

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

NOVEMBER 2026



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
HANOVER, PENNSYLVANIA 17331



November is a month when we remember. We gather for All Saints Sunday to remember those who have died, give thanks for the lives they shared with us, and hold on to the promise that death is not the end of our story.

In John's Gospel, we hear the story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. When Jesus finally arrives in Bethany, Lazarus has been in the tomb for four days. His sisters, Martha and Mary, are grieving the loss of their brother. Both approach Jesus with the same words: "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

Their words express the hurt, disappointment, and questions that often accompany the death of someone we love. Where was God? Why didn't God do something? Why did our loved one have to suffer? Even as people of faith, we may find ourselves asking these questions when death touches our lives.

Jesus does not criticize Martha and Mary for their grief or their questions. Instead, he meets them in their sorrow. When Jesus sees Mary weeping, along with the others who have gathered to mourn, he is deeply moved. And then we hear one of the most powerful verses in Scripture: "Jesus began to weep."

Our God is not distant from our suffering. In Jesus Christ, God entered into our human experience, sharing our joys and sorrows, our hopes and fears. Jesus knows the pain of losing someone we love. He understands our longing for one more conversation, one more embrace, or one more opportunity to tell someone how much they mean to us.

God weeps with us, too. We do not have to hide our tears or pretend that grief is easy. We can bring our questions and sadness before God, trusting that we are never alone in our sorrow.

But the story does not end at the tomb. Jesus commands that the stone be rolled away, and then he calls, "Lazarus, come out!" Lazarus emerges from the tomb, alive once again. This miracle offers a glimpse of the promise Jesus gives: death does not have the final word. As Jesus declares, "I am the resurrection and the life."

On All Saints Sunday, we remember those who have gone before us in faith, trusting in the promise of the resurrection. We look forward to the day when God will gather all the saints together in the heavenly banquet, where death will be destroyed, tears will be wiped away, and mourning will be no more.

Until that day comes, we continue to live with both grief and hope. We mourn because we have loved, and because the absence of those we love leaves a hole in our lives. Yet we also trust that nothing, not even death, can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

As we enter November, may we give thanks for the saints who have shaped our lives, comfort one another in our grief, and hold fast to the promise that we belong to Christ in life and in death. The God who weeps with us is also the God who promises new life. And one day, by God's grace, we will gather with all the saints at the heavenly feast that has no end.

Pastor Jason



PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING to help decorate the Sanctuary for Advent. We will be decorating on Saturday, November 30th beginning at 9AM. Please come and be a part of it.

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Help us decorate our worship bulletins this Christmas season! Children and anyone who enjoys coloring are invited to create artwork for our Christmas worship bulletins. Coloring pages are available from Pastor Jason. Please return all completed artwork to Pastor Jason by **December 6**. Thank you for sharing your creativity and helping make our Christmas worship special!

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JOIN US FOR COFFEE HOUR down the hall in the church lounge immediately following the 9:30 Worship Service. If no one volunteers to bring snacks we will only serve coffee.



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PASTOR JASON CONTINUES TO OFFER MID-WEEK DEVOTIONS ON WEDNESDAY from 12:15 – 12:35 pm. This brief service consists of prayer, scripture reading and silent meditation. All are welcome to join us at 12:15 pm in the church lounge.

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Our Sister-in-Christ, Phyllis Starner, claimed the promise of her baptism on September 27, 2026.



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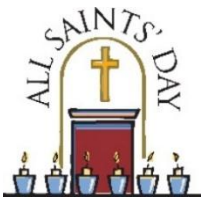


OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOE BOXES - It's that time of the year again to start filling boxes! Operation Christmas Child Shoe boxes are available outside the pulpit entrance. Filled boxes need to be returned no later than Sunday, Nov. 9th. Any questions, please see Lori Rebling or any member of the Faith in Action Committee. Thank you in advance for your participation in this project!

NOVEMBER'S DESIGNATED GIVING

November's Designated Giving will go to ELCA World Hunger. As it has become a tradition here at St. Paul's, November is the month we emphasize our need to feed the hungry throughout the world. This is a daily problem for hundreds of millions of people all over the world. It does not have to be. There are many worthy organizations who are dedicated to feeding and educating those who have had little hope in the past. One of those is ELCA World Hunger. Yes, there will always be poor people in the world. Jesus said they will always be with us. But, he never said there will always be hungry people. There is a difference. It is our obligation as a Christian community to do whatever we are able to nourish those with the greatest needs. The basics we never even have to consider, food and clean water. As we prepare to enjoy our festive holidays, it is the prayer of St. Paul's Council that you will give, and that you will pray for those who receive our gifts.

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ON ALL SAINTS DAY, November 1, 2026

WE REMEMBER, WITH THANKFULNESS to God, all who lived their lives and dwell in the fellowship of God's kingdom. We especially remember those persons who, during the past year, have passed on to the Church Triumphant.

Lamar Bortner
Terry Hormel
Bonnie Eichelberger
Nancy Martin
Phyllis Starner
Barbara Miller
Shirley Snyder
Millie Dubs
David Ports
Helen Port
Jerry Bishop
Barbara Trone
Dona Stauffer

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Help us prepare for the season of Advent by contributing to our congregational Advent Devotional! Participants are invited to write a short reflection and prayer based on an assigned Scripture text. If you would like to participate, please sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board across from Pastor Jason's office and take one of the available prompts. Completed reflections and prayers should be returned to Pastor Jason by **November 15**. Thank you for helping our congregation grow in faith and prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ! Please see Pastor Jason with any questions.

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



Radio-Nov. 1, 8, 22, 29, Dec. 20 & 27 ($60 per date or any portion you desire per date)
Altar Flowers-Nov. 22, 29, Dec. 13 (2 vases at $20 each);
Nov. 8 (1 vase at $20)
2 large poinsettias on 12/24 ($50 each)
Communion Bread and Wine-Nov. 8, Dec. 13, 20 & 27 ($12 each date)
Worship Bulletins-Nov. 8, 29, Dec. 13, 20 & 27 ($20 each date)
Eternal Flame-Nov. 8, 22, 29, Dec. 13 & 27 ($10 each date)

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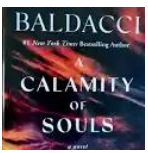
"CHRISTMAS BLESSING EXPRESS"

I hope this year has been one full of blessings for you and your family, but not for all our families in Hanover. There has been a greater need in families which are not able to purchase even the smallest gift for their loved ones. We are partnering with New Hope Ministries again this year to provide the basic life-needs for needy families this Christmas season. Starting November 15th there will be a table on display outside the pulpit entrance, with place cards. Each place card will have the name of a gift needed. If you could choose a place card and purchase the item and then place the gift in the box provided, you will make a big difference in a person's life. There are items on the cards for infant/toddlers, children, teens and adults and household items. **Please do not wrap gifts.** New Hope needs to see the gifts to make a selection as to which family to give them to. Please place items in box by December 6th. They will be taken to New Hope. Thank you so much.

The Faith In Action Committee

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ST. PAUL'S BOOK CLUB



The Book Club will meet on **Wednesday, November 18, 2026** at 12:45 in the Conference Room. **Notice the change of date due to Thanksgiving.** We will be discussing A Calamity of Souls by David Baldacci. This drama set in the tumultuous year of 1968 in southern Virginia, is a story of a racially charged murder case that sets a duo of white and Black lawyers against a deeply unfair system as they work to defend their wrongly accused Black defendants. Lucille Farrington is our discussion leader. Join us for a good discussion and good fellowship. Bring a brown bag lunch and a drink.

We also will be selecting the books we want to read for 2027 at this meeting. Hope to see you there.



An Advent Bible Study led by Pastor Jason will occur on Tuesdays in Advent, December 1st to December 22nd beginning at 10 AM in the conference room. The study is “Calling All Angels." It asks us to contemplate what would change in our relationships, vocations, congregations, and communities if we have the courage to overcome our fears like Mary, Joseph, Zechariah, and the Shepherds. There is no need to sign up for this study, just show up!

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ST. PAUL’S ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

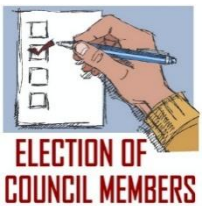
Sunday, December 6th immediately following the 9:30 am Worship Service



The business part of the meeting is to do the following:

- Elect 4 council members for a three year term - TBA
- approve the proposed budget for 2027 (included in this mailing)
- to review the 2025-2026 Annual Reports through August 31st that will be included in this Evangel mailing.
- approve painting of the Narthex, Altar Room and the stairways using a loan from Adventures in Ministry

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CHURCH COUNCIL ELECTIONS will be held on December 6th at the Congregation Meeting immediately following the 9:30 am worship service. Please prayerfully consider joining the leadership of the congregation. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Jason or any current member of council.

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ATTENDANCE

Sundays at 9:30 am

October 4	76	Facebook Live	12
October 11	77	Facebook Live	11
October 18	87	Facebook Live	17
October 25	76	Facebook Live	12

Saturdays at 5:00 pm

October 3	10	October 10	8
October 17	11	October 24	10



We will be having a Blue Christmas Service on Sunday, Dec. 20th, at 7:00 pm Please join us for this special service.

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We are having a Christmas Program during our morning worship on December 20. The participants will be invited to decorate a poster from Pastor Jason however they choose and share a short reading based on it. Anyone who wishes to participate should sign up on the sheet on the board across from Pastor Jason's office by November 15. Please see Pastor Jason with any questions.


Christmas Program

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CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
December 24

4:00 pm Family Service

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

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Grocery Ministry Update



As we move to restructuring how we organize our teams of volunteers, we hope more of you will consider volunteering to join on of our teams that serve just one Saturday a month. Our ministry will succeed only if we have volunteers to make it happen, and we are looking to have teams of at least 8 people each Saturday.

There are other ways to serve as well. Consider these opportunities:

- Paperwork–help with forms; organizing orders and menus (time based on your schedule)
- Organize items to be packed (Friday from 3:00 - 4:30 pm)
- Receiving and unpacking items delivered by York County Food Bank (4th Wednesday of the month from 9:00 - 11:00 am)

Thank you to all who donated to the Harvest Home food in-gathering on Oct. 18. We have a great start on gathering items for our Christmas meal distribution in December!

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



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St. Paul's Men in Mission thanks everyone who donated books, puzzles, etc; helped with sorting, set up, and clean-up; especially the Boy Scouts.
We also thank all who donated generously to our annual Used Book Sale. This was our 9th year and it has grown to be a great outreach event and fundraiser. This year we received $1,024.00 in donations to be distributed to youth in our community which includes Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, St. Paul's Youth and the Hanover Street Elementary School.

Christian Education Corner



WE ARE EXCITED to be back to our usual schedule of Faith Formation classes. There are lots of exciting things planned for our Christian Education year together!

Children: Our children have continued exploring Old Testament stories this past month. We've continued to learn about Moses (The Burning Bush, the Plagues, and the 10 Commandments) and are looking toward learning about Joshua, Ruth, and Hannah and Samuel. We're learning about how God acts for us in amazing ways! How has your life been touched by God?

Youth: Three of our confirmands joined Pastor Jason and many other youth from around our synod at "Alive". Not only did great learning happen, but relationships were fostered. They are looking forward to next year's event!



Our class reviewed the Reformation and Martin Luther and will be learning more about the sacrament of baptism this month. We are excited to continue to grow together as a group this year and look forward to our retreat in February and camp in June! ANY INTERESTED YOUTH is invited to join us at any time. Contact Pastor Jason or Deb Sowers (Christian Education chairperson) for more information.

Adults: Join our "Daily Discipleship" group following worship in the room across from the lounge. Grab a drink and treat before joining us! Our facilitators are Russ Kaltreider, Linda Zellers, Lucille Farrington, and Janet and Paul Haack. Come see what we can learn together!

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HOLIDAY BAZAAR AND SOUP SALE
St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Broadway
Saturday, November 14th from 8:00 am – 2:00 pm
Chicken Corn soup and Beef Noodle soup will be available for $6.00 a quart and can be ordered in advance by calling 717-637-0511.





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Tax Prep Volunteers Needed for Spring 2027 Tax Season

Volunteers are needed throughout York County for the spring 2027 tax season. No previous tax experience is required—just patience, friendliness, and a desire to help others.

Give Back — and Get Something Back, Too

- Volunteering with Tax-Aide is more than an opportunity to help your neighbors. It's a chance to **learn new skills, keep your mind active, meet new people, work as part of a friendly team, and experience the satisfaction of making a real difference in someone's life.**

You don't need to be a tax expert. Volunteers receive **comprehensive training and ongoing support,** and there are several roles to match your interests and abilities.

Ways You Can Help

- Prepare tax returns after completing comprehensive training
- Welcome clients as a greeter or help schedule appointments
- Provide administrative, instructional, or technology support
- Assist community members as a translator

Your service makes a difference. Last year, nearly 100 AARP Foundation Tax-Aide volunteers helped more than 4,300 taxpayers file their federal, Pennsylvania, and local tax returns in York County.

LEARN MORE OR VOLUNTEER

Call Roxanne: 717-640-5006 **Email:** info@yorkaarptaxaide.com
Visit: www.yorkaarptaxaide.com
Contact: Dick Hershey - 717-741-1868 - **dickhershey@comcast.net**



Poinsettias will once again adorn our worship space on Christmas Eve. You have the opportunity to purchase a flower or make a donation to "World Hunger". The cost of the flower(s) is $15.00 per plant. The donation and/or flowers will be recognized in the Christmas Eve bulletins. Poinsettia(s) should be taken home following the 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

There are also 2 large (4 plant) altar poinsettias available to sponsor for $50 each. Please mark the form below for large poinsettias if you would like to sponsor one or both of these.

Unclaimed plants are not delivered to specific locations, therefore if you are unable to pick-up your plant following the 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service, please give serious consideration to a donation to "World Hunger".

Please use the form below and return it to the church office **no later than Sunday, December 1st. Additional forms will be available on the counter outside the pulpit door entrance.**

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Remembering or honoring a loved one at Christmas through the purchase of a poinsettia(s) or a donation to "World Hunger".

Please fill in the blanks and return the money ($15.00 per plant, $50.00 per large altar poinsettia) or donation (any amount) and form to the church office **by Sunday, December 1st**

Enclosed is _____for _____ poinsettia(s)
(Total dollar amount) (how many)

Make a_____ donation to "World Hunger"
(any dollar amount)

In honor or In memory of (circle one)

_____

By_____

In honor or In memory of (circle one)

_____

By_____

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 & Friday – Flexible schedule (see page 5)

THE CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Daniel Yeiser – Intentional Interim/Bridge Pastor
*pdyeisier06@gmail.*com - 717-634-4025

Reverend Jack R. Hoffman – Pastor Emeritus

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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, Dan Kiser, Donna Lehman, Dave Maus, Pat McConville, Tom Miller, Cindy Schmidt

President – Frank Hueske
Vice-President – Russ Kaltreider
Secretary – Linda Zellers
Treasurer – Sherry Cracium-Bolin