patient-education/when-someone-you-love-is-treated (for all cancer caregivers) are two useful websites to visit for more information.

I'll be bringing my breast cancer bead necklace to church for everyone to see the difference between what a mammogram can detect and what a self-exam can detect.

Get checked!

In Love and Service and Gratitude,

Gail Ide, member of the Health Ministries Team



Answer: new birth

#### **EASTER INSIGHTS**

Did you know the word *Easter* never appears in the Bible? It may be a variant of the name Eostre, a pagan fertility goddess who symbolized rebirth and spring. *Eostre* stems from the Proto-Germanic word for *dawn*, which Christians connect to Jesus' victory over darkness.

The ancient tradition of Easter baskets also has ties to Eostre, whose symbol was a rabbit. Christians likely adapted the practice of bringing eggs and seeds as an offering to Eostre. Some Orthodox Christians continue a tradition of having a priest bless baskets of Easter food on Holy Saturday. Items usually hold special symbolism, such as Paska bread, cured meats, colored eggs, salt, horseradish and lamb-shaped butter.