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Worship Opportunities

Please share with friends and family - all are welcome! Links can also be found on our website here: <https://stpaulsyorkst.org/>.

Saturday 5:00 pm in the Lounge

Sunday 9:30 am in the Sanctuary and live on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsyorkst>

Christmas Eve Service - December 24

7:30 pm (Pre-service music begins at 7:05 pm)

Season of Christmas

Sunday, December 28, 2025, and January 4, 2026

9:30 am – Service of Lessons and Carols

News

Installation of Council Sunday December 21: during the service

Reorganization meeting for Council in upstairs conference room right after the service

Annual Congregation Meeting Highlights

- The congregational minutes and 2025 Annual Report were approved by the congregation.
- Sherry Cracium-Bolin, Russ Kaltreider, Doug Riley and Mary Yohe were elected to council for three years.
- The constitution updates were approved.

- The 2026 Budget was approved.
- The congregation voted to sell the parking lot at 28 E Middle Street which is adjacent to the former Poist Studios.

Cards To Homebound

The Faith In Action Committee would like to continue the Cards for the Homebound program. A sign-up sheet can be found on the bulletin board by Pastor's Office. There you will see a list of those of our members that are homebound with their birthdates and addresses. Please pick at least one member and make a commitment to seeing that the person gets a birthday card and a card for major holidays in 2026. This is an easy way for us to share Christ's love and concern for those of our members that are no longer able to attend church. We would like to have everyone covered by January 1, 2026. Thanks for helping with this project.

JOIN US ON DEC. 28 following worship in Fellowship Hall for a Faith Formation event including a nativity pageant led by our younger members. ALL will be able to participate in telling the story by joining in with the singing of Christmas hymns. We'll end our time together with a small "Happy Birthday, Jesus!" celebration.

ADVENT HUB

As we prepare for Christ's coming our Christian Ed committee will send a weekly devotion/reflection. This week's theme is "joy"

And the crowds asked him, "What, then, should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none, and whoever has food must do likewise." + Luke 3:10-11

John the Baptizer's preaching is a clear, challenging call to generosity and justice. But how should we imagine his tone? On the surface, he seems stern and direct – but if we listen closely, we can hear him calling us toward a spirit of joy.

Whenever we interpret the world as a place of blessing and abundance, we feel confident and joyful, and therefore inclined to share and to treat others fairly – thinking of their best interests as well as our own. Conversely, whenever we interpret the world as a place of scarcity, we feel fearful and harsh, and therefore inclined to hoard blessings and jockey for position – thinking of ourselves above all. At a deep level, then, John's call to give and share and treat others with respect is a demanding invitation to see the world in terms of

abundance, and therefore to act out of actual gratitude, confident love, and joyful celebration.

Let's pray...God of joy, show us the way. Open our hearts and hands in generosity and justice, so that whatever we do, wherever we are – at home, at school, at work – we act and live as your children, made in your image. Empower us to be more giving, more fair. Remind us that your abundant love is always with us, day and night, night and day.

Come, Jesus, come! Amen.

Let's Finish Our 2nd Advent Full Color Poster this Sunday!

Come join us in the lounge to work on it and enjoy some conversation along with fellowship following worship!

Christmas with the Master Singers of Virginia

Sunday, December 21, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

Join St. James Lutheran Church, 109 York Street, Gettysburg, for a Christmas concert by the Master Singers of Virginia, one of the region's premier a cappella ensembles. This free concert invites you to enter the warmth and wonder of the holidays with choral works and festive favorites. From the radiant beauty of Eric Whitacre's "Lux Aurumque and Glow", to beloved carols like "Silent Night" and "Ding Dong! Merrily on High," this program celebrates light born in darkness and the joy of the season. No tickets needed! All are welcome to this special afternoon of music and meaning.

Bishop Curry's Christmas Message

View here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NiM3tHLKMr4>

Living Lutheran Launches New Site and Features

The new LivingLutheran.org launched on Monday, December 8. Members of congregations in our synod will be able to set up a free digital membership that offers these perks:

A welcoming, easy-to-access format.

A personalized dashboard prioritizing the stories that interest them.

Access to members-only content, and the ability to save and “like” articles.

E-news delivery options to get the stories they want, both online and in their email inboxes.

Please visit [livinglutheran.org/subscribe](https://www.livinglutheran.org/subscribe/?fbclid=IwY2xjawOw2sBleHRuA2FlbQlxMABicmlkETFmbFh6a29zSWw0cGFiS2JOc3JOYwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHoUoloeS2fYt2sQ9u_bljxif36vvrTgqyyDxcVEBZpjrLZbuB0WlAVUaFwAx_aem_mqpbflt3B2RSL7yW6Y1EFA) to sign up for your free digital membership. Living Lutheran tells the stories of the ELCA, bonding us as a church across congregations, synods, states, regions and countries. For more information, visit https://www.livinglutheran.org/subscribe/?fbclid=IwY2xjawOw2sBleHRuA2FlbQlxMABicmlkETFmbFh6a29zSWw0cGFiS2JOc3JOYwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHoUoloeS2fYt2sQ9u_bljxif36vvrTgqyyDxcVEBZpjrLZbuB0WlAVUaFwAx_aem_mqpbflt3B2RSL7yW6Y1EFA

WE CONTINUE TO LOOK FOR A PERSON (OR TWO!) to join our team of leaders for the 7-12th grade Faith Formation group. Currently the group meets 3 weeks out of the month (not on Sundays that the Confirmation group meets). Volunteers would serve as a mentor for the youth and use the "Faith Lens" article published weekly by the ELCA as a discussion guide for the class. No experience is necessary but for a desire to talk and share your faith with our youth. All that is needed is PA Clearances (we can help you get them!). You would serve as your schedule allows! See Deb Sowers or contact the church office to volunteer.

THE CHRISTIAN ED. COMMITTEE is beginning to put together our schedule for Faith Formation leaders from Advent till March. Each week we are in need of a leader for the preK, K-6, and 7-12 groups. You can choose your activity from a menu of resources we make available to you. Please consider sharing your faith by volunteering for a Sunday! See Deb Sowers or contact the church office to volunteer.

December Office Hours

We want to keep you informed on some upcoming changes in the church's office hours. Normally the church office is open from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Carmen will be off on vacation so the church office will be closed on the following days in December:

- CLOSED - December 23, 24, 25, 26, 30, 31 and January 1

We thank you in advance for your understanding.

Your Generosity Makes a Difference

Scan the QR code to give online and support the mission and ministries of our church.
Thank you for being a blessing!

2026 Offering Envelope Boxes

Are available to pick in the hallway across from the Church Lounge. Please do not use any of the new offering envelopes from your box before January 1, 2026 to ensure that you are properly credited for your offerings. Please feel free to contact Maureen in the church office (717-637-5941 or finance@stpaulsyorkst.org) anytime you have questions about your offerings.

This Week's Calendar

THUR., DEC. 18 6:00 pm Bell choir rehearsal – Balcony of the Sanctuary
6:30 pm Cub Scouts – 2nd Floor

7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 102 - Youth Room & Gym

7:00 pm Adult Choir rehearsal – Choir Loft in Sanctuary

FRI., DEC. 19 3:00 pm Grocery Ministry prep – Gym

SAT., DEC. 20 9:00 am Grocery Ministry – Book Club

9:00 am Heritage Choir rehearsal

5:00 pm Saturday Evening Service

6:15 pm Narcotics Anonymous – Fellowship Hall

SUN., DEC. 21 8:30 am Radio Broadcast – 95.3 FM & 1280 AM

9:30 am Worship Service – 4th Sunday of Advent

Immediately following Worship:

Coffee Hour – lounge

Council Reorganization Meeting – Conf. Room

Faith Formation – Children - 2nd floor

Daily Discipleship class – nursery across from lounge

Adult Choir II rehearsal

11:00 am Private Use – Fellowship Hall

TUES., DEC. 23 10:00 am Advent Bible Study – Conference Room-2nd floor

WED., DEC. 24 12:15 pm Midweek Devotions – Lounge

7:30 pm Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Service (Prelude music at 7:05 pm)

Mark Your Calendars!

New Year Intention Setting Online Retreat - January 10, 2026 from 9:30 a.m. - Noon ET

Join Breathing in Christ for a peaceful morning retreat designed to help you slow down, listen deeply, and set intentions that reflect your values and God's calling for your life. Through guided reflection, gentle practices, and prayerful discernment, you'll create meaningful intentions for the year ahead; ones that align your attention with your intention in Christ. Whether you're seeking clarity, renewal, or a fresh spiritual beginning, this retreat offers space for your soul to breathe. <https://www.breathinginchrist.com/events/new-year-intention-setting-online-retreat/>

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.

Sponsorships Available:

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

Radio-Jan. 11, 18 & 25 (\$60 per date or any portion you desire per date)

Altar Flowers- Jan. 11, 18 & 25 (2 vases at \$20 each)

Communion Bread and Wine- Jan. 11, 18 & 25 (\$12 each date)

Worship Bulletins- Jan. 11, 18 & 25 (\$20 each date)

Eternal Flame- Jan. 11, 18 & 25 (\$10 each date)

December Special Designated Giving - Hanover Area Council of Churches' Changing Lives Shelter

The Changing Lives Shelter was officially opened on June 21st, 2007. CLS is now a year-round facility providing for the temporary housing needs of single adults and families in distressed or emergency situations. The building offers capacity for 2 families of up to 5 people, 12 women's beds, and 12 men's beds for a total of 34 total individuals.

With paid shelter support staff, a case manager, and a shelter coordinator, the Changing Lives Shelter team takes pride in offering an environment that is comfortable, secure, and successful for the clients who are approved for stay.

During their stay, clients are offered various services that include life skills, case management, employment assistance, and other necessities deemed appropriate for their situation. The primary goal at Changing Lives is to assist clients through a productive path to a successful, independent lifestyle that includes financial stability, housing, and employment.

Office Hours - See above for December

Monday -appointment only, phone calls, text messages, and emails will be answered and responded to by Carmen as appropriate

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday - 9 AM - 4 PM

Friday, Saturday, Sunday - Closed, Only emergency phone messages and emails will be handled

Request scheduled door access through Carmen by contacting her in a timely manner; or you can continue to use your swipe key.