

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH PARISH MESSENGER

FEBRUARY 2024

In the name of Jesus Christ,
Saint Paul Lutheran Church
is committed to praising,
praying, and proclaiming the Word of God.



250 Trinity Road
York, PA 17408
Phone: 717-792-1650
www.saintpaultrinity.org

The Parish Messenger is dedicated in memory of Cpl. Luke Smyser Runyan who was killed Feb. 17, 2008 in Iraq, sponsored by the family / in loving memory of Charles & Esther Kilburn by the family

Pastor Steve Shipman

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Cell phone: 570-916-7780

Church Office: Phone:

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Office is open 8:00 am–4:00 pm, Monday-Friday

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Jack Hall – minisexton@saintpaultrinity.org

CYC Director -

Malinda Grube -

cycdirector@saintpaultrinity.org

COUNCIL MEMBERS

President Al Dickensheets (24)

Vice Pres. Ed Dunklebarger (26)

Secretary Erica Jones (24)

Asst. Sec. Terri Masemer (24)

Treasurer Lawrence Smyser (24)

Alison Strausbaugh (26)

Joe Jones, Jr. (26)

Jessica Markle (26)

Eva Phillips (25)

Barb Eisenhart (25)

Sandy Patchel (25)

Bob Yeater (25)

Assist. Treasurers: Al Dickensheets, Lawrence Smyser, Bob Yeater

Cemetery Caretaker: Terry Emig

Cemetery Board: Keith Bergey, Mike Eisenhart, Dave Crowell



DEADLINE: Articles for the March newsletter need to be in the church office by **February 15, 2024.**

PASTORS' LETTER

At first glance there is a certain irony that Ash Wednesday and St. Valentine's Day fall on the same date this year. Ash Wednesday is about fasting and repentance in preparation to observe Easter, while Valentine's Day is about romantic love and eating lots of chocolate.

While we don't know much with confidence about St. Valentine, tradition says that he was a Christian martyr in the third century. Supposedly God had restored the sight of the blind adopted daughter of a Roman judge when Valentine prayed for her, after which the judge destroyed all his idols and was baptized with his family. Later Valentine was arrested for continuing to evangelize, and on the way to his martyrdom he wrote a letter to the girl whose sight had been restored, signing it "Your Valentine."

I tend to be skeptical of many of these stories, but this one has led in a circuitous way to the holiday we celebrate. And Valentine should be remembered not for chocolates and chubby little cherubs shooting arrows at lovers, but for his love of Jesus that brought healing and blessing to many and finally led to his torture and death.

Lent reminds us that the Christian journey is about dying in order to find true life. It is about discovering that what is really important is not what is passing away but what remains eternally in God. The Bible tells us that in our baptism we die with Christ in order to be raised with him to new and abundant life now and forever.

Ash Wednesday comes much earlier than usual this year, because Easter is on March 31. We will gather as in past years for fellowship (which for Lutherans of course means food) followed by a brief study and service of worship. I am thinking of reflecting on the "I Am" sayings of Jesus in John's Gospel during the Wednesdays of Lent. And we will continue our Divine Drama study in the mornings at 10.

I hope you can join us on Wednesdays in Lent. And if anybody feels the need for individual confession and forgiveness during Lent or otherwise, feel free to call upon me. This was very important for Luther and Lutherans historically. For us it is not about naming all our sins but hearing God's Word of forgiveness spoken to those things that burden us with guilt or shame. I have learned from some of my teachers the value of hearing this

forgiveness spoken to us by exercising what is called the Office of the Keys (see Matthew 16:19 and John 20:23).

And as a final note, we will be honored on Sunday, February 11, to host Bishop Daniel Selbo of the North American Lutheran Church, who will preach at both our services. Please make a special effort to be with us on that Sunday and spread the word to your friends. You won't be disappointed! There are reasons why Bp. Dan was overwhelmingly elected to a second term in this office.

Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel. You are all making this interim time an experience of joy and renewal for me. Please continue praying that our congregation might grow and thrive in the Spirit as we prepare to welcome our new pastor whom God will send at the time when He chooses.

Steve Shipman, STS
570-916-7780
pastor@saintpaultrinity.org



HAPPY BIRTHDAY 70 +

If your birthday is coming up and you do not want it recognized, please call the church office before the 15th of the month before your birthday.

Feb. 2	Albert (Butch) Maul 4190 Wolf's Church Road, York, PA 17408
Feb. 7	Alan Wright 1831 Shoemaker Dr., New Oxford, PA 17350
Feb. 12	Donna Reeve 4463 Walters Hatchery Rd, Spring Grove, PA 17362
Feb. 18	Gerald Roth 410 Trinity Rd., York, PA 17408
Feb. 26	Gary Mann 1806 Hilton Ave., Dover, PA 17315
Feb. 28	Kenneth Worley 4070 Robinhood Dr., York, PA 17408

SPECIAL APPEAL FOR FEBRUARY

Voice of the Martyrs

Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted-1 Timothy 3:12

In some 40 plus countries around the world, Christians face severe persecution. Saint Paul wants to help them and the premiere organization that helps in that process is Voice of the Martyrs.

VOM's Mission Statement: Serving persecuted Christians through practical and spiritual assistance and leading other members of the Body of Christ into fellowship with them.

VOM's Five Main Purposes

1. To encourage and empower Christians to fulfill the Great Commission in areas of the world where they are persecuted for sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ.
2. To provide practical relief and spiritual support to the families of Christian martyrs.
3. To equip persecuted Christians to love and win to Christ those who are opposed to the gospel in their part of the world.
4. To undertake projects of encouragement, helping believers rebuild their lives and Christian witness in countries where they have formerly suffered oppression.
5. To promote the fellowship of all believers by informing the world of the faith and courage of persecuted Christians, thereby inspiring believers to a deeper level of commitment to Christ and involvement in His Great Commission.

Please use the special envelope in your offering envelope packet to contribute.

HARVEST OF HOPE FOOD PANTRY

Harvest of Hope Food Pantry is in need of the items listed below. You may place your donations on the table located near the church office. Monetary donations are always gratefully appreciated. Thank you!

Canned items: Chicken Noodle or Chicken Rice Soups, Tomato Soup, Pasta Sauce, Diced Tomatoes, Fruit, Tuna, Chicken Breast, Salmon, Kidney or Vegetarian Beans.

Boxed items: Macaroni and Cheese, Dry Spaghetti, Dry Macaroni, Egg Noodles, Rice, Peanut Butter, Cereal; Gluten free products and lower sugar items.

Easter Needs:

Hams 3 - 6 pound

Turkey Breasts

Boxed Potatoes

Boxed Stuffing

Canned Turkey or Chicken Gravy

Canned Yams or Sweet Potatoes



TREASURER'S REPORT

Recap of Treasurer's Report as of December 31, 2023

	Current	Bene.	Bldg Maint.	Total	Capital Fund
2023 YTD Receipts	\$406,709	\$35,187	\$97,524	\$539,420	\$106,065
Disbursements	\$411,126	\$36,385	\$102,519	\$550,030	
2023 Change in Fund Balance	\$(4,417)	\$(1,198)	\$(4,995)	\$(10,610)	
Prior Year's Balance	\$43,028	\$18,084	\$7,638	\$68,750	
Accumulated Fund Balance	\$38,611	\$16,886	\$2,643	\$58,140	
Fund Balance Last Month	\$42,115	\$15,890	\$(13,240)	\$44,765	
This Month's Change	\$(3,504)	\$996	\$15,883	\$13,375	

CHURCH COUNCIL

The Church Council meeting was held in the conference room at 7pm.

Council Members in attendance: Al Dickensheets, Mike Barndt, Dave Grube, Erica Jones, Roxanne Donnan, Donna Rinehart, Bob Yeater, Barb Eisenhart, Terri Masemer, Eva Phillips, Sandy Patchel, Pastor Steve Shipman.

Excused: Lawrence Smyser

OPENING DEVOTIONS: Led by Pastor Steve Shipman

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA: Motion to adopt the agenda was made by Mike Barndt and 2nd by Dave Grube. Voice vote was unanimously all in favor.

MINUTES OF LAST COUNCIL MEETING: Motion to accept the minutes of last council meeting was made by Mike Barndt and 2nd by Dave Grube. Voice vote was unanimously all in favor.

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH BUDGET MEETING: Motion to accept the minutes from the congregational budget meeting was made by Mike Barndt and 2nd by Dave Grube. Voice vote was unanimously all in favor.

PASTORS' REPORT: Presented by Pastor Steve Shipman.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

MINISTRY OF RESOURCES – Prayer offered by Barb Eisenhart

FINANCE – Motion to accept the finance committee report made Eva Phillips and 2nd by Terri Masemer. Voice vote was unanimously all in favor. The Endowment fund is currently at \$698,070.31 and the Scholarship fund is currently at \$126,264.42. Next meeting: January 8, 7:00 pm.

MUTUAL MINISTRY – As needed.

PROPERTY – Next meeting: March 12, 6:00 pm.

SCHOLARSHIP -

MINISTRY OF GROWTH –Prayer offered by Donna Reinhart

FELLOWSHIP –No coffee hour Christmas Eve and New Years.

Committee will be planning the Ash Wednesday meal during their next meeting on February 5, 7:00 pm.

Women of the Word – Next meeting: December 20, 1:00 pm.

YOUTH AND FAMILY LIFE – Mystery dinner will be held on February 25. Next meeting: January 8, 6:00 pm.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – The CYC will be presenting the ABC's of Christmas on December 22 at 11:00 am. Sue Dickensheets is now teaching the Nursery class. Pastor Steve is willing to teach confirmation. Council discussed the possibility of having a parent run the class. Next meeting: January 8, 7:00 pm.

MINISTRY OF SERVICE – Prayer offered by Terri Masemer.

STEWARDSHIP – Next meeting: January 22, 7:00 pm.

OUTREACH – Expected date to get the photo directories handed out is January 21. The committee has gained 3 new members. Next meeting: January 12, 9:00 am.

Men of Faith: Next meeting: January 13, 8:00 am.

Member 2 member: Meet as needed.

SOCIAL MINISTRY – Committee was able to make 200 scarves for the food pantry and 17 Thanksgiving cheer baskets. Christmas cards were sent out to shut-ins. Asking for more members to join the committee. Next meeting: January 16, 9:00 am.

MINISTRY OF PRAISE – Prayer offered by Mike Barndt.

WORSHIP & MUSIC – Multiple members questioned why communion is not distributed during the 7:00pm Christmas Eve service and requested this be changed. Council discussed the issue and decided unanimously that communion should be served during the 7:00 service. Worship and music will discuss this further at their next meeting along with kneeling at the altar during first service. Next meeting: December 13, 7:00 pm.

OLD BUSINESS:

1) Pastor Murray to meet with council February 10, 2024 @ 9:30 am to put together a timetable and schedule moving forward.

2) Council election results:

Ed Dunkleberger, Jessica Markle, Joe Jones Jr., and Alison Strausbaugh.

NEW BUSINESS:

1) Church insurance: property valued at around 8 million, recommended \$20,000 deductible \$13,889 premium.

Motion to accept the deductible and premium at previously stated value made by Donna Reinhart and 2nd by Eva Phillips. Voice vote was unanimously all in favor.

2) Changing financial advisors: Motion to switch Endowment fund and Scholarship fund from Meryl Lynch to Morgan Stanley made by Bob Yeater and 2nd by Barb Eisenhart. Voice vote was unanimously all in favor.

3) Christian counseling associates: Looking for use of the building to offer counseling services. Meeting with Pastor Steve Shipman Friday December at 1:00 to learn more.

4) Congregational Meeting January 21, 2024 (3rd Sunday in January)

5) NALC Clergy Retreat January 16-18, 2024

REQUESTS FOR USE OF FACILITIES:

- AA and Girl Scouts continue use of facilities.
- Lorna Myers – fellowship hall & Sunday school room – Saturday, January 6, 2024 – 7:45am– 11:30 am Girl Scout Teen Event – 8 stations of minute to win it games. Motion to approve request for facilities made by Mike Barndt and 2nd by Barb Eisenhart. Voice vote was unanimously all in favor.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:

Deaths:

Funerals:

Removal from roles:

Transfer from Saint Paul:

Transfer in:

New Members:

Baptisms:

Weddings:

CALENDAR UPDATES:

- Next meeting January 9 @ 7pm

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Terri Masemer and 2nd by Dave Grube. Voice vote was unanimously all in favor.

LORD'S PRAYER

Respectfully submitted by Erica Jones, secretary.



Attention Ladies! The 2024 Atlantic Mission Women's annual weekend retreat is open for registration. The event will be held on Friday, April 19 (6 PM) – Sunday, April 21 (lunch) at Black Rock Retreat in Quarryville, PA. The Theme this year is ***Bloom Where You're Planted***. There is also a SATURDAY ONLY event and the cost for the day is \$75 and includes meals. Prayerfully consider joining the fun and fellowship. You may register online at <https://atlanticmissionregionnalc.regfox.com/2024-amr-womens-retreat>

There are also printed registration forms on the table in the library.

PRAY FOR OUR MISSIONARIES

The Philippines -

Pray for Ruth and the translation team as they continue work on Ezra, Nehemiah, Leviticus and Numbers. May the Lord open the hearts of Sea Gypsies to receive the translated Scriptures and believe.

Haiti -

Pray that more people in Haiti will come to recognize the Shepherd's voice, become his sheep and follow his directions. May whole families come to faith in Jesus together. Pray for the safety and well being of Andy Stump.

Kenya -

Pray for God's provision of a sturdy vehicle needed by Kathleen's ministry partner Theovision in order to access people in rugged areas. Kathleen visited our church and preached in October. She and Luke and Ruth are a few of the global workers of World Mission Pray League.

OUR DAILY BREAD


Our dessert for February is **blueberry muffins**. We need 30 dozen by 9 am on Friday, Feb. 16th. **We are asking that you please individually wrap all Our Daily Bread snacks.**


If you can contribute, please sign-up on the paper in the library area or call the church office.

Thank you!








 A very heartfelt thank you to all the individuals who **volunteered** their time and talents to decorate our nave and put up the outside nativity scene. To say the least, our nave looks so beautiful during the season and the outside nativity is a welcome sight as you enter our church's driveway. Your work has **not** gone unnoticed, and we appreciate all of you very much!

1 Corinthians 16:14...Let all that you do be done in love.
From: A grateful congregation 

THANK YOU!!!! A BIG THANK YOU to Joyce Hall for overseeing our new picture directory. It was a BIG job with multiple steps, but well worth the wait! Thank you also to all those who assisted her throughout this process. It is a very current and comprehensive resource for all of us to reference and is much appreciated.

Sometimes prayers come in the most innocent and serene way...A few weeks ago after singing time in Sunday School, the children made a circle around me and I was in the middle of it. Ms. Ellen B. asked the children to place their hand on me and to pray with her about my upcoming knees(s) surgery. As Miss Ellen prayed in short phrases and the children repeated it after her, I was **so moved** at the innocence of their voices in prayer over me. I'm here to give testimony of the power and grace of God, even in our youngest person in prayer. These children are God's most beautiful gifts, whether they're singing  or praying ! All Glory to Him, Connie D. 

We would like to thank the church for their support during our mom's funeral service and luncheon. Our parents always loved it here. Carol Deller, Jeff Witmer and families.

BIBLE STUDY

Our current Bible Study is Divine Drama, a 16-session study that is an overview of the Bible's "big story," as the author of the program (Pastor Harry Wendt) described it. We will resume on January 31 and continue through Lent. Like CYC, we will follow Spring Grove schools; if they delay or cancel, we will not meet. Plan on joining us on Wednesday's at 10:00 am!



WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY

- Feb. 4** **Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany**
First Lesson: Isaiah 40:21-31
Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 9:16-27
Gospel: Mark 1:29-39
- Feb. 11** **Transfiguration of Our Lord**
First Lesson: Exodus 34:29-35
Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 3:12-13, 4:1-6
Gospel: Mark 9 :2-9
- Feb. 14** **Ash Wednesday**
First Lesson: Joel 2:12-19
Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
- Feb. 18** **First Sunday in Lent**
First Lesson: Genesis 22:1-18
Second Lesson: James 1:12-18
Gospel: Mark 1:9-15
- Feb. 25** **Second Sunday in Lent**
First Lesson: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Second Lesson: Romans 5:1-11
Gospel: Mark 8:27-38

SPONSORSHIPS

ALTAR FLOWERS (\$50/wk)

Feb. 4	Crystal Cole / Faye Nace
Feb. 11	Dot Mann / Basket – Carole Dormuth
Feb. 18	Cindy & Gerry Roth
Feb. 25	John & Linda Sherman / Basket – Gausmann's

BULLETIN (\$20/wk.)

Feb. 4	OPEN
Feb. 11	Sandy & Marty Albright
Feb. 18	Rodney & Joyce Smyser
Feb. 25	Deb Shue

BREAD & WINE (\$15/wk.)

Feb. 4	OPEN
Feb. 11	Sandy & Marty Albright
Feb. 18	Norma Krebs
Feb. 25	Ted & Norma Krebs

MAILING MINISTRY (\$10/wk.)

Feb. 4	OPEN
Feb. 11	OPEN
Feb. 18	Mike & Marguerite Keller
Feb. 25	Carl & Sandy Bender

PARISH MESSENGER

Dot Mann / Cindy Roth

SANCTUARY LAMP

Sandy & Marty Albright

OPEN 2024 SPONSORSHIPS

Please note that if you are sponsoring the 5th Sunday, it may not be available next year. If you wish to sponsor an opening, please call the church office 717-792-1650, between 8 am & 4 pm.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

(Faith Learning 9:40 on Sunday Morning)

There is something for every age and interest!

"If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given to you."

James 1:5

For Adults:

Ordinary Faith – This class meets in room 13/14 behind the stage in Fellowship Hall. We study interesting, yet ordinary, people in the Bible. These ordinary people are examples of extraordinary faith which is an inspiration to us in our spiritual life. Studying Jacob/Leah in January. All are welcome to join us each Sunday morning.

Lutheran Theology Class – This Class meets in the conference room next to the mailboxes. Currently studying Catechetical instruction

Concordia study works through various books of the Bible -

This class meets in the quilters room, located behind the elevator, and is working through Galatians.

For the Young People:

Grades 7-12 are meeting in the youth room at the end of the hall for Common Threads – see how scripture weaves into your daily walk.

Grades 4-6 (now CLUB 456) are meeting in Room 2 for SOMETHING NEW! Come check out the room and our new format. Christian Music, Bible Videos and Scripture Talks! Spread the Word.

Ages 3-Grade 3 are participating in age-appropriate small group rotations. Each Sunday, they get to go to the story room, the craft room, and the Praise Kids in Motion room.

Nursery for 1- and 2-year-olds led by Sue Dickensheets.

Join the Faith Building fun!

**Growing
Together
in Faith**



WOMEN OF THE WORD

We will meet February 21, 2024, at 1:00 pm and be studying "Entering Joy" led by Barb Sloat.

MEN OF FAITH

Men of Faith will meet on Saturday, February 10, at 8:00 am for a good breakfast and continue our video progress and discussion through the Acts of the Apostles. In the midst of challenging times for Christians around the world it is helpful to revisit the beginnings of the faith we enjoy and share today. Pastor Ed Keefer will continue to lead the discussion. Always room and delight to welcome new faces into the group.

Book Club

Book Club will meet Friday, February 16 at 10:30 AM in the library area. We are pleased to announce sharing the book "We Shall Live in Heaven" by Harri Haamer. It is a testimony of faith, recounting his experiences in a Soviet labor camp. Siimon Haamer, his grandson, will be visiting Saint Paul the first Sunday in May. He can answer questions and share more about the struggle to renew the Christian faith, specifically Lutheran, in Estonia.



Please join our discussion of this timely book. Read it even if you cannot participate in book club. Copies are available on Amazon and a few are in the church office to be shared.

Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee of Saint Paul is responsible for many important events every year that involve our members and the community, sharing the gospel with our neighbors and worldwide. Some of our activities are the Veterans Outreach Event in the summer, Feed the Hunger in the fall, visitors welcome bags, Member2Member, Highway Cleanup, and the church directory. We are looking for additional members to help with these programs and will be meeting on February 12.

Daily Texts for 2024 are still available on the table in the library area for \$10 each.

*The
Season
of
Lent*



**Our Lenten Observance begins
February 14th with Ash Wednesday -
Meal at 6:00 pm and Service at 7:00 pm**

Our mid-week evening services take place each Wednesday at 7:00 pm with a potluck meal starting at 6:00 pm from February 21 to March 20th.

We will have many services during Holy Week – March 24-31 with Easter breakfast Sunday, March 31st.

Souper Bowl of Caring

Our congregation will be participating in Souper Bowl of Caring on Sunday, Feb. 11. Youth will be standing in the Narthex following both worship services collecting monetary donations to put towards our Feed the Hunger event.

Mystery Dinner February 25th

Get ready for our annual Mystery Dinner being held at 12:15 pm on Sunday, Feb. 25! This is a 3-course meal where each menu item is a surprise. You may enjoy your dessert during the first course or get all of your utensils at the last course. It all depends on how lucky you are when ordering all 15 items. Everyone will end up with each menu item by the end of the meal. Tickets for this fun event cost \$8 each or 4 for \$30 and will be sold after worship services on Sun. Feb. 4, Sun. Feb. 11, and Sun. Feb. 18. Proceeds from the Mystery Dinner will be split between Asaph and Human Life Services.

Youth (grades 6 and older) and their families are asked to meet at church on Saturday, Feb. 24 at 10:00 am to prepare for the Mystery Dinner. Please be on the lookout for an email from Sandy Patchel for more information and to sign up.