



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

**WELCOME TO OUR
NEWEST RECONCILING IN
CHRIST (RIC) PARTNER:**



St. Paul’s Lutheran Church

(Mountain Top, PA)

Sunday Service Schedule:

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

Sunday School:

10:00 AM

HEALING SERVICE FOR FEBRUARY

Wednesday, February 12th

11:00 a.m.

Pastor's Notes

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you . . .” Isaiah 60:1

We are now in the season of Epiphany. Epiphany begins with the wise men following a distant light and continues through the celebration of the Transfiguration-when we see Jesus in all his glory.

Epiphany is not only a season of the church year; it has also crept into secular usage. When we say that someone has had an epiphany, we usually mean that that person has had a moment in which they have achieved a realization, an awareness or a knowledge of something, after which events are thrown into a new light. Such epiphanies may be life-changing. The symbol of light is an appropriate one in this, the darkest season of the year. Light is a favorite symbol throughout the Scriptures. Christ said about our witness that we do not light a candle and put it under a bushel. Christ

himself is seen as the light of the world. When Isaiah sought to proclaim the coming of the anointed one of God, he declared, "Arise shine your light is come (60:1). During this season we read stories of how Christ is revealed to the world. For those who experience his "presence", they have that "ah ha" moment; that "there you are Jesus".

Christ is our light and in him is no darkness at all. For just as light is the appropriate symbol for Christ, darkness is the appropriate symbol for a world without Christ. Professor Harold DeWolf, in his book *The Religious Revolt Against Reason*, tells of an experience he had as a young man. He went swimming at midnight one night with a friend in the Atlantic Ocean at Massachusetts Bay. He said the water was full of phosphorescent light. Every dip of his hand in the water produced something like "a circle of flashing gems and every breaker looked like a cascade of fireworks." To ride the waves, they went out some distance from the shore. Then turning toward land DeWolf was gripped by a strange fear. The lights from the shore no longer shone. So he looked up to the sky to get his bearings. But the sky was like the water--full of the spectacular confusion of the northern lights. "No star was visible. Then panic overtook him, for in all that glittering display there was no fixed reality. He could not tell the way to shore. He started back with a helpless terror engulfing him." He learned that, with no fixed star to guide him, it was almost impossible to chart out his course. Thank God we have a star to follow. It is the same star that guided the magi long ago. It is the light of Christ. Christ is our dependable guide; whose love never fails.



**2024 ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE BY FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 7TH! IF YOU ARE ON A COMMITTEE
PLEASE WORK WITH YOUR GROUP TO GET
REPORTS IN TO THE OFFICE! THEY CAN BE PLACED
ON SECRETARY DESK OR EMAILED TO
INFO@STPAULSMITTOP.COM THANK YOU KINDLY!**



***ST. PAUL'S ANNUAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD BEGINNING AT 10:15 A.M.
BETWEEN SERVICES. THE PURPOSE OF THIS
MEETING IS TO REVIEW 2024 AND DISCUSS ANY
MATTERS PERTINENT TO THE CONGREGATION OR
OF CONCERN. *IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PLACE
SOMETHING ON THE AGENDA, PLEASE SPEAK TO
PR. KAUFMAN OR NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL
PRESIDENT KATHLEEN HALTERMAN.**



DON'T FORGET SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY!

**Bring your spare change and pick your favorite
team and support a wonderful cause.**

Sunday, February 9th

May the best team win!



HELP UKRAINE!



Last month in the newsletter Karen Ann expressed a need for crocheted mats. These mats are made from plastic bags and will be sent to displaced individuals in the Ukraine. A few women from the Conyngham area are willing to come and demonstrate how this is to be done. Mark your calendar now for **Thursday, February 13th from 10-11:30.** Do you know someone who might like to help? Bring them along. Don't know how to crochet? That's ok...bags need to be folded and cut. It can be a team effort!

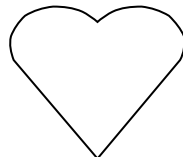


Donations needed

We will be collecting items for Miners Medical clinic in Wilkes-Barre, which provides treatment and counseling for individuals struggling with substance use disorder. The clinic is in need of hygiene items and non-perishable foods, including toothbrushes and toothpaste, deodorant, hand soap, body wash, and shampoo, canned fruits and vegetables, pasta, tomato sauce, cake/muffin box mixes, and other non-perishables. You can find a box in the narthex.

VALENTINE EVENT

Join us on Saturday, February 15th for our Valentine Event. Starting at 6:00 p.m. with soup and salad, followed by your main entrees and finished off with dessert all for \$15.00. A night of fun, food, fellowship and laughs. You are welcome to BYOB. Please sign up in the narthex so we may plan accordingly.





FOR YOUR INFORMATION...We will be having a Bake Sale to support the Youth on Sunday, February 16th between services.

***Please contact Susan Ackerman if you are willing to bake. The more bakers the more successful our sale will be!**

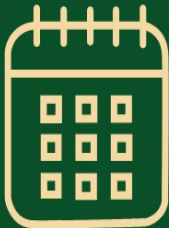
Join Us, Monday, February 17th for a Day out at the Philadelphia Art Museum...kids are off from school for president's day!
See Pastor for details...





SCRANTON/WILKES-BARRE
MISSION DISTRICT

TOWN HALL CHEW & CHAT

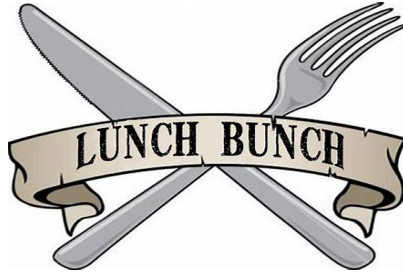


Sun Feb 23

3:00 - 5:30 PM

This is your opportunity to meet and greet the Bishop, along with the Vice-president of the synod to discuss any matters or concerns you may have with other congregational members from various churches. This meeting is scheduled for St. Peter's in Hughestown. If you would like to attend, we can meet and carpool from St. Paul's. See Pastor for more info!

OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH



Wednesday, February 26, 2025

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

1st HOLY COMMUNION

Ash Wednesday falls on March 5th this year.
Please let Pastor know if your child plans to be in this year's class.

Students typically receive 1st Holy Communion instruction from 2nd grade up. Students are asked to attend Ash Wednesday service. Following the service, we discuss class dates to accommodate everyone's schedule.



HEADSTART ASSISTANCE

St. Paul's is looking to help fulfill some specific clothing requests from Headstart.

Two specific requests:

Boys clothing size 4T & 5T

Girl 6/7 & a brother 4T

***They are also in need of....**

More hats and gloves for little ones

Boys and girls clothing 4T/5T/6 tops/pants

& Underwear

Please drop off donations at

St. Paul's! Call St. Pauls... 570-474-6616 with Any questions? Or Contact Terry Scott...



HAVE A HEART....

Check out the tree in the narthex as we suggest ways for you to make a difference in the month of February. Check out the hearts on the tree as to how Your small gift can go a long way...



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 not physically challenging but 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.

***THANKS TO THE GIRL SCOUTS FROM ST. JUDE'S FOR THEIR RECENT DONATION BOX! KEEP THEM COMING!**

Questions? Contact Alice Doxsey.



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

***No bible study February 6th 2025**

Bible Trivia: How well do you know your bible?

(Answers are on the last page of the Newsletter)

- 1. What name did Pharaoh give to Joseph?
A. Pithom B. Ptoipherah C. Misrephothmaim
D. Zaphnathpaaneah**

- 2. What new name did God give to Jacob?
A. Israel B. Abraham C. Saul D. Mohammed**

- 3. What married couple did Paul become friends
with at Corinth?
A. Lamech and Adah B. Joseph and Asenath
C. Aquila and Priscilla D. Felix and Drusilla**

- 4. How many concubines did King Solomon have?
A. 55 B. 100 C. 300 D. 700**

5. Job's children were killed in Job 1:13-20. How many sons and daughters did Job have?

- A. Seven sons and three daughters**
- B. Nine sons and two daughters**
- C. Ten sons and no daughters**
- D. The number is unknown**

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS JANUARY 2025

- We continue to plan for fundraising for the repair of the Church front step in the spring.
- Christmas gifts for Divine Providence were distributed and were truly appreciated. Thank you to all who helped.
- We are now collecting items for Miners Mill Medical Clinic.
- There will be a bake sale in February to support our Youth Group.
- The Social Media Team will plan to meet in January.
- Pastor will be planning to offer a "Recovery Worship Service" in the 1st quarter of 2025.

The nominations for the new Church Council Officers:
Kathleen Halterman, Fred Stewart and Erin Cain.

Next Church Council Meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2025 and the next congregation meeting will be February 23, 2025.

Respectfully, Kathleen Halterman



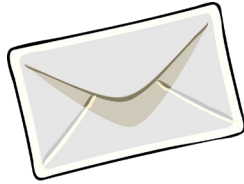
2/2 Margie Lou Anthony
2/9 Kim Schuler
2/16 Lois Scott
2/23 open

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 February Newsletter submissions into Kelly by February 17th. You can leave your information in her mailbox, call her at the office or email her at: info@stpaulsmttop.com



***2025 envelopes are available now in narthex! If you don't have envelopes, we can assign some to you just let the church office know. *Please write your names on the envelopes as we have changed numbers and have a new process.**

A Word of Thanks

***I would like to thank everyone who gave me monetary gifts for Christmas. I hope I will still be able to help at the church this year.**

Flossie Pedley

***Our thanks to Leigh Michel for providing doodle pads in the pews to occupy the children (although it does appear that a few adults have been utilizing them as well!) and to Russ and Leigh for purchasing new offering plates. Your generosity is truly appreciated!**



Catholic
Social Services

OF THE DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Catholic Social Services
Hazleton Office
200 W. Chapel Street
Hazleton, PA 18201
570-455-1521

January 3, 2025

St. Paul Lutheran Church
316 S Mountain Boulevard
Mountain Top, PA 18707

Dear Parishioners;

I want to take this opportunity to thank you parishioners for your participation in Catholic Social Services Gift Tag program. Your involvement helped 259 families give their children both toys and clothing, easing the stress of providing for their loved ones on the holiday. God will bless their generosity.

Have a Blessed and Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Danielle Matarella
Director, Hazleton Office

Thank-you for your
support! x



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 on warmer winter days.



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., Lynn Barelski, Austin Bowman, Greg Brosh, Dawn M. Brown, Lester Day, Florence Drum, Tom Fenstemacher, Lena Fenton, Bob Flynn, Bernice Ganski, Lee Hallock, Leslie Hollock, Ted Hollock, Pat Hoovler, Craig Jacobs, Kyle Johns, Wayne Jones, Florence Catherine Kojeszewski, Matthew Kostelec, Todd & Daphne Kretz, Diane Lefebvre, Kathy Lines, Amy Maher, Dale Major, Jon Martineau, Dolores Marzocco, Wayne Mast, Ruth & Fred Mayshock, Mary Alice McCloskey, Jackie McDermott, Mason Medvick, Shari Meister, Sandy Morales, Cheryl Myers, Dennis Overstreet, Kelly Palmer, Florence Pedley, Mary Lou Perez, Jerry Post, Regan Richmond, Andrew Richner, Mark Reeves, Steven Reeves, Michele Reed, Steven Robertson, Ellen Robinson, Patricia & Ron Royek, Cathy Ruitter, Elliana Scott, Kevin Scott, Lois Scott, Carl Schultz, Nancy Schwartz, Charles Sipler, Joe Seymour, Robert F. Shultz, Amanda Skalla, Jarrod Smith, Steven Spohr, Ted Stemrich, Matthew Walker, Zack Weber, Tanyia Reeves-Wendel, Karen Wise, Ethan Woods, Audrey Wysowski

**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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

February Birthday's

Michael Kennelly	2 nd
Ethan Higgins	2 nd
Matt D'Agostino	2 nd
Matt Mirilovitch	2 nd
Joyce Hocko	3 rd
Margie Lou Anthony	4 th
Ted Hollock	6 th
Julie Ann Lawson	6 th
Kayla Kennelly	7 th
Kelly Kennelly	7 th
Ryan Coppola	7 th
Terry Renninger	9 th
Tanya Reeves-Wendel	10 th
Jon Russell	13 th
Mya Harrell	14 th
Virginia Weaver	15 th
Karen Wise	16 th
William Meyer	17 th
Cindy Moffit	18 th

Christy Wickiser	20 th
Cecelia Andrefski	22 nd
Annette Weiss	23 rd
Adam Harrell	23 rd
Lois Yeager	23 rd
Todd Kern	24 th
Kyle Hankinson	26 th
Kiera Hinkle	28 th

February Anniversaries

Kathleen & Gary Halterman	2 nd /'01
Cindy & Brian Moffit	18 th /'06
Patti Lettich	21 st /'81

ANSWERS TO BIBLE TRIVIA:

- 1. D. Zaphnathpaaneah Genesis 41:45**
- 2. A. Israel Genesis 35:10**
- 3. C. Aquila and Priscilla Acts 18:1-2**
- 4. B. 100 1 Kings 11:3**
- 5. A. Seven Sons & Three Daughters Job 1:1-2**