



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

FEBRUARY 2026



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

There is a legend in Ireland that anyone who kisses the Blarney Stone is blessed with the “gift of gab,” that is a special eloquence, a way with words, or the ability to tell a good story. Now, if you’ve ever met a Northridge, you would know that storytelling comes naturally to us. We can take a short story and make it long—sometimes *very* long. My Nanna Northridge had such a gift for words you might have thought she kissed the Blarney Stone twenty times, though in truth it was only three. I, myself, have kissed it just once, but that seems to have been more than enough.



Kissing the Blarney Stone, however, is not for the faint of heart. After climbing to the top of Blarney Castle, you must lie down and lean backward over the edge to reach the stone. It sits about three stories above the ground, and the only thing keeping you from gravity is some wrought iron that’s over a century old, and a castle attendant of similar age who holds firmly onto your waist. While the risk is well managed today, it still requires a willingness to trust and to lean out farther than feels comfortable in order to receive the gift.

That image has stayed with me during this season of Epiphany. Epiphany is the time when God reveals to us, and to the world, who Jesus truly is. Through stories of miracles, callings, and teachings, we come to see more clearly Christ’s mission and the depth of God’s love for all people. The light shines into the dark, and we are invited to reflect it into the world.

As Epiphany gives way to Lent, we will turn our attention to how we tell God’s story ourselves, especially during our midweek services. And much like kissing the Blarney Stone, telling God’s story comes with a certain amount of personal risk. Sharing faith can make us uneasy. We worry about saying the wrong thing, sounding awkward, or being misunderstood. We may fear coming across as pushy or overly religious, or we may simply doubt our own ability to tell the story well.

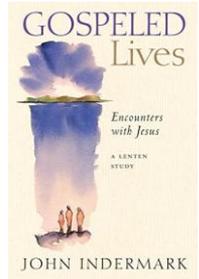
But God does not call us to be perfect or eloquent storytellers. God calls us to be honest ones. We are invited to share what we have seen, what we have heard, and how we have experienced God’s love in our own lives. That is enough.

My hope is that during this season, you will consider taking that small but meaningful risk, leaning out a little in trust, and share God’s love with someone else. May the remainder of Epiphany continue to reveal the brilliance of God’s light to you, and may your Lenten journey bless you with the courage, humility, and discipline to tell God’s story, one faithful word at a time. Amen.

Pastor Jason

Join us for a Tuesday Evening Lenten Book Study of

Gospeled Lives:
Encounters with Jesus, A Lenten Study
By John Indermark.



"Gospeled" lives are lives that have encountered Jesus Christ. Christ's call leads to a continually unfolding story for each of us. An encounter with the living Christ demands a response, John Indermark says. We will learn about New Testament characters who encountered Jesus. Some responded with joy and gratitude. Others ignored or rejected his offer of good news. Gay Dickson will facilitate six sessions beginning on February 24. Please sign up on the sheet by the pastor's office or contact Carmen no later than February 8 so we may order your book.



Our sister in Christ, Shirley Snyder, claimed the promise of her baptism January 19, 2026.

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

Radio—Feb. 15, 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 (\$60 per date or any portion you desire per date)

Altar Flowers-Feb. 15 (1 vase at \$20)

Communion Bread and Wine- Feb. 15, 18, 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 (\$12 each date)

Worship Bulletins- Feb. 15, 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 (\$20 each date)

Eternal Flame- Feb. 15, 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 (\$10 each date)

WE ARE STILL COLLECTING TONER AND INK JET CARTRIDGES. St. Paul's receives credit for up to 6 cartridges per month at Staples and those credits can be used to purchase supplies.



There is a small container on the counter outside the pulpit entrance of the sanctuary that you can put your cartridges in.

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – Sunday, February 22nd

Purpose and only Agenda item
is the hiring of a Visitation Pastor for St. Paul's.

More information as we get closer.

The motion is being brought forward unanimously through Council
after being requested by several congregants.



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 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!

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.



POSTED – UPDATED INVENTORY OF ST. PAUL'S EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

On the bulletin board across from the Pastor's office is a List of Equipment and Supplies available for St. Paul's events and ministries. There are many items listed that

can be used for your ministries, everything from: art supplies, wheeled dollies for moving large items, ladders, tents and canopies, A-frames for promoting an event, sewing items for a youth project, and equipment including a projector, flip chart, whiteboard, music stands, etc. When you need an item for an event or ministry, please check the posted list before making a new purchase.

Faith in Action's **"SOUPER BOWL"** Soup collection continues through Sunday, Feb. 15th. We will be collecting regular size cans of soup (10.5 oz) to be distributed by our Saturday morning grocery ministry here at St. Paul's. Let's set a goal of 450 cans this year!!



ASH WEDNESDAY IS FEBRUARY 18TH

Instead of our usual Mid-week devotions an Ash Wednesday Service will be held at **12 noon** and will include the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion.



At 7:00 pm there will be an Ash Wednesday service with the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion in the sanctuary.



LENT MIDWEEK SERVICES will focus on Embracing Evangelism. Lent is a time we may take on a new discipline to deepen our relationship with God. As a congregation, we will focus on sharing God's story as we love our neighbors. Services will be offered each Wednesday during Lent beginning on February 25 at noon and 7:00 pm.

RESCHEDULED CAMP SUNDAY – March 8, 2026

We had planned to have Camp Sunday on January 26 but the weather had other ideas.

We have rescheduled with Kelsey Tomlinson, Camp Nawakwa Director, to come and participate in the Sunday service on March 8. We encourage you to wear any camp related shirts and hats.



SUMMER CAMP

FAMILY CAMP

FEBRUARY SPECIAL DESIGNATED GIVING

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 February's designated giving and the Adventures in Ministry Fund; Your generous gift for St. Paul's February Special Designated Giving goes directly to supporting these camperships.



The Faith In Action Committee plans to have 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 diapers and wipes to help such families. This collection will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026 and continue through Easter, April 5, 2026. Place all items purchased in the boxes found in the hallway outside of the sanctuary any time during Lent. We appreciate your generosity in helping others in need.



ST. PAUL'S BOOK CLUB

St. Paul's Book Club is meeting **Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at 12:45PM** in the Conference Room. We will meet following the noon Midweek Lenten Service.



Because our January meeting was cancelled we will be discussing our January book **The Briar Club** by Kate Quinn and our February book **The Women** by Kristin Hannah. This is a historical fiction book about the powerful contributions and horrific sacrifices of the American military nurses who served in a war whose agencies refused to acknowledge that they were even there in Vietnam. It is quite a powerful book.

Remember to bring your lunch and something to drink. Hope to see anyone who likes to read and discuss books. All are welcomed to attend.



We are seeking volunteer members for a task force to develop a new Church Directory for St. Paul's. It would involve scheduling time and communicating with a company that specializes in Church directories and then setting up appointments with members and staff to have their pictures taken at the church. Also included would

be activities and organizations that want to be included.

Our last directory was developed in 2019 and much has changed since then. We have a new full-time Pastor and some new staff members. We also have some new ministries and a beautifully remodeled sanctuary.

If you would be interested in helping, please contact Russ Kaltreider, Frank Hueske, Lucille Farrington or Robert Colehouse by February 28.

Thank you!

Frank Hueske - Council President



INSTALLATION SERVICE FOR PASTOR JASON

You are invited to a Service of Holy Communion with the Installation of Rev. Jason Northridge as pastor on March 1st at 3:00 pm. Together we will celebrate God’s call, give thanks for new beginnings, and pray for our shared ministry in Christ. This worship service marks the beginning of a new chapter in the life of our congregation, as we trust the Holy Spirit to guide us in faith, service, and mission.

ATTENDANCE

Sundays at 9:30 am

Nov. 23	112	Facebook Live.....	6
Nov. 30	103	Facebook Live.....	13
Dec. 7	111	Facebook Live.....	13
Dec. 14	76	Facebook Live.....	14
Dec. 21	126	Facebook Live.....	14
Dec. 24 – 7:30 pm.....	205	Facebook Live.....	10
Dec. 28	97	Facebook Live.....	14
Jan. 4, 2026	96	Facebook Live.....	16
Jan. 11	99	Facebook Live.....	9
Jan. 18	67	Facebook Live.....	19
Jan. 25	snow	Facebook Live.....	snow
Feb. 1	82	Facebook Live.....	17

Saturdays at 5:30 pm

Nov. 22	14	Nov. 29	8
Dec. 6	12	Dec. 13	7
Dec. 20	10	Dec. 27	8
Jan. 3, 2026	16	Jan. 10	3
Jan. 17	7	Jan. 24	snow
Jan. 31	6		



Thank you so much for the visits, cards and prayers I received while recovering from my broken hip.

John Reitz

Dessert Auction & Roast Pork Dinner March 15, 1pm

Proceeds benefit the next generation of St. Paul's Youth attending National Youth Gatherings in 2027

Adults \$15 Kids \$5



December 2025

Dear St. Paul's Church Family,

Thank you so much for the most gracious and generous farewell you extended to me, and Christy, too, upon the completion of my interim pastorate at your church. The gifts to us and generous check to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation in my honor were quite touching. We also appreciated the well wishes and cards that came our way.

It was a wonderful experience for me to serve you over the past nine months. I am glad that I was called out of retirement to assume this interim with you. I wish you and your new settled pastor, Pastor Jason, God's richest blessings and guidance as you move into the future in faithful service in Christ's name.

God bless,
Pastor Dan Yeiser



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: We are moving to New Testament learning and particularly learning about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Following our Advent preparations and sharing our version of the Nativity story at the Intergenerational event on Dec. 28, we are learning about Jesus' baptism and the calling of his Disciples. "I will make you fishers of people!"

Youth: Our confirmands have continued to learn about the tenets of our Lutheran faith. We've learned about Martin Luther and the Reformation and the Apostles' Creed. We are looking forward to our retreat coming up in February where we will dive into the 10 Commandments. Continue to pray for us as we learn and grow together!

Adults: Our "Daily Discipleship" group continues to meet following worship, and the "Our Dear Christ Enters In" Advent Bible study was well-received with about 10+ faithful participants. Look for more information coming soon regarding another book study led by Gay Dickson. It will be held Tuesday evenings and participants will discuss "Gospelized Lives; Encounters with Jesus; a Lenten Study" by John Indermark.

LENTEN DEVOTIONALS will be available by mid-February. We will be using "Love Outpoured" published by Augsburg Fortress.

SPECIAL THANK YOUS...

+we are grateful for our dedicated volunteers who have led Faith Formation class since September. Please join us in thanking (preK) Beth and Bill Fissel, (K-12) Meghan Weible, Janet Haack, Deb and Bill Sowers, Lucille Farrington, and Russ Kaltreider (Adult) Russ Kaltreider, Linda Zellers, and Gay Dickson. Well done good and faithful servants!

+Thank you as well to Beth Fissel, Deb and Bill Sowers, and Sally Lovelace for their help in making the Intergenerational Event a success!

+HUGE thanks to Carol Louey and Martha Suskie for cleaning out and organizing materials in the pre-K room to accommodate the LIU class. Your organization skills are greatly appreciated!!



ST. PAUL'S MEN IN MISSION are sponsoring a "Healthy Steps for Older Adults" in conjunction with the York County Office of the Aging. This is a 2-session class to be held in our fellowship hall on Monday, March 23rd and 30th, from 10am-12 noon. More details and a sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board across from Pastor Jason's office. Class is limited to 15 people.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE DECEMBER 2025 & JANUARY 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 the arrival of our settled pastor, Pastor Jason Northridge, and the \$5,750.00 donations to Grocery Ministry on Giving Tuesday.
- Council approved the following;
 - to permit Lincoln Intermediate Unit #12 to use PreK classroom for a preschool program;
 - to allow Sherry Cracium-Bolin, Treasurer, to finalize the radio shortage and use Adventures in Ministry Funds to pay the difference;
 - to disband the Constitution Taskforce. Thanks to the members of the Constitution Taskforce for doing their due diligence in preparing the updates!
- Council saw living our purposes and principles as the generous offerings over Christmas and 205 in attendance on Christmas Eve.
- Council approved the following;
 - moved February council meeting to Tuesday, February 17th since the February meeting would fall on Ash Wednesday;
 - moved Missionary Support designated giving from February to March and made February designated giving camperships;
 - approved the housing allowance for Pastor Northridge;
 - moved to the congregation to approve the hiring of a Visitation Pastor with funding for 2026 from Adventures in Ministry;
 - approved Peg Sennett to move forward with updating or creating for approval, if none, policies and procedures;
 - approved the motions from Worship and Music Committee to donate the piano in AV room to Marlene Shilling for use at Utz Terrace and to replace the bellows in the organ to be paid from Memorial Funds;
 - approved motion from Christian Education Committee that 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 designated giving and the Adventures in Ministry Fund;
 - approved **Dessert** Auction on March 15, 2026 to support youth going to the Youth Gathering in 2027;
 - approved motion from Evangelism Committee to reinstate the Live Nativity to be held on December 12, 2026;
- Next Council meeting is February 17, 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

EASTER FLOWERS

Tulips, lilies, hyacinths and hydrangeas will adorn the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 5th. You have the opportunity to purchase a flower or make a donation to the "Pastor's Discretionary Fund". The donation and/or flower will be recognized in the Easter bulletin. Flower(s) must be taken home following the 9:30 a.m. Easter service. If you are unable to take your plant home following the service, please give serious consideration to a donation.



Please fill in the form below and attach \$15.00 for each tulip, hyacinth and lily and \$40.00 for each very large 8" potted hydrangea. We will also have two 3 stalk lily pots for along side the altar for \$40.00 each. **Return this form to the church office by Sunday, March 1st for flower orders.** Deadline for Pastor's Discretionary Fund donations is Sunday, March 29th.

Make checks payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church

In Memory of _____

By _____

In Memory of _____

By _____

In Honor of _____

By _____

In Honor of _____

By _____

Enclosed is \$ _____ for the following:
(total dollar amount)

Check one _____ lily(\$15) _____ tulip(\$15) _____ hyacinth(\$15)
_____ hydrangea(\$40)

_____ large lily altar plant (\$40 each – 2 available)

or

Make a \$ _____ donation to the
"Pastor's Discretionary Fund"

ST. PAUL'S EVANGEL

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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