



*Love
your enemies*

LUKE 6:27

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.

Today we rejoice in the presence of youth as they take active roles in our liturgical life. Please extend words of encouragement and appreciation to them following the liturgy. Thank you to Miss Kelly and Mrs. Jones for helping to prepare for Youth Sunday.

STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Stanley Reep

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Youth Director

Kelly Moore-Spencer

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Organist, Choir Director

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Secretary

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Ted Weikert

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Preschool Director

Deb Becker

director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com

February 23, 2025
Seventh Sunday After Epiphany
Holy Communion 8:00 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.
Musical setting #1 Evangelical Lutheran Worship

PRELUDE

Fantasy Timothy Brown
Piano Duet, James & Harrison Palmer

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.

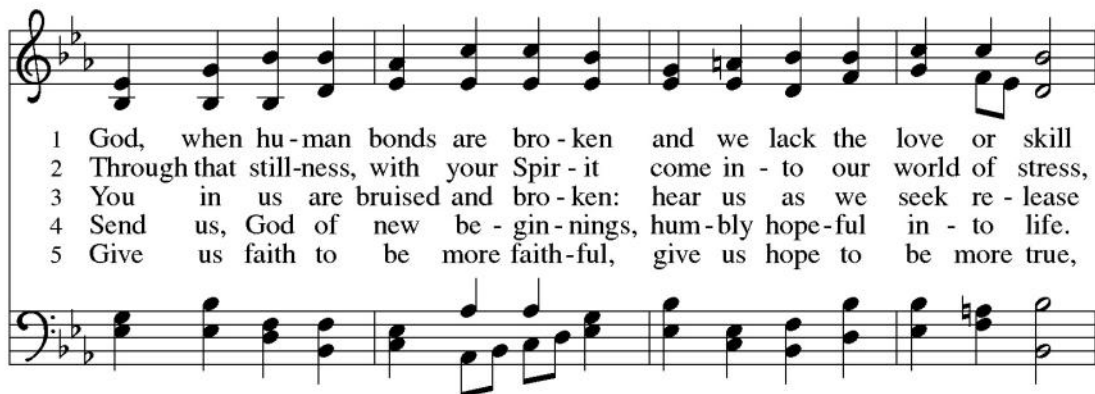
Silence for reflection and self-examination.

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 *God When Human Bonds are Broken (ELW 603)*



1 God, when hu-man bonds are bro-ken and we lack the love or skill
2 Through that still-ness, with your Spir-it come in-to our world of stress,
3 You in us are bruised and bro-ken: hear us as we seek re-lease
4 Send us, God of new be-gin-nings, hum-bly hope-ful in-to life.
5 Give us faith to be more faith-ful, give us hope to be more true,



to re-store the hope of heal-ing, give us grace and make us still.
for the sake of Christ for-giv-ing all the fail-ures we con-fess.
from the pain of ear-lier liv-ing; set us free and grant us peace.
Use us as a means of bless-ing: make us stron-ger, give us faith.
give us love to go on learn-ing: God, en-cour-age and re-new!

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, we ask you to keep your family, the Church, always faithful to you, that all who lean on the hope of your promises may gain strength from the power of your love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sit

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

(back cover)

PSALMODY

PSALM 37:1-11, 39-40

Spoken responsively

- ¹ Do not fret yourself because of | evildoers;*
do not be jealous of those | who do wrong.
- ² **For they shall soon wither | like the grass,***
and like the green grass | fade away.
- ³ Put your trust in the LORD | and do good;*
dwell in the land and feed | on its riches.
- ⁴ **Take delight | in the LORD,***
and he shall give you your | heart's desire.
- ⁵ Commit your way to the LORD and put your | trust in him,*
and he will bring | it to pass.
- ⁶ **He will make your righteousness as clear | as the light***
and your just dealing | as the noonday.
- ⁷ Be still be- | fore the LORD*
and wait patient- | ly for him.
- ⁸ **Do not fret yourself over the | one who prospers,***
the one who succeeds in | evil schemes.
- ⁹ Refrain from anger, leave | rage alone;*
do not fret yourself; it leads on- | ly to evil.
- ¹⁰ **For evildoers shall | be cut off,***
but those who wait upon the LORD shall pos- | sess the land.
- ¹¹ In a little while the wicked shall | be no more;*
you shall search out their place, but they will | not be there.
- ³⁹ **Mark those who are honest; ob- | serve the upright;***
for there is a future | for the peaceable.
- ⁴⁰ Transgressors shall be destroyed, | one and all;*
the future of the wicked | is cut off.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

(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 6:27-38 *(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 *Jesu, Jesu Fill Us With Your Love (ELW 708)*

10:30 AM *The children provide leadership for the hymn. Please sing with them.*

Refrain



Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show



us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.



1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their feet,
2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,
3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;
4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash-ing their feet:



Refrain

mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.
all these are neigh-bors to us and you.
this is the way we will live with you.

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.

Almighty God, you call us to love our enemies and to show kindness. Shape us into a community where love and kindness are manifest through our actions.

Lord in your mercy...

Hear our prayer.

Provide us with a willingness to listen to one another, and even to those with whom we have sharp disagreements. Center us in the truth of your Son's love for all people. Lord in your mercy...

Hear our prayer.

Give wisdom and discernment to leaders and policymakers as they seek to reduce violence in nations, cities and towns. We pray especially for our President and Governor. Lord in your mercy...

Hear our prayer.

Nurture the children and youth of the church so that they mature in faith and continue to proclaim your message of hope and salvation. We rejoice in their witness among us this morning. Lord in your mercy...

Hear our prayer.

Grant your healing power to those who are sick. Bring wholeness to all who are suffering in any way. This morning we pray for; _____. Lord in your mercy...

Hear our prayer.

We give thanks for the enduring witness of men and women of faith who have run the race with perseverance and who now rest in you. We remember today Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna. With him and all saints and martyrs who have gone before us bring us at the last to the fullness of joy in your kingdom. 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

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Theodore Beck

10:30 AM

What Does the Lord Require

Eric Nelson

OFFERTORY

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

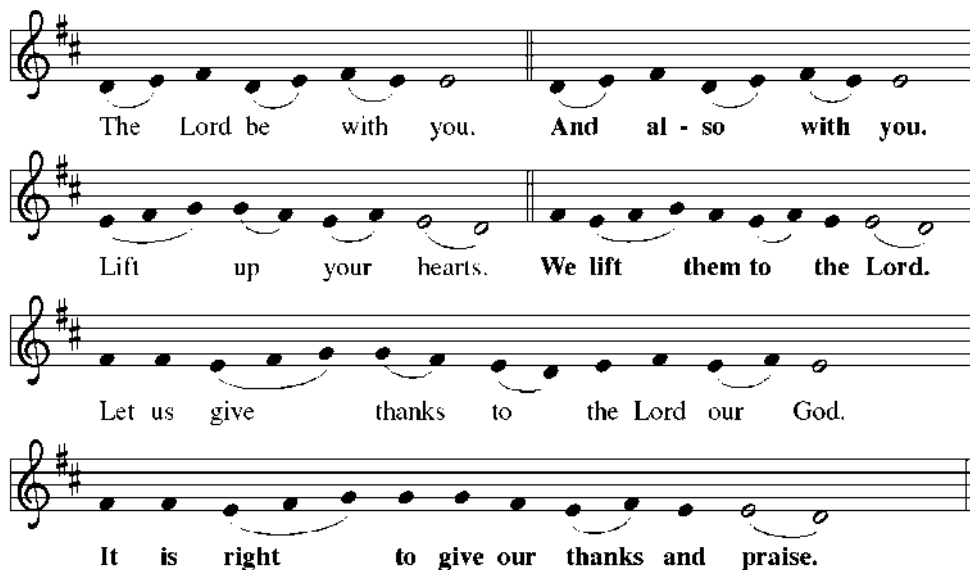


OFFERTORY PRAYER

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*



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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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



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

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:

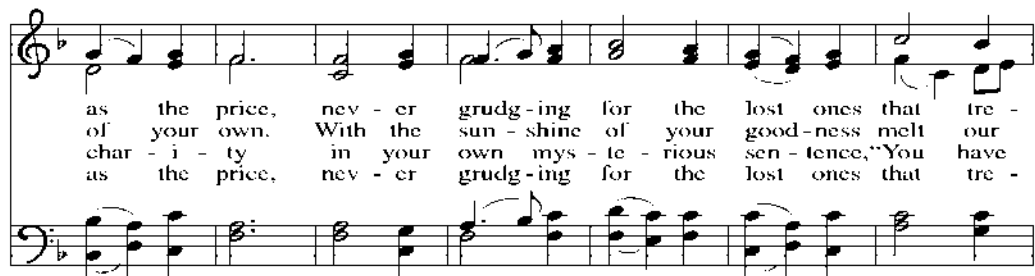
- 1. Come to communion using the center aisle.*
- 2. Take a communion glass from the tray of glasses.*
- 3. Take your place along the chancel step.*
- 4. The ministers will bring the host and wine to you.*
- 5. Place the used cup in an empty tray located on a credence table at the side aisle.*
- 6. Return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

COMMUNION HYMN

Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us (ELW 707)



1 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us with your life - blood
 2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you glad - ly, free - ly,
 3 Won-drous hon - or you have giv - en to our hum - blest
 4 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us with your life - blood



as the price, nev - er grudg - ing for the lost ones that tre -
 of your own. With the sun - shine of your good - ness melt our
 char - i - ty in your own mys - te - rious sen - tence, "You have
 as the price, nev - er grudg - ing for the lost ones that tre -



men - dous sac - ri - fice; and with that have free - ly giv - en
 thank - less hearts of stone till our cold and self - ish na - tures,
 done it all to me." Na - ked, sick, in pris - on, hun - gry—
 men - dous sac - ri - fice. Give us faith to trust you hold - ly,



bles - sings count - less as the sand to the un - thank - ful
 warmed by you, at length be - lieve that more hap - py
 in the least, your face we view, say - ing by your
 hope, to stay our souls on you: but, oh, best of



and the e - vil with your own un - spar - ing hand,
 and more bless - ed 'tis to give than to re - ceive,
 poor and need - y, "Give as I have giv'n to you."
 all your grac - es, with your love our love re - new.

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

Canticle

Gilbert Martin

The altar flowers are presented to the glory of God in gratefulness of God's eternal love by the Vaught family.



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.

TODAY the children and youth of the congregation assume leadership roles for the liturgy. We 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.



TODAY 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.,

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.

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.



Ash Wednesday, March 5
11:00 AM & 7:00 PM



Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. It has historically been a day of great solemnity in the church. It is a day for us to recommit ourselves to the disciplines of Christian life. Fasting, prayer, devotion, self-denial, and worship all help to focus our attention on the One who loves us so much that he comes among us, lives with us, dies for us and is raised up so that we have life now and for eternity. Services on Ash Wednesday will be held at 11:00 AM and at 7:00 PM. Both services will include a Lenten Confession, imposition of ashes, and Holy Communion. Again this year a luncheon will follow the 11:00 AM liturgy in Christ Hall.

This Week at St. Paul's

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

Sunday, February 23 Youth Sunday

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
 9:15 AM Sunday School for Children
 9:15 AM Women's Group—Christ Hall
 9:15 AM Men's Group - Community Room,
 Lower Level
 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

Monday, February 24

6:00 PM Christian Ed Meeting—Youth Room
 7:00 PM Mutual Ministry

Tuesday, February 25

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

Wednesday, February 26

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

Thursday, February 27

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

Saturday March 1

7:30 AM Council Retreat
 5:30 PM Confirmation Banquet

Sunday, March 2 Transfiguration

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
 9:15 AM Sunday School
 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist- Live-Stream
 10:30 AM Sacrament of Holy Baptism &
 Rite of Confirmation
 11:30 AM Reception, Good Shepherd Room
 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
2/23	8:00 AM	Harold Sargeant	Harrison Palmer	James Palmer		Denise Rider, Norma Shue	Team 1E: Jeff Riese, John Monk, Alex Bastian	Kathy Monk, Lois Ann Schroeder
2/23	10:30 AM	Jaclyn Kinkella	Christian Kopp	Jaclyn Kinkella		Pat Rudicille & Jerry Briggs	Team 1L: Dave Kopp, Christian Kopp, Darren Smith, Kass Keleta	Larry & Janet Moore

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

TODAY 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 Next Sunday, 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 a slice of cake in celebration of this milestone in Christian Faith following the service.

The Philadelphia Eagles winning the Super Bowl has energized the city and surrounding area. The proof of the energy was witnessed by the news coverage of the parade and celebration held last week. One young woman who participated in the Eagle's celebration and the concluding event held at the classic site of the Philadelphia Public Library steps, made famous from the Sylvester Stallone movie Rocky, was taking her leave when she noticed an Eagle's Jacket left hanging on a post. She immediately thought, "Ah, someone left their jacket behind." As she reached to see if there was a name or any identification as to whose jacket it might be, she discovered a note pinned inside. It read, *"To whoever finds this jacket, do not try and return it. You are the rightful owner. I have had the jacket since the last time the Eagle's won the Super Bowl. Please keep it and use it until the next time they win, and then pass it along to someone else."* She immediately posted the story to social medial. She was flooded with responses and good wishes. It was clearly a great human interest story. The young woman plans to pass it on. She doesn't think that she will be able to keep it for long. She suspects that the Eagle's will have another winning season in 2026.

When Jesus came down the mountain with his disciples and began to teach them, he provided them some things that were meaningful for him, and he passed them along to those who were listening. It wasn't as though he wanted them to keep them to themselves, but rather to kindly pass them along, live them, do them, make life more interesting. In the gospel of Luke we pick up from last Sunday's blessings and woes. Here Jesus sets down a list that seems to give shape to life, to help humankind maneuver through the complexities of daily life and living. The list as I transcribed it goes like this: Love, do good, bless, pray, give, do, be merciful, don't judge, don't condemn, forgive, give. Maybe you noticed that "give" made the list twice. I conclude that generosity is doubly important to Jesus. The concluding line picks up on "give." We hear Jesus say *"for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."*

The woman attending the Eagle's celebration went to the event to revel and to bask in the victory of her beloved team. She had no idea that she would be the recipient of a classic dark green Eagle's jacket. Or that she would be instructed by a complete stranger to do something good for someone else, to do something good for a complete stranger.

In our lives of faith we listen to Jesus. He is not a complete stranger to us. He is the one who has claimed us as his own in the sacrament of Holy Baptism, established a relationship with us, and calls us to follow him. He provides us with an identifying garment, not a dark green Philadelphia Eagle's jacket, but a garment that identifies us as his own to everyone with whom we come in contact; love, do good, bless, pray, give, do, be merciful, don't judge, don't condemn, forgive, give. These are the things that are woven together to form the garment with which Christ has blessed us.

Martin Luther, of 16th century reformation fame, would add that you don't do all of these to earn something or to achieve God's good favor, for God has already given himself for you fully on the cross, suffering and dying, and rising on Easter morning. Followers of Christ will have their lives wrapped and embraced by the things announced by Jesus that day on the Judean plain. Jesus wants us as his followers to maneuver life, live life, enjoy life, and love life, by exhibiting the things he taught that day. He gave the list to them so that they could enact them as they live each day. Jesus' disciples, his followers, those who are called and sent give shape to his kingdom, his realm by doing them. Jesus knows all too well that there are enemies, there are peo-

ple who hate, people who curse, and he knows that there are people who abuse and those who are quick to take a swing. He knows too well the judgmental condemning ones, and he is the one who grasps the importance of forgiveness, BE MERCIFUL.

Ed Brown was my mentor and father confessor. He was a scholar, a writer, a teacher, a pastor, an artist, a husband, a father, and a friend to many. In his later years he provided interim pastoral care and coverage for the Sunday service to many congregations in the Upper Susquehanna Synod. Parishioners would sometimes have the courage to tell him to his face, imagine a published PHD elderly clergyman with more than 50 years of ministry experience, and they would tell him to his face that they “Didn’t get anything out of the service, or didn’t get anything out of going to church, or didn’t get anything out of the liturgy.” Without hesitation Ed would reply “did you put anything into it?”

“Did you put anything into it?” That question is one which each of us must answer, and according to our theological perspective must one day give account. We are eager to find out “what’s in it for me” before we engage with the list Jesus delivered that day to the crowd of followers. “What’s in it for me?” It reminds me of the old joke; I used it here one year for a stewardship Sunday. It is the one where the woman dies and finds herself at the gates of pearl and is confronted by Saint Peter. He asks her name, she states it with bold clarity. Peter scans page after page in his big book. After what seemed to the woman to be an eternity, Peter asks *“I am having trouble locating your name. Let’s approach this from a different direction. “During your earthly life did you do anything, you know like good things, or were you generous in giving?”* The woman replied, *“Well yes.”* There was a rather long pause as she reflected back over her years of earthly life then with a rapid succession she blurted out *“I gave \$5 to the food pantry, \$10 to the world hunger drive during Lent, and donated \$5 to purchase supplies to make blankets.”* “Ok” replied Peter. *“I still haven’t located your name so I will need to check this out and I will be right back.”* Peter turned around looking up into what appeared to be a large fluffy cloud and shouted up *“I have one here who said she gave \$5 to the food pantry, \$10 to help with the global hunger crisis and \$5 for blanket supplies!”* A voice boomed back from the cloud *“give her a 20 and tell her where she can go!”*

My sinful side wants to get to the “what’s in it for me” question before I spend much if any time living into the list Jesus delivered that day to the crowd of followers. My father confessor’s rather curt response to those quick to point out what seems to be failing or ailing or falling short, gets to the heart of our Lord’s desire and longing for us to live into his list, to allow his list to shape our lives and the way we interact and provide for one another as we maneuver through life. “Did you put anything into it?” “Give” says Jesus of your time and talent and treasure. “Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

We don’t do the things that Jesus presented to those listening that day on the Judean plain so that we get something in return. We do them; we pass them along, because we are reveling, basking in the victory of Christ. We are living through the winning season of Christ Jesus. He wins. The victory is his and he makes it ours. So as the note pinned inside the Philadelphia Eagle’s jacket proclaimed, pass it along. Pass along the garment Christ has bestowed upon you; love, do good, bless, pray, give, do, be merciful, don’t judge, don’t condemn, forgive, give, so that God’s victory in Christ, makes a difference for you and for a complete stranger. Amen.

FIRST READING: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.'"

¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Psalms 37:1-11, 39-40**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50**

But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

⁴²So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴It is sown

a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body.

⁴⁵Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

⁵⁰What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

GOSPEL: Luke 6:27-38

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

³²"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷"Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

Next Sunday's Readings: Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3:12–4:2; Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a].

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