

# St. Paul's Epistle

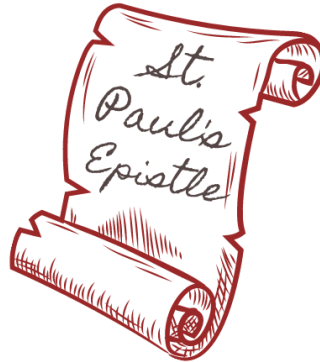
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From: St. Paul's Church Enola (stpaulschurchenola@163705962.mailchimpapp.com)

To: stpaulsenola@yahoo.com

Date: Friday, January 30, 2026 at 04:38 PM EST

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## **PASTOR'S PONDERINGS**

February 2026: *On the Precipice of Lent (and Spring!)*

We survived a big snow storm and days and days of cold weather (which seem never-ending)! Now, as we look forward to Groundhog Day on February 2 and (at least some of us) cross our fingers that Punxsutawney Phil will forecast an early Spring, in church we look ahead to the season of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18.

As always, Lent is a 40-day reminder that it is God who saves. This year's cycle of lessons gives us great Old Testament stories about God and God's people, from the first sins committed in the Garden of Eden to the grumbling of the Israelites about the lack of water and how God provides water from a rock. We stand with Ezekiel in the Valley of the Dry Bones looking for God, and we are reminded with Abram and Sarai of the eternal, everlasting covenants God made/makes with God's people.

Our gospel lessons are equally revealing, reminding us of God's saving graces. We join Nicodemus in learning that in Jesus we are reborn. We join the Samaritan woman at the well in understanding God's unconditional love for her and all of God's children. We stand with the blind man in receiving God's healing of body and restoration to beloved community, and rejoice with Mary and Martha as Jesus resurrects their brother Lazarus from the grave. In all the stories of this Lenten season, we remember that God is ever with us.

During Holy Week, we join the crowds in glad jubilation - and desperate hope - as we declare, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one

who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” (Matt. 21:9). We sit with the disciples in the Upper Room as Jesus declares, “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.” (John 13:34) And on Good Friday, we stand at the foot of the cross in awe with the centurion who exclaims at Jesus’ death, “Truly this man was God’s Son!” (Matt. 27:54).

As I was reminded recently by a news commentator wearing a sweater with the words, “Democracy is not a spectator sport” embroidered on it, we are reminded that the season of Lent is an invitation from God that requires a response. It is not a response to “choose salvation”; as Lutherans, we know we don’t have to feel such pressure! Instead, it is the response of a heart overflowing with gratitude as we continually encounter Jesus, who was willing to go to all lengths to redeem us.

Right now, and at all times, in all places and in all circumstances, we need to be reminded that God is at work redeeming the world and inviting us into a deeper relationship and ministry with God. Like the many who encountered Jesus, we need to be open to how God is at work in our lives. Perhaps the woman at the well said it best: “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” (John 4:29). Of course, he can – and is. Come and see.

*Pastor Gwenn Trout*

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**February 1, 9am**, 4th Sunday of Epiphany  
**February 9, 9am**, 5th Sunday of Epiphany  
**February 15, 9am**, Transfiguration of Our Lord  
**February 18, 7pm**, Ash Wednesday  
**February 22, 9am**, 1st Sunday of Lent  
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 1	Feb 8	Feb 15 Transfig.	Feb 18 Ash Wed	Feb 22	Mar 1
<b>Presider</b>	Pr Gwenn	Pr Gwenn	Pr Gwenn	Pr Gwenn	Pr Zimmann	Pr Gwenn
<b>Asst. Min.</b>	John F.	MaryJane	Debbie L.	Keith G.	Nick C.	Debbie L.
<b>Lector</b>	Phyllis A.	Keith G.	Steve H.	Debbie L.	Wendy C.	Dan L.
<b>Musician</b>	Wendy C.	Deb R.	Micki K.			Micki K.
<b>Ushers</b>	Steve H. Drew K.	Steve H. Drew K.	Steve H. Drew K.	Steve H. Drew K.	Steve H. Drew K.	Mike S. Mike P.
<b>Counters</b>	John F. Judy C.	John F. Jan A.	John F. MaryJane	John F. Dan L.	John F. Trudy G.	Dan L. Mike S.
<b>Altar s/u</b>	MaryJane	Keith G.	Amanda B.	MaryJane	Judy H.	Amanda B.
<b>Altar c/u</b>	Judy H.	Judy C.	MaryJane	Judy C.	Judy H.	Deb S.
<b>Lock-up</b>	John F.	John F.	John F.	John F.	John F.	Dan L.
<b>Tech</b>	Nick C. / Doug B.					

**Schedule through March 2026** is available [here](#) (subject to change).

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

**Adult:** We continue a new discussion series using the book “He Chose the Nails: What God Did to Win Your Heart” by Max Lucado. Please join us in the gathering room following coffee hour.

**Children:** Children’s Sunday School meets February 1, 8, 15 & 22, and March 1, 8 & 15.

**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.

**NOISEY OFFERING:** Continuing through February, change (or bills/checks) donated in the noisy offering cans will go to the Central PA Food Bank. Thank you for contributing!

**OUR PRAYERS** and the comfort of the Christian faith are extended to the loved ones of Pearl Lehmer, former St. Paul’s member, who died on January 22. Visitation, with service and burial to follow, will be held at St. Paul’s on Monday, February 2, at 10:00 a.m.

**ANNUAL REPORT:** Committee chairpersons – please submit your report for the annual congregational report to the office by February 3.

**“MARDI GRAS” FAMILY FUN NIGHT:** Come one, come all to this annual evening of fun for all ages on Saturday, February 7 at 5pm. Bring a dish to share & a gift for the white elephant (crazy bingo) gift exchange. A sign-up sheet is in the gathering room.

**TEAM JERSEY/GEAR DAY:** Show your support for your favorite sports teams (football or otherwise) on Super Bowl Sunday, February 8 by wearing your favorite team jersey, t-shirt, sweatshirt or whatever! February 8 is also **SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY**, so be sure to purchase and bring all of your cans of soup by that day. Will the members of St. Stephen’s in New Kingstown be more motivated than St. Paul’s members to feed the hungry? Challenge accepted!

**ROLLER SKATING PARTY** hosted by St. Mark Lutheran Church, Mechanicsburg, on Monday, February 2, 6-8pm at the Olympic Skating Center, 60 E. Shady Ln, Enola. Admission will be covered; roller and in-line skates available to rent.

### **LENT DINNER CHURCH**

**Wednesdays in Lent beginning February 25, 6:00 pm.**

Join us on the Wednesdays in Lent beginning February 25 at 6:00 pm for light supper, singing of Holden Evening Prayer, holy communion, and discussion under the theme of Learning to Live and Love in Community. A sign-up sheet to provide soup and other food items each week is in the gathering space. The members of St. Stephen Lutheran, New Kingstown will be joining us weekly, and they have graciously agreed to provide the meal on Wednesday, March 4.

### **UPCOMING**

**Feb 7:** Family Fun Night, 5pm

**Feb 8:** Souper/Super Bowl Sunday – wear your favorite team gear or jersey!

**Feb 9:** Synod Call Committee meeting, 7pm via zoom

**Feb 11:** Christian Ed Committee meeting, 7pm via zoom

**Feb 16:** Council meeting, 6:30 pm

**Feb 18:** Ash Wednesday Worship, 7pm

**Feb 25:** Lent Dinner Church, 6pm @ St. Paul's (meal hosted by St. Stephen)

### **UPPER WEST SHORE ECUMENICAL MINISTERIUM GATHERINGS FOR LENT 2026**

All Christians are invited to gather at noon on the Wednesdays in March to enjoy a light lunch and a brief devotional service centered on the theme of "Guess Who's Coming to Worship?" A suggested donation of \$5 will be collected by each host church to cover lunch, and both monetary donations and donations of food items will be collected for New Hope Ministries. Our series concludes on Good Friday, April 3 as we gather for breakfast at River of God Church (Doors open at 8:30 AM; breakfast served at 9:00 AM, followed by the brief devotional service). A free-will offering will be received to defray the cost of the breakfast. Below is the schedule for the 2026 gatherings. All are welcome.

**Wednesday, March 4 @ St. Paul's Lutheran Church,\* noon**  
The Woman at the Well - John 4:1-42  
Pastor Gwenn Trout

**Wednesday, March 11 @ River of God Church, noon**  
The Paralyzed Man - Matthew 9:1-8; Mark 2:2-11; Luke 5:17-26  
Pastors Tim Halbfoerster & Anthony Pallotta

**Wednesday, March 18 @ West Shore Church of the Brethren, noon**  
The Bent Woman - Luke 13:10-17

Pastors Keith & Beth Nunamaker

**Wednesday, March 25 @ Enola First Church of God, noon**  
The Rich Young Ruler - Matthew 19:16-22; Mark 10:17-22; Luke 18:18-23  
Pastor George Jensen

**Friday, April 3 @ River of God Church, 8:30 a.m. (doors open)**  
Simon of Cyrene - Matthew 27:27-37; Mark 15:1-46; Luke 23:26-56  
Pastors Tim Halbfoerster & Anthony Pallotta

**\* Please note that St. Paul's is hosting this first luncheon. Help is needed to provide soup, sandwich items and desserts and to serve that day. A sign up sheet is in the gathering space.**

**FACILITIES USE:** The church kitchen was recently professionally cleaned (thanks to Jeff A. for arranging). Steps are being implemented with our renters to ensure that the kitchen remains adequately clean. Thanks also to members of the property committee who will be repairing the cabinet & drawer facing/trim on January 31 (their workday).

The kitchen passed its state food safety inspection on January 8. Then last week our freezer & refrigerator broke down. Thanks to Keith & Jeff for cleaning out the defrosted food/mess. The Property Committee has purchased new ones - thanks to everyone involved in keeping the kitchen up & running!

Rentals in 2025 brought in over \$6,400, some of which was received in 2026. We expect 2026 revenues to be even higher, as more approved renters get their businesses established. If you have questions or concerns about the kitchen rental process, please contact Ann in the church office.

Feb 6: Kitchen: JenBel Haitian Bakery, 9am-6pm

Feb 7: Kitchen: Thrice Onigiri, 5-8:30am

Feb 9 - 12: JenBel Haitian Bakery, 9am-3:30pm

Feb 16 - 19: JenBel Haitian Bakery, 9am-3:30pm



**Next Council Meeting: 02/16,  
6:30pm**

[Jan 2026 Meeting Materials](#)

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

### **February**

6 Justin Mitchell  
8 George Brougher  
8 Carole Jane Sutch

### **March (continued)**

7 Shirley Wiest  
8 Bonnie Carswell  
10 Steve Hoffmaster

12 Gabriel Stitzel  
14 Lisa Hunsicker  
16 Donna Lubold  
17 Doug Bowers  
18 Deborah Loope  
25 Kenneth Getz, Jr.

12 Lana Stitzel  
16 Judy Hauck  
17 Mason Miller  
18 Brian Verchick  
21 Linda Morrow  
23 Scott Maier  
30 Kaylin Vardzik

**March**

1 Betsy Treharne  
2 Larry Ross  
4 Bill Morrow  
7 Gerald Kirkessner

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**PRAYER LIST**

***Names will remain on the list for one month, unless requested otherwise.***

Elizabeth Diehl, Steve Hoffmaster, Boden Reynolds, Pastor Anne-Rose Reeves, Jim Berrier, Linda Frymire, Barbara & Stew Hardy, Carole Jane Sutch, Shirley Wiest, Trudy Getz, Kristen Hardman, Judy Gottlieb, Bob Enders, Sharon Colvin, Jeff Holman, Tonya G, James Furlow, Mike Stoner, Emersyn Barker, Paula Unger, Nila Stewart., Earl Fogal, Micki Kautz, and the loved ones of Pearl Lehmer.

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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.



**AN EASY WAY OF GIVING**

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



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



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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