

The Epistle

A newsletter for the Members and Friends of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church



February 2024

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I am sure you know that Easter Sunday is not a “fixed” day during the year like Christmas which is on December 25th. Easter is a “movable feast,” so it doesn’t happen on the same date from year to year. In the Gregorian calendar, Easter Sunday is always observed on a Sunday between March 22 and April 25. Easter Sunday always occurs on the first Sunday following the full Moon that occurs on or after the March or spring equinox. Confused??? Well, you are not alone! So, while Christmas is fixed to a solar calendar (and near the winter solstice), Easter is based on the lunar cycles of the Jewish calendar. In the Christian religion, the Last Supper was a Passover feast. It’s because Easter is based on a lunar month (which is 29.5 days) that the date of Easter can vary, which means this year will be observed on Sunday, March 31. Because we have an “early” Easter it also shortens up the Season of Epiphany because we always have five weeks of Lent. I personally prefer a “later” Easter because Lent planning and sharing information with the congregation doesn’t need to happen until March, but not this year, and hence the information I am sharing below in this February newsletter.

Our Lenten theme this year will be Created for Community. Over the five weeks of Lent, we will be reminded that we are in community with creation, all the saints, our neighbor, those on the margins, and with Jesus. Leading and serving in a church requires a continual call for us to being a part of a community. This takes work, effort, and intentionality. It’s easy to slip away from community because of busy schedules, or feeling like our presence doesn’t matter. So as a call back, consider Lent a time to deepen your connection to this faith community, not just for you, but for others. Having a simple meal, sharing in worship, and learning is powerful. I am glad St. Paul’s can provide these opportunities for the building up our faith community.

Mid-Week Worship Opportunities During Lent

Theme: Created for Community

Wednesday Evenings During Lent
February 21, 28 and March 6, 13, 20

6 pm – Meal and Lenten Activity in the Fellowship Hall
7 pm – Evangelical Lutheran Worship Evening Prayer (in person and on Facebook Live)

Thursday Afternoons During Lent
February 22, 29 and March 7, 14, 21

12 pm to 12:30 pm – Lunch (food sign ups can be found in the narthex)
12:30 pm to 1:30 pm – Bible Study
1:30 pm to 1:45 pm – Service of the Word

Finally, just a reminder that Ash Wednesday will be held on February 14 with worship and the Imposition of Ashes at 12 pm and 7 pm. The 7 pm worship service will be streamed on Facebook Live.

In gratitude,
Pastor Bill Coleman

**Church Council
Contact
Information**

Church Officers

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610-287-5499

Shirley Schimpf

Vice President

215-527-8448

Cathy Hurley

Treasurer

215-258-1211

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Secretary

610-287-8897

Church Council

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215-257-4707

Amy Haines

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Joan O'Connor

215-368-6614

Tom Sommers

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Dale Souder

215-527-4709



Church Family News

On December 10, Penelope Marie Baughan was claimed as a child of God in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Penelope is the daughter of Stephen and Nicole Baughan and the great great niece of Jim and Gloria Beer.

You are invited to pray for the families and friends of...

Winnie Murphy, who died on December 11, 2023

Karen Money, who died on December 28, 2023

Richard Parvin, who died on January 13, 2024

Finance Update

Checking Account - Monthly	
Beginning Balance 12/1/23	\$19,886.06
Deposits (monthly)	\$31,593.27
Beginning Bal + Deposits	\$51,479.33
Expenses (monthly)	\$29,982.90
Ending Balance 12/31/23	\$21,496.43

Checking Account - YTD	
Beginning Balance 1/1/23	\$37,296.47
Deposits to date	\$325,364.13
Beginning Balance + Deposits	\$362,660.60
Expenses to date	\$341,164.17
Ending Balance 12/31/23	\$21,496.43

Ending Fund Balances 12/31/23	
Memorial Fund	\$37,276.44
Capital Reserve	\$59,457.37
Benevolence	\$3,123.23
Specials	\$29,474.31

Liabilities as of 12/31/23	
Mortgage Balance	\$7,193.85

This information is the most up to date available at time of printing. More up to date information can be found in the Sunday bulletins, or by calling the church office.



**Thank You
Notes**

Thank you for the beautiful poinsettia plant and Christmas gift given to Harvey at Shepherd's Way. It brightened up his room. Happy New Year to all.

Sandy Groff

On behalf of the homeless in Kensington, I want to thank you, the congregation of St. Paul's, for your generous outreach to the community. The people receiving sleeping bags, sweaters, coats, shoes, pants, and all were overwhelmed and so appreciative of your kindness. Jesus surely is at work in your lives as you reach out to those in need.

Joan O'Connor

I want to thank you for your thoughts, prayers and cards sent to me when my brother unexpectedly passed away. I very much appreciate the love and support I felt and feel, from my fellow St Paul's friends. Thanks again.

Sara Ryan

Reminder!



Please remember that if you have any changes to your address, home phone number, cell phone number, email address, etc., please let Ashley in the church office know so that we can continue to keep our church records as up to date as possible.



www.stpaulstelford.org and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/StPaulsLutheranChurchTelfordPa/



Ash Wednesday Services

Wednesday, February 14 at 12:00 and 7:00 pm
The 7pm service will be streamed on Facebook Live

Intersections


February 11 and 25

Sunday Adult Faith Conversations
Where Daily Life Intersects with God's Word

Led by Pastor Coleman and Marian Henry

10:45 am in the Parlor


Grief Group



Pastor Coleman will lead a Grief Group for those grieving the death of a loved one. If you are interested in learning more about how the Grief Group works at St. Paul's or would like to participate, please contact Pastor Coleman at the church office number (215-723-8981) or at pastor@stpaulstelford.org by **February 4**. Please know that you do not need to grieve alone.

Indian Valley Cluster Shrove Tuesday Event


Tuesday, February 13 from 6-8 pm
Advent Lutheran Church in Harleysville



Congregations of the Indian Valley Cluster will gather to celebrate Shrove Tuesday, on February 13th at Advent Lutheran Church in Harleysville. (470 Landis Road Harleysville, PA 19438). The event will be from 6 to 8 pm.

Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday beginning the penitential season of Lent, related popular practices, such as indulging in food that one might give up as their Lenten sacrifice for the upcoming forty days. The term Mardi Gras is French for "Fat Tuesday", referring to the practice of the last night of eating richer, fatty foods before the ritual fasting of the Lenten season. Join us for the Burning of the Palms, Table Prayers, Fellowship and Fun and a Pancake dinner with other "fatty" goodies provided.

Please sign up on the bulletin board in the church narthex or call the church office by Sunday, February 4th!



Every Fourth Tuesday of the Month at Free Will Brewing Co., Perkasie

Next Meeting: February 27 at 7 pm


For the past several years, members from several local congregations have been gathering on the 4th Tuesday of every month for Pub Theology. Each month features a different leader and topic. Conversations are always lively and thought-provoking. Won't you consider joining us? No previous Bible knowledge needed!

Bible Quiz

Use one word (perhaps in different forms) for all the blanks to complete this Scripture passage:

"Dear friends, let us ____ one another, for ____ comes from God. Everyone who ____ has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not ____ does not know God, because God is ____."

A. believe
B. help
C. love
D. forgive



Answer: C (See 1 John 4:7-8, NIV)



Sunday Morning Children's Ministry Schedule

February 4 – Kids help in worship

February 11 – Bear Creek Camp representative will lead kids in BCC games, show a video about summer camp, and answer any questions kids (and parents) have about camp.

February 18 – Class time

February 25 – setup and make breakfast for “Pancakes for Pals”

After worship is “The Big Reveal”! Where kids discover who is their Secret Pal! Families will enjoy breakfast with the Secret Pals.

Wednesday Night

Kids Club!

Our last Kids Club for the 2023-2024 school year!

Wednesday, February 7
starting with pizza dinner at 6pm.



After choir, kids will peel, cut & chop vegetables that were grown in “good soil” to make a large pot of vegetable soup to be given to Zion Mennonite’s Table of Plenty.

We end with dessert at 7:45pm.

“Lord, let my heart be good soil!”

Youth Hoagie Sale



To raise funds for youth attending Bear Creek Camp retreats/camp and for Bear Creek Camp itself!

Italian & turkey hoagies are available for \$10 each. Orders must be placed by Sunday, February 4 and can be picked up after worship on Sunday, February 11.



CONNECTED BY LOVE

God’s Word is filled with messages about love, which connects us to God and to one another.

Directions: Draw a line from the beginning of each Bible verse (on the left side) through the heart to the rest of the verse (on the right side). Use the Scripture references for help.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| a. We | 1. each other as I have loved you. John 15:12 |
| b. Above all, | 2. has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. John 15:13 |
| c. My command is this: | 3. But perfect love drives out fear. 1 John 4:18 |
| d. And over all these virtues put on | 4. each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8 |
| e. Greater | 5. the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! 1 John 3:1 |
| f. See what great | 6. because he first loved us. 1 John 4:19 |
| g. There is no fear in | 7. which binds them all together in perfect unity. Colossians 3:14 |





Sunday, February 11

Bring in cans of soup for our Blessing Box and vote for who you think will win the Super Bowl!

Cash donations will be used to purchase more cans of soup to be placed in our Blessing Box.

Bible Study for Thursdays in February



February 1 – Mothers and Mayhem

February 15 – Bible Study on Sunday Readings

February 22 – Thursday Afternoons in Lent (see Lent Schedule)

February 29 – Thursday Afternoons in Lent (see Lent Schedule)

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Thursday, March 21 from 2:00 -7:00 pm



The next American Red Cross Blood Drive is scheduled for Thursday, March 21 from 2:00 -7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please contact the church office for more details or to make an appointment. You can also make an appointment at www.redcrossblood.org using sponsor code stpaulstelford.

New Member Classes and Reception



The New Member “Disciple” Classes and Reception is an intentional effort to “make disciples of all people and baptize them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.” It’s



helpful for congregational members to have this structure, so we are mindful of the importance of inviting others into St. Paul’s, and when we do so, to have a process to get them “plugged in”.

New Member Classes—Sunday, April 7 and April 28, 2024 at 10:45 am

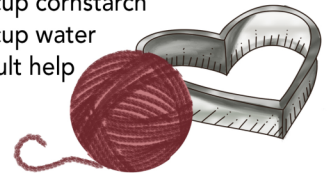
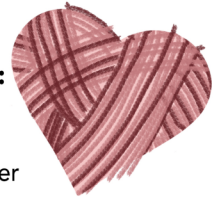
New Member Reception—Sunday, May 5, 2024 during 9:30 am worship service with a time of fellowship in the fellowship hall after worship



Make this heartfelt craft as a decoration or gift.

What you need:

- Yarn
- Scissors
- Parchment paper
- Baking sheet
- Heart-shaped cookie cutters
- ¼ cup cornstarch
- ½ cup water
- Adult help



What you do:

1. Cut yarn into 12-inch pieces.
2. Place cookie cutters atop a baking sheet lined with parchment paper.
3. Combine cornstarch and water in a saucepan. Heat mixture over medium heat, stirring until thick and smooth. Remove from heat and cool to form a “glue.”
4. Dip each piece of yarn into the mixture to coat completely. Squeeze off any excess.
5. Place yarn in the cookie cutters, allowing pieces to cross and loop within the heart. Add more until the cookie cutter is filled and the yarn looks like a heart.
6. Remove cookie cutters and bake the sheet for two hours at 150°F, or until hearts are dry and hard.

Volunteers for February 2024

ALTAR GUILD

Sandy Groff, Cathy Hurley, Sara Johnson,
Mary Ann Koenig

ASSISTING MINISTERS

February 4— Dawn Krown

February 11— Diane King

February 14 12 pm—TBD

February 14 7pm—Wayne Young

February 18— Wayne Young

February 25—Denny Detweiler

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

February 4— Denny Detweiler and Brittney Jones

February 11— Jim McMichael and Cathy Hurley

February 14 12 pm—Marian Henry and TBD

February 14 7pm—Jim McMichael and Shirley Schimpf

February 18— Dale Souder and Shirley Schimpf

February 25—Ray Landis and Amanda Zeppenfeld

FLOWER DELIVERY

February 4— Beth Seifert

February 11— Jeanette Johnson

February 18— Sara Johnson

February 25—Joan Votta

GREETERS

February 4— Cathy Hurley

February 11— Deb Bitner

February 18— Judy and Ken Heckler

February 25—Ruth Sommers

LECTORS

February 4— Paige Brasch

February 11— Bob Bell

February 14 12 pm—Marian Henry

February 14 7pm—TBD

February 18— Frank Bucher

February 25—Amy Coleman

USHERS

February 4— Youth Ministry

February 11— Ron Money, Fred Johns, and Joan
O'Connor

February 14 12 pm—Ron and Sandy Schneck

February 14 7pm—Ron Schneck and Joan O'Connor

February 18— Dave Hange, Rod Hange and
Joan O'Connor

February 25—Greg Fosbenner, Brian Garges and
Joan O'Connor

Prayer List



In Our Prayers

The following prayer list is current as of January 24, 2024. Please contact the church office with any changes. Names will remain on the prayer list for four weeks unless notified otherwise. Thank you.

Please Pray for...

• Bob Bonner	• Carrie Scary
• Jim Lombardo	• David Somers
• Stacey Lusk	• Betty Jean Way
• Diane Planutis	• Terry Winder

Please Continue to Pray for...

• Lisa Bealer	• Keith Landis
• Dick Clark	• Bruce Lawhon
• Maxine Detweiler	• Tracey Leinen
• Carolyn Evans	• Bill Lincoln
• Susan Farrington	• Anna Long
• Roland Fernandez	• Gene Moyer
• Suzanne Fernandez	• Shari Nyles
• Tim Greiser	• Joanne Romano
• Harvey Groff	• Robert Scott Sr.
• Lorraine Guarino	• Dean Shollenberger
• Gloria Harpel	• Jeff and Heather Spillane
• Leslie Harpel	• Jim Stover
• Cheryl Hutchison	• Andrew Strauss
• Jim Hurley	• Claudette Strauss
• Roger Jones	• Linda Tierrmo
• Gayle King	• Carole Ann Vogel
• Elijah Klingman	• Fred Wahl
• Al Landis	

Comfort for the Bereaved

• Family and Friends of Sandy Driscoll
(Sister of Glen, Greg, and Brad Kooker)

• Family and Friends of Judy Killian
(Friend of Gerry Spiese)

• Family and Friends of Hildegard Lamparter
(Mother of Priscilla Landis)

• Family and Friends of Ronald Long
(Father of Kim King)

• Family and Friends of Karen Money

• Family and Friends of Winnie Murphy

• Family and Friends of Richard Parvin

**If you would like a name added to the prayer list, please fill out the "Prayer Requests" section of the weekly bulletin insert, or speak to Pastor Coleman or Ashley in the church office.*