



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.

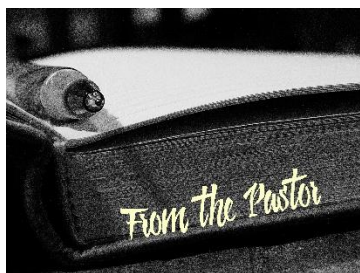
1 John 1:7 NRSV

THE EVANGEL

MAY 2026



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



When I was a child, it was a nightmare for my parents to get me out of bed in the morning. My dad would crack open the door and say, “Time to get up.” And more often than not, I’d just roll over and stay right where I was. If I didn’t show up at the breakfast table or near the bathroom in a timely manner, he’d come back. This time

he’d open the door a little more abruptly. You could hear the frustration starting to creep in.

But here was the problem: instead of actually getting up the first time, I had trained myself to respond to the sound of the door opening. I’d sit up and say, “I’m awake” Sometimes I’d still be half asleep. I even think I began to do it while I was still fully asleep.

I had learned how to sound awake without actually being awake. I knew how to respond without ever really rising. Somehow, I was rarely late to school, but it caused no small amount of frustration for my dad. And I wonder if there aren’t times where we are like that in our faith lives, causing no small amount of frustration for God.

We have heard the good news: “Christ is risen!” We’ve said it. We’ve sung it. We’ve celebrated it. For three Sundays now, our Gospel readings have kept us on that very first Easter day. We’ve stayed right there at the empty tomb, right there in the locked rooms, right there in that moment of astonishment and fear and joy. And it is beautiful. It is important. But at some point, Easter is not just something we say, it becomes something we live.

It is possible to sound like resurrection people, to say the right words, to show up, to respond when the door opens, and still be lying down. Still stuck in fear. Still wrapped up in the grave clothes of old habits and old assumptions. Still hitting the snooze button on the call of Christ.

As we move through this season of Easter toward Pentecost our focus changes from announcement to sending. We go from proclaiming “Christ is risen” to being sent by the Holy Spirit, from locked doors to open ones, from fear to courage, and from promise to practice.

The risen Christ doesn’t just wake the disciples up so they can acknowledge him, he wakes them up so they can be sent. And notice how Jesus does this with the disciples. He keeps showing up. He comes into their locked rooms. He speaks peace into their fear. He breathes the Holy Spirit on them, inviting them into something new.

Waking up is not enough. I could do that without ever getting out of bed. At some point, you have to swing your legs over the side of the bed. You have to stand up. You have to walk out of the room and into a new day. And that’s where resurrection faith gets real.

“From the Pastor” - continued

Getting out of bed looks like forgiveness when it would be easier to hold a grudge. It looks like generosity when it would be easier to hold on tight. It looks like speaking hope into a world that often feels stuck in darkness. It looks like stepping outside the familiar and risking love for the sake of another. It’s not always dramatic. Most mornings, getting out of bed is ordinary, even a little reluctant. But it is the beginning of everything that follows.

In the same way, living into resurrection faith doesn’t always feel triumphant. Sometimes it feels like small, faithful steps. Sometimes it feels like choosing trust when fear would be easier. Sometimes it feels like simply putting one foot in front of the other because you believe that Christ present with you.

The good news is that Christ is patient with us. He keeps opening the door. He keeps calling our names. He keeps inviting us into the new life he has already begun. And each new day is another chance to respond; not perfectly, not all at once, but faithfully. To take a step. To trust that the risen Christ goes with us out into the world. This season may we not only hear the good news of Easter, but in our own small ways rise to live it.

Amen.

Pastor Jason



On Sunday, April 26th, we welcomed to St. Paul’s Church family through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism Finley Eyler and through Affirmation of Baptism, Joshua, Sarah and Hendrick Eyler.



Our brother in Christ, Jerry Bishop, claimed the promise of his baptism April 22, 2026.

GIVE

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

Radio-May 24, 31, June 7, 14 & 21 (\$60 per date or any portion you desire per date)

Altar Flowers-May 31, June 7, 14 & 21 (2 vases at \$20 each)

Communion Bread and Wine-May 31, June 7, 14 & 28 (\$12 each date)

Worship Bulletins-May 24, 31, June 7, 14, 21 & 28 (\$20 each date)

Eternal Flame- May 24, 31, June 7, 21 & 28 (\$10 each date)



MAY'S DESIGNATED GIVING

St. Paul's Sabbatical Fund

St. Paul's Sabbatical Leave Policy can be provided as an opportunity for called personnel to have a leave up to three months for professional enrichment, study, growth, travel, skill development and research, all for

the purpose of enrichment for continued service in the church. Seven years of continued service is required.

The Faith In Action Committee would like to thank St. Paul's congregation for your wonderful effort to contribute to the Lenten project, **Diaper and Wipes Drive** that helps St. John's

Lutheran Church in Abbottstown, PA. Two deliveries were made to St. John's Church. We gave them a grand total of 173.5 DOZEN (that's 2,082) of diapers and 8112 wipes. The committee was astounded by the generosity of the church for this project. We certainly helped to cover a lot of baby bottoms. **The Diaper Clinic** is opened twice a month to parents in the area who need help with getting the baby supplies they need. Thanks you for making this drive so successful. Special thanks to Deacon Amy Mambo and Bill Sowers for helping with the deliveries.





Hanover Against Hunger

Feeding the Hungry since 2012

hanoveragainsthunger.org

April 30 - May 1, 2026

GIVE
LOCAL
York
GIANT  KINDNESS
WORLDWIDE
GiveLocalYork.org



Ways You Can Help

It's time again for the Give Local York Annual Fundraising Campaign. There are three ways to support HAH's plans to help **Feed Our Neighbors**:

1. Give during GLY one-day campaign
2. Text to Give
3. Create Personal Fund Raising Page

No matter which method you choose, donations will be matched 50¢ for every dollar raised until a combined donation total of \$2,000 is reached. Additional matches and funds will be given to those non-profits with the most successful campaigns.

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!



Grocery Ministry Update



Did you know we've been serving our community since April, 2020? That has been many hours of volunteering and MANY, MANY pound of food! Thanks for YOUR help in keeping this ministry alive.

Interested in learning more or becoming a volunteer? We will have a reorganization/training meeting on May 30 starting at 11:30. Lunch will be provided.

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!

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.



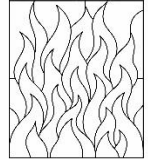
GET READY, GET SET, REGISTER FOR CAMP!

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.

IF YOU COLORED A FLAME PAGE, please return it to Pastor Jason by May 17th. Additional pages are available on the counter outside the sanctuary on the pulpit side.



**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 after May 26 visit <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

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 spent some extra time learning about the events of Holy Week. We started with a Palm Sunday "parade" the ended with a Memory game matching the events of the whole week. We even received a "little Jesus" to remind us how much he loves us!

Youth: Did you know "The Great Schism" (1054 C.E.) as well as the Protestant Reformation (1517 C.E.) brought about the many different denominations we have today? We learned about these events and Christian denominations as well as the history of the Lutheran church(es) in Hanover.

Third Lutheran Church (established in 1890) became St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in 1912. We also learned that there are even different groups WITHIN the Lutheran church. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) of which we are a part, came to be in 1988.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

We look forward to our time at Camp Nawakwa (June 14-19) for All Saint's Confirmation Camp.

Adults: Join the "Daily Discipleship" group that meets following worship! Grab a drink and snack and join us each Sunday across the hall from the Lounge. Our last class of the spring will be on May 17, but join ALL learners for an Intergenerational Celebration on May 24! We'll meet in Fellowship Hall that Sunday.

CELEBRATIONS IN MAY! Join us as we celebrate and honor our teachers and Bible study leaders on **May 17** at worship. And then we'll have an "end of school year" intergenerational celebration during Faith Formation on **May 24**. Join us in Fellowship Hall for our celebration!



2027 Gathering Announced!

We are excited to announce that St. Paul's will be sending a group to attend this ELCA event in June of 2027! St. Paul's youth, youth leaders, and young adults have attended events in San Antonio, Houston, New Orleans, and now look forward to journeying to Minneapolis, MN.



Registration opens this fall so look for more information coming this summer for how to join our group. In the mean time, see Deb Sowers or Beth Fissel for more information or to express interest in attending. We are excited to energize another group of youth for continued life of service and learning in the church!

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE
APRIL 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.”*

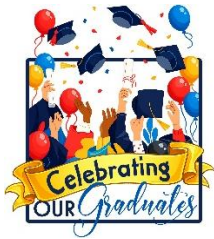


How are we living our purpose and principles?

What do we have to celebrate?

- Council saw living our purposes and principles as the Lenten, Holy Week and Easter services.
- Council actions included the following;
 - **CC2026.04.36** approval of March 8, 2026 council meeting minutes;
 - **CC2026.04.37** approval of March 17, 2026 council meeting minutes;
 - **CC2026.04.38** donation of \$52.00 to the United Lutheran Seminary in honor of the fifty-two graduating students with funds from Adventures in Ministry;
 - **CC2026.04.39** approval of new members presented by Pastor Northridge;
 - **CC2026.04.40** approval of updated job description of Visitation Pastor;
 - **CC2026.04.42** chose Hanover Against Hunger at September's Designated Giving;
 - **CC2026.04.43** adopted the Continuing Resolution for the Fellowship Committee;
 - **CC2026.04.44** adjourned the meeting.
- Beginning in 2026, all motions will be numbered for easy reference. This idea was presented at a Congregation Leadership Workshop sponsored by the Synod.
- The annual Congregational Meeting will be December 6, 2026, following the worship service.
- The Poist parking lot has been sold, and the proceeds applied to the loan from the Endowment Fund.
- Next Council meeting is May 20, 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



GRADUATES

Please let the church office know if you, or any member of St. Paul's, is graduating from high school, college or trade school this year so that we can acknowledge you in June/July's Evangel. We would also love to hear what your future plans are.

You can email us at assistant@stpaulsyorkst.org
or call us at 717-637-5941.

The Gettysburg Choral Society Presents...

Celebrate *America*

A 250TH

CHORAL

CONCERT

John McKay, Director

Free admission; donations appreciated!

Saturday, May 23 at 3pm
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
127 York Street
Hanover, PA 17331

Sunday, May 24 at 3pm
United Lutheran Seminary Chapel
61 Seminary Ridge
Gettysburg, PA 17325



250 PA

ADAMS COUNTY

— OFFICIAL EVENT —

★ GETTYSBURGCHORALSOCIETY.ORG ★





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 Betyon, and is currently lead 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.

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

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

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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

Vice-President – Russ Kaltreider

Secretary – Linda Zellers

Treasurer – Sherry Cracium-Bolin