

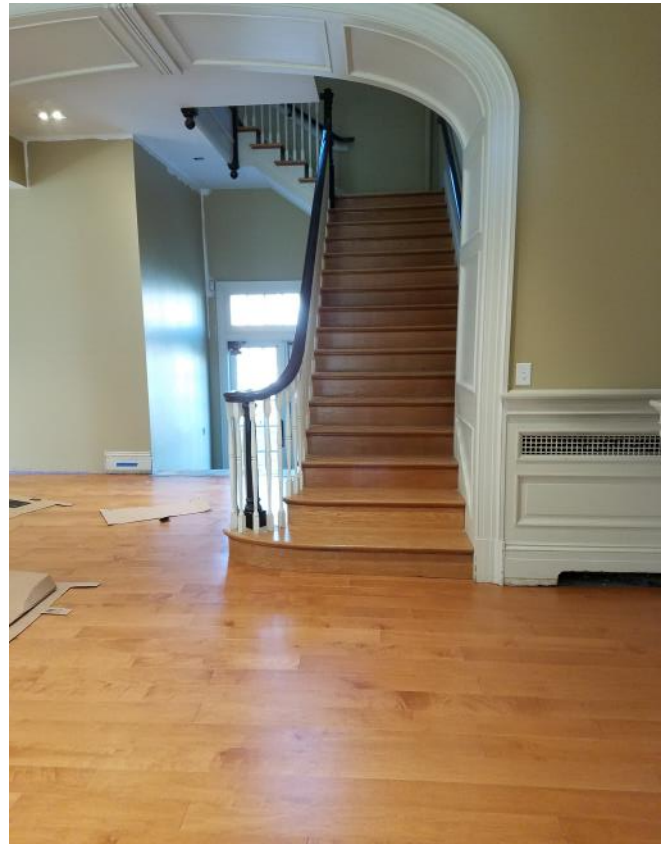
Our Church

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
25 West Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403
717/843-8155 – st.paulsyork@comcast.net
www.stpaulsyork.org

March 2018
Sunday Holy Eucharist 9:15 a.m.
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

First Open House Saturday, March 24 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

The first of several “Open House” events is scheduled for Saturday March 24. The day will showcase spaces that are complete, opportunity to view portions of the building in process, and to hear about the ministry and mission proposed for completed spaces. The church nave and narthex and the 4year old pre-school classrooms top the list of completed rooms. Participants will be able to see firsthand how former spaces are being transformed to better meet the needs of our current faith community and neighborhood.



The Fellowship Committee will be on hand to provide delicious refreshments. Members of the pre-school staff will be in their new rooms to share information about the current and upcoming academic years. Witness Committee members along with Property members will lead tours. And the Christian Education Committee will provide information about faith formation at St. Paul's and invite children to the Easter Egg Hunt the following Saturday, March 31. Worship and Arts members will hand out information regarding Holy Week and Easter services as well as key events, like the York College Chorale singing in our new chancel on Sunday April 22 at a combined 9:15 a.m. liturgy. Please pass the word around, mark your calendar, and plan to “come and see.”

The Liturgies of Holy Week and Easter

Our Family at St. Paul's Lutheran Church is truly a part of the one Body of Christ. We are united to other Christians in many ways. During the solemn time of Holy Week and the joy of Easter we are joined with our brothers and sisters in Christ in observing and celebrating the most significant events in human history.

We take these events very seriously and carefully consider each of the steps that led to our Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection. There is no way to abbreviate the period between The Sunday of the Passion (Palm Sunday) and Easter Sunday. It is a full week, demanding our complete attention and devotion. What follows, is an explanation of Our Family's worship through this period. It is offered in the hope that we will all enter faithfully into the worship of Holy Week with a clear understanding of what the church seeks to proclaim through this annual passage from death to new life with its Lord.

Blessings,
Pastor Reep

The Sunday of the Passion/ Palm Sunday

9:30 a.m.

The period of Holy Week begins with the Sunday of the Passion, also called "Palm Sunday." These two names tell us a great deal about the significance of the day. On one hand, Palm Sunday marks the triumphant entry of Jesus into the holy city of Jerusalem when throngs of enthusiastic followers who spread palm branches and clothing in his path greeted him. They believed that, at long last, the Messiah was coming to establish his rule over the people of Israel and to cast out the enemies of God's Chosen people.

But Jesus was also going to his death. His death would serve as the powerful blow that would usher in the new reign of God over his people. And so, Palm Sunday, the Sunday of the Passion, is a day of mixed emotions. Those mixed emotions are expressed through the morning liturgies.

The Liturgy will begin with the Processional Gospel, the blessing of the palms and a procession through the church. The second portion of the service will focus on the reading of the Passion according to St. Mark. The final portion of the liturgy will be the celebration the Lord's Supper. These three distinct parts of our morning worship should help us as we embark on Holy Week. As the morning unfolds there will be a marked shift as we begin our liturgies on a note of triumph and shift to one of solemnity.

Corporate Confession and Forgiveness

Holy Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

The rite of Corporate Confession and Forgiveness is a preparatory service to bring us by repentance and confession to the Lord's Table on Maundy Thursday. The service is very simple. There are readings, two hymns, a psalm, a brief sermon and most importantly, confession and absolution. Those who desire to receive individual absolution will be invited to come forward for the laying on of hands and the declaration of forgiveness.

The Liturgy of the Last Supper, Maundy Thursday, 7:00 p.m.

The Liturgy of the Last Supper is the one genuine celebration in all of Lent. We celebrate our Lord's great gift to us of the Holy Communion, the meal in which he comes to us in a visible way and unites us to himself. We also vividly recall his mandate (Mandatum, hence "Maundy") that we "love one another." It is here that we recall Jesus' humble act of washing his Disciples feet.

Our joy in the celebration of the Last Supper does not last, however. We also recall the way in which Jesus was abandoned and left to his enemies in his greatest hour of need. As the Altar and church are

stripped of all ornamentation and left bare, we are left to feel the agony of our Lord's loneliness and to ponder what lies ahead.

We prepare ourselves to face the tragedy of the coming day when our Lord's life and ministry are called into questions by the political and religious authorities of his day. We hope that we can be more faithful than those first disciples who could not watch and pray with their master even one hour.

Maundy Thursday marks the first part of what is known as the Great Paschal Triduum. This is actually one liturgy that is done over a period of three days. It covers the liturgies of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil. Our service on Maundy Thursday will not end with a benediction. It will "be continued" on the next day.

The Passion and Death of our Lord, Good Friday, 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday brings us face to face with the tragic consequence of sin – death! We are confronted by our Lord's great sacrifice on our behalf and we are humbled and bowed down. The liturgy of Good Friday is stirring its power to make us feel the agony and pain of death made necessary by our sin. We stay with Christ to the bitter end, but with a spark of hope yet remaining.

This service includes elements of long-standing tradition. There is a reading of the Passion according to St. John, a gradually darkening church, the praying of the Litany for Good Friday, and an ancient "Ceremony of the Cross" in which we hear the "reproaches" of Jesus to his executioners. The chancel of the church will be bare. The color of the day is black. It is a time of great solemnity in the Christian life. And yet, it is a time of great glory as well, for we are preparing to celebrate a victory even over death.

The Vigil of Easter, Holy Saturday 7:00 p.m.

On Holy Saturday we shall gather to celebrate what is, unquestionably, the most important liturgy in the church year – The Great Vigil of Easter. Around this liturgy the entire church year was built. Unfortunately it has been greatly neglected by the church. These days more and more congregations are celebrating it and recognizing the powerful message that it holds. It is a liturgy you will not want to miss. What follows is a fairly detailed description and explanation of it.

The Easter Vigil is the church's yearly celebration of the Paschal (Passover) Feast. It celebrates our Lord's "Passover" from death to new life, his passage and exodus to the Father. In this most solemn liturgy, the faithful followers of Christ go from death to new life with him.

This theme of death to life is appropriately expressed in the entire content of the Easter Vigil. As the message of the Vigil is proclaimed, there can be no mistaking the true meaning of the resurrection. We are impressed with the fact that Christianity is a passage religion, that in fulfillment of Israel's exodus out of Egypt, Jesus leads the new Israel, his Church, through yet another "Passover." He leads us out of bondage to sin and death into a new and promising life of holiness and joy. There are four parts to the Easter Vigil. The first centers around fire or light as a symbol of Christ who said "I am the light of the world," and who, "from three days sleep in death, as a sun has risen." The liturgy begins in darkness, the darkness of sin, the darkness of the tomb, and the darkness of death that covers an unredeemed world. In the midst of this darkness, a new fire is struck. The Old Testament tells us that God chose fire as a sign of his presence in the burning bush on Sinai, in the pillar of fire in the wilderness, and in the fire of sacrifice on the temple altar. The kindling of this new fire is a vivid reminder of the presence of Christ with his people.

Following the striking of the new flame, the Paschal Candle is lighted. This large white candle, symbolic of Jesus, the new "Pillar of fire," is carried into the darkened church by a deacon as if carried into the tomb. Light from the Paschal Candle is gradually spread to candles held by everyone in the church. The deacon then sings the great Easter announcement called "The Exsultet," which proclaims the good news of the Resurrection.

In the second part of the Vigil, the Church meditates on all that God has done since the beginning of time. This includes a series of Old Testament readings and prayers. It is truly a "Service of the Word" which takes us from creation and the history of God's people in Israel to the prophets' promises of a new age to come.

The third part of the Vigil centers on the mystery of Baptism, by which the light of Christ was first given to us. Baptism is the Easter of our lives, for in Baptism we died to sin in order to rise with Christ. We went down into the font of death in order to come up cleansed from sin and alive to God. In this part of the Vigil, if there are no candidates, the congregation affirms the covenant of Baptism. We then pray the Litany as a plea for God to help us in keeping faithful to our baptismal promises.

The fourth and final part of the Vigil is our celebration of the first Communion of Easter. A dramatic change takes place as the darkened church is fully lighted and the glory of Easter is revealed. A great hymn of praise is sung for the first time since the beginning of Lent, bells are rung and a festive Communion liturgy is celebrated. This Communion is the climax of our exodus experience. By Baptism we were made to share in the saving death and resurrection of Christ, and our Baptism leads us to the Eucharist, the Church's feast of love and new life. Here we partake of the fruit of Jesus' sacrifice; his own body and blood. Here the new life we have been celebrating in the Vigil is actually bestowed upon us. We observe this solemn anniversary of our Lord's "pasch" or Passover from the grave to the resurrection with new and abounding joy.

As you can easily see, the Vigil of Easter is filled with beauty and meaning. It is a liturgy in which the entire history of God's dealings with his people is summarized. It moves us all the way from the moment of creation to the final promises of God. For those concerned about time, the entire liturgy will take only about an hour and a half. That's not a lot of time, and certainly not too much time, to spend in such a celebration.

Lent is the Christian season of preparation before Easter. Many Christians observe a period of fasting, repentance, prayer and alms giving (giving to the poor and needy). It is a chance to set aside time to reflect on Jesus Christ, his suffering and sacrifice, His death and resurrection.



Here are a few ideas to deepen your faith.

Attend worship regularly. Don't miss the Holy Week services that tell the entire story of Jesus last days. The most important liturgy of the church, The Easter Vigil, is celebrated the Saturday night before Easter Sunday. Here we remember our history, celebrate baptisms and enjoy the first feast of Easter.

Make a blessing jar. Decorate an empty jar with stickers, glitter, paper, ribbons or anything you like. Put the jar, small pieces of paper and some pens on a table in the kitchen. Every day write or draw something good that happened. Put the paper into the jar. Once a week, take all of the paper out of the jar, look at your blessings and say thank you to God.

Make extra time to **pray** as a family. Use the devotional provided at church or one that you find on line. Check out Luther Seminary's "Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow" found on their website.

Give to others by contributing to the Back Pack Ministry of St. Paul's. Each August we give backpacks filled with school supplies to children who's family uses our food pantry. What do you need for school each year? Save your coins and bring them to church during lent.

Renovation Up-date

In March we begin to check off many bench marks for the renovation project. As you can see from the list below much of the work is allowing us to return to spaces and begin living into those which are completed. The project continues. We are nearing the half way point for the project. We take this time to rejoice at the current progress, how far we have come, and anticipate the full beauty of a building renewed and ready for a next generation of St. Paul's faith community.

The new electrical service has been turned into the building

The new lighting system is installed and operable

The hardwood floor installed in the church nave

Church pews returned and installed

The glass wall and doors dividing the narthex from the church nave installed

The first sections of cabinetry installed

Narthex restrooms completed

Cabling run for new public address system, video, and electronic bulletin boards

First "Open House" to see the work in progress

The preschool moves from the north side of the education wing to the south (Springettsbury Avenue) side



The new Letourneau organ console is coming together nicely. It will look stunning and sound amazing in our newly refurbished worship space. It will make its first musical statement on Palm Sunday. I await with eager anticipation—Victor Fields

March 15 for April newsletter





Up-Coming Events at St. Paul's

Sunday March 4

Handbell Choir rings for the first time in our newly configured church, 9:15 a.m.

Sunday March 11

Remember to turn your clock ahead so that you don't miss worship, 9:15 a.m.

Saturday March 24

First Open House to see work completed and work in progress, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Palm Sunday March 25

Organ Prelude (First time the oan used for worship since it was removed 6-17

Palm Sunday Service with reception of New Members 9:15 a.m.

Time of Fellowship 10:30 a.m.

Palm Sunday Procession through the neighborhood 10:45

Holy Wednesday March 28.

Confession with Individual Absolution, 7:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday March 29

Holy Communion/preparing the church for Good Friday, 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday, March 30

The Passion of Our Lord and Reproaches of the Cross, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 31

Easter Egg Hunt 10:00 a.m.

Vigil of Easter 7:00 p.m.

The Resurrection of Our Lord, April 1

Festival Holy Communion, 9:15 a.m.

Sunday, April 8

Holy Communion with recognition of Boy Scouts, 9:15 a.m.

100th Anniversary of Scout Troop #19, Program and Banquet 11:00 a.m.

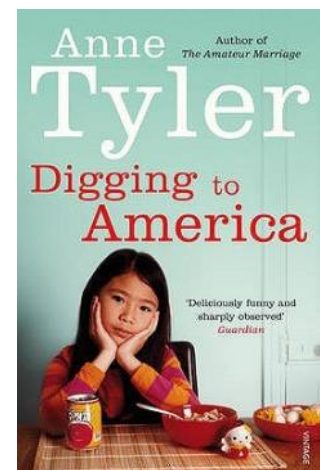
Sunday, April 22

York College Chorale singing, 9:15 a.m.

Sunday, April 29

Handbell Choir , 9:15 a.m.

St. Paul's book club will next meet Wednesday, March 21. The book we will be discussing is *Digging to America*, by Anne Tyler. The topic is surprisingly relevant. It is about Korean children adapting to life in America - interesting to us because of all the talk about immigrants nowadays. There are several copies in the library. All are welcome to bring a sandwich and join the discussion.



GARDEN OF MEMORY- It is now nearly thirteen years since we celebrated the completion of the columbarium on the corner of our property at S. George Street and Springettsbury Avenue, making an improvement to both the neighborhood and our beautiful grounds. Responsible stewardship of the creation God gave us grows, making cremation a popular choice for the “end of life” decisions. It is not or ever will be our intent to make a profit from this service. The intent is to offer an affordable and dignified alternative to current members, former members, and faithful friends. As the pricing was thirteen years ago it remains the same today, ranging from \$250 to \$1500. If you have spiritual concerns regarding cremation Pastor Reep (717-843-8155) will personally meet with you to answer your questions. Should you want to pursue the details of this service, we have a packet of information that will be provided to you by calling the church office to pick up or have it sent (717-843-8155). The current membership of the Columbarium committee is Tom Ruth, chairman, Pastor Reep, Bob Little, Ron Sturges and Larry Gross, all of whom will be glad to answer your questions and/or help you with the documentation should your choice be cremation and internment in our Garden of Memory.

Having your “end of life decisions” made, properly documented, and communicated to your loved ones is one of the best gifts you can provide them in their time of grief.

SUMMER CAMP 2018

Camp Kirchenwald and Camp Nawakwa

THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.”

The Lutheran Camps offer – Christian Community, Worship, Daily Prayer, Making New Friends, Seeing Old Friends, Fun Activities, Adventure and Acts of Service.

The Lutheran Camping Corporation carries out its mission as a gracious expression of God’s. The heart of that mission is to: The Church, in a place and time apart... Where God’s presence is experienced, Faith is renewed, Christ’s love is felt, and the Church is strengthened for the service and proclamation of the Gospel! Our goal is for each child to experience the love of Christ through!

We are encouraging all of our children and youth to attend a week of church camp. Remember, camperships are available for our members! Please see Kelly Moore-Spencer for a camp brochure and more information.



The Lutheran Camping Corporation
of Central Pennsylvania

Benevolence Committee Get Ready, Get Involved!!!

Are you thinking about a project all ready to launch now that needs funding to get started in 2019? Please prayerfully consider new ministries and organizations that could benefit from our gifts of time, talent, and money AND pick up an application to get the process started.

In the recent past, the St. Paul’s Benevolence Committee has approved assistance to the following entities: the Bridge of Hope National Campaign, a local York County Hospice, Lutheran World Relief, Hurricane Maria relief, a mission trip to Tanzania, and the St. Paul’s Education Committee.

Resource Request Applications will be available starting in March located in the back of the Church. Look for the Applications on bright Pink Paper. In addition, they can be found on-line at <http://stpaulsyork.org/benevolence>.

Prayer Shawl Update – In March of 2007 the St. Paul’s prayer shawl ministry had its beginning. During the ensuing 10 years 110 shawls have been given to our members, their relatives, neighbors, and friends. If you need a prayer shawl for yourself or someone you know who would like to have one, see Kristine Gross.



Prayer Shawl Ministry



**Saturday, March 31, 2018
10:00 a.m.**

**Join us for an Easter Story
and an Easter Egg Hunt**

**This activity is for children,
Toddlers thru Grade 5**

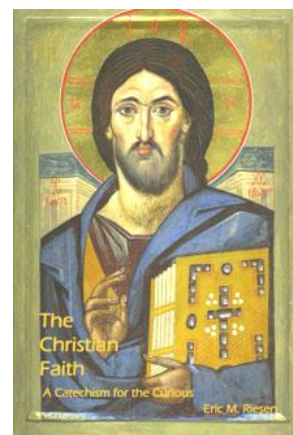
Bring Your Baskets - We will meet on the George Street front steps.

The Christian Education Committee is asking for donations of plastic Easter eggs and individually wrapped candy for our egg hunt. Please bring your donations to the Church by Sunday, March 18th. Thank you for your help.



New Members Received

During the season of Lent Pastor Reep has been leading a membership class. Those persons wishing to officially unite with our family of faith will be received during our Palm Sunday liturgy, Sunday March 25, at the combined 9:15 a.m. service. While this seems an unusual day given the movement of the liturgy from triumphal entry of Jesus in Jerusalem to the reading of the Passion narrative, it is fitting that we begin our Holy Week together. It is from this point that as a family of faith we move each step of the way through the events of Maunday Thursday, Good Friday, The Vigil, leading us to the Resurrection morning. Be sure to come and extend your personal words of welcome to our newest men, women, and children at St. Paul's.



Join us for an adult study utilizing the book "The Christian Faith, A Catechism for the Curious", by Eric M. Riesen. Anyone interested may have a book for free. Participants should read the introduction and chapter one for the first class. Class runs through March 25. This class will be taught by The Rev. Beth Schlegel and will be held at Luther Memorial Church in conjunction with the Catechetics Program. The sessions begin at 6:00 p.m.

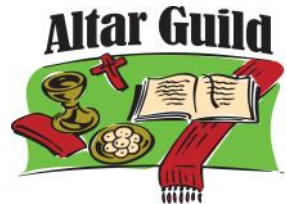


2018 Flower Chart *Reserve you date now!*

The 2018 flower chart is posted on a clipboard located on the trolley at the George St. entrance. The cost of the flowers is \$30 per vase. You are welcome to sign up to provide one or both vases. After you have signed up, simply make a check payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church and mark it altar flowers. This is a great way to honor someone, celebrate a milestone in life, or remember a loved one. The flowers may be taken home with you at the conclusion of the liturgy or you may have them given to someone who is sick, at home, or hospitalized. If you wish, you can contact the office to reserve a

date, and provide us with all of the correct information for inclusion in the Sunday bulletin.

Altar Guild Request – Each Sunday the flowers that adorn the altar are given to members, family or friends who are ill, hospitalized, depressed, homebound, or in celebration of a special occasion. We use cans that are 7 inches high and 4 inches in diameter. We are always in need of these cans for this ministry. If you have some cans of the size please bring them to the sacristy.



EASTER FLOWER ORDER

Indicate the total number of flowers desired:

Hyacinth _____ Lilies _____
Tulips _____ Daffodils _____

Flowers are \$10.00

Please make check payable to St. Paul's
Lutheran Church

I desire that my plant(s) be listed: (please print clearly)

Number of plants _____ in Honor of:

Number of plants _____ in Loving Memory of:

Number of plants _____ Dedicated to the Glory of God

From _____

Amount Paid: Cash _____ Check _____

Orders are due Sunday, March 18, 2018

Plants may be picked up after the
Easter Service on April 1st



Sunday School / Faith Formation / Social Ministry Projects

New Time – 10:30 a.m. during this construction period

Adult opportunities for building faith will follow the 9:15 a.m. morning liturgy at 10:30 a.m. with the location to be announced. While construction continues we will find places to gather for our morning classes, discussions, and service projects.

February 18 - March 18

Lenten Series with Pastor Snyder

Where Does God Hide in the World, and Where Do We See and Know God? Come on board this Lenten journey as we think about our experience of God in presence and absence, in community and solitude, hidden and revealed. We will examine Scripture, what Luther and other Christian theologians and writers have to say, and think about our own experience. For those who would like to do so, you will be invited to keep a journal of reflections and add to it during the week. We will also pick a watchword for each week to round out our thinking and reflection.



February 18 – March 18

New Member's Classes with Pastor Reep

We are blessed to have so many people interested in making St. Paul's Lutheran Church their church home. During this time of construction it has been difficult to schedule classes let alone find space in which to hold them. During the Sundays of Lent we will gather following the liturgy in what had been the Chapel for a five week session. Topics will include: Lutheranism, Sacraments, Mission, Church Renovation, and Involvement. The sessions will be led by Pastor Reep. For those wishing to unite with the congregation we will receive new members on March 25, Palm Sunday.



Children's Sunday Morning Classes

February – March

The lessons for the season of Epiphany focus on the life and teachings of Jesus. The Children will be presented with stories and activities to engage them in their faith formation and learning.

Infants through grade 2 begin on the first floor for singing then proceed to their designated classes for their Bible story and games. (Parents of children younger than age 2 are asked to stay)

Grades 3-6 meet upstairs for breakfast, conversation and study with their teachers.

Grades 7-12 meet with Kelly Moore-Spencer for fellowship and learning.



Ministry for Children

Children grades 1 through 6 are invited to attend one of our programs that are designed to help them in reading the Sunday lessons so they can become young lectors on Sunday mornings. During the program they will have a lunch, learn the Bible story and do a creative activity.

Young Readers Group is for grades 1 – 2 – 3 and Adventure Time is for grades 4 – 5 – 6. Text or email Miss Kelly letting her know if your child is able to attend so she can plan for lunch and craft materials.



[Young Readers and Adventure Time , Sunday, March 11, 11:30 – 12:45](#)

From the Council President

This report summarizes portions of a Temple Talk delivered at our Sunday service on February 18, on the date we celebrated our 182nd anniversary.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church has an incredibly long and rich history. We are turning the page of that history now with a \$3.5M renovation project so our congregation can carry its mission into the next half century. This is a pivotal moment, full of optimism but not without challenges.

We are adding new members while most mainline protestant contemporaries are struggling with an aging, shrinking congregation. Pr. Reep is holding new member classes even while we pass through the thickest portion of construction wilderness. Worship in the Chapel complemented the closeness of our church family. We have yet to make a final decision about continuing with one or returning to two services after construction, but I have been heartened by seeing us worship together in one place. We have an amazing staff who has redefined the word *forbearance* through this project.

Despite great signs of optimism, we face real challenges. We set a \$1M capital campaign goal at the onset of our renovation project. At that time, Pastor René helped us define what we wanted, and what sort of project was obtainable. Her research, which included interviewing parishioners, suggested that our church members could support a project with \$800k in contributions over a 3-year period. Assuming that we would raise some money from the community, the Capital Campaign Committee arrived at the \$1M goal. We have presently received about \$850k in commitments toward the campaign. That leaves us \$150k short of our goal, but the shortfall in member pledges (the anticipated \$800k) is more significant. We currently have just half of that amount pledged. Community support and estate gifts are tracking above projections, but member pledges are less than anticipated.

We don't have a full understanding on why member pledges have not met expectations, but the Capital Campaign Committee is meeting to discuss strategies to meet our goal. It is possible that members feel less compelled to give because of our endowment. If that is true, I would say that our endowment is a blessing until it becomes a stumbling block. The later happens when we fail to take ownership of our vision and rely on the gift of our ancestors carry us through our renovation project.

A recent *York Daily Record* article highlighted our congregation's potential, citing "robust growth." It said that St. Paul's is "defying the challenges faced by many historic, mainline religious organizations." We are doing well with new membership. There is a lot of excitement in our congregation, but growing into our new season does not come without challenges, or price. This is critical time in our congregation's history. We have the fortunate opportunity of preparing St. Paul's Lutheran Church for future generations. Let us not grow weary of doing good.

Peace,

Tristan Ericson

Council President



Food Pantry March 2018

Items needed: Peanut butter, jelly, canned tuna or chicken, soup, potato and rice side dishes.

We need volunteers to sub on Tuesdays mornings. Please contact Teresa Rohrbaugh if you are able to help in this way. Plastic Bags are always needed. Money donations are gratefully accepted. Please place cash or check in a "special" envelope marked "Pantry".



Food Pantry
Donations Needed



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
25 W. SPRINGETTSBURY AVE.
YORK, PA 17403
(717) 843-8155 (717) 843-0261 (Fax)

Email: st.paulsyork@comcast.net
Web Page: <http://www.stpaulsyork.org>

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
York, PA
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 158

March

Church Office: 25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403
Email: st.paulsyork@comcast.net **Web Page:** <http://www.stpaulsyork.org>

Stanley Reep	Pastor	Ext. 101
Kelly Moore-Spencer	Youth Director	Ext. 102
Victor Fields	Organist, Choir Director	Ext. 107
Emily Reep	Director of Children, Youth & Handbell Choirs	Ext. 107
Dale Zeiger	Bookkeeper	Ext. 105
Patee Pizzirusso	Secretary	0 or 100
Ted Weikert	Sexton	
Deborah Becker	Director of Pre-School	854-1996



Worship Schedule

Sunday Holy Eucharist 9:15, a.m.
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.