

St. Paul's Epistle

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

To: stpaulsenola@yahoo.com

Date: Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 03:53 PM EST



PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

March 2026: SEASONS CHANGE

“For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven.”
(Ecclesiastes 3:1)

I suspect that even Winter lovers are a bit ready for Spring. Am I right? Well, either way, Spring will arrive March 20-21 with the Spring equinox. I love that the days are getting longer, the temperatures a bit warmer, and somewhere beneath that blanket of snow the Spring flower bulbs are getting ready to burst into bloom. I've already seen fat robins foraging for food, so their building a nest underneath my deck won't be far behind. Even the flame from the Winter Olympics has been extinguished (what a great two weeks of sportsmanship was on display!) as athletes from the Summer Games prepare for 2028 in Los Angeles and winter sports in the French Alps in four years, 2030. And, Daylight Savings Time begins on March 8!

We've just changed seasons in the church year as well, leaving the brilliant light of Epiphany for the more subdued strains of Lent. We buried our ALLELUIAS for a time and are spending these 40+ days focusing on our sinfulness and repentance before God. The scripture lessons we hear in worship remind us that it is God who saves, yet we are compelled to respond with hearts overflowing with gratitude. In our adult forum sessions from Max Lucado's book, *He Chose the Nails: What God Did to Win Your Heart*, we turn our attention to the impact that Christ's sacrifices make for our everyday lives as disciples. During our Lent Dinner Church sessions, our focus is on living and loving in community. And those who join us for the Ministerium's Wednesday noon luncheons will hear *Stories of Faith* from the New Testament.

All of these varied activities are designed to help us to discover new ways to bring us closer to God and to love and serve our neighbors.

In a recent message to his beloved church, Pope Leo XIV described Lent as a sacred opportunity to renew faith by placing God back at the center of daily life. He encouraged believers to immerse themselves in sacred Scripture, to respond attentively to the cry of the poor, and to examine not only their actions but also their speech.

"I would like to invite you to a very practical and frequently unappreciated form of abstinence," he said: "that of refraining from words that offend and hurt our neighbor. Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgement, refraining from slander and speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves. Instead, let us strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness and respect in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media, in political debates, in the media and in Christian communities. In this way, words of hatred will give way to words of hope and peace."

It was announced recently that we are still looking for a female to serve as a voting member for synod assembly, which will be held Friday and Saturday, June 5 & 6 at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in York. Both days begin at 9:00 am and conclude by 5:30 pm (earlier on Saturday), and registration and meals are paid by the congregation. If you are interested in serving with our other voting member, Larry Staaby, see president John Frymire or Pastor Gwenn.

Just as the various aspects of God's creation change as the seasons change, I pray that we may each be changed as we live into and embrace this season of Lent.

In Christ,
Pastor Gwenn Trout



March 1, 9am, 2nd Sunday of Lent
March 8, 9am, 3rd Sunday of Lent
March 15, 9am, 4th Sunday of Lent
March 22, 9am, 5th Sunday of Lent
March 29, 9am, Passion/Palm Sunday
April 2, 7pm, Maundy Thursday
April 3, 7pm, Good Friday
April 4, 7:30pm, Easter Vigil (in pavilion)
April 5, 6:45am, Easter Sunrise (outside)
April 5, 9am, Easter Festival
Click [HERE](#) to watch live.

Each Sunday's bulletin can be found on our website (stpaulsenola.org) the week prior.

THANK YOU TO OUR WORSHIP ASSISTANTS!

	Mar 1	Mar 8	Mar 15	Mar 22	Mar 29 Palm Sun
Presider	Pr Gwenn	Pr Gwenn	Pr Klepetka	Pr Klepetka	Pr Gwenn
Asst. Min.	Debbie L.	John F.	MaryJane M	Keith G.	Nick C.
Lector	Dan L.	Seana M.	John F.	Larry S.	Phyllis A.
Musician	Carolyn H.	Carolyn H.	Abby B.	Carolyn H.	Carolyn H.
Ushers	Mike S. Mike P.	Mike S. Mike P.	Mike S. Mike P.	Mike S. Mike P.	Mike S. Mike P.
Counters	Dan L. Mike S.	Dan L. Deb S.	Dan L. Judy C.	Dan L. Mike S.	Dan L. Deb S.
Altar s/u	Amanda B.	MaryJane M	Deb S.	Deb S.	Amanda B.
Altar c/u	Deb S.	Judy C.	Deb S.	Deb S.	MaryJane M.
Lock-up	Dan L.	Dan L.	Dan L.	Dan L.	Dan L.
Tech	Nick C. / Doug B.				

Schedule through August 2026 is available [here](#) (subject to change). **Additional Lectors Are Needed** for Palm/Passion Sunday (3/29), Good Friday (4/3) and Easter Vigil (4/5). If you are interested in volunteering, contact Pastor Gwenn.



LENT DINNER CHURCH

Join us in fellowship hall at 6pm on Wednesdays in Lent 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 and have graciously agreed to provide the meal on Wednesday, March 4.

**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 "Stories of Faith?" 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 - Pastor Gwenn Trout

Wednesday, March 11 @ River of God Church, noon
The Paralyzed Man - Pastors Tim Halbfoerster & Anthony Pallotta

Wednesday, March 18 @ West Shore Church of the Brethren, noon
The Bent Woman - Pastors Keith & Beth Nunamaker

Wednesday, March 25 @ Enola First Church of God, noon
The Rich Young Ruler - Pastor George Jensen

Friday, April 3 @ River of God Church, 8:30 a.m. (doors open)
Simon of Cyrene - 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.**

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 March 8, 15, 22 & 29 (Easter Egg Hunt); April 12 & 26; May 3, 17, & 24; and June 7.

Pastor Gwenn will be on vacation March 15-21. The Rev. Dione Klepetka will serve as our preacher/presider on March 15 & 22. Pastor Jennifer Richards, St. Paul, New Cumberland, will be available for pastoral emergencies. She can be reached at 646-591-5440.

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.

NOISY OFFERING: In March and April all change (bills, checks) put in our noisy offering cans will go to Heifer International. Click on the [link](#) for more information. January/February change brought \$130 for the Central PA Food Bank. Thank you for contributing!

LENTEN HELP NEEDED: Please see the sign-up sheets in the gathering space for how you can help with our weekly dinner church (beginning Wednesday, Feb. 25) and the Ministerium luncheon on Wednesday, March 4. Thanks to Judy Cryder for coordinating this luncheon! Also, lectors and assisting ministers are needed for our Lenten Dinner Church. Contact Pastor Gwenn to volunteer.

40 DAYS OF GIVING: During the 40 days of Lent, we challenge everyone to donate 40 items to New Hope Ministries. Food or personal care items – it all

counts the same! A collection bin is in the gathering room. Sponsored by the Social Ministry Committee.

EASTER EGG HUNT: Our annual egg hunt will be held during Sunday school hour (approximately 10:30 am) on Sunday, March 29.

Candy Donations: please grab a bag of candy during your next shopping trip to help fill eggs for the egg hunt. There is a collection bin in the gathering room.

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY canned good collection competition with St. Stephen Lutheran brought in a total of 423 cans of soup (St. Stephen 144, St. Paul's 279) for New Hope Ministries! There are no losers in this contest of goodwill, just a healthy competition. Way to go St. Paul's! Thank you to everyone who donated.

UPCOMING

Feb 28: Property Committee workday (all welcomed & appreciated!), 7:30am

Mar 4: Ministerium Lent Luncheon, noon, hosted by St. Paul's

Mar 4: Lenten Dinner Church, 6pm @ St. Paul's (hosted by St. Stephen)

Mar 9: Council meeting, 6:30pm

Mar 9: Call Committee Synod meeting, via Zoom, 7pm

Mar 15-21: Pastor Gwenn on vacation

Mar 16: Christian Education Committee meeting, 7pm via Zoom

Mar 29: Easter Egg Hunt, approximately 10:30am (Sunday School hour)

Mar 31: Property Committee meeting, 7pm

FACILITIES USE

Mar 2, 3 & 5: JenBel Haitian Bakery, 9am-3:30pm

Mar 11, 18 & 25: Iron Kettle Soup Co., 9am-noon

Apr 4: Exclusively Yours Catering, 9am-4pm

Apr 8, 15, 22 & 29: Iron Kettle Soup Co., 9am-noon

Apr 12: Thrice Onigiri, 5-8:30am

Apr 19: Exclusively Yours Catering, 10am-4pm



REQUEST FROM THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE: We are sincerely grateful to all who volunteer to help with the manual labor that needs to be done, and we understand that not everyone is physically able to assist in this way. However, there are expenses that we incur because we cannot do the work ourselves. In this case, financial support is needed to hire outside entities to complete these tasks. If you feel God's blessing to help monetarily, the church would be grateful for any contribution you can make to help defray our never-ending maintenance costs. We just had to replace the refrigerator and freezer in the kitchen for \$2,926.25. We also had to replace siding that recently blew off the wall above the elevator and a piece of soffit along the roof. This cost will be approximately \$1,000. These were not planned expenditures but needed to be addressed promptly. Any financial assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Equipping the Saints: A Workshop for Congregation Council Officers

Saturday, March 14, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

St. Peter Lutheran Church, 130 Nittany Drive, Mechanicsburg

Congregation council officers play a vital role in the shared leadership of our congregations. This half-day workshop is designed to support, encourage, and equip congregation presidents, vice presidents, treasurers, and

secretaries as they serve their faith communities. The workshop will be led by our synod's officers, Bishop Stephen Herr, Vice President Jennifer Lau, Treasurer Joseph Stepansky, and Synod Secretary Cynthia Kelbaugh, who will offer practical resourcing for your ministry. Join fellow leaders from across our synod for a morning of learning and connection.

Who should attend: Congregation council presidents, vice presidents, treasurers, and secretaries (and those preparing to serve in these roles). Participants are encouraged to bring a copy of their congregation's constitution, if available, though this is not required.

Register by Friday, March 6. While there is no cost to you for the workshop, a freewill offering will be received to help offset the cost of lunch. Learn more or register [HERE](#).

Lutheran Camping Corp. Recruiting Summer Staff

Our outdoor ministry sites are in full recruitment mode, and our camps still have a few open positions to fill for this summer. Please consider identifying a couple of college-aged 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, make this a great summer job choice. Kelsey Tomlinson, ktomlinson@lutherancamping.org, at Camp Nawakwa and Zach Weiss, zweiss@lutherancamping.org, at Camp Kirchenwald, are happy to chat with potential candidates and to explore ways you can assist them with their summer programming needs. For more information, visit the LCC [website](#).

Join us for LWR National Quilting Day!

We invite you to participate in the Lutheran World Relief National Quilting Day on March 21, 2026 at Zion Lutheran Church, 411 Klinger Church Road, Lykens (Erdman). The event will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. You may participate at any time, or all day! Refreshments and lunch will be provided. Supplies will be provided to make 15 quilts for LWR. You are also welcome to bring your own supplies and work on your own LWR projects. Please RSVP to Molly Wirick at mollyaw@comcast.net so we can plan accordingly.



**Next Council Meeting: 03/9,
6:30pm**

Feb 2026 Meeting Materials

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

April

5 Deb Stoner
8 Galen Witmer
9 Judith Cryder
13 Jordan Boehm
13 John Frymire
15 Lisa Foore
16 Tara Reed
20 Steve Casella

17 Mason Miller
18 Brian Verchick
21 Linda Morrow
23 Scott Maier
30 Kaylin Vardzik

20 MaryJane McMillan
23 Lucas Reed
27 Stew Trout

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

March 20: Chris Frampton & Wendy Menard
April 6: Carol & Jay Umbrell
April 8: Sherry & Dave Reynolds

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, 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, Jerry Rettig, and Bonnie Sweger.

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



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.



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.
