

# Good News

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

## March 2025

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Email: [stpaul@epix.net](mailto:stpaul@epix.net)  
Web Page:  
[www.stpaulsdallaspa.org](http://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](http://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.**



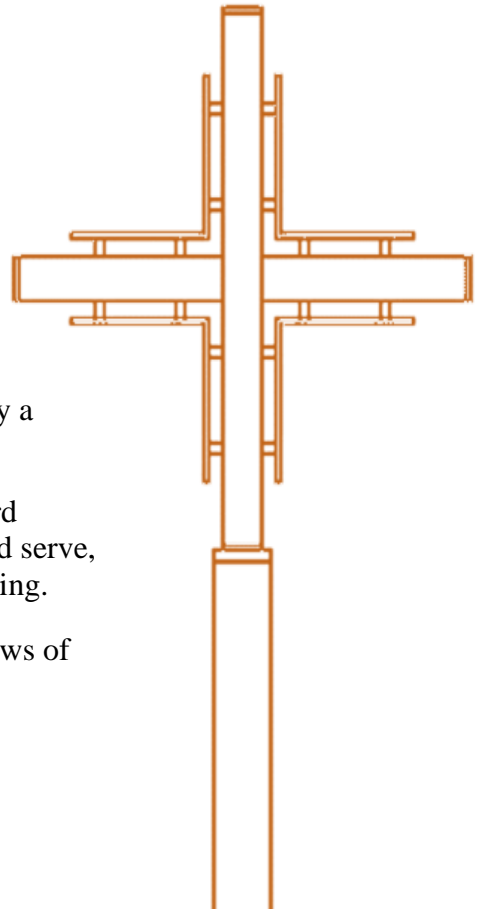
### ST. PAUL'S MISSION STATEMENT

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	
<b>CONGREGATION COUNCIL</b>		
<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		
<b>CONGREGATION OFFICERS</b>		
President	Rev. Charles H. Grube	
Vice-President	Frank Mariano	
Secretary	Gail Smallwood	
Treasurer	Carol Fett	
<b>STANDING COMMITTEES</b>		
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 –St. James, Hobbie and St. James, Zenith.**

**Pray for those suffering illness:** *Members:* Chris Bellezza, Annie & Marty Bisher, Mary Lou Button, Pam Cyphers, Margaret Edwards, Cheryl Everhart, Marge Fritzingler, Jean Grube, Robert Kline, Rachele Pryor, Greta Ruckno, Betty Schray, Gerald Siperko, 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, John Diel, Manfred Diel, Gene Eyerman, Rich Fufaro, Jenn Hubbard, Christine Ide, Jack Jones, Michael Kaminski, Joe Kerestes, Bradley Kessler, Rebecca & Ryan Kozloski, Alice Laskowski, Carl London, Todd Lozo, Audrey Mace, Carol Marker, Sue & Dan McConnell, Dwight McKee, Rob Merritt, Patty N., Tim Nulton, Helen O'Brien, Alice O'Neil, Nancy Ott, Megan Sheehan Palmer, Ryleigh Phillips, Paul Pryor, Febe Quintanar, Lisa Rowe, 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 (no last names given).

### SPECIAL DATES

- Transfiguration Sunday, *March 2, 2025*
- 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mardi Gras Celebration and Talent Show, *March 4, 2025*
- Ash Wednesday, *March 5, 2025*
- World Day of Prayer, *March 7, 2025*
- Daylight saving time begins, *March 9, 2025*
- Healing Service, *March 12, 2025*
- First day of spring, *March 20, 2025*

### NEWSLETTER DEADLINE



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

**Noon on Sunday, March 16, 2025.**



## Updates from the February 4, 2025 meeting:

**Treasurer's Report:** Final 2024 reconciliations of Local, State & Federal taxes submitted; W2's distributed to staff; updated Shepherd Staff to reflect 2025 budget numbers; January weekly offering envelopes down slightly from 2024; but received donation from Dorcas Society and from an anonymous donor to help with utility expenses; 2024 audit for all church accounts has been scheduled. **Pastor's Report:** The Synod Chew and Chat event, with Bishop deForest and other Synod leaders, has been rescheduled to Sunday, February 23 from 3:00-5:30 pm at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Hughestown. This event is open to all Lutherans in the area and offers an opportunity to meet with Synod leaders. **Christian Education:** The Sunday School session on Sunday, March 23 will offer lessons on the Lutheran faith. Sunday, May 18 will be the last Sunday School before the summer recess. **Property:** The Bunn coffee pot in the kitchen has been repaired. Council Vice-President Frank Mariano and Treasurer Carol Fett met with local state representative Brenda Pugh at the church to discuss DEP Lead testing requirements, and shared information about the church's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and available classroom room space available for lease. **Old Business:** The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee held its first event on Sunday, January 19, with a service reflecting the liturgy used in 1925; next event will be on Saturday, February 8, a spaghetti dinner and Newlywed Game entertainment. Trish and Keith Brosious are organizing a Mardi Gras Night with desserts, beverages and a Talent Show on Tuesday, March 4. **New Business:** Frank Mariano was re-elected Council vice-president and Gail Smallwood was re-elected as council secretary. The next Council meeting will be on Tuesday, March 11 at 7:00 pm.



## DON'T FORGET!

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sun., Mar. 9 so remember to set your clocks ahead one hour. It also is a great time to replace the batteries in your smoke and carbon dioxide detectors.



## FROM OUR PASTOR

### Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The cycle of the church year once again rolls around to the season of Lent. Having celebrated Jesus' birth and incarnation, revelation and teaching, we turn our attention to his struggles and opposition, passion and suffering, death and resurrection. Ash Wednesday begins our 40-day season of returning to the Lord and immersing ourselves in the disciplines of our faith and baptismal identity akin to Jesus' 40 days of fasting and testing in the wilderness after his own baptism and before he began his ministry.

May this be for you a holy season full of the knowledge of God's presence and power for you and through you for others in your spiritual growth and service to your neighbor.

Love in the crucified and risen Lord Jesus,  
Pastor

† † †

# COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

## PLEASE DONATE!

As part of our 100<sup>th</sup> 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. 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; this is a community wide event so please share with family and friends.



## 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 son, 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.

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## PREPARE FOR LENT

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, March 5. We will again open the church doors from 7:00-9:00 am for personal devotions and Pastor will be available for those who desire the imposition of ashes. We will gather at 7:00 pm for a service of Holy Communion that features our Lenten call to repentance, confession, and the imposition of ashes for those who desire. Alternatively, you are invited to Prince of Peace Episcopal church for a service at 12:15 pm, or at 5:30 pm, both including imposition of ashes. It is a holy and intentional way to acknowledge our failure and sinfulness and to begin our repentance and return to the Lord.

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## LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

As we have the past several years, we invite you to join our regular weekly Bible study, The Bible This Week, for the Lent season as we give it a special Lenten twist. One of the disciplines of the faith we commit to in our Lenten repentance and returning to the Lord is to immerse ourselves in the word of God in the scriptures. We focus on the readings we'll hear in worship throughout Lent together as we gather at 10:30 each Tuesday morning. The extra Lenten twist we add is to gather for lunch immediately after and share fellowship around the table. We invite you to bring your own brown bag lunch. Then we will end our time together with a short prayer service, this year focusing on the witness of saints whose commemoration days fall on the Mondays of the season. The scriptures, fellowship, food for the journey, and prayer are all important elements to our Lenten discipline. If you prefer not to linger for lunch and prayer, you are still invited to the

Bible study portion from 10:30-11:30 am. Our Lenten Bible study and lunch begin March 11 and will continue until April 8.

### ECUMENICAL SOUP & SCRIPTURE

There are two special series of Soup and Scripture for Lent this year. The ecumenical gatherings of churches to our west will continue to meet Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm for a light soup supper followed by a presentation by the local pastor or pastoral leader on the scriptures. These gatherings begin March 12 at Loyalville UM, and we host the following week's gathering March 19. The following weeks will be at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Lake Silkworth March 26, Maple Grove UM April 2, and Lehman Idetown UM April 9. The second Soup and Scripture series is at St. Therese Catholic Church, Shavertown. They will have their own Wednesday Soup and Scripture Lent series, but are inviting local ecumenical pastoral leaders to present on the scripture for the coming week's worship. Pastor Grube will be the presenter there April 2, and they invite you to join with them that evening. It, too, begins at 6:00 pm.



### LABYRINTH WALKS

On Wednesday, March 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.

† † †

Our series of quarterly healing services with Prince of Peace Episcopal Church returns this month with a Healing Service Wednesday, March 12, at St. Paul's. We have had meaningful and prayerful experiences together at St. Paul's and at Prince of Peace with leaders taking turns planning, hosting, and participating in the services. The service of word, prayer, and healing, with laying on of hands and anointing, begins at 7:00 pm.



### 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, March 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](mailto:fm329@gmail.com).

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“Run to the Lord and be comforted.”

—Julian of Norwich

### SHARED WORSHIP

We look ahead to our second annual exchange with our sisters and brothers of Prince of Peace Episcopal church of services for Holy Week. We continue to have our own respective services on Maundy Thursday, but will again join together to celebrate a common Good Friday and Easter Vigil service. This year, the Good Friday service April 18 will be at Prince of Peace at noon with Father Rafferty presiding and Pastor Grube preaching, and the Easter Vigil service on April 19 will be at St. Paul's at 7:00 pm with Pastor Grube presiding and Father Rafferty preaching. In the meantime, throughout the Lent season, Father Rafferty will lead Stations of the Cross at Prince of Peace on Fridays at 7:00 pm, and you are invited.

Pastor Grube, together with leaders from Prince of Peace Episcopal Church, Dallas, and Grace

Episcopal Church, Kingston, continue to take turns providing regular worship and Bible study at Pyramid. This spiritual connection and growth are vital components to those in recovery from addiction, and this regular service is greatly appreciated by them. Pastor Grube leads worship with Bible study there the fourth Sunday afternoon of each month, and leaders from the two Episcopal churches take their own turns so that the residents there can worship weekly.

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### EASTER LILIES



Please use the order form and payment envelope included with this newsletter, or go online and place your order through the Online Giving link on our website ([stpaulsdallaspa.org](http://stpaulsdallaspa.org)) to place your order for Easter lilies that will be used to decorate the church on Easter Sunday. Please note that the deadline

to place your order is Sunday, March 23.

**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 on 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.

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### **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.

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While 2025 marks our own congregation's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, it is also a big year for anniversaries in the ecumenical church and interfaith community. 2025 marks the 1,700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea (you may be familiar with the Nicene Creed we recite in worship occasionally), the 100th anniversary of the "Life and Work" movement of the World Council of Churches, the 75th anniversary of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, the 60th anniversary of Lutheran-Catholic dialogue in the U.S., and the 15th anniversary of the interfaith Shoulder to Shoulder coalition. These partnerships are increasingly prominent and important as we witness and serve our communities, both around the world and in our own Back Mountain community.

### SOUPER BOWL RESULTS

The final score from last month's Souper Bowl collection amounted to the Eagles totaling \$116.65 and the Chiefs collecting \$44.00. Thank you to everyone who voted for their favorite team; the big winner was indeed the Back Mountain Food Pantry!

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In their January newsletter, Bear Creek Camp shared this reflection: "I laugh a lot here.

It's really nice." This was the simple response from a camper to 'how's your weekend going?' on Saturday night while everyone was heading into dinner during our Winter Connect retreat. Campers from across our BCC community and many of this past summer's staff members came together to enjoy a winter weekend at camp... The theme for the weekend was "Just Be." Large and small group sessions were dedicated to reflecting on what it means to be authentically ourselves. The theme was also appropriate as everyone took time to step away from the routines of home to relax and have fun surrounded by friends and nature... We had the best weekend TOGETHER and we can't wait to see everyone from our BCC family when summer camp kicks off in just a few short months! A friendly reminder - finalize your summer registration by March 31st to receive a free limited-edition t-shirt!

The weather didn't cooperate, so our turnout was small, but we were delighted and honored to welcome Bear Creek Camp's Executive Director, Collin Grooms to preach and lead our Sunday School for our Bear Creek Camp weekend. Thank you for your support of Bear Creek Camp and for our campers, including through your support of the annual Soup Sale sponsored by Kendra Brosious and her family.

### **FROM THE MAILBOX**

To the Members of St. Paul's:

I am writing to express my sincere appreciation for the unwavering support and generosity shown to our children and families throughout the year. Year after year, I am continually



amazed by the outpouring of kindness and dedication shown to our Head Start children and families throughout Luzerne and Wyoming Counties. Your generous donations have provided hundreds of children and their families with exceptional support.

Our program is deeply embedded in the communities we serve, and we want to take a moment to express how much we value the partnerships we've built over the years. The support we receive from individuals, businesses and organizations throughout the community is essential to our program.

We cannot do this important work alone, and we are incredibly thankful for such a caring community that wholeheartedly believes in our mission to support our children and families. Our dedication helps us create meaningful change, and we are truly grateful for your support.

As we look ahead to 2025 and beyond, we are excited to continue our partnership and work together with you to make an even greater impact in the lives of the children and families we serve.

With sincere appreciation,  
Beth White, Executive Director  
Luzerne County Head Start, Inc.

Dear Sunday School Students,

Thank you so much for the beautiful Valentine. I love it! I will use it as a book marker and will think of you often.

Thanks again,  
Greta Ruckno

Hi Everyone,

Mary Ehret, our in-house food guru, has reminded me that March is National Nutrition Month. She sent along some interesting articles including a recipe for Microwave Baked Apple from MyPlate.gov:



**Ingredients:**

- 4 large apples
- ½ cup brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon

**Directions:**

Wash hands with soap and water. Wash apples in running water and remove the core. Cut a thin slice off the bottom. Place apples in a microwave safe dish in a circle. Mix brown sugar and cinnamon and spoon into the center of the apple. Cover with wax paper and microwave on high for 6 to 10 minutes or until softened.

Below are some other resources you may want to explore:

Learn new cooking strategies or meal planning at [myplate.gov/myplateassistant](http://myplate.gov/myplateassistant)

Eat right and reduce food waste at [archwellhealth.com/news/eating-well-with-less-food-waste/](http://archwellhealth.com/news/eating-well-with-less-food-waste/)

Food connects us at [summerfieldcustomwellness.com/healthy-insights/food-connects-us/](http://summerfieldcustomwellness.com/healthy-insights/food-connects-us/)

ENJOY!!! Thanks, Mary!

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

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“Of one thing I am perfectly sure: God’s story never ends with ashes.”

—Elisabeth Elliot

**ROAST BEEF DINNER TIME**

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 tender 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.

As always, your help is needed to make sure this dinner is a success. Please check out the sign-up sheets to be posted soon in the Narthex. Volunteers are needed to help make pepper hash, set up tables, work the steam tables and help in the kitchen, wait on tables, clean up and bake desserts, to name just a few areas where you can help. Remember, no experience is necessary; on-the-job training is gladly provided!

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**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. Watch for more information about drop-off times and volunteering in upcoming bulletins.