The image features a scenic view of a hillside town with a brick wall on the left and yellow flowers in the foreground. The town is built on a hillside, with a prominent tower in the center. The sky is blue with white clouds. The foreground is filled with green foliage and yellow flowers, some of which are out of focus, creating a bokeh effect. The brick wall on the left is made of reddish-brown bricks.

A CITY BUILT
ON A HILL

CANNOT
BE HID

MATTHEW 5:14

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155

www.stpaulsyork.org

Email: st.paulsyork@comcast.net

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 189 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 located 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. The restrooms are independent units. Please remember to latch the door.

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

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.

We ask parents to accompany their children 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



*The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God
In honor of Christopher and Nick's 25th and my
Mother's 90th Birthdays by Carolyn Kapoun.*

STAFF		
Pastor	Rev. Stanley Reep	st.paulsyork@comcast.net
Youth Director	Kelly Moore-Spencer	kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
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Sexton	Ted Weikert	tweikert.stpaulsyork@gmail.com
Preschool Director	Deb Becker	presch.stpaulsyork@comcast.net

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

February 8, 2026

8:00 & 10:30 AM

Musical Setting #1 Evangelical Lutheran Worship

PRELUDE

Prelude in d minor

Theodore Dubois

Stand turning to face the Baptismal font

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**

ENTRANCE HYMN

O God of Light (ELW 507)



1 O God of light, your word, a lamp un - fail - ing,
2 From days of old, through blind and will - ful a - ges,
3 Un - dimmed by time, those words are still re - veal - ing
4 To all the world your sum - mons you are send - ing,



shall pierce the dark - ness of our earth - bound way
though we re - belled, you gent - ly sought a - gain,
to sin - ful hearts your jus - tice and your grace;
through all the earth, to ev - 'ry land and race,



and show your grace, your plan for us un - veil - ing,
and spoke through saints, a - pos - tles, proph - ets, sa - ges,
and quest - ing spir - its, long - ing for your heal - ing,
that myr - iad tongues, in one great an - them blend - ing,



and guide our foot - steps to the per - fect day.
who wrote with ea - ger or re - luc - tant pen.
see your com - pas - sion in the Sav - ior's face.
may praise and cel - e - brate your gift of grace.

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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE



Glo - ry to God in the high -



est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and



Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we



praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus



Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -



lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,

Continued on next page...

Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of
 God the Fa - ther. A - men.
 Glo - ry to God in the high -
 est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY.

Let us pray. . . Almighty God, you sent your only Son as the Word of life for our eyes to see and our ears to hear. Help us to believe with joy what the Scriptures proclaim, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Sit

FIRST READING

Isaiah 58:1-9a

- ¹ Shout out; do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
 Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins.
- ² Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they want God on their side.
- ³ “Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers.
- ⁴ You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist.
 Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high.
- ⁵ Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?
- ⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?
- ⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

- ⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.
- ⁹ Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am." If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

PSALMODY Psalm 112: 1-9 *spoken responsively*

- ¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who | fear the LORD*
and have great delight in | his commandments!
- ² **Their descendants will be mighty | in the land;***
the generation of the upright | will be blessed.
- ³ Wealth and riches will be | in their house,*
and their righteousness will | last forever.
- ⁴ **Light shines in the darkness | for the upright;***
the righteous are merciful and full | of compassion.
- ⁵ It is good for them to be gener- | ous in lending*
and to manage their af- | fairs with justice.
- ⁶ **For they will nev- | er be shaken;***
the righteous will be kept in everlast- | ing remembrance.
- ⁷ They will not be afraid of any | evil rumors;*
their heart is right; they put their trust | in the LORD.
- ⁸ **Their heart is established and | will not shrink,***
until they see their desire up- | on their enemies.
- ⁹ They have given freely | to the poor,*
and their righteousness stands fast forever;
they will hold up their | head with honor.

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (back page)

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

Matthew 5:13-20 (back page)

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

At the end of the reading

The Gospel of the Lord.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

Rev. William Snyder

Stand

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.

Loving God, keep us true to the mind of Christ, so that our works and witness bring hope to a troubled world. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Restore polluted air, soil, and water sources to wholeness. Guard honeybees, elephants, great whales and songbirds from harm, and renew the face of the earth. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Guide those in authority to govern with compassion, and bring peace to war zones (*areas of conflict may be named*). We pray for our enemies. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Help and heal all who experience trauma, discrimination, disease, hunger, abuse, or persecution. Comfort those who are sick or grieving (*especially*). Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Sustain our ordained ministers, church staff, lay leaders, and volunteers. Form us to be salt and light for the neighbors we serve. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for the lives of your faithful people. Grant us in time that we too will be embraced by your eternal love. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

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 OF OUR GIFTS

8:00 AM Organ *Light Shone in Darkness*

Mark Sedio

10:30 AM Handbell Choir *Amen Siakudumisa*

arr. Cathy Moglebust

Stand

OFFERTORY

Create in Me (ELW 188)

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

Continued on next page...

pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

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

Sung by Pastor and congregation

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE *The preface appropriate to the day is sung.*

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.

THANKSGIVING

You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness; you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence. We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us. We thank you for the new world to come and for the love that will rule all in all. We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen, the people of your promise: the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the memory of the fathers, the homecoming from exile, and the prophets' words that will not be in vain. In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son, who fulfilled and will fulfill all your

promises. 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.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the incarnation of your Son: his human birth and the covenant he made with us. We remember the sacrifice of his life: his eating with outcasts and sinners, and his acceptance of death. But chiefly [on this day] we remember his rising from the tomb, his ascension to the seat of power, and his sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit. We cry out for the resurrection of our lives, when Christ will come again in beauty and power to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we and all who share in this bread and cup may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, may enter the fullness of the kingdom of heaven, and may receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

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.

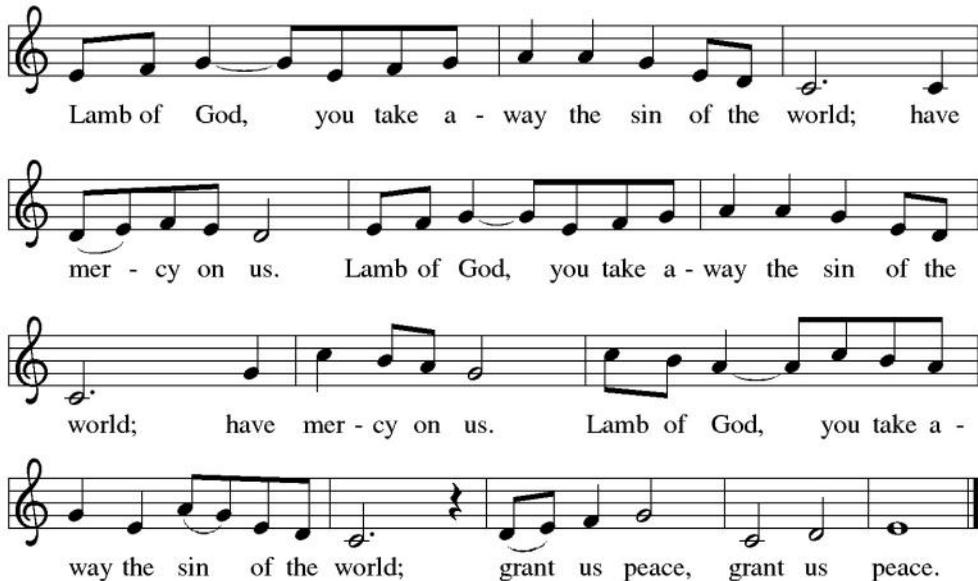
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

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 *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (ELW 815) next page*

Stand

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

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.**

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934
Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson
Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration

BLESSING

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

HYMN

God, Whose Almighty Word (ELW 673)

1 God, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard
 2 Christ, who once came to bring, on your re - deem - ing wing,
 3 Spir - it of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly dove,
 4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,

and took their flight: hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the
 heal - ing and sight; health to the trou - bled mind, sight where il -
 speed forth your flight; move on the wa - ter's face bear - ing the
 Wis - dom, Love, Might: bound - less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in

gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray, let there be light.
 lu - sions blind; oh, now to hu - man - kind let there be light.
 lamp of grace, and in earth's dark - est place let there be light.
 full - est pride, through the earth, far and wide, let there be light.

Text: John Marriott, 1780-1825, alt.

Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716-1796

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.*Sit***POSTLUDE***Fugue in d minor*

Theodore Dubois

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Altar Flower sponsors are needed for many dates in 2026.
 Please check the flower chart in the Springettsbury foyer to sign up. Vases are \$40 each. Remember to fill out the form and slip it under the secretary's window.

Serving the Lord with Gladness

DATE	TIME	Assisting Minister	Crucifer	Lector	Greeters	Ushers -	Altar Guild	Bread Bakers
2/8	8:00 AM	Harold Sargeant	Denise Rider	Connie Reed	Bob & Connie Reed	Team 3E: Norma Shue, Cliff Beck, Sheridan Palmer	Pat Scarboough, Kathleen Lemke	Kat Lemke
	10:30 AM	Tristan Ericson	Larry Moore	Ed LeCates	George & Janet Fitch	Team 3L: Dan Garber, Joe Guarriello, Larry Becker	Pat Rudacille, Jerry Briggs	Kat Lemke

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 8

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

Monday, February 9

- 7:00 PM Finance Committee—ZOOM

Tuesday, February 10

- Council Reports due
- 9:30 AM Pantry
- 6:00 PM Create—Preschool thru Grade 6
- 6:00 PM NO Bible Study

Wednesday, February 11

- 10:30 AM Bible Study—Christ Hall

Thursday, February 12

- 6:30 PM Handbell Choir
- 7:30 PM Chancel Choir

Sunday, February 15

Transfiguration and Confirmation

- Newsletter deadline
- 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
- 9:15 AM Sunday School for All Ages
- 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist —Live Stream Confirmation
- 11:45 AM Benevolence Committee Mtg
- 6:30 PM AA Meeting—Community Rm

Monday, February 16 President's Day

Office Closed

- 6:30 PM Council Meeting—Christ Hall



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



Food Pantry Needs: 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".



St Paul's is collecting clothing for Union Lutheran Church's Clothing Ministry and your help is requested. 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.

Ash Wednesday, 18 February 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. A sign-up sheet for those planning to attend the luncheon has been placed on the stand in the Good Shepherd Room.



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 Transfiguration of Our Lord
With Rite of Confirmation (10:30 AM) Next week
Sunday, 15 February 2026**

The Feast of the Transfiguration brings to a close the season of Epiphany. We end this season of light and the making known of Christ Jesus with Jesus on the mountain top along with Peter, James and John. There Jesus' appearance is changed and his garments are dazzling white. And we hear the voice of God proclaim "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!"



The 10:30 AM liturgy will include the Rite of Confirmation. Two young people have completed their catechetical classes and desire to affirm their faith in Christ Jesus. Parker Culp and Ellie Humpel will profess their faith in Christ Jesus and promise to take a more active role in the life of the congregation. Parker and Ellie completed instruction covering; Holy Baptism, Holy Communion, The Lord's Prayer, The Creed, The Ten Commandments, Lutheran Reformation, The Church's Worship, and The Bible. Following the liturgy the Fellowship Committee will provide a time of refreshment in The Good Shepherd Room. Please make every effort to be present to hear again the promises of God made known through Christ Jesus and to extend your greetings to our confirmands and their families.

**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. Those wishing to Unite with St. Paul's Lutheran Church will do so at the combined 9:15 AM liturgy on Palm Sunday, 29 March. If you are interested in becoming a member of St. Paul's Church please notify the church office or speak with Pastor Reep.



The schedule of discussion topics follows:

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 22 February | The Church & the Lutheran Reformation |
| 1 March | The Sacraments: Holy Baptism & Holy Communion |
| 8 March | Introductions to committee chairs and a tour of the building |
| 15 March | St. Paul's Beginnings and our mission approaching 200 years |
| 22 March | Renewal & Renovation, Current and Future Ministry Plans |

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 have 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 1st through May 17th**. 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.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]

[not printed]

Psalm 112:1-9 [10]**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]**

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

⁶Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. ⁷But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory ⁸and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,
nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love
him”—

¹⁰God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. [¹³And we speak of these things in words not

taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

¹⁴Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

¹⁶“For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?”
But we have the mind of Christ.]

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:13-20

[Jesus said:] ¹³“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Next Sunday's Readings: Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2 or Psalm 99; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9.

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