

Our Church

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

9:30 AM Sunday Holy Eucharist
9:30 AM Live Streamed YouTube
Holy Days as announced
September 2026

Sunday Morning at St. Paul's Reimagine the Lord's Day



With the extension of a 9:30 AM liturgy through year's end, we are given the opportunity to reimagine Sunday morning. Before new patterns form and begin to shape us in different ways, let us be attentive to consider the possibility of an alternative experience during these next few months. Imagine gathering informally prior to the liturgy for coffee, tea or juice in the Good Shepherd Room (we may even have breakfast items). This has the capacity to make us stay connected and welcome any newcomers who may visit us. The Chancel Choir members can rehearse without needing to leave early during a Sunday school class or can include musicians for whom Thursday evening rehearsals are not an option given work and family schedules. The Holy Eucharist remains the central aspect of our life together on Sunday morning. With one Sunday liturgy planning will include additional communion servers, guest/visitor designated parking, and the need for all who can ambulate to park a bit farther away to ensure ample parking spaces for those who may need to park closer to the church. Faith formation (Sunday school) takes on a more prominent place in the morning schedule. Having heard the word and received the sacrament we move into a time of learning and growth as Christian people. While adults learn together the children have classes to guide them in their development as God's children. Most weeks the confirmation Students will enjoy lunch together and proceed into a time of study based on Martin Luther's *Small Catechism*. This time of extending the summer schedule through year's end provides us with the opportunity for renewal in our lives of faith and as a congregation. Some will resist it, for others it will make little difference, but for those who embrace it, they are bound to discover new things. As St. Paul wrote to the church in Corinth (2 Corinthians 5:17) "So, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"

Artwork by Congregants to Benefit Food Pantry Silent Auction



During the season of Lent about a dozen people gathered for a watercolor class. That experience was the catalyst for the Bastians hosting summer art sessions in their home. Now participants are donating their artwork for a silent auction to raise money to purchase food for the St. Paul's Food Pantry and to raise awareness of food insecurity in our neighborhood. The artwork will be on display in the church narthex beginning 11 October through 15 November, the day of the Annual Meeting. Artist information and bid sheets will be provided at that time. This is a good way to secure a holiday gift for a family member, friend or coworker, while supporting the ministry of the congregation.

Education for Adults, 10:45 AM

Making Sense of Martin Luther



Making Sense of
Martin Luther
David J. Lose

Worship and education are two basic components of the Christian life. And yet it is surprising how few people participate in any form of religious education. As we embark on an extended fall 9:30 AM worship schedule it seems fitting that we put forth as much attention to content and detail as we historically have done with our worship planning. Coming out of a summer where such attention brought us a renewed sense of who we are as God's people at this time and place, the Christian Education Committee has followed suit with their planning for the 10:45 AM Adult Sunday school component.

The year starts on 13 September with Making Sense of Martin Luther using a book by David J. Lose. David prepared this study for the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. As a faith community we come from many different backgrounds. Pastor Lose's book uses a conversational format to explore how Luther's dynamic understanding of God's life-changing gospel informs day-to-day faith and life in the world today. This approach should allow all of us to deepen our understanding of who Luther was and why his theological insights are relevant today. The seven-week session schedule is as follows:

Introduction: Luther as Monk, Myth, and Messenger

13 September: The Reluctant Reformer—Introducing “the Monk Who Changed the World”

20 September: Freedom! Justification by Grace through Faith

27 September: The Present-Tense God—Law and Gospel

4 October: The Ambidextrous God—The Two Kingdoms and God's Ongoing Work in the World

11 October: Called for Good—Vocation, Sinning Boldly, and the Respiratory System of the Body of Christ

18 October: God Hidden and Revealed—Luther's Theology of the Cross and the Sacraments

25 October: Semper Simul—Sin, Forgiveness, and “Becoming Christian”

Hopefully these themes will encourage you to include the 10:45 AM time of learning in your Sunday morning plans. Pastor Reep will lead the discussion each week in Christ Hall.

Catechetical Instruction

Begins Sunday September 13



Catechetical instruction is for students in grades 7 and 8. This year classes will be held from Noon- 2:00 PM and will include a simple lunch. The roughly 30 hours of instructional time will be spread out over a nine-week session in the fall (September 13 – November 8) and a ten-week session in the winter (January 10 – March 14) with confirmation being observed on The Second Sunday of Easter, April 4, 2027. This schedule provides ample time for instruction, activity and a closing worship component. We look forward to this time of learning and growth as our young people prepare to take on greater responsibilities in the faith community.

Education for Children, 10:45 AM, Sundays

Spark Activate Faith

The primary department has planned educational opportunities for the children and youth of the congregation. The teaching staff are using the “Spark” Activate Faith curriculum from Augsburg Fortress publishers. The classes for children and youth are held on the upper level. Classrooms will be designated at the start of the academic year. The following lessons will be presented during the seven weeks this fall:

13 September: “Joseph Helps his family,” Genesis 45:1-15, 50:15-21

20 September: “Baby Moses,” Exodus 2:1-10

27 September: “The Burning Bush,” Exodus 3:1-15

4 October: “Manna, Quail, and Water,” Exodus 16:1-18, 17:1-7

11 October: “Deborah,” Judges 4:1-5:31

18 October: “God calls Samuel,” 1 Samuel 3:1-20

25 October: “David is Chosen,” 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Hopefully these Bible stories will both encourage and inspire you to bring children

for Faith Formation at 10:45 AM Sunday morning so that they can benefit from this time of learning.



Unpacking the Sunday Lectionary Readings

Two opportunities Tuesday 6:00 PM & Wednesday 10:30 AM

Do you ever wonder why certain readings are read on Sunday morning and how, if at all, they relate to one another? And do you consider how they relate to you and your life as a child of God? Questions such as these are at the heart of the scripture study opportunities offered at St. Paul's. For decades Pastor Reep has led just such a study on Wednesday mornings. Wednesday mornings work for one portion of the congregation but certainly not for everyone. Last year he experimented by offering a study on Tuesday evenings which coincided with the Children's ministry activities of music, craft and Bible story. This year the Tuesday evening study will be held beginning on 1 September from 6:00 – 7:00 PM. Mark your calendar or simply look at the one provided with this newsletter and plan to join with other members of our faith community by unpacking the readings assigned for the upcoming Sunday morning. Those who participate can't believe the impact it has when they come to worship.



Please remember to notify the church of any life events, illnesses, joys or concerns.

Call the office 717-843-8155 or email st.paulsyork@comcast.net

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 and Pastor Yeiser to notify them that you have been admitted! Please call or have a family member call to give this information to the office so that Pastor Reep and Pastor Yeiser can provide care. Thank you.

Called for Service, Peace, Instruction & Renewal Stewardship Emphasis



The stewardship emphasis utilizes three commemorations and one saint's day; John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople 407 AD, Dag Hammarskjöld, Peacemaker 1961 AD, Jerome, Translator & Teacher 420 AD, and Francis of Assisi, Renewer of the Church 1226 AD to help us grasp four distinct aspects of the Christian life. Service, peacemaking, instruction & renewal work in harmony to give shape to the complexities of discipleship. As baptized people of God service to God and neighbor is a chief component of daily life. To help us with that enterprise being peacemakers adds to the blessedness of life as proclaimed by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. Instruction keeps us learning new things about who we are and whose we are as we study and pray together. And renewal, stemming from the Reformation of the 16th century, is in our DNA as Lutheran Christians. During the four weeks of our emphasis, we highlight the lives of these four saints to draw us into a deeper relationship with God in Christ Jesus and to support us in our daily work as disciples. A "thank you" dinner is slated for Wednesday, 7 October, 5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. The meal will have a menu for children as well as one for adults. During the Sundays in September, you will be asked to complete a reservation card so that the men of St. Paul's can prepare appropriately. The evening should conclude by 6:50 PM so that families can get home in time for bedtime rituals. Stewardship materials, Prayer cards, Time and Ability Forms, Giving Graph and Commitment Cards as well as 2027 Church Offering Envelopes will be available to take home that evening. As we learn from the lives of the saints, may such knowledge draw us closer to God and one another. Stewardship materials may be returned to the church office at any time following the "thank you" dinner on 7 October. We have made provision to receive commitment cards and time and ability forms on Reformation Sunday, 25 October and All Saints Sunday, 1 November.



Do you love to sing?

Our CHANCEL choir needs you!

We are looking for joyful voices to help lead worship this year.

No prior experience is required—just a willing heart.

Tenors and Basses especially needed!!

If you would like to lend your voice for a Sunday or two, or more,

a sign-up sheet to designate when you can help is available

on the stand in the Good Shepherd room.

REHEARSALS begin September 10

- Rehearsals: Thursdays at 7:30-8:30 PM and Sunday at 9:00 AM prior to worship
- Contact: Victor Fields, vfields.stpaulsyork@comcast.net or see him at church

Up-Coming Events at St. Paul's

Bible study resumes	Tuesday 1 September 6:00 PM
Handbell & Chancel Choir Rehearsals Begin	Wednesday, 2 September 10:30 AM
Organ Recital. Victor Fields	Thursday 10 September 6:30 & 7:30 PM
Fall Worship & Education Schedule Begins	Sunday 27 September 3:00 PM
with Presentation of Bibles	Sunday 13 September 9:30 AM
Stewardship "Thank You" Dinner	Wednesday 7 October 5:30 PM
Food Pantry Silent Art Auction benefit begins	Sunday. 11 October 9:00 AM
Rededication Rev. Jonathon Oswald plot	Sunday 11 October 3:00 PM
Healing Service. St. Luke	Sunday 18 October 9:30 AM
Violin & Piano. Ade Williams, Chelsea Wang	Wednesday 21 October 7:30 PM
Reformation Sunday	Sunday 25 October 9:30 AM
All Saints Day	Sunday 1 November 9:30 AM
Annual Meeting & Dinner	Sunday 15 November 11:30 AM
Christ the King	Sunday 22 November 9:30 AM
Intergenerational Advent Event	Sunday 29 November
Children's Christmas Program	Sunday 6 December 10:45 AM
York College Christmas Concert	Sunday 6 December 3:00 PM
Christmas Decorating	Tuesday 15 December 6:00 PM
Christmas Eve	Thursday 24 December 4:00 & 7:00 PM
Christmas Day	Friday 25 December 10:30 AM
Lessons & Carols	Sunday 27 December 9:30 AM



Senior Luncheon

Wednesday 21 October 2026

The fall senior luncheon will be held in Christ Hall on Wednesday, October 21st at 11:30 AM. The Witness Committee will prepare a delicious luncheon and provides opportunities for meeting new members, conversation, and joyful fellowship. Entrée this year will be chicken cordon bleu. The luncheon will be preceded with hymns and prayers at 10:30 AM. Pastor Reep will lead the hymns, study and prayers. Please contact the church office to reserve your place at the table. RSVP by October 14.

Free Concert of Organ Music
Victor Fields, Organ
September 27, 2026, 3:00P.M.

Please come join me as I present a solo recital of organ music featuring the music of composers William Albright, Johann Sebastian Bach, Marcel Dupré and Cesar Franck.

I have three guest musicians joining me in my recital. Mabel Tang, violin, and Jeffrey Phelps cello will join me in playing a Trio by Dupré. Most classical trios such as those of Beethoven, Haydn and Mendelssohn were written with piano. Dupré was a virtuoso French organist, and he used eclectic harmonies along with many organ colors to enrich the violin and cello parts in this unique piece.

Jay Poff, a professional actor, and singer joins me in presenting “The King of Instruments” written by composer and organist, William Albright. Albright taught music composition at the University of Michigan before his premature death at age 54.

“The King of Instruments” is a parade of music and verse which describes the world of the organist and the various names of organ stops found on many pipe organs. Albright affectionately mixes humor in poetry along with uncanny and sometimes bizarre use of organ stops infused with jazz, blues, and rip-roaring fun making this work a tour-de-force for the listening ear.

As bookends to these, I open with the majestic and grand Prelude and Fugue in C minor, BWV 546, written during Bach’s Leipzig and Weimar periods. Preludes and Fugues like Peanut Butter and Jelly are usually paired together, though often written at different times. The Prelude with its majestic and powerful opening chords was written later than its paired Fugue. Having recently returned from a vacation trip to Germany, I was able to visit and kneel at Bach’s grave at St. Thomas Lutheran Church in Leipzig where he served as church musician.

The closing piece is the Final of French/Belgian organist Cesar Franck. The word Final does not mean a college or school exam, rather, a work of great splendor, excitement, and grandeur. French organists did not have full pedals to play at the time Bach was living and working. It was not until a century after Bach that French organs started to become standard large symphonic styled instruments. This work with its opening pedal solo and massive full-bodied sound, is one of the first virtuoso works in the French tradition. Franck had a massive hand reach making it difficult at time to reach all the notes! The pedal solo is used throughout the piece and even at one point even sounds like a marching band on a football field racing towards the sweeping end.

I hope you will invite those who enjoy organ music to come and be with me on September 27.

Victor Fields

Fall 2026 Music concerts and programs

St. Paul's Church is pleased to host the following musical events.



Sunday, September 27

Victor Fields, organ

3:00pm

Come and hear St. Paul's organist present a recital of music for organ and instruments with Mabel Tang, violin, Jeffrey Phelps, cello featuring selections by Bach, Dupré, Franck and The King of Instruments, A Parade of Music and Verse for Organ and Narrator by William Albright featuring actor Jay Poff.

Wednesday, October 21

Adé Williams, violin, Chelsea Wang, piano

7:30pm

Praised by the New York Times as "stunning," Adé is a renowned, award-winning, concert violinist, known for her vibrance and special connection to audiences. A 2023 Stradivari Society recipient, she is a highly sought-after soloist and collaborator in the US and abroad.

Sunday, December 6

York College Christmas Concert

3:00pm

Come hear the York College Music Department choirs and instrumentalists perform a concert of holiday music and more.

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. 717-843-8155 or st.paulsyork@comcast.net



Calling all crocheters and knitters. Last November we gave out over 200 scarves to our pantry shoppers. It's time to start making scarves again for November 2026. The only suggestion is that scarves are about 4 ½ - 5 feet long and about 6 inches wide. When you finish a few scarves, put them in the pantry shopping cart in the Good Shepherd Room with your name on the bag. We extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to everyone who provided the amazing scarves. Let's see if we can surpass last year's number! This year the Blessing of the Scarves will be held on Sunday, November 8, prior to the distribution on November 10.

St. Paul's Pantry News

Summer is busy in the pantry at St. Paul's. Along with the normal food selections, our shoppers get to choose from a large variety of fresh produce provided by two gardens in the York Area. We have a long-time relationship with The Unitarian Universalist Church garden at South George Street where many volunteers plant, care for, and harvest produce for the shoppers at our pantry. They harvest on Tuesday mornings from 8:00-9:00 am and then delivery it to our pantry for 9:30 distribution. Looking for a volunteer opportunity? Just show up with gloves on Tuesday morning 8:00 am and they will welcome you with smiles and directions!

New last year was a relationship with the Master Gardeners Penn State Extension Garden at John Rudy Park. They harvest their produce on Mondays and bring a selection of produce to us and other pantries in the York area. A big thank you to both groups of volunteers for their hard work.

Central Penn Food Bank came to St. Paul's several times this spring and summer to interview our shoppers. One event was to learn what cultural foods the shoppers would like to find at York County Pantries. Over 30 neighbors participated in this large group event. The other project called Hunger Mapping was to learn more about how food insecurity is experienced by neighbors in York County and the work done by partner agencies to make an impact on this issue. St. Paul's was identified as a pantry in an important geographic location serving a large number of households. Central Penn representatives visited on two different pantry days to interview our shoppers. The project, when completed, will be a complete map of York County showing where needs are met and where there is a lack of food assistance. We are thankful for this relationship with Central Penn Food Bank and all the work that they do. Check out their website Central Pennsylvania Food Bank to learn more.



Thank you to Cheryl Reifsteck for keeping our outdoor pots of flowers blooming!



“Vintage” Members (80 and over) with birthdays in September are: Janice Cromer, Ken Hinkle, and Linda Hanson

Sending Happy Birthday wishes and hoping you have a happy and healthy year ahead from your family at St. Paul's.

Music & Create

Age 3 through grade 6



Welcome back to Music and Create! We are looking forward to this opportunity for our families with young children to engage in music, art, and Bible stories while also having the opportunity to connect with other families. The program is designed for children ages 3 through grade 6. We divide the children into two age groups, age 3 through grade 1 and grade 2 through grade 6.

On Tuesday, September 15th we will spend our time as one big group (we will also finish by 7pm that night). Mrs. Jones and Miss Kelly will lead the children in fun getting to know you activities for everyone who comes and participates.

Beginning on September 22nd during Create time the children will work together on a creative project and talk about what it means to be children of God. During Music time the children will sing and play instruments as we build musical skills and create music together. Music and Create activities will help children and youth build relationships with one another and grow in Christian faith.

The children and youth will sing during the worship service at 9:30 AM on

Sunday, October 4th

Sunday, November 8th

Sunday, December 6th – Christmas program

Thursday, December 24th – Christmas Eve at 4:00 PM

We are looking forward to welcoming back former participants as well as meeting new friends who join us on Tuesday, September 15 at 6:00 p.m.

Miss Kelly and Mrs. Jones

Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group Sundays 12 Noon

Grades 7 through 12

September 13

November 8

February 14

The youth will be joining the confirmands for activities to strengthen our faith through the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, and the Apostles' Creed.



Youth Grades 3 through 6 Sundays 12 Noon

October 11

January 10

March 14

The children and youth will be playing Hungry, Hungry Hippos, Balloon Toss, and Pool Noodle Partners, as they grow together in faith.

Rejoice!

The Preschool will be welcoming the sounds of children's laughter and teacher's voices into the hallways and classrooms for the 2026- 2027 school year.



Orientation will be held for the preschool families on Thursday, September 3rd. The teachers will discuss procedures and policies for the upcoming school year. It will be great to see classrooms full of parents!

Mrs. Passariello, Mrs. Stambaugh and Mrs. Wagner are ready to relax at the beach with their 4-year-old scuba divers. They will be exploring the wonders of God's beautiful ocean.

Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Rost, Mrs. Lehr and Mrs. Jones will also embrace their two and three-year-old lambs who followed them to school one day. They will begin the year by going up the hill and jumping over candlesticks while learning about nursery rhymes and Gods wonderful love.

We are also excited to have our Parent Group activities begin! The committee will kick off the year with a Fall Fest complete with games, face painting and Table or Treat for Halloween. Fire Prevention week will be the first week of October. The Preschool is looking forward to seeing our local firemen with their firetrucks at school so that the children can learn all about fire safety

Everyone hopes to have a happy, safe and healthy school year. We ask for your prayers for the staff as they continue to reach the hearts of children and for the children who learn about God's purpose and love.

Council Highlights

The Congregation Council gathered for their regular meeting on Monday, 17 August 2026, at 6:30 PM. The meeting began with devotion and prayer by Tristan Ericson. He highlighted the many beloved pastors who have served St. Paul's through our 190-year history. And he drew attention to our founding pastor and the work that was accomplished through his 35 years of service to the congregation and the York community.

The council accepted with regret the resignation of the Treasurer, Ken Hinkle. A search has begun to fill this important position.

The pastoral succession plan was reviewed, and a draft proposal of a Pastoral Call Process Manual was sent to the synod office for review.

The request to hold an art fund raiser for the Food Pantry was approved. Information regarding the event is included in this edition of the Our Church.

The Property Committee presented the proposal and bid to replace the lower-level windows (community rooms on the Springettsbury Ave. side and Food Pantry rooms on the parking lot side.) The cost was included in the 2026 budget which was approved at the annual meeting held November 2025. The estimated cost is \$32,500.

The recommendation from the Worship and Arts Committee regarding the Christmas service schedule was approved. The service times will remain the same, Christmas Eve 4:00 & 7:00 PM and Christmas Day 10:30 AM.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Ann Anstadt at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Reep



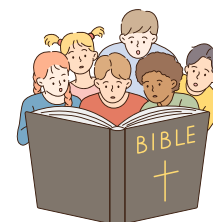
Nominating Committee Begins Work

The Nominating Committee's work is to secure a slate of nominations for positions of leadership in the congregation. The positions are for Congregation Council (3 to 5), Mutual Ministry (2), Benevolence Committee (1) and voting members for Synod Assembly (3+alternate). Their work began in late summer and continues until elections are held at the Annual Meeting on 15 November. The Nominating Committee members are Ann Anstadt, Keith Kates and Carol Woodbury. If you are interested in serving the congregation through one of these areas of ministry, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee.

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 9:30 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.

Presentation of Bibles Sunday September 13



During the rite of Holy Baptism we promise that as the child grows, we will place in his or her hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for instruction in the Christian faith. This year we will be presenting Bibles to children in kindergarten, grade 4, and grade 7. The kindergarten students will receive a story Bible designed for their age featuring beautiful illustrations and content that captures the important stories as building blocks of faith. Those entering grade 4 will receive the Adventure Bible designed for young readers providing helps, illustrations and interesting facts. Students in grade 7 begin their catechetical program and receive a high-quality study Bible. It is an edition that will aid them in their study during the next two years of confirmation class as well as an ongoing resource for their adult participation in Christian life and living.

Clothing Collection

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.



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
25 W. SPRINGETTSBURY AVE.
YORK, PA 17403
(717) 843-8155 (717)
Email: st.paulsyork@comcast.net
Web Page: <http://www.stpaulsyork.org>

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
York, PA
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 158



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

STAFF		
Pastor	Rev. Stanley Reep	st.paulsyork@comcast.net
Visitation Pastor	Rev. Dr. Dan Yeiser	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
Preschool Director	Deb Becker	presch.stpaulsyork@comcast.net

In this Issue:
Sunday Morning
Silent Auction
Sunday School
Called to Serve
Choir Schedules
Fall Concert Dates
Upcoming Events
Senior Luncheon
Catechetical Instruction
Preschool Registration
Pantry News
Crocheters and Knitters
Social Ministry News
Music and Create
Pantry News