A close-up photograph of a young girl with brown hair and a pink hair clip, eating a slice of bread. She is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The background is dark and out of focus. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

I was
hungry
and you
gave me
food

MATTHEW 25:35

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155

Email: st.paulsyork@comcast.net

www.stpaulsyork.org

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 187 years. By worshipping with us today, you become part of that living tradition.

Offerings Offerings are received during the liturgy. They are presented along with gifts of bread and wine at the altar. You may also donate via our website at www.stpaulsyork.org

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.

An AED/Defibrillator unit is located in the Good Shepherd room. It is placed on the wall left side of the Springettsbury door exit.

The Nursery is accessed through the front right double doors. The liturgy is live-streamed into the Nursery. Parents are asked to stay with their children. Quiet activities are also available in the Narthex for infant through preschool children to use with an adult.

Please be aware that there is a rise in individuals loitering at church buildings and asking for money. This is panhandling and it is illegal. Please do not give money. Simply direct them to contact the Pastor at a time other than during worship. Thank you.

Parents, please do accompany your child to the restroom during the liturgy and wait with them. This is a way for us to practice good safety protocol within our building.

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

Christ the King
Sunday, November 26, 2023
Holy Communion 8:00 & 10:30 AM

PRELUDE *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* Jean Langlais

10:30AM **Blessing and Dedication of Altar Appointments and Vestments**
In Memorium of John Uffelman, Sr.

I (We) present to St. Paul's Church these Altar Cloths, Hangings, and Vestments, to be set apart for the service of Christ's holy Church.

All things come from you, O Lord;

And from your own gifts do we give to you

Prosper the work of our hands;

Prosper our handiwork.

Show your servants your works;

And our splendor to their children.

Let us pray. Almighty God, we thank you that you have put it into the hearts of your people to make offerings for your service, and have been pleased to accept their gifts. Be with us now and bless us as we set apart these chancel appointments to your praise and glory and in memory of John Uffelman, Sr.; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

This is the offering which you shall receive from the people: gold, silver, and bronze, blue and purple and scarlet cloth, and finely woven linen.

O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness:

You are clothed with majesty and splendor.

Let us pray. O glorious God, all your works proclaim your perfect beauty: Accept our offering of these altar cloths and hangings, and grant that they may adorn this sanctuary and show forth your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

You shall make holy garments for Aaron, for glory and for beauty.

Clothe your ministers with righteousness:

Let your people sing with joy.

Let us pray. O God, you revealed your Son clothed in majesty and glory: Accept these Chasubles and Stoles for the use of the clergy of your Church, that, being clothed with humility as they minister to you, they may show forth his eternal splendor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God, we remember before you today your faithful servant, John Uffelman; and we pray that, having opened to him the gates of larger life, you will receive him more and more into your joyful service, that, with all who have faithfully served you in the past, he may share in the eternal victory of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We bless your Name, O Lord, because it has pleased you to enable your servant Martina, to offer these gifts for your worship. Remember her for good, and grant that all who benefit from these gifts may show their thankfulness to you by using them in accordance with your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Stand

ENTRANCE HYMN

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name (ELW 634)

1 All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;
 2 O seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race now ran - somed from the fall,
 3 Hail him, you heirs of Da - vid's line, whom Da - vid Lord did call—
 4 Sin - ners, whose love can ne'er for - get the worm - wood and the gall,

bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.
 hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.
 the God in - car - nate, man di - vine—and crown him Lord of all.
 go spread your tro - phies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.

Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.
 Hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.
 The God in - car - nate, man di - vine—and crown him Lord of all.
 Go spread your tro - phies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.

5 Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe
 on this terrestrial ball
 to him all majesty ascribe
 and crown him Lord of all.

6 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng
 we at his feet may fall!
 We'll join the everlasting song
 and crown him Lord of all.

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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

Assisting minister



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

All



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.



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



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have



mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the



Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer. 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. . . Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things to your beloved Son, whom you anointed priest forever and king of all creation: Grant that all the people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united under the glorious and gentle rule of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Sit

FIRST READING Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 (*back cover*)

PSALM Psalm 95:1-7a Sung in unison



- ¹ Come, let us sing | to the LORD;*
let us shout for joy to the rock of | our salvation.
- ² Let us come before his presence | with thanksgiving*
and raise a loud shout to | him with psalms.
- ³ For the LORD | is a great God,*
and a great King | above all gods.
- ⁴ In his hand are the caverns | of the earth,*
and the heights of the hills | are his also.
- ⁵ The sea is his, | for he made it,*
and his hands have molded | the dry land.
- ⁶ Come, let us bow down and | bend the knee,*
and kneel before the | LORD our Maker.
- ⁷ For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep | of his hand.*

SECOND READING Ephesians 1:15-23

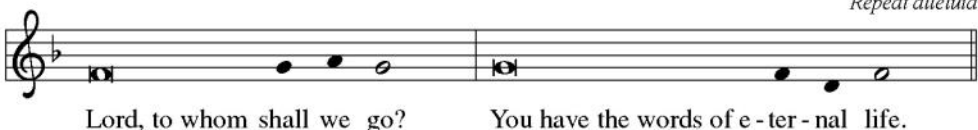
¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come 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.

Stand
VERSE

Sung by all



Repeat alleluia



HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 25:31:-46 (*back cover*)

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew

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.**

**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, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

A brief silence.

Holy God, we pray for the work of ELCA World Hunger Appeal and our partnerships with global feeding ministries. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Guide rulers of every nation in ways of humble leadership and wise decision-making. Allow aid to come to all who are suffering and provide care to those who are neglected. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Nourish all who hunger, connect any who are isolated, and surround all who experience rejection or abuse with your loving embrace. We pray for those who suffer (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Prosper the outreach and social ministries of this congregation (*especially*). We pray for all people who serve and attend to the needs of others. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Holy God, in Christ we are welcomed home. We praise you for the faithful witness of those who have served you and extended your welcome and love to us (*especially*). And at the last, unite us with them at your heavenly banquet. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

The ministers and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Sit

OFFERING 8:00 AM

O Jesus, King Most Wonderful

John Leavitt

10:30 AM Chancel Choir

Greater Love Hath No Man

John Ireland

Stand

OFFERTORY HYMN

The gifts of bread and wine and monetary gifts are presented at the altar.



☐ What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all his ben - e - fits to me?



I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing



and will call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal -



va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord.



I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the

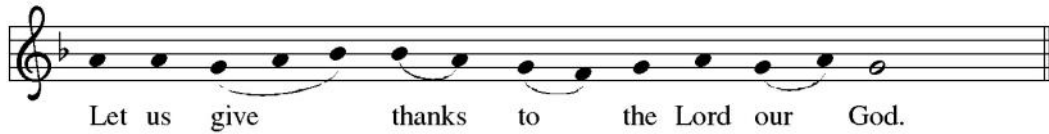
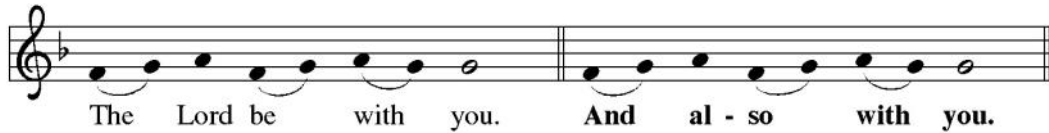


pres - ence of all his peo - ple, in the courts of the Lord's house,



in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

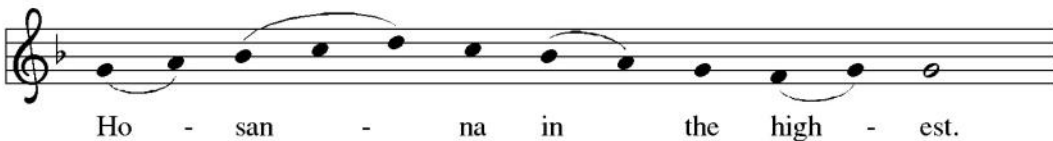
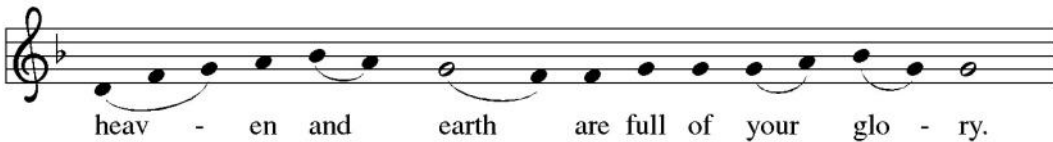
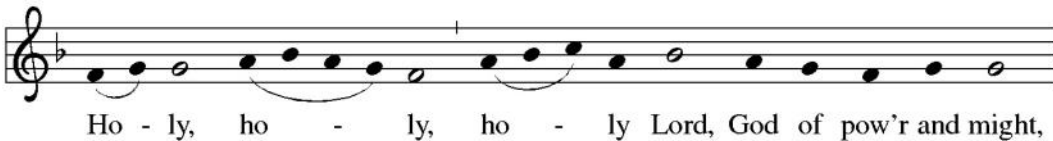
DIALOGUE

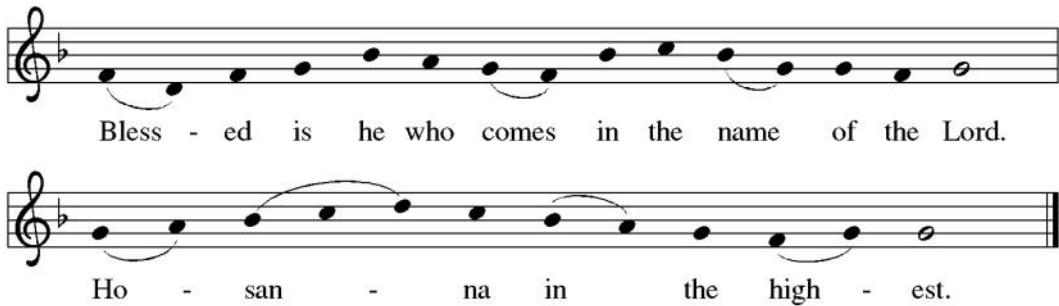


PREFACE *The preface appropriate to the day is said.*

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS *Sung by all.*





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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's
death until he comes.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place,
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

**Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory
is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen**

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 RITE *A brief silence is kept*

AGNUS DEI *Sung by all.*

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. A - men.

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

COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

Holy Communion at St. Paul's Church is "open" to all believers who trust that the Risen Christ is present for his people in the Holy Eucharist.

Procedure for receiving Communion:

- 1. Come to communion using the center aisle.*
- 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.*

COMMUNION HYMN

10:30 AM *O Christ the Same (ELW 760) next page*

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. Let us pray. Lord, in this Most Holy Sacrament you have given Christ, the King of all creation, as food for eternal life. Give us the grace to live by His Gospel, and bring us to the joy of His Kingdom, where He lives and reigns forever and ever. **Amen.**

BLESSING

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

HYMN *Before the Ancient One, Christ Stands (ACS 953) next pages*

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE *Voluntary on "Crown Him with many Crowns"* Charles Callahan

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O Christ the Same



1 O Christ the same, through all our sto - ry's pag - es,
2 O Christ the same, the friend of sin - ners, shar - ing
3 O Christ the same, se - cure with - in whose keep - ing



our loves and hopes, our fail - ures and our fears;
our in - most thoughts, the se - crets none can hide,
our lives and loves, our days and years re - main,



e - ter - nal Lord, the king of all the a - ges,
still as of old up - on your bod - y bear - ing
our work and rest, our wak - ing and our sleep - ing,



un - chang - ing still a - mid the pass - ing years:
the marks of love, in tri - umph glo - ri - fied:
our calm and storm, our plea - sure and our pain:



O liv - ing Word, the source of all cre - a - tion,
O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heav - en,
O Lord of love, for all our joys and sor - rows,



who spread the skies, and set the stars a - blaze,
O Prince of life, in all your sav - ing pow'r,
for all our hopes, when earth shall fade and flee,



O Christ the same, who wrought our whole sal - va - tion,
O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are giv - en,
O Christ the same, be - yond our brief to - mor - rows,



we bring our thanks for all our yes - ter - days.
we bring our thanks for this the pres - ent hour.
we bring our thanks for all that is to be.

Before the Ancient One, Christ Stands



1 Be - fore the An - cient One, Christ stands, en - robed in cloud and
2 Who was, who is, and is to come as ser - vant lived in
3 Now in the lat - ter days you call, O Christ, and plead the



bright as snow, five wounds im - print his side, feet, hands, and
hu - man sphere; com - pas - sion was his di - a - dem; his
prem - ise clear, that pow - er grasped is none at all, and



thorns, the gar - land on his brow. Yet thrones and
glo - ry was the gen - tle tear; hu - mil - i -
serv - ing shows your Spir - it near. As na - tions



pow'rs fall to the knee and weave a song of maj - es - ty,
ty, his pur - ple garb; the heal - ing hand, his roy - al orb.
clash and wis - dom wanes, as glo - ries tempt and greed sus - tains,



for what the world ad - mires as gain is not the es - sence
Such love drew ire and ire drew death, but God has proved the
you bid us choose in ev - 'ry hour the pow'r of love, the



of Christ's reign, and strength is his, and name and
tru - er strength, and through all space the host pro -
great - est pow'r, that love may her - ald God's do -



might, be - cause he pit - ied hu - mans' plight.
claims the name a - bove all oth - er names.
main, and you, at last, may come to reign.

This Week at St. Paul's

Church Office hours Mon-Thurs 8am-4pm; Fri 8-11:30am

Sunday, November 26 Christ the King

Poinsettia Orders due

- 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
- 9:15 AM NO Sunday School
- 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist—Live Stream
Blessing of Paraments
- 6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm

Monday, November 27

- 7:00 PM Mutual Ministry Mtg

Tuesday, November 28

- 9:30 AM Food Pantry
- 12:30 PM Christian Ed Mtg—ZOOM
- 6:00 PM CREATE—Preschool thru Grade 6
- 6:00 PM Property Committee Mtg

Wednesday, November 29

- 10:00 AM Preschool & Pastor—Nave
- 10:30 AM Bible Study—Christ Hall

Thursday, November 29

- 10:00 AM Preschool & Pastor—Nave
- 6:30 PM Handbell Choir—Christ Hall
- 7:30 PM Chancel Choir—Music Room

Sunday, December 3 Advent 1

- 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
- 9:15 AM Sunday School for All
- 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist—Live Stream
- 3:00 PM York College Holiday Concert
- 6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm

Please be sure to check with the church secretary *before* you schedule your meetings at the church. Call or email the office with your request.



*The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God
In loving memory of Neil E. Shue by Norma Shue and family.*

St Paul's is collecting clothing for Union Lutheran Church's Clothing Ministry. Union collects 'gently used' clothing (and shoes) for its clothing closet and offers it **free of charge** to needy families in the York City community. A bin has been placed in the Good Shepherd room to collect any clothing you would like to donate. These donations will surely be a blessing to our neighbors. Union's volunteers are very appreciative of our cooperation and our help.

Serving the Lord with Gladness

DATE	TIME	Assisting Minister	Crucifer	Lector	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Ushers	Altar Set-up & Clean-up
11/26	8:00 AM	Jennifer Ports	James Palmer	James Palmer		Denise Rider, Ron & Norma Riese	Jeff Riese, , Alex Bastian	Pat Scarborough, Melissa Yakim
	10:30 AM	Tristan Ericson	Janet Fitch	Johanna Patterson	Deb Becker	Peggy & Carl Jacobs, Earline & Frank Jones	Kem Vaught, Larry Becker, Dave Kopp	Sandy Dickensheets, Tonya Cave

Acolytes for 10:30 Service: Isabella Lehr, Jordan Nicoll

Announcements and Up-dates for the week November 26, 2023

Deacon April Trout, ELCA representative to Konde Diocese, Tanzania, will be at St. Paul's this Wednesday evening November 29 at 6:00 PM. We will meet for a pot luck supper in Christ Hall where she will provide current information about our companion synod and our companion congregation Mpuguso Lutheran Church. Members of St. Paul's who are planning to travel to Tanzania during the summer of 2024 will meet following the supper at the appointed 7:00 PM meeting time. This pot luck meal provides opportunity for anyone interested in our mission partnership to join in conversation with April. Please notify Pastor Reep if you plan to attend.

New green and white sets of altar and pulpit hangings and clergy vestments are blessed and dedicated TODAY, at the 10:30 AM liturgy. This gift was made by Martina Uffelman in memory of her late husband John.

In conjunction with the 60th Anniversary of the St. Paul's Lutheran Preschool a newly designed T-shirt is available for purchase. The preschool receives a percentage from each T-shirt purchased. Buy one to wear on Pentecost! The bright red color is sure to be noticed and you will help get the word out about our fabulous early childhood education program at St. Paul's.

2024 Offering Envelopes are available in the Good Shepherd Room . Please take yours along with you.

St. Nicholas Day—Wednesday December 6, 5:30 PM Fellowship Hall Holiday Dinner and Entertainment—The entire congregation is invited for a holiday dinner and entertainment on Wednesday December 6th at 5:30 PM in Fellowship Hall. Please plan to enter through the Springettsbury Avenue entrance. The menu is designed to accommodate the wide variety of ages within our faith community; baked ham, scalloped potatoes, peas, apple sauce, macaroni and cheese, tomato soup, grilled cheese, salad bar, and brownies with ice cream for dessert. We have planned St. Nicholas themed crafts, entertainment by the children's choir, handbell choir, chancel choir, with additional musical selections and a visit from you know who! The hope is that we can share in a joyous time together in the midst of a very busy season. By so doing we hope to create memories for all participants of the joy of Christian fellowship. The activities conclude at 7:00 PM so that everyone can get home in a timely fashion. Most things have come together nicely for this parish event. However, if you are willing to help with the setup or clean up, that would be a huge help. Simply contact Miss Kelly and let her know how you can help. **For reservations please call 717-843-8155!**

Help us celebrate 60 years of St Paul's Lutheran Preschool!

T-Shirts for sale November 12-30. Orders go in on December 1st.

Pick-up will be Sunday December 17 during church 8-12 and Dec 18-20 during school hours 9-12.

Adult sizes Small-4XL. Youth XS-XL.

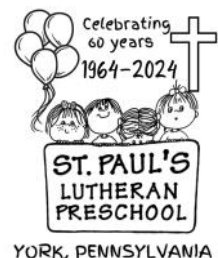
Short sleeved \$20 or long sleeved \$25 are for sale.

Adult sizes come in Hanes Cotton or a Tri-blend short sleeve upgrade for an additional \$10.

Samples will be in the Good Shepherd room on Sunday 11/12, 11/19 and 11/27 to see sizes.

Orders are to be placed online. Please see clipboard by samples if you need assistance.

Shipping is free to the church or may be shipped to your home for \$9.95.





Food Pantry—Fall

Items needed: Stuffing Mix, Canned sweet potatoes, Instant potatoes Please put your donations in the shopping cart in the Good Shepherd Room. We also need paper grocery bags with handles and plastic bags. Money donations are gratefully accepted. Please place cash or check in a “special” envelope marked “Pantry”. **Volunteers are needed Tuesday mornings to help our neighbors shop. Call Teresa Rohrbaugh or the church office**

(717-843-8155) to volunteer.

December collection is for canned fruit which has been difficult for the pantry to get. Start saving now. Thank you.

2024 Flower Chart

The 2024 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 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.



A big thanks to all who had their photos taken for the Church Pictorial Directory. If you didn't have your photo taken, you have until December 1 to submit a photo to be included in the Directory. Directories will only be given out to those with a photo in the Directory. Call Earline if you have any questions, 717-880-5208.



Holiday Voices, Today, December 3 at 3:00 PM at St. Paul's Lutheran

The York College Chorale and Chamber Singers will present their annual “Holiday Voices” concert at St. Paul's Lutheran on Sunday, December 3 at 3:00PM.

Along with the two choirs, the concert will feature Grace Muzzo as conductor, Victor Fields as organist and pianist, and selected student soloists. Repertoire will include newly imagined choral settings of ancient Christmas texts, as well as holiday songs from a variety of languages and traditions. The audience will be invited to join in the singing at the end of the program!

This concert is free and open to the public.

Christmas Worship Schedule

Please note the alternate service times throughout the Christmas Season

Sunday December 24, Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:15 AM

The Holy Eucharist

O, Come, O Come Emanuel

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

4:00 PM

The Holy Eucharist

Joy to the World

The Ringing in of Christmas

Organ, Children's Choir, Cello, Violin, Flute

Lighting of Hand Candles

7:00 PM

The Holy Eucharist

Once in Royal David's City

Handbells, Organ, Chancel Choir, Piano Duet, Violin, Flute

Lighting of Hand Candles

Monday December 25, Christmas Day

10:30 AM

The Holy Eucharist

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Organ, Dulcimer, Trio

Sunday December 31, The First Sunday after Christmas

9:15 AM

The Holy Eucharist

In His Temple Now Behold Him

Sunday January 7, The Baptism of Our Lord

8:00 & 10:30 AM

The Holy Eucharist

With Thanksgiving for Holy Baptism

Christ the King A 2023 Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 Ephesians 1:15-23 Matthew 25:31-46

Failing miserably is generally not what anyone sets out to do. And yet Mrs. McMinn didn't have any qualms placing a large letter F on the top right hand corner of the First grader's paper. The letter grade placed at the top of the page may or may not have been a true reflection of the child's potential or life's achievement. Perhaps the letter grade had more to do with Mrs. McMinn having 38 students crowded into her classroom. Every classroom was especially full that year due to fire destroying one of the elementary school buildings in the district. That fire occurred the second week in August permitting little time to sort out academic achievement, the focus was simply placed on providing room, making room, for the district's student population. Each remaining elementary school building absorbed half of the student body pushing class size to all-time highs.

I was the first grader receiving the letter F on the top of my test paper. I can still see it, big and bold and red, pressed into the surface of the page with a soft lead pencil. I had failed miserably. This was not something that I wanted anyone to see, wasn't something I wanted to share, wasn't something that I expected, wasn't something that I could even truly understand. What I did know, life at home would be horrible. There were consequences to accompany such an embossed colorful enhancement to the heading of my paper! Was I a failure? Was Mrs. McMinn a failure? Was the superintendent of schools a failure? Had the school board failed the students and the faculty with the emergency decision? Who honestly knows? Failing miserably is generally not what anyone sets out to do. Failing miserably is often attributed to a variety of things. Mostly we fail from not truly knowing a situation, people, religious conviction, climate, geography. It is true in times of peace and war, with political and religious leaders, educators, administrators and students. It is true in the work place with CEOs and laborers. In the history of God's people there are plenty of times when people fail miserably. Such failings frequently occur when they neglect God's Word.

That is where we encounter the prophet Ezekiel. Known mostly to us for the prophecy of Dry Bones, Ezekiel is announcing to the kings of Israel that they have done a miserable job. They have failed miserably! Instead of feeding, clothing, and caring for their people, they have scattered them. God's people are hungry and naked and provided no care. Ezekiel announces to the neglected people that God will be their shepherd and that God will bring them back, gather them, and feed them richly on the mountain heights in verdant pastures. This was a word for which the people were longing. They had endured enough hardship, endured enough displacement, and endured enough embarrassment from ruling kings who thought only of themselves. However, proclaims the prophet, this doesn't mean that it will be a good time party for everyone. God will be the shepherd and God will judge between sheep and sheep, between fat sheep that push others so that they can have more, and the lean sheep that have been neglected and oppressed. Through God's judgment **injustice will be destroyed**. This is a hard theological statement for many to grasp. Ezekiel announces that God will set up a new shepherd in the line of King David who will truly feed, clothe and care for His people.

In the Gospel reading we encounter Jesus. He is the one following in the line of King David. He is the one who cares and is concerned for those who are neglected and oppressed, and those who have been pushed around. Feeding, clothing, visiting, and caring are the marks of kingdom life. In the gospel reading this morning those engaged in the work of the kingdom seem

to be completely surprised that such common ordinary acts are what are being sought by the judge. *“Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?”* And the king answers them *“just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”* They didn’t recognize the king in the ordinary faces of those to whom they provided assistance, care, love. The other group thinks that because of their own work and upstanding position that they are surely making the mark. But it seems that the mark they are receiving is more a kin to the one adorning my first grade paper. They didn’t recognize the need or the face of the king in those who sought out assistance, compassion, or help. According to the text, they failed miserably.

The King, Christ Jesus, does not want us to fail miserably. He comes gathering us, the scattered and lost, with his word of promise and hope. He comes feeding us with bread and wine, his body and blood, to forgive our sins. He comes clothing us with baptism’s garment of salvation. He comes to us like no other king. His desire is not failure for his people, but justice and hope. Christ our King models for us the care and compassion that other shepherds in the history of God’s people neglected and ignored. Caring for others is the surprising theme that over takes the whole lot. *“When did we see you?”*

I don’t believe for one second that any one of us sets out to fail miserably. I certainly didn’t set out to fail that test in First grade. I don’t think that the administrators and school board members thought that their decisions were setting people up for failure. But some failures manage to make the headlines more often, so we hear about the miserable failings of: politicians, religious leaders, CEOs, administrators, educators, and students. But they are not alone. In our human sinfulness we all fail miserably. The mark that we should receive is more a kin to the one placed on the top of that first grade paper, but the one we do receive is the cross of Christ placed on our brow when we are made children of God in baptism. We are all in need of the gracious Shepherd King whose life and rule we celebrate today. He is the one who gathers the scattered and welcomes the lost, making a way into his verdant pasture of care.

The Prophet Ezekiel and the Evangelist Matthew want us to open our eyes and be aware of what is taking place around us. Being aware can help us avoid the failures that others have made. Those big sheep pushing out the scrawny ones and those coming who need food, clothing, protection, care are patterns to which we take note. Heeding their words may very well keep us from catastrophic failure. The story from Matthew is told to open our eyes to the opportunities that abound. The opportunities to keep others from failure and to work on behalf of those who hunger, thirst, are sick or in prison, who need clothing and a voice to speak on their behalf. *“When did we see you?”* The children coming to the York Conference Tutoring Program, the hungry that come to the Food Pantry, persons completing community service, the person standing next to you at communion, all have needs, desires, hopes and dreams. Ezekiel was announcing a word of hope to his community. Matthew was announcing a word to move his community into action. Jesus is our King. He is the Word who acts on our behalf, dying and rising, keeping us from failing miserably. Amen.

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹²As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

²⁰Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, ²²I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

²³I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

Psalms 95:1-7a**SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23**

[not printed]

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:31-46

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' ⁴¹Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37.

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