



## St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

**MARCH 2023**

**Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.**

**Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.**



**March 2023**

**From the Pastor's Heart**

### **Is it True: The More Things Change, The More Things Stay the Same**

Times flies! It is March and I have missed my personal Black History Month Celebration. Well, February is the shortest month in the year and this year Valentine's Day, family Birthdays and Ash Wednesday, President's Day, the Super Bowl and the duties of living life preempted my Celebration of Black History. But now that things have slowed down, I am going to make up for lost time and take a deep dive into my History, your History, our History, American History and World History. I especially want to study recent African-American History, the last half of the 20th Century up to our present day and time. I am going to look at the cycles of African-American history. The ebb and flow of equal-rights and discrimination, liberation and oppression, and progress and repression. In my own study I want to test the hypothesis that I am using as the title of this article. Is it true that the more things change the more things stay the same? What do you think?

A hundred years from now will it be true that the more things change the more they stay the same? I sometimes wonder how history will be recorded a hundred years from now. Books may be obsolete by then, but I predict History will still be recorded, studied, and analyzed for clues that might help people live better lives. As I have written in a previous article, the key to benefiting from all of history is the ability to go back and forth between the role of an objective observer and the role of a passive participant. Let me explain: As an objective observer of history, you want to know the truth and nothing but the truth about what happened. Once you know the truth about what happened you can become a passive participant who enters the historical narrative to deduct the motivation, strategic actions, emotional experiences, brilliant moves, and mistakes made by historical people. The difference between history and fiction is truth. History deals with the truth; fiction deals with fantasy and may have some elements of truth in it. However, fiction is not confined to or committed to the truth in any form. History records the truth about what happened in the past. Fiction uses what happened in past to tell the writer's desired story, which is not the truth. History accepts what happened as reality while fiction writers change what happened to fit their plots and tell their storylines. Historians use factual documents, categorized as primary and secondary sources. A primary source could be a tax document, a sealed Governmental document, certified personal wills, a notarized business receipt, meeting minutes, a factual diary or journal, a written letter, etc. Secondary sources are based on personal interpretations of facts instead of the facts themselves. An editorial, opinion or gossip column in a newspaper, biographies and some autobiographies are examples of secondary historical source documents. Writers of fiction also use primary and secondary sources but feel free to alter their content to fit their storyline and accomplish their purposes which have nothing to do with truth telling.

Unfortunately, a hundred years from now I fear the problem of sin and humanity's inhuman treatment of other humans will persist and pose a dangerous problem and a serious threat for the next hundred years. Truth is the dividing line between History and Fiction, but more importantly truth is the dividing line between life and death. It always has been. From Adam and Eve failing to discern the truth between God's statements and the Serpent's statements in Genesis 3:1-5 (NRSV) *Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."* We know how that worked out.

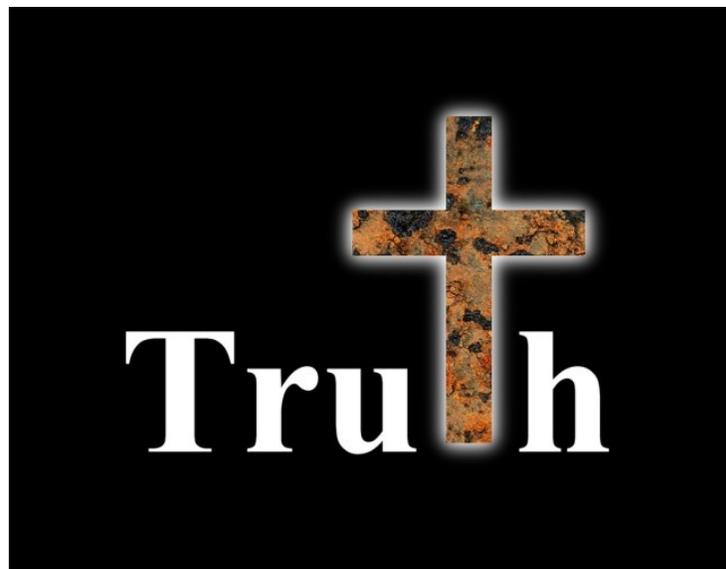
The struggle for truth has never gone away. From creation to Christ to the struggle continued. This is clearly seen during Jesus' trial before the Roman governor Pilate: *John 18:37-38 (NRSV)* <sup>37</sup> *Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."* <sup>38</sup> *Pilate asked him, "What is truth?" After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, "I find no case against him."*

From Christ to the church of today the struggle to answer Pilate's question, "What is truth?" continues. I dare say it will continue from the Church of today to the Church of tomorrow unless the Truth returns in the person of Jesus Christ.

The more things change the more things stay the same, the battle to discern truth from lies continues today. I expect to be blessed by God as I study, I believe the Holy Spirit will guide me to the truth. And, I know he will do the same for you!

**Love**

**Pastor Spencer**





### CHURCH CAMP 2023 (Lutheridge, Lutherock and Camp Agape)

- ◆ St. Paul's has some monies budgeted to help with church camp experiences for our members. We can pay for only 1 camp per child per year.
- ◆ You will need to register your child online at [novusway.org](http://novusway.org)
- ◆ You pay the FULL amount at time of registration. Once your child is registered, submit the forms to the church office for reimbursement.
- ◆ Camp opportunities at Lutheridge & Lutherock are available for youth in grades 1-12
- ◆ CAMP AGAPE (day camp) at Philadelphia Lutheran Church **July 2-7th** for youth entering grades 1-8. Contact Susan Lineberger at [sulinebe@aol.com](mailto:sulinebe@aol.com) for more information about how to register.
- ◆ Call the church office at 704-922-4387 if you have questions.



### DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

*BEGINS SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2023*

Remember to “Spring Ahead” one hour  
on Saturday evening.





## COUNCIL MEMBERS 2023

NAME	Term Ends
<b>Josh Crisp (Inside Property)</b>	<b>12/31/23</b>
<b>Susan Lineberger (Youth)</b>	<b>12/31/23</b>
<b>Jeremy Loadholdt (Planning)</b>	<b>12/31/23</b>
<b>Justin Rubow (Worship &amp; Music)</b>	<b>12/31/23</b>
<b>David Beaver (Staff Support)</b>	<b>12/31/24</b>
<b>Eric Lamanna (Social Ministry)</b>	<b>12/31/24</b>
<b>Marsha Kinley (Evangelism)</b>	<b>12/31/24</b>
<b>Gary Plonk (Hospitality)</b>	<b>12/31/24</b>
<b>Sandy Kennedy (Parish Ed.)</b>	<b>12/31/25</b>
<b>Jared Barkley (Finance/Stewardship)</b>	<b>12/31/25</b>
<b>Jason Crisp (Outdoor Ministries)</b>	<b>12/31/25</b>
<b>Dave Hoyle (Outside Property)</b>	<b>12/31/25</b>

## COUNCIL OFFICERS 2023:

**President:** David Beaver  
**Vice-President:** Jeremy Loadholdt  
**Secretary:** Eric Lamanna

## CONFIRMATION CLASSES 2023



- ◆ Our teachers: Jeremy Loadholdt, Kelly Taylor, Susan Lineberger and Pastor Spencer.
- ◆ DATES: *March 5 & 19; April 2, 16 & 30; May 7*
- ◆ Time: Sundays: 11:30-1:00 after worship—lunch provided

## CLOTHING DRIVE



Holy Communion/Philadelphia Churches sponsoring a clothing give-a-way on Sat., April 15th. They need children's, teens and men's clothing. They will accept any gently used, clean clothing. They have enough women's clothing at this time.

- ◆ Call Ron or Amy Holland and they will meet you at Holy Communion or pickup these donations from you. Ron's # 704-813-0103 or Amy's # 704-813-0104.

Do NOT bring to St. Paul's—we don't have a place to store clothing.



## 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 for your generous donations of \$1545 at the 1/22/23 lunch;
- Men's Group will be cooking breakfast for EVERYONE on **March 19th after church**. Proceeds go to Relay for Life Fundraiser.
- April Relay for Life Lunch **4/23/23** after worship service in Bollinger Hall;
- Relay for Life event @ Gaston College Campus April 28th at 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. Survivors need to sign up online at [relayforlife.org](http://relayforlife.org) or call 1-800-227-2345 and they'll sign you up.

*Thank!*

Dear St. Paul's Lutheran Church,

We at Lincoln County Department of Social Services are humbled by the generosity of the local community and organizations that donated hundreds of gifts this year to children in care and families in need. Thanks to you more than 150 children woke up to a joyful Christmas morning because of your help with the Lincoln County Angel Tree program. This would not have been possible if it wasn't for you.

You provided a tangible way to children and families who have experienced stress and hardship and have resiliently prevailed. Your care serves as recognition that their efforts to get through hard times are not unnoticed. It was encouraging to behold as our staff distributed gifts and reminded us of how fortunate we are to be surrounded by such kind and compassionate people.

Thank you for making Christmas wishes come true for so many.

**Matthew Hillman**

**Director Lincoln County Dept. of Social Services**



## WELCA OFFICERS 2023

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 Mission Team will be supporting these missions in 2023:**

*1st Quarter: Navajo Mission (see page 5 in this newsletter); 2nd Quarter: Matthew 25:40;  
3rd Quarter: God's Work Our Hands; 4th Quarter: Dallas High Shoals Christian Ministries*

**Make checks payable to St. Paul's and mark for the mission group. Thanks for your support!**



## MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH NEWS

*John & Kelly Taylor middle/high school youth leaders (704-678-6419)*

**Easter Egg Hunt is Saturday, April 1st 11 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. (hot dog lunch)  
Sponsored by Middle & High School Youth - kids through 5th grade hunting eggs.**



## SPIRIT GROUP & SPIRIT CHOIR (K-5TH GRADE)

- ◆ Up-coming Meetings: March 5th, April 2nd & May 7th 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.  
See Susan Lineberger or Emily Mitchem with questions.
- ◆ SPIRIT Choir—rehearsals next to last Sunday of each month (after worship-sanctuary) -  
Choir will sing on last Sunday of each month @ 10:30 a.m. worship. See Elisha with  
questions.



## ST. PAUL'S MEN'S GROUP

**Invite a friend and join us every 3rd Sunday morning at 7:30 a.m.  
for a delicious breakfast and good fellowship.**



## JOY GROUP

*(See Sandy Kennedy with questions.)*

**Friday, March 24, 2023—2:00 p.m. Bollinger Hall  
Movie Matinee—Watching "Places in the Heart"  
Fresh Popcorn & Beverages provided.**



## N.C. Synod Assembly—June 2nd & 3rd Koury Convention Center, Greensboro

- ◆ St. Paul's needs 2 delegates (1 male & 1 female) to attend.
- ◆ If you are interested, see David Beaver as soon as possible. Deadline to register 4/15
- ◆ Check-in at 8 a.m. on June 2nd and the last session is at 1:30 p.m. on June 3rd.



St. Paul's WELCA is supporting the Navajo Lutheran Mission for the first quarter of 2023. Will you help us with this worthy project?

Sr. Paul's has supported this ministry in various ways over the years, including a mission trip that included 26 adults and youth from the congregation.

Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission is a non-profit organization funded by the generosity of donors who care about the Navajo at Rock Point, AZ and wish to see them thrive. Your donations help provide Navajo families with basic means for survival, including housing, food, clean water, education, and ministerial services.

### More about the Mission?

The Mission School is an **alternative school** to Bureau of Indian Affairs and community schools throughout the Navajo Nation.

Parents choose to place their children in a school that **reflects Christian values** while respecting Navajo culture and tradition.

Partnership is expressed by **Navajo and non-Navajo representation** on a Mission Board of Directors.

**Social needs** are addressed by counseling, educational opportunities, and on-the-job training

You can send your monetary donation through our church office or send it directly to the Navajo Lutheran Mission website [www.nelm.org](http://www.nelm.org).

## Support Programs for Military & Veterans

Some support programs for US veterans and active military are listed below for your awareness. If you or someone you know would like to provide time or monetary donations to any of these efforts, please contact the organization directly for details.

Lutheran Services Carolinas: ***Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Wounded Warrior Independence Program*** provides community based activities (recreational, socialization, in-home activities) for post-911 veterans with severe traumatic brain injuries or life threatening illnesses. Must be referred by their Neurological Case Manager at Neuro Community Care (NCC). Contact: Jesus Ramirez (910-257-27), [JRamirez@lscarolinas.net](mailto:JRamirez@lscarolinas.net)

**Lutheran Military Veterans & Family Ministries** (Fort Wayne, IN): free counseling to veterans, families, military contractors and assistance with obtaining care and resources; also provide training to civilian caregivers, therapists, clergy, congregations/groups and assist with development of mission outreach programs to veterans and military issues. <https://lmvfm.org>

Lord of Life Lutheran Church: **Military Family Support Ministry** (ELCA; Maple Grove, MN): local service projects and support of the military, veterans, and families. [www.lordoflife.org/militaryfamilysupport](http://www.lordoflife.org/militaryfamilysupport)

Samaritan's Purse: **Operation Heal Our Patriots** – weeklong Alaska wilderness retreat and aftercare followup to connect them with support at home. [www.samaritanspurse.org](http://www.samaritanspurse.org)

Joni and Friends: **Warrior Getaway** – healing for veterans families (PTSD); world-wide disability ministry. [www.joanieandfriends.org](http://www.joanieandfriends.org)



## MARCH 2023 BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday

- 3/1 James Beam
- 3/3 Bobbie Quinn, Jennifer Stiles
- 3/4 Emily Heafner, Amy Plonk, Gene Rohm
- 3/5 Jennifer Eudy, Paul Kanupp
- 3/7 Edwina Beam, Susan Holbrooks
- 3/8 Alexa Cloninger, Grace Harbin, Robert Pasour
- 3/9 Lincoln Loadholdt, Nancy Nation
- 3/10 Jean Cloninger, Andrew Withers
- 3/12 Lexi Goude-lock, Brad Withers
- 3/14 Lois Costner
- 3/17 Dana Harrison, Alison Plonk
- 3/20 Caitlin Rubow, Tia Willis
- 3/21 Gene Collins, Jack Harrison, Nelson Hoffman
- 3/22 Jamie Barker, Jeth Champion
- 3/23 P.J. Darrell
- 3/24 Ashtyn Brown, Matt Kanupp
- 3/28 Alyssa Comer, Josh Heafner, R.F. Mitschke
- 3/30 Terry Baker, Kelly Lynn



## OUTREACH MINISTRIES...



- ◇ **Boy Scouts Troop 22** chartered at St. Paul's. Make donations by marking for "Troop 22";
- ◇ **Dallas High Shoals Christian Ministry: Crackers, Peanut Butter, Green Peas**—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.

## MARCH 2023 Responsibilities...

duties

Acolytes: Alexa Cloninger, Mackenna Hope  
Altar Flowers to Shut-Ins: Steve Hovis  
Altar Guild: Linda Metcalf  
Audio/Video: Darrell Plonk  
Cantor: Sandy Kennedy  
Children's Church: Kelly Taylor  
Crucifer: Andrew Secrest  
Council Rep.: Dave Hoyle  
Council Assistants: Dave Hoyle, Jared Barkley  
Ushers: (\* head usher) \*Lisa Rubow, Matt Kanupp  
Mark Kennedy, Scott Rubow  
—Ushers will serve as greeters in 2023—  
Food to DCSM: Lynn Rhyne and Betty Surratt

Date:	Reader	Nursery
March 5	Kelley Barker	Taylor Carter, Dru Parker
March 12	Sandy Higginbotham	Kelley Barker, Lynn Rhyne
March 19	Sandy Kennedy	Patty Crisp, Carrie Stroup
March 26	Eric Lamanna	Wendy Goude-lock, Lynn Rhyne

—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 .—

Reminder!

**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.

Generosity  
changes everything

## 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](http://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!**



## EASTER EGG HUNT @ ST. PAUL'S

SAT., APRIL 1st: 11 a.m.—1 p.m.

**Hog dog lunch**

Children though 3rd grade hunting eggs

Sponsored by Middle & High School Youth

*See Kelly Taylor with questions.*

## LENT/EASTER 2023



- ♦ Lenten Bible Studies:

**March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29**

Light Meal at 6:30 p.m.

Bible Study at 7:00 p.m.

*There will be a Bible Study for children ages 4—5th grade at these Lenten studies*

- ♦ Palm Sunday, **April 2, 2023**
- ♦ Maundy Thursday Service at St. Paul's **April 6, 2023** at 7:00 p.m.
- ♦ Good Friday Service at St. Paul's **April 7, 2023** at 7:00 p.m.
- ♦ Easter Sunday: **April 9, 2023**
- ♦ Easter Sunrise Service & Breakfast



## CHOIR NEWS

FROM ELISHA MITSCHKE-LAMANNA

- ♦ **Handbell Choir Schedule:** Sept.—May: (1st & 3rd Sundays @ 8:45 a.m.)
- ♦ **Chancel Choir Schedule:** Sept.—May: (5:00 p.m. each Sunday)
- ♦ **SPIRIT CHOIR** (grades K-5) - Sept. – May: Rehearsals next to last Sunday of each month after 10:30 a.m. worship in the sanctuary. We'll plan to sing on the last Sunday of the month.
- ♦ See Elisha Lamanna with questions. Her number is 704-692-7423

## EASTER LILIES 2023



**COST: \$12.00 each**

25 Easter Lilies will be ordered to be placed in the sanctuary. If you want to reserve a lily in honor or memory of someone, fill out form and place form and money in the offering plate by March 26th.

## CAN YOU DOODLE, DRAW OR COLOR?



*The Evangelism Committee encourages you to submit your Bible Story Illustrations, name/age & (secret) title to Marsha Kinley. Illustrations will be shared in newsletters for all to guess the Bible stories.*

*All ages are encouraged to participate.*



## ALTAR FLOWERS 2023

**COST: \$47 PER SUNDAY**

Sign-up book available in the narthex.

## Dear St. Paul's Family,



Thank you so much to the SPIRIT Group and others who sent me cards and kind words on Valentines Day. You made me feel so special. I love you all.

**Louise McManus**



## Memorials & Gifts...

In honor of Susan and Emily given by:  
Mariah Quinn Porter (SPIRIT Group)



## Our Christian sympathy is extended to:

- **The friends and family of John Gignac Sr.** who died Feb. 13th. Mr. Gignac was the father/ father-in-law of Dave & Lori Sellers Gignac.
- **The friends and family of Walker Hayes** who died in a car wreck Feb. 20th. Walker was 17 and a senior at Highland Tech. Some of our youth were friends with Walker.
- **The friends and family of Helen Safrit** who died Feb. 22nd. Helen was the mother of Danny Safrit.
- **The friends and family of Karen W. Hubanks** who died Feb. 24th. Karen was the daughter of Becky & Jeff Paseur and Dennis & Barbara Winkles.

**PLEASE KEEP THESE FAMILIES IN YOUR PRAYERS**

## 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:**

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

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

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

Pauline Guess, 226 Elizabeth Lane, Dallas, NC 28034

David & Linda Hoyle, 604 Queens Drive, Dallas NC 28034

Betty Faye Lineberger, Peak Gastonia, 2780 X-Ray Drive, Room 205, Gastonia, NC 28054

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

**Our Members** Mardie Best, Betty Bumgarner, Marlene Cloninger, Jean Dover, Grace Harbin, Susan Holbrooks, Ann Keever, Myra Lineberger, Kay & Malcolm Lynn, Louise McManus, Rev. R. F. Mitschke, Henry Moffett, Becky Paseur, Jimmy Pasour, Sandy Plonk, Danny Safrit, \*Pat Sellers, Emilie Sides, Sally Terres, 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):* Nancy Bollinger, CRU Military, Barbara M. Dellinger, Nancy Friday, Joanne Gignac, Carole Lineberger, Barbara M. Dellinger, Mariano Ramiro Sr., Dana Sigmon, Elaine Sparkman, Bishop Tim Smith, the family of John Gignac Sr., the family of Walker Hayes, the family of Helen Safrit, the family of Karen Hubanks, and all who are mourning the loss of a loved one

\*Pat Sellers is currently living @ 1602 Sunrise Road, Cary, NC 27513-2707

## WELCA AREA RETREAT

March 18, 2023

Salem Lutheran Church, 3410 Startown Road,  
Lincolnton, NC 28092

704-732-7320

*Butterflies represent transformation, joy, and hope.*

*Join us at the One-Day Retreat and  
“transform and become a butterfly”*



See Sandy Kennedy if you plan to attend.  
Sandy will help you register for the event.



CONGRATULATIONS TO...

*Jeremy and Sara Loadholdt on the birth  
of*

*Henry David Loadholdt*

*born Feb. 26th weighing 8 lbs. 3 oz.*

*We rejoice with Jeremy, Sara and big  
brother, Lincoln.*



## GRAND OPENING OF CAMP CENTURION

2126 Bess Town Road—Bessemer City NC

Saturday, March 25, 2023—11 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

This is one of the homes that all the Lutheran Churches in Gaston County own. It will be a home where veterans, transitioning out of military service can live, with other veterans, in a secure environment, while re-entering civilian life. Drop in on March 25th see what a difference your volunteer work and your donations have made.

The other homes we own are Faith Farm on Dallas/Stanley Hwy. used by the Lutheran Services Home and Mt. Ridge Group Home, as a day program site for mentally and physically challenged men.

*The Social Ministry Committee is  
sponsoring a **WHITE OUT**, collecting  
toilet paper and paper towels for  
Dallas High Shoals Christian Ministry  
during the month of March.*

*Please consider being a part of this  
project and drop your donation in the  
collection point in the narthex this  
month.*

*Thanks!*

## “We Are in Charge of Our Attitudes”

Charles Swindoll wrote about “Attitude” It stuck with me still to this day.

*“The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness, or skill. It will make or break a company... **a church**...a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past...we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitudes... I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to us and 90% how we react to it. And so it is with you...we are in charge of our attitudes”*

What are your expectations of the church, your church leaders, and our pastor? Like opinions we all have expectations, and we bring expectations with us that our church leaders may not be able to meet. Unrealistic expectations will bring us disappointment and disapproval. Realistic expectations and appreciating others despite their deficiencies will bring us all content & love of one another.

“Growing churches reach people and care for one another as well as those outside the church. Plateaued or declining churches get used to the status quo. They lose their first love of reaching people and make priorities of the building, the budget, the cakes baked for fellowship, and the baked chicken for folks who are sick. Eventually the pastor’s primary job becomes keeping everyone inside the church happy”. (Quote from Edward Hammett book Reaching People under 40 while Keeping People over 60)

### “Old Paradigm”

*Congregational Life/Fellowship really means “social committee.” It’s about coffee hour and potluck dinners.*

### “New Paradigm”

*Congregational Life is about creating a culture of Hospitality, Service, Discipleship and Prayer within the congregation. “It’s our collective spirituality”*

**Scott Rubow**



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

[gail@stpaulsdallas.org](mailto:gail@stpaulsdallas.org)  
[emlamanna@gaston.k12.nc.us](mailto:emlamanna@gaston.k12.nc.us)

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

We're on the Web:

[www.stpaulsdallas.org](http://www.stpaulsdallas.org)

See the online calendar at  
[www.stpaulsdallas.org](http://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.

**2023 YEARBOOK  
DIRECTORY**  
**COPIES ARE AVAILABLE  
IN THE NARTHEX.**  
**PLEASE TAKE ONE PER FAMILY**



**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](http://www.stpaulsdallas.org) or go directly to [www.easytithe.com/dl/?uid=st531296](http://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!