

## St. Paul's Epistle

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From: St. Paul's Church Enola (stpaulschurchenola@163705962.mailchimpapp.com)

To: stpaulsenola@yahoo.com

Date: Friday, February 7, 2025 at 08:58 AM EST

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### **PASTOR'S PONDERINGS:** *Who is Jesus, and who are we?*

For the most part, the Christmas lights and decorations have long been put away, though some still illuminate our neighborhoods at night. The magi have made their way home after visiting the Holy Family, taking a different route than the way they came and refusing to help King Herod find and kill the baby Messiah.

And now during this season of Epiphany the church begins the challenging task of hearing story after story about who this Jesus is. The magi gave us a glimpse, as they worshipped him and brought him gifts. Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River gave us some ideas too, when he heard God proclaim, "This is my beloved son with whom I am well pleased." The wedding at Cana – Jesus' first miracle (after prompting from his mother) - offers another piece to the puzzle. The first sermon Jesus gives, identifying him as a preacher and prophet, was the gospel lesson two weeks ago, and the hometown crowd seemed "amazed" at his preaching. But then, when Jesus begins to say things that challenge their status as God's Chosen People, the crowds become an angry mob and try to throw Jesus off a cliff – proving the old adage that "you can't go home again."

An Episcopal bishop in Washington, DC was similarly criticized for her comments to our president during a national prayer service last month, and just recently a number of faith-based organizations which provide much-

needed services to the poor, women and children, refugees and the like, had their federal funding put on hold. These organizations were forced to suspend their work and lay off staff. Such are the dangers that one faces when you preach the gospel, take seriously the Golden Rule, or try to follow the teachings of Jesus. Those ideas are not always received with enthusiasm or in the spirit in which they were intended.

Between the magi's visitation and Jesus' transfiguration on the mountain, this season in the church year is designed to give clues to one question: who is Jesus? This question should invite each of us to ask a follow-up question: because of Jesus, who are we?

Who are you? Who is your church? Being clear about our identity is a key stewardship question, my friends, and helps us determine our ministry. When we know who we are as a congregation, we can better identify what God is calling us to do in our particular plot of creation and how we are to steward our time and resources. How do we love, support and care for our neighbor? How and when is it appropriate to speak out against injustice, cruelty and unfair practices? Answers to these and other similar questions will become particularly important as you begin the process of calling a new pastor.

These early days of the year, when we're exploring through the gospel lessons who Jesus is and, through Paul's letter to the Corinthians, what it means to be the church together, are a perfect time for us to also identify who we are. After all, when we're clear about who God is calling us to be, we can then be specifically clear about how God is calling us to be in this world. Let's work together on that.

In Christ,  
*Pastor Gwenn Trout*

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**February 9, 9am**, Fifth Sunday of Epiphany  
**February 16, 9am**, Sixth Sunday of Epiphany  
**February 23, 9am**, Seventh Sunday of Epiphany  
**March 2, 9am**, Transfiguration of our Lord  
Click [HERE](#) to watch live.

Each Sunday's bulletin can be found on our website ([stpaulsenola.org](http://stpaulsenola.org)) the week prior.

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## THANK YOU TO OUR WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	Feb 9	Feb 16	Feb 23	March 2 Transfig.	March 5 Ash Wed	March 9
<b>Asst. Min.</b>	MaryJane	Nick C.	John F.	Deb L.	Nick C.	Keith G.
<b>Lector</b>	Seana M.	Emily B.	Phyllis A.	Wendy C.	John F.	Seana M.
<b>Musician</b>	Micki K.	David B.	Deb R.			
<b>Ushers</b>	Mike P. Darrell M.	Mike P. Darrell M.	Mike P. Darrell M.	Duane J. Drew K.	Duane J. Drew K.	Duane J. Drew K.
<b>Counters</b>	Dan L. Jan A.	Dan L. Trudy G.	Dan L. Judy C.	Keith G. Trudy G.	Keith G. MaryJane	Keith G. Judy C.
<b>Altar s/u</b>	Keith G	Amanda B.	Keith G.	Amanda B.	Keith G.	Amanda B.
<b>Altar c/u</b>	Judy C.	MaryJane	Judy C.	MaryJane	Judy C.	MaryJane M.
<b>Lock-up</b>	Dan L.	Dan L.	Dan L.	Keith G.	Keith G.	Keith G.
<b>Tech</b>	Nick C. / Doug B.					

**Schedule through April** is available [here](#) (subject to change). Printed copies are available in the upper Sunday school room.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

**Adult Sunday School:** Join us in the upper Sunday school room for Adult Sunday School utilizing the book “If God is Love, Don’t be a Jerk” by Jon Pavlovitz.

**Children’s Sunday School** meets THIS SUNDAY, February 9, and February 23, March 9, and March 23.

**Pastoral Care:** Please inform the church office and/or Pastor Gwenn when you or a loved one becomes a patient in the hospital or other health care facility. A phone call or text message to Pastor Gwenn (717-602-9913) will help us respond to you with pastoral care in a more timely manner.

The **2025 Member Directory** is now complete. Copies were emailed and are also available in the narthex and upper Sunday school room. If you have any changes to your information, please contact the church office.

### **Souper Bowl Sunday is THIS Sunday!**

Nationwide churches are marking the day by helping to feed the hungry in our communities. Please show your “spirit” by bringing in lots of canned goods to be donated to New Hope Ministries – Enola.

## **OUR CHURCH HAS NEED OF YOUR GIFTS**

Do you have a heart for worship and want to serve God and uplift our church community? Liturgy means “the work of the people” and we need

help so that worship goes smoothly, is well-planned, grace-filled and provides a spiritual experience for all.

Perhaps you're not sure if you have the skill set needed. Maybe you are worried about having to do it all the time. Or do you think the altar area is only for the pastors and a select few? Whatever has been keeping you from assisting with worship, we're asking you for help. Prayerfully consider sharing your gifts in faith if you:

- Consider yourself technologically gifted
- Are a good reader and like to read out loud
- Can hold a tray or pour wine, and like serving others
- Know how to set a table for a meal
- Enjoy decorating for holidays
- Feel comfortable greeting people before worship
- Know how to light a candle
- Enjoy doing dishes
- Appreciate having our worship space be a welcoming, attractive space

Each role is pretty simple, but very necessary. Don't worry about the rest; we will train you and provide encouragement and help, along with our gracious and supportive congregation. Contact Pastor Gwenn or Ann in the church office indicating your interest. Let's ensure that we have a vibrant, thoughtful worship experience together!



**Saturday, March 1 at 5:00 pm** Join us for a potluck dinner and an evening of fellowship and fun. Bring along your favorite game and a wrapped white elephant gift for one of the games. There will be a sign-up sheet in church.

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## LOOKING TOWARD LENT

The penitential season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5. In addition to worship on the evenings of Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, we will have several opportunities to gather for fellowship and study. On Wednesdays at noon beginning March 12, area churches will host gatherings with a meal (\$5 per person) and speakers on the theme of "Faith Stories." **St. Paul's will host the luncheon on Wednesday, March 19, and we are looking for a team to plan and serve this meal.** These luncheons are sponsored by the Upper West Shore Ecumenical Ministerium. The series will conclude with a Good Friday breakfast and worship at River of God Church. More details will be forthcoming.

On Saturday mornings during Lent, beginning on March 8, we will gather with members of St. Paul's Lutheran in New Cumberland (alternating locations) for a hearty breakfast and study of the scriptures used in Part II of

G. F. Handel's famous oratorio, The Messiah. This study and conversation will help us to hear this beautiful piece of music in a new way.

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**Is this you?** Are you interested in providing occasional support or information about the church to the caterers who rent our kitchen space - and maybe even get samples of their food? If so, we need you to serve as our kitchen coordinator! You will basically be a "back-up" for when Ann is unavailable. Please contact her in the church office to learn more.

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**Facilities Use:** In addition to routine kitchen use by our regular renters, we will occasionally have caterers/businesses using the kitchen on a sporadic basis. We will try to publicize this use. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the church office.

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**Noisy Offering!** Each Sunday you can throw your coins (or dollar bills or checks) in the large cans labeled "Noisy Offering" near the offering plates at the entrances. Won't be at worship? Send a check to the church with a notation that it's for the noisy offering. All monies received through the end of February will be sent to ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response for help with victims of the California wildfires.

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**Be an active Christian!** As we begin a new year, we encourage you to seek out ways to be an active Christian! Below are many different ways you can become as active as you choose to be and support the many ministries of St. Paul's. We challenge you to try something new.

Congregation Council ~ Audit Committee ~ Call Committee

Cemetery Committee ~ Christian Education Committee

Fellowship Committee ~ Finance Committee ~ Nominating Committee

Property Committee ~ Social Ministry Committee ~ Stewardship Committee

Worship & Music Committee ~ Altar Guild ~ Offering Counter ~ Usher

Assisting Minister ~ Lector ~ Worship A/V Team ~ Acolyte

Kitchen Coordinator ~ Prayer Chain ~ Sewing Group

Sunday School teacher (adult or youth) ~ Vacation Bible School

Let Pastor Gwenn or the church office know what you are interested in. Or click [HERE](#) for the Member Interest Form that you can print, complete, and return to the church office via the offering plate, giving to Pastor Gwenn, or mailing to the church. Descriptions of the above are also found on this form.

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## **CLEAN OUT THOSE CLOSETS!**

We are hosting a **Lenten clothing drive** for Community Aid that kicks off on March 5, Ash Wednesday. We are a community partner with Community Aid and they are in need of clothing and shoes (particularly men/women sizes). Our goal is for each family to donate a minimum of 40 items (clothing and/or shoes) over the 40 days of Lent. Donations can be dropped at church or at Community Aid. Any time you donate to Community Aid, please give them our number (or attach it to your donation) - #10151. Community Aid will send us a check based on the number of pounds donated in our name.

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## **NEWS FROM NEW HOPE**

*Recently, a guest at New Hope Ministries shared her inspiring journey. After facing difficult times and turning to us for support, we walked beside her as she worked to regain stability. With our guidance, she managed her bills and secured a job with a company she truly loves. Now, after four months of steady employment, this is what she shared: "[My employer] has been an excellent company to work for. It's a win-win opportunity for me—I get paid for helping someone, and it gives Me warm fuzzies because I feel like I'm really making a difference in someone else's life. Thank you for helping me and for all you do for others!"*

**Proverbs 3:5-6** says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

**Volunteer!** There are numerous volunteer opportunities available. Please give them a call, or visit their website at [www.nhm-pa.org](http://www.nhm-pa.org) to see how you can be a part of the ministry.

**Need Help?** If you or someone you know needs help with food or dealing with a financial crisis, please contact them at (717) 432-2087

### **Food Pantry Wish List:**

- Canned meats and peanut butter
- Canned veggies/fruit
- Personal care items

Or, check the website for specific needs by Center.

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### **Konde Companionship Event**

*Sponsored by the Lower Susquehanna Synod Konde Diocese Committee*  
**Sunday, February 23, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.,**  
**Advent Lutheran Church, 1775 E. Market St., York**

Join us on February 23rd to deepen relationships with our companion congregations. This event brings a mixture of inspiration, practical information, and engaging activities. Members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in York will share highlights from their recent trip and offer valuable tips for traveling to the Konde Diocese. You can also participate in breakout sessions with hands-on activities like sign painting, as well as conversations on the 5K Mbeya fundraiser, traveling to Tanzania, and supporting the Widow's Fund and women in ministry. Light, Tanzanian-inspired refreshments will be served.

When St. Paul's and Zion merged, St. Paul's agreed to take on the continuing relationship with our partner congregation in the Konde Diocese, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. The name of the church is Lukasi Lutheran, and its pastor is Atuganile Mwakitalima (pictured above). The congregation has both a cocoa plantation and an avocado plantation which bring in much-needed funding. Before the merger, Zion made gifts to them to provide a motorcycle (for the pastor and evangelist to make trips to their several satellite congregations), seeds for their plantations, and funds to complete construction and provide furnishings for their new parsonage.

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**Summer Camp** - It's not too soon to start planning! Programs are available for all ages at Kirchenwald and Nawakwa. For more information click [HERE](#).

#### **Camp Nawakwa Recruiting Summer Staff**

Outdoor ministry sites are in full recruitment mode, and Camp Nawakwa still has a few open positions to fill for this summer. Please consider identifying a couple of college-age students or late high school students who might be considering a fun summer job in the outdoors. Salary, plus lodging and meals, with most Friday and Saturday nights off. To learn more or to make application, visit: <https://www.lutherancamping.org/employment/>. Kelsey Tomlinson, [ktomlinson@lutherancamping.org](mailto:ktomlinson@lutherancamping.org), the new Nawakwa Camp

Director is happy to chat with possible candidates and to explore ways you can assist them with their summer programming needs.

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feb. 22, 2025  
it's cold out there  
#cnoy

Click [HERE](#) to register to walk 2k/5k (1 mile/3 miles), whether at a main event, or offsite with your team to support [Community Cares](#). Registration starts at 4pm, walk begins at 5pm.

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**Next Council Meeting: 02/10,  
6:30pm**

[January Meeting Materials](#)

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

### February

3 Aleah Lumby  
6 Justin Mitchell  
8 Carole Jane Sutch  
12 Gabriel Stitzel  
14 Ann Gilbert  
14 Lisa Hunsicker  
14 Patricia Shaffer  
16 Donna Lubold  
17 Doug Bowers  
18 Deborah Loope  
24 Barbara Hunter  
25 Kenneth Getz, Jr.  
27 Lance Diehl

### March

1 Betsy Treharne  
2 Larry Ross  
4 Bill Morrow  
7 Gerald Kirkessner  
7 Shirley Wiest  
8 Bonnie Carswell  
10 Steve Hoffmaster  
12 Lana Stitzel  
16 Judy Hauck  
17 Mason Miller  
18 Brian Verchick  
20 David Hultberg  
21 Linda Morrow  
23 Scott Maier  
30 Kaylin Vardzik

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Kody, Jay, Bill, Jerry, Doug, Jerry, Doug, Jordan,  
Christian, Naoma, Andy D., Andrea G., Jim,  
Linda, Marcia, Barbara H., Stew H., Jack,  
Richard, Alice, Shirley, Bob E., Chris, Carole Jane



***Please let the church office know if anyone you've placed on the prayer list can be removed.***

**ONGOING LONG-TERM PRAYER REQUESTS**

Elizabeth D., Sheree H., Tim M., Doris & Stew,  
Terrie J., Boden R., Pastor Anne, Pastor Pam

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**If you have any news you would like to share in the Epistle,  
please email or call the church office.**

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Remember to mention St. Paul's ID #10151 when you donate clothing, shoes, accessories, electronics, toys and household goods.

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**AN EASY WAY OF GIVING**

Scan the QR code with your phone to quickly and easily give to the church.

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St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
The Reverend Gwenn L. Trout, Interim Pastor  
Ann M. Gottlieb, Office Manager (office hours T/Th 9am-3pm)  
Nicholas Cekovich, Director of Music  
Jack Yinger, Sexton



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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