

**2023 ANNUAL REPORT**  
February 25, 2024  
**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

**2023 CONGREGATION COUNCIL**

Jeff Dellinger, President

Orville Smoot, Vice President

Shelby Boyden, Secretary

Cody Barb, Donald Bowers,

Diane Dellinger, Karen Doane,

Brenda Evans, Eileen Fisher,

Miranda Hawkins, Jerry Oates,

Miriam Stratton

**2024 CONGREGATION COUNCIL**

Jeff Dellinger, President

Orville Smoot, Vice President

Shelby Boyden, Secretary

Cody Barb, Donald Bowers,

Diane Dellinger, Brenda Evans,

Eileen Fisher, Miranda Hawkins,

Becky Jenkins, Jerry Oates,

Miriam Stratton

## Report of Congregation and Council President

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Congregation and Council President. I appreciate the support of my fellow council members and the congregation. We thank Vice Pastor Sonya Williams-Giersch for all that she has done for us here at St. Paul's.

During 2023 we were saddened to lose nine of our members to death but we rejoice in their new life because of the resurrection. We received two new members by Baptism and one by Affirmation of Faith. Six members transferred out, which makes 403 our total number of baptized members at the end of the year.

The combined average attendance for Sunday worship this past year (on-site in person attendance and online attendance by Zoom) was 53.

Our homecoming service was on September 10, 2023 with Pastor Tom Prinz preaching.

The council continues to be very active in leadership and committees have continued their work. We still need to give more attention to our Youth and Christian Education Committee. Thanks to all who served on committees and for the faithful dedication of all our members.

Lay eucharistic teams visited and gave communion to our homebound members.

We continued our outreach programs by regular remittances to Benevolence, World Hunger, and approximately 14% to other organizations.

We pray for guidance as we witness for Christ and strive to be living examples of God's Love.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Jeff Dellinger  
Congregation and Council President

## Learning/Youth Committee Report for 2023

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. During the summer months, the congregation was invited to join us for dinner and music.

Other special events were held during the year. An Easter Egg Hunt was held during April's Chat N Chew time. Trunk or Treat was held on a very chilly Halloween evening. Thank you to all who came out and supported the community for this event.

Our last event was the Christmas Corner led by Dara Booher. This is always an exciting event for the children and those who help make the event go smoothly.

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

Miriam Stratton

### **Mutual Ministry Committee**

#### Annual Report 2023

The role of the Mutual Ministry Committee is to make ministry better and make sure relationships are strong. The constitutional requirement that every congregation have a Mutual Ministry Committee has been a part of the ELCA since its beginning in 1988. We are blessed at St. Paul's to have dedicated leaders to help our committee broaden its vision of ministry.

Thanks to all who give of their time and talents to see that our mission is fulfilled.

Serving this term are Judy Heltzel, Donna Click and Dara Booher. Miranda Hawkins serves as our liaison to the Church Council from this committee.

Pastor Robin retired on January 31, 2023.

Dara Booher, Chairperson

## Worship & Music Committee Annual Report 2023

The Worship and Music Committee helped to plan, coordinate, and provide Sunday worship and special worship services to St. Paul's Lutheran Church throughout 2023.

### 2023 highlights:

1. Pastor Supply - During 2023 there were only five worship services where pastor supply was not provided. Matt Booher prepared and delivered a sermon on three of those occasions. We greatly appreciate those who provided pastor supply throughout the year.
2. Zoom technology continues to be provided regularly as an alternative method of attending services.
3. Paraments and banners were changed for each season of the church year as appropriate.
4. During Lent, services were provided in the evenings based on the Holden Vespers.
5. Holy Week services were held as usual – Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunrise service (led by Matt Booher), and Easter Communion service (led by Melissa May). An Easter breakfast meal was provided by the men of the congregation.
6. In May, the passing of offering plates during service was resumed (it had been discontinued during Covid). This led to rebuilding a list of volunteers to serve as ushers, and to providing a monthly schedule for ushers and greeters.
7. Homecoming service was held on September 10, with Pastor Tom Prinz presiding.
8. Advent services were provided during December on Wednesdays at noon. A soup and sandwich lunch was provided, and Oma Gail Simmons provided an educational series that was very well received by those attending.
9. A Christmas Eve candlelight service was held at 4:00 PM on December 24, with Pastor Bill Nabers presiding. There was an extended prelude time prior to the service when music was provided by several members of the congregation.

\*\* The committee would like to thank 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

SOCIAL MINISTRY  
Annual Report 2023

The group did not meet in January and February due to weather conditions and illness. We began the year with a balance of \$2089.56 in the checking account and \$2366.32 in the savings account and an inventory of 19 rugs. We made 183 rugs this year, sold 84. We donated 2 rugs to Pastor Robin as a St. Paul's farewell/housewarming gift, 2 rugs to Shenandoah Alliance for Shelter's Empty Bowl fundraiser and 2 rugs to Orkney Springs Fire and Rescue. That left us with a year-end inventory of 112 rugs.

Helen Miller sent 151 cards from sewing circle, including 25 Christmas cards. Thank you Helen!

We averaged an attendance of 5-6 members.

Miranda took a leave of absence from the group for several months. Many thanks to everyone for continuing our group's work in her absence.

Due to poor participation in 2022 and ongoing contagion concerns, our annual flu shot clinic was not done. The pharmacy required 50 persons to participate in order for them to conduct the event.

In 2023, we:

- acquired additional silverware for the kitchen so we have 150 place settings.
- salvaged some old rag rugs into large hotpads.
- served 106 at our annual Thanksgiving Community Meal. Several meals were delivered to shut-in members and friends of our congregation. As always, area pastors were invited.
- Anna Barb went to the following places to sell rugs...Mt. Jackson's Big Band Bash, Orkney Springs Fire and Rescue's Holiday Bazaar and Bryce Resort's Arts and Crafts Bazaar. Our thanks to Anna for her efforts!
- prepared 25 Christmas Bags for St. Paul's members who cannot attend church. A monetary gift was given for hair care in a nursing home for a member, 2 folks were given Amaryllis bulbs in lieu of food items and 1 member received a modified bag due to multiple food allergies. We accomplished this with the assistance of a Thrivent grant and the remainder of the foodstuff was given to a St. Paul's family that was in need.
- provided fried chicken for Homecoming and funerals.
- made several home visits.
- donated 4 quilts to LWR.
- donated 8 lap quilts to Skyline Nursing Home.
- sold rugs at various family reunions and church functions.
- made 6 'Charity Bears' for Virginia Synod Women's Organization (Anna Barb)
- investigated advertising in Mountain Courier for 2024
- received several monetary donations from St. Paul's families in memory of deceased loved ones.

In addition, we continue to:

- provide consumables for the kitchen. ALL church groups are welcome to use the consumable items for their projects, fundraisers, etc.
- occasionally help to make large purchases for the kitchen/dining room.
- maintain artificial flower arrangements for dining room.
- provide lap quilts for members entering nursing homes or Hospice care.
- provide quilts for local and global disasters.
- provide chicken for funerals and Homecoming.

WHAT WE NEED FROM ST. PAUL'S:

- let us know who needs a card
- let us know of local tragedy, such as a family loosing their home to fire, etc.
- bring an elder to visit on Monday morning.

- donate Thinking of You cards/envelopes (homemade or purchased)
  - donations of fabric and old jeans.
  - NEW FACES to join our group. We meet on Monday from 9am until noon.
- Potluck/potfaith meal follows at noon.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Respectfully submitted,

Miranda Hawkins

Committee Chair &

Council Representative

## Property Committee Annual Report - 2023

Had the parsonage interior painted

Inspected the parsonage as it set empty

Mowed and weed-eated at the parsonage

Removed leaves at the parsonage

Cleaned the gutters at the parsonage

Trimmed some dead trees at the parsonage

Leveled graves, moved dirt, and spread grass seed in the cemetery

Sprayed for bees in the pavillion and entrence to the Church

Repaired flooring at the parsonage

Marked off graves for funerals

Marked for placement of headstones

Repaired sink drain in the upstairs Bathroom of the Church

Removed snow and ice at the Church and parsonage

Had the furnace serviced at the Church

Installed water leak detection device in furnace room near pressure tank and main line (Free from insurance company)

Gathered quotes and estimates for repairs to the rock wall (still in progress)

Picked up wind blown trash and flowers in the cemetary

Cody Barb, Donald Bowers & Jerry Oates

Council Representatives

For the year 2023 The Witness Committee continued to visit, call, send cards (members, neighbors, friends in nursing homes, and homebound). Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic Eucharistic visits were limited. We had in-person 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 18 Shoe Boxes for the Operation Christmas Child and donated items that were too big for the shoe boxes. The shipping charges of \$10 per box were paid by St. Paul's.
- We encouraged the congregation to support "ELCA GOOD GIFTS PROJECT".
- We continue to participate in the SHENANDOAH VALLEY LUTHERAN 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

**Stewardship Committee  
Annual Report 2023**

**St. Paul's Stewardship Committee thanks the Congregation for its faithful stewardship in 2023.**

**With the help of the congregation, the Blessing Box was kept well stocked with food, cleaning supplies and devotional materials.**

**Donations made to Good Gifts (God's Global Barnyard) in 2023 were \$387.00. Donations to enCircle (Lutheran Family Services) were \$875.00. Other donations were made by members through the year to: World Hunger - \$900.00; Luke's Backpack - \$50.00; Shenandoah Alliance for Shelter - \$237.00; Family Promise - \$262.00; A Small Hand - \$137.00; and Lutheran Disaster - \$1,300.00.**

**The Committee made recommendations to Council during the year regarding designation of special offerings.**

**The Stewardship Committee will continue working on the long-range planning exercise in 2024.**

**The Committee thanks our congregation for remaining a giving and compassionate church as we strive to be "a living example of God's love".**

**Matt Booher, Chair – January - August  
Brenda Evans, Chair – September - December**

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE  
ANNUAL REPORT 2023

**Fellowship Committee in 2023:**

- Prepared meals for 5 funerals
- Held 5 Relay for Life fundraising meals
- Prepared 1 meal for West Shenandoah Ruritan Club
- Prepared Shrove Tuesday pancake supper for church
- Coordinated 5 Lenten soup suppers
- Coordinated 3 Advent soup & sandwich suppers
- Supported an Ice Cream Social
- Supported a Birthday Dinner
- Made 810 chocolate / peanut butter eggs as Relay for Life fundraiser
- 5 Lenten soup suppers
- 3 Advent soup and sandwich lunches
- 1 ice cream social

Eileen Fisher

Committee Chair

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
ANNUAL REPORT 2023

The Finance and Budget Committee met in September, 2023 to prepare a budget for the year 2024. A proposed budget of \$136,755 was submitted to Council and then recommended to the congregation at the Annual Congregation Meeting held on November 12, 2023. The finance report for year ending 2023 shows St. Paul's checking account balance as \$146,480.42.

Orville Smoot, Chair  
Finance Committee

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church**  
**Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Annual Report**  
**January 2024**

St. Paul's WELCA unit is an active member of the Virginia Synod Women's Organization.

During the past year, we have maintained this status through the following activities and offerings:

1. Attendance at Synod annual Conference in Roanoke Va
2. Attendance at area WELCA activity in Dayton, Va
3. Contribution to VSWO Love Offering
4. Contribution to All Women's Lutheran Retreat scheduled for Nov 2024
5. Contribution of 15 first aid kits to the Homeless Housing Project sponsored by the Synod and Christ, Fredericksburg, Va

Plans for 2024

1. Attend all WELCA Synod activities
2. Attend All Women's Retreat in Nov
3. Participate in VSWO projects
4. Make financial contributions through offerings

Submitted by,

Oma Gail Simmons, WELCA contact person

St. Paul's Sewing Circle  
Fiscal Year 2023

<b>Checking Account #621015727</b>		
<b>Balance Forward January 1, 2023</b>		<b>\$ 2,153.23</b>
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>		
Rugs		\$ 2,968.00
Donations		\$ 1,590.00
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 4,558.00</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>		
Kitchen Supplies/Propane Gas/Stamps		\$ 572.97
Miscellaneous: Shut-in Boxes		\$ 35.51
Food for Events		\$ 689.86
Rug Weaving		\$ 4,732.47
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 6,030.81</b>
<b>ENDING BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2023</b>		<b>\$ 680.42</b>
<b>Sold Rugs</b>	90	
<b>Rug Inventory (on hand for sale)</b>	110	
<b>SAVINGS ACCOUNT #680058272</b>		
<b>Balance Forward January 1, 2023</b>		<b>\$ 2,366.32</b>
<b>Interest Received 2022</b>		<b>\$ 3.55</b>
<b>Balance December 31, 2023</b>		<b>\$ 2,369.87</b>

Anna A. Barb, Treasurer

**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2023**

Beginning Balance January 1, 2023 (Checking)	Current-Used for Budgeted Expenses	82,854.01
	Ordination Scholarship Fund Interest	1,052.86
	Discretionary Fund-Pd by Members	1,241.01
	Youth - Fundraisers	7,557.85
	Long Range Planning	1,338.03
	Youth Ministry	840.00
	Blessing Box	367.46
	Santa's Workshop - 2021 & 2022	190.39
	Banner	50.00
	Youth (IMO Mary Barb)	465.00
	Trey Coffman - National Youth Forum	250.00
	Checking Acct-Jan 1, 2023	96,206.61

**RECEIPTS**

<b><u>Benevolence</u></b>			
World Hunger		900.00	
Lent Envelopes - Lutheran Family Services (now enCircle)		875.00	
Luke's Backpack - pd by Members		50.00	
Family Promise - pd by Members		262.05	
Lutheran Disaster - pd by Members		1,300.00	
Global Barnyard - pd by Members		387.00	
Shenandoah Alliance for Shelter - 5th Sunday		237.00	
Christmas Corner (Santa's Workshop) - A Small Hand		137.00	
Ruritans - American Cancer Society		600.00	4,748.05
<b><u>Receipts Received for Budget</u></b>			
Current		99,142.60	
Interest Income		1,911.79	
Thrivent for Current		941.00	
Current for Deceased		4,320.00	
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner		302.00	
CCLI Refund		338.00	106,955.39
<b><u>Non-Budgeted Receipts</u></b>			
Ordination Scholarship Fund Interest		547.16	
Flowers		749.50	
Cemetery Fund - donations - pd by Members		1,920.00	
Trey Coffman - National Youth Forum		250.00	
Sewing Circle - donation by Noah L Miller Reunion		50.00	
Robin Ferree - reimbursement for Portico		1,100.74	
Rock Wall - donation by Member		10,000.00	
Building Fund - donation by Member		10,000.00	
Christmas Corner (Santa's Workshop) - pd by Member		40.00	
Pius & Rebecca Endowment Fund		220.00	24,877.40
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>			<b>136,580.84</b>

**DISBURSEMENTS**

<b>Budgeted Items:</b>			
<b>Outreach Ministry - Regular Benevolence</b>		11,000.00	11,000.00
<b>Pastoral Ministry</b>			
Base Salary		8,751.00	
Utilities - Electric, Telephone		2,204.64	
Equity Allowance		42.00	
Pension/Disability/Life		480.12	
Cell Phone Allowance		50.00	11,527.76
<b>Church Ministry</b>			
Fuel Oil		4,237.98	
Electricity		2,475.78	
Telephone/Internet		1,881.10	
Office Supplies		1,594.72	
Central Valley Conference		30.00	10,219.58
<b>Worship</b>			
Altar Supplies		251.73	
Worship/Music		683.15	
Devotional Booklets		158.10	
Supply Pastor		20,013.44	21,106.42
<b>Learning</b>			
Youth Retreats/Camp/Activities		1,548.29	1,548.29
<b>Witness &amp; Stewardship</b>			
Stewardship/Witness Materials		0.00	0.00
<b>Service</b>			
Discretionary Fund		0.00	0.00
<b>Support</b>			
Offering Envelopes		274.56	
Postage		1,492.55	
Synod Assembly		662.64	2,429.75
<b>Property</b>			
Maintenance		2,733.59	
Insurance		5,711.00	
Cleaning Church		3,600.00	12,044.59
<b>Total Budgeted Items</b>			<b>69,876.39</b>
<b>Non-Budgeted Items:</b>			
<b>Extended Ministries</b>			
World Hunger		900.00	
Lutheran Disaster Response - pd by Members		1,300.00	
enCircle (was LFS) - Lent & Easter envelopes & loose offering		875.00	
SVLM - Luke's Backpack - pd by Members		50.00	
Jayme Kokkonen - Scholarship Interest		512.37	
Trey Coffman - National Youth Forum - pd by Members		500.00	
American Cancer Society - pd by Ruritans		600.00	
SVLM - A Small Hand - Christmas Corner (Santa's Workshop)		137.00	
Shenandoah Alliance for Shelter - 5th Sunday Loose offering		237.00	
Family Promise - Advent & Christmas envelopes/loose		262.05	5,373.42

<b>Other Non-Budgeted Items:</b>			
Flowers - pd by members		730.00	
Cemetery Fund - pd by Members		1,920.00	
Christmas Appreciation Gifts (Shelby Boyden, Clinton Hawkins) - per Council		200.00	
Long Range Planning		144.62	
Shrove Tuesday Pancake supplies		198.86	
Portico - reimbursed by Pastor Robin Ferree		1,100.74	
Junior Jenkins - Painting parsonage - per congregation		5,500.00	
CCLI - license - pd by check & credit card - received refund		338.00	
Sewing Circle - donation by Noah L Miller Reunion		50.00	
enCircle (was LFS) - pd twice - corrected in 2024		875.00	11,057.22
<b>Total Non-Budgeted Items</b>			<b>16,430.64</b>
<b>Total Disbursements</b>			<b>86,307.03</b>
<b>Transfers:</b>			
Transfer to Money Market Account		100,000.00	100,000.00
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS &amp; TRANSFERS</b>			<b>186,307.03</b>
<b>ENDING BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2023 (Checking)</b>			
	Current-Used for Budgeted Expenses		113,497.65
	Ordination Scholarship Fund Interest		1,087.65
	Special Discretionary Fund		1,241.01
	Youth - Fundraisers		7,557.85
	Long Range Planning		1,193.41
	Blessing Box		367.46
	Youth Ministry		840.00
	Santa's Workshop - 2021 - 2023		230.39
	Youth (IMO Mary Barb)		465.00
	Building Fund - donation		10,000.00
	Rock Wall - donation		10,000.00
	Checking Acct-Dec 31, 2023		146,480.42
Denise M. Dellinger, Treasurer			

## ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH MEMORIAL FUND - 2023

REINVESTED:

Edward Jones - 50% Stock & 50% Bond (60% of \$130,000)	89,536.72
Beginning Balance January 1, 2023	(1,353.60)
January-December 2023 fees	13,387.50
January-December 2023 change in value	101,570.62
Ending Balance December 31, 2023	

Edward Jones - 35% Stock & 65% Bond (40% of \$130,000)	87,595.76
Beginning Balance January 1, 2023	(1,319.17)
January-December 2023 fees	12,039.40
January-December 2023 change in value	98,315.99
Ending Balance December 31, 2023	

**Balance in Edward Jones December 31, 2023** **199,886.61**

Checking Account - Farmers & Merchants Bank	1,204.46
Beginning Balance January 1, 2023	6.65
January-December 2023 Interest Income	1,211.11
Ending Balance December 31, 2023 - Checking	

**Balance in Memorial Fund December 31, 2023** **201,097.72**

## THRIVENT FUNDS - MILESTONE MINISTRIES - 2023

Beginning Balance January 1, 2023	4,910.65
Gain (Jan-Mar 2023)	79.74
Gain (Apr-Jun 2023)	23.91
Gain (July-Sept 2023)	47.06
Gain (Oct-Dec 2023)	157.15
Balance December 31, 2023	5,218.51

**ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - CHECKING ACCOUNT - MONEY MARKET - 2023**  
**FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANK**

Beginning Balance January 1, 2023	0.00
3/23/23 - Transfer from Checking account	50,000.00
12/11/23 - Transfer from Checking account	50,000.00
Interest Income	1,286.20
	<hr/>
<b>Ending Balance December 31, 2023</b>	<b>101,286.20</b>

**ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - CEMETERY FUND - 2023**  
**FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANK**

Beginning Balance January 1, 2023		
Deposits:		30,452.91
Donations		
Purchase of Cemetery lots	11,335.00	
Transfer from checking account-pd by Members	200.00	
Jan-Dec 2023 Interest Income	1,920.00	
Total Deposits for Jan-Dec 2023	<hr/>	13,472.38
Disbursements:		
Lonas Lawn & Landscaping	7,000.00	
Transfer to Cemetery Money Market account	20,000.00	
Total Disbursements & Transfers for Jan-Dec 2023	<hr/>	27,000.00
<b>Ending Balance December 31, 2023</b>		<b>16,925.29</b>

**ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - CEMETERY FUND - MONEY MARKET - 2023**  
**FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANK**

Beginning Balance January 1, 2023	0.00
3/23/23 - Transfer from Cemetery account	20,000.00
Interest for 2023	497.90
	<hr/>
<b>Ending Balance December 31, 2023</b>	<b>20,497.90</b>

**ENDOWMENT FUND POOLED TRUST - as of 12-31-2023**

	<b>Inception</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Total</b>
J. Dellinger Estate Fund Endowment	5/27/2005	\$25,000.00	\$37,848.06	\$62,848.06
Pius & Rebecca Miller Fund	9/16/2005	\$20,568.92	\$19,391.70	\$39,960.62
Seminary Scholarship Fund	10/31/2005			\$14,237.26
Cemetery Fund	5/08/2007	\$32,918.23	\$66,743.86	\$99,662.09

**WOMEN OF THE ELCA TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2023**

Beginning Balance January 1, 2023	219.15
Valley Flower Shop - Palm vases	(77.00)
Ending Balance December 31, 2023	<u>142.15</u>