



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

DECEMBER 2022

Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

(NO Sunday School 12/25)

Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.



December 2022

From the Pastor's Heart

I Look Back and Wonder How I got Over

The sudden feeling of December, the last month of the year of 2022, reminded me of the gospel song "How I Got Over". (I have provided the lyrics sung by Mahalia Jackson for you at the end of this article. I pray that you will see their impact on me and feel their power for yourself.)

The velvety smooth voices of singers such Mahalia Jackson, Aretha Franklin, moved the emotions of their audiences but it was the listeners awareness of the struggles not just of the singers themselves but of their own struggles and the struggles of most African-Americans in this nation, during a time when discrimination because of race was an oppressive reality. The power of this song and its words is in the proclamation of unwavering faith in Jesus Christ.

While the song proclaims surprise and gratitude for the reality of the blessings of this moment in time; its spiritual power comes from its powerful expression of gratitude for the certain, unquestionable future victory over sin and death and a wonderful celebratory life in heaven, we have because of Jesus Christ. The singers lead the listeners into a celebration of the reality of what is to come as though it has already become a reality that cannot be denied. When I look back and wonder how I got over makes me grateful for what God has done for me, is doing for me, and will do for me in this life, right now, tomorrow, 2023 and beyond. But more importantly, when I look back and wonder how I got over gives me joy for the security I have in my eternal salvation and the guaranteed future in heaven that is mine because of God's grace and mercy given to me through faith in Jesus Christ.

Dearly Beloved, take a moment and look back over the year of 2022. Think about the challenges you have faced and overcome. Think about the battles you have fought and the victories you have won. Thank God for the forgiveness you have experienced. Praise God for His grace and mercy. Confess to God and yourself that God has been better to you than you deserved. Reflect with "wonder" on the words "how I got over" and try to answer the question: Why have I been so blessed when others some of which are more righteous than I am, are struggling and depending on the Blessing Box and Dallas-High Shoals Christian ministry for food to eat. Yes, I encourage you to look back and "wonder" how I got over. If that does not make your heart sing with praise and dance with gratitude and joy, it is time for some serious prayer.

Remember the classic story, "A Christmas Carol." The main character Ebenezer Scrouge had become self-sufficient. He trusted in his money and business acumen for success and happiness. Scrouge had lost the "Wonder of life" that we see in "Tiny Tim" the crippled son of his nephew Bob. The physically handicapped and financially poor "Tiny Tim" has the "wonder" of joy and faith in God. Tiny Tim shines in happiness while the healthy and rich Scrouge walks in darkness. "Wonder" is what Ebenezer Scrouge needed. "Wonder" is what all of us need. "Wonder" is that amazing gift of knowing that because of God, something good, something amazing, something supernatural, something beyond our ability to conceive of is going to happen to our benefit and the benefit of others.

Yes, December is a great time to look back and "wonder" how you got over. It's the last month of the calendar year, the last month of most fiscal years, and the last month you can make deductible donations for the Tax year. December is a great time look back and "wonder" because we celebrate the human birth of our Divine Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins and rose from the dead to give us everlasting life. And December is a great time to look back and "wonder" how you got over because it is the beginning of Advent when we focus on our readiness for Jesus Christ's return and the beginning of eternity. Yes, now is a good time to look back and "wonder" how you got over!

My prayer for each of you is that Advent fills your hearts with "wonder" at God's grace and mercy. I pray your "wonder" generates enthusiasm for the new year! I pray you have a "wonder-full" Christmas giving thanks to God for the gift of faith and the grace of salvation for yourself and others. I pray that you enjoy the "wonder" you see in your children and grandchildren. As the door of history closes on this hallway of time called 2022, I pray you will look back with "wonder" on the blessings you have experienced.

**Yours in Christ,
Pastor Spencer**



SEE NEXT PAGE FOR LYRICS TO "HOW I GOT OVER"

How I Got Over
(Excerpts from the lyrics)

How I got over? (How I got over)
You know my soul look back and wonder
How I made it over? (Oh yes)
Ooh, soon as I can see Jesus (oh yes)
Man that died for me (oh yes)
Man that bled and suffered
Hung on Calvary (oh yes)
And I wanna thank him for how he brought me (oh yes)
And I wanna thank God for how he taught me (oh yes)
Oh, thank my God how he kept me (oh yes)
I'm gonna thank him 'cause He never left me (oh yes)
And I wanna thank Him for ol' time religion (oh yes)
I wanna thank God for giving me a vision (oh yes)
Oh, I'm gon' join the Heavenly choir (oh yes)
I'm gonna sing and never get tired (oh yes)
I'm gonna sing somewhere 'round the alter (oh yes)
I'm gonna shout all my troubles over
Lord, I got to thank You
Thank You for being so good to me
Tell me how I made it over? (How I got over)
Had a mighty hard time (how I got over)
You know my soul look back and wonder
How did I make it over? (Oh yes)
Tell me how I made it over, Lord? (How I got over)
Had to cry the midnight hour (how I got over)
You know my soul look back and wonder
How I made it over? (Oh yes)



COUNCIL MEMBERS 2022 :

**Council Officers: President: John Taylor;
Vice-President: David Beaver;
Secretary: Eric Lamanna**

Staff Support: John Taylor

Finance/Stewardship: Matt Kanupp

Planning: Seth Rollins

Outdoor Ministries: Eric Lamanna

Worship & Music: Justin Rubow

Outside Property/Cemetery: Jeremy Loadholdt

Inside Property: Josh Crisp

Social Ministry: Steve Hovis

Parish Education: David Beaver

Evangelism: Marsha Kinley

Hospitality: Gary Plonk

Youth: Susan Lineberger

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Sunday, December 11th—7:30 a.m.

Council members—I need your year-end report submitted by Dec. 31st . Thanks!

Send to: gail@stpaulsdallas.org



CONFIRMATION CLASSES 2022—2023

- ◆ Our teachers are Jeremy Loadholdt, Kelly Taylor, Susan Lineberger and Pastor Spencer.
- ◆ DATES: *Nov. 6 & 20; Dec. 4 & 18;*
Jan. 8 & 22; Feb. 5 & 19; March 5 & 19;
April 2, 16 & 30; May 7
- ◆ Time: Sundays: 11:30-1:00 after worship—lunch provided

ADVENT BIBLE STUDIES:

Wednesdays: Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, 21

- ◆ Light meal begins at 6:30 p.m. with Bible Study at 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ Everyone encouraged to attend.

Meals: Nov. 30 (ALL SS Class): Chili & Potatoes; Dec. 7 (Men's Group): Pinto Beans; Dec. 14 (WELCA): Soup/Grilled Cheese; Dec. 21 (Council): TBD



ANGEL TREE

(50 angels from Lincoln Co. DSS)

Bring your UNWRAPPED gifts to the church by Dec. 11th with the angel attached. Thanks!

See Sandy Kennedy with questions.



RELAY FOR LIFE

St. Paul's Relay Team, *Fishing for a Cure*, is raising money for the American Cancer Society. If you want to participate see Lisa Rubow or Kelly Ramey. Checks payable to The American Cancer Society—give to Lisa or Kelly.

Thanks to all who donated on Oct. 23rd at the Relay Lunch. Your generous donations totaled \$1,100 to the American Cancer Society!

Mark Your Calendar

Next Relay For Life Lunch planned for Jan/ 22, 2023 immediately after worship in Bollinger Hall.



WELCA OFFICERS 2022

**Women of the ELCA: President: Sandy Kennedy; VP: Susan Hutcherson;
Secretary: Becky Paseur; Treasurer: Lisa Rubow**

Mission Team: Donna Robinson, Jenny Eudy, Susan Lineberger



WELCA NEWS & EVENTS

- ◆ **WELCA Christmas Dinner & Program**— Monday, December 5th in Bollinger Hall at 6:00 p.m. (Dinner & Social @ 6 p.m. with program at 6:30 p.m.)
- ◆ All women invited—bring a friend!.
- ◆ Bring non-perishable food items for the Blessing Box and DHSCM.
- ◆ See Sandy Kennedy if you have questions.



John & Kelly Taylor are working with the Middle/High School Youth
Kelly's phone: 704-678-6419

- ◆ **Lock-In & Youth Christmas Dinner Friday—December 2nd, 2022**
- ◆ **TOY DRIVE...Middle/High School Youth & Men's Group sponsoring a Toy Drive.** Bring a new toy to the church or give monetary donations—Checks to St. Paul's for "Toy Drive" or go to www.stpaulsdallas.org and use the on-line giving tab. All donations need to be in by Sun., Dec. 11th—Give-a-way Dec. 17th.



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY TRAINING SESSION

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4TH—9:15 A.M. IN THE WOMEN'S PARLOR



MEN'S BREAKFAST MEETING - 3RD SUNDAYS OF THE MONTH - 7:30 a.m.

MEN'S GROUP PRESIDENT: MATT STROUP / Email address: mttstrp@gmail.com



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

DECEMBER 11, 2022 @ 10:30 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

All ages welcome to participate!

Children's Choir Rehearsals: Nov. 20, 27 & Dec. 4th 11:30-12 noon;

We'll practice at 9:00 a.m. on Dec. 11th

See Susan Lineberger if you have questions.



JOY GROUP

Make plans to attend our next event on Monday, December 12th at 12:30 p.m. in Bollinger Hall. We'll enjoy a delicious lunch of homemade chicken pie, mashed potatoes, green beans, coleslaw, rolls and desserts! And to put a little smile on your face, we'll play a unique gift exchange game. If you'd like to participate, bring a small \$5 wrapped gift.

Thank
you ♥

Dear St. Paul's,

We truly appreciate your kindness and willingness to assist our families during this holiday season.

We were able to provide a wonderful surprise to our students and families.

Thank you so much for your generosity. Happy Thanksgiving!

S. Ray Lowder Staff



ELCA WORLD HUNGER

Thanks to generous friends of ELCA World Hunger, a donation before the end of the year will be doubled until we reach \$200,000.

Your generosity funds programs around the world that accompany people facing hunger and poverty.

To give a donation, make checks payable to ELCA for "World Hunger" and mail to PO Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009 or you can give through St. Paul's, marking your check for "World Hunger".

Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

**The Rev. Daniel Rift
Director, ELCA World Hunger**

*Merry
Christmas*

Dear Members of St. Paul's,

Merry Christmas from the St. Paul's Staff...

The Rev. Dr. John Spencer

Mrs. Elisha Mitschke-Lamanna

Mrs. Gail Summey

Ms. Kristy Thompson



Give us, God, such faith and courage when we move from place to place, and to those who come among us, make us channels of your grace.

Let us see in ev'ry stranger refugees from Bethlehem, help us offer each one welcome and receive the Christ in them.

*May you become a channel of grace and welcome,
receiving the Christ in one another this
Christmas season.*

—Bishop Tim Smith and The N.C. Synod Staff—



DECEMBER 2022 BIRTHDAYS

- Dec. 2 Juanita Harris, Amanda M. Minges
Dec. 4 Chase Heafner, Scott Heafner,
Alan Hutcherson, Alex Secrest
Dec. 6 Ted Goins
Dec. 7 Carrie Stroup
Dec. 8 Ridley Marie Slentz
Dec. 12 Renee Ellis, Sue Moffett, Jason Ramey
Dec. 13 Louise McManus
Dec. 15 Kallie Heafner
Dec. 16 Laura Odem
Dec. 17 Ray Costner, Steve Nation
Dec. 19 Jason Crisp
Dec. 23 David Sides
Dec. 24 Margaret Huggins
Dec. 26 Richard Plonk
Dec. 29 Reece Heafner
Dec. 30 Angie Beaty
Dec. 31 Boyd Best, Baylor Slentz, Todd Stillwell



OUTREACH MINISTRIES...



- ◇ **Boy Scouts Troop 22** chartered at St. Paul's. Make donations by marking for "Troop 22";
- ◇ **Dallas High Shoals Christian Ministry: Spaghetti, Spaghetti Sauce, Corn**—Always need peanut butter /crackers /soup & personal hygiene items— Bring these items to the church or mark donations for DCSM;
- ◇ **Project Turkey**...Make checks payable to St. Paul's for "Project Turkey"
- ◇ **School Partnership Fund**...The ALL Sunday School Class collects money to purchase hygiene and others personal items for students (formerly called Backpack Fund).
- ◇ **World Hunger**...Mark donations accordingly;.
- ◇ **ELCA Disaster Relief**...Mark donations accordingly.

December Responsibilities...



Acolytes: Annabella Lamanna, Gabriella Porter
Altar Flowers: Steve Hovis
Altar Guild: Linda Metcalf
Audio/Video: John Taylor
Cantor: Eric Lamanna
Children's Church: Kelley Barker
Crucifer: Meredith Crisp
Council Rep.: Gary Plonk
Council Assistants: Gary Plonk, Justin Rubow
Greeters: Sandy Higginbotham, Jayda Owens
Ushers: (* head usher) *Jason Crisp, Steve Hovis,
Jeff Passeur, Seth Rollins
Food to DCSM: Anna Pasour

Date:	Reader	Nursery
Dec. 4	Becky Passeur	Susan Crisp, Shelby Barkley
Dec. 11	Anna Pasour	Susan Lineberger, Joelene Nielsen
Dec. 18	Eric Lamanna	Sara Loadholdt, Susan Crisp
Dec. 25	Mariah Q. Porter	Susan Lineberger, Joelene Nielsen Jayda Owens

—Acolytes & Crucifers: Please contact Kelly Taylor (704-678-6419) if you are not able to serve. It's important that we know ahead of time if you can't be here .—



ONE CALL NOW...This is our messaging system. Only those who sign up are placed into the system. Please note that you will be receiving information from this telephone number **877-698-3261**—If you "opt out" or block this number you will not be able to receive messages until you call the office to be re-instated.



ON-LINE GIVING...Easy Tithe/Ministry One

You can give a one-time donation or set it up to give recurring donations by going to St. Paul's website:

www.stpaulsdallas.org

Click on the "On-Line Giving" Tab and follow directions.

Or

You can give using your iPhone by downloading the app Ministry One—search for our church using our zip code of 28034 then follow the directions.

Or

Mail in your donations to 531 Hardin Road, Dallas NC 28034.

Thanks for your support!



Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.
(Matthew 5:16)



"Joy to the world, the Lord is come, let Earth receive her King. Let every heart prepare Him room, and Heaven and nature sing..."



CHOIR NEWS

FROM ELISHA MITSCHKE-LAMANNA

- ◆ Handbell Choir Schedule: Sept.—May: (2nd & 4th Sundays @ 8:45 a.m.)
- ◆ Chancel Choir Schedule: Sept.—May: (5:00 p.m. each Sunday) - Begins 9/11
- ◆ See Elisha Lamanna if you have questions. Her number is 704-692-7423

- ◆ **BOY SCOUT TROOP 22 FUNDRAISER LUNCH Sunday, December 4th**—11:30 a.m. (Bollinger Hall) - Everyone invited!
- ◆ **CONGREGATIONAL APPRECIATION MEAL Sunday, January 8, 2023** 11:30 a.m. after worship. Please sign up on sheet in the narthex by Dec. 31st if you plan to attend so that have enough food.
- ◆ **RELAY FOR LIFE FUNDRAISER LUNCH Sunday, January 22, 2023**—11:30 a.m. after worship.
- ◆ **SCOUT SUNDAY & FUNDRAISER LUNCH SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2023**—*Chicken 'n Dumplings*—Everyone invited to stay after worship for Chicken 'n Dumplings in Bollinger Hall.
- ◆ **OYSTER STEW** - St. Paul's Men's Group invites you for an Oyster Stew Dinner **Sun., Feb. 26, 2023** at 5:00 p.m. in Bollinger Hall. Plan to attend!

TIME/TALENT SHEETS 2023...

Please prayerfully consider how you can serve at St. Paul's. Time/Talent Sheets are in the narthex. We use these sheets to schedule responsibilities for the year. We ask each member to fill out a form and place in marked box in the narthex or in offering plate by Dec. 4th. Thanks for your help!

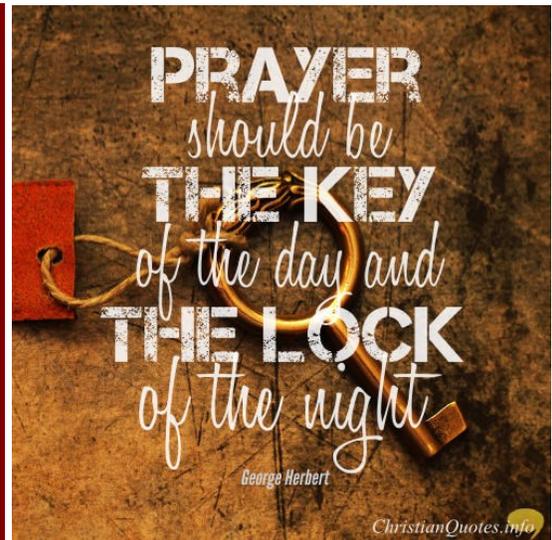




Memorials & Gifts...

In memory of Kay Cloninger Lee given by: Gene & Lou Collins; Juanita Harris; M/M Joe Rhyne (youth);

In memory of Jill Robinson given by: M/M Joe Rhyne (youth)



Prayer List

PRAYER LIST

Call the office to have a name added or removed.



In the armed forces: Jordan Barker; Joshua Best, Austin Earle; Mark & Thor Gignac; Blake Hughes; Coty Land; Gregory Tyler III

Home-bound/Assisted Living/Rehabilitation:

Betty Bumgarner, Courtland Terrace—Room 84 , 2300 Aberdeen Blvd., Gastonia NC 28054 (704-671-6886)

Carrie Cloninger, TerraBella, 1550 Charles Road, Shelby NC 28152

Gene & Lou Collins, 715 Narrow Gauge Rd., Dallas NC 28034

Jean Dover, Covenant Village—Room 106A, 1351 Robinwood Rd., Gastonia, NC 28054

Ted & Frances Goins, 728 Klumac Road, Apt. 126B, Salisbury, NC 28144

Pauline Guess, 226 Elizabeth Lane, Dallas, NC 28034

Betty Faye Lineberger, 423 Ike Lynch Road, Dallas, NC 28034

Betty Paseur, Brookdale Robinwood-Room 36, 1750 Robinwood Rd., Gastonia, NC 28054

Martha Pasour, Woodlawn Haven Rest Home, 301 Craig Street, Mt. Holly, NC 28120

Todd Stillwell @ Mt. Ridge, 810 King Arthur Dr., Gastonia, NC 28056

Sally Terres, Covenant Village-Room A113, 1351 Robinwood Rd., Gastonia, NC 28054

Our Members Mardie Best, Marlene Cloninger, Gene & Lou Collins, Grace Harbin, Susan Holbrooks, David & Linda Hoyle, Alan Hutcherson, Ann Keever, Myra Lineberger, Kay & Malcolm Lynn, Louise McManus , Henry Moffett, Jimmy Pasour, Sandy Plonk, Danny Safrit, Pat Sellers, Emilie Sides, Chris Thornburg, and all who mourn the loss of a loved one

Friends & Family: *(Names removed after 1 month – you can fill out a prayer card or call the office to add to this list):* Dan Blanton, Nancy Bollinger, Robbie Cearley, Tylee Craft, CRU Military, Nancy Friday, Sharon Gibson, Ann Huff, Donna Lazar, Gary, Hunter & Monica MacConnell, Ann Rhyne, Dale Robinson, Harry & Margaret Runyon, Carol Stroup, Martha Stroup, Caroline Walker, the family of Judd Harrelson, The family of Gary Speedy Hornsby, and all who are mourning the loss of a loved one



CHRISTMAS EVE 2022—Saturday, December 24, 2022

Candlelight Communion Service 11:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY 2022—Sunday, December 25, 2022

10:30 a.m. Worship Service (with communion) - **No Sunday School**



INTER-GENERATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday, December 4, 2022—9:15 Bollinger Hall

Instead of our regular Sunday School Classes meeting on Dec. 4th we will have an inter-generational Sunday School Event. There will be food and games during the Sunday School Hour for ALL AGES, young and adult.

We hope you will join us!



ALTAR FLOWERS 2023

COST: \$40 PER SUNDAY

Sign-up book available in the narthex.



POINSETTIAS (25 Ordered)

Cost: \$10.00 each

To reserve a poinsettia in honor or memory of someone fill out a form (in narthex) and drop in offering plate by Dec. 11th.



EVAN JOHN BARKLEY

Baptized 11/20/2022

Parents: Jared & Shelby R. Barkley

Thank You!

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for all the cards, calls and especially your prayers for me. I miss being in church and seeing everyone, especially all the children of St. Paul's. Continue your prayers for me that I may be able to join you in person for worship soon.

LOUISE MCMANUS



ADDRESS

Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Sparkman (Alecia)

114 Tennessee Trail

Lincolnton NC 28092

Alecia's cell: 704-860-1564



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Telephone: 704-922-4387

gail@stpaulsdallas.org
emlamanna@gaston.k12.nc.us

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. John H. Spencer
Telephone # 201-981-6173
E-mail: drjhsjr@gmail.com
E-mail: john.spencer@stpaulsdallas.org

We're on the Web:

www.stpaulsdallas.org

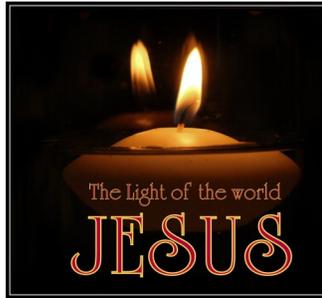
See the online calendar at
www.stpaulsdallas.org to view up--coming
events and activities.

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The Rev. John and Mrs. Debra Spencer

2004 Red Leaf Court

Dallas NC 28034



Newsletter information should be
turned in no later than the 15th of
each month. Thanks for your help.



MISSION STATEMENT:

*At St. Paul's, we are committed to serve
as faithful children of God as a part of a
connected family of believers.*



◆ **Church Office Hours:**

Sept. –May: Monday—
Thursday; 8 a.m.—2:30 pm

- ◆ However, it's always a good idea to call ahead to be sure our schedule has not changed.



Please use your assigned envelopes or an envelope in the pew rack for your donations. Using envelopes helps with the process of counting and recording monies.

Check out our on-line giving option: go to our website www.stpaulsdallas.org or go directly to www.easytithe.com/dl/?uid=st531296 to register your account. On-line giving guides in narthex.



Help us keep our buildings secure. Please be sure to lock the doors after your group uses the buildings. Doors have to be pushed to be sure locks engage. Thank you!