

Our Church

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
25 West Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403
717/843-8155 – st.paulsyork@comcast.net
www.stpaulsyork.org

8:30 & 10:30 AM Sunday Holy Eucharist
10:30 AM Live Streamed YouTube
Holy Days as announced
May 2026

Summer Worship Schedule to Begin May 24, 2026 (Memorial Day Weekend) Combined Liturgy 9:30 AM

The summer worship schedule begins on Memorial Day Weekend, Sunday May 24, with one liturgy at 9:30 AM. Our combined summer worship has provided us with wonderful opportunities to get better acquainted. This is a great time to welcome new persons who visit and those seeking information about uniting with St. Paul's faith community. The Fellowship Committee is planning for a time of fellowship following each liturgy. They are soliciting help to provide baked goods, fruit and other items needed for refreshments. A sign-up sheet is available in the Good Shepherd Room. Consider now what week works better for your summer plans and commit to help.



Another benefit with one combined liturgy is the ease of scheduling servers, musicians, altar guild, bread bakers, ushers, and lectors. The Worship Committee has planned liturgies appropriate for the season. This year with Victor Fields, our church organist, on sabbatical the worship committee is assembling a broad range of musical support for the liturgy. A sign-up sheet has been available for about two months so that volunteers can share their musical leadership skills as solos or in small ensembles. Leah McComas and Julianna Jones have been working collaboratively along with Pastor Reep to plan meaningful summer worship. It will be a bit more relaxed. The basic worship setting for summer is from *With One Voice* setting #5. We have used this setting frequently. We will rely on our own music making ability. Some weeks we will have the support of the organ, others the piano, and still others a solo instrument. What will remain solid is the proclamation of the scripture, preaching and celebration of the Lord's Supper.



Church Picnic in conjunction with Vacation Bible School Thursday, June 11, 5:30 PM Kain Park

The Last evening of vacation Bible School a picnic will be held at Kain Park. The Witness Committee members are providing the appetizers and desserts. The Men's group is providing the main course (hot dogs, hamburgers and pulled pork are all in their notes about the event). It should give the children time to complete their final lesson and have time to interact on the playground equipment. For adults this is a wonderful time to share in conversation and help the children complete their letter writing campaign to select members of the congregation. The children will be learning how the Apostle Paul wrote letters as a way to stay connected and to share the Good News of God's love in Christ Jesus. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. If you would like to bring a side dish to share that would be incredibly helpful.

When The Bishop Visited St. Paul's

When the Bishop visited St. Paul's it was a bright Easter morning. The Second Sunday of Easter to be precise. This day is often referred to as "low" Sunday because attendance is always incredibly low after the swelled crowds on Easter Day! But on April 12th there was nothing low about the day. Bishop Steven Herr brought a lot of highs. His joyful greetings to the congregation and his honest thanks and appreciation for all that the St. Paul's congregation does for the church in the synod and around the world. His fabulous children's sermon where he engaged the children in learning about what a bishop does how pastors and deacons serve and giving them all signs of the office of ministry. One child a crosier, one a cross, one a miter, one an alb, one a stole, one a chasuble, one a cope. It was really funny at the 10:30 liturgy when he had to strip Pastor Reep of his chasuble and stole so that there were enough vestments for all of the children who came forward for the children's sermon! He proclaimed the word of God in a sermon reminding us of Luther's Small Catechism, and the disciples who encountered the Risen Lord, and how Christ comes to us speaking and bestowing peace. Then there was the getting acquainted time between the liturgies. There, the fast paced game based on a "Jeopardy" format, provided lots of categories revealing plenty of aspects of Bishop Herr's life, education, family, areas of service in the church and in the communities where he served as pastor. A time of fellowship was provided allowing for more time of conversation and joy. All in all it was a delightful day. Thank you to everyone who took part when the Bishop visited St. Paul's.



Last Day for Wednesday Weekly Bible Study is May 20th.

Thank you to the faithful participants. We plan to resume in September.



Where Help is Needed

There are times when people ask how they can help, or what they can do. There are many tasks that are associated with public worship. Those are the most familiar areas of Christian service for the up building of the congregation. However, there are many others.



We need a person to chair the **Social Ministry Committee**. This role entails forming a group of compassionate outward looking individuals to provide oversight and create pathways in areas of service towards our neighbors, those next door, down the street or around the world. There are many important aspects of our congregation's mission that come under Social Ministry.

The Food Pantry with volunteers needed to order food, stock shelves, receive deliveries and accompany pantry shoppers on Tuesday during the distribution.

Jackson Elementary School with the newly conceived adopt a grandparent program, their ice cream socials, health kits and other aspects of helping children in our neighborhood have the best learning environment.

Lutheran World Relief, this has been supported in the past year by the Men of St. Paul's. Here it is that school kits and personal care kits are prepared and sent to their distribution center to help people globally that are in crisis.

The World Hunger Appeal of the ELCA

Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in PA

Bridge of Hope. The chairperson does not do all the work simply helps to keep us all connected and helps to facilitate any new ways that we, as Christian people, might wish to serve our neighbors.

We need people willing to serve on the **Stewardship Committee**. The Committee has strong support with two members of Congregation Council and the Pastor serving. The committee is responsible for an annual appeal. This is more than raising financial resources. This helps us as Christian people to examine how we utilize the gift of time, talent and money. All three are important for the up building of the congregation and for extending the gracious reign of God.

We need a person to provide oversight to the **Garden of Memory**. This entails important aspects of record keeping for the congregation. When someone requests information about the Garden of Memory to the purchasing of a plot or niche in the wall, careful attention to detail and prompt response are necessary. An understanding of end of life decision making would benefit a person providing such oversight. You would work with the church secretary, the pastor, and relay information to the Congregation Council.

If you are interested in finding out more about any one of these areas; Social Ministry, Stewardship, or Garden of Memory, please contact the church office.

Vacation Bible School

Also mark your calendars for the week of June 7-11th. We will be having VBS this week. We are currently planning and will be sending out information soon, asking for volunteers to help make the event a success and to sign up the children to attend. "Make Me a Servant" is the theme.



Church Camp

Summer camp programs have been posted online for Camp Nawakwa and Camp Kirchenwald. If you are interested in attending this summer or would like more information. You can look at the information at this website <https://www.lutherancamping.org> or contact Kelly for a flyer



VBS MAKE ME A SERVANT

June 7 - 11 from 5:30-7:30 pm
St Paul's Lutheran Church

SPREADING THE GOSPEL WITH PAUL

- Dinner from 5:30 - 6 PARENTS PLEASE STAY WITH KIDS DURING THE MEAL
- Crafts, Games, Songs and Stories
- Kain Park on the 11th

SIGN UP AND REGISTER NOW

- Name and Age _____
- I will have dinner - Yes ___ No ___
NUMBER OF THOSE EATING : ADULTS ___ CHILDREN___
- Contact Info _____
- Allergies _____
- Parent volunteer - Yes___ No___



Experimental Trial Worship Time—Through May 17, 2026

The Hopes of this Experiment are:

- 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 of leadership roles currently experienced at the early service time.
- When there are 70 or more people in the church the energy in the room changes. This is most noticeable for the preaching task, both for the one preaching and for 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) will continue 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.



either Jessica Ericson or Kathryn Garber.

Our Bridge of Hope (BOH) committee is excited to share the good news that we have been matched up with a local family. In March we had the pleasure of meeting the mother and her children. We look forward to monthly gatherings and our journey as Neighboring Volunteers. Our current group consists of 8 members. If you have any questions or interest in helping, please contact

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 for additional information.





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!



**OUR FOOD PANTRY
NEEDS CEREAL
DONATIONS!**

**HELP US FILL THE
CEREAL BOX IN THE
GOOD SHEPHERD ROOM.**

**COLLECTION RUNS
THROUGH MAY.**

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

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.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Up-Coming Events & Additional Services in May & June

3 May	3:00 PM	Matinee Music Club Recital	Nave
17 May	3:00 PM	Saxton & Stump Will & Estate Planning	Christ Hall
7-11 June	5:30-7:30 PM	VBS—Dinner at 5:30 PM	
11 June	5:30-7:30 PM	VBS & Church Picnic at Kain Park	Kain Park



Summer Sunday Fellowship Time

Weekly Following the 9:30 AM liturgy

Sign up to provide some needed food items and some physical help!

During the summer months we have grown accustomed to having time for fellowship following the morning liturgy. This year we are adding a twist to the tried and true. We are asking for some specific things on specified Sundays. The theme for each week may make it easier to decide when you can provide an item based on your baking/cooking preferences. Historically we need refreshment for between 75 and 80 people. We are seeking 3 people to provide the item requested and 2 people to host. This calls upon 80 of us to get involved! With everyone simply stepping up for one of the tasks it will not burden anyone or group. So, if you don't bake or cook or mess with food preparation, sign up to host. Hosting means you put stuff out and clean stuff up. Simple and easy. Ask a friend or someone that you would like to get to know better to work with you on the same Sunday. The impetus for these gatherings is to help us get better acquainted. The desired items for each week are listed below. There are 16 Sundays during the summer season. A sign-up sheet will be on the podium in the Good Shepherd Room. In advance, thank you for being one of the 80 people to step forward and make these events a joyful part of our congregation's summer Sundays.

May 24 Fruit and yogurt	July 19 Muffins
May 31 Brownies	July 26 Deviled Eggs, Ham & cheese roll ups
June 7 Breads, Banana, Nut, etc.	August 2 Cupcakes
June 14 Sandwiches	August 9 Sandwiches
June 21 Coffee Cakes	August 16 Cinnamon rolls/buns
June 28 Cookies	August 23 Donuts
July 5 Fruit and yogurt	August 30 Fruit and yogurt
July 12 Sandwiches	September 6 Brownies

Web Page

Please sign on to 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.





THANK YOU TO OUR Chancel Choir!!

Please give a shout out to our choir members who sing regularly each week from September through May. We are fortunate to have many talented musicians and singers to offer their voices in praise. The choir season concludes at the end of May and resumes after Labor Day in September.

Please consider lending your voice to the choral program if you are so inspired to sing!

Here are several alternatives to choose if you don't want to commit to weekly attendance.

Sunday morning rehearsals in the Music Room. If you are interested in singing but can't commit to weekly rehearsals on Thursday nights, you are welcome to come on Sundays around 9:45am and rehearse the anthems with Victor.

If you don't want to commit to singing every Sunday, come to rehearsals the Sunday before and the Sunday the anthem will be sung.

If you know which Sundays you can commit to sing, try to come to at least the Sunday prior and Sunday the anthem will be sung.

If you don't want to robe and sit with the choir, you can simply come to the Chancel at the Offertory and sing without vesting.

If you can only sing on occasion, come to Sunday rehearsals.

If you are an experienced singer and reader and can learn the anthems on you own, I will be happy to have you sing. Please talk with Victor to discuss.

Music concerts and programs Spring 2026

St. Paul's Church is pleased to host the following musical events. Please show your support with your attendance. All events are FREE and open to the public.

Sunday, May 3 Matinee Musical Club of York piano recital 3:00 PM

Come and hear some of York's finest young pianists ages 8-18 perform in concert on the church's magnificent Steinway Concert grand piano. This is the annual Piano Competition and the caliber of playing is extraordinary.

Fall 2026

Sunday, September 27 Victor Fields organ recital 3:00 PM

Come and hear St. Paul's organist present a recital of music for organ with guest instrumentalists. Having returned from a summer sabbatical Mr. Fields will provide the community with an afternoon of music for organ with instruments. He will showcase the range of color and texture that St. Paul's pipe organ conceals behind the large covered pipe chambers.

Greeters will be needed for all of the above concerts and programs.

You will **not** be required to set up or clean up before or after the event. Your duties are to guide people to the nave and/or restrooms, etc... You will need to arrive 1/2 hour prior to the event and stay until all the guests have left. If you are interested in representing our church as part of the Hospitality Team please contact Patee at the church office.



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 it, 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.



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.



Will and Estate Planning Seminar Sunday, May 17, 3:00 PM.—by Saxton & Stump

Members of St. Paul's who attend the seminar will have the opportunity for Saxton and Stump to prepare a Will, Durable Power of Attorney, and Living Will at no cost to them through the generosity of St. Paul's Benevolence Fund. A sign-up sheet is in the Good Shepherd Room.



The process of designing an overall framework for transferring your assets to the next generation is a sensitive and important matter that should take into consideration several factors unique to each and every person. These factors might include federal estate tax issues involving a large or complex estate; transferring a family business; charitable giving; trust and guardian planning for young children or children with special needs; asset protection; planning for incapacity or the need for possible long-term care; or planning for blended families.

Comprehensive estate planning is not a "one size fits all" approach. It involves thoughtful strategy and consideration of these unique factors and utilizes a wide variety of legal documents tailored to your unique needs, goals and values regardless of whether your estate plan is simple or complex. An important part of this process is finding an advisor with whom you feel comfortable building a trusting relationship.



"Vintage" Members (80 and over) with birthdays in May are: Norma Spencer, Larry Gross, James Tanzola, and Ron Sturges. Sending Happy Birthday wishes and hoping you have a happy and healthy year ahead from your family at St. Paul's.

Preschool News

Sunshine and spring abounds at the preschool. April was a fast and busy month for the staff and children. At the end of April, the congregation welcomed our Preschool families to worship at church together. The children performed the songs they learned from Pastor Reep during Chapel Time. We would like to thank Pastor and the entire congregation for supporting the preschool children and staff during the service.

May will be another fun month filled with more signs of spring and summer. Some of the classes will be talking about flowers and butterflies while others will be talking about rainbows and the beach. At the end of May, the preschool children will perform in an end of the year program for their families. The children will showcase the songs that they have learned this year in their classrooms and at Chapel time.

As the school year comes to an end, the Preschool Staff would like to thank all of the staff and volunteers who have supported the Preschool ministry. We wish you a happy, safe and healthy summer.

We are still accepting registrations and the staff is eagerly preparing for the 2026-2027 school year. If you know anyone interested in our Preschool, please have them contact us at 717-854-1996.

Happy Spring,

The Preschool Staff



Preschool News

The teachers of our three-year-old preschool class, Deb Becker and Nancy Rost received Brown's Orchards Teacher of the Month Award for the month of March. They were presented the award by Brown's owner, Mary Brown and Paxton, the student that nominated them. We are thankful for everything they do for the preschool and their students. As Paxton said, "school is fun because of his teachers!."

St. Paul's Men's Group

The Men of St. Paul's gather throughout the year to build meaningful fellowship, grow in faith, and support one another as we navigate the challenges of living out our Christian lives. It's a welcoming space for conversation, connection, and shared purpose.

In addition to spending time together, we are committed to serving both our church and the broader community. Through events and activities, we help bring our congregation together while supporting causes such as Lutheran World Relief.

Whether we're preparing a meal, assembling relief kits, or simply getting together to plan and connect, these moments have led to great conversations, new friendships, and a stronger sense of community.

All men of St. Paul's are warmly invited to join us—whether it's your first time or you've been before. Come as you are, get involved, and see what we're all about.

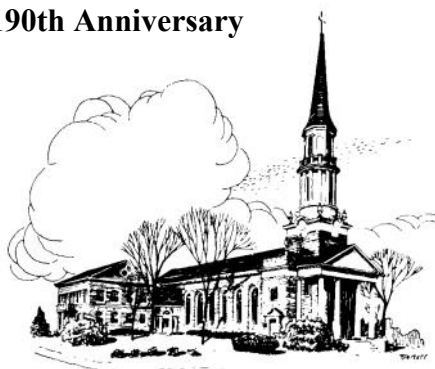
Upcoming Events:

June 11th – The Men's Group will be cooking the main course for the church picnic. More details to come.

Coming Soon – One of our members recently harvested an elk, and we're planning a special gathering to share a meal and enjoy fellowship together. Stay tuned for details.



190th Anniversary



St. Paul's Lutheran Church is celebrating a meaningful milestone in 2026—our 190th anniversary as a congregation. As part of honoring this historic occasion, we are undertaking a special project to recognize the legacy of our founding pastor, Jonathan Oswald.

Pastor Oswald played a central role in the early life of our church, and his family's burial plot at Prospect Hill Cemetery stands as an important reminder of our congregation's roots. To honor his contribution and celebrate the church's long history, a planning committee has begun organizing a restoration and beautification effort for the Oswald family cemetery plot.

This project will include cleaning and resetting headstones, along with other improvements designed to respectfully restore the site and ensure it reflects the dignity and history of the individuals buried there. Our goal is to have this work completed in time to rededicate the cemetery plot in October 2026.

This effort will rely on the support of volunteers from our congregation and community. If you would like to assist with this project or learn more about ways to help, please contact:

Aaron Jacobs ajacobs@scorecardsales.com 717-324-8133

**DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER ARTICLES**

May 15th

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
25 W. SPRINGETTSBURY AVE.
YORK, PA 17403
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Thank you to all who helped
to get this newsletter out this month!

STAFF		
Pastor	Rev. Stanley Reep	st.paulsyork@comcast.net
Youth Director	Kelly Moore-Spencer	kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
Organist, Choir Director	Victor Fields	vfields.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
Bell Choirs Director	Leah McComas	lmccomas.stpaulsyork@gmail.com
Children's Choir Director	Julianna Jones	jjones.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
Secretary	Patee Pizzirusso	st.paulsyork@comcast.net
Sexton	Ted Weikert	tweikert.stpaulsyork@gmail.com
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