

Blessed are you

LUKE 6:22



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 188 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 or use the QR Code provided.



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 which is accessed through the double doors front right.

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.

Lutheran Church in York, PA - St. Paul's Lutheran...

stpaulsyork.org

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

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.

The altar flowers are presented to the glory of God by Tina Llorente and by Jim Mummert in honor of his son, Mark's, 60th birthday.



Flowers This Week

STAFF

Pastor

Youth Director

Organist, Choir Director

Children's Music Director

Bell Choirs Director

Secretary

Sexton

Preschool Director

Rev. Stanley Reep

Kelly Moore-Spencer

Victor Fields

Julianna Jones

Leah McComas

Patee Pizzirusso

Ted Weikert

Deb Becker

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director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com

February 16, 2025
Sixth Sunday After Epiphany
Holy Communion 8:00 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.
Musical setting #1 Evangelical Lutheran Worship

PRELUDE

Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee

Robert Elmore

Stand turning to face the font

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Beloved of the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

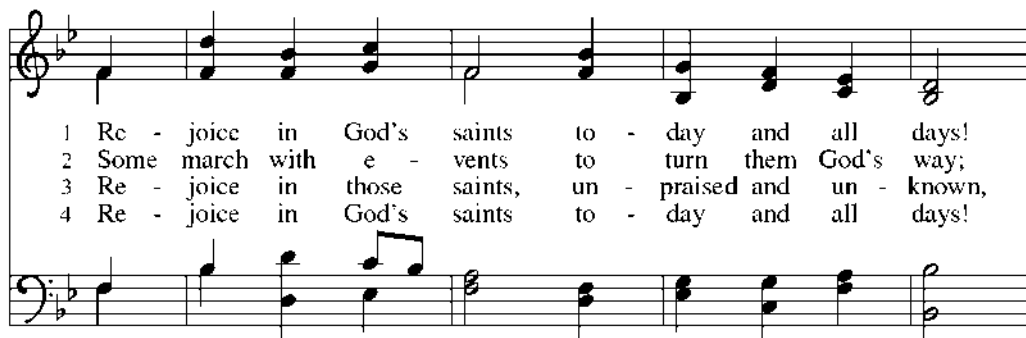
If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

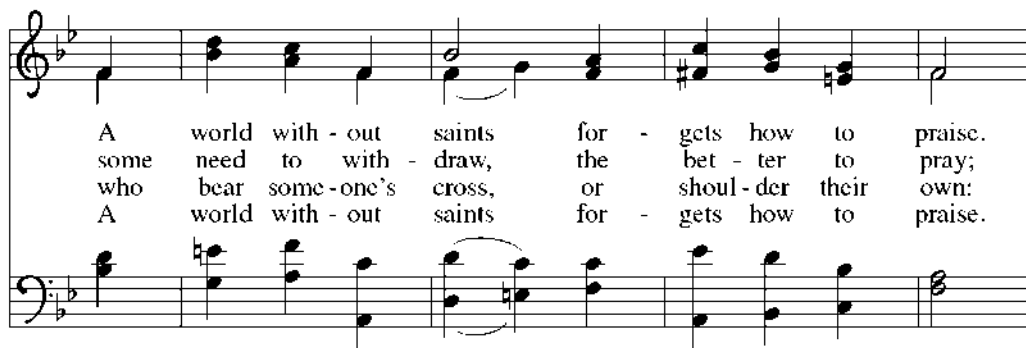
Most merciful God,
we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.
Amen

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

ENTRANCE HYMN *Rejoice in God's Saints (ELW 418)*



1 Re - joice in God's saints to - day and all days!
 2 Some march with e - vents to turn them God's way;
 3 Re - joice in those saints, un - praised and un - known,
 4 Re - joice in God's saints to - day and all days!



A world with - out saints for - gets how to praise.
 some need to with - draw, the bet - ter to pray;
 who bear some - one's cross, or shoul - der their own:
 A world with - out saints for - gets how to praise.



Their faith in ac - quir - ing the hab - it of prayer,
 some car - ry the gos - pel through fire and through flood:
 they share our com - plain - ing, our com - forts, our cares:
 In lov - ing, in liv - ing, they prove it is true:



their depth of a - dor - ing, Lord, help us to share.
 our world is their par - ish, their pur - pose is God.
 what pa - tience in car - ing, what cour - age is theirs!
 their way of self - giv - ing, Lord, leads us to you.

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Lord God, mercifully receive the prayers of your people. Help us to see and understand the things we ought to do, and give us grace and power to do them; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sit

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 17:5-10

(back cover)

PSALMODY

Psalm 1

Spoken responsively

- ¹ Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel | of the wicked,*
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats | of the scornful!
- ² **Their delight is in the law | of the LORD,***
and they meditate on his law | day and night.
- ³ They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that | do not wither;*
- ⁴ **It is not so | with the wicked;***
they are like chaff which the wind | blows away.
- ⁵ Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when | judgment comes,*
nor the sinner in the council | of the righteous.
- ⁶ **For the LORD knows the way | of the righteous,***
but the way of the wick- | ed is doomed.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

(back cover)

Stand

VERSE

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia

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

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 6:17-26 (*back cover*)

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

At the conclusion of the Gospel.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

Pastor Reep

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

Jesus, the Very Thought of You (ELW 754)

1 Je - sus, the ver - y thought of you fills us with sweet de - light;
2 No voice can sing, no heart can frame, nor can the mind re - call
3 O Hope of ev - 'ry con - trite soul, O Joy of all the meek,
4 O Je - sus, be our joy to - day; help us to prize your love;

but sweet-er far your face to view and rest with - in your light.
a sweet-er sound than your blest name, O Sav - ior of us all!
how kind you are to those who fall! How good to those who seek!
grant us at last to hear you say: "Come, share my home a - bove."

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.*

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

A brief silence.

Father, forgive us in not bringing forth a more satisfactory response to the issues that divide our nation and the nations of the earth. Do not heed pleas for victory, but grant, instead, peace with justice and freedom for all. Lord in your mercy...

hear our prayer.

Make us one in spirit and purpose. Move us out into the world with your love. Lord in your mercy...

hear our prayer.

Look upon our efforts throughout the world to minister to human need. Help us as we seek to aid others through education, and the relief of hunger, nakedness, homelessness, and disease. We remember especially the care provided through Lutheran World Relief. Lord in your mercy...

hear our prayer.

Give courage to those who suffer greatly because of their faith in you. Grant them the assurance of our concern for them, and relief from oppression and abuse. Lord in your mercy...

hear our prayer.

Attend to those who suffer sickness and adversity and grant them healing and wholeness. Especially we remember this day those who have asked for our prayers;

_____. Provide for their care through the insight and guidance of physicians, nurses, and care givers. Lord in your mercy...

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for the witness of saints and martyrs who have gone before us and who rest in you. Through their example shape our collective Christian witness. And at the last gather us all into your heavenly courts. Lord in your mercy...

hear our prayer.

We entrust our prayer to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people through your Son, Jesus Christ our 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 Organ

When Love is Found

James Biery

10:30 AM

Build a Longer Table

David Bjorlin

OFFERTORY

As with Gladness Men of Old (ELW 302) stanza 3



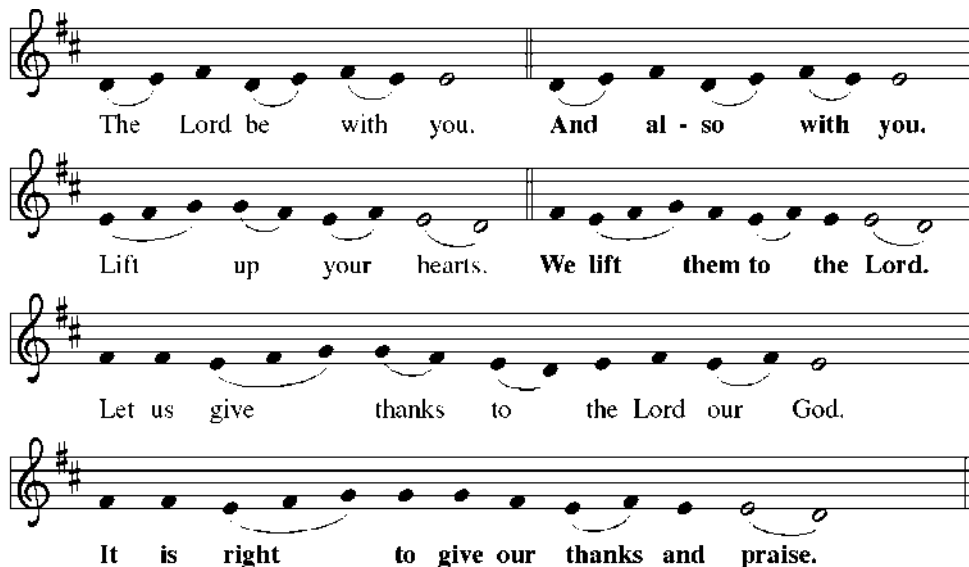
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,
so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
all our cost-liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n-ly king.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you,

O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

DIALOGUE *Stand*

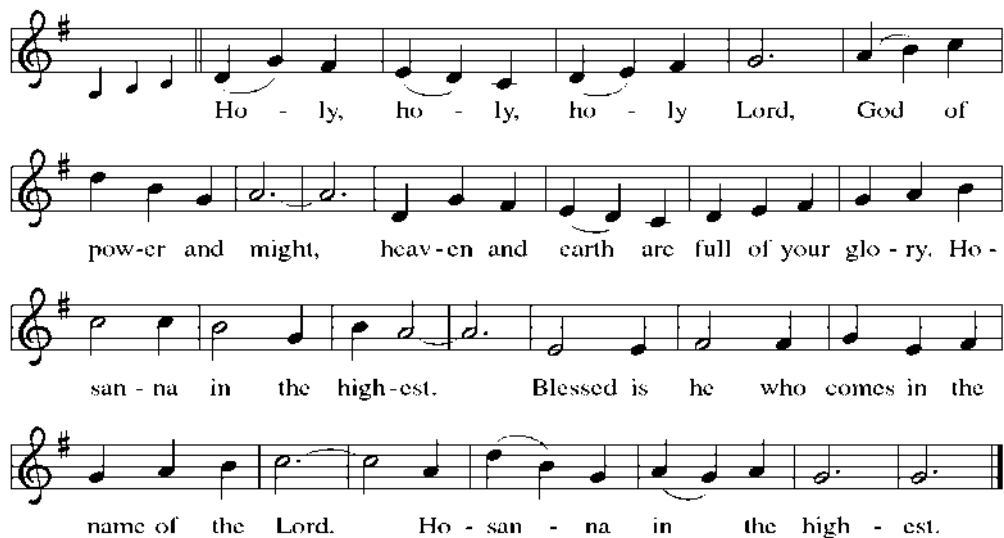


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God; you are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, that whoever believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

Having come into the world, he fulfilled for us your holy will and accomplished our salvation.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving Passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and his promise to come again, we give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, not as we ought, but as we are able; and we implore you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving, and, with your Word and Holy Spirit, to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine; that we and all who share in the body and blood of your Son may be filled with heavenly peace and joy, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be sanctified in soul and body, and have our portion with all your saints.

All honor and glory are yours, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, now and forever. **Amen**

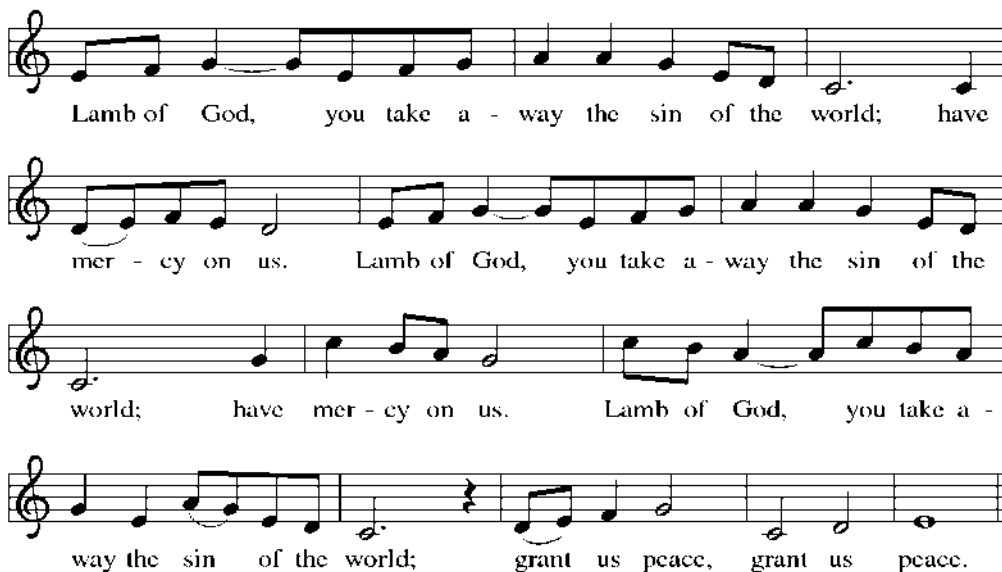
Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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 *A brief silence is kept.*

AGNUS DEI



COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL *Sit*

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.

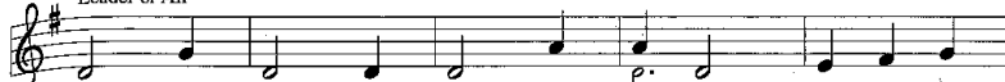
Procedure for receiving Communion:

1. Come to communion using the center aisle.
2. Take a communion glass from the tray of glasses.
3. Take your place along the chancel step.
4. The ministers will bring the host and wine to you.
5. Place the used cup in an empty tray located on a credence table at the side aisle.
6. Return to your pew using the side aisle

COMMUNION HYMN

Blest Are They (ELW 728)

Leader or All



1 Blest are they, the poor in spir - it; theirs is the
 2 Blest are they, the low - ly ones; . . . they shall in -
 3 Blest are they who show mer - cy; mer - cy
 4 Blest are they who seek peace; . . . they are the
 5 Blest are you who suf - fer hate, . . . all . . . be -



king - dom of God. Blest are they,
 her - it the earth. Blest are they who
 shall . . . be theirs. Blest are they, the
 chil - dren of God. Blest are they who
 cause . . . of me. Re - joice, be glad,

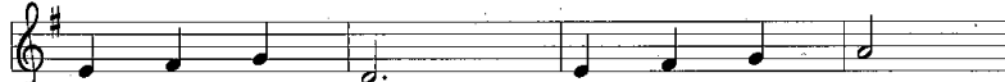


full of sor - row; they shall be con - soled.
 hun - ger and thirst; they shall have their fill.
 pure of heart; they shall see God.
 suf - fer in faith; the glo - ry of God is theirs.
 yours is the king - dom; shine for all to see.


Refrain
 All



Re - joice and be glad!



Bless - ed are you, ho - ly are you!



Re - joice and be glad!



Yours is the king - dom of God!

Stand

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the



sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions



and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

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

DISMISSAL

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

The congregation remains standing until the ministers and servers have left the chancel.

POSTLUDE

Rondeau

Jean Joseph Mouret

Music and Create —Age 3 through Grade 6—Tuesday evenings 6:00 PM—7:15 PM

We provide this opportunity 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 divide the children into two age groups, age 3 through grade 1 and grade 2 through grade 6.

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.

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. We ask that you plan to attend and show your support for our children and youth as they live into their baptismal covenant.



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. The choir will perform their winter program in our beautiful church nave. Please invite friends and neighbors to join you for this FREE concert.,



Greeters will be needed for next week's concert.

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.

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.



Calling all Women! TODAY, February 16th from 11:30-?.
Preparing “Meals of Blessings”. Come to help chop and cook for as much of the day as you are able. These meals will be kept in the freezer at church and be available to take to those suffering from sickness, recovering from hospitalization, or other needs.



Adult Education, Sundays, Christ Hall 9:15 AM

“Lessons from Dietrich Bonhoeffer” TODAY, February 16 is the last lesson. The class meets in Christ Hall.

This Week at St. Paul's

Church office open Tues—Thurs, 8:00 AM—4:00 PM, Friday 8:00 AM—11:30 AM

Sunday, February 16 Newsletter Deadline

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
 9:15 AM Sunday School for all ages
 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist– Live-Stream
 11:30AM Women's Group– Fellowship Kitchen
 6:30 PM AA Meeting—Community Room

Monday, February 17 President's Day

Office Closed

Preschool Closed

6:30 PM Council Mtg—Christ Hall

Tuesday, February 18

9:30 AM Pantry
 6:00 PM Create for Preschool thru Grade 6

Wednesday, February 19

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

Thursday, February 20

10:00 AM Preschool with Pastor—Nave
 6:00 PM English Class— Community Rm
 6:30 PM Handbell Choir
 7:30 PM Chancel Choir

Sunday, February 23 Youth Sunday

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
 9:15 AM Sunday School for all ages
 9:15 AM Women's Group—Christ Hall
 9:15 AM Men's Group - Community Room
 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist– Live-Stream
 2:00-4:00 PM Konde Synod Event—
 Advent Lutheran Church
 3:00 PM York County Senior Honors Choir Concert
 6:30 PM AA Meeting—Community Room

Serving the Lord with Gladness

| DATE | TIME | Assisting Minister | Crucifer | Lector | Lent Bread Bakers | Greeters | Ushers - | Altar Early: Set-up Late: Clean -up |
|------|----------|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------|---|--|
| 2/16 | 8:00 AM | Kirsten Barnes | James Palmer | Lois Ann Schroeder | | Bob & Connie Reed | Team 3E: Sammy Barnes, Norma Shue, Cliff Beck, | Kirsten & Sammy Barnes |
| 2/16 | 10:30 AM | Aaron Jacobs | Tom Gibson | Carolyn Kapoun | | Peter & Nancy O'Connor | Team 3L: Dan Garber, Joe Guarriello, Larry Becker | Larry & Janet Moore |

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.



Communion Bread Bakers—Please check the up-coming server schedule to see if you are designated to bake bread for Holy Communion. Questions should be directed to Pastor Reep

Call for Benevolence Applications—Please have applications to the office by April 30. You can request the online application from Patee in the office or use the green application form available in the Springettsbury Entrance. The application has a place for the year the funding is requested. Remember, you may support local, regional, national, or international ministry opportunities. Each applicant should have a connection to the project or ministry. Join the exciting ministry of showing the world that God is love. Pick up an application today. Feel free to call Pastor Snyder with any questions, 717-880-0350.

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.

Food Pantry Needs: Plastic and paper grocery bags. Peanut butter.

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

Volunteers on: Tuesday (distribution day), Thursdays (food delivery days) and some Sundays (pantry stocking days) Contact Teresa Rohrbaugh, Patty Snyder, Ken Hinkle, or the church office (717-843-8155) with questions.

The “Pantry Grocery Cart” in the Good Shepherd Room is for bags and food donations only.



The Rite of Confirmation will be held March 2, at the 10:30 am Liturgy. Those being Confirmed are Drew Herdson, Paula Herdson, Harrison Palmer, Jamie Palmer, Dylan Lauer, Jordan Nicoll, Ephraim Lipp, and Christian Kopp. Join us for cake in celebration of this milestone in Christian Faith after the service.

Get down off of your high horse! Come on, level with me. Would that he could grasp how the other half live. She's stuck in her ivory tower. These sayings and others like them have at their core an understanding that a great divide exists. The divide can be anything; economic, education, social, ethnic. The desire is to level the field, dissolve things that divide, allow for equality, often seeking out true and honest justice.

The day when Jesus came down off of the high ground, the mountain with his newly called disciples, he stood shoulder to shoulder with the crowd who had assembled. The crowd that day comprised residents from a wide variety of regions. There were poor people from the country side and affluent urban dwellers. There were scholarly officials from the religious community and simple fishermen. Women and sick people sought out their place in the crowd too. There were people of Jewish lineage, Greek speakers, and people from the other side of what was thought to be the "acceptable" region. Jesus standing with the people that day changed everything. His standing with them changed perceptions, opened possibilities, allowed for engagement with God, bringing about healing, acceptance, renewal, life for all people. That day some welcomed the Word proclaimed, others feared it. The same is true today.

On Tuesday the congregation marks its 189th year of Gospel ministry. That day in February 1836 when Pastor Johnathon Oswald, after enduring a rigged pastoral election naming August Lochman the pastor to succeed Dr. Schmucker at Christ Church, Pastor Oswald stood shoulder to shoulder with the English speaking men and women of York who desired that the services of God's house should be conducted in English. That day scholarly officials and general laborers, women and children gathered to charter what was to be called and known as the "*English Evangelical Lutheran Congregation*" and the church shall be called "*St. Paul's Church, York, Pennsylvania.*"

Pastor Oswald standing with the people that day changed everything. Pastor Oswald was the founding pastor of this community of faith. His standing with them changed perceptions about English language being used in worship over and against the historic German that had come with the people when they left Germany to settle the local community. It opened possibilities for those who couldn't understand German, yet who wanted to offer their prayer, praise and thanksgiving to God. It allowed for engagement with God, not just breaking down the language barrier but when the constitution was updated, women were given the right to vote in church elections fully engaging in the life of the congregation. His standing with the people that day would bring about healing, acceptance, renewal, life for the "*anglicized Lutherans of York who were scattered or scattering!*" This standing with the people became the hallmark of the ministry that would take root and blossom and flourish in the generations to follow. It would indeed provide us with the faith community in which we participate this morning.

The blessings and woes recited by Jesus, the ones we just heard recorded in the gospel reading from Luke, remind us of the importance of ministry for the poor, the hungry, those in sorrow. It makes us aware of the need to make ourselves available, getting off of our high horses, responding honestly to need, actively shrinking what divides this half from that, and stepping away from our safe places in order to move out in mission and ministry.

Reading through the history of the congregation I am continually encouraged by the generosity and love demonstrated by the people throughout these 189 years. Significant events to strengthen the greater York community are regularly noted. Financial challenges in building and maintaining appropriate houses of worship consume many pages. One such reference is from the 100th anniversary book. *“We feel that the early earnest and courageous desire to build and maintain a place of worship; where the Evangelical Truth could be proclaimed to the World; where the evidences of Christian stewardship could be manifest; where the talent God gave could be fitly employed and where the command “sell all that thou hast and follow Me,” could be ideally realized; has been fully carried out at St. Paul’s.”*

This was not just an exercise in beautiful prose. Or was it an effort to pat on the back the members of the community of faith. When the congregation set out to build a new house of worship in 1868 the architects estimated cost for the Romanesque structure on the corner of South Beaver and West King Streets was \$40,000. The building committee estimated the cost to be 25% more and planned for \$50,000. The total cost of construction was \$61,000. They believed in passing on to the next generations a rich heritage; worship, stewardship, education, and benevolence. And in order to live fully into that heritage a building was necessary and the maintenance of it essential. At the 60th anniversary the congregation in 1887, some 9 years after the new building was erected, gave benevolence of \$6,036.92. That’s equivalent to \$210,000 today! Generosity for the sake of the gospel compelled the congregation in robust synodical giving; realizing that the poor (widows and orphans) the hungry and the sorrowful needed to be undergirded with love, love that was translated in financially generous giving, and loving pastoral care.

In our 189th year there remain opportunities for us to stand shoulder to shoulder with people in need. Some may be poor financially or spiritually. There are others who physically hunger for food and yet others who are hungering for relationships; deep, meaningful ones with God and with one another. There are people in sorrow some of which comes from mourning the death of a loved one, some of which comes from the death of relationship, loss of job, lament of global and domestic disasters and national and international turbulence. But there remains the need for us to exist, to proclaim the Evangelical Truth that God loves the World, God loves us, so much that he comes to us, blessing us and reminding us of the woefully troubling things that vie for our attention, time, and financial resources.

Jesus comes to us. He is aware of our poverty, our hungering, and yearning for something more. He is acquainted with our deepest sorrow. He stands among us announcing hope and promise. At the table he gives himself to us in bread and wine forgiving us and renewing us so that *“in labors of love”* we may persevere. Anniversary celebrations grant us opportunity to look back, to celebrate the present, and to look forward with hope and anticipation. In Jesus’ sermon on the plain we hear of blessings and woes. We note who was present and who had need. We listen attentively to his every word, knowing that there is someone needing to dismount a high horse, someone needing to be honest creating a level playing field, someone needing to bridge two halves spanning differences bringing people together, and yet another who needs to abandon a place of security thinking that in it they can avoid Jesus’ call. Jesus stood shoulder to shoulder that day. Some welcomed his word of Truth, others feared it. He was clear about blessings and woes and the need to overcome all that divides. Amen.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 17:5-10

Thus says the LORD:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the LORD.

⁶They shall be like a shrub in the desert,
and shall not see when relief comes.
They shall live in the parched places of the
wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷Blessed are those who trust in the LORD,
whose trust is the LORD.

⁸They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

⁹The heart is devious above all else;
it is perverse—
who can understand it?

¹⁰I the LORD test the mind
and search the heart,
to give to all according to their ways,
according to the fruit of their doings.

Psalms 1**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20**

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. ¹⁵We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised.

¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. ¹⁹If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

GOSPEL: Luke 6:17-26

[Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰Then he looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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