

Festival of Francis of Assisi

October 4, 2026



St Francis Of Assisi, St Francis Church New Jersey USA, Stained Glass

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155 Email: st.paulsyork@comcast.net

Website: 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 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 or use the QR Code provided.

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

Restrooms are available in the Good Shepherd Room (Springettsbury Ave) and the narthex (George St). Baby changing stations are provided in these restrooms as well as in the nursery.

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.

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

*The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God
and in celebration of our first wedding anniversary! By Amelia & Michael West*

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

Festival of Francis of Assisi

October 4, 2026

Holy Communion 9:30 AM

Musical Setting 3 Evangelical Lutheran Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stewardship Emphasis: *Called for Renewal*

PRELUDE

We Give Thee but Thine Own

Flor Peeters

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

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God 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

All Creatures, Worship God Most High! (ELW 835)



1 All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev - 'ry voice in earth and
2 Sing, broth - er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and
3 Sing, broth - er fire, so mirth - ful, strong; drive far the shad - ows, join the
4 All who for love of God for - give, all who in pain or sor - row



sky: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Sing, broth - er sun, in splen-dor
grain: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear sis - ter wa - ter, use - ful,
throng: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear moth - er earth, so rich in
grieve: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



bright; sing, sis - ter moon and stars of night:
clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to hear: Al-le - lu - ia, al-le -
care, praise God in col - ors bright and rare:
fears; still make your song a - mid the tears:



lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

5 And you, most gentle sister death,
waiting to hush our final breath:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,
fair is the night that leads us home.
Alleluia.

6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,
and worship God with humble heart:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One:
Alleluia.

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, we praise you for the men and women you have sent to call the Church to its tasks and renew its life like your servant, Francis of Assisi. Raise up in our own day teachers and prophets inspired by your Spirit, whose voices will give strength to your Church and proclaim the reality of your kingdom; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Sit

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Come, Holy Spirit, Come

Michael Bedford

FIRST LESSON

Micah 6:6-8

back cover

PSALM

Psalm 9:1-10 sung unaccompanied cantor/congregation

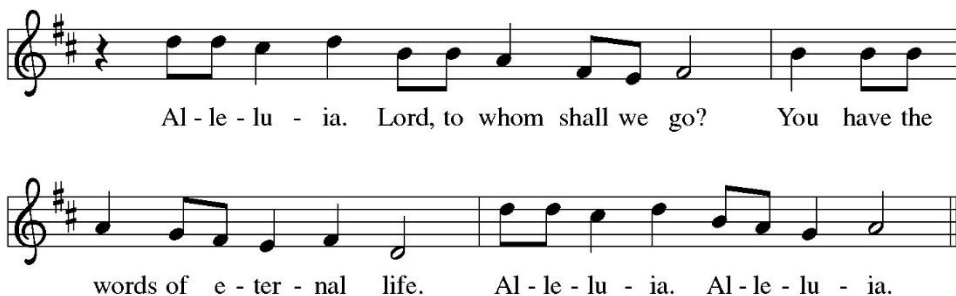
- ¹ I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with | my whole heart;*
I will tell of all your mar- | velous works.
- ² **I will be glad and re- | joice in you;***
I will sing to your name, | O Most High.
- ³ When my enemies are | driven back,*
they will stumble and perish | at your presence.
- ⁴ **For you have maintained my right | and my cause;***
you sit upon your throne | judging right.
- ⁵ You have rebuked the ungodly and de- | stroyed the wicked;*
you have blotted out their name forev- | er and ever.
- ⁶ **As for the enemy, they are finished, in per- | petual ruin;***
their cities plowed under, the memory | of them perished;
- ⁷ but the LORD is en- | throned forever;*
he has set up his | throne for judgment.
- ⁸ **It is he who rules the | world with righteousness;***
he judges the peo- | ples with equity.
- ⁹ The LORD will be a refuge for | the oppressed,*
a refuge in | time of trouble.
- ¹⁰ **Those who know your name will put their | trust in you,***
for you never forsake those who seek | you, O LORD.

SECOND LESSON Galatians 6:14-18

back cover

Stand

ALLELUIA



HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 11:25-30

(back cover)

The Holy Gospel according to St. 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 Stanley Reep

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

Will You Come and Follow Me (ELW 798)

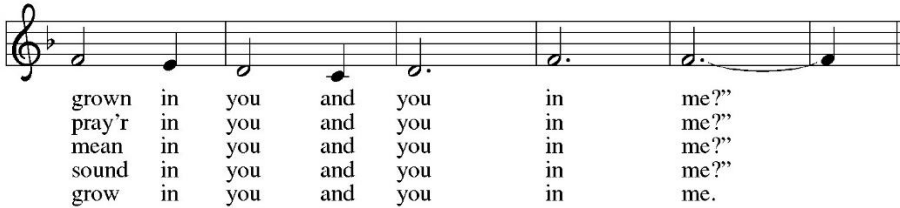
1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call

your name? Will you go where you don't
your name? Will you care for cruel and
your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
your name? Will you quell the fear in -
my name. Let me turn and fol - low

know and nev - er be the same?
kind and nev - er be the same?
free and nev - er be the same?
side and nev - er be the same?
you and nev - er be the same.

Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and

name be known, will you let my life be
tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
world a - round, through my sight and touch and
foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



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 is kept.

God, our Father, we give thanks for all who have sought to renew and transform your holy church especially Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church and society. Inspire us to follow their example in our own day. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Bless and protect the earth and all those who dwell within it. We give thanks for those who have helped us to see your handiwork in creation especially Francis of Assisi. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Bring peace to the world's conflict zones (*regions in crisis may be named*), and shelter those who live within them. We pray especially for the safety of displaced people and refugees.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Grant wholeness to all who are sick or suffering (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give thanks for teachers of the faith (*congregational formation ministries may be named*). Fill their hearts with your Spirit, as they inspire others with the goodness of your Son. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for all the saints who have been restored to perfect unity with you. On this day we remember Francis of Assisi. Comfort us with the assurance of your abiding presence now and for eternity. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils that surround them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be, Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of unity and peace, in baptism you have made us one people in the body of your Son. Hear us, as with one voice we offer you these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **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

Chancel Choir

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Carl Schalk

Stand
OFFERTORY



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the
brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

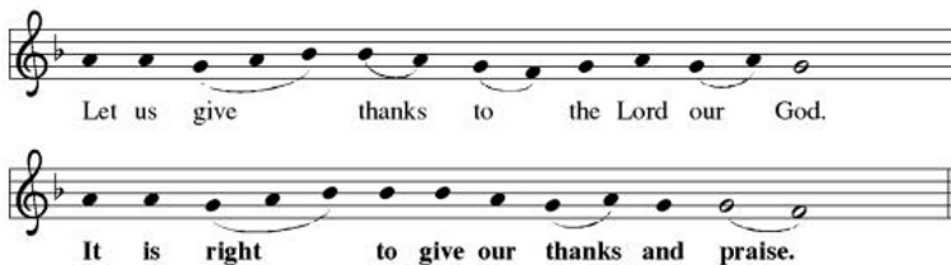
Let us pray. Merciful Father,

we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered 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.

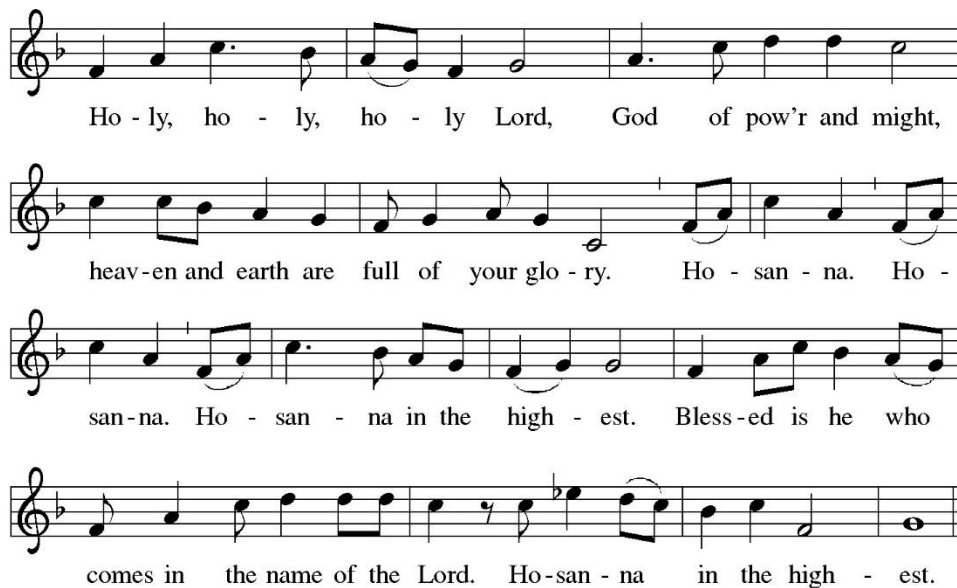


PREFACE

The preface appropriate to the day is said.

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



THANKSGIVING

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, 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 RITE

When we eat this bread, we share the body of Christ. When we drink this cup, we share the blood of Christ.

**Reveal yourself to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread,
as once you revealed yourself to your disciples.**

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.

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. We receive communion by common loaf and pouring chalice.

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

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee (ELW 836)

Stand



- 1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
- 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
- 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be-fore thee, prais-ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a-round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean-depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, flow-'ry mead-ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

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.

BLESSING

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

HYMN***Voices Raised to You (ELW 845)***

1 Voic - es raised to you we of - fer; tune them, God, for
2 All cre - a - tion joins to praise you; earth and sky your
3 Christ, the song of love in - car - nate, touch - ing earth with
4 Spir - it, flam - ing through cre - a - tion, kin - dle faith with -
5 How can an - y praise we of - fer mea - sure all the



songs of praise. Hearts and hands we bring in trib - ute
works dis - play. Art and mu - sic, gifts you lend us,
heav - en's grace, for your liv - ing, suf - f'ring, dy - ing,
in each heart. Lift our voic - es high in cho - rus;
thanks we owe? Take our hearts and hands and voic - es—



for your gifts through all our days. Al - le - lu - ia!
we re - turn to you to - day. Al - le - lu - ia!
for your ris - ing, hear our praise! Al - le - lu - ia!
through our hands your love im - part. Al - le - lu - ia!
gifts of love we can be - stow. Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!
Al - le - lu - ia! God, cre - a - tor, source of life!
Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, re - deem - er, Lord of life!
Al - le - lu - ia! Spir - it, help - er, breath of life!
Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sit

POSTLUDE

Awake Thou Spirit

Flor Peeters

Called for Service, Peace, Instruction & Renewal the theme for the 2026/27 stewardship emphasis highlights four aspects of our baptismal life.

Stewardship Emphasis – Next week we observe the Commemoration of Henry Melchoir Muhlenberg. The readings are Jeremiah 1:4-10, Psalm 46, 1 Corinthians 3:11-23, and Mark 10:35-45. We will have Bible Study on Tuesday evening at 6:00 PM and Wednesday morning at 10:30 AM.

This Week at St. Paul’s

Church office open Tues–Thurs 8:00 AM—3:30 PM, Friday 8-11:30 AM

Sunday, October 4 – Francis of Assisi 9:00 AM Fellowship – Good Shepherd Rm 9:00 AM Chancel choir rehearsal – Music RM 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist – Live Stream 10:45 AM Faith Formation – for all 10:45 AM Confirmation Class – Lower level classroom 6:30 PM AA Meeting-Community Rm Tuesday, October 6 8:30 AM Staff Meeting – Smal Office 9:30 AM Food Pantry 6:00 PM CREATE – Preschool-Gr 6 6:00 PM Bible Study - Christ Hall Wednesday, Wednesday, October 7 10:00 AM Preschool with Pastor – Nave 10:30 AM Bible Study – Christ Hal 5:30 PM Thank- you Dinner- Fellowship Halll	Thursday, October 8 10:00 AM Preschool with Pastor – Nave 6:30 PM Handbell Choir 7:30 PM Chancel Choir Saturday, October 9 10:30 AM Private Event – Fellowship Hall Sunday, October 11 Commemoration of Henry Muhlenberg 9:00 AM Fellowship – Good Shepherd Rm 9:00 AM Chancel choir rehearsal – Music RM 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist – Live Stream 10:45 AM Faith Formation – for all 10:45 AM NO Confirmation Class – Lower level classroom 4:00 PM Rededication of Rev. Jonathan Oswald, Cemetery Plot, Prospect Hill 6:30 PM AA Meeting-Community Rm
---	---

Serving the Lord with Gladness									
DATE	TIME	Asst Min	Crucifer	Comm Asst	Lector	Greeters	Ushers	Altar Guild	Bread Bakers
10/4	9:30 AM	Tristan Ericson	Larry Moore	John Monk	Deb Becker	June & Alexis Heistand	Team 2L: Kem Vaught, Gail Kerchner, Sandy Dickensheets	Deb Becker, Isabella Lehr	Johanna Patterson
10/11	9:30 AM	Harrison Palmer	Denise Rider	Harold Sargeant	Nancy Bennett	Eric & Brianne Humpal	Team 3E: Norma Shue, Cliff Beck, Sheridan Palmer	Deb Becker, Isabella Lehr	Janet Moore

The Entrance Hymn this morning is based on a text written by Francis of Assisi (12th century). Many of us may be more familiar with an alternate translation by William Draper (20th century). The original text provides us with a greater insight into the thought and teaching of Francis. Francis was a renewer of the church. The hymn calls us to praise God in all things.

We are a month into our trial period of holding one Sunday liturgy at 9:30 AM. The Council members would like to hear from you as they discern the future direction for our gathering for worship. Kindly direct your insights to any council member: Ann Anstadt, Sharon Diaczun, Tristan Ericson, Joe Guarriello Alexis Heistand, Keith Kates, Kass Keleta, Chris Lipp, Darren Smith, Frank Tyminisky, Carol Woodbury, Tim Yakim and Pastor Reep. We are eager to learn about how the trial schedule affects your participation in; worship, education, choir, parking, serving, fellowship and in our outreach to the community. Thank you in advance for your time, thoughtfulness, and consideration as we work together for the building up of the body of Christ.

Healing Service and Anointing with oil will be held in conjunction with St. Luke Day on Sunday October 18 during the 9:30 AM liturgy. This Liturgy provides opportunity to pray for healing in our lives, congregation, community, nation and world. It is also an opportunity to invite others to join you in worship.

2027 Offering Envelopes are prepared and are available in the Good Shepherd Room. Please take your packet along with you, put them in a secure place so that you have them ready when the new year begins. If you are new to St. Paul's and would like to receive a packet of offering envelopes, please contact the church office.

Photo Directories have arrived. For those who participated in the process a directory with your name is placed on the table in the Good Shepherd Room. For newcomers to St. Paul's, we have a few additional copies for distribution. Simply contact the Church office to receive a copy.

St. Paul's Food Pantry Needs: White Rice, Cereal, plastic and paper shopping bags. 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!

Join us for our next Women's Group meeting on Sunday, October 18. At 8:30 AM | Rm 108
We'll spend time in devotion, reflect on past activities—including our retreat—and begin planning events for the coming year. We hope you'll join us for this time of fellowship, reflection, and planning!

Silent Art Auction to begin next week. Members of St. Paul's have created a variety of items that will be on display in the narthex (George Street). You may bid on items up through November 15, the day of the Annual Meeting. This is a great way to secure an original piece of artwork and even a potential holiday gift. All proceeds are given in support of St. Paul's Food Pantry.

Music and Create are off to a great start on Tuesday evenings. The program is geared for children age 3 through grade 6. Children are led as they engage in music making, art projects and discovery through Bible stories. The activities begin at 6:00 PM and conclude at 7:15 PM.

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.

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.

The Unitarian Church on S. George St. supplies our pantry with fresh vegetables. They are asking for help in their garden. If you can donate some of your time to help please contact Steve Converse at 717-577-6696.

Chancel Choir seeks to welcome additional voices. You may attend rehearsals currently on Thursday evenings at 7:30 PM and/or Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM. Direct any questions to Victor Fields.

Sunday school for Children is held on the Lower Level in rooms 004 and 005. There are opportunities for church members to help with the teaching for a week or two. Simply sign up on the calendar located on the stand in the Good Shepherd room. Please note that we do require clearances for everyone working with children. If you want to know more, please speak with Miss Kelly or Johanna Patterson.

Making Sense of Martin Luther, the adult Sunday school class is held in Christ Hall. Feel free to join the class at any time. Each week's session does not necessarily rely on previous material. This is designed so that participants can attend in the weeks that their schedules permit.

Stewardship Materials will be distributed at the "thank you" dinner on Wednesday evening, October 7, at 5:30 PM. There are three parts; Time and Ability Form, Step chart, and commitment card. The Time and Ability Form and Commitment Card may be returned during worship on either Reformation Sunday (October 25) or All Saints Sunday (November 1). Please make time to prayerfully complete them and bring them with you for inclusion during the time of the offering on either of the afore-mentioned Sundays. Thank you.

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 our church to help those directly in our care. Donate at three locations: 2414 Eastern Boulevard, 283 West Market Street, and in the South York Plaza. Give them the name and address of our church. Donors are still able to take advantage of the tax-deduction with every gift to LifePath Thrift Stores.



2027 Flower Chart - The 2027 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 in, or hospitalized. If you wish, you can contact the office to reserve a date, and to provide all of the correct information for inclusion in the Sunday bulletin.

As Winter approaches....Entering October, it won't be long before the cold weather comes and stays. Many students at **Jackson Elementary School** will be in need of a winter coat, either new or gently used. Your donation will be so appreciated. The sizes span from preschool to adult, since the school educates children through 8th grade. Coats will be collected in Christ Hall through November 8th. Social Ministries thanks you for this outreach.



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 sign-up in the Good Shepherd Room or contact the church office to reserve your place at the table. RSVP by Oct.14

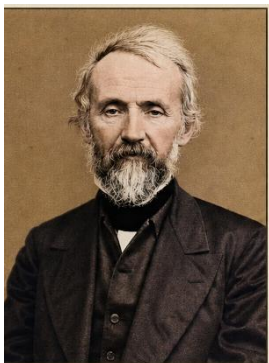


“Thank You” Dinner **Wednesday, October 7, 5:30 PM Fellowship Hall**

The “Thank You” Dinner is just that, a shared meal, held in recognition of the importance of Christ and his Church in our lives. The hope in planning was that by providing a mid-week meal, it would ease the burden for families, singles, those working and those who are retired. The “Thank You” Dinner features a menu for children and one for adults. Miss Kelly is coordinating the meal for the children, and the Men of St. Paul’s are coordinating the meal for the adults. Given their track record both menus will be delicious. The meal will be served promptly at 5:30 PM. If you arrive late, do not worry, there will be plenty of time to eat during the entertainment portion. The skits will include; The Electric Slide, “An Angel Visits Edith” and “Another Weird Week”. 2027 Stewardship materials will be available to take home with you. There are three parts; stepping up, time and ability form, and commitment card.

Reservation cards have been distributed each Sunday morning prior to the liturgy. It is not too late to respond. Simply call the church office or complete a reservation card by TODAY and place it in the offering plate.

Service of Blessing and Rededication, Cemetery Plot, Prospect Hill **The Reverend Jonathan Oswald, Founding Pastor of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church** **October 11, 4:00 PM**



Pastor Oswald opened the doors of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in 1836. It was the first English language Lutheran congregation west of the Susquehanna. The need for an English language congregation was realized when St. Paul’s was chartered in February 1836. Pastor Oswald’s work and life and ministry are carried forward by the faithful congregants and pastors of St. Paul’s Church. Now in our 190th year, we take time to show respect, provide care, and give appropriate honor to our founding pastor. A team of St. Paul’s members have worked throughout this calendar year in preparation of the Service of Blessing and

Rededication of the cemetery plot at Prospect Hill Cemetery. You are invited to attend the service at Prospect Hill Cemetery on Sunday, October 11 at 4:00 PM. The service will be held rain or shine so please plan accordingly. You may wish to locate the cemetery plot on the map provided, or speak with Aaron Jacobs, chairperson of the rededication committee for directions. We extend our thanks and appreciation to Aaron and his committee for their vision, planning and work to bring us to this important day in the life of our faith community.

FIRST LESSON Micah 6:6-8

⁶ “With what shall I come before the LORD
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

⁷ Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of
rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?

SECOND LESSON Galatians 6:14-18

¹⁴ May I never boast of anything except the cross
of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has
been crucified to me and I to the world. ¹⁵ For
neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is
anything, but a new creation is everything! ¹⁶ As
for those who will follow this rule—peace be
upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of
God.

¹⁷ From now on, let no one make trouble for
me, for I carry the marks of Jesus branded on my
body.

¹⁸ May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be
with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 11:25-30

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, “I thank
you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
because you have hidden these things
from the wise and the intelligent and
have revealed them to infants; ²⁶ yes,
Father, for such was your gracious will.

²⁷ All things have been handed over to
me by my Father, and no one knows
the Son except the Father, and no one
knows the Father except the Son and
anyone to whom the Son chooses to
reveal him.

²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are
weary and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my
yoke upon you, and learn from me, for
I am gentle and humble in heart, and
you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For
my yoke is easy, and my burden is
light.”

St. Francis of Assisi, 2026

Micah 6:6-8 Galatians 6:14-18

Matthew 11:25-30

Most of us know St. Francis from home and garden centers. He is depicted as a bird feeder, often standing tall with hands cupped and extended, a perfect receptacle for bird seeds. But his life and legacy are far richer and fuller than the resin and concrete cast figures placed in our gardens.

Francis was born at the end of the 12th century in Umbria, Italy. His given name was Giovanni. He got the name Francis because of his family's cloth merchant enterprise. His father was fascinated by the French; culture, language, cuisine. His dad was a huge admirer, so he nicknamed his son, Francesco, "French" and created a name, Francis. that continues to this day.

Giovanni, Francis, didn't want to take over the family fabric empire, he longed to be a knight. There was of course some odd sort of glamor associated with defending his region of Italy. So, he signed up and participated in a border dispute between Assisi and Perugia. He was captured and imprisoned and stricken with a fever so elevated that his capturers returned him to Assisi. The Perugians did not want him dying on their watch. During his recuperation he underwent what we might call a change of heart. Through self-examination he ventured out on a different path.

One morning when he went to chapel, he heard the priest reading from the gospel of Matthew. It changed his life.

⁷ As you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' ⁸ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy,^[a] drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

⁹ "Do not get any gold or silver or copper to take with you in your belts— ¹⁰ no bag for the journey or extra shirt or sandals or a staff, for the worker is worth his keep. ¹¹ Whatever town or village you enter, search there for some worthy person and stay at their house until you leave. ¹² As you enter the home, give it your greeting. ¹³ If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you.

When Francis took his leave that morning following chapel, he took off his shoes, staff, cloak, and replaced his belt with a piece of old rope over a long brown peasant's smock. He began his mission. Ten years later that simple outfit would be the uniform worn by ten thousand men who signed up to be with Francis as he followed Jesus. These men took vows of poverty, and preached fervently the word of God, especially the Beatitudes from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. This was a new way to go about living a Christian life, one which combined complete lack of earthly possessions and rigorous simplicity, with joyful comradery in fellowship, genuine sense of humor, and gladness in God's creation. Francis renewed the church. So great a witness and evangelist of God's love in Christ Jesus, only two years after his death, he was recognized as a saint.

I'm not advocating that you renounce your family, or cast off your garments, or give away all your possessions. I am advocating that we take to heart the gospel message of our Lord Jesus Christ in such a way that the scriptures speak to us with clarity. The Prophet Micah proclaims clearly what the Lord wants from his faithful followers;

"He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to

do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?"

These are not three separate things. What is proclaimed is a way to approach daily life; doing justice, loving kindness, walking humbly. In so doing will not others recognize in us the life of Christ? Will we be known as people who live for self or people who live for others?

The appeal of Francis was the simplicity and truth with which he lived each day. I believe that people long to experience simplicity and truth. They are seeking real honest relationships with people who go about Christian living, much like Francis; modesty in earthly possessions, joyful comradery in fellowship, genuine sense of humor, and gladness in God's creation. With such an approach to life in Christ Jesus, relationships are bound to be life-giving. This is precisely what we have to offer in a world increasingly consumed by things and by fear ranging from war to Artificial Intelligence.

The "thank you" dinner on Wednesday night is about simplicity, joyful fellowship, sense of humor, and gladness in God's creation. The Stewardship emphasis this fall has been implicit through a series of commemorations of individuals who gave of themselves to advance kingdom life in Christ Jesus. John Chrysostom, Dag Hammarskjold, Jerome, Francis, they model for us service, peacemaking, teaching, and renewing. Central for each of them is Christ, his love made known through a life of service, peace, teaching and renewal in a world so hostile that it cost him his life. He was unjustly sentenced to death, executed on a cross, buried in a borrowed tomb, but the hostility of humanity could not hold him. On Easter morning God the Father raised him from death to life. This action of God opens for all who come to him a new way of life. Matthew writes;

"Come to me, all you are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

In seminary my subterranean apartment had a deep dark window well. My classmate Erwin went with me east on Lincoln Highway to a concrete lawn ornament business. We selected an image of St. Francis, about 30 inches tall. Returning to the seminary campus we placed the figure in the window well and created a religious looking grotto. We added some additional rocks, a couple of shade-loving plants and on occasion would illuminate it with a candle or two. Erwin would suggest to guests visiting my apartment that at night Francis would animate and come through the window and be larger than life. He would instruct you to give up everything for Christ. Erwin had a way of convincing folks that this was true. Mostly we would laugh and move on to the next seminary class assignment that was due.

That image, however, of Francis looming larger than life remains with me. Francis led people to follow Christ Jesus. He called them to follow, just as Jesus had called the disciples to follow him. And now, as baptized people of God, we are called to follow as servants, peacemakers, teachers, renewer with such animation that others will want to be with us along the path that Jesus leads. Amen.