

Our Church

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

December 2022
8:00 & 10:30 AM Sunday Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM—Live Streamed YouTube
Holy Days as announced



Christmas Worship Schedule

Please note the alternate service times throughout the Christmas Season

Sunday December 18 – The Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM, The Holy Eucharist

10:30 AM, The Holy Eucharist

The Children's Nativity Play

The Ringing in of Christmas

Wednesday December 21 – The Fourth Wednesday of Advent

7:00 PM, Candle Light Vespers

Piano, Flute, Handbells

Saturday, Christmas Eve, December 24 - The Nativity of Our Lord

4:00 PM, The Holy Eucharist (liturgy sung)

Youth Handbells, Organ, Children's Choir

7:00 PM, The Holy Eucharist (liturgy sung)

Handbells, Organ, Chancel Choir

Sunday December 25 – Christmas Day

10:30 AM, The Holy Eucharist

German Chorales

Sunday January 1 – Holy Name of Jesus

10:30 AM, The Holy Eucharist

Sunday January 8 – The Baptism of Our Lord

8:00 & 10:30 AM, The Holy Eucharist

With Thanksgiving for Holy Baptism

Advent Vespers

Wednesdays at 7:00 PM

We will gather for the beautiful office of evening prayer each Wednesday during the Advent season. The themes for preaching will correspond to the four themes associated with the advents candles; hope, love, joy and peace. We have invited members of Grace Lutheran Church, St. Peter's Lutheran Church and Christ Lutheran Church of Manchester. Leadership for the liturgy and preaching will be shared by Rev. Judy McKee, Rev. Tom McKee, Rev. William Snyder, Rev. Beth Schlegel, and Rev. Stanley Reep. The fourth Wednesday, December 21, will feature a musical setting by Aaron David Miller for piano, flute, handbells and cantor. The church will be fully decorated in anticipation for our Christmas liturgies. For any members and friends who may be traveling out of town for the Christmas holiday and who want to experience worship in the church nave while the decorations are fresh and beautiful please mark your calendar now and plan to come. For others in the community this vesper service provides a wonderful opportunity to invite someone to come with you. As this is the Yule, the shortest day and the longest night in the northern hemisphere, the themes of God's light revealed in Christ Jesus are particularly appropriate. The liturgy will be live streamed but will not necessarily capture the elegance of the room adorned with fresh greens, poinsettias, and the glow of candle light. Do come.



Children's Nativity Play

10:30 AM Sunday, December 18

During the service the children of the parish will present a Nativity Play. This year the play is based on an Old English Traditional Carol "*On Christmas Day in the Morning*" The children dressed in costumes depicting characters from the carol will meet up with poor Joseph who is in search of a place of shelter for his young wife Mary to rest and so that she might deliver her baby. It all ends with the children singing "*A Winter Night*" and the news that Christ is born. Please support the children of the parish through your participation on December 18th. We are blessed with an incredibly talented group of children and a gifted director for our children's choirs.



The Ringing in of Christmas

10:30 AM Sunday, December 18

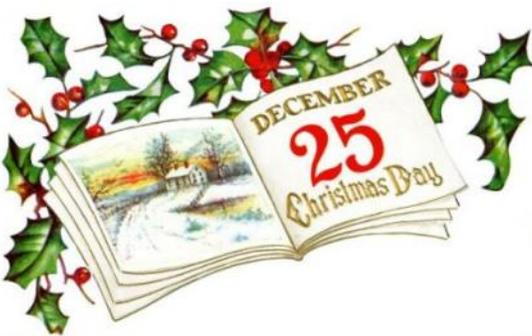
Bells have been rung throughout the centuries to mark both solemn and joyful occasions. At the conclusion of the liturgy on Sunday December 18th the members of the Handbell and Children's Choirs will join forces to ring in the joyful season of Christmas at St. Paul's. The bell peal will begin with the tolling of the largest handbell. As it tolls other bells, tone chimes and suspended chimes will add to a rich cacophony of sound. Then after the peal has had time to joyfully announce the end of Advent and the beginning of the Christmas season, the organ will be added as it introduces *Joy to the World!* We will add our voices joyfully singing together with our thoughts focused on the birth of our Savior.



The Nativity of Our Lord

Christmas Eve 4:00 and 7:00 PM

The Christmas Eve services will be held at 4:00 and 7:00 PM on Saturday December 24. With the radical shift currently being seen in attendance patterns the Worship and Arts Committee has planned earlier service times to facilitate those who are currently attending in person liturgies, mostly young families and older adults. The services will be nearly identical with the exception being the children's choirs will sing at 4:00 PM and the Chancel Choir and Handbell choir will sing and ring at 7:00 PM. The church will be beautifully decorated and we will enjoy the sound of our beautiful pipe organ leading us in our prayer, praise and thanksgiving to God for the great gift of his Son, Christ Jesus. Our Christmas Eve liturgies have become one of the favorite services of the entire year. Do come, invite friends and family members, and rejoice as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.



Christmas Day 10:30 AM

Our Christmas Day liturgy 10:30 AM December 25th will provide yet another opportunity for us to celebrate the joyous Nativity of Our Lord. Please note that there is only the 10:30 AM liturgy on this Sunday morning. This celebration of the Holy Eucharist will reveal in the beauty of morning light, the new day that is ours in Christ. On this Holy Day we will remember the greatest gift given, God's Son, Christ Jesus. And we will rejoice in the life, health and salvation given to us through him. We will sing several of the traditional German Carols. The Christmas Day liturgy is

becoming more popular among our church family. It helps in a very concrete way to keep Christ Jesus our Lord at the center of this Holy Day.

Christmas Decorating

Tuesday, December 20 at 6:00 PM

The Worship and Arts Committee invites anyone able and willing to help with the church decorating this year on Tuesday December 20th at 6:00 PM. We will work with fresh evergreens and fruit so that our decorations are at their peak for our Christmas services at the end of the week. If you are able to help decorate please notify the church office. Thank you



Advent Lending Library Look, borrow, use, return Good Shepherd Room

A new opportunity for the advent season is our lending library. Located in the Good Shepherd Room a table is laden with resources for this holy season. There are activities for children and families, devotional books with Psalms and prayers, novels, and books highlighting the history of the season. Simply sign out an item on the clipboard, use it during the season, and return it when you are finished with it. If you have some fabulous advent books that you too would be willing to lend, simply make sure your name is clearly marked and place them on the table with the others assembled from members of the Christian Education Committee. May your advent season be rich and meaningful filled with hope, love, joy and peace.



Schedule of Speakers for Advent Breakfasts of the Lutheran Men's Club of York County

Everyone is invited to participate in a series of Wednesday Advent Breakfasts to be held at the Lyndon Diner, York, beginning at 7:30 A. M. These breakfasts are an annual activity offered by the Lutheran Men's Club of York County.

Two of the four pastors to offer the "homily" before breakfast have recently graduated from the United Lutheran Seminary in Gettysburg.

The Schedule is as follows:

Nov. 30 – Rev Timothy Seitz-Brown, Former Pastor, Paradise Lutheran

Dec. 7 - Rev Andrew Berdahl, Associate Pastor, Advent Lutheran, York

Dec.14–Rev Matthew Folkemer-Leonard, Pastor, Trinity Lutheran, Jefferson

Dec. 21- Rev Tom McKee, Retired Pastor, member St. Paul's Lutheran, York

Our format is to sing an Advent hymn at 7:30, led by songleader Ken Sanders, and then President, Dick Sindlinger, introduces the featured speaker, who will speak 10 -12 minutes on an Advent theme.

Contact Secretary Gary Landis at 717-843-1616 for additional information.



MEN'S BREAKFAST



Reminder for End-of-Year Check Donations / U.S. tax deadline:

Check envelopes must be postmarked by USPS on or before December 31, 2022 to be eligible for a U.S. 2022 tax deduction. The date on the check does not designate the year of giving.



You may get information regarding closures at our website www.stpaulsyork.org or on our Facebook page St. Paul's Lutheran Church York PA on Springettsbury & George.

Calendar 2023

Proceeds to Benefit Canopy for Food Pantry

Pastor Reep has provided us with another 12 months of beautiful original artwork to greet us with each passing month in 2023. This year the proceeds of our fund raising event will be used for a canopy over the Food pantry Walkway. This improvement of our facility will provide protection for pantry clients from rain, snow and summer sun. The cost of the project is significant. The funds garnered from the sale of 2023 calendars as well as from the original artwork being auctioned in late 2023 will help us reach our necessary goal. So please do take calendars (packages of 10) to sell. Purchase calendars for friends, neighbors, and coworkers for the upcoming gift giving occasions. We have the potential to raise \$20,000 if the entire congregation were to whole heartedly engage in this enterprise. We are asking for a donation of \$20 per calendar. This price has remained constant for the past 5 years.





Sunday Morning Classes for All Ages 9:15 AM

No Classes will be held on Sunday, December 25 and January 1.

Infant-Preschool – These young learners will be retelling different parts of the Christmas story throughout December.

Kindergarten – Grade 2 – These early readers are will hear about God’s promise to send a savior and hear parts of the Christmas story.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Grades 3-6 This group is ready to dig deeper into the stories heard in the younger class.

Confirmation Youth meet with Pastor Reep on Sunday mornings as they bring to a close the unit on the Lord’s Prayer on November 13.

Adult Education in Advent:

November 27 History of Advent, When Someone You Love Comes

December 4 History of St. Nicholas, When Someone Who Loves You Comes

December 11 History of the Christmas Nativity, When Loving Leads You to Someone

December 18 Nativity Play presented by the children, youth, and young adults.

Advent begins this year on November 27th. Advent is a time of waiting and preparing for the coming of Christ. Pick up materials to make an Advent Chain that you can use with your family this Advent.



Advent Lending Library Check out this new opportunity found in the Good Shepherd Room. Sign out any adult or children’s books you would like to use for Advent and return them when you are done. Bring any books that you might have to share as well. Be sure to put your name in the books you bring if you want them back.



The Lutheran Camping Corporation
of Central Pennsylvania

Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, & The Wittel Farm

Mark your Calendars for January 8, 9:15-10:15. We will come together for breakfast and learn about the wonderful camps run by the Lutheran Camping Corporation of our Synod. Meet some church members who have been to camp and hear about their experiences.

CREATE

Preschool age 3 through Grade 6

During Music and Create November 29th, December 6th and December 13th the children in Preschool through grade 6 will be practicing and creating props and costumes for the Christmas Program to be held on December 18th during the worship service.



Youth Group Grade 4 through 12

Sunday, December 11

11:45am till 1:30pm

Present Wrapping and Lunch

Each year the residents at SpiriTrust Lutheran Home in York make a wish list of items they would like for Christmas. This year we are asking the children and youth in grades 4 through 6 to help donate some of the items that are requested. During Youth Group they will wrap and bag the gifts. They will also be making a special Christmas card to go along with the gifts. The gifts will then be delivered to SpiriTrust to be given out on Christmas morning.

Nursery Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers for the 10:30am service on Sundays. It is our hope to open the nursery this fall. If you are interested in volunteering or finding out more information, please contact Carrie Oberholtzer at 610-223-2304 or obie1986@hotmail.com.



2023 Church Offering Envelopes

Church offering envelopes for the 2023 calendar year are prepared and are ready for pick up 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 mailed to the office if you aren't able to attend. This will save using an envelope and addressing an envelope. All you need do is add postage and mail! Also remember that you may contribute to the ministry of the congregation through electronic giving. For additional information on this simply notify the Treasurer, Peter O'Connor, for instructions. Thanks in advance for taking responsibility and securing your envelope packet for 2023 and for your faithful support of St. Paul's mission and ministry.



A Partnership Between Local Churches & LifePath Thrift Stores

Corners of Your Field is a partnership opportunity between local churches and Lifepath Christian Ministries. Corners of Your Field encourages attendees of our partner churches to be intentional about selecting their gently used household items as a donation to LifePath Thrift Stores. The stores then return a portion of the value of these items in the form of gift cards to your church to help those directly in your care.



How Does the Partnership Work?

Individuals or families donate their gently used items to LifePath Thrift Stores (formerly York Rescue Mission). Three locations: 2414 Eastern Boulevard, 283 West Market Street, and 241 Pauline Drive.

The LifePath Thrift Stores employee serving them will ask the name of their church. (St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 25 W Springettsbury Ave, York). We need to be specific as there are multiple St. Paul's Lutheran Churches.

Quarterly, the church will receive gift cards to LifePath Thrift Stores that can be given to anyone who comes to the church in need.

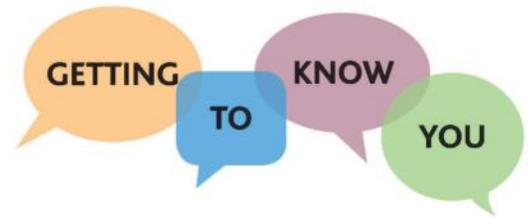
Donors are still able to take advantage of the tax-deduction with every gift to LifePath Thrift Stores. St. Paul's is signed up to partner with LifePath. Please keep LifePath in mind when you are cleaning out/ decluttering. Visit LifePathYork.org for additional information.

Wednesday Scripture Study—Christ Hall, 10:30 AM

We will delve into the readings for the upcoming Sunday. We begin with readings for Advent, move quickly to Christmas, and then on to Epiphany! The Biblical witness is lush with images that push our imaginations, brimming full with stories that call our motives into question, and comforting words of acceptance, love and grace which sustain us throughout our daily life. Please do plan to join in the reading, discussion, and Christian fellowship as we prepare ourselves for Sunday worship through Wednesday Bible study.



Getting to Know Julianna Jones



When you meet Julianna you will quickly become aware of her warm smile and friendly manner. You will also hear of her love of music and of her enthusiasm for teaching children. But let's begin at the beginning. Julianna and her younger sister grew up in State College as a PK's (preacher's kids!) – daughters of a Lutheran pastor. Her growing-up years included many music lessons and activities in school. She graduated from Mansfield University with a degree in Music Education. At Mansfield she met fellow music major, Andrew Jones, who later became her husband.

Julianna and Andrew moved to Fairfax, Virginia where she taught elementary music for two years. South Carolina was the next home for them as Andrew pursued his Master's degree. The next move took them to Lewisburg, PA where she taught Middle School music in the Selinsgrove School District. Their most recent move brought them to York this summer where Julianna had decided to take some time off from teaching to care for three year old Frederick and six month old Hazel. Pastor Reep says prayers were answered when Julianna and Andrew decided to attend worship at St. Paul's and enroll Frederick in the Pre-school. A few conversations led her to apply for the job as Director of the Children's Choirs. Julianna says their connection to St. Paul's was an answer to prayers for her also! She can do the job she loves and still provide care for her family.

With a growing family there is not a huge amount of free time but Julianna shared that she loves to bake. The kitchen is a little small in their current house but she has figured out ways to successfully bake cookies and delicious desserts. She and her husband love to attend music events and concerts whenever possible. She declared that the children are the focus of their lives right now so free time is not abundant! They are happy watching the children grow and learn.

Welcome to St. Paul's church Julianna, Andrew, Frederick and Hazel. We are so happy you are here!





Web Page Update

We are happy to report that St. Paul's new and improved webpage is mobile and up and running. Please sign on to www.stpaulsyork.org and check it out. There is so much information and great pictures in the Gallery and on the slideshow. You will find the monthly newsletter in color, weekly bulletins, monthly calendar and a link to Facebook and the Sunday service on YouTube. Hopefully, you will find the new webpage helpful and refer to it often.



Bridge of Hope Update: Our mother and child are doing well. We have enjoyed apple picking and a picnic together this fall. We check on her weekly to see how she is doing balancing work and motherhood. We are all enjoying the new friendships. Thank you for the continued prayers for this family.



As the Holiday season approaches please consider giving the gift of your time! Spiritrust Lutheran Home Care & Hospice is looking for volunteers to join the Hospice Team. Volunteer to visit hospice clients in your community to offer friendly support. Volunteers also help with office work, bereavement calls & visits, sewing memory teddy bears. Call Cathy Sweeney, Volunteer Coordinator at 570-599-5390 to learn more.



The York College Chorale and Chamber Singers under the direction of Dr. Grace Muzzo will present a Holiday Voices with Friends Concert in the church sanctuary on Sunday afternoon, December 4th beginning at 3:00pm.

The concert will feature a variety of holiday music accompanied by Victor Fields and a string ensemble.

Music selections to be heard will include Christian, Jewish, and Ukrainian music and will conclude with Handel's Hallelujah Chorus from the "Messiah". Invite your friends and neighbors and join us for this program to be followed by a holiday reception.



Handbells—Ring, Christmas Bells!

The Advent and Christmas seasons are always exciting and busy times for the bell choirs. On December 4, the adult handbell choir will render a beautiful advent hymn with singing. The following week, the youth choir will present a lovely setting of "Hark the Glad Sound." We will do the traditional Ringing in of Christmas at the conclusion of the 10:30 liturgy on December 18, the fourth Sunday of Advent. As always, we will also play for the 7:00 PM Christmas Eve liturgy. We look forward to sharing the beautiful sounds of the season with the congregation! - Leah McComas

Cantabile & Cherub Choirs

This month the children, myself, and Miss Kelly will be focusing on our Christmas play. We are excited to share our performance with everyone! - Julianna Jones

Congregation Council Highlights

St. Paul's Congregational Council met Monday, November 14th, in the Good Shepherd Room.

President's Report: Tristan Ericson noted the continued growth of the children's ministry, and St. Paul's continues to attract families with children. An electronic vote was conducted by council members between October & November to approve names for committee membership.

Treasurer's Report: Peter O'Connor stated that congregational offerings continue to be good. The 2023 budget will be presented at the congregational meeting on November 20th with minor changes. Christmas bonuses for full-time, part-time, and hourly workers were discussed/approved.

Pastor Reep's Sabbatical: Council is recommending that it move forward with Pastor's sabbatical with congregational approval. The ECLA recommends that a sabbatical occur every seven years; Pastor Reep's last sabbatical was 2013. A council committee is pursuing details and support from retired pastors. The sabbatical's timeframe would be from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Officer Elections: Council officers will be nominated and voted on at the next council meeting in December.

Preschool: Two fundraisers were approved for the preschool students. One will be the sale of Krispy Kreme Donuts in January & February, and the other a sub sale in the spring.

Sunday Attendance: Tristan Ericson reported that the second service has been quite strong since the summer. Attendance for September/October has increased 27% since the same period in 2021.

Church Directory: The Witness Committee is planning on moving forward with the directory in the spring of 2023. Parishioners will schedule to have their photograph taken during the service they do not attend.

Pastor Reep's Report: If parishioners have not yet submitted their Time/Availability & Commitment forms, please do so, as Pastor is reviewing that information. The Worship Committee is considering one liturgy on Palm Sunday and one liturgy for Easter. Christian Ed/Youth are working on an April 1st interactive morning/afternoon for kids/children to understand the events of Holy Week. Eucharistic Ministers will be making home visits.

SERVV: SERVV finished their sale of international gifts. There are still Christmas items for purchase. Remaining items may be sold for Mother's Day.

Congregational Meeting: The annual congregational meeting is November 20th. Worship is at 9:15 followed by the meeting and lunch in the basement. There will be no classes. During the meeting older elementary children will make cards for shut-ins, and younger children will be provided with materials for an activity at their parents table.



Usher Training, Review and Up-dates Sunday December 4 @ 9:15 AM

With the return to in person worship and the return to fuller liturgical worship, the duties of the usher need to be reviewed. On Sunday December 4 at 9:15 AM in the lower level community room those who currently serve as usher and anyone interested in serving as usher are encouraged to attend the session. There are the practical procedural things that will be covered as well as things associated with health and safety. With the addition of the service being

live streamed it is important that what we do and how we do it adds to the online service and doesn't distract those viewing from home. Please do join in this time of training so that all of our ushers are equipped and confident about what we do and the whys and how's. Thank you to the ushers for your faithful service.





Preschool

The Holiday spirit is in full swing at the Preschool. In November, the children and their families were very generous and brought in food donations for the pantry. We would like to thank everyone who helped to provide a meal for those in need.

It is Advent season and beginning to look a lot like Christmas. The Preschool will continue to help the community in December and spread Christmas cheer by holding a special event called "Wear a Pair, Share a Pair." On December 7 and December 8, the children are encouraged to wear a pair of pajamas and bring a pair to share for the children at Access York. The Preschool children will also enjoy a special snack of Christmas cookies and hot cocoa during those school days.

Throughout the month, the teachers and children will prepare for the birth of Baby Jesus and the arrival of Santa Clause. Our hallways and classrooms are filled with Christmas decorations and excitement.



As we look towards the New Year, we will be opening registration for the 2023-2024 school year for our current preschool families. If you know any families who are interested in our Preschool, please have them contact us at 717-854-1996.

Seasons Greetings from the Preschool staff. We hope that you have a peaceful holiday as we prepare our hearts to receive the birth of Jesus.

Merry Christmas,

St. Paul's Lutheran Preschool



We are excited to let everyone know that St. Paul's Preschool has a new webpage (stpaulspreschoolyork.com). Please take a few minutes to check it out and share it with people you know who may have children 2, 3, or 4 years of age. Applications for 2022-2023 are being accepted now.

Food Pantry—Fall



Items needed: Rice, beans, Tomato sauce, pasta, mashed potato mix, gravy and stuffing mix for the holidays.

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”.

2023 Flower Chart

The 2023 flower chart is posted on the Springettsbury vestibule bulletin board. The cost of the flowers is **\$35 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 last liturgy or you may have them given to someone who is sick, shut in, 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.

Please note the new price of \$35. per vase.

**DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER ARTICLES
December 15**



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



Ukraine Offering

Offerings to give aid to Ukrainian refugees, orphans, widows and humanitarian help can be given through St. Paul's website www.stpaulsyork.org by selecting the designated button or through our pew envelopes marking them “Ukraine”.



Once again, we are able to open our doors to groups for concerts and events. Our newly renovated building serves as a venue to reach out to the neighborhood and strengthen our commitment to serve our community. We need volunteers to staff a Hospitality Team for these events. As a member of the Hospitality Team you would greet and welcome our guests and offer assistance to help them while they are in the building. You would not be required to attend every event. A St.

Paul's staff member would be in charge of the team for each event.

This is a great way to introduce our church to the community and also attend some wonderful events. Please let the office know if you would be interested in serving on the Hospitality Team.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Email: st.paulsyork@comcast.net
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Thank you to all who helped to get this newsletter
 out this month!

STAFF		
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In This Issue:
 Christmas Worship Schedule
 Advent
 Calendar 2023
 Children's Nativity Play
 Christmas Decorating
 Usher Training
 Council Highlights
 Music News
 Getting to Know You
 Sunday Classes
 CREATE
 Preschool News