St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

107 W. Lincoln Ave, Telford, PA 18969 215-723-8981



April 14, 2024 Third Sunday of Easter

The gospel for the third Sunday of Easter is always one in which the risen Christ shares food with the disciples, meals that are the Easter template for the meal we share each Sunday. In today's gospel, Jesus both shares the disciples' food and shows them the meaning of his suffering, death, and resurrection through the scriptures, the two main elements of our Sunday worship.

GATHERING— "The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God."

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly stands.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Most merciful God, C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**



GREETING 2 Cor 13:13

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. C: And also with you

Luke 17:13; Luke 18:38-39; Psalm 123:2-3

men.

KYRIE



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A

HYMN OF PRAISE

This Joyful Eastertide



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray with one another. C: Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

MESSAGE FOR OUR CHILDREN AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

WORD— "God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching, and song."

FIRST READING: Acts 3:12-19

After healing a man unable to walk, Peter preaches to the people, describing how God's promises to Israel have been fulfilled in Jesus. Through the proclamation of Christ's death and resurrection, God is offering them forgiveness and restoration in Jesus' name.

A reading from Acts.

¹²Peter addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? ¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

¹⁷"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

L: The word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 4

Refrain: (organist/cantor/then congregation)



¹Answer me when I call, O God, defender | of my cause; you set me free when I was in distress; have mercy on me and | hear my prayer.

²"You mortals, how long will you dishon- or my glory;

how long will you love illusions and seek | after lies?"

³Know that the LORD does wonders | for the faithful; the LORD will hear me | when I call.

⁴Tremble, then, and | do not sin;

speak to your heart in silence up- on your bed. REFRAIN/ALL

⁵Offer the appointed | sacrifices, and put your trust | in the LORD.

⁶Many are saying, "Who will show us | any good?"

Let the light of your face shine upon | us, O LORD.

⁷You have put gladness | in my heart, more than when grain and | wine abound.

⁸In peace, I will lie | down and sleep;

for you alone, O Lord, make me $^{\mid}$ rest secure. REFRAIN/ALL

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:1-7

God has loved us in order to make us children of God. Though we do not yet know the full details of our future existence, we trust that God will reveal it just as God revealed Jesus to take away our sins.

A reading from 1 John.

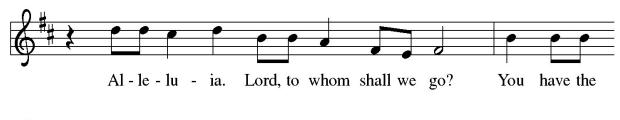
¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

⁴Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

L: The word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION





GOSPEL: Luke 24:36b-48

In this account of an appearance after his resurrection, Jesus opens the minds of the disciples to understand him as Messiah. Jesus convinces them that he has been raised and sends them on a mission to proclaim the message of repentance and forgiveness.

P: The holy gospel according to Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

^{36b}Jesus himself stood among the disciples and said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things."

P: The gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY

The Strife is O'er



APOSTLES' CREED

A: As beloved children of God, we now confess our faith.

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Please be seated or kneel for the prayers of intercession.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

A: O God our holy one, you feed our deepest hungers. As we share the holy meal that is the body and blood of Jesus given for us, lead us to share all that we have, and find, in generosity, abundant life. God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: O God our creator, you bring forth all life on earth. Calm storms, bring water to parched places, and protect the climate, that this planet would sustain life in all its variety. God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: O God our savior, you offer wisdom and guidance beyond all human knowledge. Instruct lawmakers, judges, and elected officials to make decisions grounded in your justice and care for all people. God of grace, **C:** hear our prayer.

A: O God our elder, you care for all your children. Encourage those who are in times of transition, facing the loss of old ways and routines and anticipating change. Guide those who journey in grief, hope, and uncertainty (*especially*). God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: O God our center, you bring all people together in you. Help us to remember our identity and purpose in our ministry (*ministry context may be named*). Move us to love our neighbors as ourselves and to share in beloved community. God of grace, C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: O God our resting place, your Son Jesus promised that we are held in your love forever. We remember our beloved who have died (*especially*). As we remember and share their love, comfort those who mourn. God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.**

O God, we live in a world that pits different groups of people against each other, causing inequity and anguish. We ask you to transform our fear and prejudice into compassion, kindness, empathy and respect, qualities that strengthen our relationships with each other and affirm the goodness of God's creation. "How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!" God of grace, C: hear our prayer.

P: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **C: Amen.**

The assembly stands.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. C: And also with you.

You are asked to remain in place and exchange a sign of peace with those around you. You may give a wave or peace sign to others beyond a safe reach.

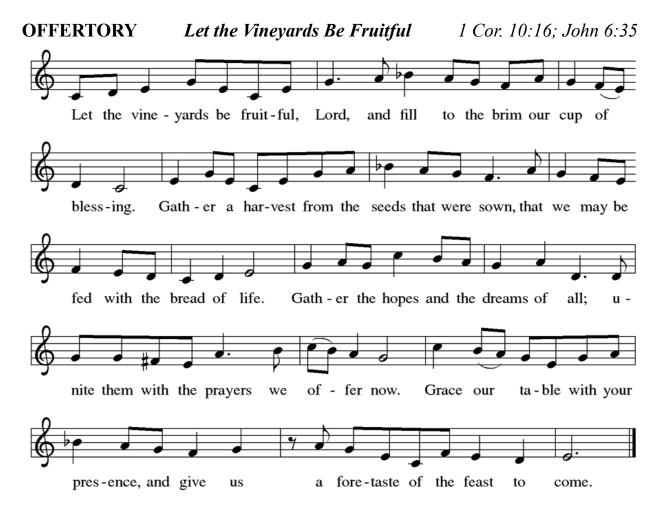
The assembly is seated.

CHANCEL CHOIR ANTHEM

Day of Arising—C. Schalk

The assembly stands.

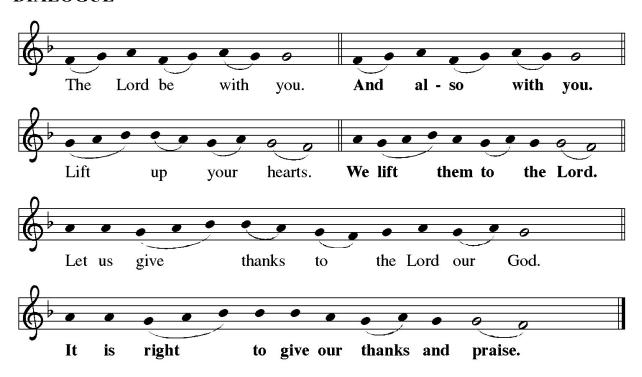
MEAL—"God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ"



OFFERING PRAYER

P: As beloved children of God, we have been blessed with gifts to share with others. Let us pray. C: Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.

DIALOGUE



PREFACE

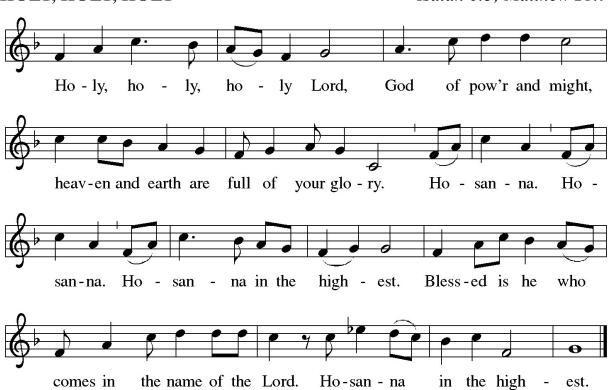
P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

comes in

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER *Matt.* 26:26-29, *Mark* 14:22-25, *Luke* 22:14-23

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

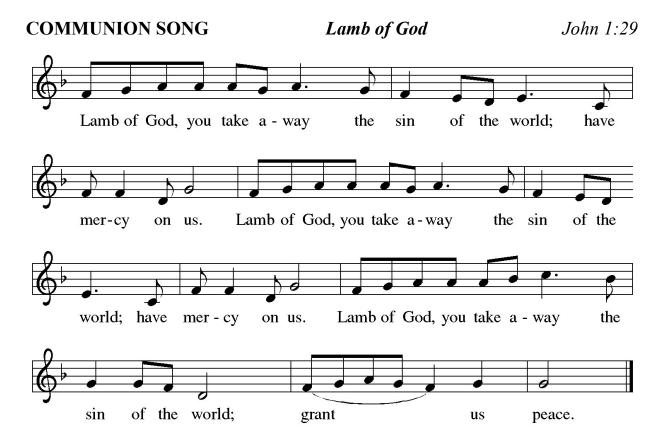
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.



INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: The risen Christ dwells with us here. All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come.

COMMUNION

P: The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. C: Amen.

At the direction of the Pastor you will be invited to receive Holy Communion at the altar or in your seats. For those receiving Holy Communion in your seats you will be invited first to receive communion by peeling back the tab and receive the wafer with the rest of the congregation as the Pastor says, "The Body of Christ given for you." Then turn the packet upside down so the wine/juice side is on top. Peel back the tab and receive the wine/juice with the rest of the congregation as the Pastor says, "The Blood of Christ shed for you." Please discard the empty packet and tabs after worship in the small bowls provided.

COMMUNION HYMN

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether



COMMUNION HYMN

Around You, O Lord Jesus

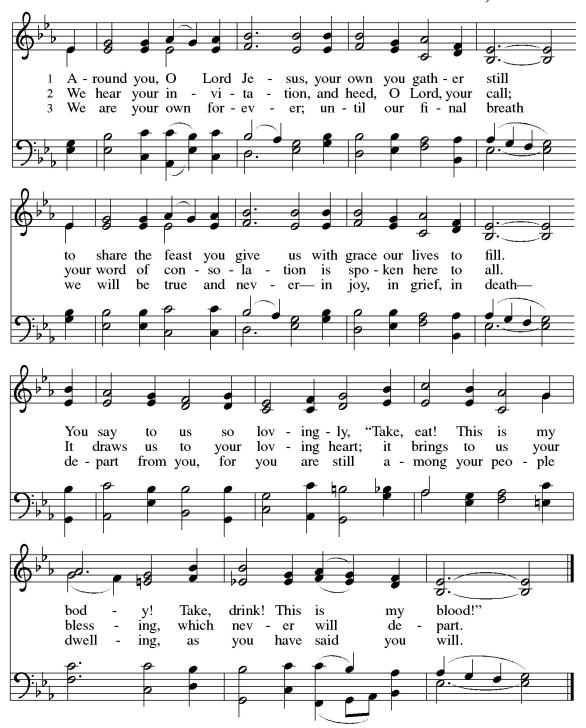


TABLE BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C: Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray.

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend.

C: Amen.

SENDING—"God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world"

BLESSING Numbers 6:24-26

P: We have eaten together with the risen Christ. Go out then, as witnesses of these things. Attend to your heart, worship with integrity, and trust in the Lord. Proclaim forgiveness and healing in his name to all.

May Christ Jesus cast out your fear and doubt, and may the Holy Spirit give your heart joy, and as you are blessed, be a blessing to others.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Christ Has Risen! Alleluia!





- 4 "Go spread the news: he's not in the grave. He has arisen this world to save. 5 Christ has arisen to set us free. Alleluia, to him praises be. Jesus' redeeming labors are done. Even the battle with sin is won." *Refrain*
 - Jesus is living! Let us all sing; he reigns triumphant, heavenly king. Refrain

DISMISSAL Luke 7:50

A: Alleluia! Christ is risen. C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

A: Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Today's Worship Assistants

Altar Guild: Jayne Poole, Judy Heckler, Gloria Beer, Janet Lincoln, Debra Croissette

Assisting Minister: Wayne Young

Communion Assistants: Ray Landis and Jim McMichael

Greeters: Lori and Randy Groff

Lectors: Peg Moyer

Ushers: Ron Money, Fred Johns and Joan O'Connor

Calendar of Events - Week of April 14, 2024

Monday 4/15:

Tuesday 4/16: Easter Wondering and Wandering Walk 9:30 am

Wednesday 4/17:

Thursday 4/18: Bible Study and Lunch 12:00—1:30 pm, Chancel Choir 7:00 pm

Friday 4/19: Saturday 4/20:

Sunday 4/21: Sunday Worship and Children's Ministry 9:30 am

Readings for Next Sunday: Acts 4:5-12, Psalm 23, 1 John 3:16-24, John 10:11-18

Bulletin and Flower Sponsors

Altar Flowers for today are sponsored by the Mallory Prediger in memory of Erin Elizabeth Prediger.

Bulletins for today are sponsored by Pam and Jim Brown Jr. in honor of their 41st wedding anniversary.



Sunday Morning Children's Ministry Schedule

April 14—class time
April 21 – Earth Day walk

April 28—class time May 5—help in worship



Intersections: Sunday Morning Adult Faith Conversations

Led by Pastor Coleman or Marian Henry on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month at 10:45 am in the Parlor.

We will meet after worship **today**. The next gathering will be April 28.

St. Paul's Bible Study

April 18 at 12 pm

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.

Easter Wondering and Wandering Walks



Tuesday mornings during the Easter season at 9:30am in the Library

An uplifting morning that starts with wondering about the chapters in 1 Timothy, followed by wandering the streets and alleys of Telford.

Please join us for this time of spiritual and physical activity as we see new growth in ourselves and in the local neighborhood. We will always *wonder* on Tuesdays, but we won't *wander* if it's raining!

Upper Bucks WELCA Spring Gathering

Saturday April 20, 2024 at Durham Lutheran Church (821 Durham Rd, Riegelsville, Pa 18077)
Registration starts at 9:00, with breakfast following at 9:30



Guest speaker Tina Tranauskas is from Worthwhile Wear, a local organization which helps victims of human trafficking. RSVP by April 15 to Helen Dungan at dunganh@lafayette.edu.



On **Sunday, April 21**, the churches of the Indian Valley Cluster will be participating in a pulpit exchange. That morning, we will be joined by Pastor Erika Wesch from Little Zion Lutheran Church in Telford. Pastor Coleman will be preaching at Advent Lutheran in Harleysville.



Bear Creek Summer Camp Registration Information

St. Paul's loves Bear Creek Camp and we want more of our kids and youth to love it also! Summer camp registration is now open! Registration information is located on the Youth bulletin board across from the Library. Several camperships are available to St. Paul's youth.

Speak with Janet Lincoln or Marian Henry for more information.

Souderton End Gun Violence March

Sunday, April 21, 2024 from 1:00-2:30 p.m. at Zion Mennonite Church 149 Cherry Lane, Souderton

Join us as the Souderton faith community organizes a peaceful outdoor march and letter writing to support legislation to help end gun violence



Tuesday, April 23 at 7pm at Free Will Brewing Co.

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!

New Member Classes

New Member Class—April 28 at 10:45 am



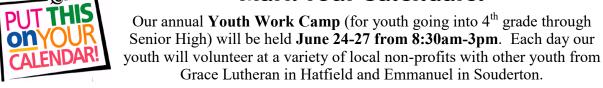
New Member Reception—Sunday, May 5 during 9:30 am worship service with a time of fellowship in the Fellowship Hall after worship

Green Team Scrap Metal Recycling Event

Saturday, May 11 from 8am—12pm in the parking lot

Stop by to drop off any metal objects you no longer need. We will accept bicycles, lawn mowers, car batteries, copper, metal, or cast iron plumbing fittings, aluminum lawn furniture, grills, wheels, brake drums, etc. Practically anything metal will be accepted. We will also accept room air conditioners and dehumidifiers free of charge! Please DO NOT bring tin cans, paint cans, vacuums, microwaves, refrigerators, freezers, hazardous material or electronics. Thank you, in advance, for your donated metals!!!

Mark Your Calendars!



Vacation Bible Camp will be held at Little Zion Lutheran July 29-August 1 from 9am until noon. This summer theme is "Camp Firelight" where kids will be reminded about several Bible heroes who trusted God in the face of their own fears and went on to do great things in God's name. Each morning will include lively music, a puppet skit, science, crafts, Bible stories, snacks and outdoor game activities!

Our annual **Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs Game** will be **Saturday**, **August 24** for a 6:35pm game against the Rochester Red Wings

Prayer List

In order to keep the prayer list as up to date as possible, names will be kept on the list for four weeks unless notified otherwise.



Carole Ann Vogel

Please Pray For...

Rod Alderfer Jim Lombardo Glenn Derstine Anne Macy Norm Driscoll Kayla Novak

Dottie Fogel Amber Voehringer

Please Continue to Pray For...

Lisa Bealer Cheryl Hutchison Joanne Romano Dick Clark Jim Hurley Carrie Scary Maxine Detweiler Roger Jones Robert Scott Sr. Carolyn Evans Brent Johnson Dean Shollenberger

Gayle King Susan Farrington **David Somers**

Roland Fernandez Al Landis Jeff and Heather Spillane

Keith Landis Suzanne Fernandez Andrew Strauss Tracey Leinen Tim Greiser Claudette Strauss Bill Lincoln Linda Tierrmo Harvey Groff

Anna Long Gloria Harpel Stacey Lusk Fred Wahl

Leslie Harpel Gene Moyer

Comfort for the Bereaved

Lorraine Guarino

Family and Friends of Betty Dewey

Family and Friends of William Lewis (Uncle of Marian Henry)

Family and Friends of Diane Planutis (Niece of Barbara Potucek)

For Large print copies of the worship service, please see an Usher. Hearing devices are on the rack at the Visitor's Center.

Welcome Kids!!

Children are ALWAYS welcome in worship! Our kid-friendly Pray-Ground is located in the front-left section of the Sanctuary. Activity bags are located on the rack in the Gathering Space.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them..." Matthew 19:14

Contact Information:

Pastor – Rev. Bill Coleman Office: 215-723-8981, Cell: 814-823-9742

pastor@stpaulstelford.org

Office Administrator – Ashley Bromley 215-723-8981

secretary@stpaulstelford.org

Director of Christian Education – Marian Henry 215-723-8981

dce@stpaulstelford.org

Director of Music/Organist– Kristine Fosbenner 215-257-4707

Feast and Celebration Service – Mike King 215-723-8981

Congregation President – Ray Landis 610-287-5499

Sexton - Al Lightner 215-368-0374
St. Paul's on the Web www.stpaulstelford.org



Mobile Giving at St. Paul's! - Scan this code with your mobile device, or visit www.stpaulstelford.org/giving to see other ways to give to our ministry.

| Most Recent Financial Information (Last Updated 3/31/2024) | | | |
|--|-------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| Checking Account - March 2024 | | Checking Account - YTD | |
| Beginning Balance 3/1/2024 | \$10,181.47 | Beginning Balance 1/1/2024 | \$21,496.43 |
| Deposits (monthly)* | \$21,372.97 | Deposits to Date* | \$81,536.04 |
| Beginning Balance + Deposits | \$31,554.44 | Beginning Balance + Deposits | \$103,032.47 |
| Expenses (monthly) | \$27,339.85 | Expenses to Date | \$98,817.88 |
| Ending Balance 3/31/2024 | \$4,214.59 | Ending Balance 3/31/2024 | \$4,214.59 |
| Ending Fund Balances as of March 31, 2024 | | | |
| Memorial Fund | \$39,059.43 | Benevolence | \$2,905.23 |
| Capital Reserve | \$69,465.21 | Special | \$123,989.13 |
| Liabilities as of March 31, 2024 | | | |
| Mortgage Balance | \$0.00 | | |