



# WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD

MATTHEW 4:10

# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155

[www.stpaulsyork.org](http://www.stpaulsyork.org)

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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 190 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](http://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.

**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 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.



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

[stpaulsyork.org](http://stpaulsyork.org)

## STAFF

|                           |                     |  |
|---------------------------|---------------------|--|
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| 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>             |
| Children's Music Director | Julianna Jones      | <a href="mailto:Jjones.stpaulsyork@gmail.com">Jjones.stpaulsyork@gmail.com</a>                   |
| Bell Choirs Director      | Leah McComas        | <a href="mailto:lmccomas.stpaulsyork@gmail.com">lmccomas.stpaulsyork@gmail.com</a>               |
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| Sexton                    | Ted Weikert         | <a href="mailto:tweikert.stpaulsyork@gmail.com">tweikert.stpaulsyork@gmail.com</a>               |
| Preschool Director        | Deb Becker          | <a href="mailto:director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com">director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com</a>         |

**February 22, 2026**  
**The First Sunday in Lent**  
**Holy Communion 8:00 and 10:30 AM**

**PRELUDE**      *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*      Gilbert Martin

*Stand*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

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**

**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.**

## KYRIE *sung 3 times*

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy; have mer - cy, O Lord.

### *Stand*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. . . . O Lord God, you led your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide now the people of your Church, that, following our Savior, we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

### *Sit*

10:30 AM CHILDREN' CHOIR

*Jesus Remember Me*

J. Berthier

## FIRST READING

Genesis 2:15-7, 3:1-7 (*back cover*)

## PSALM: Psalm 32 *spoken antiphonally by pulpit/font sides*

- <sup>1</sup> Happy are they whose transgressions | are forgiven,\*  
and whose sin is | put away!
- <sup>2</sup> **Happy are they to whom the LORD im- | putes no guilt,\*  
and in whose spirit there | is no guile!**
- <sup>3</sup> While I held my tongue, my bones with- | ered away,\*  
because of my groaning | all day long.
- <sup>4</sup> **For your hand was heavy upon me | day and night;\***  
**my moisture was dried up as in the | heat of summer.**
- <sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my | sin to you,\*  
and did not con- | ceal my guilt.
- <sup>6</sup> **I said, "I will confess my transgressions | to the LORD."\***  
**Then you forgave me the guilt | of my sin.**
- <sup>7</sup> Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in | time of trouble;\*  
when the great waters overflow, they | shall not reach them.
- <sup>8</sup> **You are my hiding-place; you preserve | me from trouble;\***  
**you surround me with shouts | of deliverance.**

<sup>9</sup> "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that | you should go;\*  
I will guide you | with my eye.

<sup>10</sup> **Do not be like horse or mule, which have no | understanding;\***  
**who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will | not stay near**  
**you."**

<sup>11</sup> Great are the tribulations | of the wicked;\*  
but mercy embraces those who trust | in the LORD.

<sup>12</sup> **Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice | in the LORD;\***  
**shout for joy, all who are | true of heart.**

## SECOND READING

Romans 5:12-19 (*back cover*)

*Stand*

**VERSE**



Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.  
Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

## HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 4:1-11

(*back cover*)

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the conclusion of the Gospel.*

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*  
SERMON

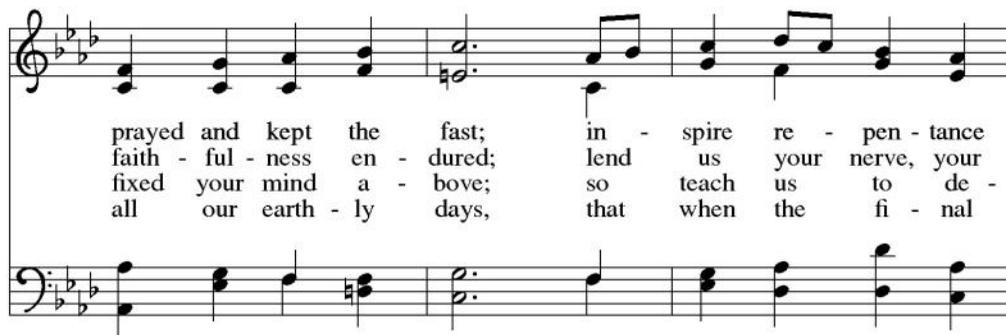
Pastor Reep

*Stand*  
HYMN OF THE DAY

*O Lord, throughout These 40 Days (ELW 319)*



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you  
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your  
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and  
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and



prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance  
faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your  
fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -  
all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal



for our sin, and free us from our past.  
skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.  
ny our - selves that we may know God's love.  
Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

## NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;**

**by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin  
Mary, and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.**

**He has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

*A brief silence.*

God of all grace, grant faith to your church. Give to all the baptized the will to resist temptation and to worship and serve you alone. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all creation, tend this earth. When human greed and disobedience threaten this planet and the life it contains, lead us by your Spirit into ways of reverence, awe, and gentleness. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all nations, preserve us from trouble. Surround all living in places of violence with your steadfast love and give resilience to all who work for peace. Grant courage to those who challenge, especially around issues of racism and systemic oppression. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all healing, mend our wounds. Bring wholeness to all who are sick, give peace to all who groan in grief, and send companions to all who are lonely or isolated. (*Especially we pray for . . .*) Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all people, provide for our community. For any among us who hunger for bread, bring nourishment. For any among us who hunger for truth, speak your life-giving word. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of all life, bring us to you. We thank you for your free and abounding grace, and for those who, by that same grace, now rest eternally in you (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **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.*

## OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

8:00 AM Organ           *The Glory of These Forty Days*           Mark Sedio  
10:30 AM Chancel Choir   *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*   Michael Praetorius

## OFFERTORY

### *Return to the Lord (LBW setting II)*

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra-cious and mer-ci-ful,  
slow to an - ger, and a-bound-ing in stead-fast love.

*Stand*

## 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

The Lord be with you      **And also 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. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. 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'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING

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, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for 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.

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

### **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask 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, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory 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 in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

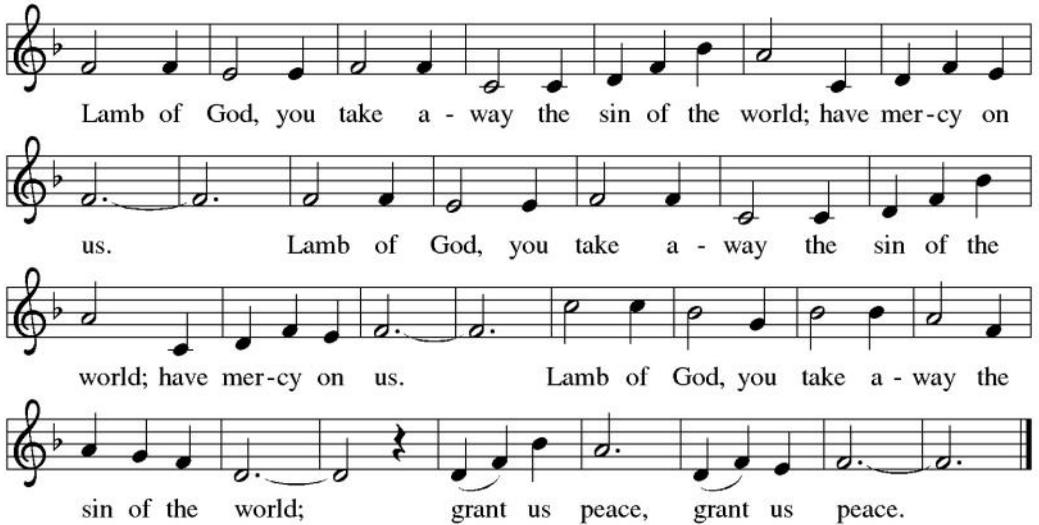
**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. 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.

*Sit*

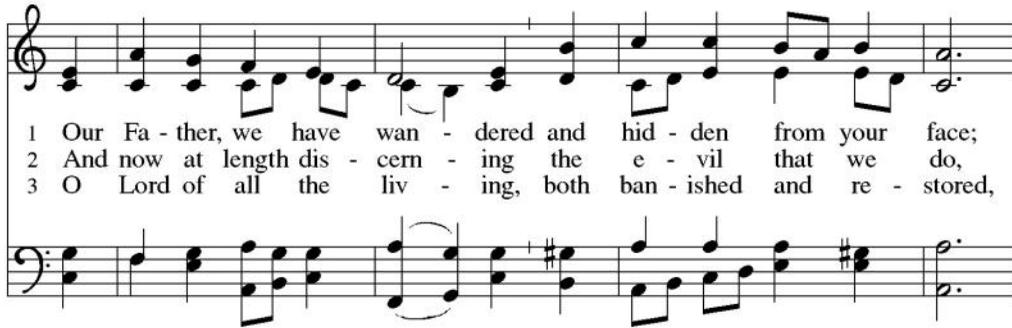
**COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL**

Our Communion is “open” to all believers who trust that the Risen Christ is present for his people in the Holy Eucharist.

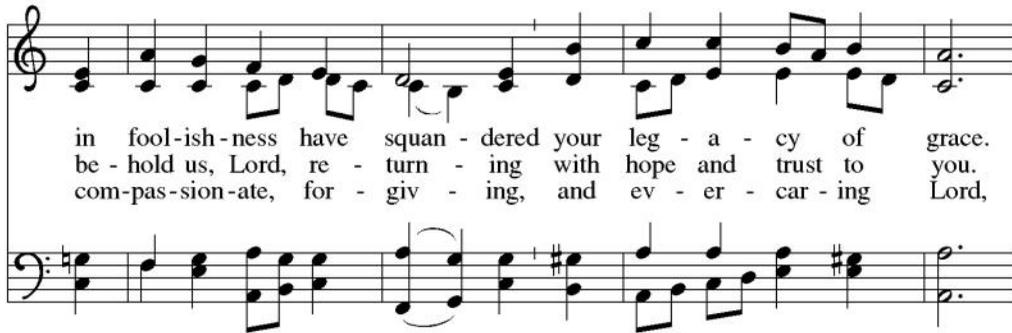
*Procedure for receiving Communion:*

- 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 bread 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 10:30 AM *Our Father, We Have Wandered (ELW 606)*



1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;  
2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,  
3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,



in fool-ish-ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.  
be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to you.  
com-pas-sion-ate, for - giv - ing, and ev - er - car - ing Lord,



But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,  
In haste you come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring,  
grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.



as, dis - tant but com - pel - ling, we hear you call our name.  
in glad-ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.  
Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

*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. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

**BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** *O Human, Be Weep Your Great Sin*

Joseph Doppelbauer

## Wednesday Mid-Week Lent

**The Seven Petitions of the “Lord’s Prayer”**

**Soup, Salad & Bread Supper, Christ Hall 6:00 PM**

**Vespers with Preaching, Church Nave 7:00 PM**



The Wednesdays of Lent offer opportunities to strengthen Christian witness through fellowship and prayer. A simple supper of soup, bread and salad, will be held in Christ Hall at 6:00 PM. A sign-up sheet is located on the stand in the Good Shepherd Room. If you are willing to bring some of the things needed for the weekly supper simply sign up so we know that which items are covered. Additionally we need a few volunteers to help set up and clean up following the meals. We will need at least three crock pots of soup for each week. Following the supper evening Prayer, Vespers, will be held in the church nave at 7:00 PM. We will be using the service from Lutheran Book of Worship with a few modification. We have invited the congregations of Christ York, Grace York, St. Peter’s York, and Christ Manchester to join us.

The Property Committee invited the original engineer along with our local HVAC systems maintenance company to the church to explore ways to reduce our energy consumption. Our system has been recalibrated. Note that during the heating cycle temperature throughout the building will be 68° and during the cooling cycle 74°. Please dress accordingly. We hope that this will reduce consumption as well as lower our utility costs.



**2026 Flower Chart**—The 2026 flower chart is posted on the Springettsbury vestibule bulletin board. **The cost of each vase is \$40 per vase.** Simply complete the flower form, make a check payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church and mark it altar flowers, and slip it under the office window. You can also contact the office to reserve a date, and to provide all of the correct information for inclusion in the Sunday bulletin. All information for the bulletin needs to be received by Wednesday morning of the previous week. 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 it, or hospitalized. ***Please note that there are no flowers during the season of Lent.***

## **Experimental Trial Worship Time—To Begin 1 March 2026**

If there was something that you could do to increase involvement in the life of the congregation, would you do it? Would you try it? Would you give it a chance?

That was the question posed to the participants at the annual retreat held in January by committee chairpersons and congregation council members. The desire is to continue with an early worship service opportunity and one that will permit greater participation. By adjusting the Sunday schedule, from 8:00 to 8:30 AM, it is hoped that we can accomplish several things:

- Increase attendance by moving from 8:00 AM and starting at 8:30 AM. This may be appealing to families who regularly move out the door shortly after 8:00 AM during the week. This eliminates a half hour wait between Sunday worship and Sunday school. While the education time is scheduled at 9:15 AM the reality is that folks arrive at 9:30 AM. Worshipers can move directly from worship to Christian Education.
- Increase available parking for the 10:30 AM liturgy. By making the early worship time a bit more appealing for schedules this has the potential of freeing up parking spaces for those who arrive later in the morning. The 10:30 AM liturgy is often the time when we experience individuals and families visiting St. Paul's having more parking options would be beneficial. Currently 8:00 AM averages 35 and 10:30 AM averages 125.
- By evening out the participants across two service times, we increase the potential number of people available to serve. This will ease the burden currently experienced at the early service time.
- When there are 70 or more people in the church nave the energy in the room changes. This is most noticeable for the preaching task, both the one preaching and those who listen. The acoustics in the room change.

After significant deliberation the Council decided on **an experimental trial worship time of 8:30 AM (moving the 8:00 AM liturgy one half hour) from March 1<sup>st</sup> through May 17<sup>th</sup>**. This will provide a time to hear responses, see if we are moving toward the desired hopes, and have time to plan accordingly for the 2026-2027 academic year. **The start time of the second liturgy will remain at 10:30 AM.**

For additional information or questions regarding this decision, please contact any member of the Congregation Council.

## **New Members Classes Beginning 22 February 2026 9:15 AM**

During the season of Lent Pastor Reep will lead a class for those seeking to unite with St. Paul's as well as those seeking additional information on the ministry carried out in Christian love through the work of the congregation. The classes will be held in the Community Room on the Lower Level at 9:15 AM. If you are interested in becoming a member of St. Paul's Church please notify the church office or speak with Pastor Reep.

## **Becoming the Neighbors the World Needs—Sunday 9:15 AM Christ Hall**

This new curriculum was prepared for Bridge of Hope. Co-author, Rev. William Snyder will be introducing two stories from the biblical witness which were selected to foster greater neighborhood involvement, understanding, and active participation working to end homelessness. The stories highlighted over the 5 Sundays in Lent are based on Luke 10:25-37 (the Good Samaritan) and four chapters in the book of Ruth 1:16-18, Ruth 2:8-13, Ruth 3:9-11, and Ruth 4:13-17. These two narratives will provide a lens through which we can better understand ourselves, God, and our neighbors. We pray that together we are becoming the neighbors the world needs. Join us in Christ Hall on Sunday at 9:15 AM. beginning February 22nd.

**St. Paul's Food Pantry Needs:** Peanut Butter, Cereal, plastic and paper shopping bags, and monetary donations. Monetary donations can be placed in a special envelope marked "Pantry". Contact Teresa Rohrbaugh to volunteer for Tuesday distribution days. Contact Patty Snyder to volunteer for Thursday delivery days or Sunday stocking days or contact the church office. Thank you to all who help!

**St. Paul's Women's Retreat, April 18, 8:30 AM-4:30 PM.** Come for a day of rest, a time to get away from the business of daily life, to renew old friendships and build new ones, and to deepen your relationship with God. Sign up by completing the registration form you received in the mail. Forms are also located near church exits. Contact anyone from the planning committee with questions: Janet Fitch, Julianna Jones, Kat Lemke, Patty Snyder. Or call the church office.

## **Watercolor Painting Class—5 Sessions Wednesdays in Lent—4:30 – 6:00 PM**

In the healing narratives in the synoptic gospel tradition people come to Jesus and ask him for healing. The question is never can Jesus do it but will he. The same is true regarding a watercolor painting class. For several years people have come to Pastor Reep asking him if he can teach a watercolor class. The question is not can he teach a class but will he. This is the year that he will offer a watercolor class during the season of Lent. With this idea came lots of suggestions for the title of the class; "*Easels in the Balcony*;" "*Paint, Eat, Pray*," "*Empowering Still Life*." But alas, the class will simply be "*Lenten Watercolors*." The five sessions will be held in the Youth Room on the Upper Level. Middle school students, through adults, are welcome to participate. Bring any supplies that you may have for the first session. If you don't have supplies, we will supply things for the first week and then you may seek out supplies. The five Wednesdays are 25 February, 4, 11, 18 & 25 March. The weekday makes it possible for us to paint in the afternoon, enjoy a fellowship meal and pray. You may choose to take part in only the painting, painting and meal, or the trifecta, painting, fellowship and evening prayer! This is designed to be relaxing and stress free.

### **This Week at St. Paul's**

Church office open Mon–Thurs 8:00 AM—4:00 PM Fri 8:00 AM—11:30 AM

#### **Sunday, February 22**

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist  
9:15 AM Sunday School for All Ages  
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist —Live Stream  
6:30 PM AA Meeting—Community Rm

#### **Monday, February 23**

6:00 PM Christian Ed Mtg—ZOOM  
7:00 PM Mutual Ministry

#### **Tuesday, February 24**

9:30 AM Pantry  
6:00 PM Create—Preschool thru Grade  
6:00 PM Bible Study  
6:00 PM Property Committee—Christ Hall  
7:00 PM Harrisburg Choral Society  
Rehearsal

#### **Wednesday, February 25**

10:00 AM Preschool with Pastor—Nave  
10:30 AM Bible Study— Christ hall  
4:40 PM Lenten Watercolors with Pastor  
Reep  
6:00 PM Lenten Dinner  
7:00 PM Lenten Vespers

#### **Thursday, February 26**

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

#### **Sunday, March 1**

##### **NEW SERVICE HOURS**

8:30 AM Holy Eucharist  
9:15 AM Sunday School for All Ages  
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist —Live Stream  
3:00 PM Harrisburg Choral Society Concert  
6:30 PM AA Meeting—Community Rm

#### **Sunday, March 1 Harrisburg Choral Society 3:00 PM**

The Harrisburg Choral Society under the direction of Kyle Zeuch and Victor Fields will present a choral concert entitled: **A Season of Reflection: Psalms in Song** featuring choral music of Palestrina, Mozart, Messiaen, Vaughn Williams and Mack Wilberg.

The Harrisburg Choral Society founded in 1895, is the oldest continuously active music ensemble in South-Central Pennsylvania. The Society has maintained its traditional role of performing major works of choral literature with professional soloists and orchestral accompaniment.

**Lent 1 A, 2026 Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7, Romans 5:12-19, Matthew 4:1-11**

Disembarking the plane, passengers stopped suddenly to gaze at the huge monitors displaying connecting flights. Atlanta's airport continues to expand. Departure gates and concourses are clearly identified on the electric blue monitors. Arriving in Concourse B and departing from Concourse A left little time to be delayed by the passengers who simply stopped and looked up as if the other 175 passengers didn't exist. Maneuvering a small bag and a portfolio of art supplies, I dodged a couple of wheeled cases with totes and winter coats cleverly attached making carryon items appear larger than they actually are. Lent had not yet begun. My discipline of being more patient with others had not yet gone into effect. This was no time for long-suffering; I had a flight to catch!

Taking large strides I managed to reach the top of the escalator down to the connecting tram and walk way area in record time. But just before stepping onto the moving stairway I noticed a man, a man whose native language was certainly not English. It seemed he was befuddled by the letters B and D and couldn't comprehend why the plane departing from Gate 31 B was not going to Harrisburg. Having made this journey on several previous occasions to visit my relatives, I was aware that his flight was most-likely departing from Concourse D. I have made those connections before. The man had been to the correct Gate number but somehow the flight departing from 31 B was not going to Harrisburg. A more glamorous destination clearly wasn't on his agenda. And that is one of the problems with large modern airports, knowing where to get the flight that will take you to your destination. The choice of which plane you get on will determine where you end up!

This is the concern of Paul except there aren't as many choices as there are in Atlanta's International Airport. For Paul there are just two. Will your destination be the one determined by the sin of Adam or the one determined by the righteousness, the grace, of Christ? Adam and Christ, each an individual in Paul's mind and with each one there is huge fate for humanity. Through one man, Adam, Sin came into the world. Through one man, Christ Jesus, the power of Sin is broken. Paul tries diligently to keep the two situations in clearly identified columns. The parallelism is incredible all though it breaks down occasionally. (Remember Paul didn't have the luxury of delete or white out or an eraser or even an extra piece of parchment.) Christ Jesus got us out of the mess that Adam got us into. That is the basic argument of Paul. What Adam did, Christ undid. Where Adam failed, Christ succeeded.

The first reading from Genesis refreshes us with the story, at least a simplified version of it, of how sin came into the world. It came through the disobedience of Adam. It's easy to get bogged down in the details of the crafty serpent, the tree in the center of the garden, the knowledge of good and evil. But in the end, humanity is driven out of the garden because we chose to listen to the voice of another. We did not heed the voice and Word of God.

The Gospel reading from Matthew updates us on the temptations that confront Jesus, at least three of them. And in response to the crafty speech of the Tempter, Jesus remains obedient to the voice and Word of God; the thing that we didn't do in the days of Eden's garden. It is worth noting that the Tempter, Satan, the Evil one, is schooled in the use of scripture texts to try to win over the unsuspecting. He thinks that he is so crafty that even God's on beloved Son will be convinced, fooled by how smoothly the words roll off of his tongue. Don't be fooled, tricked or seduced by the "common sense" approach of the Devil. Why wouldn't a person famished from days without food want bread? And why wouldn't a poor kid from Galilee be impressed with all the kingdoms of the earth and the thought that they could all be his? The Tempter loves to quote scripture, and the Tempter loves to come across using "common sense." Jesus, however, is not impressed with these. Jesus stays true to the Father, listening to his voice and living by his Word.

Back to Paul and his clarity on why humanity has only two destinations, two gates from the airport in ancient Rome. Paul isn't writing about all the picky little things, sins, small letter "s" that consumes the majority of a day's 24 hours. Paul is writing about the big thing, the capital letter "S" that determines your destination. Do you want to end up with Adam, the one who jettisoned the voice and command of God for a short term piece of fruit and some smooth talking snake of a tempter who would do anything to gain the whole world? Or do you want to end up with Christ, the one who heeds the voice and command of God, and who gains salvation for the whole world through his suffering, death and resurrection?

Paul didn't know that there would be airports with gates and escalators. He wouldn't know that travelers would have so many earthly possessions to trip over and lug around. He wouldn't know that the smooth talking common sense strategies of the Devil would gain traction through social media. But what Paul did know was that in Adam all die. And that in Christ all are made alive! Paul through his written correspondence is before us today recognizing our befuddlement, trying to figure out how to reach our final destination. He is clearly pointing us away from the A concourse with Adam and Sin and Death and the Devil and presenting us with the option of concourse C with Christ and grace, and forgiveness, and life in, with and through Christ Jesus. The hope of Paul is that we board the right flight so that we reach the destination God has prepared for those who love him.

Getting the gate and concourse sorted, I believe the man made the flight from Concourse D to Pennsylvania. Hurling myself onto the escalator down to the tram and the walkway I couldn't believe I was departing from Concourse A! I made the flight from Concourse A to Florida. On my return home I'll pray that I depart from Concourse C gate 3 and end up with Christ in a holy forgiven grace filled realm with people like you. Amen.

**FIRST READING: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7**

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup>And the LORD God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup>but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

<sup>3:1</sup>Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” <sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup>but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” <sup>4</sup>But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, <sup>5</sup>for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” <sup>6</sup>So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

**Psalm 32****SECOND READING: Romans 5:12-19**

Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned—<sup>13</sup>for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. <sup>14</sup>Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

<sup>15</sup>But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man’s trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. <sup>16</sup>And the gift is not like

the effect of the one man’s sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. <sup>17</sup>If, because of the one man’s trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

<sup>18</sup>Therefore just as one man’s trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man’s act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. <sup>19</sup>For just as through the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous.

**GOSPEL: Matthew 4:1-11**

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. <sup>2</sup>He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. <sup>3</sup>The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” <sup>4</sup>But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes from the  
mouth of God.’”

<sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup>saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’  
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a  
stone.’”

<sup>7</sup>Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

<sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, <sup>9</sup>and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.”

<sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him.’”

<sup>11</sup>Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

**Next Sunday’s Readings:** Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17.

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