

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 117 East Arch Street, Fleetwood, PA

### **Moving Forward in Faith**

Worship and Music (W&M), along with Council and our office staff are confident and committed to providing an inviting and meaningful worship setting following Pastor Tom's retirement.

Our requests for supply pastors are in the works. We are blessed to have two ordained ministers in our congregation who are willing to help lead us in worship along with the assisting ministers, choirs and musicians.

Lent comes early this year! Ash Wednesday is February 14, and our service will be at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary, no soup supper this evening. Starting with the second Wednesday in Lent, February 21, we will be serving soup suppers at 5:30 PM and a service of Holy Lament at 6:30 PM in the social room. We will learn, ultimately, that "Jesus' death on the cross-the place to which the season of Lent leads us-is the reason we never mourn as those without hope". This will be a time of reflection, in an informal and welcoming setting.

We do not know how long it will take to get an interim pastor or when we will have candidates to interview for a permanent pastor but together, we can worship, pray, and use our time and talents to keep our faith strong as one body in Christ here at St. Paul's.

Blessings,

Gretchen Mertz - W&M Team

#### February 2024

#### **Up Coming Events**

Sunday 2/11 Transfiguration of Our Lord

Wednesday 2/14 is Ash Wed. Service 7 PM

2/21 Lenten Soup Suppers begin, 5:30 PM followed by a service of Holy Lament 6:30 PM

2/25 - Congregation Reporting Meeting 10:45 AM







# Council Corner

> On January 16th we held-. the "Exit Interview" with Pr. Tom & Pr. Rachael Dietz.

> Council President Tim Heffner will continue to update the congregation on the next steps to securing an Interim pastor and progress on obtaining a permanent pastor.

# Special Monthly Offering

# Safe Graduation

#### Fleetwood Safe Graduation

Our offering for February will support Fleetwood High School 'Safe Graduation', a party following the graduation ceremony. It is a drug and alcohol free event to keep students safe on this special night and provide a fun evening of games, music, entertainment, food and door prizes and a time to celebrate with friends before heading off to the next phase of their lives.

# Church Bus Trip to the Philadelphia Phillies

A bus trip has been arranged to visit Citizens Bank Park to enjoy an evening of major league baseball. The playoff contending Phillies are returning to Citizens Bank Park for another year of championship baseball! On **Friday, July 26, 2024**, a 56 passenger Elite Coach bus will leave the church parking lot at 2:30 PM to travel to the home of the Phillies. The opponent is the Cleveland Guardians. Seats are in Section 327, Rows 6, 7 and 8. Game time is scheduled for 6:40 PM. Round trip transportation and entrance to the ballpark is \$70.00 per person. Bus driver gratuity will be an optional, additional expense on the night of the game. Payment is required prior to June 7, 2024 to reserve your seat. Please make check payments payable to Tim Heffner. For more information or to reserve tickets, please contact Tim Heffner at 610-944-8197, 610-587-5232 or <a href="majority.com/theffner/majority.com



# Prayer List

world, and church. To add a name to the Martin prayer list, call the church office. Names Kirkhoff, difference!

Pray for those serving in the military: Brayden Kiebach, Travis Meck, Lauren Daisy Wahl, Marie Wessner. Moyer, Sydney Plucker, Matt Roberts, Ryan Stitzel, Colin Walbert.

Pray for those in need of ongoing, long term prayer: Andrew Beerer, Kathy Boalton, The Davies Family, June Derr, Essie Barney Dietrich, Maggie Emerick. Barbara Faust, Mary Ann

The prayer list is an instrument to Ferretti, Dennis Gillner, Betty Gruber, remind us of our responsibility to Marie Hawkins, Cindy Burke-Hearter, intercessory prayer for our community, Nancy Heffner, Juanita Heist, Jane Hill, Keller, Don Kirby, Elizabeth Kohler. will be removed after four weeks, unless Kurzweg, Joyce Miller, Steve Miller, The otherwise advised. Prayer makes a Neff Family, Ruth Oxenreider, Desmond Parker, Charles Pinter, Bruce Remmel, Peggy Reppert, Joyce Schittler, Viola Snyder, Lori Spatz, Richard Spatz, Mabel Connor Geer, Rob Geer, Daniel Keller, Stopp, Kenneth Tanis, Frank Vroman,

> If you placed a name on our prayer list and that person is now recovered and able to be removed from the list, please call Betty Buss (610-944-8445) or the church office (610-944-8388) Thank you.

> > Caring for one another

#### A Note about **Pastoral Care**

Please contact us if you or another member of your family enters the hospital or experiences a significant illness, trauma, or need.

Pr. David Blitch at 484-663-4911 Pr. Allen Forsman at 610-682-7028

# **Bad Weather Cancellations**

As we move into the winter season, please be aware that there are times when our services might be canceled on Sunday mornings. Should this be the case, the information will be posted on WFMZ and sent out via email from our Mail Chimp account. On any Sunday when it is snowing or icy, please check these sources before heading out to church. If you are unable to access these sources, please call the church office and we will put you on a calling list. The people on this list will be called when church services are canceled.



Adding to Christmas:

Who can add to Christmas? The perfect motive is that God so loved the world. The perfect gift is that He gave His only Son. The

only requirement is to believe in Him. The reward of faith is that you shall have everlasting life. (Corrie Ten Boom)

Thank you to Thrivent for their generous donation of a Thrivent Action gift card to purchase some of the articles in the 33 Christmas shut-in bags. You, the congregation members, were so generous with your time to complete this project. Thank You!

#### Kudos

Congratulations to Mike Mayer on his December 27 induction into the Fleetwood Sports Hall of Fame. Mike was not only an athlete but continues to be active in community and soccer officiating. inspiring speaker at this event was Josh Sanders, former St. Paul's Lutheran member. of Ken and Anne and son Sanders. Thank you, Mike, and



#### Join Isaiah and Friends at Bear Creek Camp



My Name is Isaiah Johnson and I am 11 years old! I went to Bear Creek Church Camp for the last two years and can't wait to go again this year! At camp I made a lot of new friends. You get to sing, dance, learn about Jesus, and sit by campfires. My favorite part is when you get to hike in the woods and stay in a tent overnight to look up at the stars. There are huge camp games, slip and slides, music, and nonstop fun. At night we tell stories in our bunk beds. The food isn't bad either! If you give Bear Creek Camp a try you won't regret it. Join me during session 1 in June!

To register your child for a unique summer camping experience go to: bearcreekcamp.org

#### Food Collections are ongoing!

Kindly remember the many families and individuals who are struggling to afford food. Simply drop your non- perishable donations in the food bin in the lobby.



# Coffee & Conversation

February 4 - Local Food Pantry - Tom Wright

February 11 - Sam Borrell Men in Mission Breakfast

February 18 - Where are we going? Host Tim Heffner, Council President

February 25- No C & C - Congregation Reporting Meeting

# **Annual Congregation Reporting Meeting**

In accordance with the constitution of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, C10.01, the date and time for the Annual Congregation Reporting Meeting is Sunday, February 25, 2024 beginning at 9:45 am in the sanctuary.

# Easter Lilies



# **Altar Flowers**



We will continue the tradition of adorning our sanctuary with Easter Lilies. If you would like to order lilies in honor or in memory of someone, please complete the envelope found on the table at the back of the sanctuary and return it via the collection plate or the church office. You may also call the office at 910-944-8688. Lilies are \$9.25 each. The deadline for placing orders is **Sunday**, **February 11**<sup>th</sup>.

Reminder: Please sign-up at the kiosk to honor your loved ones with weekly altar flowers! Lots of dates available. Tracey's Florist will contact you to discuss your order a week or two prior to the date you select.



# **FEBRUARY WORSHIP HAPPENINGS**

WORSHIP AT 8:30 AM EACH SUNDAY SUNDAY SCHOOL, CATECHISM AND COFFEE & CONVERSATION WILL BE HELD AT 9:45 – 10:30 AM

Sunday, February 4 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

Supply Pastor: Pr. Susan Fox

Sunday, February 11- Transfiguration of Our Lord

Supply Pastor: Pr. David Blitch

Wednesday, February 14

Ash Wednesday Service of Ashes and Holy Communion at 7 PM

Supply Pastor: Pr. David Blitch

We mark the beginning of our observance of Lent with a cross of ashes drawn on the forehead

as a sincere sign of our repentance for our sins. No Soup supper this evening.

Sunday, February 18 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent Supply Pastor: Rev. Burlington Latshaw

Sunday, February 25 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent

Supply Pastor: Pr. Susan Fox

Wednesday, February 21 – Midweek Lenten Service at 6:30 in the Social Hall

Tonight, and for the next 4 Wednesday nights (until March 20<sup>th</sup>) we will gather around the tables in our Social Hall for a Soup and Sandwich Supper immediately followed by a short Lenten Devotional Service. Skip the cooking at home and come anytime between 5:30 and 6:30

# Welcome to Worship

We want everyone to feel comfortable worshipping with us and realize that some people are still anxious when gathering in groups of people. For your convenience and safety, consider the following: Hand sanitizer will continue to be available as you enter worship, and we also have masks available for anyone choosing to wear one. Please be aware: If you test positive for COVID-19 within five days of worshipping with us, we kindly ask that you follow proper quarantine protocols and contact the church office as soon as possible. Please do not come to worship or other activities if you are not feeling well, even if you think it's just a cold. If at any time you have concerns, please contact a member of the Worship & Music Team. Members of the team are: Gretchen Mertz, Marla Gieringer, Cindy Borrell, Donna Fick, Nancy Bowman, Donna Ahrens, and Martin Hinkley. Our team listens carefully to your comments, making adjustments to our services as necessary, and delights in new ideas!





#### 1 Million Pounds of Caring

Thanks to our friends at St. Paul's and Berks County for helping Opportunity House divert over 1 million pounds from local landfills. In addition to helping create a greener environment, your donations to the bin and donations dropped off at OppShop did so much more including:

- Providing clothing to people in need when they arrive at Opportunity House
- Creating jobs and job training for formerly homeless people
- Generate revenue for programs and services of Opportunity House
- Helping formerly homeless furnish their new homes with essential furniture and household items (at no charge) when they become stably housed.

According to Berks County Solid Waste management manager, Jane Meeks, the amount Opportunity House recycled is larger than many local community curbside pickup programs in the County. Thanks for your support of this worthwhile effort.

Thank you to all who donated to the monthly offering to support Opportunity House. Your support enabled us to open a much-needed short-term housing program for families with children this winter. Now 20 families will have a warm place to stay this winter.

Holly Wolf

# Finances at St. Paul's



Did you know that you can now manage your giving to St. Paul's online? Simply Giving is an easy, secure, and convenient way to have your weekly, monthly, or yearly offering transferred directly to St. Paul's from your checking or savings account. No more writing checks and searching for that offering envelope. It just takes a few minutes to enroll and you are on your way to Simply Giving! Enrollment forms are available in the church office or visit www.spelcfleetwood.com\giveonline\

#### THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

Don't forget to direct your 2023 Choice Dollars to help support the Organizations that matter most to you! Thrivent Members... If eligible, you were designated Choice Dollars based on the insurance premiums you pay, your insurance or annuity contract value or your role as Thrivent Financial volunteer leader. Your participation in the Thrivent Choice program helps Thrivent Financial distribute these funds effectively. If not designated, your Choice Dollars will expire on March 31, 2024. These are funds that you have earned through buying Thrivent products and can be so beneficial to St. Paul's or another charity of your choice. Make a difference by directing Choice Dollars before they expire on March 31. You can call Thrivent directly at 1-800-847-4836 and speak to a Thrivent representative (best time to call is Wednesday-Friday, 4:30-7 EST) or direct Choice Dollars online at the Thrivent.com website.

# ELCA Federal Credit Union: A financial partner that shares its profits and shares your values

ELCA members and employees of congregations and ministries are eligible to join the <u>ELCA</u> Federal Credit Union and take advantage of membership benefits, including:

No-fee checking accounts, with no monthly maintenance, minimum balance or overdraft fees.\*

Auto loan rates for up to 50% less than the national average.\*\*

And, for a limited time, no payments for up to 60 days and rates as low as 5.99% on personal loans for home improvement projects, repairs and other expenses.

The <u>ELCA Federal Credit Union</u> is a not-for-profit financial cooperative that shares its profits in the form of lower fees and better rates — helping you and the ministries you love do more with your money.

# Finances at St. Paul's Con't

	Dec-23 Actual		<u>YTD</u> <u>Actual</u>	
Income				
Non-Preschool M&M	\$	51,729	\$	272,062
Preschool M&M	\$	8,790	\$	103,069
Total	\$	60,519	\$	375,131
Expense				
Non-Preschool	\$	26,660	\$	266,511
Preschool	\$	14,116	\$	96,724
Total	\$	40,776	\$	363,235
Income Less Expenses - Non-Preschool	\$	25,069	\$	5,551
Income Less Expenses - Preschool	\$	(5,326)	\$	6,345
Total Income Less Expenses	\$	19,743	\$	11,896

# Special February Birthdays

Betty Gruber, will turn 94 on 2/22. Please send a birthday greeting to Betty in C/O Kathy Heffner, 1182 Pleasant Hill Rd, Fleetwood, PA 19522. Bernard Dietrich, will turn 91 on 2/28. Please send a birthday greeting to him at Keystone Villa, 501 Hoch Rd. Room 321, Blandon, PA 19510.



#### February Mystery Members

#### By Melissa Neff

The mystery family article is returning! This month's mystery family is a couple who has lived in Fleetwood since 1998. Mr. and Mrs. both grew up in Stony Creek Mills, which is in the Mount Penn area. Mr. graduated from Mount Penn High School, and Mrs. graduated from Exeter High School.

The couple recently celebrated their 36th

wedding anniversary. It is interesting that their families went to the same church when Mr. and Mrs. were growing up, but the couple didn't actually meet and start to know each other until they went to a dance together as teenagers. Their mothers had been acquaintances when they worked together at Bell Telephone in the fifties.

Since high school Mr. has been a carpenter, and he loves what he does. He owns his own home improvement business, and he actually built the house in which they live.

The career of Mrs. involved various fields. After high school she went to radiology technology school. Then when she was forty she went back to school and earned a business degree from Albright. She has worked in health care, banking, and now for a non-profit agency. She currently does marketing for Opportunity House.

Mrs. loves to travel. It doesn't matter whether it is locally, nationally, or internationally. She also enjoys reading, writing, and cooking. She mainly reads biographies and nonfiction books. She thinks people's stories are fascinating and likes to learn about what they have overcome.

Mr. enjoys woodworking, hunting, and traveling. He makes his own taxidermy stands. They have a lot of taxidermy in their house. He has hunted all over the world. Most recently he has been hunting ducks. Mrs. went on hunting trips with him to Namibia in Africa, Mexico, and Montana. She only went along to Montana because they visited Yellowstone National Park first.

They have gone together on many trips that were not for hunting. They love visiting na-

tional parks in the United States. They just went to five parks in Utah this past fall. Mrs. said that when you go to a national park, you get confirmation that God is real. International travel they have done includes Russia, China, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Greece, and Europe.

They have belonged here at St. Paul's since moving to Fleetwood in 1998. One day on the WBYN radio station Mrs. had heard the song, "Oh Christ the Same," which is to

the tune of "Oh Danny Boy." She wished that she could go to a church that sang that song. The first Sunday she came here we sang that song, and she felt she belonged here. Since becoming a member, Mrs. has gone on two mission trips to Jamaica, worked on the stewardship team, served on church council, sang on praise choir, serves as lector and communion assistant, and writes prayers. She does what she feels called to do. She likes that the people of St. Paul's are willing to try new things and that our church keeps evolving.

You might know who this couple is now. If not, check the March issue.

## St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church



117 East Arch Street Fleetwood, PA 19522 Office Hours 9:00 am- 3:00 pm Monday - Thursday



#### **Purpose**

Filled with the Holy Spirit
We inspire Spiritual Growth in the Community of Christ by
striving to ...

#### **Guiding Principles**

- ♦ Welcome All People
- Pray Daily
- ♦ Worship Weekly
- Read, Listen, Reflect and Share the Word of God
- ♦ Serve at and beyond St. Paul's
- ♦ Encourage Spiritual Friendships
- ♦ Share God's Blessings Generously through the Giving of Our Time, Talents and Resources

#### Contact Us

Donna Locke

Parish Administrator 610-944-8388

Email: office@spelcfleetwood.com

**Cindy Oesterle** 

Treasurer 610-944-8388

Sue Remmel

Financial Secretary 610-944-8388

**Donna Ahrens** 

Organist,

Director of Handbells 610-944-8388

**Martin Hinkley** 

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Phone: 610-944-8388

Email: office@spelcfleetwood.com Website: www.spelcfleetwood.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/spelcfleetwood

The church office will be open Monday through Thursday from 9:00 am—3:00 pm. You are welcome to call with questions or concerns or to stop in to discuss your needs in person. Please ring the doorbell and Donna will meet you at the door for admittance into the building.



# **FEBRUARY 2024**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 6-7:30pm Girl Scouts Loft 6:00pm Girl Scouts S.H.	2 6:45am Men's Group	3
4 8:30am Service 9:45am SS, Cat.Class,C & C 10:45am Music/ Worship 7:00pm AA/Al-Anon	5 6:00pm Girl Scouts S.H.	6 6:30 – 8pm Girl Scouts S.H	7 10:30 GWBU library 7:00pm Choir	8 6:00pm Daisy's Loft 7:00pm Cultural Series	9 6:45am Men's Group	10
11 8:30am Service 9:45am SS, Cat. Class, Sam Borrell Men in Mission 7:00pm AA/Al-Anon	12 Epistle Deadline	13 7:00pm Preschool Zoom Meeting	14 10:30 GWBU library 7:00pm Choir	15 6-7:30pm Girl Scouts Loft 6:00pm Girl Scouts S.H. 7:00pm AA Dist. Meets	16 6:45am Men's Group	17
18 8:30am Service 9:45am SS, Cat.Class, C & C 7:00pm AA/Al-Anon	19 Office Closed 6:00pm Girl Scouts S.H.	20 6:30 Girl Scouts S.H. 7:00pm Council Meets	21 10:30 GWBU library 7:00pm Choir	22 6:00pm Daisy's Loft	23 6:45am Men's Group	24
25 Food on Fourth 8:30am Service 9:45am SS, Cat.Class, C & C 7:00pm AA/Al-Anon	26	27	28 10:30 GWBU library 7:00pm Choir	29 6pm-7:30pm Preschool Open House		

# ROUND THE HOUSE 100 Hidden Words to Find

WINDOW	WASHER	WASHCLOTH	VENT	VACUUM	TRASH	TOWEL
TOOTHPASTE	TOOTHBRUSH	TOILET	TOASTER	TISSUES	TILE	TELEVISION
TEAPOT	TABLE	STAIRS	SPOON	SPONGE	SPATULA	SOCKS
SOAP	SLIPPERS	SINK	SHOWER	SHOES	SHELF	SHEET
SHAMPOO	RUG	REMOTE	REFRIGERATOR	PURSE	РОТ	PLATE
PILLOW	РНОТО	PEN	PAPER	PANTRY	PAN	OVEN
OUTLET	OTTOMAN	МОР	MIRROR	MICROWAVE	MATTRESS	LIGHT
LAMP	KNOB	KNIFE	KITCHEN	KEYS	IRON	ноок
HANGER	GLASS	FRAME	FORK	FLOOR	FAN	DRYER
DRESSER	DRAWER	DOOR	DISHWASHER	DETERGENT	DESK	CUSHION
CURTAINS	CUP	COUNTER	соисн	CONDITIONER	COMPUTER	сомв
COAT	COASTER	CLOTHES	CLOSET	CLOCK	CHAIR	CARPET
CANDLE	CABINET	BRUSH	BROOM	BOWL	BOOKCASE	воок
BLENDER	BLANKET	BENCH	BEDROOM	BED	BATHTUB	BATHROOM
BASEMENT	ATTIC					

# Newsday Crossword

#### PRETENSES by Fred Piscop Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

#### ACROSS

- 1 River blocker
- 4 Dads
- 9 Common dog biscuit shapes
- 14 Memorable period
- 15 Praise highly
- 16 Get out of bed
- 17 Horse's track record
- 20 Woodwind instrument
- 21 Fit for purchase
- 22 Fire-starting twigs
- 25 Part of the psyche
- 26 Altar assent
- 29 \_\_ in "Stockholm"
- 30 Gone With the Wind home
- 33 Flew like an eagle
- 35 Wide-mouthed wine bottle
- 37 Edible ice-cream container
- 38 Right now
- 42 Mr. Flintstone
- 43 Filled in at the office
- 44 Condensed story
- 47 Assign stars to
- 48 Faux \_\_ (misstep)
- 51 Parisian pal
- 52 "In what way?"
- 54 Slow walk
- 56 Train stop
- 60 Shortest-named continent
- 61 Part of some pro football trades
- 65 Change formally

- 66 Barbershop quartet voice
- 67 Put a knot in
- 68 Takes a risk
- 69 Baloney
- 70 Feeling mopy

#### DOWN

- 1 Train stops
- 2 Saudi \_\_\_ (Mideast land)
- 3 Bricks-andmortar workers
- 4 Get-up-and-go
- 5 Firefighter's implement
- 6 Golf scorecard numbers
- 7 \_\_ Romeo (Italian auto)
- 8 Swiped
- 9 Panda's diet
- 10 Word-of-mouth

- 11 Club for approach shots
- 12 "Cancel" PC key
- 13 Comprehend
- 18 Actor Danson
- 19 Dustcloths
- 23 Flight board figs.
- 24 Very hard to find
- 27 Fender ding
- 28 Poem of tribute
- 31 Go on a tirade
- 32 Fairy tale closer
- 34 Scored 100 on
- 35 Relinquish legally
- 36 Actress Watson or Stone
- 38 Strait-laced
- 39 Enroll
- 40 Selects, with "for"
- 41 Intersect

- 42 Meds-monitoring agcy.
- 45 Pottery fragments
- 46 Lug around
- 48 Assumes to be true
- 49 Pop singer Keys
- 50 Satisfied, as thirst
- 53 Shoebox datum
- 55 Kanye West's music
- 57 Melody
- 58 Top-selling cookie
- 59 Prefix meaning "billionth"
- 61 Fidget spinners, for example
- 62 Thurman of films
- 63 Enemy
- 64 Take a crack at

