# **Our Church**

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 West Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403 717/843-8155 – st.paulsyork@comcast.net

717/843-8155 – st.paulsyork@comcast.net www.stpaulsyork.org

#### December 2020

Sunday Holy Eucharist 8 AM & 10:30 AM Sunday Vespers 5 PM Holy Days as announced

# Christmas Worship Schedule at St. Paul's



Please note the adjusted schedule for the entire Christmas season

# Sunday, December 20, 2020 The Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM Holy Communion with Blessing of the Creche
10:30 AM Holy Communion with The Ringing in of Christmas

5:00 PM Vespers with Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Christmas Eve 7 PM 11 PM and Christmas Day are now full.

## Thursday, December 24, 2020 Christmas Eve

4:00 PM Outside Christmas Carol Service with Brass Quintet

7:00 PM Christmas Eve Vespers
11:00 PM Christmas Eve Compline

#### Friday, December 25, 2020 Christmas Day

10:30 AM Holy Communion

# Sunday, December 27, 2020 The First Sunday of Christmas

8:00 AM Holy Communion, spoken 10:30 AM Lessons and Carols

5:00 PM Lessons and Carols

# Sunday, January 3, 2021 Second Sunday of Christmas

8:00 AM Holy Communion, spoken 10:30 AM Holy Communion, spoken 5:00 PM Holy Communion, spoken



# The Nativity of our Lord Celebrated

This year we will celebrate the birth of our Lord among us all be it with a differently configured worship schedule. The worship schedule this Christmas season creates opportunities to gather for in person worship while observing guidelines to keep attendance at each liturgy at 20% of our capacity. Additionally we planned the time for each service to be about 45 minutes in length. Ample time has been provided between all indoor services so that we can have a complete change of air through the HVAC system and so that all surfaces can be disinfected and restrooms cleaned. Worshipers will not need to move from their pews except for the liturgies of Holy Communion. We do ask that you are respectful of others maintaining physical distancing in your coming and going from the church building and that you do wear a mask. In two weeks time there are thirteen opportunities for in person worship. This allows for over a thousand people (80 max per service) to participate in at least one Christmas liturgy. Please do bring your offering with you or make certain that it reaches the church office before year's



end. Through your offerings we continue our mission to teach the world that God is love. And if you are not able to join us in person this season, please know that we will continue to post our services through social media on our church Facebook page and on the church website.

On the Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 20, we will bless the Christmas Crèche at 8:00 AM and will have the Ringing in of Christmas at the conclusion of the 10:30 AM liturgy. 5:00 PM Vespers will begin with the sacrament of Holy Baptism and move into the service of light as we light the evening candles. We remember that Jesus is the light of the world.

Christmas Eve, December 24, begins with a 4:00 PM outside service of Carols featuring the beautiful sound of a brass quintet. Please bring a lawn chair and remember to wear a mask. At this time we plan on gathering on the south lawn. This is a new service time and location for us. We have not asked for reservations for this service. 7:00 PM will follow the pattern of Evening Prayer, Vespers. The organ will announce with joy the birth of our Savior. There will be two Psalm settings, beautiful carols with descants, and the singing of "Silent Night" to conclude. 11:00 PM will follow the pattern of Compline, Prayer at the Close of Day. This is a more contemplative service. The church nave will be a glow with candle light. We will hear the familiar words of the Christmas story and have time to reflect on the good news for our daily life. The service will include "Silent Night."

Christmas Day, December 25, at 10:30 AM a celebration of Holy Communion in the light of a new day brings yet more rejoicing. This liturgy has become a highlight of the Christmas season as it simply states the power and love of God made known in the Word made flesh in Jesus.

The First Sunday of Christmas, December 27, there will be a spoken Holy Communion liturgy at 8:00 AM. At 10:30 AM and 5:00 PM an abbreviated Service of Lessons and Carols will continue our celebration of Christ's birth among us.

The celebration of the Epiphany of our Lord will be observed on Sunday, January 3, with Holy Communion liturgies at 8:00 and 10:30 AM and with Epiphany Vespers at 5:00 PM. Here we recall the guiding of the star leading the magi to the infant Jesus.



# **Food Pantry—December**

Pantry Needs: Stuffing, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, canned pumpkin, canned beans, canned vegetables, apple sauce, canned meats, rice, pasta side dished and jelly. Anyone able to help can contact Teresa Rohrbaugh or Janet and Larry Moore. Plastic Bags are always needed. Money donations are gratefully accepted. Please place cash or check in a "special" envelope marked "Pantry". A special thank- you to the preschool for their donations to the pantry.

Christmas Service Reservation Sign-up—We are utilizing a sign up for our Christmas services to help us monitor in person attendance for for our liturgies. With the guidance of CDC and our own St. Paul's COVID-19 task force we want to maintain the 20% for worshipers gathering in doors. Through an advance sign-up we can plan accordingly. At the time of this printing there remain: 10 seats at 7PM, 41 seats at 11PM, 49 seats at 10:30AM Christmas Day.



The 4:00 PM outside Christmas Eve Service does not require a reservation. Please note that you will need to bring a lawn chair (if desired). A face mask is required.

#### Christmas Decorating—Wednesday, December 16, 6 PM

The Worship and Arts Committee invites anyone able and willing to help with the church decorating this year on Wednesday, December 16 at 6 PM. We will work with fresh evergreens and fruit so that our decorations are at their peak for



our Christmas services the following week. If you are able to help decorate please notify the church office.

#### **Christian Education**

Advent Zoom Bible Study: The women in Jesus lineage according to the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 1. Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm. November 18, 25th, December 2, December 9, and December 16. Pastor Reep spoke in his sermon on October 11th, about the book of Matthew beginning with the long list of names that starts with Abraham and ends with Jesus. In that list there are five women named. Join us as we learn about these women and what their lives could mean for us today. To register and receive Zoom information, call Patty Snyder 717-578-2253.



#### **2021 Church Offering Envelopes**

Church offering envelopes for the 2021 calendar year are prepared and are available in the Good Shepherd Room. Please make every effort to collect your packet. The envelopes are in a tablet form so that each week's envelope can simply be torn out and brought with you to worship or simply add a stamp and mail to the office if you aren't able to attend. This will save using an envelope and addressing an



envelope. Also remember that you may contribute to the ministry of the congregation through electronic giving. See the church website stpaulsyork.org and click on the "Donate" button. Thanks for taking responsibility and securing your envelope packet for the 2021 and for your faithful support of St. Paul's mission and ministry.

#### 2021 Calendar Sale

Make sure you get your copies of the 2021 calendar! They feature the water-color paintings of Pastor Reep. The images highlight the beautiful cottages from the grounds of the Chautauqua Institute, Chautauqua NY (painted during summer 2019) and fruits and flowers still life arrangements (painted during 2020). We ask for a minimum donation of \$20. All proceeds go to the Capital Campaign. The original paintings will be auctioned at our October 16<sup>th</sup> 2021 event. Thank you for supporting this fundraising effort.



#### **December Learning Opportunities**

#### Children:

The new Spark Family Magazine should have arrived at the home of every family with children (between age 3 and grade 4) in late November. This issue has great ideas and stories about waiting as well as the stories about Jesus' birth. If you did not receive one and are interested, please let the church office know. There are several extra copies of this quarter's issue at the church. Check the Church website for additional Advent and Christmas Ideas.

#### **Adults:**

Advent Zoom Bible Study: The women in Jesus lineage according to the Gospel of Matthew, Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm. December 2, December 9, and December 16. Pastor Reep spoke in his sermon on October 11th, about the book of Matthew beginning with the long list of names that starts with Abraham and ends with Jesus. In that list there are five women named. Join Pastor Judy McKee as we learn about these women and what their lives could mean for us today. To register and receive Zoom information, call the church office, 717-8438155 or Patty Snyder 717-578-2253.

Watch for future classes coming in Lent and another possibly in January.



## **Making an Advent Wreath**

We use candles for important events like birthday cakes and Christmas Eve services. Candles during the darkest days of winter have been used to brighten homes for centuries.

Having an advent wreath to use in your home is a great visual for all ages and can become the prayer center for your family. Some families keep their advent wreath on the dinner table. Others find another place to gather around with their family.

Blue, purple or white are the usual colors for candles. Some use one pink candle for the third Sunday which represents "Joy". We are joyful that the celebration of Christmas is almost upon us. You do not need new candles. And you could choose any color. (some like red!) It doesn't even have to be in a circle. Four candles, one for each Sunday of Advent, is all you need.

Some people use a advent candle holder. Some use a styrofoam circle and add evergreens from their back yard. Or others just line up four candle sticks in a row. Here are a few pictures. Be creative and enjoy this special time.









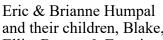


## **Welcome New Members!**

We welcomed new members to our church family on November 8th.



and their children, Blake, Ellie, Brynn, & Emmie







Fred Rosenmiller with wife, Ellie





Angela Lauer, Dylan and Cecelia



Mike & Kristin McKee

Please remember to notify Pastor Reep of any life events, illnesses, joys or concerns. Call the office 717-843-8155 or email st.paulsyork@comcast.net



# **DECEMBER 2020**

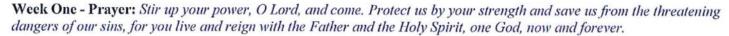
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
0000	o AN	school	2 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM No Parking on Springetsbury 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM Preschool		4 Office Closed	5
∠ 8 € 7:	7 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM Preschool 7:00 PM Scout Troop 19	8 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM Preschool 9:30 AM Pantry Volunteers	9 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM Preschool	10 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM Preschool 6:30 PM Music Ensembles	17	12
41 9:0 7:0 7:0	14 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM Preschool 7:00 PM Council Meeting	Newsletter Deadline 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM Preschool 9:30 AM Pantry Volunteers 6:00 PM Christmas	16 Poinsettia Delivery AM 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM Preschool 6:00 PM Church Decorating	17 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM Preschool 6:30 PM Music Ensembles	92	9
2925850	corate Church for ristmas st Day of Winter 0 AM - 11:30 AM NO sschool 0 PM Finance mmittee	9:00 AM - 11:30 AM NO Preschool 9:30 AM Pantry Volunteers 12:30 PM Christian Ed Meeting	23 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM NO Preschool	Reservators required for 7 PM and 11 PM 4:00 PM Outside Christmas Eve Carol Sing with Brass Quintet on South Lawn 7:00 PM Inside Chritmas Eve Vespers - Church Nave Compline C	Christmas Day Washing Christmas Day Reservations required 10:30 AM Holy Communion	56
28 9:0 8:0	0 AM - 11:30 AM school	29 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM Preschool 9:30 AM Pantry Volunteers	30 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM Preschool 10:30 AM Bible Study - Christ Hall	R'S EVE	1 Office Closed	8

SERVERS FOR THE MONTHS OF December. If you are unable to serve when scheduled, please secure coverage and communicate the change to the office staff. Thank you.

	TIME	RING	READ	VAGG	FINALIC	יוייידי אייידי אייידי אייי
	Service Services	Tower Bell	Lector	Pravers of	Cantor	USHERS (FOr the month)
				Intercession		
12/6 Advent 2	8:00 AM	Mike Hanson	Richard Griffin	Bob Reed		Bob Reed, Kathy Monk, Sheridan Palmer
	10:30 AM	Larry Moore	Stephen Kwong	Tonya Cave	Dave Rambo	Sandy Dickensheets, Jeff Fulton, Steve Heistand
	$\overline{}$				Carolyn Kapoun	
12/13 Advent 3		Denise Rider	John Monk	Tristan Ericson		
	10:30 AM	Tim Yakim	Leah McComas	Tom Gibson	Sarah Throckmorton	
	$\overline{}$				Carolyn Kapoun	
12/20 Advent 4	_	Jeff Riese	Kathy Monk	Kelly Moore-Spenser		
	10:30 AM	Larry Becker	Deb Becker	Aaron Jacobs	Stephen Kwong	
	5:00 PM				Carolyn Kapoun	
12/24	4:00 PM	TBA	Rhada Hartmann	Peter Hartmann		Needed
Christmas Eve	7:00 PM	Tim Yakim	Dave Rambo		Carolyn Kapoun	Needed
	11:00 PM	Tom Gibson	Lois Ann Schroeder		Amelia Reep	Labert N
12/25	8:00 AM					
Christmas Day	10:30 AM	Larry Moore	Janet Moore	Larry Moore	Emily Reep	Cabady
1000	5:00 PM					
12/27	8:00 AM	Tony Culp	Bob Reed	Tony Culp		Bob Reed Kathy Monk Sheridan Palmer
	10:30 AM	Mike Bingham	Becky Bingham	Aaron Jacobs		Sandy Dickensheets, Jeff Fulton, Steve Heistand
	- 1					Tim Yakim
	5:00 PM					
01/03/2020	8:00 AM	Mike Hanson	Lois Ann Schroeder	Kelly Moore-Spenser		Joe Triggs, John Uffelman, Lois Ann Schroeder
Epiphany	10:30 AM	Larry Becker	Deb Becker	Tonya Cave	Emily Reep	Ron & Nancy Sturges, Carol Woodbury, James & Sharon Tuccio Kem Vanght
	5:00 PM					
01/10/2020	8:00 AM	Denise Rider	ffin	Tristan Ericson		
Baptism of our	10:30 AM	Tom Gibson	Emily Reep	Ed LeCates	Amelia Reep	
Lord	5:00 PM			THE RESERVE THE PERSON NAMED IN		
1/17	8:00 AM	Jeff Riese	Leah McComas	Tony Culp		
	10:30 AM	Larry Moore	Janet Moore	Larry Moore	Sarah Throckmorton	
	5:00 PM					
1/24	8:00 AM	Tim Yakim	Melissa Yakim	Tristan Ericson		
	10:30 AM	Larry Becker	Carolyn Kapoun	Deb Becker	Carolyn Kapoun	
	5:00 PM					
1/31	8:00 AM	Tony Culp		Tony Culp		
	10:30 AM	Tom Gibson	Dave Rambo	Ed LeCates	Dave Rambo	
	5:00 PM					

#### Advent Devotions for the Family Table

- 1. While lighting the candles, (one for each week) whoever is leading devotion says, The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light, and the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.
- <u>2.</u> The family responds, In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
- Then use one of the following prayers. (One for each week in Advent)



Week Two- Prayer: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Week Three- Prayer: Almighty God, you once called John the Baptist to give witness to the coming of your Son and to prepare his way. Grant us, your people, the wisdom to see your purpose today and the openness to hear your will, that we may witness to Christ's coming and so prepare his way; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Week Four – Prayer:** Stir up your power, O lord, and come. Take away the hindrance of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

4. Close with the Table Grace: All Pray Together Lord, God, heavenly Father, bless us and these Your gifts which we receive from Your bountiful goodness, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

#### **Christmas Devotions for the Family Table**

Christmas Eve- Prayer: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Christmas Day – Prayer: All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Epiphany- January 6- Prayer: , Lord God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.









St. Paul's Garden of Memory – 2020 - This is a reminder to our members that ground plots and wall niches are available for those considering cremation as an end of life decision. Contact a member of the Columbarium committee (Thomas Ruth, Ron Sturges, P. Reep, Larry Gross) to ask questions and/or receive the necessary paperwork to make application for a niche or plot. As always, for those who want to discuss the spiritual aspects of cremation Pastor Reep can be available for that conversation by calling him at our church office 717-843-8155. Each year we place a Christmas wreath on the Garden of Memory Wall in recognition of those who are interred there or have a recognition plate placed on the wall and interred elsewhere.

Those remembered this year are:

Howard Barnhart Jr., Ivy Jo Jacobs, Helmot M. Schaffler, David Thomas III, James R. Zarfoss Jr., Eric R. Zehner, Robert C. Zehner, David Stephen Daley, Henry F. Daley, Nancy Lenker Daley, Ruth Uffelman

Wonik, Carl F. Riese, Lillian Riese, Paul A. Kerlinger, Nicholas Albright, Donald A. Culp, Barbara Heilig Smith, Monte Nevin Smith, Sylvia Charlotte Little, Martha Wysocki.

#### From the COVID Task Force

By Order issued November 17, 2020, the Wolf administration is requiring that travelers entering Pennsylvania from other countries and states, as well as Pennsylvanians who are returning home from other countries or states, have a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours prior to entering the Commonwealth or quarantine for 14 days upon entry into Pennsylvania. Anyone who visits Pennsylvania from another state, including Pennsylvanians returning to the Commonwealth, must get tested within 72 hours prior to entering the Commonwealth. If an individual is unable to get a test, is waiting for test results, or chooses not to get a test, they must quarantine for 14 days upon arrival in our state. Visitors should stay in their quarantine location for the full 14 days prior to interacting with anyone outside their travel group or household.

Source - https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Travelers.aspx

On behalf of the COVID Taskforce Respectfully, Timothy Yakim

In our prayers we remember...

Reid Weinbrom, Darrell Kopp, Becky Diggs, Bill Troutman, Phyllis & Alan Comery, Lynn Wicker, Shawn Sunday, Mike Johnston, Marianne Moran, Rick Hock, Betty Mehring, Drew Herdson, David List, Jessica Ericson, Kristine Gross, Porter Stacey, and the friends and family of Raymond Brunner, Emily Swartz Colen and Kimberly Douglas (especially Deacon Ellen and Andrew Doughty, Kimberly's Aunt & Uncle).

#### A Thank-you from Betty Mehring.







Reminder: Offerings must be received by the office by December 29<sup>th</sup> to be recorded for 2020 statements.



# Such great artwork done by our 3 year-old & 4 year-old classes!

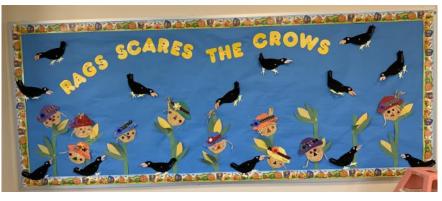












Preschool is going well; we have a few morning classes open. The children have been learning about the fall season and Thanksgiving. We are grateful for the children who are excited to learn as well as for the kind and creative staff at our preschool.

# **Council Highlights**

The Congregational Council met for its monthly meeting on Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. Conversations focused on preparations for the Annual Meeting, initiatives for 2021, and ways that we can foster member connection in a societal climate of increased isolation. Despite many challenges, St. Paul's is still well-positioned to maintain a healthy track.

We also met for a special session on Monday October 26<sup>th</sup> to review the most recent proposal from Sage Technology to meet our sound and video needs. Since concluding the nave construction phase, many members have voiced the need for better audio in services. We also recognize the need to provide quality videos for online worshipers, anticipating that this will remain a part of our ministry in the foreseeable future. Council approved purchase of a speaker proposed by Sage (the item with the longest lead time) and recommended approval of the remaining system pieces at the Annual Meeting.

Our Annual Meeting was held according to schedule on Sunday November 15<sup>th</sup> in "hybrid" format with about half of members attending in the nave and the rest connecting by zoom. The congregation was briefed on: our management of COVID-19 with outdoor and multiple indoor services; our financial outlook including capital campaign, giving through the pandemic, and 2021 budget; the transition from construction loan to mortgage; action items from summer Cottage Meetings; and current leadership objectives. Action items from Cottage Meeting data include:

- 1. Worship opportunities
- 2.Sound/video system
- 3.Better indoor/outdoor signage
- 4. Building community

Current leadership objectives are:

- 1. Sustaining worship safely through in-person and online services
- 2. Securing the financial future of the parish
- 3.Improving ministry through Cottage Meeting feedback
- 4. Supporting our faith community, ministry leaders, and staff

We held our annual elections, filling vacancies in Mutual Ministry and Benevolence, and assigning representatives to the 2021 Synod Assembly. A few open Council seats remain (wink, hint, nudge, contact me!). The meeting also included updates to By-Laws and a passed motion to approve the remainder of the sound/video system quote with Sage Technology.

Finally, we received ministry reports from Food Pantry, Preschool, and Mpuguso, highlighting God's work and our ability to continue ministry locally and globally despite challenges of pandemic and distancing.

God's Peace, Tristan Ericson, Council President

#### **2021 Flower Chart**

The 2021 flower chart is posted on the Springettsbury vestibule bulletin board. 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 10:30 AM liturgy or you may have them given to someone who is sick, shut it, or hospitalized. If you wish, you can contact the office to reserve a date, and to provide us with all of the correct information for inclusion in the Sunday bulletin. In advance, thank you.





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

Return Service Requested

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

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





Please send us your e-mail so we may go paperless. If you no longer wish to receive our newsletter please notify the office. Thank you.

Thank you to all who helped to get this newsletter out this month!

**STAFF** 717-843-8155 **Pastor** Youth Director Kelly Moore-Spencer Organist, Choir Director Victor Fields Bookkeeper Dale Zeiger Secretary

Sexton

Patee Pizzirusso Ted Weikert Preschool Director Deb Becker

Web Page: www.stpaulsyork.org Reverend Stanley Reep prreep.stpaulsyork@comcast.net kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net vfields.stpaulsyork@comcast.net dzeiger.stpaulsyork@comcast.net st.paulsyork@comcast.net st.paulsyork@comcast.net director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com



Worship Schedule Sunday Holy Eucharist 8:00 & 10:30 AM 5:00 PM Vespers