

“St. Paul Courier” *The monthly newsletter of St. Paul Lutheran Church*

156 W. Washington Street, Strasburg, Virginia

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January 2025

FROM PASTOR CHRIS

As we move into this new calendar year not knowing what lays ahead it may be helpful to look back. Looking back into history can bring perspective to the present. One way to do this is to look to notable people from the past who shared their thoughts about life and the future.

Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809-1892) wrote: A New Year’s Poem

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light;
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow;
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind,
For those that here we see no more;
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times;
Ring out, ring out my mournful rimes
But ring the fuller minstrel in.

Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease;
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

One who lived about 700 years before Tennyson, Francis of Assisi wrote not a poem but a prayer:
Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen

Jesus who lived on this earth about 1100 years before Francis of Assisi said: "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you....Do to others as you would have them do to you." Luke 6:27-28, 31

As we live into this New Year, not knowing what lays ahead these are a few perspectives from people of the past that can serve to shape our lives in the present and into the future.
May God who is the author of life and time guide our hearts and minds.

Together in God's Grace,
Pastor Chris

12th Day of Christmas Open House!

*All are invited to share fellowship and food at Pastor Chris & Kayce's home for a 12th Day of Christmas Open House on Sunday January 5th from 2pm-5pm.
Just bring yourselves and good cheer!*

Faith Formation (children in PreK – Grade 5)

Meet in the Good Shepard Room following the service on Sunday mornings for 10-15 minutes of music time with Ms. Sue.

After that, grades K-5th will go upstairs for class until about 11:25.

**If you have questions or if you'd like to help in any way with Faith Formation, please contact Cheri Morris (cherry12883@yahoo.com)

Warm Hands and Toasty Toes.



We will be collecting warm items (hats, scarves, mittens, gloves, and socks)
to be distributed to Strasburg Compassion Cupboard clients.

Please bring in these warm items and drop them in the box in the Narthex.

Thank you for being good friends to Strasburg's children this past Christmas, to their parents, to those of us at Compassion Cupboard. You have made all of us quite a bit happier.

Compassion Cupboard volunteers.

Job Opening: Church Secretary position at St. Paul Lutheran Church.

20-30 hours per week, days of the week flexible/negotiable.

If interested contact Debbie Winkfield, Church Council President (540-325-9025).

New Church Office Hours in 2025

Monday – Thursday: 10am – 2pm

Words of appreciation....

Hello to you.

I'm enjoyed your caring card so much. Seeing your signatures made a ton of moments of laughter. Keeping your card on my dresser. Love, Mary Ann (Littrell)

(Her card is posted on the bulletin for all to enjoy reading)

After much thought I have decided to make a difficult decision to retire. This has been a very hard decision to walk away from the place that has become my 2nd home, and from a group of such kind, appreciative people. Its been a blessing and an honor to have worked for St Paul for the last 26 years. I thank all of you for your friendship, partnership, the heart-to-heart talks and the many laughs along the way.

I will not forget the many respected church employees (including interim pastors), leaders and role model Christians whom I've had to say goodbye to through the years. Their legacies will not be forgotten.

I feel God has blessed St Paul with the pastors and interim pastors who have served during my time here....and Pastor Flohr and Sue are included in that, for sure ! They are fantastic.

I will continue to teach the two yoga classes for the time being.....unless God opens a door that I've not yet anticipated.

I will miss you all so much.

carol smith 😊

Dear Congregation,

Thank you for the wonderful support helping with the Thanksgiving Community Meal held at St. Paul on November 27, 2024. This meal would not have happened without your help and effort! Thanks to all who roasted turkeys, set up, fixed food, served food, delivered meals and cleaned up! With all of this support, we were able to provide around 285 meals. What a blessing to our community!

Thanks again,

Susan Anderson and Tammy Kibler



St Paul's WOMEN'S GROUP Kick-Off

Saturday, January 18. 10:00 am at the church for a Brunch.

A sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

A guest speaker will give a talk - the topic : "S.O.S. Saving Our Sanity in the Storms of Life".

We are all trying to navigate the storms of life, but what happens when life brings hurricanes we cannot escape?

We will learn how surrender, obedience, and staying connected to the Lifeline can anchor you through any trial you face.

COMMUNITY OUTREACHES

Strasburg Compassion Cupboard: *No glass containers, please.*

Items requested during January 2025: *bar bath soap and canned chicken.*

--*Monetary donations: cash that is clearly marked, or checks payable to "Strasburg Compassion Cupboard" can be mailed to the Annex or dropped through the Annex mail slot.*

Lukes Backpacks:

Individual/single serving, non-perishable items are appreciated. Suggested Items: mac & cheese, soups, canned fruit, snacks, granola bars, etc.

--*Monetary donations: cash that is clearly marked, or checks to Shen. Valley Lutheran Ministries, earmarked 'Luke's Backpacks' can be mailed to the Annex or dropped through the Annex mail slot.*

*** Non-perishable items can be dropped off at church where drop boxes are provided in the Narthex, or at the Annex during office hours (Mon-Thurs, 9am-3pm)*

For the 2 outreaches below: Please place items in their respective box on the Annex back porch, or bring them by the Annex during business hours.

The church secretary monitors/stocks the Blessing & Bible boxes as needed.

The Blessing Box: Items most needed/used: Canned tuna, chicken and/or salmon, Spam, peanut butter, toiletries/personal hygiene items, hearty/chunky soups, canned baked beans, canned fruit, chili (with or w/o beans), baby wipes and diapers are most needed/used. -- Please NO dried beans.

Please donated these items whenever and as often as you can. This box is being well-used.

Bible & Christian Reading Box: Please donate new or gently used Christian reading. (We've received a donation of Bibles that'll take us through a month or so.)

Small Wooden Child Chairs to be given away for a donation to the church.

There is a signup sheet for people who want a chair(s).

Make donation checks payable to: St. Paul Lutheran Church with *Child Chair* in the memo line.

Donation amount is up to each person.

The money will be split between the Nursery Upgrade Project and the Childcare Center.

Dear Church Family,

You did it! On November 24, the church was bustling with the trimming of the Chrismon tree and the dressing of candle lit windowsills. Within just a few days, the Advent wreath appeared, as did the front door wreaths! As our Advent journey begins we are ready!

Everyone worked diligently and I am so grateful. Special thanks to Seth and Jody for the ladder and ladder work – and special thanks to Cheri and the children for dressing the Narthex Chrismon tree. Its light and beauty cheer our hearts as we gather in God’s house!

And though she could not be here to help and guide us, a great big thank you to Janet Fish! Janet and Joanne Ritenour worked for many years creating these beautiful Chrismon symbols that continue to inspire us!

Thank you church family!

Blessings Always, April

Yoga Classes (beginners level)
offered at St Paul Lutheran Church
Thursdays 10:00-10:45am in the fellowship
hall.

Bring a yoga mat.
\$5 per person per session.
****No class on Thursday, Dec 26.**

Chair Yoga (free) offered Thursdays
11-11:30am in the Good Shepherd Room

*****No class on Dec 26 Jan 2 and Jan 9.***

Questions about either yoga class?
Contact Carol Smith (540-335-9245;
mcismith@icloud.com)

Life Long Learners Class
(grade 6 and older)

“How Lutherans Interpret the
Bible”

January 19 & 26

Birthdays in January

Archie	Miller	January 02
Hayden	Fravel	January 05
Alissa	Grim	January 06
Maggie	Painter	January 07
Chelsea	Price	January 07
Olivia	Lambert	January 08
Suzanne	Arthur	January 09
Elijah	Wertz	January 11
Roberta	Ritenour	January 12
Boden	Waller	January 12
Matthew	Chimento	January 14
Carolyn	Baker	January 16
Barbara	Stickley	January 18
James	Baker	January 20
Samuel	Shelton	January 23
Naomi	Doman	January 25
Jean	Racey	January 26
Kipling	Waller	January 29
Gwendolyn	Abruzere	January 31
Christian	Flohr	January 31

THRIVENT workshop: at St Paul Lutheran Church **Sun, January 12, 2025 – 10:45am**

The workshop is titled “Five Keys to Retiring Fearlessly” - will help attendees discover five keys to unlocking a retirement where they could have confidence in their ability to live out their dreams.

The 5 Keys are:

1. Guaranteed income.
2. Protection from volatility.
3. Don't outlive your savings.
4. Pick your own tax bracket.
5. Protection from the “what ifs.”

Everette (Walt) Morgan Jr., Financial Professional, Thrivent
Mid-Atlantic Region
540-459-9257

Gretchen Franti, Associate, Thrivent - North Fork Associates
540-937-3525

*Anyone interested in becoming
a member of the Parish Nurse
Ministry Team, which will look
at the health and wellness of St.
Paul, please contact Barbara
Arnold.
(bnj7903@gmail.com; 253-
606-7994)*

**Retirement Reception in honor of Carol Smith our Church Secretary
will be held Sunday, January 19th in the fellowship hall after the worship.
Please join us in honoring and celebrating her 26.5 years of faithful service to our
congregation!**

**Men's
Community
Prayer
Breakfast**

Sat, Jan 11, 8am

hosted by **Strasburg
United Methodist
Church** (Washington
Street, Strasburg).

Held 8am on the 2nd
Saturday of each month.
Host church is on a
rotation basis.

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL OFFICERS FOR 2025

President: Byron Brill
Vice President: Debbie Winkfield
Secretary: Bonnie Giese
Treasurer: Kara Keller
Financial Secretary: Leslie Doman

There will be no
Thursday Noon Bible Study
on Dec 26 and January 2nd & 9th.

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR JANUARY 2025

If you are unable to be at church on the Sunday(s) for which you are scheduled, please find a replacement, then let the church office know.

If you are on this schedule, please mark your calendar accordingly.

<i>Services begin at 9:30am</i>	Jan 5	Jan 12	Jan 19	Jan 26	Feb 2
Assisting Minister	Mary Redmon	Joan Farrell	Joan Farrell	Randy Painter	Randy Painter
Ushers	Paul Fravel Bill Frenz	Paul Fravel Bill Frenz	Larry Kibler Tammy Kibler	Larry Kibler Craig Morris	Kevin Smith Bill Carper
Table Steward	Bonnie Giese	Debbie Winkfield	Brian Doman	Tammy Kibler	Bonnie Giese
Communion Assistant	Jalen Doman	Jay Winkfield	Leslie Doman	Linda Williams	Jalen Doman
Communion Tray	Bryleigh Bowman	Lillia Bauserman	Kennedy Emrich	Sherry Artz	Cindy Embrey
Communion Bread	Bonnie Giese	Sherand Smith	Jill Kupeski	Ida Smith	Abby Bright
Altar Guild	Sarah Clem (W)	Sarah Clem (W)	Sarah Clem (G)	Sarah Clem (G)	Lauren Bateman (W)
Steeple Bell Ringer	Bill Carper	Bill Carper	Debbie Winkfield	Debbie Winkfield	Andrew Clem
Coffee Bar	Kim Painter				

Taking Down Advent and Christmas Decorations after the worship service on Sunday, January 5.

To prepare our Sanctuary for Epiphany that begins on Monday, January 6, all Advent and Christmas decorations need to be put away following the Sunday, January 5 worship service.

- ∅ Chrismons need to be placed in their boxes
- ∅ Trees need to be taken down.
- ∅ The Advent wreath and wall scone decor need to be put away.
- ∅ The window hurricanes, candles, and greenery also need to be put away too.

If you are able to stay after to help with these things, we would greatly appreciate it!

Blessings, Worship and Music

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - JANUARY 2025 (December 29, 2024 – February 8, 2025)

** indicates more information on this item is found within this newsletter.*

--Events are typically as follows (except where noted):

- Sundays: 9:30am Worship Services with Holy Communion
10:45am Children’s Choir, Faith Formation (FF) and Life-Long Learners (LLL)
- Tuesdays, 9:30am: Crafters and Card making groups / fellowship hall
- 2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 9:30am Mission Quilters / fellowship hall
- Tuesday mornings: Sue Correll - music at the Child Care Center
- Wednesday mornings: Pastor Flohr visits with children at the Child Care Center.
- Wednesdays (1ST, 3rd and 5th) 5:30pm: Community meals at St Paul
- Wednesdays: 6pm St Paul Singers rehearsals & 7pm St Paul Ringers rehearsals
- Thursdays: *10-10:45am Yoga; 11-11:30am Chair Yoga
- Thursday Bible Studies: 11:30am Lunch (bring your lunch): Noon-1pm Bible Study.
- ~15th of each month: Deadline to submit information for the upcoming newsletter.
- Last Thursday of each month: 10am Pastor Flohr to The Maynard for a Communion Service.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Dec 29 Hymn Sing service *NO LLL *NO FF	Dec 30 Secretary vacation day	Dec 31 Secretary vacation day *NO Crafters & Quilters	Jan 1 Church office closed. 5:30pm Comm meal / St Paul NO rehearsals	Jan 2 *Yoga / F.hall *NO Chair Yoga *NO Bible Study	Jan 3	Jan 4
Jan 5 *FF (no Choir) *NO LLL *Undecorate *2-5pm 12 th Day of Christmas	Jan 6	Jan 7 Crafters & card makers	Jan 8 5:30pm Comm meal / Methodist NO rehearsals	Jan 9 *Yoga / F.hall *NO Chair Yoga *NO Bible Study	Jan 10	Jan 11 *Men’s Prayer Breakfast @Methodist
12 *FF *NO LLL *Thrivent Workshop	13	14 *Crafters, card makers & Quilters	15 5:30pm Comm meal / St Paul 6pm Ringers 7pm Singers	16 9am Finance Mtg *Yoga classes 11:30 Lunch, then Noon Bible Study	17	18 *10am St Paul Women’s Group
19 *FF *LLL	20	21 Crafters & card makers 7pm Council meeting	22 5:30pm Comm meal / Methodist 6pm Ringers 7pm Singers	23 *Yoga classes 11:30 Lunch, then Noon Bible Study	24	25
Jan 26 *FF *LLL	Jan 27	Jan 28 *Crafters, card makers & Quilters	Jan 29 5:30pm Comm meal / St Paul 6pm Ringers 7pm Singers	Jan 30 *Yoga classes 11:30 Lunch, then Noon Bible Study	Jan 31	Feb 1
Feb 2 *FF *LLL	Feb 3	Feb 4 Crafters & card makers.	Feb 5 5:30pm Community meal / Methodist 6pm Ringers 7pm Singers	Feb 6 *Yoga & Chair Yoga 11:30 Lunch, then Noon Bible Study	Feb 7	Feb 8

St. Paul Lutheran Church Property/Building Needs & Wants List 2025

Church Annex/Office

Minor repairs to porches and siding
Power wash, caulk, paint
LED lights in Work/Meeting Room
Purge unnecessary files/records/unused items
Clean out attic and basement

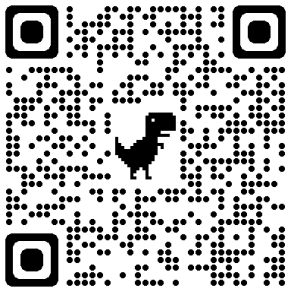
Main Church Building

Replace large steam boiler heating system (in process)
Nurse upgrade (\$1,400 already received, plans being formulated)
Automatic Opener for Side Door (\$4,000 donation received, total estimated cost \$7,500)
Archive Room on 2nd Floor (Room identified needs clearing out and shelves set up)
Basement flooding issue evaluated and estimated for repair
Kitchen assessment for possible upgrade/remodel
Repaint Sanctuary
Repaint Choir Practice Room and Recarpet
Repaint Eastside Exterior Window Frames
Replace carpet section at top of ramp leading to Fellowship Hall
Replace or paint water-stained ceiling tile in Fellowship Hall
Repaint Handrails at front steps into church building
Landscaping upkeep around Church and annex
Dispose of old paint cans in basement
Dispose of old/unwanted furniture in Sunday School rooms & room above Fellowship Hall
Dispose of old pump organ on 2nd floor
Elevator/Lift to 2nd Floor for those who have mobility challenges on stairs
Columbarium & Peace Garden to provide burial opportunity to church property again

*To help with these items or contribute towards them please contact the Church Office.

St Paul QR Codes: *Always make sure when you scan QR codes that the link is where you were expecting it to go.....if it isn't – don't click on it !!*

St Paul's website



St Paul's Giving/ 'Breeze' link:



ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH **COUNCIL FOR 2025**

OFFICERS

President: Debbie Winkfield
Vice President: Randy Painter

Secretary: Bonnie Giese
Treasurer: Kara Keller

Financial Secretary: Leslie Doman

TRUSTEES

Term Ends 2025: Howard Paige

Term Ends 2026: Byron Brill

Term Ends 2027: Randy Painter

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Pastor: Christian Flohr (406-241-2236; chrisflohr105@gmail.com)

Term Ends 2025

Terry Ryman (540-331-1741;
rymant@yahoo.com)
Debbie Winkfield (540-325-9025;
debwink54@gmail.com)
Lynne Carper (540-247-5524;
lynne@carperwood.com)

Term Ends 2025

Bonnie Giese (540-335-2117;
giese@shentel.net)
Byron Brill (540-327-1864;
byronbrill2@gmail.com)

Term Ends 2026

Jalen Doman (540-333-2602;
domanjs@dukes.jmu.edu)
Randy Painter (540-325-9511;
randlp@shentel.net)

STANDING COMMITTEES / TEAMS - 2024 *Not updated for 2025.

Christian Education

Cheri Morris, Chair
Jalen Doman, CR
Connie Fravel
Cindy Embrey

Evangelism

_____, Chair
Carolyn McKiernen
Byron Brill, CR
Barbara Arnold
Erika Rauhala
Judy Grubb
Hannah Rehbein
Fay Sonner

Finance

Jay Winkfield, Chair
Bill Frenz, Secretary
Kim Painter, C3 Treas.
Randy Painter, CR
Bill Carper
Brian Doman
Kara Keller, Treas.
Leslie Doman, Fin. Sec.

Hospitality

Susan Anderson, Co-Chair
Tammy Kibler, Co-Chair
Bonnie Giese, CR
Ida Smith
Wilma Smoot
Linda Williams
Gwen Abruzere
Debbie Winkfield
Erika Rauhala
Fay Sonner
Lynne Carper
Judy Grubb

Social Ministry/Missions

_____, Chair
Terry Ryman, CR
Debbie Winkfield, CR
Susan Anderson
Hannah Rehbein
Linda Williams

(Quilting only):
Gwen Abruzere
Susan Bennett
Cathy Frenz
Susan Anderson, Quilting Chair
Fay Sonner
Judy Grubb
Mary Redmon
Erika Rauhala
Barbara Arnold

Property

Randy Painter, Co-Chair
Brian Doman, Co-Chair
Randy Painter, CR
Larry Kibler
Andrew Clem
Bill Carper

Worship & Music

Pastor Flohr, Chair
Jalen Doman, CR
Gloria Goeres
Clay Arthur
Sue Correll, Dir. of Music
Helen Hall
Fay Sonner
Judy Grubb

(God's Work. Our Hands):

Debbie Winkfield
Byron Brill
Terry Ryman

Youth Ministry



SPECIAL COMMITTEES / TEAMS

Child Care

Mary Redmon, Chair
Kim Painter, Treasurer
Lynne Carper, CR
Helen Hall
Tammy Kibler
Katie Harley, C3 co-Director

2024 Scholarship

(by Council, Feb 2024)

Jay Winkfield, Chair
_____, CR
Bill Frenz
Cheri Morris
Tammy Kibler

Personnel

Randy Painter, Chair
Lynne Carper, CR
Bill Frenz

Parish Nurse

Pastor Flohr
Barbara Arnold
Byron Brill

Technology

Bill Frenz
Debbie Winkfield, CR
Bill Carper
Leslie Doman
Joey Kline

2023 Audit (per Council)

Linda Williams
Elizabeth Newman

History & Archives

Carolyn McKierman, Secretary
Pastor Hall
Bill Frenz
Randy Painter
Barbara Arnold
Jay Winkfield
Linda Williams
Bill Carper
Cathy Frenz

ad hoc / Task Force

Seasonal Preparedness Est by Council, Feb/March 2015. Re-affirmed, Feb2024.

Also, use for wedding coordination-per Council April 2016.

April Diehl Hannah Rehbein, CR
Fay Sonner Janet Fish

Policies ad hoc

(Byron Brill made motion at May 2022 Council meeting that an ad hoc committee be formed. No names were mentioned at that time. Pastor May suggests waiting for Pastor Flohr's arrival in Jan 2023)

Columbarium (per Council, July 22, 2023)

Pastor Chris, Byron Brill, and Debbie Winkfield

Gods Work. Our Hands. (Sept 8, 2024)

Pastor Flohr, Debbie Winkfield, Byron Brill & Terry Ryman.

Ministry and Building needs of St Paul (initiated at the Sept 17, 2024 Council meeting)

Kayce & Pastor Flohr
Kathy & Byron Brill Brill
Kim & Randy Painter (Property)
Bill & Lynne Carper (Council)
Debbie Winkfield (Council)
Susan Anderson (Hosp)
Linda Williams
Kitty Miller

***If you'd like to be a part of a Team please contact the church office or
Pastor Flohr.***