



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.

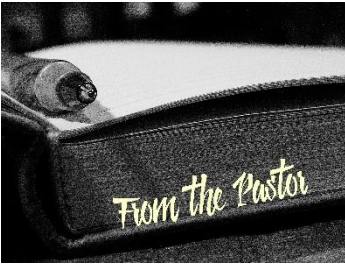
1 John 1:7 NRSV

THE EVANGEL

JUNE/JULY 2026



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



As the nation prepares to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence this July 4th, I cannot help but be reminded of my own family's Independence Day celebrations. The Northridge clan would gather at my grandmother's house each year. The day began with an early morning parade which

passed right by her house.

My earliest memories included my grandmother marching with the First Aid Squad. Later, she was honored as Grand Marshal for a year. Eventually, the time came when she joined the rest of us, sitting on the front lawn and enjoying the parade as it passed by.

The parade itself was always memorable: first responders, marching bands, bag pipers, Shriners, churches, scouts, stilt walkers, and elected officials. But what stands out most vividly to me is that everyone seemed to know my grandmother. Nearly every person who passed greeted her by name. She and my grandfather, while he was alive, had built a true community in their small town.

As a child, I did not fully appreciate what I was witnessing. I simply assumed that this was normal, that everyone knew their neighbors, checked in on one another, and shared in each other's joys and hardships. Looking back now, I realize how rare and valuable that kind of connection truly is. My grandparents had spent decades investing in relationships. They attended church faithfully, volunteered when help was needed, welcomed new neighbors, and quietly showed up for people in times of difficulty. Their lives were a testament of love, not built through grand speeches, but through steady acts of kindness and presence.

At the signing of the Declaration of Independence, our Founding Fathers were also creating a community. One that would take years to fully shape, and it continues to be refined today. They recognized that they were one people working together. Yes, they were "dissolving the political bands which have connected them with another," but they were doing so together. And they concluded with these enduring words: "with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor."

That kind of community does not happen instantly. It is built over years of worshiping together, serving together, laughing together, and sometimes even struggling together. Much like my grandparents had become woven into the fabric of their town, members of a church become part of one another's lives. They know each other's stories. They carry each other's burdens. They become a visible reminder that faith is not meant to be lived alone.

“From the Pastor” - continued

The early church understood this well. In the Book of Acts, believers gathered together, shared what they had, prayed for one another, and cared for those in need. Their faith was expressed not only in worship, but also in the daily practice of living together in love and mutual support. That witness drew people in because it offered something the world often struggles to provide; authentic belonging rooted in compassion and grace.

Our founders understood that a healthy nation depended upon people, colonies, states, who were willing to commit themselves to one another for a greater purpose. In much the same way, the church flourishes when individuals choose to live not only for themselves, but for their neighbors as well. In a world that often feels increasingly isolated and divided, the church still offers something deeply needed: genuine belonging.

Perhaps that is one of the greatest gifts the church can give our communities today, sharing God’s love. We do it as people who know one another, care for one another, and stand together through every season of life. And, like my grandmother sitting on her front lawn surrounded by friends, neighbors, and generations of family, we are reminded that the strongest communities are not built in a single moment, but over a lifetime of faithfulness, love, and shared experience.

Pastor Jason



SPRING GROVE ALUMNI CHORUS

St. Paul’s will welcome the Spring Grove Alumni Chorus on June 28, 2026. The chorus was formed in 1997 to perform a benefit concert for the Spring Grove Scholarship Foundation. The group now offers a \$1,000 Lee H. Sands music scholarship annually. The chorus has been performing for 29 years.

The group has been led by director, Lee H. Sands, Director Emeritus, Jess Betlyon, and is currently led by Deb Smith. Summer church visits are directed by Joann Luckenbaugh. The chorus presents a Christmas concert, a Spring concert, and performs at various churches over the summer.

Please join us as the Spring Grove Alumni Chorus leads us in worship and song.

GIVE

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

Radio-June 7, 14, 21, July 5, 12, 19 & 26

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

Altar Flowers—June 7, 14 & 21 (2 vases at \$20 each)

July 12 & 26 (1 vase at \$20 each)

Communion Bread and Wine-June 7, 14, 28, July 5, 12, 19 & 26

(\$12 each date)

Worship Bulletins-June 7, 14, 21, 28, July 5, 12, 19 & 26

(\$20 each date)

Eternal Flame- June 7, 21, 28, July 5, 12, 19 & 26

(\$10 each date)

JUNE'S DESIGNATED GIVING McSherrystown Senior Center

Our Goal is to empower seniors to engage in our community and offer them a safe and enriching environment to try new experiences and receive social support for a fulfilling lifestyle. Through engaging programs and activities, we aim to ignite their passions and create lasting memories.



What We Offer: In addition to vibrant activities, we provide:

- Nutritious Meals Daily: Our center serves balanced meals that promote health and well-being.
- Meal Delivery Services: For those unable to attend the center, we ensure they receive nutritious meals right at home.
- Resources for Local Programs and Services: We connect seniors with valuable resources that enhance their quality of life outside of the center, helping them engage with their community and access important services.

Your contribution can make a significant impact!

Your support will provide for:

- Interactive activities that spark conversations
 - Workshops that inspire creativity and exploration
 - Social events that build connections and friendships
 - The daily provision of meals and delivery services for seniors in need
 - Resources that enhance seniors' quality of life outside our center
- Every donation, big or small, makes a difference. Together, we can create a vibrant community where seniors feel valued and excited for every day.



JULY SPECIAL DESIGNATED GIVING THE LUTHERAN CAMPING CORPORATION OF CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA

St. Paul's Members and Friends...this month our designated giving targets The Lutheran Camping Corp. of Central PA (LutheranCamping.org). The Lutheran

Camping Corp. includes both Nawakwa in Arendtsville, PA and Kirchenwald in Lebanon, PA.

We have the opportunity to support the Lutheran Camping Corp. with our Special Designated Giving this July. Please assist these wonderful camps with prayers and generous giving!

Back to School time will be here before you know it and the Faith In Action Committee is looking to fill backpacks for LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF again this year.



Last year we had such a good response that we decided to try to fill 108 School Kits again. We had a lot of supplies left from last year that we will use this year but we do still need some items to fill the backpacks that we purchased.

We will start collecting these items in July and fill the backpacks in early September. Look for the collection boxes in the hallway. Watch for sales that will help you in your purchases.

Here is a list of items that we need;

- 432 - 70-80 sheet **SPIRAL** notebooks of wide or college lined paper approximately 8"X 10 1/2". **NO** loose leaf paper
- 53 - pencil sharpeners
- 107 - pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- 344 - **unsharpened** #2 pencils with erasers
- 387 - black or blue ballpoint pens (**NO** gel ink)
- 101 - boxes of 16 or 24 crayons
- 31 - 2-1/2" eraser

We will try to keep you informed of what has come in and what is needed. We had so many rulers last year that we don't need any this year because we have enough left to fill this year's backpacks.

We thank you for your generosity and your help with this project over the years. We have made a difference in the lives of many children as well as adults around the world.

VOLUNTEER

COFFEE HOUR WILL CONTINUE FOR THE SUMMER AND VOLUNTEERS ARE 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!



Grocery Ministry Update

As we begin our SEVENTH year of this ministry, we reflect on how many in our community have been served. For the month of April alone, there were 528 individuals who received aid, about 30 percent of whom are senior citizens. There is definitely a need in our community for this assistance!



There are various "jobs" associated with the ministry. Consider how you might be able to help!

Fridays (3:00 - 4:30)--organize items to be packed

Saturday (9:00 - 11:00)--pack and distribute items

ALL AGES and ABILITIES are welcome to join in this work!

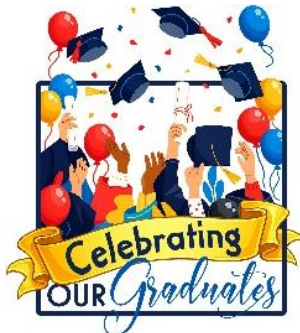
LEARN

Registration Opening Soon!

ELCA Youth and Young Adults (and their leaders) gather every three years, and we're excited to begin planning to attend the 2027 event! The Gathering will be held in Minneapolis next June, but plans are underway now.



ANY YOUTH entering 7th grade or young adult (up to age 30) is welcome to attend. See Deb Sowers or Beth Fissel for more information or to express interest in attending. Official registration begins in October, but we'll be looking to start putting together our group in September. We are excited to energize another group of youth for continued life of service and learning in the church!



GRADUATES

Jared Dickson, son of Ralph and Gay Dickson, graduated with his Doctor of Medicine degree from the Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University on May 8, 2026. He will begin his residency in Family and Community Medicine at Penn State Hershey Medical Center the end of June.

Lura L. Johnson, daughter of Russ and Michelle Johnson, is a graduate of Jacksonville University, summa cum laude, with a bachelor's degree in oceanography, and minors in chemistry and naval science. She is a member of Green Key, the university's top 1% of students, and is commissioned as a Surface Warfare Officer with an Oceanography designator in the United States Navy. She is also a D1 athlete and has been on the women's rowing team for 4 years. After walking on her freshman year, she rowed in a conference level boat sophomore through senior years and raced at NAAs her senior year.

Lura will begin her service to the U. S. Navy aboard the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson, stationed in San Diego, CA.

Allyson Angel, daughter of Randy Angel and Patty Angel and granddaughter of Kitty Angel, graduated from Harrisburg Area Community College with highest honors as a Medical Assistant.

Evangeline Feeser, daughter of Dan and Amy Feeser, graduated from New Oxford High School on Thursday, May 28th.

Lilly Grifo, granddaughter of Dave and Pam Miller and great-granddaughter of Kitty Angel, graduated from New Oxford High School on Thursday, May 28th.

Noah Moschetti, grandson of Steve and Lorraine Mason, graduated from New Oxford High School on Thursday, May 28th.

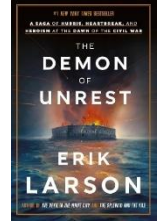
Delaney Moiser, great-granddaughter of Kitty Angel, will graduate from Bermudian Springs High School on Wednesday, June 3rd as a Certified Pharmacy Technician.

ST. PAUL'S BOOK CLUB



The St. Paul's Book Club will be meeting on **June 24, 2026** at 12:45 in the Conference Room. We will be discussing Before the Swallows Come Back by Fiona Curnow. This is a story that is "total immersion in the natural world. An absolutely heart-filling and lyrical novel. Fiona Curnow has crafted an immense story and an incredibly rich one ." says Carol McKay. Bring a brown bag lunch and join us in food, fellowship and discussion. All readers are welcomed.

Our July book is The Demon of Unrest by Erik Larson. We will meet on **Wednesday, July 29, 2026** at 12:45 in the Conference Room. This book is about "the chaotic months between Lincoln's election and the Confederacy's shelling of Sumter--a period marked by tragic errors and miscommunications, enflamed egos and craven ambitions, personal tragedies and betrayals." (from the book's cover) Bring your lunch and join us for food, fellowship and discussion. All readers are welcomed.



ATTENDANCE

**Sundays at 9:30 am
and**

Midweek Lenten Services

March 25 - noon.....	22	7:00 pm.....	11
March 29.....	128	Facebook Live.....	12
Maundy Thursday - noon	18	7:00 pm.....	33
Good Friday – 2:00 pm.....	14	7:00 pm.....	68
April 5.....	171	Facebook Live.....	15
April 12.....	84	Facebook Live.....	12
April 19.....	88	Facebook Live.....	17
April 26.....	106	Facebook Live.....	12
May 3.....	108	Facebook Live.....	12
May 10.....	104	Facebook Live.....	9
May 17.....	94	Facebook Live.....	14
May 24.....	115	Facebook Live.....	14

Saturdays at 5:30 pm

March 28.....	10	April 11.....	14
April 18.....	12	April 25.....	6
May 2.....	16	May 9.....	10
May 16.....	13	May 23.....	8

**St Paul's Lutheran Church (York St)
& St. Mark's Lutheran Church
invite you to join us for**

**Vacation Bible
School**

July 27 – 31

9:30 am – 12:00 pm

Ages 5-10

**Location: St. Mark's Lutheran Church
129 Charles St.
Hanover, PA 17331**



For more information or to register

<https://stpaulsyorkst.org/vbs-registration>

or call 717-637-8904.

Registration is limited to 40 with a waiting list.



This VBS is a cooperative ministry between
St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 127 York St. Hanover
St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 129 Charles St. Hanover

To St. Paul's Lutheran Church Council & Evangelization Committee,

Thank you again for your donations of English and Spanish Bibles to my mobile ministry. Because of your generosity, it's allowed me to spread the gospel and serve **so many more** in the Hanover and Baltimore area. Each care package to the at risk was able to include a Bible. And existing streams of God's grace and mercy (food banks) eagerly accepted both the English and Spanish Bibles! St. Paul's played a part in this spring's outreach and I'm grateful for it.

Take care and God bless you all,

Dan Blake

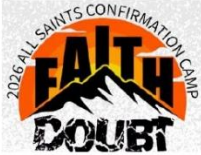
Christian Education

Corner

See what we've been learning and doing!

Children: Since Easter we've been learning about the Great Commission and the work of the early church. Check out the bulletin board downstairs that we put together showing how we are all parts of one body...the church! Everyone has an important role in the life of our church!

Youth: We wrapped up our learning year with a family meeting remembering our baptisms. Most of us were baptised here at St. Paul's! Brin shared a lot of remembrance items from her baptism including a dress, cross, candle, and even the bulletin from the service. Deb showed a dress that (now) 3 generations have worn for their baptisms (Deb, her daughters Katie and Amy, and granddaughter Zoey!). We were reminded that our Affirmation of Baptism will give us the opportunity to speak for ourselves in affirming what our parents had done when we were infants.



Three of us are looking forward to attending All Saints Confirmation Camp in June! We will join youth and leaders from around the synod for a week of fellowship, learning, and fun at Camp Nawakwa as we explore the theme of Faith and Doubt.

Adults: Our "Daily Discipleship" group has concluded meeting for the school year. We have explored topics based on the Revised Common Lectionary each week and have grown together in learning and fellowship. We'll start meeting again in September.

WE ARE SO GRATEFUL! On May 17th we honored those who have volunteered many hours in Christian Education this past school year. Join us in thanking:

Committee members: Linda Zellers, Tom Miller, Deb Sowers and Bill Sowers

Faith Formation (children): Janet Haack, Meghan Weible, Lucille Farrington, Christopher Johnson, Bill Fissel, Beth Fissel, Jocelyn Fissel, and Deb Sowers

Confirmation ministry: Deb Sowers and Bill Sowers

Adult Bible study: Russ Kaltreider, Linda Zellers and Gay Dickson



PLEASE NOTE: Faith Formation classes will not gather for the summer BUT there are continued opportunities for learning.

ALL AGES: register for summer camp!

Children and Families: weekly email devotional with video and activities; VBS in July
Classes will resume in September

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE
MAY 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 thankful for much needed rain, worship attendance and new faces at worship services.
- Council actions included the following:
 - **CC2026.05.46** approval of April 15, 2026 council meeting minutes;
 - **CC2026.05.47** denial use of kitchen for a baking business;
 - **CC2026.05.48** Lutheran Camping Corporation, July Designated Giving;
 - **CC2026.05.49** New Hope Ministries, August Designated Giving;
 - **CC2026.05.50** approval of up to \$2,000.00 from Adventures in Ministry for All Saints Confirmation Camp;
 - **CC2026.05.51** approval of up to \$1,200.00 from Adventures in Ministry for youth to attend Alive, a Lower Susquehanna Synod event;
 - **CC2026.05.52** approval of up to \$500.00 from Adventures in Ministry for security deposit for St. David's picnic grove;
 - **CC2026.05.53** recommendation from council to congregation to approve the bid from Ault Paving to reseal and line the parking lots at cost of \$12,440.00 with funding from Adventures in Ministry at a congregational meeting on June 7, 2026 following worship;
 - **CC2026.05.54** approval of Treasurer's report of April 30, 2026, subject to the audit of the underlying records;
 - **CC2026.04.55** adjourned the meeting.
- All Committee Night and Council will not be held in July.
- Next Council meeting is June 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

ST. PAUL'S EVANGEL

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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

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Lori Rebling – Director of Handbells

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stpaulschildrensmusic@gmail.com

Carmen Buckley – Administrative Assistant

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Jaime Spangler – Housekeeper

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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

Secretary – Linda Zellers

Vice-President – Russ Kaltreider

Treasurer – Sherry Cracium-Bolin