



“ST. PAUL’S IS A FAMILY OF BELIEVERS IN THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST, COMMITTED TO THE FULFILLMENT OF THE WORD OF GOD”

Church Office....570-474-6616

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Like us on
Facebook

**Visit us at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church,
Mountain Top, PA and keep in touch with
upcoming events.**

Sunday Service Schedule:

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

Sunday School:

10:00 AM

EASTER AND HOLY WEEK



Christians worldwide celebrate Holy Week every spring, commemorating the last eight days of Jesus' life on earth. The time is a sacred one—an opportunity to reflect on and express gratitude to God for the most important events in the history of the world. The week begins on Palm Sunday and ends on Easter Sunday, each day set apart by various special services, readings, songs, and events.

PALM SUNDAY, March 29th Services: 9 & 11 AM

We celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem



HOLY THURSDAY April 2nd Service: 7 PM

Maundy comes from the Latin *mandatum*, where we get the word “mandate” (a word much more familiar to us).

The mandate, or command, in question is Jesus' command that His followers love one another (**John 13:34**). How fascinating that while other moments from this historical day often get more attention—the Last Supper, the washing of the disciples' feet, Judas' swift exit from the table—the early church made Jesus' new command the namesake for Maundy Thursday.

***Students will receive their 1st Holy Communion.**

****Maundy Thursday potluck will be held at 5:30 PM**

Sign up information is in the narthex.

GOOD FRIDAY COMMUNITY SERVICE

April 3rd Service: 12 PM at St. Paul's

A simple service marking the Way of the Cross

GOOD FRIDAY, April 3th Tenebrae Service: 7 PM

The Gospel writers create a stark contrast between Palm Sunday and Good Friday, between the crowds shouting “Hosanna!” and “Crucify him!” The Jewish leaders realize that their own laws prohibit them from killing Jesus themselves, so they hand Him over to the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate. Tried, convicted, Jesus will be crucified and draw his last breath.

EASTER, April 5th Services: 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM

Finally, we come to the most important days on the Christian calendar. The first Easter morning began quietly, not with the fanfare now associated with the holiday. Like Jesus’ birth, the day involved several unlikely witnesses to a miracle and an appearance and message from an angel. In one Gospel account, two of Jesus’ female followers arrive at the tomb to pay their respects. Suddenly, an earthquake rattles the ground, and an angel arrives on the scene to calm their fears, remind them of Jesus’ promise to rise again on the third day, and to tell the other disciples of the good news.

Later, Jesus appears to the remaining disciples, further proving His status as the Son of God. Though He suffered from unspeakable wounds on Friday, His body only shows signs of three nail piercings and a spear wound.

Pastor's Notes

The Resurrection of Our Lord The morning light beckons us. The remnants of the Easter Vigil wrap the great stories of faith like a blanket around ourselves.

We recall our ancestors and God's saving work among us throughout the ages. We know where we have come from before we peek into the tomb with the women and Peter. When we hear the angel say, "He is not here, but has risen," we know again that life is always God's way with us. Death is defeated. He who was dead lives. The promise has been fulfilled.

Flowers, which begin again the cycle of life, surround us. The aroma of bread and wine remind us that the holy meal is a celebration this day, for in it we confess that life is stronger than death under God's reign and we have seen it with our own eyes. Christ is risen!

Alleluia! Though the faithful claim to love Jesus, we fail to make the effort to journey with Christ. We wave our palms, but avoid the nails, wanting to lay claim to the spoils of his victory. We all need to travel Holy Week in the presence of our Savior. I invite you to experience the trials and tribulation, the pain and suffering to comprehend the inexplicable joys of Christ's victory!

PLEASE NOTE: The following announcement is time sensitive!

ATTENTION MEMBERS!

As we prepare for the upcoming bishop's election, the Restructuring Committee is inviting members of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod to share their voice through a brief survey.

Your responses will help clarify what congregations need, what leadership is being called for in this season, and how we move forward together in the next six years. Whether you are a lay member, rostered leader, congregational officer, or synod volunteer, your perspective matters.

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey and be part of this important time of discernment.

Deadline: March 31st

Link to

survey: <https://forms.office.com/r/X1Y6Y0RABT>



Egg Hunt Prep! Saturday,
March 28th at 11:00 a.m.

Join us for egg dyeing & pizza in preparation for our annual **Easter Egg Hunt Scheduled for Sunday, March 29th at 10:30 a.m.!**



BAKE SALE

Come hungry!!! Our Bake sale will be this Sunday, Palm Sunday March 29th between services!

***Mrs. Fritz's homemade chocolate Easter eggs delivery will be on Palm Sunday, March 29th for those who ordered.**

First Friday Dinners

...Renee's Cold Cuts will be providing delicious dinner options like Chicken Parmesan & Swedish Meatballs! Meals will be offered every Friday in Lent. Signup sheet is out now. Pickup is Fridays 2-4PM. Cost of Meals is \$12! Take a night off from cooking and support the church! Have a neighbor who might appreciate a hot meal? Your willingness to spread the word is greatly appreciated.



For those who ordered from this fundraiser- please have cash or check made payable to: St. Paul's Lutheran church. Pick up is on Saturday, April 4 (TBD) or Sunday at Easter services.

JOIN US FOR THE CIRCUS!

As is our tradition, those young people interested are invited to join Pastor for the Irem Shiner's Circus on Monday, April 6th. There is a signup sheet in the narthex. Please indicate how many tickets (youth and adults) your family will be needed.



JOIN US APRIL 18TH AT 12PM,
FOR A TEA PARTY IN THE SOCIAL HALL. COST IS
\$20 PER PERSON, \$5 FOR 10 & UNDER, 5 AND
UNDER IS FREE. MONEY TO BE PAID IN
ADVANCE TO SUSAN ACKERMAN. JOIN US FOR A
FUN AFTERNOON FILLED WITH TEA & TREATS!
SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX!

Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Mission District 2026 Mission District Assembly

People Powered: The Call and Gift of Lay Leadership

Saturday, April 25, 2026 · 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Location: St. Matthew United Lutheran Church, 425 Jefferson Ave., Scranton

You're Invited!

Join clergy, lay leaders, and fellow congregants from across the Mission District for a day of worship, collaboration and preparation as we move into a year of important synodical leadership decisions. Everyone is welcome, and lay leaders are especially encouraged to attend.

Agenda Highlights

- Overview of the upcoming NEPA Synod Assembly, including information about the process of electing a bishop.
- Introduction to the Indonesian Lutheran Church of Scranton
- Overview of the Licensed Lay Ministry (LLM) program, led by the Rev. Jira Albers
- Breakout sessions on empowering lay leadership within our congregations.
- Lunch & Fellowship
- Mission District Assembly/ voting session

Registration Information

The Synod Constitution requires that two delegates from each congregation be present for the voting portion of our Mission District Assembly. We ask that each congregation send two delegates, but all congregational members are welcome to attend. A freewill offering will be accepted to offset the cost of lunch. *There is no registration Fee.*

Please forward the attached registration form to: MD Assembly Registration, c/o St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 316 South Mountain Blvd., Mountain Top, PA 18707 or email the registration information to Lisa Napersky at

LNapersky@gmail.com.

Registration deadline: APRIL 18

OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH



Wednesday, April 22nd 2026

In order to carpool, we will meet at the church at 11:45 a.m. Please let pastor know if you plan on attending. You are more than welcome to bring a friend.



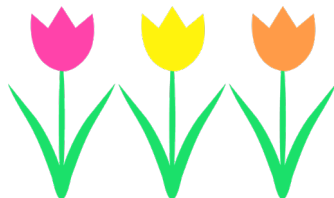
April 25th Spaghetti dinner

Mark your calendars now as we plan for our Youth Spaghetti Dinner to support those youth planning on attending the upcoming National Youth Gathering to Minneapolis next summer in 2027, More details forthcoming!

OUR AFTER EASTER ADULT GATHERING

Back in February we had a wonderful adult gathering at Pr. Kaufman's. Participants asked that we do it again. **You're invited to join us April 26th at 3:00 p.m. at the home of Bonnie and Fred Stewart.**

Participants are asked to bring an appetizer and a bottle of wine. It is simply an opportunity to gather and enjoy one another's company. Great snacks and delightful conversation and company!



CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE FOR MARCH 2026

The Monthly Church Council Meeting was held on Sunday, March 15th at 6:30 PM.

The following are highlights from that meeting.

- The audit was completed. Jeff Brock and Fred Stewart signed off on it.
- Blessing Bags has been a success.

- **First Communion and Confirmation classes continue, as does fund raising for the Youth Gathering 2027.**
- **Michele Kessler is handling all postings on Social media. If you have pictures of church events, please share with Michele. “Liking” a post on social media also helps generate more buzz regarding our activities. Hit that like button and share those church posts!**
- **We are looking for a qualified person to repair the Sanctuary carpet.**
- **We are looking for suggestions for increasing church membership.**
- **A new heating system is required to replace one of the roof units. We are currently getting quotes. A congregation meeting date to vote on the cost and approval will be announced.**

The next Church Council Meeting is Sunday, April 19th 2026 @ 6:30 PM. All congregation members are invited to attend.

**Respectfully submitted,
Liz Snyder**



Support Our Church with RaiseRight!

Looking for an easy way to give back to our church without spending extra? RaiseRight makes it simple! We all give gift cards- for birthdays, holidays and special occasions. By purchasing gift cards for your everyday shopping—like groceries, gas, or dining out—a portion of each purchase is donated to our church. It's the same shopping you already do, but with a purpose. Order forms are due by first Sunday of the month for guaranteed delivery by the end of the month.

Here's how it works:

- 1 Buy gift cards through RaiseRight
- 2 Use them to shop as you normally would.
- 3 A percentage of each purchase goes directly to supporting our church's mission and programs.

It's quick, convenient, and makes a big impact. Get started today by taking an order form at the table in the Narthex. Contact Erin Cain (570-762-6205) with any

questions. Let's turn our everyday spending into generosity! We have several cards available for a last minute purchase!



We often times want to help others, but we don't know how, nor are we always aware of someone else's needs. We currently have a line item in the budget, Pastor's Discretionary Fund. She is often aware of individual circumstances and is often in a position to assist those in need. This fund allows us the opportunity to make a difference when individuals have nowhere else to turn. You are encouraged to make contributions to the fund as you are able. Every \$ matters!

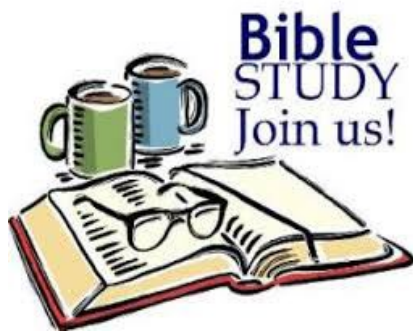


Stamps for the Wounded

Stamps for the wounded is a service organization dedicated to providing comfort & stimulating activity to US Veterans through stamp collecting. Stamp collecting is an activity that provides comfort, meaningful activity & social connections. It is very stimulating, and has been servicing veterans since 1942.

There will be a stamp collection box in the narthex, where donated used postage stamps from your mail will be collected. Any other Postal collections or memorabilia can also be donated.

Questions? Contact Alice Doxsey.



**OUR BIBLE STUDY IS THURSDAYS AT 1:00PM
JOIN US, AND BRING A FRIEND!**



4/5 *chancel Margie Lou
Linda Delong
4/12 Leeann Whitaker
4/19 Lois Scott
4/26 Mary Akola

Flowers can be ordered if there are openings on the Flower Chart. The cost is \$40. *Color preferences may not be honored. \$5 will be added for specific arrangements and \$10 will be added for blue arrangements. *If you have a specific Sunday you're interested in, call the church & leave a message for Secretary, or email info@stpaulsmttop.com

***NEW FLOWER CHART IS UP FOR 2025!**



Get your May Newsletter submissions into Kelly by April 17th. You can leave your information in her mailbox, call her at the office or email her at:

info@stpaulsmttop.com



WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN ST. PAUL'S? Please arrange a meeting with Pr. Kaufman to discuss membership. Pastor is currently arranging appointments with various folks.



EVERY PENNY COUNTS

Bring in that loose change and make a difference when it comes to World Hunger. It is amazing how that loose change on the library table or in the cup holder inside the car can add up when we put it all together. Drop it into the jug in office!



ALUMINUM CANS

You may have noticed the bin filling up... 365 lbs of cans were taken to the recycling center and there are more to go! Keep those cans coming! Deposit your aluminum cans in the bin behind the church. Monies collected from the sale go directly to where it's needed in our church! Thanks to the volunteers who filled 40+ bags! We'll continue to bag this spring!



YARN SPINNERS

We are currently working on lap robes for St. Luke's. Marjorie Lou Anthony will take them over to St. Luke's for distribution.

We will continue to work on the prayer shawls and baptismal blankets for Pastor.



**Feeding the
Community**

FOOD BANK

The Mountain Top Food Bank continues to distribute food to clients every Friday using safe distance practices. If you would like to drop off donations at the church, please do so on Fridays 9am-noon. Donations are welcome & appreciated. **Items they currently need are:** Coffee, Peanut Butter, jelly, cereal, ketchup, dry soup, pudding, Jell-O mixes, popcorn, pork & beans, canned tomatoes, canned soup, mustard, mayonnaise, tuna, macaroni & cheese, pasta (ex. Spaghetti), peas, canned pasta, and noodles.

SICK OR IN THE HOSPITAL?/WOULD YOU LIKE A VISIT FROM PASTOR?

If you are in the hospital, please let us know. We care about you, and we would like to pray for you. If you would like Pastor to make a visit for any particular reason, please contact Pastor directly or leave a message with the church secretary and Pastor will contact you to

schedule a time.

YOU ARE IMPORTANT TO US, but we cannot address what we don't know.

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR: Bob Anthony Jr., Marjorie Lou Anthony, Lynn Barelski, Luke Batcho, Austin Bowman, Louise Breakstone, Greg Brosh, Dawn M. Brown, Jarrod Clift, Caroline Cronce, Harlon Davis, Florence Drum, Lena Fenton, Bob Flynn, Sharon Ford, Bernice Ganski, Lee Hallock, Mike Henahan, Leslie Hollock, Pat Hoovler, Doris Hunter, Craig Jacobs, Wayne Jones, Alice Kershinski, John Klebetz, Dean & Carrie Kline, Florence Catherine Kojeszewski, Matthew Kostelec, Todd & Daphne Kretz, Diane Lefebvre, Kathy Lines, Amy Maher, Dale Major, Jon Martineau, Roger & Dolores Marzocco, Ruth Mayshock, Mary Alice McCloskey, Jackie McDermott, Mason Medvick, Shari Meister, Sandy Morales, Cheryl Myers, Kelly Palmer, Mary Lou Perez, Jerry Post, Mark Reeves, Steven Reeves, Michele Reed, Ellen Robinson, Cathy Ruitter, Elliana Scott, Kevin Scott, Carl Schultz, Nancy Schwartz, Charles Sipler, Joe Seymour, Robert F. Shultz, George Spanos, Ted Stemrich, Valerie Tinsley, Hannah Voyton, Matthew Walker, Zack Weber, Karen Wise, Ethan Woods, Audrey Wysowski, Joseph & Pam Yescavage

IN ADDITION TO THOSE HAVING HEALTH PROBLEMS WE ASK THAT YOU PRAY FOR ALL THE MEN, & WOMEN SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES: Sam Rudolf, Casey Balogh, Christian Yurkanin, Luke Fleck, Wayne Kaufman,

Kevin & Faith Ann Bigelow, Nicholas Keenan, Devin Fairchild, Raquel Mateo, Genevieve Matello



April Birthday's

Samantha Gensil	1 st
Sam Hollock	2 nd
JoAnne Pinko	7 th
Addyson Saunders	8 th
Emily Pinko	9 th
Jacob Peters	9 th
Heather Kisselevege	9 th
Renee Lacoste	10 th
Terry Scott	10 th
William Walser	11 th
Donald Gensil	11 th
Megan Swerdon	13 th
Jodi Crawford Robbins	13 th
Christopher Burke	14 th
Cecelia Cain	14 th
Jeff Brock	14 th
Ron Rusnock	14 th
Lauren Arnold	15 th
John Hoops	16 th
Derwood Lynn	17 th
Breanna Nagle	19 th
Madison Weiss	20 th

Olivia Hassinger	21 st
Brendan Hunter	21 st
Samantha Becker	22 nd
Midge Oldziejewski	23 rd
Bill Hoops	24 th
Kristin Hoovler	24 th
Joel Weiss	27 th

April Anniversaries

Lee & Joe Hallock	11 th
Laura Anderson/Mark Weibel	12 th /'85
Jeff & Shelly Brock	13 th
JoAnne & Michael Pinko	20 th /'13
Sue & Bill Hoops	21 st /'85
Jodi & Walt Robbins	26 th