

# 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  
December 2025 & January 2026



## Christmas Worship Schedule

Please note the alternate service times throughout the Christmas Season

**Sunday December 21, Fourth Sunday of Advent 10:30 AM**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*  
The Holy Eucharist  
*The Ringing in of Christmas*  
***Joy to the World***

**Wednesday, December 24, Christmas Eve - The Nativity of Our Lord**  
**4:00 PM**

*O Come All Ye Faithful*  
The Holy Eucharist  
Lighting of Hand Candles  
*Children's choir*

**7:00 PM**  
*Once in Royal David's City*  
The Holy Eucharist  
Lighting of Hand Candles  
*Handbells, Organ, Chancel Choir,*

**Thursday, December 25, Christmas Day 10:30 AM**

*When Christmas Morn is Dawning*  
The Holy Eucharist

**Sunday December 28, The Holy Innocents, Martyrs 10:30 AM**

*Lully, Lullay, Thou Little Tiny Child*  
The Holy Eucharist

**Sunday January 4, Second Sunday after Christmas 10:30 AM**

*A Stable Lamp is Lighted*  
The Holy Eucharist  
Installation of Congregation Council

**Tuesday, January 6, Epiphany of Our Lord 6:00 PM**

*What Child is This?*  
The Holy Eucharist  
*A liturgy designed for the children of the parish*  
*All are welcome and encouraged to attend.*

## **The Season of Advent Begins Sunday 30 November**

### **Season of Hope and Expectation**

Sunday 30 November ushers in a new liturgical year with the First Sunday of Advent. With the new liturgical year comes a lectionary grounded in the Gospel of Matthew. Matthew has a preoccupation with righteousness. Matthew helps us by revealing from whom true righteousness comes. When you join in worship, expect to hear the story of God's love told with elegance, bold imagery, and a review of what was stated in the Hebrew Scriptures. This is a season which brings hope, not only for people of faith, but as the angels proclaim; "News of great joy for all people!" Our Advent worship will be shaped by the joy which comes to us and is given to us by God's only Son, Christ Jesus.



### **Advent Wednesdays**

#### **Dinner and Vespers**

On the three Wednesdays in Advent we will have a simple fellowship meal at 6:00 PM in Christ Hall followed by Vespers in the Church Nave at 7:00 PM. By setting aside this time for Christian fellowship and prayer you will add another way to observe this holy season. If you would like to contribute to the items needed for the meal please add your name to the sign-up sheet located in the Good Shepherd Room. The vesper liturgy adds a particular calm to what can be a hectic season. Join us for fellowship and prayer.



### **The Nativity of Our Lord**

#### **Christmas Eve 4:00 and 7:00 PM**

The Christmas Eve services will be held at 4:00 and 7:00 PM on Wednesday, December 24. The liturgies will be slightly different based on the choir personnel and those in attendance. Last year we experienced an overwhelming participation at 4:00 PM by families and young children. With that knowledge the Worship and Arts Committee and the music staff has planned for elegant musical expressions announcing the Lord's birth in Bethlehem at both service times. There will be carols, preaching and Holy Communion at both services. The church will be beautifully decorated and we will enjoy the sound of our beautiful pipe organ leading us in our prayer, praise and thanksgiving to God for the great gift of his Son, Christ Jesus. Our Christmas Eve liturgies have become some of the favorite services of the entire year. Do come, invite friends and family members, and rejoice as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.



### **Christmas Day**

#### **Thursday, December 25**

#### **10:30 AM**

Our Christmas Day liturgy is at 10:30 AM, Thursday December 25<sup>th</sup>. It provides yet another opportunity for us to celebrate the joyous Nativity of Our Lord. This celebration of the Holy Eucharist will reveal in the beauty of morning light, the new day that is ours in Christ. On this Holy Day we will remember the greatest gift given, God's Son, Christ Jesus. And we will rejoice in the life, health and salvation given to us through him. The Christmas Day liturgy is becoming more popular among our church family. It helps in a very concrete way to keep Christ Jesus our Lord at the center of this Holy Day. Please let others know about this worship opportunity. There are folks who may not be able to attend a Christmas Eve service and fewer congregations gather on Christmas morning so please spread the word and the invitation. We gladly welcome guests.



## **Christmas Decorating Tuesday, December 16 at 6:00 PM**

The Worship and Arts Committee invites anyone able and willing to help with the church decorating on Tuesday December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. We will be working with fresh greens so please bring along gloves and clippers. There are some jobs that require using a ladder and others that don't. Most jobs are inside while a few do take place outside. This is the third year for us using oil filled candles in the aisle posts. Some extra time and care will most-likely be needed as we discern effective implementation and put to use the knowledge from the last two years. From the Time and Ability forms plenty of us checked off "Christmas decorating" so do plan to come. If you didn't check off that box on the form feel free to join us, the more the merrier! If you are able to help decorate on December 16<sup>th</sup> please notify the church office. This helps in identifying groups to accomplish the many tasks needed to complete the decorating.



## **Children of St. Paul's present...**

### **The Christmas Elephant Sunday December 14, 10:30 AM**

Children participating in the Tuesday evening Create Program have put together a simple presentation for the Advent season. On Sunday December 14 at the 10:30 AM liturgy the children will share the story of The Christmas Elephant by Maria Antonia with us. The Christmas Elephant is a Nativity story about children putting on a show that tells the story of Jesus' birth. In the story the children take on the roles of sheep and shepherds, a choir of angels, and the three Magi. The children helped to create the musical components of the program including carols and songs, instruments, and rhythmic chants. Thank you to Mrs. Jones and Miss Kelly for preparing the children. Please join us for this wonderful story that reminds us what Christmas is really about.

## **December Reading**

### **Marking time with devotion, prayer, activity, and reading**

The days are quickly coming. Advent is here. Christmas is on its way. December, the last month of the calendar year, can easily evaporate. With invitations, holiday concerts, preparations for visits with family and friends and services at church the thirty-one days pass speedily. Mark this blessed season with time spent in devotion, prayer, advent activities, and reading. In the Good Shepherd Room an assortment of resources awaits, some are for use with children, some are daily devotions, others are provided to center your thought on the season, Christ Jesus, and God's out poured love.



There are 24 copies of "*The Carpenter's Son*" a novel by John Gray. The story is fiction, set in our current time with Jesus revealing himself to ordinary people living ordinary lives with struggles and heartache and disappointment. New York Times bestselling author Richard Paul Evans sums it up like this "If you've ever wished you could travel back in time to the days of Jesus and ask all of the most difficult questions, this is the novel for you." While reading the book you may wish to jot down the Bible stories that come to mind. Please take a copy and make it your own. Then if you feel compelled to do so, pass it on to a friend, neighbor, coworker or family member.

**THE ENTIRE ST. PAUL'S STAFF WISH YOU THE JOYS AND BLESSINGS OF  
THIS HOLY SEASON. MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM:  
VICTOR, TED, PATEE, KELLY, LEAH, JULIANNA, DEB, ALLISON,  
AND PASTOR STAN.**

## Music and Create

Age 3 through Grade 6

Tuesday evenings

6pm through 7:15pm

Music and Create is a program designed 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.

During the month of December Music and Create will be combined as we prepare for our Christmas Program. **The Program will take place on Sunday December 14th.** On Tuesdays, December 16<sup>th</sup> and December 23rd, the children will be practicing their song for Christmas Eve. **The children will sing at the 4 o'clock service.** After we have finished practicing on these evenings, we will have a special treat and fellowship time.

Please contact us if you have any questions: Mrs. Jones and Miss Kelly



## Christian Education

The season of Advent has begun students were given Advent Devotionals prior to Nov 30. If you haven't received one let Johanna or Kelly know and we can get you one.

The students are having a great time learning each Sunday. Sunday School will end for the holiday worship services on Dec 21 and will resume Jan 4 in the New Year.



## Jr & Sr High Youth Group: Faith and Life Grades 6 through 12

Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>—6 pm—Help Decorate the Nave for Christmas

Sunday, January 11th

11:45am – 1:30pm (following the 10:30am service)

Youth Room



## 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 in the South York Plaza.

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](http://LifePathYork.org) for additional information.

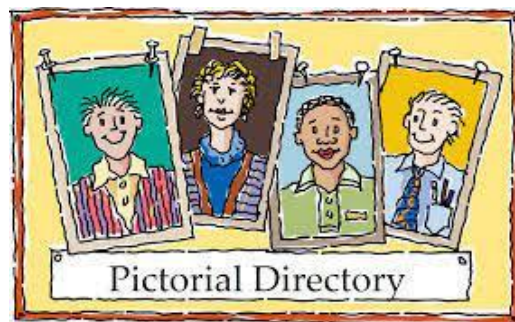


## Professional Family Portraits

Free 8 X 10

**Additional Dates – December 29 & 30, 12 noon –6:30 PM**

Periodically the congregation prepares a photo directory as a tool to help us to get better acquainted. Additionally, each family participating receives a free family portrait for participating in the project. The desire is to have as many of our households participate so that we achieve our desired purpose. You will be able to select your photography time through an electronic sign-up sheet.



The photo directory is being produced by Universal Church Directories. They are a reputable company and one of the few church directory companies that survived following the pandemic in 2020. Families who desire to purchase additional photos will have the opportunity to do so. But there is no obligation to purchase anything. Simply let them know that you only desire the free 8 X 10 portrait. With this directory all participants will receive a hard color copy of the photo directory. And this year we have the option to access our church directory through an app. The app will allow you to access the directory from your phone or tablet so that you can easily identify members and friends when you are working on a committee or ministry project.

### ONLINE SCHEDULING INSTRUCTIONS FOR FAMILY APPOINTMENT SETTING

1. Go to the Universal Church Directories website ([www.ucdir.com](http://www.ucdir.com))
2. Click on the box on the right side of the homepage entitled “photography appointment scheduling login”
3. Enter your church code [pa1207](#)
4. Enter your church password [photos](#)
5. Click on the Enter button
6. Click on the desired photography date
7. Click on the Reserve Time button beside the desired photography appointment time
8. Enter the appropriate information in all required fields (indicated by the asterisk)
9. Click on the Schedule Appointment button at the bottom of the screen to reserve the photography appointment time in your family’s name
10. If you have more than six family members being photographed, please reserve two appointments consecutively (such as 6:00 and 6:10)
11. Print the next screen to use as a reminder of your family’s photography appointment
12. Contact your church’s online scheduling administrator to change or cancel your photography appointment



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



## Youth musicians are invited to LSM 2026 at St. Olaf College!

Lutheran Summer Music Academy & Festival (LSM) is the nation's premier faith-based music academy for high school students. Young musicians come together from all over the country to immerse themselves in joyful music-making and build a supportive and welcoming community, living together on a college campus. During the day, students receive advanced musical instruction through large ensembles (Festival Choir, Band and Orchestra), chamber music, private lessons, and elective classes (such as conducting, composition, church music, jazz band, musical theatre, handbells). In the evenings, students attend recitals, Evening Prayer services, and social events with their friends. **LSM 2026 takes place at St. Olaf College from June 21-July 19 (Full Session) or June 21-July 3**

**(Half Session) and is open to students who have completed grades 8-12.** Priority Enrollment is offered now through December 1 with a \$50 discount. Standard Enrollment is offered through March 1. General financial aid options are available. Program Info: [LSMacademy.org/program](https://LSMacademy.org/program) | Apply: [LSMacademy.org/apply](https://LSMacademy.org/apply) | Questions: [admissions@lutheransummermusic.org](mailto:admissions@lutheransummermusic.org)

**St. Paul's Women's Group- Who is it for? All Women of St. Paul's are invited to all events and planning meetings. See what's happening below!**

### Mark Your Calendars!

The Women's Group will hold its first meeting of the new year **following the 10:30 liturgy on Sunday, January 18**, at St. Paul's. All women of the parish are warmly encouraged to attend as we begin planning events and activities for the 2026 calendar year.



## *Soul Tending...for Life!*

### **Women's Retreat**

**April 18, 2026**

**Mark your calendars NOW for this all day event.**

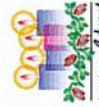


Come, for cherished time with God. Come, for joyful companionship with other women. Come, for nourishing experiences with your own soul.

Our women's retreat will offer invitations such as these. On site at St. Paul's, we'll create a space for nesting, resting and questing with our souls. In this space, we'll share experiences of soul-tending that help us listen for the holy in all the moments of our lives. Worship on this special day will be led by Pastor Beth Schlegel of St. Peter's Lutheran Church and Christ Manchester.

Our retreat speaker is Cheryl Galan, who delights in bringing women together for experiences of soul-tending! As a Presbyterian minister, Cheryl served with congregations in New York, Kansas, and Wisconsin and as the transitional leader of presbyteries in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. In retirement, Cheryl continues to be drawn to experiences of relationship-building and spiritual formation, in community.

**Watch for more information in the new year. Registration begins February 1.**

| Sunday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Monday                                                         | Tuesday                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Wednesday                                                                                                                                                                                               | Thursday                                                                                                                                                             | Friday                          | Saturday                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 30<br><br><b>Poinsettia Orders due</b><br>8:00am Holy Eucharist<br>9:15am Making Advent Wreaths<br>10:30am Holy Eucharist - Live Stream<br>6:30pm AA Meeting - Community Rm.                                                                                                        | 1<br>Preschool Closed                                          | 2<br>9:15am Pantry Volunteers<br>9:30am Food Pantry<br>6:00pm CREATE-Preschool - Gr 6                                                                                                                        | 3<br>10:00am Preschool & Pastor - Nave<br>6:00pm Advent dinner<br>7:00pm Advent Vespers                                                                                                                 | 4<br>10:00am Preschool & Pastor - Nave<br>6:30pm Handbell Choir<br>7:30pm Chancel Choir                                                                              | 5                               | 6<br>10:00am - 12:00pm York College Choir Rehearsal |
| 7<br><br>8:00am Holy Eucharist<br>9:15am Sunday School for all ages<br>10:30am Holy Eucharist - Live Stream<br>3:00pm York College Holiday Choral Concert<br>6:30pm AA Meeting - Community Rm.                                                                                      | 8<br>6:00pm Finance Committee- in person St. Paul's            | 9<br>Council Reports due to Church Secretary<br>9:15am Pantry Volunteers<br>9:30am Food Pantry<br>6:00pm CREATE-Preschool - Gr 6                                                                             | 10<br>6:00pm Advent dinner<br>7:00pm Advent Vespers                                                                                                                                                     | 11<br>6:30pm Handbell Choir<br>7:30pm Chancel Choir                                                                                                                  | 12                              | 13                                                  |
| 14<br><br>8:00am Holy Eucharist<br>9:15am Sunday School for all ages<br>9:30am Social Ministry Mtg - Bookkeeper Rm.<br>10:30am Children's Advent Christmas Program<br>10:30am Holy Eucharist - Live Stream<br>11:45am Second Sunday Sandwiches<br>6:30pm AA Meeting - Community Rm. | 15<br><b>Newsletter Deadline</b>                               | 16<br><br>9:15am Pantry Volunteers<br>9:30am Food Pantry<br>6:00pm Christmas Decorating<br>6:00pm CREATE-Preschool - Gr 6 | 17<br>6:00pm Advent dinner<br>7:00pm Advent Vespers                                                                                                                                                     | 18<br>Preschool Christmas Program - Nave<br>10:00am Preschool & Pastor - Nave<br>6:30pm Handbell Choir<br>7:30pm Chancel Choir                                       | 19                              | 20                                                  |
| 21<br><br>Ringing in of Christmas<br>9:15am Sunday School for all ages<br>10:30am Combined Liturgy - Livestream<br>6:30pm AA Meeting - Community Rm.                                                                                                                              | 22<br>Preschool Christmas Break<br>8:00am Organ Tuning         | 23<br>Preschool Christmas Break<br>9:15am Pantry Volunteers<br>9:30am Food Pantry<br>6:00pm CREATE-Preschool thru Gr 6<br>6:00pm Property Committee - Christ Hall                                            | 24<br><br><b>CHRISTMAS EVE Service</b><br><b>CHRISTMAS EVE Service 4 PM &amp; 7 PM</b><br>Preschool Christmas Break | 25<br><br><b>CHRISTMAS EVE Service 10:30 AM Only</b><br>Preschool Christmas Break | 26<br>Preschool Christmas Break | 27                                                  |
| 28<br>Holy Innocents<br>10:30am Combined Liturgy - Livestream<br>6:30pm AA Meeting - Community Rm.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 29<br>Photo Directory Photo Shoot<br>Preschool Christmas Break | 30<br>Last day for year end Offerings<br>Photo Directory Photo Shoot<br>Preschool Christmas Break<br>9:15am Pantry Volunteers<br>9:30am NO Food Pantry                                                       | 31<br><br><b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b><br>Preschool Christmas Break                                                        | 1<br><br><b>Office Closed</b><br>Preschool Christmas Break                        | 2<br>Preschool Christmas Break  | 3                                                   |

| Sunday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Monday                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Tuesday                                                                                                                                                                   | Wednesday                                                                                                                                      | Thursday                                                                                                                                    | Friday                            | Saturday |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| 28<br>Holy Innocents<br>10:30am Combined Liturgy - Livestream<br>6:30pm AA Meeting - Community Rm.                                                                                                                                              | 29<br>Photo Directory Photo Shoot<br>Preschool Christmas Break                                                                                                                                           | 30<br>Last day for year end Offerings<br>Photo Directory Photo Shoot<br>Preschool Christmas Break<br>9:15am Pantry Volunteers<br>9:30am NO Food Pantry                    | 31<br><br><b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b><br>Preschool Christmas Break | 1<br><br><b>Office Closed</b><br>Preschool Christmas Break | 2<br>Preschool Christmas Break    | 3        |
| 4<br>Second Sunday After Christmas<br>9:15am Sunday School for all ages<br>10:30am Combined Liturgy - Livestream<br>10:30am Installation of Council<br>6:00pm Confirmation Class<br>6:30pm AA Meeting - Community Rm.                           | 5                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 6<br><br>9:15am Pantry Volunteers<br>9:30am Food Pantry<br>6:00pm Epiphany of Our Lord | 7<br>10:00am Preschool & Pastor - Nave<br>10:30am Bible Study - Christ Hall                                                                    | 8<br>10:00am Preschool & Pastor - Nave<br>6:30pm Handbell Choir<br>7:30pm Chancel Choir                                                     | 9<br>5:30pm Staff Epiphany Supper | 10       |
| 11<br>8:00am Holy Eucharist<br>9:15am Sunday School for all ages/ Adult Forum<br>Mpruguso & Konde<br>10:30am Holy Eucharist - Live Stream<br>11:45am Second Sunday Sandwiches<br>6:00pm Confirmation Class<br>6:30pm AA Meeting - Community Rm. | 12<br>6:00pm Finance Committee- in person St. Paul's                                                                                                                                                     | 13<br>Council Reports due to Church Secretary<br>9:15am Pantry Volunteers<br>9:30am Food Pantry<br>6:00pm Bible Study - Christ Hall<br>6:00pm CREATE-Preschool - Gr 6     | 14<br>10:00am Preschool & Pastor - Nave<br>10:30am Bible Study - Christ Hall                                                                   | 15<br><b>Newsletter Deadline</b><br>10:00am Preschool & Pastor - Nave<br>6:30pm Handbell Choir<br>7:30pm Chancel Choir                      | 16                                | 17       |
| 18<br>Conversion of St. Paul<br>8:00am Holy Eucharist<br>9:15am Sunday School for all ages<br>10:30am Holy Eucharist - Live Stream<br>11:30am Women's Group - Christ Hall<br>6:00pm Confirmation Class<br>6:30pm AA Meeting - Community Rm.     | 19<br><br><b>MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY - Office Closed</b><br>Preschool Closed<br>6:30pm Council Meeting - Christ Hall | 20<br>9:15am Pantry Volunteers<br>9:30am Food Pantry<br>6:00pm Bible Study - Christ Hall<br>6:00pm CREATE-Preschool - Gr 6                                                | 21<br>10:00am Preschool & Pastor - Nave<br>10:30am Bible Study - Christ Hall                                                                   | 22<br>10:00am Preschool & Pastor - Nave<br>6:30pm Handbell Choir<br>7:30pm Chancel Choir                                                    | 23                                | 24       |
| 25<br>Confession of St. Peter<br>8:00am Holy Eucharist<br>9:15am Sunday School for all ages<br>10:30am Holy Eucharist - Live Stream<br>6:00pm Confirmation Class<br>6:30pm AA Meeting - Community Rm.                                           | 26<br>6:00pm Christian Ed Meeting - Youth Room<br>7:00pm Mutual Ministry                                                                                                                                 | 27<br>9:15am Pantry Volunteers<br>9:30am Food Pantry<br>6:00pm Bible Study - Christ Hall<br>6:00pm CREATE-Preschool - Gr 6<br>6:00pm Property Committee - Christ Hall     | 28<br>10:00am Preschool & Pastor - Nave<br>10:30am Bible Study - Christ Hall                                                                   | 29<br>10:00am Preschool & Pastor - Nave<br>6:30pm Handbell Choir<br>7:30pm Chancel Choir                                                    | 30                                | 31       |

**Choir rehearsal continues** on Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m. Additional members are always welcome. Consider adding your voice to the ensemble.

**Chancel Choir** is comprised of members of the congregation who desire to lift their voices in song during worship. Chancel Choir rehearsals are held on Thursday evenings from 7:30-8:30pm in the Music Room (Main Level). Most of the singers read music and enjoy singing choral music spanning from the Renaissance to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The Choir also helps with chanting and singing Psalms as well as providing leadership for singing the liturgical music settings sung at the service.



**York College of Pennsylvania  
Christmas Holiday Concert  
Sunday December 7  
3:00 PM – Church Nave**

We gladly welcome to our beautiful church nave the York College Choir and orchestra. This is a long standing tradition for St. Paul's and a relationship that has grown and blossomed abundantly through the many years of partnership. We shall hear the voices of the choir waft through the columned aisles filling the room with sounds as soft as a whisper and as bold as angels announcing important news. The concert is free and open to the public, and will feature the music of Bach, Handel, Mozart, and more, as well as some familiar favorites for everyone to join in singing.

Mark your calendar now and plan to attend this amazing holiday concert. And you may wish to give someone a real gift by inviting them to join you. Come early to secure the best seats. Plan to enter through the Springettsbury Avenue or George Street entrances. We will place parking signs for Kuhner Associates Funeral Home if parking is available the afternoon of the performance.



“Vintage” Members (80 and over) with birthdays in December are: Norma Riese, June Heistand, Mike Hanson and Kristine Gross. Sending Happy Birthday wishes and hoping you have a happy and healthy year ahead from your family at St. Paul's.



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](mailto: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.



## Christmas Gift Idea

### Give a Week of Camp

Often we seek out unique and meaningful presents for our children, grandchildren, friends and neighbors. Consider giving a week at one of our church camps. This provides a meaningful time for the child, it is something that they will not out grow, it doesn't get broken, and it doesn't need batteries. For more information simply look at the camping websites for Nawakwa and Kirckenwald or contact Miss Kelly.



St Paul's collects 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.

## 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](http://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.

## 2026 Flower Chart

The 2026 flower chart is posted on the Springettsbury vestibule bulletin board. **The cost of the flowers has increased slightly and is currently \$40 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.



## Weekly Bible Study Resumes in the New Year, January 2026

**Tuesday Evenings 6:00 PM**

**Wednesday Morning 10:30 AM**

Bible study helps prepare participants for Sunday morning through the study of the upcoming scripture readings. The group delves deeply into the text, historical information, theological aspects, and shares implications for everyday life as a child of God. The group meets in Christ Hall.



## Council Highlights

The Congregation Council gathered for a meeting on Wednesday 12 November in advance of the Annual meeting. The meeting commenced at 6:30 PM with Pastor Reep providing devotions and prayer.

President Kates shared a letter from Larry Gross wherein he officially resigned from serving on the Columbarium Committee and the Church Constitution and Bylaws Committee. The council recognized the many years of faithful service Larry provided to the congregation. Also received was an update on the health of our brother Elisha at Mpuguso Lutheran Church and the ongoing work to complete their church building.

Nicki Herdson shared the collective work of the Nominating Committee. Congregation Council three year term: Tristan Ericson and Pat Scarborough and Darren Smith 2nd term (we could have two additional members serve on council.) Mutual Ministry three year term: Tim Yakim and Melissa Yakim. Mutual Ministry one year term: Jennifer Ports. Benevolence Committee three year term: Nicki Herdson. Synod voting member 2026: Tristan Ericson, Abby and Aaron Jacobs with Kat Lemke as an alternate. The Annual Meeting preparations are well in hand. Thank you to everyone who completed a report and submitted it for inclusion in the Bulletin of Reports.

The council approved the recommendation from Mutual Ministry to add to the preschool substitute list Ashton Barry and Katherine Owings.

The council approved the request from Preschool Committee for the annual sandwich sale with the proceeds to be used to buy replacement toys.

The council recommended and approved Christmas gifts for the church and preschool staff members.

The council will not hold a meeting in December.

Work to be carried into 2026: Safety Training guidance from the LSS, Treasure to be elected, Insights into strengthening our worshiping community, fellowship, education and outreach. The 2026 winter retreat will focus on these aspects of our life together. Proposed dates for the retreat are January 31 or February 7.

The meeting concluded at 7:30 PM with closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Pastor Reep



## Congregation Council Installation Sunday, January 4, 10:30AM

At the Annual Meeting held in November we elected persons to serve on the Congregation Council. The constitution permits as many as 15 and as few as 9. Elected were, Trisan Ericson, Pat Scarborough and Darren Smith (2nd term). Tim & Melissa Yakim were elected to Mutual Ministry. Nickki Herson was elected to Benevolence. Our Synod Assembly Representatives are Tristan Ericson, Abby and Aaron Jacobs with Kat Lemke as an alternate. The faith community is blessed to have so many willing participants to take active roles in leadership. The Congregation Council members will officially be installed on Sunday, January 4 at the combined 10:30 AM liturgy. The council is our legislative body. These men and women give a great deal of their time and energy to see that the services of God are carried out according to the gospel and our Lutheran witness and that a spirit of health and wholeness permeates out life together in Christ.



### Web Page

Please sign on to [www.stpaulsyork.org](http://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.

## Food Pantry Update:

St. Paul's Food Pantry needs **Whole Grain Cereal donations**. We give out 80 boxes of cereal each week and our sources for cereal currently have very little available.

**Other Pantry Needs: Peanut butter, Plastic and paper shopping bags, Monetary donations.**



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

We have seen a continued increase in the numbers of families coming for food at St. Paul's Food Pantry. on the volunteers each Tuesday (distribution day) and on Thursdays (delivery day). Please consider volunteering just once a month to help out. Contact the church office or talk with Teresa Rohrbaugh or Patty Snyder to learn how you can help.

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Up-Coming Events at St. Paul's Winter 2025

|                                      |                                                   |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Advent Dinner/Vespers                | Wednesday, 3 December 6:00 PM/7:00 PM             |
| York College Chorale and Orchestra   | Sunday, 7 December, 3:00 PM                       |
| Advent Dinner/Vespers                | Wednesday, 10 December 6:00 PM/7:00 PM            |
| Children's Christmas Program         | Sunday, 14 December, 10:30 AM                     |
| Decorate the Church                  | Tuesday, 16 December 6:00 PM                      |
| Advent Dinner/Vespers                | Wednesday, 17 December 6:00 PM/7:00 PM            |
| Ring in of Christmas                 | Sunday, 21 December 10:30 AM                      |
| Christmas Eve Services               | Wednesday, 24 December 4:00 PM & 7:00 PM          |
| Christmas Day Service                | Thursday, 25 December 10:30 AM                    |
| Holy Innocents, Lessons & Carols     | Sunday, 28 December 10:30 AM                      |
| Photo Directory Portraits            | Monday, & Tuesday 29& 30 December 12 noon—6:30 PM |
| Installation of Congregation Council | Sunday, 4 January 10:30 AM                        |
| Epiphany                             | Tuesday, 6 January 6:00 PM                        |

### Twelve Note Cards—Send a note for the Twelve Days of Christmas Benefit for the Food Pantry

There are packets of twelve note cards depicting paintings by Pastor Reep. They are available in the Good Shepherd Room. Six images are landscapes and six images are still life. They are printed on high quality card stock and come with envelopes. To purchase packages simply complete a “Special Offering” envelope and mark it “Note Cards” and place it in the offering or give it to the church secretary. The requested donation is \$20 per pack. All proceeds benefit the St. Paul's Lutheran Food Pantry. These are great for holiday gift giving! (Add a quality pen and a sheet of postage stamps and you have created a unique and thoughtful gift.) You may not feel comfortable taking packs to sell to neighbors, friends, coworkers and extended family members, but do have a conversation, and let them know that; they are available, they were painted by the pastor, they were printed in York, and that their donation supports the food pantry which provides food for the hungry in our neighborhood. By so doing you are bearing witness to the ministry carried out in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord.



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

It is Advent season and beginning to look a lot like Christmas. The Preschool will continue to help the community in December and spread Christmas cheer by holding a special event called "Wear a Pair, Share a Pair." On December 10th and December 11th, the children are encouraged to wear a pair of pajamas and bring a pair to share for the children at Access York. The Preschool children will also enjoy a special snack of Christmas cookies and hot cocoa during those school days.

Throughout the month, the teachers and children will prepare for the birth of Baby Jesus and the arrival of Santa Clause. Our hallways and classrooms are filled with Christmas decorations and excitement. On December 18th, the Preschool children will perform Christmas songs for their families and end with some sing-a-longs and hopefully a guest appearance from Santa.

As we look towards the New Year, we will be opening registration for the 2026 -2027 school year for our current preschool families. If you know any families who are interested in our Preschool, please have them contact us at 717-854-1996.

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

Merry Christmas,  
St. Paul's Lutheran Preschool



## Time and Ability Forms Highlight Bread Bakers

Communion Bread Bakers was identified by a large number of our members. With such an increased number we shall return to using a Communion loaf of bread for the Eucharistic Celebration. For those who checked off this item on your stewardship form please check the "Server Schedule" to see when you are scheduled to provide Communion bread. You will note that some times bread is needed for both liturgies and sometimes it is needed for only the early or late liturgy. We express our sincere thanks and appreciation for your work, talent and for taking on an active role in our faith community.



## Mpuguso/Konde Adult Forum

**11 January 2026 9:30 AM Christ Hall**

An adult forum is planned to provide information regarding our mission partners at Mpuguso Lutheran Church, Tukuyu, Tanzania as well as with the Konde Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania. This is a great opportunity to learn, hear from those who traveled in 2024 to visit and get some questions answered. Thanks to the Mpuguso Committee for providing leadership for this forum.



## Bishop Herr to visit in 20206

When Bishop Herr was with us in October for the signing of the renewal Covenant between Konde Diocese and the Lower Susquehanna Synod, he indicated that he would like to return to worship with us in the New Year. Pastor Reep is currently working with the Bishop's secretary to secure a date. The date will be published as soon as we have it confirmed. In the meantime, continue to pray for Bishop Herr, his staff, and their work on our behalf.

## The Children Need You in the New Year

Jackson Elementary School needs some adult volunteers for their kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade classrooms. They're asking for an hour or two per week, more if desired in order to read to/with children and assist teachers. This need is a result of the former "grandparent" program losing its funding. If you have any interest or questions, please contact Nancy Bennett.



## 2026 Church Offering Envelopes

Church offering envelopes were prepared and distributed during the Annual meeting in November. If you have not received your packet please arrange to pick them up from the church office. If you can't get to the church and would like them to be delivered or mailed to you, simply notify us. This is also a great time to consider having your offering sent directly to the church through the many services provided by local banks or through enrolling for online giving. If you need additional information contact a member of the Finance Committee.



**The last day to have your offerings credited for 2025 is December 30th. You must have your donations at the church by 8:00 AM.**

**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**25 W. SPRINGETTSBURY AVE.**  
**YORK, PA 17403**  
**(717) 843-8155 (717) 843-0261 (Fax)**

**Email: [st.paulsyork@comcast.net](mailto:st.paulsyork@comcast.net)**  
**Web Page: <http://www.stpaulsyork.org>**

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**Thank you to all who helped  
to get this newsletter out this month!**

| STAFF                     |                     |                                                                                                  |
|---------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Pastor                    | Rev. Stanley Reep   | <a href="mailto:st.paulsyork@comcast.net">st.paulsyork@comcast.net</a>                           |
| Youth Director            | Kelly Moore-Spencer | <a href="mailto:kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net">kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net</a> |
| Organist, Choir Director  | Victor Fields       | <a href="mailto:vfields.stpaulsyork@comcast.net">vfields.stpaulsyork@comcast.net</a>             |
| Bell Choirs Director      | Leah McComas        | <a href="mailto:lmccomas.stpaulsyork@gmail.com">lmccomas.stpaulsyork@gmail.com</a>               |
| Children's Choir Director | Julianna Jones      | <a href="mailto:jjones.stpaulsyork@comcast.net">jjones.stpaulsyork@comcast.net</a>               |
| Secretary                 | Patee Pizzirusso    | <a href="mailto:st.paulsyork@comcast.net">st.paulsyork@comcast.net</a>                           |
| Sexton                    | Ted Weikert         | <a href="mailto:tweikert.stpaulsyork@gmail.com">tweikert.stpaulsyork@gmail.com</a>               |
| Preschool Director        | Deb Becker          | <a href="mailto:presch.stpaulsyork@comcast.net">presch.stpaulsyork@comcast.net</a>               |

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**Dinner Groups**  
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**Women's Group**  
**Bridge of Hope**  
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**Social Ministries**  
**Special Services**  
**Christmas Worship Schedule**  
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