



LUKE 6:20
Blessed are you

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155

www.stpaulsyork.org

Email: st.paulsyork@comcast.net

www.stpaulspreschoolyork.com

Facebook: St. Paul's Lutheran Church York PA on Springettsbury & George

YouTube: St. Paul's Lutheran Church - South George St. York

WELCOME Thank you for being with us.

We are a Christian church within the Lutheran tradition (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) and we welcome people of all Christian traditions as well as people of other faiths and people of little or no faith. Christian worship has been offered to God in this congregation for 186 years. By worshipping with us today, you become part of that living tradition.

Postlude It is our tradition to remain seated for the postlude. If you need to leave we ask that you do so reverently. This tradition developed as a result of our livestream. We want anyone viewing to be able to listen to the postlude without unnecessary distraction. Thank you.

Restrooms are available in the Good Shepherd Room (Springettsbury lobby) and the narthex (George St). Baby changing stations are provided in these restrooms as well as in the nursery.

Offerings Monetary offerings may be placed in the basins provided at the entrances to the nave prior to the service. You may also donate via our website at www.stpaulsyork.org

The Nursery is accessed through the front right double doors. The 10:30AM liturgy is live-streamed into the Nursery. Currently, we are working to secure volunteer staff for the Nursery. Carrie Oberholtzer is coordinating a schedule. Please contact the office to volunteer.

All Saints Sunday November 6, 2022 Holy Communion 8:00 & 10:30 AM

Musical setting 9 from Evangelical Lutheran Worship

PRELUDE	8:00 AM	Organ	<i>Requiem aeternam</i>	Gerald Near
	10:30 AM	Handbells	<i>Requiem and Remembrance</i>	Jason W. Krug

ENTRANCE HYMN *The Church's One Foundation (ELW 654)*
Stanzas 1 & 5 Unison Stanzas 2, 3, & 4 Harmony

1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,

she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:
 by schisms . . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.

From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
 one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
 Oh, bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,

with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
 that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



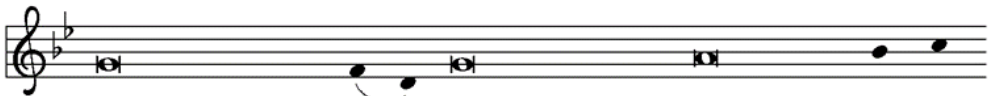
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



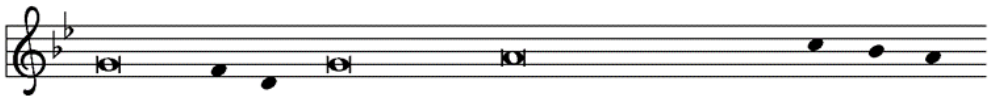
For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of



God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Sung by all



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav'n - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of



God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

Continued on next page...

you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.

Refrain

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the

Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the

Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.

A - men, a - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. . . Almighty God, whose people are knit together in one holy Church, the body of Christ our Lord: Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Sit CHILDREN'S SERMON

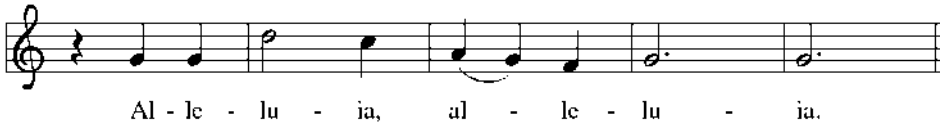
FIRST READING Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18 (*back cover*)

CHANCEL CHOIR 10:30 AM *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart* David Ashley White

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:11-23 *(back cover)*

Stand
VERSE



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 6:20-31 *(back cover)*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the conclusion of the Gospel.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit
SERMON

Pastor Stan Reep

Stand
NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;

**by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

Continued on next page...

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

A brief silence.

Holy Everliving God, give bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders the desire to carry the church forward and discern your will for the future. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

The earth is yours and all that dwells within it. Care for places ravaged by natural disasters (*especially*). Quell raging fires and halt destruction caused by flooding. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

You raise up leaders to guide your people. Kindle in them a passion to care for others, a desire to seek the common good, and the courage to love their enemies. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

You bless those who are poor, hungry, and reviled. Provide food, housing, and security to all who are vulnerable or in crisis. May those who have more than enough give generously. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Hold us in community with one another. Nurture a spirit of abundant hospitality and intentional inclusion among us, welcoming the gifts of adults and children. Inspire creative visions for our life together. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Bring healing to all who are sick in body, mind, or spirit (*especially Kathy Ruth, Wayne Umland, Jim Yanick, Maria Laczkoskie, Mary Buler, Marcie Walker, Bonnie Schmidt, Jim Young, Anna Mae & Orven Cook, Gary Bilbie, Erin Bastian, Harry Harman, Katie Guyer, Amy Hollis, Heidi Glaudel, Kristine Gross, Rachel Barnes, Courtney Snell*). Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

NECROLOGY

God of the ages, we give you thanks for saints, those of our day and of days before, who nurtured us in faith, who told us the stories of Jesus, and who cultivated among us the sense of our own vocation to follow God's path. Help us not only to remember them, but also to follow their example, to nurture their expectant hope, and to live our lives so that others might see your love reflected in all that we say and do.

Thank you, God, for the gift of your saints.

God of all time...

Harriette Adams 10-24-21	Charlotte Mueller 6-15-22
Brian Reinecke 11-10-21	Kathleen McDowell 7-1-22
Rebecca Shingleton 11-13-21	Patricia McDowell 7-7-22
Betty Hoffmaster 12-4-21	John Uffelman, Sr. 7-13-22
Frederick Lowe, Jr. 12-27-21	Lois Ely McDowell 9-17-22
Evelyn Ruth Spells 1-16-22	Kathryn Everhert 10-13-22
Elaine Mummert 3-10-22	

We also remember with thanksgiving saints alive today who continue to touch our lives and our faith journeys, and we look ahead with hope to the people whose faithful witness to God's love will inspire future generations.

Keep us grateful for the witness of the saints of all generations, and make us, like them, eager to follow in the way of Christ. Then at the last, bring us with them to share in the inheritance of the saints of life. Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

The people share signs of peace.

OFFERTORY

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be-low;
praise him a - bove, ye heaven-ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost.

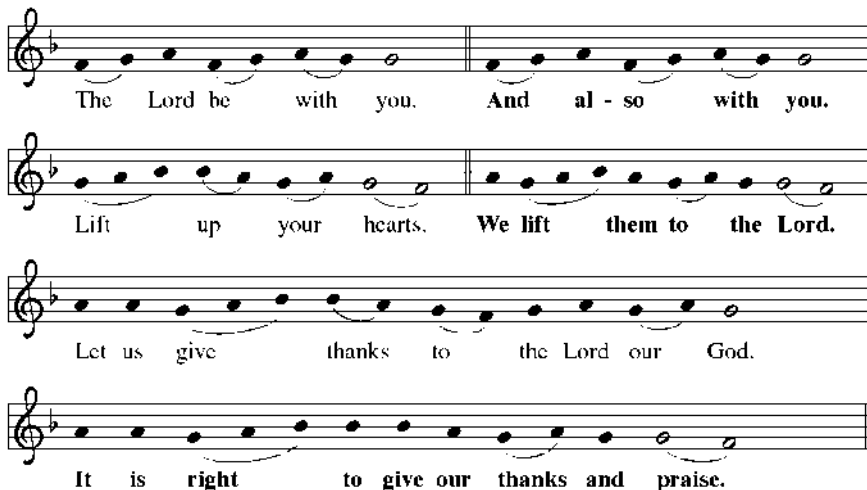
WORDS: *Doxology*, Thomas Ken (1637-1711)
MUSIC: Louis Bourgeois (ca. 1510-1561), *Genevan Psalter*, 1551

OLD 100th
L.M.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Merciful Father,
we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our
time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of
him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

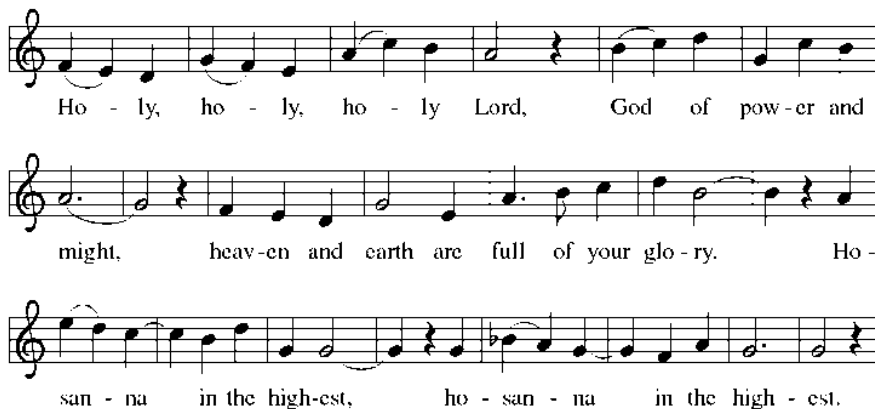
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. In the blessedness of your saints you have given us a glorious pledge of the hope of our calling; that, moved by their witness and supported by their fellowship, we may run with perseverance the race that is set before us and with them receive the unfading crown of glory. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

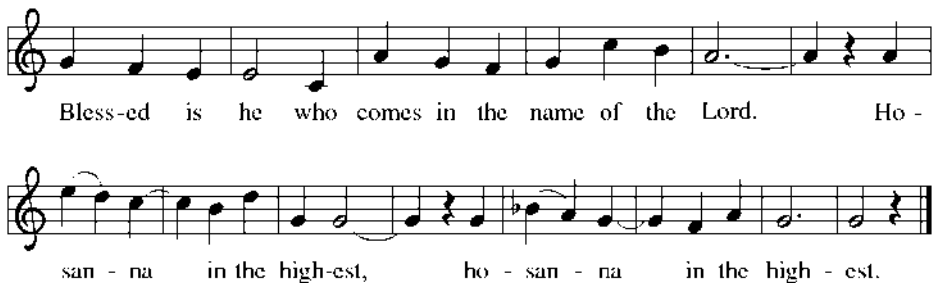
SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and

might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.
In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,
that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life.
We give thanks to you
for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.
Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith
as he comes to us in his holy supper.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen**

FRACTION *A brief silence is kept.*

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Sit The pastor cleanses hands and prepares for the distribution of Holy Communion.

COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

Our Communion is “open” to all believers who trust that the Risen Christ is present for his people in the Holy Eucharist.

1. Come to communion using the center aisle (about 10 adults per side).
2. Communion glasses are placed on credence tables at the front pews (left and right side).
3. Take a communion glass from the tray of glasses.
4. Take your place along the chancel step. The ministers will bring the bread and wine to you.
5. Extend your hands to receive the communion host.
6. Consume the communion host.
7. Hold the communion glass with both hands at chest height so that the communion assistant can easily pour the wine into the glass.
8. Consume the wine before you leave the chancel edge.
9. Place the used cup in an empty tray located on a credence table at the side aisle.
10. Return to your pew using the side aisle.

Stand

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

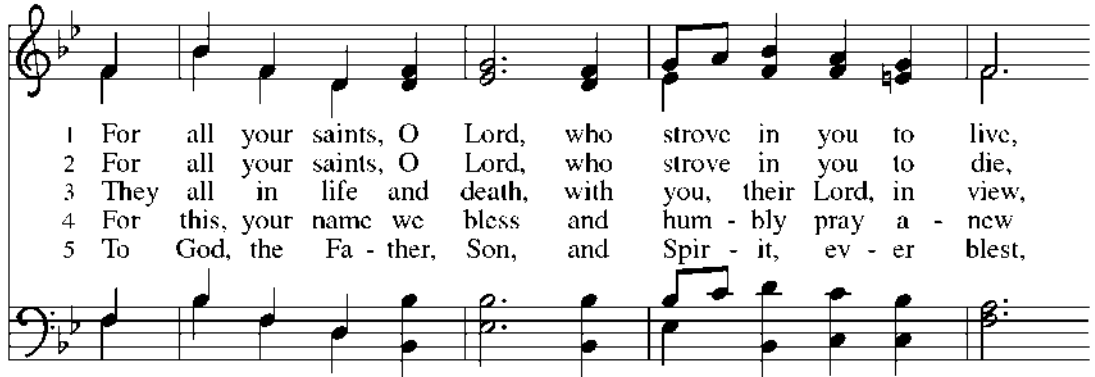
POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Almighty Father, in the Eucharist you give us a foretaste of the Lamb's Feast of Victory. Keep us faithful to you so that we, with all your saints in heaven, may at length celebrate the Feast which has no end in Christ our Lord. **Amen**

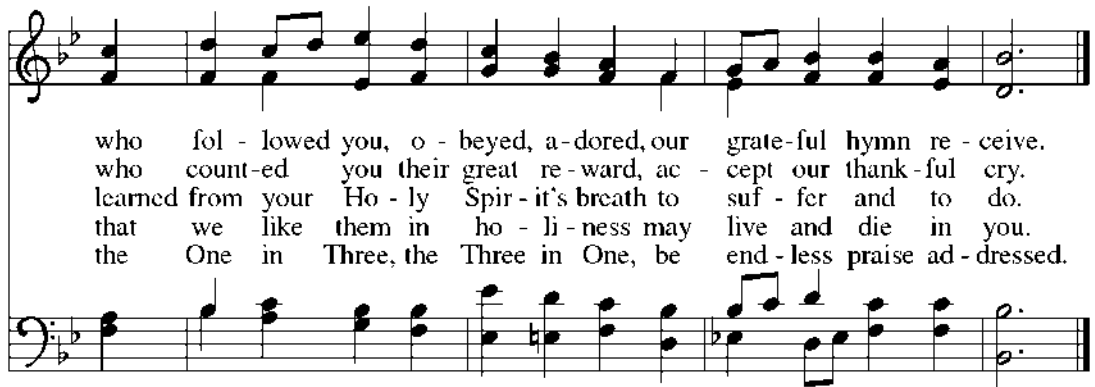
BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, Son, Holy Spirit, Bless you now and forever. **Amen**

HYMN *For All Your Saints, O Lord (ELW 422)*



1 For all your saints, O Lord, who strove in you to live,
2 For all your saints, O Lord, who strove in you to die,
3 They all in life and death, with you, their Lord, in view,
4 For this, your name we bless and hum - bly pray a - new
5 To God, the Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it, ev - er blest,



who fol - lowed you, o - beyed, a - dored, our grate - ful hymn re - ceive,
who count - ed you their great re - ward, ac - cept our thank - ful cry.
learned from your Ho - ly Spir - it's breath to suf - fer and to do.
that we like them in ho - li - ness may live and die in you.
the One in Three, the Three in One, be end - less praise ad - dressed.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

Robert J. Powell



Flowers This Week

*The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God
In memory of our parents; Pastor & Mrs. J. Paul Kennedy
by Judy & Tom McKee*

Serving the Lord with Gladness

DATE	TIME	Assisting Minister	Crucifer	Lector	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Ushers	Altar Set-up & Altar Clean-up	Acollyte
11/6	8:00 AM	Kirsten Barnes	Ann Ulrich	Bob Reed			Alex Bastian, Michael Poster	Norma & Ron Riese	
11/6	10:30 AM	George Fitch	Larry Moore	Leah McComas	Alexis Heistand	Alexis & June Heistand	Kem Vaught, Larry Becker, *Steve Heistand, Dan Garber,	Larry & Janet Moore, Dan Mays	Blake Humple, Jaclyn Kinkella

News and Updates November 6, 2022

God’s Global Barnyard will return after a three year pause under the leadership of our 3rd - 6th grades Sunday school class. We can all look forward to the class’s Temple Talk next Sunday and the kick-off on Nov. 20th at the 9:15 am Liturgy

Hospitality greeters are needed. Please contact the church office if you are willing to serve at upcoming events.

Our new webpage is mobile and live. Please sign on to: www.stpaulsyork.org and check it out

SERRV International Sale—The Social Ministry’s annual SERRV gift sale of many global handmade items will be held on November 13th & 14th. SERRV is a non-profit organization that fights global poverty by supporting 8,000+ low-income artisans. All profits made by St. Paul’s will be donated to Lutheran World Relief. Please note that cash and checks will be accepted, but no credit cards.

Annual Meeting – Christ the King Sunday November 20, Combined Liturgy **9:15 AM** Meeting and Dinner to follow

Raise the Roof Luncheon TODAY, at Noon—Join us for lunch in Christ Hall with an African themed menu. We will be receiving donations to support Phase #4 (the roof) for our sister congregation, Mpuguso Lutheran Church in Tanzania. Donations will be received during the month of November.

Guidelines for Worship during the time of COVID-19

*Wearing a mask while in worship is optional, recommended or required based on the CDC guidelines. Green/Optional, Yellow/Recommended, Red/Required. **The instruction will be posted on the entry doors. Please be sure to bring a mask in the event of required/recommended masking. Disposable masks are available at the entrance to the church nave.***

Our COVID-19 task force is assisting us as we remain open. Please thank Dr. Jessica Ericson, Sheridan Palmer, Deacon Harold Sargeant, Norma Shue, and Dr. Martha Thomas for their dedication and service.



Food Pantry—Fall

Items needed: Beans, corn, juice, jelly, macaroni, Rice (1 or 2 lb bags), dehydrated potatoes, powdered milk, canned tuna, tomato sauce and soup. We also need paper grocery bags with handles and plastic bags.

Anyone able to help can contact Teresa Rohrbaugh, Patty Snyder, or Janet and Larry Moore.. Money donations are gratefully accepted. Please place cash or check in a “special” envelope marked “Pantry”.

This Week at St. Paul's

Church office open 7:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Mon—Thurs

Sunday, November 6—Daylight Savings Ends

All Saints Sunday

- 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
- 9:15 AM Sunday School for all ages
- 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist—Handbell Choir
- 12 noon Raise the Roof Luncheon—Christ Hall
- 6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm

Tuesday, November 8

- 9:30 AM Pantry
- 6:00 PM CREATE—Art, Crafts and Music for Children age 3 through grade 6

Wednesday, November 9

- 10—10:30 AM Pastor & Preschool - Nave
- 10:30 AM Scripture Study—Christ Hall

Thursday, November 10

- 10—10:30 AM Pastor & Preschool - Nave
- 6:30 PM Handbells—Christ Hall
- 7:30 PM Chancel Choir—Music Rm

Sunday, November 13

Serv Fair Trade Bazaar

- 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
- 9:15 AM Sunday School for all ages
- 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist
Cherub and Cantabile Choirs
- 6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm

STAFF		
Pastor	Rev. Stanley Reep	prreep.stpaulsnyork@comcast.net
Youth Director	Kelly Moore-Spencer	kmoorespencer.stpaulsnyork@comcast.net
Organist, Choir Director	Victor Fields	vfields.stpaulsnyork@comcast.net
Bell Choirs Director	Leah McComas	lmccomas.stpaulsnyork@gmail.com
Children's Choir Director	Julianna Jones	Jjones.stpaulsnyork@gmail.com
Secretary	Patee Pizzirusso	st.paulsnyork@comcast.net
Sexton	Ted Weikert	st.paulsnyork@comcast.net
Preschool Director	Deb Becker	director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com

“Do to others as you would have them do to you.” We know it as the Golden Rule. It doesn't seem to circulate in the greater community much these days. And with Election Day on Tuesday, it seems to be far removed from candidates seeking election. The Golden Rule has fallen by the wayside much like the Commandments within the fiber of society. A number of years ago a news reporter randomly stopped people and asked them if they could name one of the commandments. It was during the Lenten season. I was driving along in the van and I remember turning up the radio so that I wouldn't miss the things that folks identified as commandments. The responses were limited at best. One person knew that they were from the Bible. Another was sure that a *“penny saved is a penny earned”* was one of them. And one person recalled the Golden Rule even if it was paraphrased *“do nice things so that nice things will come to you.”* Perhaps I was generous in considering that to be the Golden Rule but I thought the person was at least trying to remember the *“do to others as you would have them do to you.”* The Golden Rule isn't about nice things coming your way. It's about living in a particular way. It's about viewing others without suspicion. It's about doing and acting and treating others differently from the way of the world. There is a difference between God's way and the way of the world. Saints of God act and live and interact differently with others. What shape us are Christ Jesus and his cross taken up precisely for others.

During his earthly ministry Jesus taught the disciples about loving their enemies. He underscored the fact that those who follow him do not reciprocate, do not retaliate, and do not draw their behavior patterns from those who would victimize them. In the last verses of the Gospel reading Jesus gives numerous examples of forms of mistreatment: hating, cursing, abusing, striking, stealing, and begging. What Jesus is teaching his followers assumes that those who are listening, his disciples, are victims, not victimizers. Jesus offered no instruction on what to do after striking, or stealing, or hating, or cursing, or abusing another person. Such behavior, it is assumed is foreign to those who live under the reign of God. We may find ourselves in the position of being victims but we are not to regard ourselves as such. We are not to be shaped and determined by the hostilities and abuses unleashed on us. Rather, we are to take the initiative, not responding in kind, or by playing dead, or whining. We are to act according to the kingdom principles of love, forgiveness and generosity. Those things taught and modeled for us by Christ Jesus.

Philip Gully, author and theologian, shares a story about his friend's two sons bickering and fighting. Parents of small children will understand this situation completely. The two sons were driving their father crazy with all of their arguing and fighting and tattling on each other. Finally, his youngest son, Michael, came complaining that his older brother, Daniel, had hit him. Fed up with it all (this often happens to parents with young children, becoming fed up has a particular threshold over which no one wants to be pushed) the Dad called Daniel the older brother into the room. He then told Michael that he had permission to hit Daniel. Michael remembering all the times his parents had said, *“we don't hit,”* hesitated. *“Go a head”* said the Dad to his youngest son Michael, *“Hit him back.”* So Michael hauled off and walloped Daniel. Daniel began to cry. Then to the Dad's surprise Michael began to cry too. Now there were two wailing children needing consoling! Later the Dad revealed, *“I suddenly realized I'd failed my boys. Michael had come seeking my help in healing the breach between his brother and him. He wanted*

them to be able to play together peacefully. He wanted reconciliation, and all I gave him was revenge.”

On this All Saints’ Sunday we recall the saints of the Church; men and women who lived their lives differently from the world. Those who for the sake of Christ lived differently, thought differently, and acted differently; St. Francis and St. Clare, St. Bernard of Clairvaux, St. Gregory, Martin Luther and Mother Teresa in a list that marches on through chronological time. In their spiritual journey they followed Christ and the way of the cross. They witnessed to the faith we share in Christ Jesus centering their lives on kingdom principles: love, forgiveness and generosity. These are the marks of those who live the Golden Rule.

In our life together there are those who witness to faith in Christ Jesus in ways both subtle and bold. It is one of the things that contribute to the rich fiber of congregational life. Together our witness is stronger, more vital. When membership changes through the addition of new individuals and families and through those who take their leave moving away or who die, it always takes a while for the congregation (the faith community) to regroup and settle in discovering gifts that are shared to make God’s kingdom known. Sometimes that is discovered in subtle ways (recorded on a Time and Ability form). Sometimes that is discovered in ways that are bold (someone simply does something that you had no idea that they were capable of doing and it takes you by surprise).

In the course of this past year, seven of our members died. They entered into the Church Triumphant and are numbered with God’s saints of all times and all places. They contributed to this faith community by living kingdom principles. The Golden Rule may not have been stated explicitly every time you encountered them, but over the course of their lives what was manifest was love, forgiveness and generosity. Each one reflected those kingdom principles in ways that were unique to them. Love, forgiveness and generosity; those things that they knew and experienced in Christ Jesus, were mirrored in their daily lives to others. I’m sure that, like saints of old, there were times when they were discouraged, frustrated, or disappointed. And I think that there were times when they for some reason or other couldn’t love or forgive or give to their fullest capacity. But the Golden Rule still managed to guide and anchor their lives. The biblical witness bears out the priority of love, forgiveness and generosity, for community life. They make relationships flourish and troubling times bearable. Today as we remember and give thanks to God for their lives and witness, we remember God’s love and forgiveness poured out on them and on us. We remember God’s generosity: taking on human form, suffering and dying so that we would have life abundantly now, and eternally with him.

Jesus concludes his lesson to the disciples with the Golden Rule. It is not a complex formula. It is part of what our Lord taught us. It is a simple rule to help keep God’s kingdom principles before us: Love, forgiveness and generosity. They keep life refreshing, renewing, and vital. The world needs what God gives to us through his Son Christ Jesus. The Golden Rule helps us live into such love, forgiveness and generosity each day. Amen.

FIRST READING: Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18

In the first year of King Belshazzar of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head as he lay in bed. Then he wrote down the dream: ²I, Daniel, saw in my vision by night the four winds of heaven stirring up the great sea, ³and four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another.

¹⁵As for me, Daniel, my spirit was troubled within me, and the visions of my head terrified me. ¹⁶I approached one of the attendants to ask him the truth concerning all this. So he said that he would disclose to me the interpretation of the matter: ¹⁷“As for these four great beasts, four kings shall arise out of the earth. ¹⁸But the holy ones of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever—forever and ever.”

Psalm 149**SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:11-23**

In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God’s own people, to the praise of his glory.

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness

of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

GOSPEL: Luke 6:20-31

Then [Jesus] looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹“Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²²“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

²⁴“But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

²⁵“Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

²⁷“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you.”