

The Epistle

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



March 2024

PASTOR

Rev. Bill Coleman
215-723-8981
Cell: 814-823-9742
pastor@stpaulstelford.org

DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Marian Henry
215-723-8981
dce@stpaulstelford.org

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Ashley Bromley
215-723-8981
secretary@stpaulstelford.org

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Kristine Fosbener
215-257-4707

FEAST & CELEBRATION DIRECTOR

Mike King
215-723-8981

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Ray Landis
610-287-5499
council@stpaulstelford.org

SEXTON

Al Lightner
215-368-0374

I am grateful to be a part of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church and I hope you feel the same way. We have a wonderful church building, committed and loving fellow church members, and so many opportunities for learning, fellowship, and service. We gather at St. Paul's to receive and give love. But we are also part of a very large church, well beyond our doors, and because learning is a part of our Lenten Journey, I am sharing parts of that larger church so as you make your offerings to St. Paul's, you will know that your giving flows out to the needs of many. Here are the many expressions of our church.

Congregations like St. Paul's (www.stpaulstelford.org) are centers for evangelical mission, where people of faith celebrate, learn, and connect with one another and others around the world through service and weekly worship. We are a church of 8,900 congregations across the United States, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. More locally within the life of the Southeastern PA Synod, St. Paul's is part of a collaboration of churches called the Indian Valley Cluster. Those churches are St. Paul's Lutheran, Telford; Grace Lutheran, Hatfield; Emmanuel Lutheran, Souderton, Advent Lutheran Harleysville; and Christ Lutheran, Kulpville. Cluster Events include shared worship services, local service projects, and fellowship events. St. Paul's is also a part of the Upper Bucks Conference which shares resources among the congregations and provides support to Rostered Leaders. Rev. Erika Wesch of Little Zion Lutheran Church, Telford is the Upper Bucks Conference Dean.

Synods like the Southeastern PA Synod (www.ministrylink.org) are one of 65 synods which vary greatly in size, geography, membership, staffing and program. Our smallest synod has 30 congregations — the largest nearly 300. The synods are grouped into nine regions throughout the United States, which are points of connection for them and the churchwide organization. Synods unite the work of congregations within their areas, serve as regional support, and guide pastoral and other staff candidates, through such things as the Call Process, which led me to serve as your pastor. Bishop Patricia Davenport and her staff, including Pastor Marica Bell, director of synod mobility, strengthen the relationship congregations and their Rostered Leaders.

Churchwide Organization of the ELCA (www.elca.org) is based out of the Lutheran Center in Chicago and functions with the ELCA's 65 synods. It nurtures important connections with Lutheran, ecumenical and interfaith partners, and related organizations. The Churchwide Organization works alongside 27 colleges and universities related to the ELCA, 7 seminaries (such as United Lutheran Seminary), more than 2,000 schools and early childhood education centers, campus ministries, outdoor ministries (such as Bear Creek Camp) social service agencies, (such as ELCA World Hunger, Lutheran Disaster Response and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services.)

Lutheran World Federation (www.lutheranworld.org) is a network of Lutheran churches throughout the world representing over 75.5 million people covers seven geographic regions and a diverse array of contexts. The Lutheran World Federation promotes justice, peace, reconciliation and dignity for individuals and communities.

It brings me joy to see our connection to our brothers and sisters in Christ, and I am thankful that through our shared ministry, we are never alone.

In gratitude,
Pastor Bill Coleman

**Church Council
Contact
Information**

Church Officers

Ray Landis
President
610-287-5499

Shirley Schimpf
Vice President
215-527-8448

Cathy Hurley
Treasurer
215-258-1211

Wayne Young,
Secretary
610-287-8897

**Church Council
Members**

Denny Detweiler
484-576-0036

Janet Farrington
267-733-8725

Greg Fosbenner
215-257-4707

Amy Haines
215-730-7027

Joan O'Connor
215-368-6614

Tom Sommers
267-257-8232

Dale Souder
215-527-4709

Finance Update



Checking Account - Monthly	
Beginning Balance 1/1/24	\$21,496.43
Deposits (monthly)	\$18,633.54
Beginning Bal + Deposits	\$40,129.97
Expenses (monthly)	\$24,462.98
Ending Balance 1/31/24	\$15,666.99

Checking Account - YTD	
Beginning Balance 1/1/24	\$21,496.43
Deposits to date	\$18,633.54
Beginning Balance + Deposits	\$40,129.97
Expenses to date	\$24,462.98
Ending Balance 1/31/24	\$15,666.99

Ending Fund Balances 1/31/24	
Memorial Fund	\$38,903.07
Capital Reserve	\$59,459.89
Benevolence	\$2,427.23
Specials	\$137,684.31

Liabilities as of 1/31/24	
Mortgage Balance	\$4,437.98

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

Dear Members of St. Paul's, Thank you very much for the prayers, cards, and words of consolation offered to me following the death of my mother. You lifted my spirits as I walked through some dark days. And the prayer shawl continues to cloak me in God's love. Thank you!

Priscilla Landis



Church Family News

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

Betty Jean Way, who died on February 12, 2024

Mary Ann Pratt, who died on January 25, 2024

Bible Quiz

The "Christ hymn" in Philippians 2 proclaims that after Jesus humbled himself even to the point of death, God exalted him, and that eventually all will worship him. What two body parts are named as part of that worship?

- A. knee; tongue
- B. hands; feet
- C. arms; lips
- D. heart; mouth



Answer: A (See Philippians 2:10-11)



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/



Mid Week Worship Opportunities During Lent

Wednesday Evenings During Lent

March 6, 13, and 20

6 pm – Meal and Lenten Activity in the Fellowship Hall
(Sign up can be found in the narthex)

7 pm – Evening Prayer Worship Service (in person and on
Facebook Live)

Thursday Afternoons During Lent

March 7, 14 and 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



Maundy Thursday Worship Service

Thursday, March 28 at 7:00 pm

Good Friday Worship Service

Friday, March 29 at 7:00 pm

Easter Sunrise Worship Service

Sunday, March 31 at 6:30 am*
at St. Paul's Cemetery

Easter Worship Services

Sunday, March 31 at 8:15* and 10:45 am
No Children's Ministry on Easter Sunday

*The Easter Sunrise service and the 8:15 am
Easter Sunday service will not be live streamed
on Facebook. All other services will be
available on Facebook Live if you prefer to
worship virtually.*

Intersections

March 10 and 24

*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



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

Next Meeting: March 26 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!



Sunday Morning Children's Ministry Schedule

March 3 – assist in worship

March 10 & 17 – class time

March 24 – Journey through Holy Week & Easter (Including Palm Sunday worship, Maundy Thursday snacks, Good Friday crafts, and Easter egg hunt)

March 31 – Easter Sunday (no Children's Ministry classes)

March Madness Family Fun Night

Saturday, March 2
from 5-7pm



- competitive basketball large group games
 - dinner & dessert
- free time in our Youth Room for youth
- parents will gather with Pastor Bill for a time of faith formation

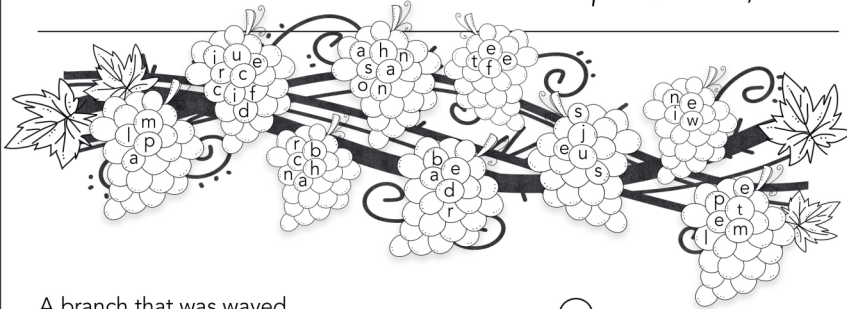
Families should signup using the provided signup genius.



A LASTING LESSON

Before dying on the cross, Jesus teaches the disciples an important lesson.

Directions: Use the clues to unscramble the letters in each grape cluster. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete John 15:5, NIV.



- A branch that was waved _____ ○
- How Jesus was put to death _____ ○ _____
- A stick attached to the vine _____ ○ _____
- People shouted this to Jesus _____ ○ _____
- Jesus washed these _____ ○ _____
- This was broken and eaten _____ ○ _____
- The Messiah _____ ○ _____
- A drink from grapes _____ ○ _____
- Jesus drove the money changers from here _____ ○ _____

"I am the vine; you are the branches.

If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear _____ ;
apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5, NIV

Answer: palm, crucified, branch, hosanna, feet, bread, Jesus, wine, temple, much fruit

First Communion Classes

Sunday March 3, 10 & 17 from
10:45-11:45am

Open to all 3rd graders and older youth who haven't received First Communion instruction.



Youth will receive their First Communion during our Maundy Thursday worship service on March 28.

We will hold a celebration potluck dinner before worship that evening.

Children's Choir Remaining Rehearsals

March 6, 13, and 20
6:15-6:30pm

March 27 - 6:30-7:00
Final Rehearsal of the
season and Choir Party



Children will sing in worship on Sunday,
March 3 at 9:30 am and Easter Sunday,
March 31

SPIFFY's

St. Paul's Intelligent
& Fun-Filled Youth!

For youth in 4th
through 6th grade



Saturday, March 16
1:30pm – 3:30pm

Youth will assist with BINGO games at Lutheran Community at Telford by calling the BINGO numbers, hand out prizes, and help some people with the bingo cards.

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—April 7 and April 28 at 10:45 am

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

Palm Cross Making Event

Monday, March 18 at 10:00 am in the
Fellowship Hall



Do you have the Palm Cross from last year’s Palm Sunday at St. Paul’s? Aren’t they wonderful to keep until 2024’s Palm Sunday! Would you like to learn how to make this Palm Cross yourself?

St Paul’s Senior Ministry is sponsoring an opportunity to learn how to make these lovely crosses and also learn more about different types of crosses (notice the different kinds on the sliding glass doors).

Instructors will guide you through the steps to make crosses which will be distributed to the congregation on Palm Sunday. They will also be a blessing to St Paul’s homebound included with the delivered Easter flowers.

So we can plan for supplies, please sign up on the list in the Narthex.

American Red Cross

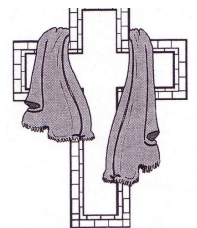
Blood Drive



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.

The Power of Prayer Shawls



Do you know someone who could use a prayer shawl to help bring comfort, healing, good thoughts...and just knowing that they are cared about? St. Paul’s, through a wonderful prayer ministry, has shawls available for the taking. They are located in a bin under the small table in the narthex to the left of the sacristy. Prayer shawls bring comfort to both young and old alike. They are prayerfully stitched by hand.

And... we could always use additional folks to knit or crochet shawls! For more information about obtaining a shawl, or how you can become a knitter or crocheter, please contact Janet Lincoln or Jayne Poole. And remember this, when one is going through a rough time there is nothing better than a “prayer hug” to wrap around you to know that our church family cares! The shawls are a tangible touch of God’s love.

What Are EcoPalms?

St Paul's Green Team has sponsored the use of "ecopalms" for the past six years as a way to promote environmental and social justice on earth.

Did You Know?

- Approximately 308 million palm fronds were consumed in the US in 2020
- Palm purchases for Palm Sunday are worth more than 4.5 million dollars
- Responsible palm gathering protects valuable natural forests
- At least half of the farmers of the Central Peten of Guatemala earn additional income from harvesting palm fronds and more than one quarter of household heads support themselves entirely by collecting fronds
- Each palm plant produces 2 to 5 harvestable leaves in a 4 month period.

Why a "Fair Trade" palm?

- To improve income and living conditions in the indigenous communities that harvest the palms
- To protect the palm trees and important forests from which they are gathered through sustainable harvest programs

How does this promote Environmental Stewardship?

- By managing a responsible palm harvest, the local forest is protected and the communities within, increase their income and provide a sustainable income source without damaging the environment

How does this promote Social Justice?

- Generally, harvesting palms is a volume based enterprise involving a "middle man" without regard to the prices paid the gatherers for their labor
- By purchasing "Fair Trade" palm fronds, the gatherers receive the income directly from the purchasers, increasing their standard of living by raising household incomes and eliminating the "middle man"

Prayer List



In Our Prayers

The following prayer list is current as of February 20, 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...

Jim Lombardo	David Somers
Stacey Lusk	Jim Stover
Carrie Scary	

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	Diane Planutis
Harvey Groff	Joanne Romano
Lorraine Guarino	Robert Scott Sr.
Gloria Harpel	Dean Shollenberger
Leslie Harpel	Jeff & Heather Spillane
Cheryl Hutchison	Andrew Strauss
Jim Hurley	Claudette Strauss
Roger Jones	Linda Tierrmo
Brent Johnson	Carole Ann Vogel
Gayle King	Fred Wahl
Al Landis	

Comfort for the Bereaved

Family and Friends of Claire Jensen
(Mother of Kristina Ahlman)
Family and Friends of Mary Ann Pratt
Family and Friends of Betty Jean Way

**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.*

Volunteers for March 2024

ALTAR GUILD

Judy Kraus, Beth Seifert, Joan Votta, Peggy Deily

ASSISTING MINISTERS

March 3— Diane King

March 10— Dawn Krown

March 17—Denny Detweiler

March 24—Ashley Bromley

Maundy Thursday, March 28 (7 pm)—

Denny Detweiler

Good Friday, March 29 (7 pm) - Wayne Young

Easter Sunday, March 31 (8:15 am) - Ashley Bromley

Easter Sunday, March 31 (10:45 am) —Wayne Young

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

March 3— Denny Detweiler and Brittney Jones

March 10— Ray Landis and Shirley Schimpf

March 17—Jim McMichael and Cathy Hurley

March 24—Ray Landis and Amanda Zeppenfeld

Maundy Thursday, March 28 (7 pm)—

Denny Detweiler

March 31 (8:15 am) - Jim McMichael and TBD

March 31 (10:45 am) —Jim McMichael and Cathy Hurley

FLOWER DELIVERY

March 3— Judy Kraus

March 10— Pat Hammer

March 17— Joan O'Connor

March 24—Joan O'Connor

March 31—Joan O'Connor

GREETERS

March 3— Pat Hammer and Karen Wilmore

March 10— Terry Hendricks and Doris Garges

March 17— Sara Ryan

March 24—Cathy and Glen Mensch

March 31 8:15 am—Peg Moyer

March 31 10:45 am—Travis and Vanessa Kraus

LECTORS

March 3— Aubrey Renner

March 10— Mallory Prediger

March 17—Pat Young

March 24—Joan Votta

Maundy Thursday, March 28 (7 pm)— TBD

March 31 (8:15 am) - Peg Moyer

March 31 (10:45 am) —Amy Coleman

USHERS

March 3— Ron Schneck/Youth Ministry

March 10— Ron Money, Fred Johns and Joan O'Connor

March 17—Richard Poole, Tors Ahlman, and Joan O'Connor

March 24—Jim McMichael, Randy Groff and Joan O'Connor

Maundy Thursday, March 28 (7 pm)— TBD

Good Friday, March 29 (7 pm) - Jim McMichael and Ron Schneck

March 31 (8:15 am) - Greg Fosbenner and Brian Garges

March 31 (10:45 am) —Ron Schneck and Joan O'Connor



**Thanks
to Our
Volunteers!**