

Our Church

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 West Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

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

www.stpaulsyork.org

February 2021

Sunday Holy Eucharist 8 AM & 10:30 AM

Sunday Vespers 5 PM

Holy Days as announced

Ash Wednesday Services Bible Study Resumes

February 17th officially marks the beginning of the season of Lent. This holy time allows us to focus on prayer and acts of mercy. We will hold three liturgies; 8:00 AM and Noon, Holy Communion, spoken and 7:00 PM Holy Communion with cantor and limited music. This year we will not observe in the imposition of ashes. We will however be reminded of the words from Genesis “remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.” Also on Ash Wednesday at 10:30 AM we will resume in person Bible study in Christ Hall. We will continue to be physically distant, wear masks, and keep the time limited. The microphone will be used so as to amplify the presenter throughout the room. We will spend the majority of our time studying the Epistle lesson appointed for the up-coming Sunday. Those readings are: First Peter 3:18-22, Romans 4:13-25, First Corinthians 1:18-25, Ephesians 2:1-10, and Hebrews 5:5-10. We will have time to look more closely at these five letters and see how they are applicable for our life together. Please make time to mark this holy season.



5:00 PM Holy Communion The Ten Commandments

The 5:00 PM liturgy was offered on the first Sunday of November as a way to spread out worshipers so that fewer people would be in the church nave at any one time. We have enjoyed a variety of liturgies; Vespers sung and spoken, Holy Communion spoken, Holy Baptism, and Affirmation of Baptism. During the Five Sundays in Lent the 5:00 PM liturgy will be Holy Communion, spoken. The simplicity of the liturgy, the stillness of the church nave during periods of silence, the sermon centering on the Ten Commandments and the communal celebration of the Lord's Supper provide yet another pathway for us during the season of Lent. Attendance at this service time has remained low, ranging from 3 to 24. These liturgies will serve as the next unit for our confirmation students as they study the 10 Commandments. The services will be posted to social media so that all of our students can access the sermons and instructional aspects of the liturgy.



Confirmation Ministry

Confirmation students will be focusing on the Ten Commandments during the season of Lent. The students can participate in person on Sunday evenings at the 5:00 PM spoken Holy Communion liturgy or they may view it online when it is posted for Wednesday mid-week worship. The liturgy will highlight two commandments each week for the five weeks in Lent. It is our hope that some of our students and their families will attend each week in person. Students will be asked to serve as lector where they will read one lesson. Packets of materials are available starting January 31. Each packet will include the Small Catechism explanations to the commandments by Martin Luther, an overview of each commandment, and worship note forms for the five weeks. Through our mid-week social media the entire congregation can review the 10 Commandments and something of how we as Lutherans make sense of them. The service bulletins will be emailed to the congregation each Wednesday so that you may follow along and participate from home.



An MIT app

Our Covid-19 Task Force included with their January meeting minutes a link to an information site designed to explore building occupancy and safety during this pandemic created by folks at MIT. Using the science of engineers and epidemiologists they created an app so that anyone can input specific information for their building and it will calculate the risk of meeting in such a space. It provides data as to how long you can remain in a space and remain at minimum risk. They provide general guidelines, but with their *COVID-19 Indoor Safety Guideline* you are able to tailor it to your specific circumstances. At St. Paul's the first space that I entered was our church nave and chancel. I identified that in the space we talk loudly, all wear masks, we practice physical distancing, the room's specifications of total floor area of 5255 square feet, the ceiling is 30 feet high, the mechanical ventilation rate, the filtration system, a fast recirculation rate, and average humidity. The guideline does all of the calculation and provides the pertinent data for our worship space. "To limit COVID-19 transmission after an infected person enters this space, there should be not more than:

50 people for 9 days	100 people for 4 days
200 people for 2 days	300 people for 36 hours
400 people for 27 hours or	500 people for 21 hours.

COVID-19 INDOOR SAFETY TOOL

ROOM TYPE AND SIZE

TYPE OF VENTILATION OR FILTRATION

AMOUNT OF RESPIRATORY ACTIVITY

WEARING MASKS?

In contrast, the six-foot distancing guideline would limit occupancy to 145 people which becomes unsafe after 3 days." Changing the field asking for *type and quality of masks* to the lowest of quality, the 45 minutes to an hour that we are together in the church nave continues to read at a very low risk of transmission. Initially we had estimated that we could comfortably physically distance about 130 people in the nave and balcony and another 10 or so in the chancel. This tool is helpful in following the science behind our mitigation efforts as we seek to reduce risk of community spread during this pandemic. Utilizing the MIT tool for other rooms in our renovated spaces, it seems that the redesign and the HVAC system that was installed to meet all current air quality codes permits us to use our spaces as they were designed. Pre-school class rooms facilitate our normal enrolment numbers allowing for physical distancing. This tool is helping us as we plan for the next school year and how many children we can safely enroll. This also helps to reduce anxiety for those who have shared concern regarding risk of gathering in person for worship. If you would like to use the link to discern if other places you frequent are low risk go to:

<https://indoor-covid-safety.herokuapp.com/>

This information provided by our COVID Task Force was exceedingly helpful for me as I continue to discern a path forward for us as a congregation. An important note, prior to our renovation and updated ventilation system the concluding line would read *the six foot distancing guideline would limit occupancy to 145 people which becomes unsafe after 8 hours with surgical face masks and 68 minutes with cotton face masks*. The updating of the entire facility is permitting us to make a way forward even in these difficult times. Thank you for your continuing support, participation, encouragement and prayer.

In love and service, Pastor Reep

Good News,

Dr. Anthony Fauci predicts that people will be able to go back to singing in church services by mid-fall when an overwhelming proportion of the US has been vaccinated.

While there are many safety precautions that remain in effect, this is hopeful news that we can once again return to bringing back and incorporating more hymns, choir anthems and songs, handbell ensembles and younger singers back to worship.

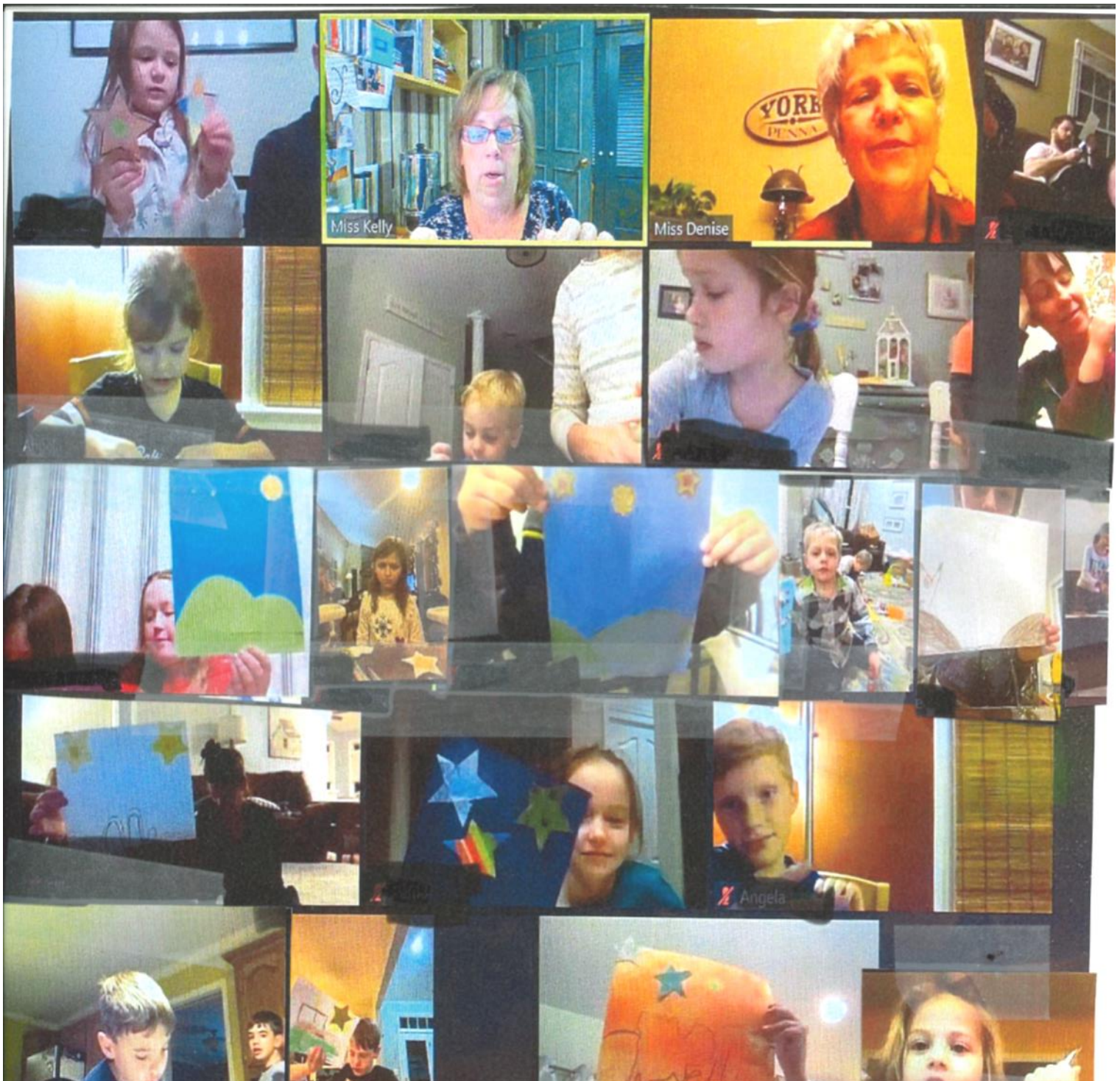
For now, we will continue to discern how to best implement our musical offerings in a safe, limited, and joyful way.



CREATE

CREATE is held on Tuesday evenings via Zoom. Ages 2 through grade 1 meets from 6:00pm till 6:30pm. Grades 2 through Grade 6 meets from 6:45pm through 7:15pm.

CREATE is being enjoyed this winter through Zoom. During February, the younger children are learning different Bible stories and creating figures that will help them tell the story. They have each been given a felt board to use to tell their stories. They are learning The Wise Men story, Jesus chooses his disciples, Jesus teaches on the hill, The lost sheep, and The good Samaritan. Grades 2 through grade 6 are creating a Gratitude Tree and learning different means of prayer. Each week they are asked to find items at home that will help guide them in their creations. There are 33 children that are participating in CREATE this winter. If you have not signed your child up and are interested in learning more about the program, please contact Miss Kelly.





2021 Calendar February Reflections “Yellow House on Lake Drive”

The “Yellow House on Lake Drive” faces directly east. The morning light bathes the front with such a reflection of sunlight that striped dark green canvas shades are lowered to block out the light. As I painted this it was mid-afternoon. The marina and shuffle-board courts are behind my right shoulder. Lake Chautauqua is at my left shoulder. Lake Drive is usually bustling with bicyclists, dog walkers, runners and a few fringe canopied golf carts. I imagine what fun it would be to relax on the front porch of the yellow house taking in the sights, the lake views and tranquility of sail boats gliding past.—Stan Reep, artist.

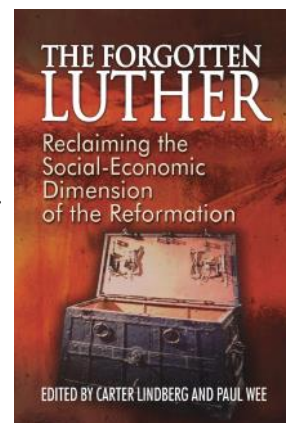
2021 Church Offering Envelopes

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.



Lenten Wednesday Evenings led by Pastor William Snyder The Forgotten Luther, edited by Carter Lindberg and Paul Wee February 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24 7:00-8:00 PM

We often forget how frequently Luther called for reform in the social and economic dimensions of life, which he saw as a natural outgrowth of theology and love of neighbor. The book, *The Forgotten Luther*, will be the jumping off point for our discussion. Reading the book is optional. We will consider such topics as: the common chest; the danger of greed; subversion when called forth; creating new vision in the world. We will take the opportunity to examine together many social issues that challenge us in these times. Contact Patty Snyder 717-578-2253 or the church office 717-843-8155 to register and receive the Zoom link.



Adult Faith Formation

What Can We Learn from Dietrich Bonhoeffer About Living With the Word? Join Bishop Carol Hendrix, retired, in conversations on Dietrich Bonhoeffer. We will be looking briefly at Bonhoeffer’s writings about daily meditating on the Word, the Psalms as our prayerbook, and the Sermon on the Mount as direction from the Word made Flesh for a life of discipleship. Classes will be on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:00 PM on January 27, February 3 and 10. No prereading required. Contact Patty Snyder 717-578-2253 or the church office 717-843-8155 to register and receive the Zoom link.



Council Highlights

The Congregational Council met for its monthly meeting on Monday, January 11th. We welcomed Ann Anstadt and Mike Hanson to our group, and we know they will be a valuable asset to our work moving into 2021. In our December meeting, we said “goodbye and thank you” to Ellen Doughty, Harold Sargeant, Tony Culp, and Denise Rider. These former council members contributed an incredible amount of service to our parish, and we are grateful for their time and contribution!



Council discussions have focused on how we may continue to support our ministries, especially through the challenges presented by the coronavirus pandemic. Key areas of focus at our recent meeting were Food Pantry (additional support), Preschool (safety procedures and extended holiday break), and Worship (sound system). We also discussed how to support our members despite distancing, improve our HR processes, and follow up on the capital campaign. Despite so many challenges in the changing regional and national landscape, we remain optimistic about many opportunities for growth. Several goals moving into 2021 include:

- Improve member connection and sustainability through pandemic
- Improve connection with ministry leaders
- Support key ministries susceptible to pandemic strain
- Reinforce forward-thinking and vision planning
- Rework Treasurer role and provide more support
- Explore and support innovative worship moving forward
- Support/attract new members
- Continue to improve financial stability

We continue to need volunteers in a few key areas, including council members, treasurer/financial secretary support, food pantry, and mutual ministry. Please contact the church office or me if you have any interest in – or questions about – these areas. Several roles may be filled electronically/remotely.

Finally, we recognize the continued need to be agile with our parish and ministries at this time. We also continue to monitor the pandemic situation and use guidance provided by the CDC, other medical experts, faith-based recommendations, scholarly research, and simulation tools. We pray that you are all safe and well.

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.



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



Meet some of our teachers:

Left: Nancy Rost and Deb Becker

Right: Joann Passariello and Lori Stambaugh



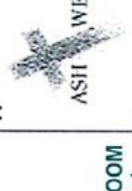


Food Pantry Coordinator and volunteers

We have been blest with faithful volunteers for our Food Pantry ministry. Since we expanded the pantry foot print during our renovation we positioned ourselves to serve a greater number of families. This has proven to be especially helpful during the last eleven months when more neighborhood families have experienced food insecurity. Teresa Rohrbaugh continues to serve as volunteer coordinator. We extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to her for her outstanding work organizing volunteers for the Tuesday distribution. Larry and Janet Moore order all of the food, arrange for its delivery, make certain that there is enough refrigeration and freezer space available for the products ordered and account for the financial expenses associated with the ministry. This is very important work and takes a high level of commitment. We extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to them for their outstanding work keeping our supply levels in check to meet the demands of the increased Tuesday distribution. At this time Larry and Janet need to step away from this ministry. We are in need of a new individual or couple who could take on this job. Larry and Janet are willing to provide training and are even willing to help out from time to time. Prayerfully consider if this is a ministry where your skills and gifts could be used to extend God's loving embrace in our community. For additional information please contact the church office, Pastor Reep, or Patsy Griffin Social Ministry Chairperson.



FEBRUARY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist 5:00 PM Evening Service	1	2 9:15 AM Pantry Volunteers 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM FOOD PANTRY 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM ZOOM - CREATE: Age 2 - 1st grade 6:45 PM - 7:15 PM ZOOM - CREATE: Grades 2 - 6	3 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM No Parking on Springettsbury 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM ZOOM Bible Study with Bishop Carol Hendrix	4	5	6
7 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist 5:00 PM Evening Service	8 7:00 PM Council Meeting	9 9:15 AM Pantry Volunteers 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM FOOD PANTRY 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM ZOOM - CREATE: Age 2 - 1st grade 6:45 PM - 7:15 PM ZOOM - CREATE: Grades 2 - 6	10 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM ZOOM Bible Study with Bishop Carol Hendrix	11 7:00 PM ZOOM - Pre-school Committee Mtg.	12	13
14  TRANSFIGURATION Transfiguration of Our Lord 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist 5:00 PM Evening Service	15  PRESIDENTS DAY Newsletter Deadline 7:00 PM ZOOM - Finance Committee	16 9:15 AM Pantry Volunteers 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM FOOD PANTRY 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM ZOOM - CREATE: Age 2 - 1st grade 6:45 PM - 7:15 PM ZOOM - CREATE: Grades 2 - 6	17  ASH WEDNESDAY Ash Wednesday 8:00 AM Spoken Service 10:30 AM Bible Study - In House 12:00 PM Spoken Service 7:00 PM Spoken Service	18	19	20
21 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist 5:00 PM Confirmation 5:00 PM Evening Service	22	23 9:15 AM Pantry Volunteers 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM FOOD PANTRY 12:30 PM ZOOM - Christian Ed Meeting 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM ZOOM - CREATE: Age 2 - 1st grade 6:45 PM - 7:15 PM ZOOM - CREATE: Grades 2 - 6	24 10:30 AM Bible Study - In House	25	26	27
28 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist 5:00 PM Confirmation 5:00 PM Evening Service	1	2 9:15 AM Pantry Volunteers 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM FOOD PANTRY 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM ZOOM - CREATE: Age 2 - 1st grade 6:45 PM - 7:15 PM ZOOM - CREATE: Grades 2 - 6	3 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM No Parking on Springettsbury 10:30 AM Bible Study - In House	4	5	6

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

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

STAFF

Pastor

Youth Director

Organist, Choir Director

Bookkeeper

Secretary

Sexton

Preschool Director

717-843-8155

Reverend Stanley Reep

Kelly Moore-Spencer

Victor Fields

Dale Zeiger

Patee Pizzirusso

Ted Weikert

Deb Becker

Web Page: www.stpaulsyork.org

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