



JESUS SAYS...WELCOME HOME!

... but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

1 John 1:7 NRSV

THE EVANGEL

APRIL 2026



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

In Matthew's account of the Resurrection story, I am struck by how much he emphasizes fear. None of the other Gospel writers dwell on it in quite the same way. For Matthew, we also do not get a sense of wonder or uncertainty when it comes to the tomb. Death is final. The guards are there in control. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary go to the tomb without questioning how the stone will be moved. When they arrive, the resurrection of Jesus Christ literally

shakes the foundations of the earth. An angel of the Lord appears, rolls back the stone, and sits on it, while the guards are scared to death.

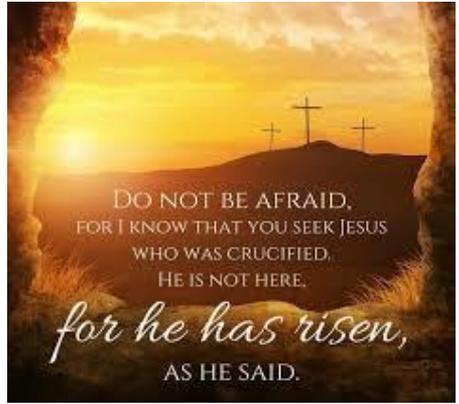
Mary and Mary are told not to be afraid, but to come and see that Jesus is no longer there. They are then directed to tell others what they have witnessed. And so, they leave, afraid, yet filled with great joy.

At the resurrection, the veil between life and death is removed. The angel mocks death by sitting upon the very stone meant to seal it. The guards, representing earthly power, fall away. Fear and joy exist together as the women begin to grasp what has taken place. It is the fear of something entirely new, something that overturns the order of the world, that they carry with them as they go.

This speaks directly into our own lives of faith. We often want clarity, certainty, and peace before we act. Yet Matthew shows us that transformation rarely feels comfortable. The work of God can unsettle us, disrupt our expectations, and lead us into places we do not fully understand. Like the women at the tomb, we are called to move forward while still afraid.

Faith, then, is not the absence of fear, but the willingness to trust God in the midst of it. The command "Do not be afraid" is not a dismissal of fear, but an invitation to move through it. We are reminded that God's promises are not dependent on our confidence, but on God's faithfulness. Even when we are unsure, even when the ground beneath us feels like it is shifting, we are still called to go, to witness, and to share the hope we have encountered.

We may fear what is different, but we have been given a promise. And it is in trusting that promise, even with trembling hearts, that we truly begin to live into the power of the resurrection. Afraid yet filled with great joy, we can go and tell others what we have witnessed.



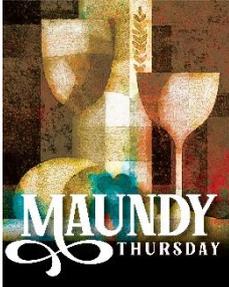
Pastor Jason

Palm/Passion Sunday Worship

March 29 at 9:30 a.m.

With Holy Communion

In person and by Facebook Live



Maundy Thursday Worship

April 2 at 12 noon and 7:30 p.m.

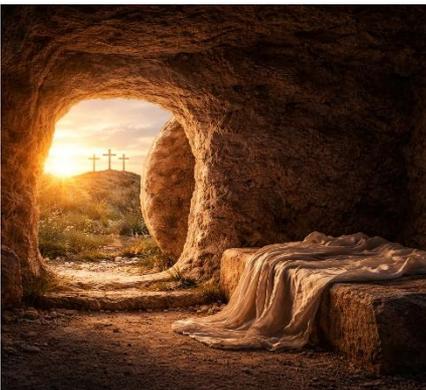
With Holy Communion

In person and by Facebook Live

Good Friday Worship

April 3 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

In person and by Facebook Live



Easter Sunday Worship

April 5 at 9:30 a.m.

With Holy Communion

In person and by Facebook Live

GIVE

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE: Please contact Carmen Buckley in the church office or at assistant@stpaulsyorkst.org

Radio—April 5, 19, 26, May 10, 17, 24 & 31

(\$60 per date or any portion you desire per date)

Altar Flowers—April 19 (1 vase at \$20),

April 26, May 17, 24 & 31 (2 vases at \$20 each)

Communion Bread and Wine- April 19, 26, May 31 (\$12 each date)

Worship Bulletins-April 2, 5, 19, 26, May 3, 17, 24 & 31 (\$20 each date)

Eternal Flame-April 19, 26, May 3, 17, 24 & 31 (\$10 each date)



FAITHFULLY SUPPORTING OUR CHURCH, EVEN WHEN WE CAN'T GATHER

Winter weather sometimes keeps us from gathering in person, but the mission and ministry of our church continue every day. Heating, utilities, staff support, outreach, and ongoing care for our congregation remain constant—even when a service must be canceled due to snow or ice.

If you are able, we encourage you to continue your regular offering during these times. Your faithfulness helps ensure that our church remains strong, welcoming, and ready to serve when we are able to gather again. For those who find it helpful, offerings may be given online or mailed to the church office at any time.

Thank you for your generosity and for being an important part of our church community, in every season.

Amy Feeser – St. Paul's Stewardship Committee



APRIL'S DESIGNATED GIVING

St. Paul's Family Crisis Fund.

Many times, in our life together we find that families within our congregation face monumental struggles. Families or individuals may have financial needs arise from medical emergencies, fires, long-term disabilities, or unemployment. They come seeking assistance from the church and often they need more help than is readily available in the Discretionary Fund. Several years ago, our Congregation Council established the Family Crisis Fund and criteria for disbursement of funds to the families of our congregation. Building a fund such as the Family Crisis Fund enables us to help our families meet their needs and to hopefully get through the crisis. Please give generously to our Family Crisis Fund this month, so we can help those in need.



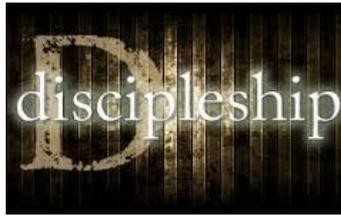
The Faith In Action Committee is having a **PULLUPS, DIAPERS AND WIPES DRIVE** as a Lenten Project. We will be collecting disposable diapers and pull-ups of all sizes and wipes for the Diaper Clinic held at St. John's Lutheran Church in Abbottstown, PA. There is also a need for larger sizes. There are many families in the area that are having a difficult time purchasing the diapers needed for their children. This clinic provides these pull-ups, diapers and wipes to help such families. This collection will continue through Easter, April 5, 2026. Place all items purchased on the table found in the hallway outside of the sanctuary any time during Lent. We appreciate your generosity in helping others in need.

VOLUNTEER



COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We know that fellowship is an important part of our faith community; that's why we hold Coffee Hour after church each Sunday. We are always looking for volunteers to help keep our Coffee Hour going! There is a sign-up sheet in the lounge. Please consider volunteering and thank you for your help!

LEARN



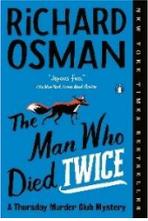
DAILY DISCIPLESHIP BIBLE STUDY is for anyone who is not attending the children's Faith Formation classes and is held following the Worship Service. Grab some coffee and snacks in the lounge and join us in the nursery, across from the lounge, to dive a little deeper into the day's Bible readings. We should finish by 11:30 am.



If you know of anyone who would like to **BECOME A MEMBER OF ST. PAUL'S**, please encourage them to sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board across from Pastor Jason's office. A new member class will be offered during Sunday school following worship on April 19.

LEARN

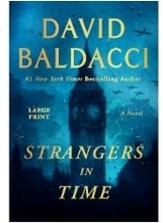
ST. PAUL'S APRIL BOOK CLUB



St. Paul's Book Club will meet on **Wednesday, April 29, 2026**, in the Conference Room after the 12:00 worship service around 12:30. We will be discussing the second book in this series by Richard Osman, The Man Who Died Twice. We will continue with the same quartet of characters trying to solve another murder. They find themselves up against a ruthless murderer who wouldn't bat an eyelid at knocking off four septuagenarians. Join us for good discussion, fellowship, and food. Remember to bring a brown bag lunch and a drink to the meeting. Everyone who enjoys reading is invited to come to the meeting.

ST. PAUL'S MAY BOOK CLUB

Our book for the **May 27, 2026, meeting** is Strangers in Time by David Baldacci. Strangers in Time is a historical fiction novel by David Baldacci set in 1944 London during World War II, focusing on the unlikely friendship that forms between a street-smart orphan named Charlie, a teenage girl named Molly, and a widowed bookshop owner, Ignatius Oliver, as they navigate the dangers of the Blitz and uncover family secrets. The book explores themes of found family, resilience, and hope amidst the chaos of war, blending historical drama with elements of a thriller as the characters' pasts catch up with them. Join us for good discussion, fellowship, and food. Remember to bring a brown bag lunch and a drink to the meeting. Everyone who enjoys reading is invited to come to the meeting.



GET READY, GET SET, REGISTER FOR CAMP!

St. Paul's will pay for a St. Paul's member, or an individual sponsored by a member, to attend Camp Nawakwa, Camp Kirchenwald, or Mar-Lu-Ridge, for one week of summer camp at the tier 1 classic rate with funding by our February's designated giving and the Adventures in Ministry Fund; Check out the summer schedules here:

<https://www.lutherancamping.org> and <https://www.mar-lu-ridge.org>

For more information see Laura Silver, our CampPerson.

Christian Education

Corner

Join us on Sundays following worship! There's something for all!

Children and Youth (2nd Floor Gathering space): we will do an Opening activity together and then split into age groups (ages 0-5; grades K-5; grades 6 and up; there's also Confirmation ministry one Sunday a month)

Adults (1st floor opposite the Lounge): grab a snack and drink and join us

Children: What have we been learning? We have been learning parables of Jesus—The Good Samaritan, The Prodigal Son, The Sower. Jesus also shared the Greatest Commandment—love God, love people! Check out our coloring pages and our Palm Sunday display on the bulletin board in the hallway!



Playing "Prodigal Son" Pictionary at Faith Formation class

Youth: Our group continues to grow together as we learn about the tenets of our Lutheran faith. This past month we learned about how we are all stewards of God's creation and what that means for how we are to live our lives. We look forward to our time at Camp Nawakwa (June 14-19) for All Saint's Confirmation Camp.

There is a small group interested in attending the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis. Look for more information about that event coming soon!

Adults: We have multiple learning events for adults in our congregation! The "Daily Discipleship" group meets following worship. Grab a drink and snack and join us each Sunday across the hall from the Lounge. The Lenten book study group, led by Gay Dickson is wrapping up the study on the book "Gospelled Lives: Encounters with Jesus, a Lenten Study" by John Ingermark.

INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING? We continue to look for more adults to serve in the following ways:

+lead Faith Formation for youth grades K-6 and also 7-12. All resources provided (one week commitment only...unless you want to do more!)

+serve on the Christian Education committee; we meet once a month during All-Committee Night and plan and implement all education opportunities for the congregation

THANK YOU



THANK YOU to all who participated in the Dessert Auction on Sunday, March 15! Thank you to all who attended AND especially to those who donated items to be auctioned. We were able to raise over \$2100 to be used toward the 2027 ELCA Gathering. We are blessed by your support!



The Faith in Action Committee's Lenten project is collecting disposable diapers, pull-ups and wipes for the St. John's Diaper Clinic in Abbottstown. We will be collecting through Easter Sunday. In March, Pastor Amy Mambu came and picked up 1145 diapers in various sizes (95.4 dozen) and 3,950 wipes. She was very pleased with this amount of diapers for the diaper Clinic. We continued collecting during the rest of Lent and will give you a final number in the May Evangel. We want to thank everyone who helped with this project. It certainly helped the young families who make use of this Clinic. Job well-done!!



To the Council and members of St. Paul's,
Thank you for the wonderful celebration of my installation. I am delighted to be serving at St. Paul's and truly appreciate all the hard work that went into the festivities!

I look forward to where the Spirit is leading us!

Thank you,
Pastor Jason

ATTENDANCE

Sundays at 9:30 am
and

Midweek Lenten Services

Wed., Feb. 25-12 pm	18	7:00 pm.....	18
March 1	102	Facebook Live.....	18
March 1, Installation	93	Facebook Live.....	6
Wed., March 4-12 pm.....	21	7:00 pm.....	7
March 8.....	113	Facebook Live.....	10
Wed., March 11-12 pm.....	15	7:00 pm.....	10
March 15.....	113	Facebook Live	10
Wed., March 18-12 pm.....	21	7:00 pm.....	10
March 22.....	81	Facebook Live.....	12

Saturdays at 5:30 pm

Feb. 28.....	10	March 7.....	12
March 14.....	11	March 21.....	13

GROCERY MINISTRY UPDATE

We have been so very grateful for the support of our congregation, groups within our congregation, and the community!

Congregation support (organized by the Faith in Action Committee) The “Soup-er Bowl” drive was QUITE successful! There were 535 cans collected from our congregation.



Community Support (organized by Megan Wolling, a Grocery Ministry leader) Megan organized a “Soup-er Bowl” drive at her work, R.H. Sheppard. The different plants collected 812 cans AND the corporation made a matching financial donation of \$812.

Committee support The St. Paul’s Evangelism Committee is putting together Easter activity bags for our neighbors. Families will be asked if they are interested in receiving a bag for their children.

Well done good and faithful servants! We continue to be blessed by many to be a blessing to others.

Looking to volunteer? A group of us organize items on Fridays (3:00 - 4:30) and others pack and distribute on Saturdays (9:00 - 11:00). Join us any time!

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE
MARCH 2026
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.”*



***How are we living our purpose and principles?
What do we have to celebrate?***

- Council saw living our purposes and principles as approximately \$2,300.00 raised from the Dessert Auction to benefit youth going to the ELCA Youth Gathering, no major storm damage in the area, Pastor Northridge’s installation and increase in worship attendance.
- Council actions include the following;
 - approved council meeting minutes of February 17, 2026;
 - granted permission for tuba recital on May 31, 2026;
 - entered into a new lease with Toshiba Business Solutions;
 - appointed Bill and Deb Sowers as delegates to the Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly;
 - approved an hourly rate for Becky Ellis for choir rehearsals;
 - approved use of \$200.00 in Adventures in Ministry Funds for Easter bags to give to children of Grocery Ministry recipients and to St. Paul’s children;
 - approved use of up to \$1,500.00 from Adventures in Ministry Funds in support a church picnic;
 - approved applying proceeds of the sale from the Poist parking lot to the outstanding capital loan balance;
 - approved Treasurer’s report of February 28, 2026, subject to the audit of the underlying records;
 - adjourned the meeting.
- Next Council meeting is April 15, 2026, at 7 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

ST. PAUL'S EVANGEL

published by ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

127 York Street, Hanover, PA 17331

Church phone: 717-637-5941

E-mail: assistant@stpaulsyorkst.org

Website: www.stpaulsyorkst.org

Facebook: [St Pauls Evangelical Lutheran Church](#)

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday – Thursday – 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Monday – by appointment

THE CHURCH STAFF

Reverend Jason Northridge – Pastor

srpastor@stpaulsyorkst.org

717-467-1644

Reverend Jack R. Hoffman – Pastor Emeritus

Steven Ruppright – Director of Music

musicdept@stpaulsyorkst.org

Lori Rebling – Director of Handbells

handbelldir@stpaulsyorkst.org

Gretchen Walter – Director of Children's Music

stpaulschildrensmusic@gmail.com

Carmen Buckley – Administrative Assistant

assistant@stpaulsyorkst.org

Maureen Kaltreider - Financial Secretary

finance@stpaulsyorkst.org

Jaime Spangler – Housekeeper

housekeeperstpauls@gmail.com

Dirk Wildasin - Maintenance Technician

mtechstpauls@gmail.com

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Sharon Bortner, Sherry Cracium-Bolin, Amy Feeser, Dan Fuhrman,
Frank Hueske, Russ Kaltreider, Donna Lehman, Pat McConville, Tom
Miller, Doug Riley, Cindy Schmidt, Mary Yohe

President – Frank Hueske

Vice-President – Russ Kaltreider

Secretary – Linda Zellers

Treasurer – Sherry Cracium-Bolin