

2025 ANNUAL REPORT
MARCH 1, 2026
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

Sandy Belan, Church Secretary

Denise Dellinger, Treasurer

Karen Doane, Financial Secretary

Linda May, Congregation Secretary

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

2026 CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Jeff Dellinger, President

Orville Smoot, Vice President

Anna Barb, Joe Belan, Matt Booher,

Donald Bowers, Eileen Fisher,

Kaitlyn Funkhouser, Miranda Hawkins,

Becky Jenkins, Miriam Stratton

Aven Booher, Youth Council Rep.

Appointment of Committee Chairpersons - 2025

Learning & Youth
Worship & Music
Stewardship
Witness
Finance
Social Ministry
Property
Women of the ELCA
Mutual Ministry
Cemetery Upkeep
Shen. Valley Lutheran Ministries
200th Anniversary Planning

Miriam Stratton and Matt Booher
Steve Stratton
Miranda Hawkins
Anna Barb
Orville Smoot
Miranda Hawkins and Anna Barb
Jerry Oates, Cody Barb & Donald Bowers
Oma Gail Simmons
Kaitlyn Funkhouser
Orville Smoot
Eileen Fisher
Eileen Fisher and Oma Gail Simmons

Worship & Music Committee Annual Report 2025

The Worship and Music Committee helped to plan, coordinate, and provide Sunday worship and special worship services to St. Paul's Lutheran Church throughout 2025.

2025 highlights:

1. Pulpit Supply - During 2025 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 several occasions. We greatly appreciate all those who provided pulpit supply throughout the year.
2. Zoom technology continues to be provided regularly as an alternative method of attending services.
3. The choir met for practice throughout the year and provided special music during worship on many occasions.
4. During 2025 there was an emphasis on including at least one contemporary Christian congregational song within most services throughout the year. To accomplish this, multiple contemporary Christian worship songs were introduced to the congregation.
5. A new banner for each ELCA liturgical season was created by Miranda Hawkins for St. Paul's. Her effort in completing all these for 2025 is greatly appreciated.
6. Lenten Mid-week services were provided on Wednesdays at noon during Lent.
 - a. A Holden Vespers worship service was provided each Wednesday
 - b. VA Synod Central Valley Conference pastors provided a sermon during each mid-week service
 - c. Soup and bread suppers were provided prior to each service.
7. 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.
8. Two outdoor services were provided during 2025 on May 25 (Memorial weekend) and September 28, with a meal provided following each service.
9. Homecoming service was held on September 14, with Pastor Bill Nabers presiding. A potluck meal was held following the service.
10. On October 25 Reformation Sunday was celebrated, and Senior Day was celebrated for those over 80 years young. A meal was held after the service to honor Seniors.
11. Advent services were provided during December on Thursdays at noon. Soup and sandwich lunches were provided, followed by a Holden Vespers service, with local pastors providing a sermon.
12. A "Nativity Walk" was presented as a part of worship on Sunday, December 21 with many children, youth, and adults participating in various roles. The service ended with an outdoor reenactment of Nativity Bible scenes (including live animals!).
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 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 liturgical season or special 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

Learning/Youth Committee Report

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 drove through the Woodstock Christmas Light Event.

We had over 100 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 has been involved in synod activities for the youth.

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

A Christmas event was provided by the children, youth, and their families on the fourth Sunday in Advent with presentations, characters, and animals.

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

Miriam Stratton

SOCIAL MINISTRY

January 8, 2026

2025 has been a quieter year for our sewing circle group. We are down to four regularly attending members: Nancy Hansberger, Miriam Stratton, Anna Barb and myself, Miranda Hawkins. We met when we could and continued to have meals together when we were able to meet. We continue to do what we can to benefit the St. Paul's community. If you'd like to join our merry little band of women, please know you are welcome! Our meetings are Mondays from 0900 to noon with a potluck meal following. Miranda or Anna can tell you if we are meeting in any particular week.

We began with an inventory of 66 rugs. We made 62, sold 50 and donated 13 as follows: SVLM 2, Habitat for Humanity 7, Orkney Springs Fire and Rescue 2 and Empty Bowl 2. Our ending inventory is 65 rugs. We donated 2 lap quilts to shut-in members B. B. and H. M.

We contributed 26 personnel care kits, 2 baby kits, and 12 school kits to Lutheran World Relief with help via Thrivent Seed money.

Thanks to the ladies of St. Paul's, we were able to continue our ministry of providing the Thanksgiving Community Meal. Approximately 80 folks were served a complete, traditional Thanksgiving dinner. Thrivent also sponsored this event.

Shut-in bags/gifts were provided to 28 people, three of whom received flowers and one nursing home resident received a monetary gift for hair care. Again, Thrivent helped with some funding. If you have any type of Thrivent account, you are allowed to obtain up to \$250 twice a year to use for some type of benevolent work. Thrivent encourages use of these Seed grants as a way for their members to give charitably, whether locally or through an outreach such as LWR or Good Gifts. If you are a Thrivent member and are not utilizing your opportunity to give, please think about helping one of the outreaches of St. Paul's. We can help programs in our community such as SVLM's ministries, Family Promise, The Pregnancy Center, Food Pantry, Blessing Box and Christmas Corner, just to name a few! Funds can also be used for things in our church, such as updating our audiovisual capabilities. If you want to help but don't know how, any committee at St. Paul's should have someone who can assist you.

Sewing circle continues to provide consumable products and fuel for the kitchen. With the help of donations, we provided chicken for Homecoming and for funerals.

Miranda has made 15 banners for the complete church calendar year. This is a collaborative effort of Social Ministries and Worship and Music committees.

Miriam has taken over the job of sending cards for the sewing circle. Inclusive of Christmas cards, sick and shut-in, and birthdays over 90 years old, we sent approximately 40 cards this year.

As always, we appreciate the support of monetary donations, rug purchases and fabric donations this year. We all need each other and the skills we each bring to the table.

Respectfully submitted,
Miranda S Hawkins, Committee Chair

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church

(WELCA)

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Jerome Parish, continued its membership and participation in the national Lutheran Women's organization. WELCA; the state organization, Virginia State Women's Organization, VSWO; and the local Central Valley Women's Organization. During the year, Oma Gail Simmons was named Coordinator of the Central Valley Group.

Key accomplishments of activities associated with this ministry at St. Paul's were:

- Hosting the Central Valley Gathering on July 12. Over 40 attended the chicken barbeque at the church.
- Lap robes were donated to local charities. Other donations were made also,
- "Let's do Lunch" was held every other month for church and community women.
- Love offerings were given to the VSWO and continue to be given on a regular basis.
- Oma Gail attended the Southern Valley Gathering at Spader Lutheran Church in Harrisonburg October 12.
- The women of St Paul's are very active in community volunteer work, meal preparations, and committee participation.

We give thanks to God for the blessings the church has enjoyed through the work of countless women through the years.

Respectfully submitted,

Oma Gail Simmons

For the year 2025 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 26 Shoe Boxes for the Operation Christmas Child. The shipping charges of \$10 per box & Cost of boxes were paid to Samaritans Purse by a member. We also had an ACTION TEAM GRANT from Thrivent for the additional costs of items for the boxes.
- 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

PROPERTY COMMITTEE – ANNUAL REPORT – 2025

Snow and ice removal – walkways and stairs around church

Sprayed for bees

Pressure washed main entrance to the church

Mowed and weed removal at the parsonage

Remove leaves from parsonage car port

Blow leaves off parsonage roof and gutters

Completed sealing Rock Wall

Had furnace serviced

Add salt to water softener

Removed and replaced railings for all funeral services

Marked graves

Inspected parsonage

Trimmed bushes around the Church

Cody Barb

St. Paul's Sewing Circle
Fiscal 2025

Checking Account		
Balance Forward January 1, 2025		\$ 1,326.68
RECEIPTS:		
Rugs		\$ 1,700.00
Donations		\$ 1,509.00
	Subtotal	\$ 3,209.00
EXPENDITURES:		
Kitchen Supplies/Propane Gas/Stamps		\$ 699.80
Food for Events		\$ 1,024.70
Rug Weaving		\$ 1,413.86
Donation-Rock Wall		\$ 20.00

	Subtotal	\$ 3,158.36
ENDING BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2025		\$ 1,377.32
2025 Rug/Balance Forward	66	
Rugs Donated	13	
Rugs Made 2025	62	
Sold Rugs	50	
Rug Inventory (on hand for sale)	65	
SAVINGS ACCOUNT		
Balance Forward January 1, 2025		\$ 2,373.45
Interest Received 2025		\$ 3.55
Balance December 31, 2025		\$ 2,402.00

Anna A. Barb, Treasurer

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2025

Beginning Balance January 1, 2025 (Checking)	Current-Used for Budgeted Expenses	32,559.46
	Ordination Scholarship Fund Interest	1,251.06
	Discretionary Fund-Pd by Members	1,241.01
	Youth - Fundraisers	6,190.95
	Long Range Planning	1,193.41
	Youth Ministry	840.00
	Blessing Box	70.98
	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 - donation & expenses	(15,068.00)
	Checking Acct-Jan 1, 2025	39,251.60

RECEIPTS

<u>Benevolence</u>			
World Hunger		155.00	
Shen Valley Local Ministries (SVLM) - pd by Members		337.00	
Luke's Backpack - pd by Members		220.00	
Luke's Backpack - IMO Sherrill Miller		1,865.00	
St James Lutheran - Mission Church-Lent/Easter/Advent/Xmas		2,111.00	
5th Sunday			
ELCA Good Gifts - pd by Members		520.15	
Blessing Box - pd by Members		600.00	
Christmas Corner - 2025 - ELCA Good Gifts		241.45	
			6,049.60
<u>Receipts Received for Budget</u>			
Current		81,424.35	
Interest Income		305.02	
Thrivent for Current		484.00	
Current for Deceased		1,750.00	
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner		160.43	84,123.80
<u>Non-Budgeted Receipts</u>			
Ordination Scholarship Fund Interest		581.60	
Flowers		670.00	
Cemetery Fund - donations - pd by Members		4,445.00	
Rock Wall - donation by Members		3,590.00	
Pius & Rebecca Endowment Fund		200.00	
Women's Conference		500.00	
Christmas Corner (Santa's Workshop) - pd by Members		475.00	10,461.60
TOTAL RECEIPTS			100,635.00

DISBURSEMENTS			
Budgeted Items:			
Outreach Ministry - Regular Benevolence		12,000.00	12,000.00
Pastoral Ministry			
Utilities - Electric, Telephone		1,818.19	1,818.19
Church Ministry			
Fuel Oil		3,680.98	
Electricity		2,838.17	
Telephone/Internet		1,936.27	
Office Supplies		9,030.92	
--- Office Supplies	618.97		
--- Toner	7,027.77		
--- Computer & Monitor	1,104.59		
--- Microsoft 365 & McAfee	125.48		
--- Website Costs	154.11		
Central Valley Conference		30.00	17,516.34
Worship			
Altar Supplies		160.28	
Worship/Music		887.55	
Celebrates		326.27	
Banner material		1,172.26	
Devotional Booklets		204.00	
Vice Pastor & mileage		7,440.60	
Supply Pastor & mileage		15,292.75	25,483.71
Learning			
Other Educational Materials		280.24	
Youth Retreats/Camp/Activities		1,635.04	1,915.28
Witness & Stewardship			
Stewardship/Witness Materials		0.00	0.00
Service			
Discretionary Fund		213.31	213.31
Support			
Offering Envelopes		270.22	
Postage		518.52	
Synod Assembly		1,420.92	2,209.66
Property			
Maintenance		1,991.34	
Insurance		7,603.66	
Cleaning Church		3,600.00	13,195.00
Total Budgeted Items			74,351.49
Non-Budgeted Items:			
Extended Ministries			
World Hunger		155.00	
Mission Church-St James in Greenville TN		2,111.00	
(Lent, Easter, Advent, Christmas & 5th Sunday loose)			
SVLM - pd by Members		337.00	
SVLM - Luke's Backpack - pd by Members		220.00	
SVLM - Luke's Backpack - IMO Sherrill Miller		1,865.00	
Matt Booher - Scholarship Interest		1,251.06	

Shrine Mont 100th Anniv Capital Fund - per Council		500.00	
Blessing Box		384.32	
Christmas Corner - pd by Members		410.93	
Central Valley Women's Conference - pd by Member		435.74	
ELCA Good Gifts - pd by Members		520.15	8,190.20
Other Non-Budgeted Items:			
Flowers - pd by members		670.00	
Cemetery Fund - pd by Members		2,260.00	
Christmas Appreciation Gifts (Miriam Stratton, Dara Booher, Sandy Belan & Clinton Hawkins) - per Council		400.00	
ELCA Endowment Fund-Pius/Rebecca-pd by Members		385.00	
Youth Fundraisers-SCP&R Noah Trip - per Council		499.00	
Shrove Tuesday Pancake dinner - supplies		160.43	
Sewing Circle - supplies		74.50	
Transfer to F&M Bank to create Website account		25.00	
Flowers for Pastor Sonya Williams-Giersch - per Council		89.49	
Rock Wall Sealant		1,184.55	5,747.97
Total Non-Budgeted Items			13,938.17
Total Disbursements			88,289.66
Transfers			
Transferred from General to Money Market Account		30,000.00	30,000.00
Total Disbursements & Transfers			118,289.66
ENDING BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2025 Checking)			
	Current-Used for Budgeted Expenses		11,275.61
	Ordination Scholarship Fund Interest		581.60
	Special Discretionary Fund		1,241.01
	Youth - Fundraisers		5,691.95
	Long Range Planning		1,193.41
	Blessing Box		286.66
	Youth Ministry		840.00
	Christmas Corner		572.80
	Christmas Corner - ELCA Good Gifts		241.45
	Cemetery Fund		2,335.00
	Sewing Circle		0.00
	Pius/Rebecca Endowment Fund		0.00
	Building Fund - donation		10,000.00
	Rock Wall - donations & expenses		(12,662.55)
	Checking Acct-Dec 31, 2025		21,596.94
Denise M. Dellinger, Treasurer			

ENDOWMENT FUND POOLED TRUST - as of 12-31-2025

	Inception	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total
J. Dellinger Estate Fund Endowment	5/27/2005	\$25,000.00	\$56,549.90	\$81,549.90
Pius & Rebecca Miller Fund	9/16/2005	\$20,568.92	\$31,282.92	\$51,851.84
Seminary Scholarship Fund	10/31/2005			\$17,161.72
Cemetery Fund	5/08/2007	\$32,918.23	\$96,400.49	\$129,318.72

THRIVENT FUNDS - MILESTONE MINISTRIES - 2025

Beginning Balance January 1, 2025	5,504.15
Gain (Jan-Mar 2025)	
Gain (Apr-Jun 2025)	94.03
Gain (July-Sept 2025)	84.39
Gain (Oct-Dec 2025)	86.31
	<u>64.84</u>
Balance December 31, 2025	<u><u>5,833.72</u></u>

WOMEN OF THE ELCA TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2025

Beginning Balance January 1, 2025	65.15
7/18/25 Valley Flower Shop - palm vases	<u>(65.15)</u>
Ending Balance December 31, 2025	0.00
CLOSED ACCOUNT	

ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH MEMORIAL FUND EDWARD JONES - 2025

REINVESTED:

Edward Jones - 50% Stock & 50% Bond (60% of \$130,000)

Beginning Balance January 1, 2025	110,194.65
January-December 2025 fees	(1,621.00)
January-December 2025 change in value	<u>16,129.85</u>
Ending Balance December 31, 2025	124,703.50

Edward Jones - 35% Stock & 65% Bond (40% of \$130,000)

Beginning Balance January 1, 2025	105,617.83
January-December 2025 fees	(1,541.49)
January-December 2025 change in value	<u>12,927.94</u>
Ending Balance December 31, 2025	117,004.28

Balance in Edward Jones December 31, 2025

241,707.78

ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - CEMETERY FUND - 2025
FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANK

Beginning Balance January 1, 2025		11,348.84
Deposits:		
Transfer from Checking account-pd by Members	1,860.00	
Transfer from Checking account-purchase of 2 lots	400.00	
Transfer from Money Market account	5,000.00	
Jan-Dec 2025 Interest Income	8.15	
Total Deposits for Jan-Dec 2025		7,268.15
Disbursements:		
Top Notch Lawn Care (Donald Buchanan)	14,100.00	
Total Disbursements Jan-Dec 2025		14,100.00
Ending Balance December 31, 2025		<u>4,516.99</u>

ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - CEMETERY FUND - MONEY MARKET - 2025
FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANK

Beginning Balance January 1, 2025	21,123.09
5/14/25 Donation	29,141.34
Interest for 2025	1,131.19
Transfer to Cemetery Fund	<u>(5,000.00)</u>
Ending Balance December 31, 2025	<u>46,395.62</u>

ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - CHECKING ACCOUNT - MONEY MARKET - 2025
FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANK

Beginning Balance January 1, 2025	104,545.31
Interest Income - Jan 1-Dec 31, 2025	3,314.83
11/5/25 Transfer from Checking account	<u>30,000.00</u>
Ending Balance December 31, 2025	<u>137,860.14</u>

ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - MEMORIAL FUND - 2025
FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANK

Beginning Balance, January 1, 2025	1,217.80
Interest Income - Jan 1-Dec 31, 2025	<u>6.72</u>
Ending Balance, December 31, 2025	<u>1,224.52</u>