

Good News

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

February 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.



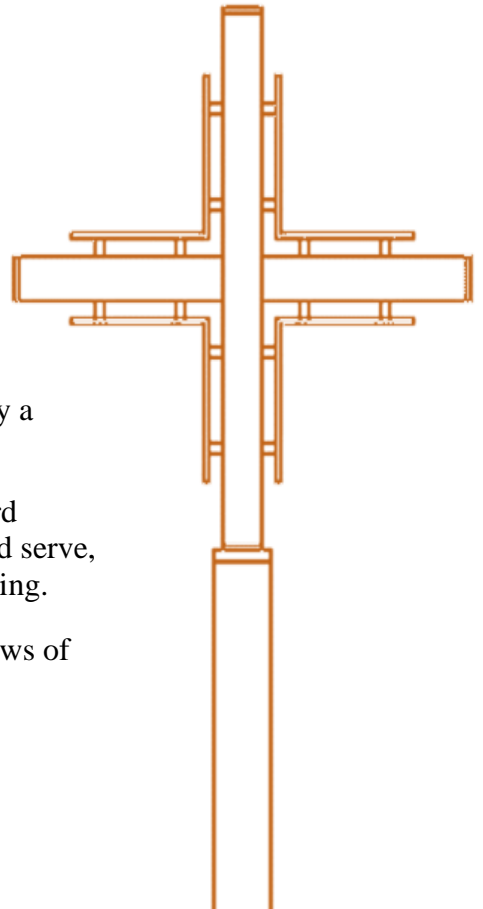
ST. PAUL'S MISSION STATEMENT

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>2025/2026</u>	<u>2026/2027</u>	<u>2027/2028</u>
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		
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 our Congregation of St. Paul's, Dallas.**

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 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 Eyeran, 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, Ryan and Rebecca (no last names given).

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE



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

Noon on Sunday, February 16, 2025.



Updates from the January 7, 2025 meeting:

Christian Education Committee: Working on plans for the upcoming Bible Bowl. **Long Range Planning:** Council Vice President Frank Mariano and Linda Keck are working with Deacon Barbara Gessner of Prince of Peace Episcopal Church and Funeral Director Ted Horn to form a grief support group. The group will hold its first session on Thursday, January 16, 2025 at 6:30 pm at St. Paul's. This support group is open to everyone in the community who is in need of support due to a loss, and will meet on the third Thursday of every month. **Evangelism:** Twenty-one people walked the labyrinth during 2024. Excavation for the new meditation garden has begun. **Finance:** Finishing year-end financial reports; general fund checkbook stands at (\$3,900) – all federal, state & local taxes paid. **Property:** At least two crows have been seen and heard on the church roof around the bell tower. The noise they make sounds like a roofing crew working on the roof! **Old Business:** 100th Anniversary Update: Anniversary events will begin on the weekend of January 18-19, when a liturgy reminiscent of the worship service used in 1925 will be offered; a Spaghetti Dinner and Newlywed game will be held Saturday, February 8, beginning at 4:00 pm; reviving a bygone St. Paul's activity, the Fasnacht Day Talent Show, which will be held Tuesday, March 4 - Keith and Trish Brosious are organizing the event. **New Business:** Carol Fett was re-elected Congregation Treasurer.

Annual 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.

† † †

PASSAGES

† **IN MEMORIAM** †

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

William Smith

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

† † †



**FROM OUR
PASTOR**

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This year's late date for Easter means that we have a good, long season of Sundays after Epiphany to delve into the early ministry of Jesus. But the season is marked with three feast days along the way. The season begins with the Baptism of Our Lord and ends with the

Transfiguration of Our Lord. And standing at the midpoint is the Presentation of Our Lord on February 2. In the midst of following Jesus across Galilee in his adult ministry, we take a trip back in time to his infancy and his presentation in the temple where he is met by old, righteous Simeon. Simeon sings the final song of those songs of Luke we have been featuring throughout this past Advent and Christmas seasons, the Nunc

dimittis, "Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace..." Come and follow Jesus as he calls followers and teaches the ways of a radical new age. And join in singing of God's salvation and the light for revelation to the Gentiles in our Lord Jesus.

In Christ our Lord,
Pastor

† † †



"The Bible This Week," our weekly venture into the scriptures assigned to the following weekend's worship, is back. We meet on Tuesday mornings, 10:30-11:30 am. Our discussions are always thoughtful, faithful, and you never know just where they'll take us. We'd love to add your voice to the conversation, or just have you sit and listen. We read and encounter the texts together, so you need not prepare or read ahead. If you'd like to, however, the texts are printed in each week's worship bulletin. We look forward to welcoming you.

† † †

"Time"

Time is

too slow for those who wait,
too swift for those who fear,
too long for those who grieve,
too short for those who rejoice.

But for those who love,
time is eternity.



SOUPER BOWL WEEKEND

As it does every year, the NFL’s championship game Super Bowl will provide us a fun opportunity to remember and help the hungry of our community with our Souper Bowl collection this month. We provide a soup pot for each team playing in the game (Kansas City Chiefs and Philadelphia Eagles) and invite you to “vote” for your favorite team by offering a cash donation to the pot of your choice. But no matter who wins the game, the real winners are those who are provided for by our Back Mountain Food Pantry, because your “votes” are donated there. 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. Watch for the pots February 8-9 and come ready to cast your vote!



SCOUT SUNDAY

We look forward to celebrating Boy Scout Sunday on February 9. We will be honored to host members of our own Troop 241 with Cub and Boy scouts and their families in attendance.



“There are no seven wonders of the world in the eyes of a child. There are seven million.”

—Walt Streightiff

SPAGHETTI DINNER PLANNED

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 for the dinner is **February 2**. Volunteers to help with the dinner are needed; look for a sign-up sheet in the Narthex with a list of times and jobs.



BIBLE BOWL TIME



Please join the fun on Sunday, February 9 for the annual Sunday School Bible Bowl. The event will be held in the

Sunday School Gathering area and everyone is invited to attend. Work together as a team to see who has the most knowledge about the Bible!



SHARED MINISTRIES

Leaders from St. Paul’s and Prince of Peace Episcopal Church continue to meet and plan for shared ministries between us. Quarterly healing services, Lent and Holy Week worship, Pyramid worship, and Grief Support are all topics for meetings recently and coming this month. It is a wonderful opportunity for us to work together for the sake of both our congregations and the wider community. Is there something we do that you’d like to be part of or is there something we could do that you have interest in or you could suggest? Share your interest or ideas with Pastor.



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

The congregations of St. Paul's and Prince of Peace Episcopal Church are entering into a shared ministry to offer a grief support group to people who have recently experienced a loss. The group will be 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 will be a group facilitator. The group's next meeting will be held on **Thursday, February 20, 2025 at 6:30 pm** at St. Paul's, and will meet on the third Thursday of each month at St. Paul's. This group is an on-going group and is not time-limited; 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 fm329@gmail.com.

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PREPARE FOR LENT

Lent will creep up on us very early next month, so this is your forewarning to mark your calendar for a fun anniversary Fasnacht event Tuesday evening, March 4, and the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday, the following day, March 5, with morning devotions and imposition of ashes from 7:00-9:00 am and evening service of Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion at 7:00 pm. Watch the weekly bulletin and social media for announcements of more details later, but mark your calendar now.



LABYRINTH WALKS

On Wednesday, February 19, 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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SYNOD NEWS

Starting late fall, Bishop deForest, Synod Vice-President Nancy Reichelt, and Director for Evangelical Mission Deacon Kat Tigerman have conducted a series of Chew and Chat gatherings in the synod's Mission Districts. Our Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Mission District's event is scheduled for Sunday, February 23, 3:00-5:30 pm, at St. Peter Lutheran Church, Hughestown. There is no formal presentation by the synod leaders. Rather these Chew and Chat events are synod listening posts in which church members are invited to share thoughts, ideas, and concerns with the synod leaders. All members of our Mission District congregations are invited, and that includes you.

† † †

ORGAN RECITALS

Come and hear Pennsylvania's largest hybrid pipe organ on Sunday, February 9 and Sunday, February 23 at 4:00 pm at the rear of 16 Ann Street, West Pittston. The studio organ features 175 stops, equivalent to more than 8,700 pipes. The winter organ recital will feature repertoire by Bach, Mendelssohn, Howels, Cochereau and more. These recitals are free and open to the public; free will donations will be accepted. Please bring your own chair. For more information call Mark Pall at 570-574-8412.

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ELCA NEWS



In its recent issue of *Worship News*, ELCA shared news of new worship resources for Arabic speaking congregations: Arabic has become one of the most widely spoken languages in the United States, with over 1.4 million people now speaking Arabic at home, according to Pew Research. Recognizing this, leaders in the Episcopalian and Lutheran traditions saw the importance of translating liturgy into Arabic. This translation ensures that Arabic-speaking members can pray, learn, and connect in a language that speaks directly to their hearts. Collaborating with Arabic-speaking translators with theological backgrounds and editors who understand church language helped ensure that these translations are not only accurate but also spiritually meaningful. The main resources used for translation were *The Episcopal Church's Book of Common Prayer* and *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. The work resulted in essential Arabic-language resources for significant parts of Christian life and worship, including Seasonal Bulletins and Feast Days and liturgies for Holy Communion, Baptism, Marriage, and Funerals, which are foundational rites in the Christian journey.

† † †

In Scranton, a well-established and long-standing Indonesian community has found renewal and has re-formed the Indonesian Lutheran Church, meeting at St. Matthew United Lutheran Church. They were once active as a synodically-authorized worshipping community (SAWC) called Source of Love Lutheran Church, meeting at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Scranton. But a variety of factors led to the congregation's eventual dissolution. With renewed growth and interest, however, they now meet Sunday afternoons at St. Matthew's and celebrated Christmas Eve with a gathering of over sixty!

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ELCA Global Mission's "Global Links" newsletter shared this story: Bliss Tungnung, a former International Women Leaders scholar and a

2022 graduate of Concordia College in Moorhead, Minn., is using her psychology degree to make a difference in her home community in Manipur, India. Not long after she graduated, civil war broke out among local ethnic groups. Upon arriving home, she saw a need for psychosocial care and education among the children of her community. With support from Lutheran Disaster Response and her denomination, the Manipur Evangelical Lutheran Church, she became a community organizer and counselor for people, especially children, traumatized by the ethnic violence. As a counselor, Bliss identified education gaps for both local children and children displaced by the violence. In 2023, she established Bliss International School to address these gaps. "The main problem I see with education in my city is the lack of psychological awareness," she said. "I believe that education should foster the child both academically and mentally to utilize their knowledge to the fullest." At the school, students not only learn basic skills such as reading and writing but are encouraged to use those skills to express their emotional needs and to create space for themselves to become global citizens. Your support of ELCA Global Mission makes a difference in the world.

† † †

May there always be work for your hands to do;

May your purse always hold a coin or two;

May the sun always shine on your windowpane;

May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain;

May the hand of a friend always be near you;

May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.



Bear Creek Camp weekend is coming February 15-16. Bear Creek's Executive Director, Collin Grooms, is slated to be with us for worship and for an inter-generational Sunday School to bring the good news of Bear Creek Camp's vital ministry to our region, especially to the youth of our congregations and communities. That is also the weekend of our annual Brosious family Soup sale to benefit Bear Creek Camp. You pick up containers, make soup, then freeze and deliver the soup for sale that weekend with proceeds going to camperships to defray the cost of camp for our congregation's campers. Registration is open now for the 2025 summer camping season. Registration is online and full color information brochures are available on the table in the narthex. Your challenge, whether you're registering for camp or not, is to find all the pictures in that brochure that feature our campers Morgan and Ava and counselor Kendra. Most of them appear more than once!

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FROM THE MAILBOX



I'm sending a heartfelt thank you to St. Paul's and the members of the Social Ministry Committee for the generous Christmas gift bag. My son and I never get home-made cookies, so they are a special treat. May the Lord bless you and keep you all.

Carol Swanson

I would like to thank you for the beautiful bag full of goodies. The cookies were delicious. I would like to thank everybody that helped arrange the contents in the bag.

Marjorie Fritzingler

Dear friends at St. Paul's:

Your kindness is greatly appreciated. Thank you to so many loving and caring people...for the pumpkin from the Sunday School children, for the wonderful Care and Concern bag full of delicious cookies, and to the Social Ministry committee for the on-going cards. It is a real blessing to be remembered by so many.

Love and blessings to all,
Bill and Dianna Smith

Dear Social Ministry Committee:

Thank you so much for the Christmas gift bag. I was pleasantly surprised with all the gifts in it. And, of course, the cookies were delicious. I truly appreciate it. Thank you for remembering me.

Robert Kline

To the Social Ministry Committee:

Thank you to Pat Kowalek for visiting me. And thanks to everyone for the good wishes and prayers sent to me at Christmas time. I love the cross and "The Word in Season" along with the other gifts. I will be thinking of you all and saying my prayers for this fine committee.

With sincere thanks,
Greta Ruckno

To the members of the Senior Choir and Chimes Choir:

Thank you very much for your generous Christmas gift. I thank you, also, for your generosity in giving of your time, talents and effort to the choirs in worship of our Lord; for your willingness to cheerfully take on whatever musical task I give you; and for your determination to fulfil those tasks to the best of your abilities to enhance worship services for the congregation. Finally, I thank you for allowing me to serve as your music director, a joy and an honor.

Yours in Christ,
Margaret Quintanar

+ † +



BRRRR! It's COLD!
 That means most of us are inside more having something very warm to drink and bundled up. At least I am as I sample all the different teas I've managed to accumulate.

This also means more people are gathered together inside in close contact! And this means the perfect environment for germs to have a heyday! PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE wash your hands frequently, cover your mouth if you sneeze or cough, and stay home if you don't feel well! The job, the many commitments, the money, etc., are important, but not only will you make others sick, you will get worse by expending unnecessary energy!!!

For the Department of Health, I used to teach very young children to wash their hands using The Henry the Hand program. They loved it and it's still available on line. Remember the "T Zone;" do not touch the eyes, nose, and mouth! At one center we did an experiment with the children. After putting "germs" on their hands, one half of the group washed using soap and water and the other half used the hand sanitizer. The soap and water group won hands down. Sorry for the pun.

Soap and water are very important, but more is needed to combat Norovirus. Please check out Norovirus Prevention at <https://www.cdc.gov/norovirus/prevention/index.html> for more recommendations. Of course, cleansing contact areas helps fight the flu, too.

With this winter weather it also means drier air. Staying hydrated is extremely important for those not sick, but especially those who are sick!!!

Stay warm, hydrated, and healthy!

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



BLOOD DRIVE SCHEDULED

As part of our 100th Anniversary events, St. Paul's will be hosting a community blood drive from Noon until 4:30 pm on Monday, March 3 in the Social Hall. You may have read the article in the local newspapers that the current supply of blood is at a critical low and the Red Cross is hoping to have a minimum goal of 20 donors that day. Watch for a sign-up poster in the Narthex that will be posted shortly. Hopefully we will be able to exceed their goal!



Use the clues to fill in the boxes. Then write those letters on the correct numbered lines below to complete 1 John 4:16 (NIV).

Puzzle!

Use the clues to fill in the boxes. Then write those letters on the correct numbered lines below to complete 1 John 4:16 (NIV).

A place to live	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> 1 2 3 4 5	
Opposite of dark	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> 6 7 8 9 10	
Companion	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> 11 12 13 14 15 16	
Hand greeting	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> 17 18 19 20	
Male adult	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> 21 22 23	

8 2 16 13 4 6 2 19 5

17 9 2 5 19 5 12 6 7 19 5 4

13 15 6 2 19 20 6 7 19 14 4

13 15 8 2 16 18 15 16

8 2 16 13 23 10 1 14 21

1 John 4:16, NIV

Answers: house, light, friend, wave, man, God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. 1 John 4:16, NIV