



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

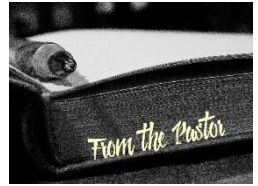
THE EVANGEL

SEPTEMBER 2026



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

Recently in worship we read in Matthew 16, Jesus asks his disciples a simple but profound question: “But who do you say that I am?” It is one thing to know what others say about Jesus. It is another thing to consider what we believe and how that belief shapes the way we live.



Peter answers, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” Peter’s confession is more than simply identifying who Jesus is. It is a declaration of faith which shapes how Peter and the other disciples are invited to live. Since Jesus is the Messiah, then his followers are called to live as his people. That means they are to serve, love, welcome, and care for their neighbors.

On September 13, we will be observing God’s Work, Our Hands Sunday. It gives us an opportunity to ask a similar question about St. Paul’s Lutheran Church: Who do we say that we are?

One way we will answer that question is by hearing from the many committees and ministries that make up our congregation. During worship, they will offer a brief overview of what they do during the sermon time. Then following the service, we will have a ministry fair inviting you into the different ways you can serve in the ministry at St. Paul’s. While our committees and ministries are unique from one another, together they fulfill our mission to praise God and love generously.

We are a church that worships together. We are a church that teaches and encourages our children and young people. We are a church that cares for those who are grieving or struggling. We are a church that reaches beyond our walls to serve our neighbors and our community.

With the help of your donations and the Faith in Action Committee, we will also have an opportunity to assemble school kits for Lutheran World Relief. These kits will be sent to children around the world, providing them with supplies they need to learn and reminding them that they are not forgotten.

But God’s Work, Our Hands Sunday is not just about what we do on one particular Sunday. It is also an opportunity to look toward the future of ministry at St. Paul’s. We will be launching a Time and Talents survey, inviting everyone to consider how God might be calling them to share their gifts with our congregation.

There are many ways to serve at St. Paul’s. Some require a lot of time; others require only a few hours. Some involve working with people, while others happen behind the scenes. Whatever your gifts, interests, or availability, there is a place for you.

So perhaps the question for St. Paul’s is not only, “Who do you say that Jesus is?” but also, “Who do we say that St. Paul’s is?” God’s Work, Our Hands Sunday gives us the opportunity to answer that question. We do so not just with words, but with our actions, our service, and our willingness to share the gifts God has given us. We are Christ’s church. We are God’s people. And together, with our hands, hearts, time, and talents, we can continue to discover all that God is calling St. Paul’s to be.

Pastor Jason



Our sister-in-Christ, Nancy Martin, claimed the promise of her baptism on August 20, 2026.

2026 ANNUAL REPORTS are due in the church office no later than **September 15th**. Reports should reflect activity through **August 31, 2026**.

WE CONTINUE 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.



DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER THE CHURCH OFFICE will be on the following schedule: Tues., Wed. and Thur. - 9 am – 4 pm. **The church office will be closed for Carmen's vacation from Mon., Sept. 14th through Mon., Sept. 21st.**

GIVE

SEPTEMBER SPECIAL DESIGNATED GIVING -

What began in 2012 as a congregational mission project initiated by a young man at St. Matthew Lutheran Church. has blossomed into a biennial community-wide service event. Residents of the great Hanover area from local businesses, service organizations, churches and neighborhoods join together to help feed school-age children with a food packaging event coordinated through "Rise Against Hunger". This is an event we held several times here at St. Paul's (although through "Harvest Pack")! The meals packed at St Matthew's have helped to feed children in Haiti, Columbia, Malawi, Liberia, Burundi, Zambia, and most recently Ukraine and Poland.



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

Radio-Sept. 6, 13, 20 & 27 (\$60 per date or any portion you desire per date)

Altar Flowers - Sept. 13, 20 & 27 (2 vases at \$20 each)

Communion Bread and Wine-Sept. 13, 20 & 27 (\$12 each date)

Worship Bulletins- Sept. 13, 20 & 27 (\$20 each date)

Eternal Flame-Sept. 6, 13, 20 & 27 (\$10 each date)



VOLUNTEER



GROCERY MINISTRY UPDATE

As of mid-August we have 106 family units who have completed 2026/2027 forms. Our ministry continues to be an important part of our community! We are grateful for our partnerships and for ALL who volunteer to help plan, set up, pack, and distribute food to our neighbors. On “God’s Work, Our Hands” Sunday (Sept. 13), we look forward to sharing more about our ministry—how it has grown and goals for our future. YOU will also have the opportunity to partner with us! As we restructure how we organize our ministry, check out St. Paul’s Time and Ability Survey for ways you can serve. Prayerfully consider how you can continue to support us and perhaps try something new...like joining one of our team of volunteers! We hope to have enough “teams” of volunteers so that you would be asked to serve just once a month.

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

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)

Pack and distribute items (Saturday from 9:00 - 11:00 am)

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

THE LIVE NATIVITY NEEDS ANIMALS!

The Evangelism Committee is searching for sheep, a donkey, and perhaps a calf for the Live Nativity on December 13. If you know someone who would have any of these animals available, please contact Lucille Farrington, Carmen, or Pastor Jason. Thank you! (Note: We are not looking for alpacas or llamas.)



THANK YOU!! Thank you to all those church members who volunteered to make snacks for our **Coffee Hour** after the church service during the summer months. Your willingness to feed our sheep was truly appreciated. For those of you who do not stop by the coffee hour after

church services, you have missed some wonderful treats. We have had peach cobbler, cheesecake, carrot cake, apple cake, fresh fruits and tons of cookies. **Coffee Hour** will continue during the coming months so I hope more of you will stop by to taste the goodies as well as volunteer to bake some goodies one Sunday. Again thank you to the faithful bakers of the congregation.
Janet Haack

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL THANK YOU!

Our joint Vacation Bible School was held July 27-31 at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. We had 39 children registered, and averaged about 35 children each day. I think the children enjoyed the week. A few asked if they could come back the following week!

While we had a few glitches, there was always someone there to say "Don't worry, I'll take care of this" and they did! Our church is blest to have so many caring individuals who helped to make this a great experience for the children.

Special thanks to the following St. Paul's members who graciously volunteered their time and talents:

Linda Zellers – registration
Bill Sowers – sound system
Sally Kacar – music
Pr. Jason and Freddie – games
Matthew Kaltreider – games helper
Meghan Weible – crafts
Lori Rebling – crafts
Gretchen Walter- "campfire" loan
April Cindric – counselor

Beth & Bill Fissel – counselors,
equipment handlers, etc.
Lucille Farrington – counselor
Lorraine Mason = counselor
Carmen Buckley – counselor
Bob Colehouse – counselor
Jocelyn Fissel – counselor
Brinlin Maus – counselor and
wherever needed

(The "counselors" led the children to each activity.)

Lynne Thompson, coordinator for St. Paul's Lutheran Church



NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY

The dates for photos to be taken are Wednesday, September 16 and Thursday, September 17 from 2:00 till 8:30 each day.

Contact your church's online scheduling administrator to change or cancel your photography appointment



The Church Directory Committee will meet on Tuesday, September 1 at 10:00 AM in the upstairs Conference Room

We still need some volunteers to help on the days that the photos are being taken. If you can help, please join us at our meeting. Thank you!

OUR CHRISTIAN ED. COMMITTEE is putting together teams of leaders for Faith Formation. We are looking for several people to facilitate the Adult Daily Disciples class as well as our preK-gr. 2 and gr 3-6 classes. All curriculum is already selected for you, and you would serve on a rotating basis (not needed every week). PA Clearances are needed to be able to work with children (and we can help you get them if you don't have them!). Please contact Deb Sowers (Chairperson) or the Church Office for more information.

LEARN

ANNUAL BLUE MASS

Gathering as a Community **to Honor the Fallen of September 11**
and celebrate our past and current first responders,
military, and veteran heroes.

7pm on Friday, September 11, 2026

St. Joseph's Catholic Church
5055 Grandview Road
Hanover, PA 17331

Light Refreshments will be served after Mass.

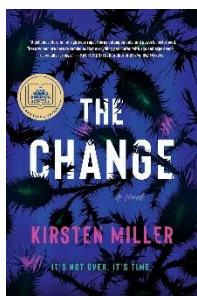
All faiths are welcome!.



JOIN US FOR GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS SUNDAY ON SEPTEMBER 13TH.

Committees will have tables showing what they do, we will kick off our Time and Talent surveys and we will fill 108 backpacks for Lutheran World Relief. If you ordered a T-shirt we want you to wear your shirt.

ST. PAUL'S BOOK CLUB



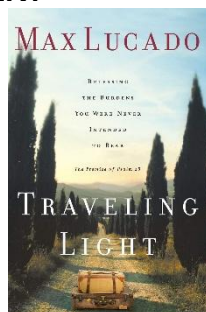
St. Paul's Book Club will meet on Wed., **September 30, 2026** in the Conference Room at 12:45, right after the Wednesday Midweek service. The book we will be discussing is **The Change** by Kristin Miller. This book is described as a "gloriously sharp and funny modern saga about three women who discover that midlife brings a whole new type of empowerment, putting them on a collision course with the evil that lurks in their wealthy beach town." Peg Sennett will be the discussion leader

for this book.

Remember to bring a bag lunch and a drink. Hope to see everyone for a good discussion and good fellowship.

DO YOU FEEL LIKE A WEARY TRAVELER?

Are you overburdened by the weight of carrying too many overpacked bags as you travel through life? Join us for a six-week Tuesday Evening Book Study facilitated by Gay Dickson beginning October 6 at 7 PM. We will read and discuss ***Traveling Light-Releasing the Burdens You Were Never Intended to Bear*** by **Max Lucado**. The verses of Psalm 23 will help us to identify the burdens we carry and remind us to release them to God.



Please sign up on the sheet by the pastor's office or contact Carmen no later than September 20 so we may order your book.

ATTENDANCE

Sundays at 9:30 am

August 2.....	---	Facebook Liv	12
August 9.....	83	Facebook Live.....	15
August 16.....	78	Facebook Live.....	14
August 23.....	93	Facebook Live.....	14

Saturdays at 5:30 pm

August 1.....	9	August 8.....	8
August 15.....	14	August 22.....	8

It's time to mark your calendar for our fall retreat scheduled for **Oct. 2 - 4** at Mar-Lu-Ridge. We are hoping to have women of all ages join us for all or part of the weekend!

Our weekend will be a time of fellowship, study, worship, and good fun.



We will once again use a Bible Study from the Women of the ELCA Gathering magazine as a theme for our weekend. This year we'll explore "I am Worthy..."

- *I am created in God's image. (No matter what anyone else says). (Genesis 1:26)
- *I am more than one thing (studying various women in the Bible including Mary—the mother of Jesus, Mary Magdalene, Ruth, Esther and Anna)
- *I am because you are. (1 Corinthians 12:12).

But we do more than Bible study! You'll have an afternoon free to explore the area (Harpers' Ferry, Frederick, wineries, antique shops, etc.) or just rest and enjoy some quiet time in nature. We play cards and board games, watch movies, and enjoy campfires. It's a weekend of fellowship and personal refreshment!

The lodge has access for all abilities (elevator and better accessibility). There are still individual rooms (sleeping 1 or 2 people) each with a private bathroom. Best of all? Linens and all meals are PROVIDED! Cost for this year is yet TBD (check weekly bulletins for updates) as we want EVERYONE to be able attend no matter the cost!

To register and for more information, contact Deb Sowers (debsowers@gmail.com). Remember that all are welcome whether or not a St. Paul's member!

Christian Education

Corner

RALLY DAY! Our Faith Formation classes will resume on Sept. 20! We'll gather together in Fellowship Hall for an Opening together and then separate as our individual Faith Formation groups for a short lesson.

CHILDREN: As our summer winds down, we're looking forward to

learning TOGETHER during Faith Formation time each week.

Starting after Rally Day, children who are preK through **grade 6** will meet each week in the Gathering Room (upstairs in the Education wing) following worship. We'll have a snack and opening together before separating into age groups for more learning. Learning groups are **preK through grade 2** and **grades 3-6**. Once a month, youth in grades 6 meet for Confirmation instruction (schedule shared with interested families).

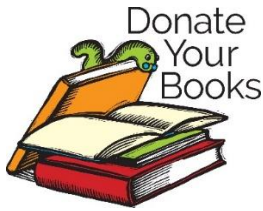
This year we will continue using the Whirl curriculum from Sparkhouse Digital.



YOUTH: We'll begin our new year of Confirmation ministry together on Rally Day, Sept. 20th (following worship). Any youth interested in learning more about affirming their baptism are invited to join us to learn more about our faith! Although targeted to youth in grades 6 and older, ANY INTERESTED YOUTH is invited to join us at any time. Contact Pastor Jason or Deb Sowers (Christian Education chairperson) for more information.

Adults: The "Daily Discipleship" group will meet weekly starting on Rally Day, Sept. 20th. We are looking for one more adult volunteer who would be willing to facilitate this group, serving once a month. Thank you to Russ Kaltreider, Linda Zellers, and Daniel Blake for already volunteering! Contact Deb Sowers (Christian Ed. chairperson) to volunteer to join the team.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY FOR THE FALL Do you feel like a weary traveler? Are you overburdened by the weight of carrying too many overpacked bags as you travel through life? Join us for a six-week Tuesday evening book study facilitated by Gay Dickson beginning **Oct. 6 at 7 pm**. The group will read and discuss *Traveling Light—Releasing the Burdens You Were Never Intended to Bear* by Max Lucado. Sign up on the sheet by the Pastor's Office or contact the Church Office **no later than Sept. 20** so that we may order your book.



MEN IN MISSION BOOK SALE

The time is here to donate those used books on your shelf to the Men in Mission Used Book Sale. All donations may be placed in our Fellowship Hall next to the stage. If assistance is needed, please call the church office. The sale will be held on Friday, October 16th 9am – 3pm and Saturday, October 17th 9am – 12 pm. All books, DVD's, CD's, and puzzles with no missing pieces and in good condition, are accepted. Please no magazines or reference books.

All funds collected are used to support our youth and other projects.

ST. PAUL'S USED BOOK SALE



Friday, Oct. 16

9 AM – 3 PM

Saturday, Oct. 17th

9 AM – 12 PM

Proceeds benefit Youth Programs

We will begin collecting books September 1st and can be placed on the stage in the Fellowship hall. Books, DVD's, and Puzzles are accepted.



THANK YOU!

Thank you to our congregation for making it possible for us to attend Family Camp in August through our Adventures in Ministry endowment! We learned about being clothed in kindness, calmness, humility, steadfastness, forgiveness, and, most importantly, love. Relationships were strengthened and renewed!

We also appreciate the support for others

to be able to attend camp throughout the summer!



Come Visit



Cub Scout Pack 102

Thursday evening

September 10th

6:30 to 7:30

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

127 York Street

Hanover

We offer programs for boys and girls
from K through 5th grade.

Adventure Filled Journey

Camping * Hiking * Fishing * Learn New Skills

Pinewood Derby

Contact

Cubmaster Garth Mays @ gbm1@hotmail.com

or Terry Mays @ telee1959@hotmail.com

ST. PAUL'S EVANGEL

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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
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pdyeisier06@gmail.com - 717-634-4025

Reverend Jack R. Hoffman – Pastor Emeritus

Steven Ruppright – Director of Music
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Lori Rebling – Director of Handbells
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Jaime Spangler – Housekeeper
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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