

PARADISE LUTHERAN CHURCH
3241 CHURCH ROAD
—THOMASVILLE, PA 17364
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February 2024

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The "Holtzschwamm Hotline"



PARADISE LUTHERAN CHURCH
(717) 259-9547

www.paradelutheran.weebly.com
Sunday Worship, Holy Communion
At 8 and 10:15 a.m.
Sunday School 9 a.m.

Who's Who? Staff, Council, telephone numbers

Church office: (717) 259-9547 (phone and fax)

Website: *www.paradiselutheran.weebly.com*

Pastor: Reverend Sigrid Hipkiss (717) 525-4926
pastor.paradiselutheran@gmail.com

Minister of Music: Allison Trump
(home) (717) 630-8824; *paradiseorganist@yahoo.com*

Secretary: Julie Maher; *secretary.paradiselutheran@gmail.com*

Bookkeeper: Kris Gabel; *finance.paradiselutheran@gmail.com*

Treasurer: Mel Nace

Sexton: Vicki Boone

Council President: Tom Hoover (717) 424-8435

Council members' liaison committees:

Vice President: Dave Cassel

Secretary: Sherry Feeser

Property: Tracey Grudi

Stewardship: Kim Beard

Communications: Tara Osborne

Worship and Music: Clay Black

Faith Formation: Georgetta Kreitz

SALT: Valerie Diehl

Finance: Chris Garrett

Care and Connect: Linda Eisenhart

***Bold** entries indicate new/revised committees! **See p. 5.**

I will serve God
with all my heart,
might, mind, and
strength.



Thank you TO:

Thank you to *all who helped* make the church beautiful for our Christmas celebration!

Mike Gautsch (placing and removing the star over the cross); *Bill Sterner* (setting up aisle candelabra); *Bryce Yohe* (removing the candelabra); *Bill Rankin, Tom Hoover, Larry Trimmer* (setting up/removing the outside nativity scene); *all members of the Worship and Music Committee* (decorating and undecorating); *Ed and Pat Keister* (help decorating the Christmas Tree). So many people doing such good work! And a **special thank you** to *Shirley Trimmer* for coordinating the decorating, including gathering the mountain laurel to adorn the star. Thank you for sharing your gifts!



Various soloists and instrumentalists who

shared their

PEOPLE AT PARADISE

talents: *Sinclair Trump, Michele Becker, Ed, Pastor Sigrid, Paul, and Miriam Hipkiss, Kris Gabel, Wayne Trump, Sr., Julie Maher, and Zane Hausner.*

Joe Zurat, Larry Trimmer, and Tom Hoover for seeing to various projects — kitchen sink and heating issues. Just like at home, eh? There's always something... ☺

Greg Harrell and helpers for managing the bonfire evening with an eye for safety first — what a fun time!

Valerie Diehl and helpers for setting up the cookie and hot chocolate station at the bonfire and again at the Christmas Eve services.

Andrew Maher for reconfiguring the old large cabinet into two small units for our first aid stations; and to *Dave Zech* for helping with installation.

THANK YOU!



PASTOR'S PAGE

Dear friends in Christ,

Our purpose statement says that *we are gathered to worship, care, and grow, and sent to love like Jesus*. Our pattern of weekly gathering is a significant way God shapes us, as individuals and as a community, to be disciples and members of the Body of Christ.

Last spring, we asked for your input about the worship services you generally choose to attend and why, as well as what service schedule you think allows us to best participate in God's mission in this time and place. The congregation's leadership read the feedback carefully and had thoughtful conversations about it. If you were at the congregation meeting in December, you heard about upcoming plans for incorporating what we learned, and I wanted to share a little more here.

There was no clear preference when it came to keeping our two current services or going to one service, with roughly equal numbers of people in support of each option. When it came to the reasons for the choices, generally what we found was that those who preferred keeping two

services value the choice it provides worshipers, both in time and service style. It also tends to both those who need an early start and those who have limitations that mean getting ready takes a good deal of time in the morning. As for those who preferred one service, the primary reasons for that were using our resources well and, especially, gathering the whole congregation together to build unity better. There is value in all those ideas.

The council has decided to modify our worship schedule beginning with the new program year in September of 2024. Most Sundays we will continue with two services at 8 and 10:15. But we will also begin *A.C.T. on 1st Sundays. A.C.T. stands for All Church Together*. On the first Sunday of each month, **September through May**, we will come together for one service at 9:00 a.m. We will also follow this time with a congregational event. Sometimes these events will focus on fellowship, sometimes on a service project, and other times on faith formation. They will be for all ages, and we hope that everyone will participate as we grow together as the Body of Christ!

(Pastor's Message, continued)

We know that there is the possibility for confusion with service times that are not the same every Sunday of the month. We will be doing everything we can to publicize the new schedule, starting now and continuing through the next year as we try this new pattern. And "try" is an important word there. We will absolutely be evaluating how it is working for the congregation and deciding whether or not to continue it after this coming year.

Thanks for sharing your feedback with us when we asked for it last spring, and thanks to the congregation's leadership for their part in discerning this way forward. Look for ways you can support and participate in our preparation for *A.C.T. on 1st Sundays* in the coming months. Thank you for your partnership in ministry!

In Christ's peace,
† Pastor Sigrid

AROUND THE CHURCH

The Breakfast Club will meet on Tuesday, February 6, 8:30 a.m., at the Eisenhower Restaurant, 375 Eisenhower Drive in Hanover.



The Paradise Book Club will meet at the church at 6:30

p.m. on Thursday, February 1. We read a classic for this meeting, "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" by Betty Smith. Join us!

For March 7, same time and place, we're reading "The Island of Missing Trees" by Elif Shafak.

Pick up your 2024 offering envelopes and 2023 financial statements! Grab

yours from the narthex or call the office (717-259-9547) or email Bookkeeper Kris Gabel at finance.paradiselutheran@gmail.com, to make arrangements for you to pick them up. Many thanks!



MEMORIALS

variety of holiday foods from New Year's, Washington's birthday, St. Patrick's Day, and Easter. See you then. Stay warm.

In memory of Kenneth Roach

Joe and Donna LeVault

Joe and Cindy Zurat

Karl Roach

Ken and Jean Stambaugh

David and Rebecca Fuhrman

Joa Roach

In memory of Annie Meyer

Ron and Arlene Gruver

Joan Huffman

Pr. and Susan McConnell

Fay Gruver

George and Karen Ruth

Dick and Darlene Sanders

In Loving Memory

Doug and Kris Gabel

In memory of Betty Altland

DIRECTORY CHANGES



Joe and Donna LeVault

In memory of Daniel Boone, Greg and Roxann Harrell Pr. and Susan McConnell

Mark these in your directory now while you're thinking of it!

Marcine Hoff

Seaton Springwood
2321 Freedom Way, Apt. 230
York, PA 17402
(717) 814-4204

Florence Miller

Providence Place
3377 Fox Run Road, #609
Dover, PA 17315



Around the Church, continued again)



THRIVENT MEMBERS!

Please remember to direct your Thrivent Choice

Dollars by March 31! Either log into your account at *Thrivent.com* OR call Member Care Services at 800-847-4836.

Community

Aid: When you donate at any store, please tell the clerk the number associated with Paradise's account so we can get credit for your donations! We are Partner Number **20069**.



Website sponsor:

February's website is sponsored by Joa Roach in honor of her grandniece, Harper Roach's 4th birthday (2/8); her niece Marlyse Rexroth's graduation from Clarion University; and her grandnephew Judah Alan Roach's 2nd birthday (10/3). You can sponsor our church's website:



www.paradiselutheran.weebly.com for **\$20** per month. All of 2024's months are spoken for, but for **2025**, the following months are available: February, March, May, October, November, and December.

Fridays at 9 a.m. at three locations (Spring Grove, Kenneth Road, and Route

(SALT, continued)

30); **Panera** pickup on Tuesday evenings around 9 p.m.;

Hillandale eggs, 6 to 7 cases per pickup; and **unloading trucks at the pantry** on Thursdays and once a month on a Wednesday.

You will be rotated in the schedule of volunteers for the month. You will not have to pick up each week. **We are thankful** for the generous donations of the food stores, especially Walmart through Feeding America which has donated 66,698 pounds of food, 23,149 pounds of which was meat. Weis donated 9,157 pounds, of which 5,843 pounds was meat. Rutters has donated 6,956 pounds of food. The Spring Grove Dairy Bar collected 399 pounds of nonperishable and \$1,100.00 in donations. The "Fill the Bus" event sponsored by Spring Grove School District resulted in 5714 pounds of

nonperishable food and \$120.00. In the 10 years of this event, they have donated over 75,000 pounds of food. We have not been distributing milk for several months now, since we are unable to get it for free or at a reduced rate.

Hillandale provides us with free eggs. Help is needed to keep the pantry running to help those in need in our community. Harvest of Hope is a necessary

organization to help others. It is invaluable to those who are food insecure and have to decide between purchasing medicine, paying rent, buying food, etc. There has been a great increase in the number of guests served at the pantry, going from 6-8 families per distribution at the end of 2022/early 2023 to 30-35 families now per distribution. We are trying to keep up with the demand of those in need.

By the end of 2023, 6937 adults were served (2,944 more than 2022), 6201 children (2,894 more than



(Faith Formation, continued)

other members at a level a little deeper than just, “Hi, how are you?” We’ll sit in small groups with some light refreshments and start by sharing “highs and lows,” a bit about what’s been going on with us; we’ll discuss a few questions that connect our lives with the theme and readings for that Sunday; and we’ll pray together. Please join us!

SERVE AND LOVE TOGETHER (SALT)

Subs & Soup to benefit Harvest of Hope Food Pantry

Souper Bowl Sunday!! We will be selling R & K subs and sandwiches and homemade soups; vegetable beef, chicken corn, and ham and bean. Money and orders for the subs and sandwiches are due by Friday, February 2. Subs will be available for pick up on Saturday, February 10, from 9 a.m. to noon in the fellowship room at church or on Sunday, February 11, after worship.

There will be stock pots at the entrances to the sanctuary to collect nonperishable food items and monetary donations to be given to the Harvest of Hope Food Pantry.

Our **Special offering for February** will go to the food pantry, as will the proceeds from the sandwiches and soup. Thank you in advance for your purchases!

What’s going on at the Harvest of Hope food pantry?

Our church will be partnering with Paradise ECC to **distribute Easter meals** at the pantry on Monday, March 25. We will need 3 or 4 volunteers for the 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

shift and 3 or 4 volunteers for the 12:30 to 5 p.m. shift.

Please see Linda Eisenhart if you are able to help.

The pantry is in need of assistance for the following opportunities: pickups at **Walmart** on Mondays and Thursdays at 9:00 a.m., (van or truck); **Rutters** on Mondays, Wednesdays, and

TREASURER’S INFORMATION

How was December? Check these numbers...

	December’s budget needs for God’s mission	Your gifts in December	Difference
Current	\$18,962.00	\$24,977.83	+\$6015.83
Benevolence	\$1,000.00	\$1,287.00	+\$287.00
Capital Improvements	\$1,250.00	\$1,963.25	+\$713.25
	Our actual needs, to date	Total gifts, to date	Difference
Current	\$228,176.66	\$225,293.82	—\$2,882.84

Our church offers an automatic offering program called “Simply Giving” which helps Paradise maintain a consistent income — no more remembering your envelope, your cash, your checkbook...and your offering is here whether you are or not (think vacation, illness, weather issues, PANDEMIC!). **To sign up or for more information, see Kris Gabel!**



Special Offering Envelopes —

In your box of 2024 envelopes, there is one Special Envelope per month, with the recipient to be determined by Council.

February’s Special Envelope will go to the **Harvest of Hope Food Pantry**. Thank you for your generosity.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Worship Notes

The first two Sundays in February bring us to the end of the season after Epiphany.

On February 4, the 5th Sunday after Epiphany, Jesus lives out in his ministry God's promise to strengthen the powerless.

Transfiguration Sunday is February 11; Jesus' identity is affirmed by God before his disciples, echoing the words of his baptism. In preparation for Lent, we will bury the alleluia.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14!

It seems like a strange mash-up for the day—flowers and chocolates... and ashes. But really, Lent (and all of our life with God) is all about heart—God's heart of love for us and God's renewal of our hearts through Christ. **This Lent, we're going to focus on A New Heart.**

Ash Wednesday, February 14, 7 p.m. ~ Getting Real About Our Hearts

1st Sunday in Lent, February 18 ~ God Renews our Hearts Through Promise

2nd Sunday in Lent, February 25 ~ God Renews our Hearts Through Self-Giving

3rd Sunday in Lent, March 3 ~ God Renews our Hearts Through Community

4th Sunday in Lent, March 10 ~ God Renews our Hearts Through Forgiveness

5th Sunday in Lent, March 17 ~ God Renews our Hearts Through Drawing Us to Jesus

How can you worship, care, grow, and love like Jesus at Paradise this Lent?

Worship: Join us at 8:00 or 10:15 as often as you can. And try some personal or family devotions at home—resources to help will be available at church and through email.

(Worship and Music, continued)

Care: Offer your **heartfelt** prayers. Stop by the display at church to write a prayer request—for yourself or someone else, anonymously or with your name on it. Then, after worship, take someone else's request with you and commit to lifting up that request in prayer over the next week.

Grow: The three traditional disciplines of Lent are prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Choose one discipline to work on growing in this season. Resources for each will be available.

Love like Jesus as you are sent into the world: Engage in acts of service. Write to your legislators to advocate for justice. Invite friends to come to church with you. See where your heart leads you!

FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation this month: Opportunities to CARE and GROW

The **children's education ministry** continues during the Sunday school hour in February, using the Connect curriculum.

For **adults**, we are suspending the Thursday morning Bible study for now, as it appeared not to be a time or format that worked for many people. Pastor Sigrid is offering an evening study option on Tuesdays at 7 p.m., based on the Ten Commandments. This study began in January and will continue through March 12. It's not too late to jump in, even if you've missed the first few!

And on Sunday mornings during Lent (beginning February 18), there will be an adult conversation time at 9 a.m., too. We're calling it, "Heart to Heart." It's less a Bible study and more an opportunity to connect with