

2024 ANNUAL REPORT
February 23, 2025
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Jerome Parish - Edinburg, Virginia

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH is a congregation of the Virginia Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop, ELCA - The Rev. Phyllis Milton, Bishop, Virginia Synod

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Sonya Williams-Giersch, Vice Pastor

Musicians:

Steve Stratton

Miriam Stratton

Dara Booher

Clinton Hawkins, Custodian

Denise Dellinger, Treasurer

Nancy Hansberger, Financial Secretary

Linda May, Congregation Secretary

2024 CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Jeff Dellinger, President
Orville Smoot, Vice President
Cody Barb, Donald Bowers,
Diane Dellinger, Brenda Evans,
Eileen Fisher, Miranda Hawkins,
Becky Jenkins, Jerry Oates,
Miriam Stratton

2025 CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Jeff Dellinger, President
Orville Smoot, Vice President
Anna Barb, Joe Belan, Donald Bowers,
Diane Dellinger, Brenda Evans,
Eileen Fisher, Kaitlyn Funkhouser,
Becky Jenkins, Miriam Stratton

LEARNING/YOUTH COMMITTEE - ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Thanks to everyone who supported and encouraged our children and youth this year. We continued with Chat N Chew on the first Monday of the month for all children and youth.

Chat N Chew and You Too was also held again this year with grilled hot dogs and hamburgers and a covered dish meal. Thank you all for supporting this event especially Denise and Jeff Dellinger for grilling.

For the December Chat N Chew, we had dinner at Pizza Hut and then went to Walmart to purchase items to be used as gifts for the Christmas Corner. We had over 80 children participate in the Christmas Corner this year. This is always an exciting event for the children and those who help by setting up, wrapping, and cleaning up. A special thank you to Dara Booher for organizing this event.

Camp scholarships for Caroline Furnace were provided during the summer. Aven Booher attended Lost and Found.

Trunk or Treat was held on a relatively mild evening this year. Thank you to all who came out and supported the community for this event.

A Christmas pageant was provided by the children, youth, and their families on December 22nd.

Thank you to the congregation for supporting our children and youth.

Miriam Stratton

PROPERTY COMMITTEE – ANNUAL REPORT 2024

1. Removed snow and ice from parking lots and sidewalks
2. Fill the water softener salt
3. Inspect the Parsonage since it is empty
4. Cleaned the gutters at the Parsonage
5. Blew leaves at the Parsonage
6. Mowed the lawn at the Parsonage
7. Had the wind damaged siding repaired on the Church
8. Had the cemetery Rock Wall repaired
9. Applied a sealer to the Rock Wall
10. Hung the star on the outside wall for Christmas
11. Set up an outdoor Nativity Scene
12. Trimmed the bushes at the Church
13. Sprayed for bees in the pavilion and exterior of the Church
14. Spread top soil and grass seed in the Cemetery
15. Removed and/or replaced railing for funeral services
16. Marked burial plots
17. Marked cemetery for headstone placement

Submitted by Cody Barb

SOCIAL MINISTRY – ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Here is a listing of actions taken in 2024 by Social Ministries/Sewing Circle.

We made 62 new rugs and sold 88 rugs. We have 66 rugs in our inventory which are available for sale.

We donated 20 rugs as follows:

SVLM	2
Habitat for Humanity	7
Edinburg VFD	2
Bayse VFD	2
Conicville VFD	2
Shenandoah Alliance for Shelter (Empty Bowl)	2
Mountain Courier (for advertising)	3

The following items were donated to Lutheran World Relief:

60" x 80" quilts	26
Personal Care Kits	16
Baby Care Kits	2
School Kits	21

The following items were donated to A Small Hand:

Girl Baby Blankets	15
Boy Baby Blankets	12

A Thrivent Grant for \$250 purchased cleaning products and personal care items for Family Promise in Woodstock.

Lap quilts were donated to each resident at Greenfield's	23
Baby quilts were donated for Christmas Corner	4
Men's lap quilts donated to Micah's Place in Fredericksburg	12

Lap quilts donated to SEARCH, Mt. Jackson to use as needed	14
Lap quilts given to shut-in members and friends	4
Baby quilt donated to a premature newborn in Jerome	1

Consumable products and fuel for kitchen use were provided.

Provided chicken for Homecoming and funerals.

Provided our annual Thanksgiving Community Meal and served approximately 120 people.

Provided Christmas bags for 18 shut-in members and friends.

Fabric scraps were donated to WWR, SHES, and PMMS for their art departments. We will continue this practice next year for other schools in Shenandoah County.

We donated \$1500.00 to the Rock Wall project.

We sent 138 cards to sick/shut-in, birthday (over 90) and Christmas cards.

Thank you to Helen Miller for being our card sender for many years. Julia Miller has agreed to take over this job at Helen's request.

We are grateful to the family of St Paul's for supporting our group with your purchases, monetary donations and donations of fabrics, etc. We could not do what we do without you!

Attached is a copy of Anna Barb's Treasurer's report for the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Miranda S Hawkins
 Committee Chair and
 Council Representative

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE – ANNUAL REPORT 2024

What a wonderful year St. Paul's has had with help from its members and the community. During 2024 the Stewardship Committee did the following:

1. Helped to raise funds for the Rock Wall surrounding the church and cemetery through postcards mailed to members and the community. We were able to get information about the Rock Wall put into print and on the local news station.
2. Wrote a total of 80 personal thank you cards to those who donated to the repair of the Rock Wall.
3. Provided envelopes for the church pews for people to use when they forgot to bring them from home and for visitors to use if they desire. The envelopes allow the user to designate where they would like their donation to go.
4. Handed out carnations to all the moms on Mother's Day and handkerchiefs to all the dads on Father's Day.
5. Created Homecoming invitations and mailed them out.
6. Reminded the Church body of the wonderful talents and the giving they do during the year to the different organizations outside the church building. This was done with a printed flyer that was inserted in the bulletin and/or the pews.
7. Stewardship is proud to have been a part of making St. Paul's Church and community a stronger and welcoming place to all who enter its doors.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Evans
Stewardship Committee Chair

WELCA - ANNUAL REPORT 2024

The Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (WELCA) and the Virginia Synod Women's Organization (VSWO) are two bodies within the Lutheran Church designed to minister to all women in the church. Additionally, it is their purpose to encourage all Lutheran women to participate in the ministries of the church. St Paul's has long been a member of both groups.

During the past year, we have delivered in person lap robes made by the Sewing Circle to a homeless shelter in downtown Fredericksburg. We also hand delivered lap robes to SEARCH, which sponsors a group home for individuals with disabilities in Mount Jackson.

Every other month, all women in the church and community are invited to "Let's do Lunch." To date, 20 or more women have enjoyed this outing. Because we are eating at a public restaurant, other diners have noticed the wonderful fellowship "of those women from Jerome." At the December luncheon, food was collected and delivered to the Bread of Life Food pantry.

Anna Barb and Oma Gail Simmons both registered and paid to attend either or both the VSWO convention and the All Lutheran Women's Retreat. The funds paid to these events were donated to the Love Offering projects.

We ask God to bless the work of both WELCA and the VSWO and give thanks to God for the gifts all women bring to our ministry at St Paul's.

Oma Gail Simmons
January 2025

WITNESS COMMITTEE – ANNUAL REPORT 2024

For the year 2024 The Witness Committee continued to visit, call, send cards (members, neighbors, friends in nursing homes, and homebound). We had tele-conferenced meetings and we continued to communicate via telephone, and calling members and sending cards.

- Greeting card fronts were collected and mailed to St. Jude's Hospital
- Published the church newsletter monthly-being printed and sent electronically.
- We are actively volunteering and supporting the Bread of Life Food Pantry.
- We collected and delivered 23 Shoe Boxes for the Operation Christmas Child. The shipping charges of \$10 per box were paid to Samaritans Purse.
- We encouraged the congregation to support "ELCA GOOD GIFTS PROJECT".
- We continue to participate in the SHENANDOAH VALLEY LOCAL MINISTRIES PROGRAMS
 - Luke's Backpack providing food items for the children's weekend meals
 - A Small Hand through monetary offerings.

We continue to be active through telephone calls and are very thankful for the support of our congregation and members.

Respectfully,

Anna Barb, Chairperson

WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE - ANNUAL REPORT 2024

The Worship and Music Committee helped to plan, coordinate, and provide Sunday worship and special worship services to St. Paul's Lutheran Church throughout 2024.

2024 highlights:

1. Pulpit Supply - During 2023 there were only five worship services where pulpit supply from VA Synod pastors or preachers were not provided. Matt Booher led worship and delivered a sermon on three of those occasions. We greatly appreciate all those who provided pulpit supply throughout the year.
 - a. There were eight Sundays when communion was unable to be provided.
2. Zoom technology continues to be provided regularly as an alternative method of attending services.
3. The choir met for practice throughout the year before worship and provided special music during worship on many occasions.
4. Paraments and banners were changed for each season of the church year as appropriate.
5. During Lent, mid-week services were provided on Wednesday evenings based on the Holden Vespers.
 - a. Oma Gail Simmons provided a Bible study series during the educational portion of the services, which was very well received by attendees.
 - b. Soup and bread suppers were provided prior to each service.
6. Holy Week services were provided as usual – Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunrise service (led by Matt Booher), and Easter Communion service (led by Bill Nabers). An Easter breakfast meal was provided by the men of the congregation.
7. Two outdoor services were provided during the summer on July 14 and September 1, with a meal and ice cream provided following each service.
8. Homecoming service was held on September 8, with Pastor John Wertz from the VA Synod office presiding. A potluck meal was held following the service.

9. On October 27 Reformation Sunday was celebrated, Aubrey Dellinger and Aven Booher were confirmed, and Senior Day was celebrated for those over 80 years young. A meal was held after the service to honor Seniors and confirmands.
10. All Saints Day was held on November 3. In addition, a dedication of the newly refurbished rock wall on the church grounds was included during worship. A meal was provided after worship to celebrate the completion of the rock wall.
11. Advent services were provided during December on Wednesdays at noon. Soup and sandwich lunch were provided, and local Biblical Storytellers presented Advent story Gospel readings during the Holden Vespers services.
12. A Christmas Pageant was presented on Sunday, December 22 with many children, youth, and adults participating in various roles. Dara Booher coordinated the pageant, which was very well appreciated by the congregation.
13. A Christmas Eve candlelight service was held at 5:00 PM on December 24, with Pastor Bill Nabers presiding. There was an extended prelude time prior to the service when special music was provided by several members of the congregation.

** The committee greatly appreciates the many members of our congregation who volunteer many hours of time to plan, prepare, coordinate, and deliver worship services.

This includes (but is not limited to):

- Members of the Worship & Music Committee
- All those involved in planning weekly worship
- All those who plan and provide music for worship (organist, choir, etc.)
- All those who help keep the sanctuary presentationally appropriate to the season or worship event
- The many volunteers who provide worship leadership and support (assisting ministers, lectors, communion assistants, acolytes, ushers, greeters, etc.)

Respectfully Submitted,
Steve Stratton, chair
Worship & Music Committee

Appointment of Committee Chairpersons - 2024

Learning & Youth	Miriam Stratton
Worship & Music	Steve Stratton
Stewardship	Brenda Evans
Witness	Anna Barb
Finance	Orville Smoot
Social Ministry	Miranda Hawkins
Property	Jerry Oates, Cody Barb & Donald Bowers
Women of the ELCA	Oma Gail Simmons
Fellowship	Eileen Fisher
Mutual Ministry	Miranda Hawkins
Cemetery Upkeep	Orville Smoot
Shen. Valley Lutheran Ministries	Eileen Fisher
200th Anniversary Planning	_____

St. Paul's Sewing Circle
Fiscal 2024

Checking Account #621015727		
Balance Forward January 1, 2023		\$ 680.42
RECEIPTS:		
Rugs		\$ 2,900.00
Donations		\$ 2,949.00
	Subtotal	\$ 5,849.00
EXPENDITURES:		
Kitchen Supplies/Propane Gas/Stamps		\$ 1,328.35
Miscellaneous: Shut-in Boxes		\$ 111.88
Food for Events		\$ 845.37
Rug Weaving		\$ 1,417.14
Donation-Rock Wall		\$ 1,500.00
	Subtotal	\$ 5,202.74
ENDING BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2023		\$ 1,326.68
2023 Rug/Balance Forward	112	
Rugs Donated	20	
Rugs Made 2024	62	
Sold Rugs	88	
Rug Inventory (on hand for sale)	66	
SAVINGS ACCOUNT #680058272		
Balance Forward January 1, 2023		\$ 2,369.87
Interest Received 2024		\$ 3.58
Balance December 31, 2024		\$ 2,373.45

Anna A. Barb, Treasurer

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2024

Beginning Balance January 1, 2024 (Checking)	Current-Used for Budgeted Expenses	12,211.45
	Ordination Scholarship Fund Interest	1,087.65
	Discretionary Fund-Pd by Members	1,241.01
	Youth - Fundraisers	7,557.85
	Long Range Planning	1,193.41
	Youth Ministry	840.00
	Blessing Box	367.46
	Santa's Workshop - 2021 & 2022	230.39
	Youth (IMO Mary Barb)	465.00
	Building Fund - donation	10,000.00
	Rock Wall - donation	10,000.00
	Checking Acct-Jan 1, 2024	45,194.22

RECEIPTS

<u>Benevolence</u>			
World Hunger		860.00	
Shen Valley Local Ministries (SVLM) - Lent/Easter env & loose		1,022.00	
Luke's Backpack - pd by Members		60.00	
SVLM - pd by Members		95.00	
SVLM - Advent/Christmas envelopes & loose		627.00	
Caroline Furnace - pd by Member		100.00	
Lutheran World Relief - pd by Members		1,335.00	
Lear Family - pd by Members		545.00	
Blessing Box - pd by Members		173.00	
Christmas Corner - 2024 - Family Promise		270.00	5,087.00
<u>Receipts Received for Budget</u>			
Current		88,980.63	
Interest Income		333.06	
Thrivent for Current		1,081.00	
Current for Deceased		1,075.00	
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner		250.00	
Church Mutual - Wind damage to church		8,943.74	100,663.43
<u>Non-Budgeted Receipts</u>			
Ordination Scholarship Fund Interest		703.90	
Flowers		605.00	
Cemetery Fund - donations - pd by Members		5,190.00	
Rock Wall - donation by Members		34,160.00	
Sewing Circle		409.00	
EnCircle - pd by Member (donation pd twice in 2023)		875.00	
Christmas Corner (Santa's Workshop) - pd by Member		105.00	
Pius & Rebecca Endowment Fund		185.00	42,232.90
TOTAL RECEIPTS			147,983.33

DISBURSEMENTS

Budgeted Items:			
Outreach Ministry - Regular Benevolence		12,000.00	12,000.00
Pastoral Ministry			
Base Salary		0.00	
Utilities - Electric, Telephone		1,664.99	
Equity Allowance		0.00	
Pension/Disability/Life		0.00	
Cell Phone Allowance		0.00	1,664.99
Church Ministry			
Fuel Oil		3,733.79	
Electricity		2,518.77	
Telephone/Internet		1,931.71	
Office Supplies		3,560.58	
Central Valley Conference		30.00	11,774.85
Worship			
Altar Supplies		200.53	
Worship/Music		809.81	
Devotional Booklets		226.10	
Vice Pastor & Supply Pastors & Mileage		23,607.68	24,844.12
Learning			
Youth Retreats/Camp/Activities		4,400.00	4,400.00
Witness & Stewardship			
Stewardship/Witness Materials		0.00	0.00
Service			
Discretionary Fund		300.00	300.00
Support			
Offering Envelopes		259.06	
Postage		1,499.47	
Synod Assembly		120.00	1,878.53
Property			
Maintenance		2,494.15	
Insurance		7,938.00	
Cleaning Church		3,600.00	14,032.15
Total Budgeted Items			70,894.64
Non-Budgeted Items:			
Extended Ministries			
World Hunger		860.00	
Lutheran Disaster Relief (Hurricane NC/TN - pd by Members		1,335.00	
SVLM - Lent/Easter envelopes & loose		1,186.40	
SVLM - Luke's Backpack - pd by Members		60.00	
SVLM - Advent/Christmas envelopes & loose		627.00	
Jayne Kokkonen - Scholarship Interest		540.49	
Lear Family - pd by Members		545.00	
Blessing Box		469.48	
Christmas Corner - pd by Members		96.66	
Caroline Furnace - pd by Member		100.00	5,820.03

Other Non-Budgeted Items:			
Flowers - pd by members		730.00	
Cemetery Fund - pd by Members		5,040.00	
Christmas Appreciation Gifts (Clinton Hawkins, Sandy Belan) - per Council		200.00	
Pastor Bill Nabers-Confirmation-pd from Mary Barb donations		465.00	
Shrove Tuesday Pancake supplies		115.08	
Rock Wall		59,228.00	
Rock Wall postcards - Stewardship - per Council		433.40	
Rock Wall Thank You Notes & Homecoming invitations - per Council		409.16	
Youth Gathering - amount over budget		1,366.90	
Sewing Circle - sale of rugs - deposited in General Fund		280.00	
Davenport Insulation - wind damage - pd by insurance		7,234.00	
Broadway Metal Works - wind damage - pd by insurance		1,709.74	77,211.28
Total Non-Budgeted Items			83,031.31
Total Disbursements			153,925.95
ENDING BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2024 Checking)	Current-Used for Budgeted Expenses		32,559.46
	Ordination Scholarship Fund Interest		1,251.06
	Special Discretionary Fund		1,241.01
	Youth - Fundraisers		6,190.95
	Long Range Planning		1,193.41
	Blessing Box		70.98
	Youth Ministry		840.00
	Santa's Workshop - 2021 - 2023		93.73
	Christmas Corner - 2024		415.00
	Cemetery Fund		150.00
	Sewing Circle		129.00
	Pius/Rebecca Endowment Fund		185.00
	Youth (IMO Mary Barb)		0.00
	Building Fund - donation		10,000.00
	Rock Wall - donations & expenses		(15,068.00)
	Checking Acct-Dec 31, 2024		39,251.60
Denise M. Dellinger, Treasurer			

THRIVENT FUNDS - MILESTONE MINISTRIES - 2024					
Beginning Balance January 1, 2024		5,218.51			
Gain (Jan-Mar 2024)		52.79			
Gain (Apr-Jun 2024)		66.31			
Gain (July-Sept 2024)		161.95			
Gain (Oct-Dec 2024)		4.59			
Balance December 31, 2024		5,504.15			
ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - CEMETERY FUND - 2024					
FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANK					
Beginning Balance January 1, 2024			16,925.29		
Deposits:					
Transfer from checking account-pd by Members		5,040.00			
Jan-Dec 2024 Interest Income		13.55			
Total Deposits for Jan-Dec 2024			5,053.55		
Disbursements:					
Lonas Lawn & Landscaping		10,150.00			
Bought Back a Lot from Individual		400.00			
Rinker & Frye - repair of stone		80.00			
Total Disbursements & Transfers for Jan-Dec 2024			10,630.00		
Ending Balance December 31, 2024			11,348.84		
ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - CEMETERY FUND - MONEY MARKET - 2024					
FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANK					
Beginning Balance January 1, 2024		20,497.90			
Interest for 2024		625.19			
Ending Balance December 31, 2024		21,123.09			

ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - CHECKING ACCOUNT - MONEY MARKET - 2024				
FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANK				
Beginning Balance January 1, 2023		101,286.20		
Interest Income - Jan 1-Dec 31, 2024		3,259.11		
Ending Balance December 31, 2024		104,545.31		
ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH MEMORIAL FUND				
EDWARD JONES - 2024				
REINVESTED:				
Edward Jones - 50% Stock & 50% Bond (60% of \$130,000)				
Beginning Balance January 1, 2024		101,570.62		
January-December 2024 fees		-1,512.36		
January-December 2024 change in value		10,136.39		
Ending Balance December 31, 2024		110,194.65		
Edward Jones - 35% Stock & 65% Bond (40% of \$130,000)				
Beginning Balance January 1, 2024		98,315.99		
January-December 2024 fees		-1,454.41		
January-December 2024 change in value		8,756.25		
Ending Balance December 31, 2024		105,617.83		
Balance in Edward Jones December 31, 2024		215,812.48		
ENDOWMENT FUND POOLED TRUST - as of 12-31-2024				
	Inception	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
J. Dellinger Estate Fund Endowment	5/27/2005	\$25,000.00	\$45,008.32	\$70,008.32
Pius & Rebecca Miller Fund	9/16/2005	\$20,568.92	\$23,944.37	\$44,513.29
Seminary Scholarship Fund	10/31/2005			\$15,272.08
Cemetery Fund	5/8/2007	\$32,918.23	\$78,098.28	\$111,016.51
ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - MEMORIAL FUND - 2024				
FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANK				
Beginning Balance, January 1, 2024		1,211.11		
Interest Income - Jan 1-Dec 31, 2024		6.69		
Ending Balance, December 31, 2024		1,217.80		
WOMEN OF THE ELCA TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2024				
Beginning Balance January 1, 2023		142.15		
Valley Flower Shop - Palm vases		-77.00		
Ending Balance December 31, 2024		65.15		