

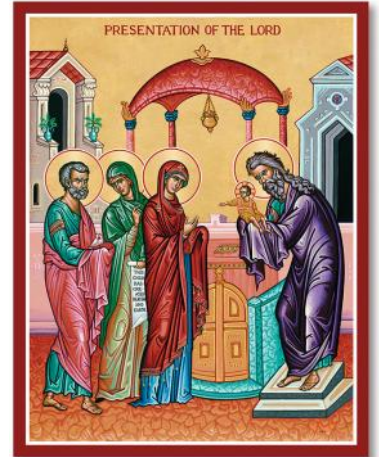
Our Church

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

8:00 & 10:30 AM Sunday Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM Live Streamed YouTube
Holy Days as announced
9:15 AM Sunday School
February 2025

Feast of the Presentation Sunday February 2

The month of February opens with the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, also known as Candlemas, and locally revered as Groundhog Day, February 2nd. In 1969 the name was changed from the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Roman Catholic Church to The Presentation of Our Lord noting Joseph and Mary bringing the infant Jesus to the temple. The date of February 2nd recognizes that 40 days have passed since the celebration of the birth of our Savior. According to the law, Mary, after child birth, would have stayed out of the public eye for a 40 day period. On this day a procession with lighted candles preceded the celebration often with a blessing of candles. Many Lutheran congregations kept all of the Christmas decorations and the crèche visible until February 2nd. As the greens began to droop and worshipers became tired of the extended season pastors would remind worshipers of Mary's wait to return to "normal" when she could once again return to the fullness of the community and begin a new season of life. Locally in the secular community we look toward Punxsutawney Phil to see how much longer we must wait until spring or if winter will hang on for six more weeks. Most of us are eager to move ahead. This year at St. Paul's we will sing "*In His Temple Now Behold Him*" which has been wed to a different but familiar tune; Regent Square. Also in the hymn line up are; "What Child is this" and "As with Gladness." The readings from Malachi, Hebrews and Luke will truly bring a fitting conclusion to the Christmas theme and send us ever more deeply into the days of Jesus' earthly ministry.

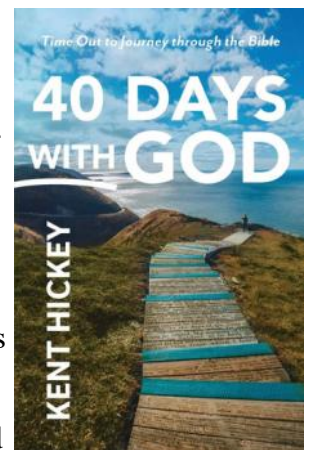


Men's Group Lenten Devotion—40 Days with God

The men of St Paul's have been meeting with some regularity and are interested in being drawn more deeply to God and to one another. The season of Lent provides a time to journey through the Bible, carving out space and time for God and in support of one another. A book from Paraclete Press, *40 Days with God* is available for men who would like a Lenten devotion during this holy season.

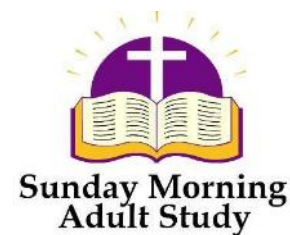
The book is written by Kent Hickey. Kent left a 30 year stint in a law practice to teach high school theology. He considers that decision one of the best he made topped only by the decision to marry his wife! He has now been at this new calling for more than 20 years. He has three adult children, follows the Green Bay Packers, and volunteers as a living historian every summer at Appomattox Court House, Virginia. (Side note the carpets in Appomattox Court House were woven at Family Heirloom Weavers, Red Lion, PA. And as a further example the weaving in the front of St. Paul's, Grape leaves and pomegranate, was also woven by Dave Kline, Family Heirloom Weavers.)

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. This year that is March 5. Sundays are not counted in the 40 days of Lent as every Sunday is considered to be a day of resurrection. 40 days of Lent, omitting Sundays, will conclude on Holy Saturday, April 12. Copies of the book are located on the top of the white bookcase beside the door to the Pastor's office in the Good Shepherd Room. Pick up a copy and join with other men of St. Paul's during this Lenten season to journey through the Bible, carving out space and time with God.



January Adult Education
Christ Hall 9:15 AM
Tristan Ericson

“Lessons from Dietrich Bonhoeffer” continues through February 16. A new curriculum written by Dr. Lori Brandt Hale, President of the International Bonhoeffer Society is the text for the class. Join others in learning. The class meets in Christ Hall.



Education for Adults during the season of Lent

During the five Sundays of Lent topics relating to Christian life and witness will be presented from 9:15 – 10:15 AM in Christ Hall. A simple breakfast will be served and the presenters will share with us something of their work and mission. At this time there will be a presentation from Bridge of Hope garnering support for helping a family or families move from homelessness to a life with a secure living accommodation, a presentation from Lutheran Advocacy Ministry of PA by Tracey Depasquale, and one from camp director Zach Weise from Kirckenwald. The remaining two Sunday sessions will highlight yet other aspects of ministry and witness and the ways in which you can become more involved. Mark your calendar and join us for breakfast and learning during the season of Lent.

Bible Study , Wednesdays 10:30AM, Christ Hall.

Please gather with others as we look ahead at the Bible readings for Sunday Morning. For those who have never participated in such a study please consider; placing it on your calendar, participating in the conversation and putting aside any fears which may have precluded you from participating in the past. Bring a Bible if you have an edition that you particularly like or one in which you like to make notes. Otherwise there are plenty of copies in Christ Hall. The group is extremely friendly and welcoming. Do come.



Valentines Dinner

Friday February 14

The response received from participants at last year's Valentine's Dinner moved the Witness Committee to offer something similar again this year. So once again an evening for our young singles and families in recognition of Valentine's Day is slated for Friday, February 14 from 5:30 – 7:30 PM. Invitations will be sent out via texts/emails. RSVP due by February 9.

A special dinner for the young adults will be served in Fellowship Hall, while a menu geared for young children will be served in the Youth Room. Young adults enjoy dinner and conversation with one another while activities for the children will commence in other areas of the building. We will need adult helpers to interact with the children so that the singles, couples and parents can enjoy time together and share in conversation.



St. Paul's Book Club meets at St. Paul's at 3:00 PM on:

February 20th: The Last Child by John Hart

March 20th: When Crickets Cry by Charles Martin

Tanzania, Konde Diocese and St. Paul's recent trip

On Sunday, February 23 at Advent Lutheran Church, E. Market St., York, the Synod Konde Committee is sponsoring an event to deepen relationships with our companion congregations. Attendees will be able to make a bright colored sign in Swahili (like those pictured in the July 2025 calendar), hear a presentation from St. Paul's members who travelled to Tanzania summer 2024, learn about women in ministry in Konde Dioceses, prepare for a 5K fundraiser for Mbeya Hospital Sunday, April 27 and find out how you could participate in a future mission trip. The event is scheduled from 2:00-4:00 PM.



Catechetical Instruction Continues for students in grade 7 & 8.

January 12—February 16

The group gathers in the Upper Level Youth Room. The Rite of Confirmation is scheduled for Sunday, March 2, the Feast of the Transfiguration. Please mark your calendars now so that you are present in worship to support the young women and men as they confess their faith in Christ Jesus.



Youth Sunday

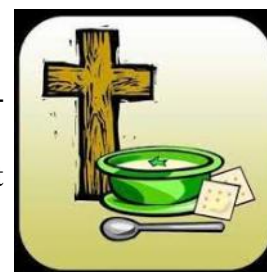
February 23

We are blessed to have children and youth actively participating in our life together. Most often we witness this during children's sermons, weeks the children's choir sings, or when a student serves as lector or crucifer. These are public areas of ministry but most Sundays it is a high school student operating the audio/visual for our live stream, and we have an upper elementary youth who serves on the Altar Guild cleaning up communion vessels following the liturgy. On February 23 the children and youth of the congregation will assume most of the leadership roles for the liturgy. We will commend them for their faithful service and encourage them to continue in the work of building up the body of Christ at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. During the Sunday school time, 9:15 AM until 10:15 AM, Miss Kelly and Pastor Reep will work with the children and youth so that those providing leadership will have time to go over their portion and feel at ease during the liturgy. We ask that you plan to attend and show your support for our children and youth as they live into their baptismal covenant.



Witness Committee to Host Ash Wednesday Luncheon

Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, is quickly approaching and the Witness Committee Invites all those attending the 11:00 a.m. service to lunch after the Ash Wednesday service, March 5, 2025. The service will begin at 11:00 a.m. and be followed by a light lunch. Come and socialize with friends. Please contact Patee st.paulsyork@comcast.net or (717) 843-8155, let her know if you are coming.



The deadline to respond is February 28.

Music and Create
Age 3 through Grade 6
6pm through 7:15pm



Music and Create is a time for our families with young children to engage in music and art while also having the opportunity to connect with other families. The program is designed for children ages 3 through grade 6. We split the children into two age groups, age 3 through grade 1 and grade 2 through grade 6.

After a wonderful Holiday break, everyone returned on January 14th with lots of enthusiasm to learn new songs and begin new projects in Create. In music this month the children and youth will continue to practice songs for Youth Sunday and the Worship Service. During Create time they will continue to learn about Jesus and his followers. They will work on different projects and have conversations about how they are followers of Jesus.

We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday evenings at 6:00.

Mrs. Jones and Miss Kelly



“Vintage” Members (80 and over) with birthdays in February:
Nancy Banta, Ben Stallman, Marcie Stoner, Nancy Sturges,
and Steve Langheine,

Sending Happy Birthday wishes and hoping you have a happy and healthy year ahead from your family at St. Paul’s.

The St. Paul’s Women’s Group

The Women’s Group is looking forward to engaging in fellowship with one another through social and outreach activities throughout the next few months. An outreach event is planned in February. Please reach out to Alexis Heistand if you are interested in joining the Women’s Group or have interest in attending one of the upcoming events.



2025 Flower Chart

The 2025 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 10:30 AM 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 all of the correct information for inclusion in the Sunday bulletin.





Chancel Choir rehearsals are on Thursdays, at 7:30 PM.

New members are always welcome! If you are interested in singing, please contact me at vfields.stpaulsyork@comcast.net or through the church office 717-843-8155.

Chancel Choir is comprised of members of the congregation who desire to lift their voices in song during worship. Chancel Choir rehearsals are Thursday evenings from 7:30-8:30 PM. Most singers read music and enjoy singing choral music spanning from the Renaissance to the 21st century. The Choir also helps with chanting and singing Psalms as well as providing leadership for singing the liturgical music settings sung throughout the service. Members of the choir may from time to time sing solos and duets, etc. in worship and offer their talents by playing instruments during worship.



Ring out the News!

Handbell Choir rehearsals are on Thursdays, at 6:30 PM.

Students in 7th grade through adults are welcome to join the handbell choir. Previous music experience is beneficial, but not necessary for success. We typically play for services once a month and on major feast days. We also add handbells to psalms, hymns, and other parts of the liturgy. We rehearse on Thursdays from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM in Christ Hall. Please contact Leah McComas (Lmccomas.stpaulsyork@gmail.com) or call the church office if you are interested in participating.

About being sick

We are in the season of colds and flu and other forms of sickness. Please, when you do not feel well, or when you know that you have been exposed to someone extremely contagious, please stay home from church and utilize the live stream accessed from our web site stpaulsyork.org. This summer we added an additional camera to enhance the viewing experience. While we love to have a full church nave, we want nothing more for anyone who is ill to stay home, rest, take care of themselves and not put others of the faith community at risk. Thank you.

A Partnership Between Local Churches & LifePath Thrift Stores

Please remember to donate your no longer needed items 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.

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.



**DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER ARTICLES**

February 15th



Music concerts and programs Winter/Spring 2025

St. Paul's is pleased to host the following musical events. Please show your support with your attendance. All events are FREE and open to the public and are held in the church nave.

Sunday, February 23 **York County Seniors Honors Choir** **3:00pm**
The York County Senior Honors Choir represents York County's most talented high school musicians and singers in this all-auditioned choir.

Sunday, March 16 **Lebanon Valley College Concert Choir** **10:30am**
The Lebanon Valley College Concert Choir under the direction of Dr. Kyle Zeuch will join us at the 10:30am worship service and sing several choral selections during the liturgy. They will present a choral concert that afternoon at St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church in York.

Sunday, March 30 **Spring Garden Band** **3:00pm**
The Spring Garden Band along with Victor Fields, organ will present a concert featuring the Organ Concerto in F by Josef Rheinberger. Originally scored for orchestra and organ, the SGB conductor Jeffrey Shaull has arranged this for winds and organ.

Sunday, April 13 **York College Chorale and Orchestra** **3:00pm**
The York College Chorale under the direction of Dr. Erin Lippard and the York College Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Dr. Matthew Inkster will present the Requiem by British composer John Rutter. This is Palm Sunday and the music will subtly foreshadow the coming Passion week and Christ's sacrifice.



Greeters will be needed for all of the above concerts and programs. You will not be required to set up or clean up before or after the event. Your duties are to guide people to the nave and/or restrooms, etc... You will need to arrive 1/2 hour prior to the event and stay until all the guests have left. If you are interested in representing our church as part of the Hospitality Team please contact Patee at the church office.

Up-Coming Liturgies and Events at St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Youth Sunday, February 23, 10:30 AM
York County Senior Honors Choir, February 23, 3:00 PM
Rite of Confirmation, March 2, 10:30 AM
Ash Wednesday, March 5
Mid-week Lenten Vespers, 7:00 PM
Lebanon Valley College Choir, March 16, 10:30 AM
Spring Garden Band, March 30, 3:00PM
Preschool Sunday, April 6, 10:30AM
Palm Sunday, April 13, Combined Liturgy, 9:15 AM
York College Symphony and Choir, April 13, 3:00 PM
Joint York Conference Vespers, Monday, April 14, 7:00 PM Reception to follow
Confession and Forgiveness with Individual Absolution, Wednesday, April 16, 7:00 PM
Maundy Thursday, Liturgy of the Last Supper, April 17, 7:00 PM
Good Friday, April 18, 7:00 PM
Vigil of Easter, Saturday, April 19, 7:00 PM
The Resurrection of our Lord, April 20. Combined Liturgy, 9:15 AM
Mother's Day Bake Sale, May 11, Benefit Mpuguso Lutheran Church

UPCOMING

EVENTS

Experiencing Tanzania Calendar 2025 Proceeds to Benefit Mbeya Hospital Construction

Members from the mission delegation to Tanzania have provided an array of photographs for the 2025 calendar. The calendar presents 14 beautiful photographs with the theme *Experiencing Tanzania*. This year the proceeds of our fund raising event will be used to support the construction of a new regional hospital in the Konde Diocese. The 24 participants from the June mission trip visited the construction site and witnessed the need for such a medical facility for the growing Mbeya region. The cost of the project is significant. The funds garnered from the sale of 2025 calendars will help us in support of the Lower Susquehanna Synod's appeal. 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 to assist with the hospital construction! Please do whole heartedly engage in this enterprise. We are asking for a donation of \$20 per calendar, but it doesn't matter if you simply give them away and talk with others about the work that we are engaged in helping with the up-building of the body of Christ here in York and half way around the world.



**LET
US
KNOW!**



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

Information regarding hospital/rehab/nursing home visits by Pastor Reep

Please be aware that due to HIPPA rules even though the hospital and medical institutions ask you what church you belong to when you are admitted they are unable to call Pastor Reep to notify him that you have

been admitted! Please call or have a family member call to give this information to the office or to Pastor. Thank you.



Kristine & Larry Gross welcomed their first grandchild, Russel Scott Gross on Monday, January 6th. Congrats to the new grandparents!



Web Page

Please sign on to www.stpaulsyork.org and check out our webpage. There are 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, the Sunday service on YouTube and opportunities to give electronically. Hopefully, you will find the webpage helpful and refer to it often.



St Paul's is collecting clothing for Union Lutheran Church's Clothing Ministry and your help is requested. 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. If you have large donations you may take them directly to Union Lutheran Church. Simply call them to arrange a time.

In November we advertised English Classes to the neighbors who shop at our pantry. These classes are made possible through our partnership with York Literacy Institute including funding from St. Paul's Benevolence Funds. Classes meet downstairs in the Community Room each Thursday evening. Thank you to all partners!



New volunteers regularly join Tuesdays (distribution day), Thursdays (food delivery days) and some Sundays (pantry stocking days). Contact Teresa Rohrbaugh, Patty Snyder, or the church office (717-843-8155) to learn how you can help.

The pantry continues to need:

Plastic and paper grocery bags

Monetary donations can be placed in a "special" envelope marked "Pantry".

Peanut butter and Soup. Please note: **When donating any food items, please make sure that they are not out of date. Thank you.**

Council Highlights

Council Highlights have been a regular part of the "Our Church" newsletter. Last year when the Council moved its meeting day from the 2nd Monday of the month to the 3rd Monday so that financial reports could reflect more accurately the previous month's information, it effected the print schedule and mailing of the newsletter. To provide



"Council Highlights" in a timely fashion, they will now appear as an insert to the Sunday Bulletin on the 4th Sunday of the month. Thank you for your understanding as we make this transition.

God's Peace,

Pastor Reep for the Congregation Council.

Congratulations to the following parents whose children were Baptized:



Craig & Melanie O'Connor, Baptism of daughter, Emma Paige O'Connor on December 1, 2024

Christopher & Aleesha Nicoll, Baptism of son, Eli Nicoll on December 29, 2024.

Christopher & Victoria Waddail, Baptism of their daughter, Eloise Lyle Waddail on January 12, 2025.

We welcome you into the Lord's Family

Charles & Nicole Mullen, Baptism of daughter, Hannah Louise Mullen, on February 2, 2025.



Social Ministries—Thanks to Jim Mummert, 17 lice kits were obtained. On January 10th, the Bennetts delivered them to Jackson Elementary School. As in past years, the school's administration is very grateful for this contribution to the health of its students.

Preschool News

Brrrrr!!!! Winter is in full swing throughout the preschool classrooms and hallways. During January, the children talked about winter things such as, snowflakes, snowmen, mittens and gloves. They even had the opportunity to drink and make mugs of hot chocolate. The children also focused on community helpers such as doctors, nurses, postal workers and garbage collectors. Along with these things, the students learned about Martin Luther King as we observed the holiday on Monday, January 20th.



In January, we also opened registration for the 2025-2026 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.



As we begin February, the children will learn about Groundhog Day and will be learning about God's Love for us and one another as we celebrate Valentine's Day. They will make hearts and share Valentine cards. We will end February celebrating and observing President's Day.

God's Peace and Love, The Preschool Staff



“Come and See! Learn about Bridge of Hope and St. Paul's Church. What was our journey like? Could you be a new neighboring volunteer? Is God calling you to love a new neighbor.?”

During the Sunday Education Hour on March 9, the First Sunday in Lent, come to Christ Hall. We will share light breakfast refreshments, learn about stories of hope, and the experience of our Neighboring Community with our Bridge of Hope family. We will consider what it takes to get started again! Every journey is different, and in every journey you have the opportunity to be a blessing and be blessed. So come and learn about helping a homeless family. Establish a new home. Together we create a safe place for this important life-giving journey.”

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
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*Thank you to all who helped
 to get this newsletter out this month!*

STAFF		
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Children's Choir Director	Julianna Jones	jjones.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
Secretary	Patee Pizzirusso	st.paulsyork@comcast.net
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