

The Epistle

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

"We pray for those who are seeking a faith community and a closer relationship with you, that you may lead them into this congregation through the Holy Spirit and our invitation, and when they come, that we walk with them as they seek your direction. Merciful God, C: receive our prayer."

I am sure by now this is a familiar prayer to most of you. This prayer is offered during our Prayers of Intercession on Sunday morning, and maybe by now, you can recite it from memory, and if you can, that makes me very happy. I wrote the words to this prayer when I first became your pastor at St. Paul's because it acknowledges that God leads and guides, but also that we have a part in how God works in the lives of others.

I know, as you do, that being a part of a faith community has changed in many ways over the decades. It's tempting to be nostalgic for the "good old days", when attendance at worship and church activities were overflowing. The church, then, was the center of our faith lives, but also our social lives. It is where we gathered. Today, we have many other communities to gather in, and hence, our community life here feels a bit stretched thin. But, even with these changes, I will always be hopeful for our lives together in the church. I am thankful to each of you for your faithful gathering and generous giving. Sometimes, church leaders, so pining for days past, can become defeated and dejected which then leads to negativity, pulling away from our joy. But not here at St. Paul's as the offering of your lives, your caring ways to one another, the ways you serve and give, speak to the hope we have, and that way of living is felt and seen by others.

I want you to know that you have a very important part in welcoming new people into this ministry and deepening the relationships you have with one another. A pastor certainly has an important part in welcoming, but we know what it "feels like" when we are all gathered, and the energy which flows in that gathering. I love the ways that you interact with one another before and after worship. I am so thankful when I see church members welcoming and greeting new faces. It brings me joy to see you stepping out of your comfort zone by saying hello and making the effort of getting to know another person better.

In this newsletter, and all our newsletters, there are countless opportunities to deepen your relationship with the Lord and with one another. It matters that you gather here in support of one another. Also, in this newsletter you will see dates for New Member classes. I ask you to see your part in welcoming people in your lives into this place. These scheduled classes provide an easy way to connect those people to this community of faith. Finally, we will continue to pray the opening prayer from above, as it affirms God's leading and our welcoming.

In gratitude,
Pastor Bill Coleman



October 2023

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Contact
Information**

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215-258-1211

Property

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215-257-4707

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Barbara Mandato
215-460-5473

Stewardship

Wayne Young
610-287-8897

Worship and Music

Vacant

Youth

Vacant

Finance Update

Checking Account - Monthly	
Beginning Balance 8/1/23	\$7,168.59
Deposits (monthly)	\$26,607.81
Beginning Bal + Deposits	\$33,776.40
Expenses (monthly)	\$28,892.64
Ending Balance 8/31/23	\$4,883.76

Checking Account - YTD	
Beginning Balance 1/1/23	\$37,296.47
Deposits to date	\$195,283.76
Beginning Balance + Deposits	\$232,580.23
Expenses to date	\$227,696.47
Ending Balance 8/31/23	\$4,883.76

Ending Fund Balances 8/31/23	
Memorial Fund	\$37,520.29
Capital Reserve	\$70,446.74
Benevolence	\$2,826.71
Specials	\$26,288.31

Liabilities as of 8/31/23	
Mortgage Balance	\$18,136.38

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.



Church Family News

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

Ellie Taylor, who died on
August 30, 2023



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.



Thank You Notes

Dear Members of St. Paul's, With heartfelt gratitude for your prayers, kindness, and love on the passing of Lee, we thank you all and especially to Pastor Coleman for his hospital visits, phone calls, and help in celebrating an extraordinary life!

The Shoemaker Family!

Dear St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers! They really cheered us up! Thank you also for the pretty get well card! Most of all, it comforts us to know you are praying for us as we recover.

Suzanne and Roland Fernandez



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

[StPaulsLutheranChurchTelfordPa/](https://www.facebook.com/StPaulsLutheranChurchTelfordPa/)

St. Paul's Green Team Environmental Ministry

In Partnership with Gigabiter announces

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

Saturday, October 21, 2023

9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Parking lot behind St. Paul's Lutheran Church

South Main St. & Lincoln Ave., Telford
(across from the Wells Fargo Bank)

We invite all residents, small businesses, and organizations to drop off almost "anything with a cord" for proper recycling. This includes: computers, monitors, printers, fax machines, copiers, any computer related accessory (i.e. keyboard, mice), audio/video equipment (i.e. stereos, VCR's, game systems), small kitchen & household appliances, power tools, circuit boards, CD's/DVD's and ink cartridges

There is a \$20.00 charge per unit for any TV or monitor recycled, regardless of size.

You can also bring air-conditioners and de-humidifiers, BUT PLEASE, NO refrigerators, freezers, washers, or dryers!

We are also collecting all types of personal wireless devices including cell phones, smartphones, tablets, iPads & iPods and digital cameras. Items can be of any age or condition.

DO NOT BRING: fluorescent bulbs or tubes, household alkaline batteries, smoke alarms, any household chemical or paint.

Questions? Contact us at www.stpaulstelford.org.

ST. PAUL'S RECYCLES



Sunday Morning Children's Ministry



*“Lord, Let My Heart
Be Good Soil!”*

**Starting Sundays at 9:30am
in the Sanctuary**

After the Children's Message, kids will be invited to
Childrens Ministry

Two age groups:
Ages 3 – 1st grade and 2nd – 5th grade

Kids & youth will help in worship on Feast &
Celebration Sundays. Two weeks during the month,
they will have class time. One Sunday a month will be
an all ages special event in the Fellowship Hall.

St. Paul's Intelligent Fun-Filled Youth!

Our SPIFFY youth group IS BACK!!

**Sunday, October 15 from
2-4pm**

Mini Golf & Ice Cream
at Freddy Hill Farms

1440 Sunnyside Pike in Lansdale

Open to youth in 4th through 6th grades!

YES!! Please invite a friend!

\$8 for golf plus money for ice cream



Puzzle!

Use the clues to discover the names of some Old Testament prophets.
Then unscramble the circled letters to describe what prophets are.

I was called to preach to the people of Nineveh but ran
from God instead. (My book is #32 in the Bible.)

— — — — —

I spoke God's message when the temple was being
built. (My book is #37.)

— — — — —

Israel's unfaithfulness to God is compared to my
unfaithful wife. (My book is #28.)

— — — — —

My book predicts punishment for wickedness and
promises comfort. (It is #23.)

— — — — —

I had dreams and visions. (My book is #27.)

— — — — —

Because of my predictions, I was often in danger and
angered officials. (My book is #24.)

— — — — —

I was a shepherd from Judah who called people to turn
to God and leave their selfish lives. (My book is #30.)

— — — — —

My book contains descriptions of strange visions. (It is #26.)

— — — — —

PROPHETS ARE — — — — — .

Answers: Jonah, Haggai, Hosea, Isaiah, Daniel, Jeremiah, Amos, Ezekiel, Messengers

2023-2024 Kids Club!

October 4 & 18

1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 6pm

For kids ages 5 years old
through 5th grade

6pm pizza dinner

6:30pm – music enrichment with Mrs. Fosbenner

7pm – digging into the Parable of the Sower with

Mrs. Henry & Mrs. Cassel

7:40pm – dessert & pickup



Intersections

2nd and 4th Sunday at
10:45 am in the Parlor

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

Led by Pastor Coleman
and Marian Henry

October Dates:
October 8 and 22

Halloween Night Community Outreach



Tuesday, October 31
from 6-8pm

Outside St. Paul's front doors on
Lincoln Ave.

Handing out goodies, drinks &
snacks to our neighbors!

Look for donations & volunteer
signup sheet in the Narthex.

Harvest Home Donations

This year's Harvest Home worship will be
held on **Sunday, October 15.**



We will need of non-perishable food
donations for this service. If you have
anything you would be willing to donate, please bring them to church
that morning and put them on the display in the narthex. All donations
will go to our Blessing Box after worship on October 15.

Wondering and Wandering

Tuesday mornings at 9:30am
in the Prayer Garden

After a short time on
wondering about the stories of
Abraham, we will wander the
streets and alleys of Telford.

If it rains, we will meet in the church library.

New faces are always welcome! We always have
interesting discussions!

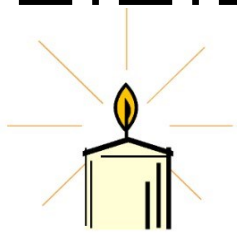


NEW MEMBER C L A S S

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, October 8 and
October 15, 2023 at 10:45 am

New Member Reception—Reformation Sunday, October 29
during 9:30 am worship service with a time of fellowship in
the Fellowship Hall after worship



All Saints' Sunday

On All Saints' Sunday (November 5, 2023), we will be remembering those who have left the church militant to join the church triumphant since the last All Saints' Sunday. We will be remembering these family and friends by name and by tolling the bell for each name. Members of the church and those who have been listed on our prayer list who have died during this year will be included. If someone close to you has died this past year that you would like to have named during the worship service on that Sunday, please contact Ashley in the church office by **Wednesday, November 1** to have their name added to the list.

Thank you!!

Winter Clothing Donations Needed

We are asking for donations of winter clothing to help those in our local community. All winter clothing will be accepted, but we are specifically looking for: **shoes, blankets, sleeping bags, baby wipes, and women's underwear (size small)**. Items can be dropped off during the month of October in the Fellowship Hall. They will be distributed to those in need in the beginning of November.

Thank you for your generosity!



St. Paul's Bible Study



October 12 and 19
at 12:00 pm

Come and join us in Christian Fellowship for this informal time to reflect, discuss and learn. All are welcome! If you have any questions, please contact the church office.



Estate Planning Event with Ashley Bell Han

Tuesday, October 17 at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Sponsored by Saints and Sinners

Learn the basics of estate planning – what you may need now and how to best plan for the future. Estate Planning is the one area of law that will affect everyone! We will explore why it is important to have an updated estate plan, the different options in estate planning, and the intersection of estate planning and long-term care planning.

Ashley Bell Han is a lifelong Lutheran and has been an attorney for over 20 years. She completed her Certificate in Estate Planning at Temple University's law school in 2022 and is an Associate Attorney at HighPoint Law Firm in Chalfont practicing exclusively in the area of estate planning. She enjoys working with individuals and families to help them best plan for their futures.



Every Fourth Tuesday of the Month at Free Will Brewing Co., Perkasie
Next Meeting: October 24 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!



FALL 2023 SPECIAL APPEAL

Today I have a Special Appeal on behalf of your church. This Special Appeal should not be confused with the 2024 Stewardship Drive.

Twice in the past 3 months St Paul's has had to transfer funds from our Capital Reserve account to cover our payroll. Now, the argument can be made that the Capital Reserve account is specifically created for just such a use. And that argument would be valid. But the reality is that we can't sustain that practice. The Capital Reserve account is not bottomless. But thanks be to God that his mercy is.

I'm appealing to all who have ears to listen and that includes those who are regularly tuned in on-line. Please search your hearts and prayerfully consider making one additional contribution to St Paul's Current Fund, equal to or beyond whatever your usual weekly offering might be and add it into your weekly envelope or use the extra blank envelope included with your envelope packet, sometime in the next couple months.

For those who are enrolled in Simply Giving and do not get these envelopes, please just use a blank stationary envelope and mail it to St Paul's or drop it in the offering plate on any Sunday morning.

We also have a QR code that's on the back of every Sunday bulletin and on the back cover of this *EPISTLE* that will take you to our site and contributions can be made directly into our current fund seamlessly. Please be assured that we retain none of your credit card information.

If we all would be generous enough to add the equivalent of one week's additional offering into the current fund sometime in the next couple of months, we can maintain our ministry without expending Capital reserve funds.

How did we get here? I'd list 3 contributing factors.

ONE, it's been summer.

TWO, those who contribute monthly have to realize that 1/3 of the months in any given year have 5 weeks expenses, not 4 weeks. That's already occurred 3 times this year. In addition, 2023 is a year that will have 5 months, not 4 months, with 5 week's expenses. It happens every 5 or 6 years and won't occur again until 2029.

And THREE, those who contribute twice a month contribute 24 times in an average year but those who contribute every other week contribute 26 times a year. Sound confusing? It isn't.

Please be assured that St Paul's is not about to close the doors and cease to exist. That is not the message I want convey. Your generosity is appreciated, and we give thanks for any and all gifts received. I merely want draw attention to our financial need and ask you to prayerfully consider making the equivalent of one week's additional offering sometime in the next couple of months into the Current Fund.

Thank you for answering the call to support our shared ministry!

Wayne Young, Stewardship Chair

Volunteer Serving in October 2023

ALTAR GUILD

Judy Kraus, Beth Seifert, Joan Votta, and Peggy Deily

ASSISTING MINISTERS

October 1— Dawn Krown

October 8— Diane King

October 15— Wayne Young

October 22 — Ashley Bromley

October 29—Denny Detweiler

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

October 1— Ray Landis and Amanda Zeppefeld

October 8— Denny Detweiler and Brittney Jones

October 15— Jim McMichael and Cathy Hurley

October 22 — Ray Landis and Ron Schneck

October 29—Dale Souder and Jim McMichael

FLOWER DELIVERY

October 1— Jeanette Johnson

October 8— Sandy Groff

October 15— Ron and Sandy Schneck

October 22 — Marian Henry

October 29—Wayne Young

GREETERS

October 1— Travis and Vanessa Kraus

October 8— Cathy and Glen Mensch

October 15— Lori and Randy Groff

October 22 — Betty Shoemaker

October 29—Melissa and Dan Brasch

LECTORS

October 1— Aubrey Renner

October 8— Bob Bell

October 15— Frank Bucher

October 22 — Amy Coleman

October 29—Mallory Prediger

USHERS

October 1— Jim McMichael and Randy Groff

October 8— Ron Money and Fred Johns

October 15— Richard Poole and Tors Ahlman

October 22 — Greg Fosbenner and Brian Garges

October 29—Ray Landis and Ron Schneck

Prayer List



In Our Prayers

The following prayer list is current as of September 22 2023. 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...

Maddux Childs

Teddy Mayer

Linda Flynn

Gene Moyer

Emily Fulmer

Ken Newman

Marge Kramer

Diane Planutis

Stacey Lusk

Ann Schweinfurth

Todd Maranelli

Jan Trievel

Please Continue to Pray for...

Dick Clark

Tracey Leinen

Maxine Detweiler

Bill Lincoln

Carolyn Evans

Anna Long

Roland Fernandez

Anne Macy

Suzanne Fernandez

Karen Money

Drollene Gehman

Joanne Romano

Bev Gibson

Robert Scott Sr.

Tim Greiser

Dean Shollenberger

Bob Grisley

Jeff Spillane

Gloria Harpel

Heather Spillane

Jim Hurley

Paul Stover

Roger Jones

Andrew Strauss

Gayle King

Claudette Strauss

Elijah Klingman

Linda Tierrmo

Al Landis

Luke Touhill

Keith Landis

Fred Wahl

Bruce Lawhon

Rev. Erika Wesch

Comfort for the Bereaved

Family and Friends of Jean Landis

Family and Friends of Rachelle Shollenberger

(Friend of Wayne and Pat Young)

Family and Friends of Ellie Taylor

**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.*