



JESUS SAYS...WELCOME HOME!

⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.¹ Romans 12:4-5 NRSV

THE EVANGEL

APRIL 2024



**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
HANOVER, PENNSYLVANIA 17331**



Jesus has been sprung from the tomb by his own gumption. Daffodils are up and tulips are on their way to show-stopping glory. Birds are busy waking up the world. Nature is putting on quite the show of transformation, right in front of our eyes.

Transformation (n): the process of changing completely the character or appearance of something in order to

improve it

When your leadership teams, which included Congregation Council and all ministry teams, met last month for a half-day retreat, there was a kind of transformation that was playing out right in front of our eyes. We journeyed through some significant periods of time in the life of St. Paul's - the founding years (1890s), the glory days of the 1950-70s, the glory days of the 2000-10s, and right now (2023-24). What became clear was how much transformation was persistently molding the way St. Paul's identity was being defined, refined and renewed.

As the community grew from large farms to a small city boom, so, too, did the church grow. In fact, St. Paul's didn't even start out as St. Paul's! The very first name of the congregation was Third Lutheran, most probably because there were already a couple of established Lutheran churches in Hanover.

The roaring '50s saw the baby boom filling the church to overflowing. Ministries adapted to become youth focused. Even church buildings got additions of "education wings." After the global fracture of World War 2, folks longed for fellowship and a renewed sense of community. Churches filled that societal gathering space need. Bigger was better and was the engine powering the church's identity and ministries.

The 2000s saw a different kind of boom in Hanover. Now a suburban enclave of transplanted Marylanders, as well as an isolated small city, Hanover was having its own identity transformation. The world was reeling from 9-11, SARS, the avian flu and the war in Afghanistan. A new pastor arrived to inject a sense of energy and transformation here at St. Paul's, which was timely because the church was finally the building, name and location that it is now. There was a contemplation of a name change, but it never took legs. Here was St. Paul's, under the

PASTOR'S PAGE – continued

care of Pr. Tim Keily. Many ministries exploded, and multiple layers of staff were added, including 2 full-time pastors and a full-time Associate in Ministry, as well as a part-time Visitation Pastor. Membership swelled to 1300 and worship was 300-400 across multiple services - which were led by shared leadership of all those full-time ordained ministers and a volunteer lay group (especially the contemporary music team - whose weekly commitment to worship leadership is the engine that makes contemporary worship go). If the '50s were about bigger being better, then the early 2000s were about way bigger being even better.

Then Tim left. He was removed from being an ordained pastor in the Lutheran Church because of credible sexual misconduct activity. When he left, half of the congregation, who had followed him from previous congregations that he'd served, did exactly what they had already done - they followed him to the next congregation he created. What does St. Paul's do with all that confusion, hurt, violation and betrayal, some directed at the pastor and some directed at fellow members who left?

Transformation is persistent. It happens because life happens. How we respond to it, however, is what determines whether it becomes positive or negative.

Remember, the very definition of transformation is that it is "the process of changing....in order to improve..."

When the group took a look at the era of "now," what became clear was that after two tumultuous lead pastor tenures, transformation happened that was not always determined to be "good." I would observe that it has only been the last six years - after 20+ years, that St. Paul's has only had ONE full-time pastor with no other ordained ministers to share the ministry load. Have the expectations of pastoral ministry proportionally changed as well? How has the relationship between pastor and people been shared in the past? What is the healthiest way that it should be shared now? Pr. Bob was only your only ordained ministerial staff for just under 2 years before COVID upended the entire world - and certainly completely skewed every predictable and stable pattern of life, including predictable and expected patterns of church life. He left before even the worship patterns here were changed back to standard orders for worship. You were living in a relatively new "post-COVID" world but still worshipping a COVID-patterend worship life when I arrived.

PASTOR'S PAGE – continued

How is your transformational resurrection life? We're back in the sanctuary, and we're full-throttle with the full liturgies, no longer edited for COVID-era protocols. Christmas, Lent and Easter are finally in their fullness, in the space that is the holy center of our gatherings. That's amazing transformation! What else, dear siblings in Christ, is awaiting resurrection transformation within you? In the congregation? What has to give up, or die, or has run its course so that some change for the good can break through? What is bearing fruit right now, that needs a bit more time to mature into the next new thing? What have you learned from the good times and the bad that you'd like to continue or not repeat? Can you name them as shared experiences and is there common agreement about them? When we pray, imagine and talk about next steps, what's the distance between "I think...." to "we believe...", and where are you standing in that line?

The journey continues as we turn to the next few months of transformation. In some ways, it's been SIX months. In other ways, it's only been six months. Take time to continue to breathe, heal and regroup. Continue to listen to each other. Be mindful of the Spirit stirring and speaking in our midst.

Congregation Conversations will resume on Sunday, April 14 and 28th. This is the way that you, together, will continue to name who you are and who God is calling you to be in the next steps of St. Paul's life. As we listen and learn together, we'll be working through the same kinds of questions that are asked of you as a congregation in the process to call a new pastor. As we look to create a Call Committee in the next handful of months, those who are actively participating in this work now will be those who are asked by the Congregation Council first to serve on the committee. This is work entrusted to the folks who can name and represent the shared vision you are creating together.

Transformation is life-giving. When we give the Spirit space, we find that healing comes in its due time. We find that our anxieties are telling us stories that aren't true - that we're static or not stable or not good enough or we'll die if we don't act right now! Instead, through patience and conversation, we build trust and understanding. Through listening and experiencing, we create identity and community. May it be for this community in the season of resurrection! And may transformation be so clear to us that we can see it right before our very eyes!

He is risen, indeed!
PK

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE: Please contact Maureen Kaltreider in the church office or at finance@stpaulsyorkst.org

- Radio—April 7, 14, 21 & 28 (\$60 per date or any portion you desire per date)
- Altar Flowers-April 28 (2 vases @ \$20 each); April 7 & 14 (1 vase @ \$20)
- Communion Bread and Wine-April 7, 14, 21 & 28 (\$12 each date)
- Worship Bulletins-April 7, 14, 21 & 28 (\$20 each date)
- Eternal Flame-April 7, 14, 21 & 28 (\$10 each date)



CONGREGATION CONVERSATIONS WITH PASTOR KATRINA

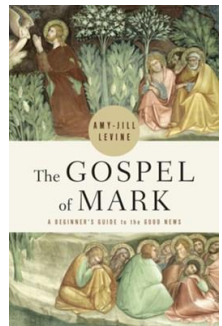
Please join us following worship on April 14 & 28 as we continue our Congregation Conversation with Pastor Katrina in the fellowship hall. Your input is extremely important during this time in our congregation's faith journey. As we look toward our next chapter of ministry, we are reflecting, sharing and exploring our identity and purpose as a congregation. Reflecting on where we have been and where God may lead us in the future will lead to the best fit in our upcoming call.

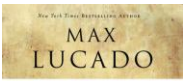
COFFEE HOUR will be held in the church lounge on Sundays, April 7 and 21 and in Fellowship Hall on Sundays, April 14 and 28 immediately following the 9:30 Worship Service. Join us for a time of fellowship.

DAILY DISCIPLESHIP BIBLE STUDY will be held following worship on Sunday, April 7 and April 21. Grab some coffee and snacks in the lounge and join us **in the nursery, across from the lounge**, to dive a little deeper into the day's Bible readings. We should finish up by 11:30. We hope to see you there!

JOIN US FOR BIBLE STUDY - The Gospel of Mark, A beginner's guide to the Good News - Instructor, Linda Zellers - TUESDAYS, beginning April 2nd at 10:00 am in the Theater room on the 2nd floor.

Discover the Good News in the Bible's earliest Gospel Walk through the Bible's earliest source for the life of Jesus with scholar Amy-Jill Levine as she introduces such themes as the Son of Man, discipleship, miracles, and Mark's use of the Old Testament. The Good News of the gospel message comes alive in this book as readers see Jesus as divine and human, powerful and weak, approachable yet mysterious. The book features an in-depth study of select passages and illuminates the Gospel in its historical context and as a source for the other gospels.





MAX
LUCADO

LIFE LESSONS FROM
JOHN



SOMETHING'S BREWING BIBLE STUDY will follow Max Lucado as he delves into the Gospel of John. An ordained minister and bestselling Christian author, Max will unpack John's words that Jesus was and is eternally present in spirit. The lessons include intriguing questions, inspirational stories, and poignant reflections to take us deeper into God's Word. **Join us in the Lounge, Mon. evenings at 7:00pm.**

**APRIL DESIGNATED GIVING
WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME FOR GAZA**

The United Nations World Food Programme has launched emergency operations to provide Gaza families with food assistance. More than 2 million people in Gaza urgently need food. 1 in 6 children under 2 are acutely malnourished. WFP is distributing fresh bread, canned food and ready-to-eat meals to those in shelters. \$75 can provide a family with food for an entire month; please give what you can. The WFP has received a 90% Four Star Rating from Charity Navigator. Make your check payable to St. Paul's with a footnote for WFP Gaza.



ATTENDANCE

Sundays at 9:30 am

March 3.....	82	Facebook Live.....	18
March 10.....	68	Facebook Live.....	--
March 17.....	83	Facebook Live.....	15
March 24.....	107	Facebook Live.....	--

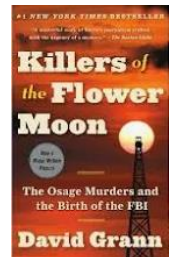
Wednesday Dinner Church

February 28.....	30
March 6.....	39
March 13.....	26
March 20.....	33

Saturdays at 5:00 pm

March 2.....	--
March.....	14
March 16.....	19
March 23.....	19

The St. Paul's Book Club is meeting Wednesday, April 24, 2024, at 12:30pm in the Lounge. We will be discussing **Killers of the Flower Moon** by David Grann. This is the story of the Osage Murders and the birth of the FBI. The book has been made into a movie and is currently streaming on television. Join us for great discussion and fellowship. All are welcomed.





Council Notes

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MARCH 2024 GATHERING OF CHURCH COUNCIL

Mission: To fulfill the command

given in Matthew 25:35

“for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.”

- Living our purpose and principles were seen by council as the return of Steven Ruppright to the sanctuary, Lori Rebling filling in at the piano during Steven’s absence and the upcoming concert of the Westminster Handbell Choir.
- Council granted permission to the Mason-Dixon Chapter of Narcotics Anonymous to meet Saturday evenings.
- Council approved spending up to \$300.00 to open an old safe to which the combination has been lost.
- April’s designated giving, St. Paul’s Family Crisis Fund, was moved to May so the designated giving could be the The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)
- June’s designated giving is Jessica & Friends.
- July’s designated giving is New Hope Ministries.
- Council approved renewing the certificate of deposit at People’s Bank.
- Next council meeting is April 10, 2024, at 7:00 PM.

And the King will answer, truly I tell you, just as you did it unto one of the least of these, my brothers and sisters, you did unto me” Matthew 25:40

Yard Sale planned for April 27!



Have some spring cleaning to do? Have some items you’d like to sell? Do you like to “yard sale”? Our youth are planning a Yard Sale here at St. Paul’s for **April 27** to benefit the 2024 Gathering in New Orleans.

What’s the scoop? Vendors will be open beginning at 8:00 am and until 1:00pm. There will be concessions (including our delicious pretzel sandwiches!) available as well. Come see what’s available! **(If rain is in the forecast, the sale will be held in Fellowship Hall.)**

Sellers: Reserve a space (\$15) by April 13. Your reservation includes one “long” table at your spot. See Michelle Johnson or a member of the Johnson family or call the church office for more information and to register.

FAITH FORMATION FOR GRADES PK-6 - This year for the first 3 Sundays of the month Faith Formation class will be held after worship from approximately 10:30 - 11:30 am in the Gathering Room on the 2nd floor. On the fourth Sunday of the month, Faith Formation will be for children, youth, and their families from approximately 10:30 - noon in the Youth Room.

Youth and Family News



"I praise you, for I AM
FEARFULLY AND
WONDERFULLY MADE.
Wonderful are your works that I
know very well."
Psalm 139:14

Next up...

March 24 Holy Cow, it's Holy Week!
(10:45 - noon)

April 14 Gathering meeting
(10:45 - 12:30)
**bring \$5 for lunch

April 27 Yard Sale
(8:00 - 2:00)

April 28 Spring Has Sprung
(10:45 - noon)

Gathering Update!

Hotel reservations made, train tickets purchased, fundraising continues...July will be here before we know it! Our next meeting will be **April 14** following worship.

Look ahead to our upcoming **Yard Sale (April 27)** and another pretzel sandwich sale. How can you support us besides these events? Consider contributing to the March Designated Giving and/or our "72 Envelopes" campaign. Check out the Youth and Family bulletin board for more info.

Fellowship Opportunities Coming Up!

March 24 – We will have a BRIEF meeting (finished by 11:30) to learn about Holy Week and prepare a family devotion to use that tells the story of Holy Week.

April 28 – We'll plant some flowers and talk about the "new life" that the season of spring brings to us all.

LOOKING AHEAD...

Our May activity (**May 26**) will be mini golf. Cost will be \$5 per person. We'll meet at Hickory Falls for the fun!

Vacation Bible school (for youth up through gr. 6—older youth can volunteer as staff) is scheduled for **July 29 - Aug. 2**. Our theme is "Olympics"! More info will be shared closer to the event.

Anyone interested in attending **Family Camp** at Nawakwa? We have a few families interested in attending **Aug. 4-7**. We can request to stay together in a lodge or cabins that are near one another. Let's start a new tradition together!



Contacts: Deb-- debsowers@gmail.com OR
717.586.0596 Bill-- wosowers@gmail.com
Facebook page--St. Paul's Youth and Families

Summer Camp Open House



Summer Camp
Open House at
Kirchenwald &
Nawakwa

Come join us!!!

- Meet some of the Summer Camp Staff
- Take a tour of camp
- \$10 gift certificate for the camp store to every brand new camper!!

Sunday, March 17

Sunday, April 14

2:00-4:30 pm

Kirchenwald is located on 340 acres of undeveloped timberland, adjacent to 4000 acres of State Game Lands, in Lebanon, Pennsylvania.

Nawakwa is located on 336 acres outside of Arendtsville, in Adams County, Pennsylvania.

For more information, visit www.LutheranCamping.org or call the Camping Office at 717-677-8211.



The Lutheran Camping Corporation
of Central Pennsylvania

Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, & The Wittel Farm

Join us for Family
Camp!

Ever think about going to camp but not sure of the commitment? Why not give camp a try with your St. Paul's family?!

A group of us will be registering for Family Camp II (Aug. 4-7; Sunday - Wednesday) to get a taste of the camp experience. Our Congregation Council has agreed to pay for a week of camp for everyone so we're expecting that this will be at no cost to you. Food, lodging, fellowship is included! This is for members OF ALL AGES (youth under age 12 must be accompanied by an adult family member). See Deb or Bill Sowers or contact the Church Office for more information and to register (if we all register together we will be more able to lodge together). Register with us **BY JUNE 1** to guarantee a spot.



2024 Gathering Update!

Our group of 13 is busily preparing for our journey to New Orleans next summer! Here is our current update.

We continue our lessons and will be learning that we are “Created to be FREE – to transformed by the Gospel. After reading from Galatians (chapter 3) we talked about what we thought the world would look like if people tried to affirm others in their own freedom of choice or expression instead of trying to label them or box them in. What do YOU think the world would look like?

You can support us by considering contributing to our “72 Envelopes” campaign or the March designated giving of our congregation. We are also sponsoring a **Yard Sale on April 27** (check more details in another Evangel article). Another **pretzel sale** will be held in **May**. Read about our Krewe and follow along with our fundraising efforts by checking out the Youth and Family Ministry bulletin board.

SPRING CRAFT SHOW

April 13th at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Broadway, Hanover.

They will have homemade Beef Noodle soup and Chicken Corn soup. You can reserve your soup by calling 717-637-0511 ahead of time.

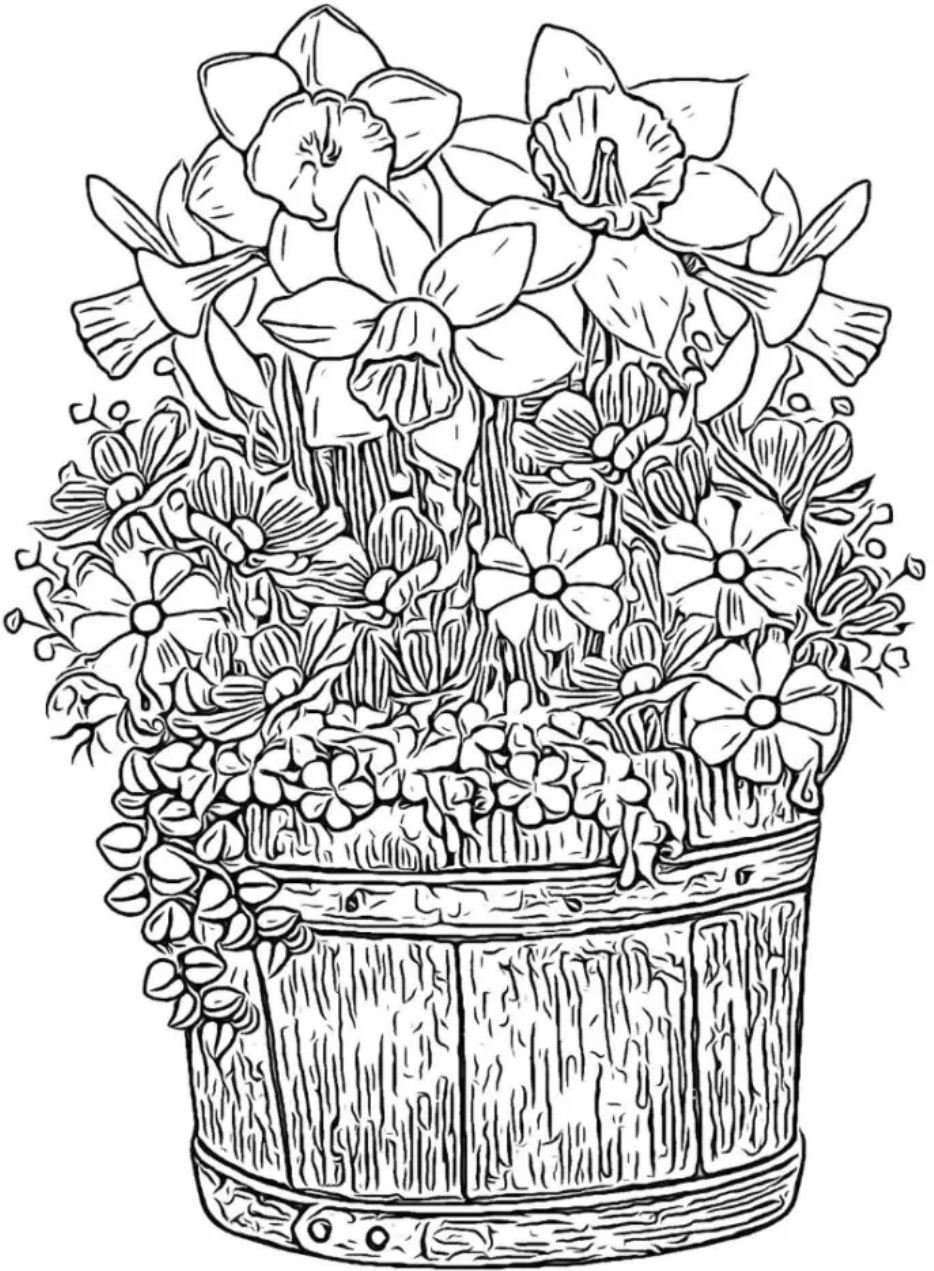
THE HANOVER AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

would like to make you aware of the Stolte Scholarship Fund was established in 1973 in memory of Rev. Robert H. Stolte. The Fund provides a one-time grant of \$1000 to an individual in the greater Hanover area pursuing a career in the field of ministry, missions, or humanitarian service. The administration of the fund is handled by the Hanover Area Council of Churches. The applicant must submit an application form and submit a brief summary of his or her call into the field and their future vocational goals. They should be an active member of a church, with good moral character and high scholastic ability. Application forms are available in area high school guidance offices, seminary financial aid offices, and at the Hanover Area Council of Churches. The deadline for applications is April 23, 2024.



HELP NEEDED WITH FINDING PHOTOS

Pressell’s Florist will be celebrating their 100th Anniversary and are looking for wedding photos that Pressell’s provided the flowers for. Please contact Pressell’s at 717-637-6636 if you have any photos.



HERE IS A SPRING COLORING PAGE TO ENJOY

ST. PAUL'S EVANGEL

published by ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday – 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

THE CHURCH STAFF

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CONGREGATION COUNCIL

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Russ Kaltreider, Donna Lehman, Dave Maus, Pat McConvile, Ginny
Murray, Cindy Schmidt, Peg Sennett, Nancy Smith

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Vice-President – Russ Kaltreider
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