

Good News

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

December 2024/January 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
www.stpaulsdallaspa.org for worship
resources to use as you are able, and to
join our **Live Stream Zoom meeting at**
9:30 am on Sunday.



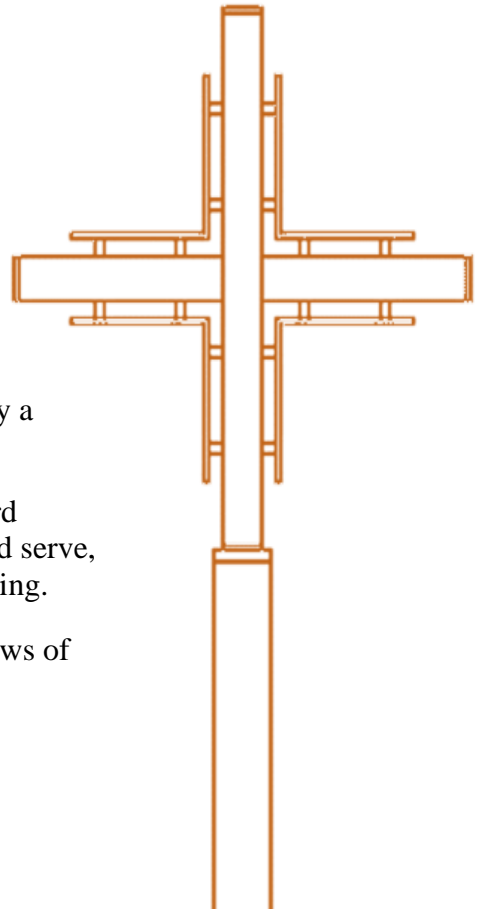
ST. PAUL'S MISSION STATEMENT

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	Margaret Quintanar	
Youth Choir Dir.	Jean Grube	
Minister of Technology	Marissa Miller	
Sexton	James Madonna	
Sunday School Superintendent	Tony Linnen	
Financial Secretary	Ruth Ide	
CONGREGATION COUNCIL		
<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		
CONGREGATION OFFICERS		
President	Rev. Charles H. Grube	
Vice-President	Frank Mariano	
Secretary	Gail Smallwood	
Treasurer	Carol Fett	
STANDING COMMITTEES		
Christian Education	Marissa Miller, Tony Linnen, Julie Holbrook & Amanda Brezovsky	
Communications	Marissa Miller/Gail Smallwood	
Evangelism	Gail Ide	
Fellowship	Julie Holbrook, Larry Pierce	
Finance	Bruce Thomas, Pat Peiffer, Carol Fett	
Head Start	Carol Fett	
Health Ministry	Cathy Ridout & Gail Ide	
Landscaping	Tony Linnen	
Long Range Planning	Frank Mariano/ Don Kretchmer, Amanda Brezovsky	
Property	Bruce Thomas, Pat Peiffer, Carol Fett & Frank Mariano	
Salary Review	Frank Mariano	
Social Ministry	Larry Pierce	
Staff Support	Frank Mariano, Don Kretchmer	
Worship & Music	Pat Peiffer	
* * *		

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

Pray for those suffering illness: *Members:* Annie & Marty Bisher, Mary Lou Bowman, Mary Lou Button, Pam Cyphers, Margaret Edwards, Cheryl Everhart, Marge Fritzing, Lauren Kaiser, Robert Kline, Pat Kowalek, Rachele Pryor, Dave Scheff, Betty Schray, Bill Smith, Carol Swanson, Anita Weiss, Alyson Wood, Justin Yost.

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, Kathy Boston, Judy C., Marjorie Catania, Larry Carroll, Janice DeFebo, Manfred Diel, Gene Eyeran, Charlotte Farley, Rich Fufaro, Chuck Gomer, Lori H., June Hayes, George Hrubowchak, Tom Hubbard, Jenn Hubbard, Christine Ide, Linda Johnson, Michael Kaminski, Tyler Karasinski, Bradley Kessler, Jacqueline Kretz, Jacalyn Krewson, Alice Laskowski, Carl London, 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, Nancy Ott, Pastor Mary Owens, Megan Sheehan Palmer, Ryleigh Phillips, Coleman Plecker, Sherry Probst, Paul Pryor, Febe Quintanar, Lloyd and Bonnie Ryman, Marilyn Roll Shaver, Nancy Shymanski, Wally Skurski, Sandy Sprau, Sandra Stankiewicz, Joe Stephanovich, Stevens Family, Benjamin Szostak, Raymah Tasco, Abigail Thomas, Arnold Thompson, 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, David & Deanna, Alice, Josh, Lisa, Isabelle (no last names given).

“The world can’t save itself. That’s the message of Christmas.”

—Timothy Keller

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE



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

Noon on Sunday, January 19, 2025

PASSAGES



Updates from the Nov. 5, 2024 meeting:

Kat Tigerman, our synod's director of Evangelical Mission, met with council to share more information about the synod's 6261 program and to answer questions. She and council vice-president Frank Mariano will meet to prepare a presentation for the congregation.

Christian Education: The committee will organize the annual Turkey Project with judging of the Sunday School turkeys on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 16-17. There will be an Advent event on the first Sunday of Advent, Dec. 1 and the Sunday School Christmas program will be held on Sunday, Dec. 15. **Evangelism:** work will begin soon to prepare the area near the handicapped parking area for the new meditation garden.

Property/Finance:

Electrical repairs have been made to the three parking lot lights, and several can lights in the Sanctuary/Social Hall; HVAC repairs to the control board on Ch. Ed. unit have been completed; and work began on the proposed 2025 budget. **100th**

Anniversary: the schedule of events for next year is mostly finalized; the anniversary committee will sell t-shirts, sweatshirts and polo shirts to raise money for the events.

Annual meeting: the congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, Jan. 19, beginning at 11:45 am with a covered dish luncheon in the social hall; the meeting will follow in the sanctuary at 1:00 pm and will be available on Zoom.

"We must be willing to let go of the life we have planned, so as to have the life that is waiting for us."

—Joseph Campbell



† IN MEMORIAM †

*May the light and promise of
the Resurrection
shine in the lives
of the family and friends of*

Hope Beisel

*Rest eternal grant her, Lord,
and let light perpetual
shine upon her.*

GIVING YOUR BEST

Like the Magi, we can respond with our best gifts — our industry, our devotion, our very lives. We disciples are Christ's tangible presence in the world. That same Child whose light brought such joy to the Magi now, through us, offers his mercy to every person.

Through us, every day, Christ feeds multitudes; he heals, teaches and guides countless people. Through individual volunteers and major institutions, through simple acts of kindness or worldwide coordinated efforts, the world can encounter, through the Christian community, the enduring, tangible presence of Christ.

—Michael Simone

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"So sing! The song of rejoicing softens hard hearts."

—Hildegard of Bingen (12th century)

SPECIAL DATES

- Dec. 1 – First Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 8 – Second Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 10 – Dorcas Christmas Party
- Dec. 11 – Healing Service at Prince of Peace
- Dec. 12 – Retired Ramblers Breakfast
- Dec. 15 – Third Sunday of Advent - Sunday School Christmas Program and Hanging of the Greens
- Dec. 18 – Social Ministry Committee Mtg
- Dec. 21 – First day of winter
- Dec. 22 – Fourth Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 24 – 4pm & 7pm Christmas Eve Services/ 4pm service also available on Zoom
- Dec. 25 – Merry Christmas
- Dec. 29 – Lessons & Carols; No Sunday School
- Jan 1. – New Year’s Day; office closed
- Jan. 5—100th Anniversary Meeting
- Jan. 6 – Epiphany
- Jan. 7—Council Meeting
- Jan. 12 – Baptism of Our Lord
- Jan. 14—Dorcas Meeting
- Jan. 15—Labyrinth Walk
- Jan. 19—100th Anniversary Service; Annual Congregational Meeting
- Jan. 20 – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day

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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I love this Year C of Advent because I love the songs of Luke’s gospel. These poems highlight the story of the announcement and birth of John the Baptist and Jesus. They have come to be the featured canticles of the historic Daily Prayers and Holy Communion service of the church. Morning Prayer features the Song of Zechariah, the “Benedictus,” sung to praise God for the birth of his son, John the Baptist. Evening Prayer features Mary’s song, the “Magnificat,” sung when she meets her cousin Elizabeth (mother of John the Baptist) to praise God for the salvation her child will bring. The angels sing at the announcement of Jesus’ birth to the shepherds the “Gloria,” which has long found a place in the ordo of the mass, or Holy Communion. And Night Prayer or Compline features the song of Simeon, the “Nunc dimittis,” when infant Jesus is presented at the temple, which is also an addition to the Holy Communion service. We will feature them all this season, and I hope they sing to you as they do to me.

In united song of praise,
Pastor

† † †

BIBLE STUDY UPDATE



Our weekly Bible study, “The Bible This Week,” has been a wonderful experience this fall with thoughtful and insightful discussions, questions, and observations. We’ll be taking a holiday season break from our weekly gathering, however, until after the New Year. Watch for the announcement of the return to our regular Tuesday morning gathering. In the meantime, the scripture texts for the following week’s worship, which serve as our study’s topic, will continue to be included in the weekly worship bulletin for your own reading and reflection.

2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES

For our members using offering boxes, they are available for you to pick up in the Narthex through the month of December; please remember, do not use envelopes from the new boxes until January 1 as some household numbers may have changed from 2024 to 2025. If you can’t locate your box or if you currently don’t have offering envelopes but would like to be issued a box, please contact Carol Fett at 570.852.9176 or cafett54@gmail.com. Members who contribute via Vanco online giving will not find an offering box on the table; anyone who might be thinking of going green and saving the church the cost of providing an envelope box should consider starting in January.



CONSIDER YEAR-END DONATIONS AND ONLINE GIVING

Many thanks to all the members and friends of St. Paul's who have faithfully continued to support the ministries of our church throughout this year. Your contributions are gratefully accepted and needed for everything from special programs to basic operating expenses; both are deserving of your support.

As you consider donations this holiday season, please keep St. Paul's in mind. Please be as generous as possible this holiday season and in the year ahead. Remember that St. Paul's offers online giving options by Vanco Payment Solutions through our website (www.stpaulsdallaspa.org). Simply click the Online Giving link to set up your account. There is no cost to you to participate; it is convenient and provides much-needed consistency for our church. And when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis.

Another advantage of online giving is eliminating the need/cost of preparing your household's offering box. We are able to cut back on the total number of offering boxes needed with a cost of at least \$6.00 per box (with additional cost if we need to mail them out). All envelopes found in your offering box are available online (weekly, Lent/Easter, Thanksgiving, Advent/Christmas, Theological Education, Improvement Fund, etc. You can even order Easter lilies and Christmas poinsettias and make Memorial donations.

If you have any questions or need help setting up your account, please contact Carol Fett at 570-852-9176 or via email at cafett54@gmail.com.



2025 FLOWER CHART

The 2025 flower chart is posted on the table in the Narthex. This is an excellent opportunity to celebrate births, birthdays, anniversaries, special holidays and/or a thank you to God for his blessings. Altar flowers and side vases are \$50.00 per Sunday payable to Dorcas. If desired, two families may share a Sunday. Payments may be placed in the collection plate or placed in the Dorcas mailbox located outside the choir room; they may also be mailed to St. Paul's, PO Box 802, Dallas, Pa 18612.



ADVENT SEASON

Advent is probably the single most counter-cultural season we have in the church. Many of the church's holidays have been adopted by our culture, though often in forms we don't recognize. Christmas has Santa, Easter has its bunny, and one saint – Patrick – is celebrated far more enthusiastically culturally than he is in the church. But Advent hasn't been coopted by culture because it goes against the culture's mindset of the pre-Christmas season with emphases on practices and attitudes that fly in the face of the world's way. The harried, busy, consumer season of the world is contrasted by the contemplative, patient, and expectant season of Advent. Take advantage of the season's worship, the daily devotional booklet, the Healing service, and other resources of the season to make your Advent a prayerful and intentional time. Come, Lord Jesus.



ADVENT DEVOTIONALS



Advent Devotions

Once again for this season of reflection and waiting, introspection and spiritual renewal, we are providing a booklet of daily scripture readings from the Daily

Lecternary and devotions for the days of Advent. Feel free to pick up a copy for yourself and share a copy with a friend. We will be providing a special resource for marking the days of Advent for our children, but these daily devotions could be an opportunity for daily worship and a topic of conversation for the whole family.

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DORCAS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON: A sign-up sheet for the Dorcas Society's Christmas Luncheon is now available in the Narthex. The luncheon will be held on Tuesday, December 10 at noon at Apple Tree Terrace at Newberry Estates, Dallas. Price for the buffet luncheon is \$31, payable at the door. Deadline to sign up is Tuesday, December 3. All women of St. Paul's are welcome and encouraged to attend.

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“Cease to inquire what the future has in store and take as a gift whatever the day brings forth.”

—Horace (1st century B.C.)

“Between God and the soul there is no between.”

—Julian of Norwich

DECEMBER HEALING SERVICE

We continue with our shared service for Healing with Prince of Peace Episcopal Church on Wednesday, December 11, 7:00 pm, at Prince of Peace. Along with physical healing from injury, disease, or illness, the church's ministry of healing also includes spiritual healing, emotional healing, healing of guilt and shame, healing of anxiety and stress, and particularly in the time leading up to such a family-oriented holiday as Christmas, there is healing of grief. Whether it's the first Christmas without a loved one, or just that Christmas usually brings its own flood of memories, grief can become especially intense at Christmas time. Our healing service will pay particular attention to the season's grief.



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HOLIDAY GATHERING

There is a new, renewed way for you to celebrate the Christmas season with your church family. We will celebrate our own Hanging of the Greens party on Sunday, December 15, following the children's program during worship, at 10:30 am. There will be no Sunday School that day. You can help decorate the building for the holiday, enjoy fellowship with one another, share a few refreshments, and end the event with a few familiar carols to kick off the season. Look for the sign-up sheet in the Narthex to share your interest and perhaps to share some goodies to eat as well.

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You'll want to note the exceptions to our usual schedule of worship and Sunday School for the Christmas season. First, the Sunday School program will

be during worship Sunday, December 15, followed by a Hanging of the Greens party for everyone to decorate for the season. There will be no Sunday School that day. The following Sunday, December 22, will be our usual schedule of worship and Sunday School at 9:30 and 10:45. We'll celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord on Christmas Eve with two services, at 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm. Both services will include Holy Communion and Candle lighting, and the 4:00 pm service will be streamed live on Zoom. The following weekend, December 28-29, will be our annual service of Christmas Lessons and Carols featuring the story and songs of Luke. There will be no Sunday School that day. The Saturday service at 5:30 pm will continue throughout the season.

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LABYRINTH WALKS



On Wednesday, December 18 and Wednesday, January 15, 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. Gail Ide will be present to offer guidance on walking the labyrinth. Watch for reminders about the labyrinth in church bulletins.

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WORSHIP & MUSIC UPDATE

The committee would like to thank the members of St. Paul's for your continued response to the Hymn Request Cards. Please continue to submit your requests for the Advent and Christmas season.

IT'S GOOD GIFTS TIME!

This is the time of year when chicks, piglets, and goats festoon the ELCA's seasonal publications. These animals and much more are features of the ELCA Good Gifts campaign in which your donations to ELCA World Hunger can purchase livestock and other life-supporting resources for needy families and communities and at the same time you can honor loved ones with a gift in their name. The catalog can be found at their website, <https://goodgifts.elca.org/>, where you can see the wide variety of options for making a difference in real people's lives. You can even download and print a card to put under the tree for the one you honor. Check it out and redefine your Christmas gift giving this year.

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100th ANNIVERSARY "FUN FACT"

In 1993 the Congregation Council formed a Long Range Planning Committee to study the church's future needs. The committee decided on two options: enlarge the current structure and adapt it to allow for handicap accessibility; or build a new church home at a new location. A group of members toured several new churches and gathered information about cost and how the new building affected their congregations. On May 21, 1995, St. Paul's took another significant, far-sighted step: the congregation voted to build a new church, thereby providing for continued growth in its many ministries, and the potential for providing new services to the community. In 1996, due to health concerns, Pastor Harold R. Baer, Jr., retired and Reverend Robert Karl Bohm joined the congregation as interim pastor. He took part in the church's excitement when in 1997, an anonymous donor contributed the money to buy about eleven acres of land in Dallas Township near the intersection of Routes 4 15 and 118. The congregation also decided to undertake its most ambitious fundraising effort to date: raise the money for the construction of the new church. Assisted by the well-known firm Kirby Smith Associates, St. Paul's set out to raise the money.

(To be continued...)

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SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

We will use the weekend of our annual congregational meeting on January 19 as the opportunity to kick off our year of events to mark our 100th Anniversary with a special historic worship setting. The *Common Service Book*, published in 1917 and used exclusively by the United Lutheran Church in America until 1958, was the resource St. Paul's would have used at its founding in 1925, and we will adapt that service for our worship that weekend. While the congregation sang nearly everything in four-part Anglican style chant in those days, you will speak your parts this time, but be prepared for the classic King James language the service uses. It will be an interesting and effective way to get us into an historic mindset and help us appreciate the history of St. Paul's and those who went before us. You'll also be receiving a schedule of events planned throughout 2025 to celebrate our anniversary.



ST. PAUL'S ANNUAL MEETING

Please mark your calendars for St. Paul's annual meeting, scheduled for Sunday, January 19.

We will start with a covered dish dinner at 11:45 am in the Social Hall; a sign-up sheet will be posted in the Narthex so we will have an idea of how many persons will be attending – place settings and beverages will be provided for you.

At approximately 1:00 pm we will move to the Sanctuary for the business meeting which will also be available on Zoom for those unable to attend in person. This will be the second meeting under our amended constitution and we will also elect our new council members at this time. At this meeting we will also review committee reports and adopt the 2025 proposed budget.

Please watch the bulletins for updated information regarding this meeting.



Hi Everyone,

Our blood pressure readings are so important! Do you understand that if we're talking or daydreaming while someone is taking that reading, we may have our body in a position not conducive for correct readings. Read this article for correct positioning from Medscape:
[medscape.com/viewarticle/poor-arm-position-may-significantly-skew-bp-readings](https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/poor-arm-position-may-significantly-skew-bp-readings)

Mary Ehret sent this along to me for us:
[food.unl.edu/food-calendar-months/December--but-I-think-Pumpkin-Pie-Day-should-be-every-day!](https://food.unl.edu/food-calendar-months/December--but-I-think-Pumpkin-Pie-Day-should-be-every-day/)

Mary also sent this about food safety. With Thanksgiving over and our refrigerators loaded with leftovers this is still important:

Not sure if the food in your refrigerator is still safe to eat? Most nutritionist will say if in doubt, throw it out, but with the price of food today



learn more about food safety to prevent food waste. Most bacteria are spoilage type of bacteria and will make the food smell bad, preventing you from eating it. However, there are bacteria that can make you sick, but doesn't make the food smell bad. Those bacteria are called pathogenic bacteria. Here is a great resource to help you learn more about pathogenic bacteria and find out how to keep your food safe:
foodsafety.gov/food-poisoning/bacteria-and-viruses.

To find out how long you can safely keep foods in your refrigerator, go to foodsafety.gov. Click on "Keep food safe" and "the Food Keeper App" You can view the Food Keeper app on your computer or download it to your smartphone.

For instance, if you bought a rotisserie chicken, it should be eaten within **three-four** days if it was refrigerated from the date of purchase. Note, according to USDA, your refrigerator should be set to maintain a temperature of 40

degrees. Place a chef thermometer in a glass of water overnight in your refrigerator. Check the temperature of your refrigerator!

December 6 is Microwave Oven Day

USDA tells us that it is important to clean our microwaves after each use. Here is how to clean your microwave from USDA Food Safety Inspection Service:

* Consult the manufacturer's use and care manual for the best advice for your model of microwave oven. Some manufacturers recommend unplugging the microwave before cleaning it to minimize the possibility of electric shock. If you can't locate the manual, follow these general instructions.

* Remove spatters and spills as they occur so food residue won't become dried on.

* Wipe with a soft cloth or clean paper towel dampened with warm water.

* For heavier soil, use baking soda, a mild soap, or dishwashing liquid.

* Do not use steel wool, scouring pads, abrasive cleaners, or oven cleaners.

* To remove food odors or loosen baked-on food residue, mix **six** tablespoons of baking soda OR 1/2 cup lemon juice with one cup of water in a microwave-safe glass measure. Microwave the mixture until it boils. Then leave the mixture in the microwave without opening the door until the mixture cools. The steam will help loosen food residue and remove odors. Wipe the surfaces with a soft cloth or paper towel."

Thanks, Mary, for all your information!!!

Have a very BLESSED, MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HEALTHY, HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

In Love and Service and Gratitude, Gail Ide,
member of the Health Ministries Team

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CHECK IT OUT!

We have a new addition to our Cross Cultures cross collection in the Sunday school hallway. The ornate scroll saw cross is a Norwegian design from Chapel in the Hills, an ELCA church in South Dakota's Badlands just outside Rapid City, and made by a local craftsman. Chapel in the Hills is a 20th- century replica, down to historic construction techniques, of Borgund Stavkirke in Laerdal, Norway, built in 1150. Stave churches are designed and constructed using techniques of Viking longboats and were made by the same carpenters.

Chapel in the Hills is a popular destination for tourists, and Diane Thompson thought of St. Paul's when she visited this past fall. Thank you, Diane, for bringing this unique piece of the Badlands and Norway to our collection.

† † †

ELCA NEWS



At its 2022 Churchwide Assembly, the ELCA adopted changes to the model constitution for congregations. Because we recently adopted a new constitution based on that model, we are able to amend our constitution by adopting these changes in toto by a simple majority vote of the congregation.

The changes are mostly for inclusiveness, updating language, and revising some procedures, though none of them change the regular operation of our congregation. The amended constitution will be presented for adoption at our annual meeting, January 19, 2025. You will be able to review the recommended amendments along with the bulletin of reports before the meeting. This announcement will serve as the 30-day notice of the vote required by the constitution itself.

EPISCOPAL NEWS

There have been some significant events in the life of our neighbors of the Episcopal church in recent weeks. On November 1, Bishop Sean Rowe, formerly bishop of the Dioceses of Northwestern Pennsylvania and Provisional Bishop of the Diocese of Western New York and our own local Diocese of Bethlehem, was invested as the church's 28th presiding bishop. He is the youngest person to serve as presiding bishop and was elected on the first ballot, a very rare occurrence in an open ecclesiastical election. He succeeds Bishop Michael Curry and will serve a nine-year term.

More locally, our Episcopal neighbors also recently held a joint convention making more history. Our local Diocese of Bethlehem (Bishop Kevin Nichols), which geographically coincides almost exactly with our Lutheran Northeastern PA Synod, and the Diocese of Central PA (Bishop Audrey C. Scanlan), which extends from Harrisburg and Lancaster to Altoona, voted to reunite into one diocese called the Diocese of Susquehanna. They will use 2025 as a year of transition to work out the details, then begin life as one diocese in January 2026.

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FROM THE MAILBOX

Dear Friends,

On behalf of all of us here at The SPCA of Luzerne County, please accept our sincere thanks for your donation of items from our wish list ... cat litter, cat treats, dog treats, paper towels, and a variety of other supplies. Your generosity is truly needed and appreciated ... now more than ever.

We are now in our 66th year of caring for the unwanted, abandoned, and often abused animals of Luzerne County. Please know what an important part you play in our efforts. We are the only open admission shelter in the county. Without us, thousands of animals would have nowhere to go. Because of your support we are able to search for the owners of lost animals, find new homes for those who are no longer wanted, care for the abused, and prosecute the offenders. We are able to offer educational programs and volunteer opportunities teaching others how to care for the companion animals in our lives. None of this would be possible without the unwavering support we continue to receive from this community.

Your donations allow us to continue in our vital mission of being the voice of those who cannot speak for themselves. We thank you, once again, from the bottom of our hearts, the pads on our paws, and the tips of our wagging tails.

Sincerely,
Your Friends at the SPCA

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NEW YEAR'S BLESSING

The eighth day of Christmas, the eighth day of Creation, the Next New Day, New Year's Day. May every day be a new year's day for you: a chance to forgive and be forgiven, to start again. May you take courage to begin anew. As you let go of the year past, may you ... in your free fall find yourself held by an eternal love that has come ages to be with you, and will carry you all the way to the end. Every day may you trust your belovedness, your freedom from having to prove yourself, and receive the grace that is given to you. May this year be a year of grace and hope.