

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

A Community of Faith for 242 Years

Sunday, January 11, 2026



1185 Summer Hill Road, Auburn, PA 17922

Pastor: Rev. Marie Meeks, Cell: 716-353-1610

Church Office Phone: 570-754-7350

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9am–2pm; Closed Friday

Church Email: stpaulsummerhill@gmail.com

Website: www.SummerHillLutheran.org

Facebook: St Paul Lutheran Church, Summer Hill

Sunday, January 11, 2026

Baptism of Our Lord

Holy Communion

*stand +kneel

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE.....“Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart”
by Frederick Atkinson; arr. Mark Hayes and Douglass E Wagner

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P - Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

C - Amen.

P - Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P - Mighty God, lover of justice,

C - you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

P - The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in ☩ Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

C - Amen.

***GATHERING SONG**.....“Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters” (ELW 445)

Wash, O God, our sons and daughters,
Where your cleansing waters flow.
Number them among your people;
Bless as Christ blessed long ago.
Weave them garments bright and sparkling;

Compass them with love and light.
Fill, anoint them, send your Spirit,
Holy dove and heart's delight.

We who bring them long for nurture;
By your milk may we be fed.
Let us join your feast partaking
Cup of blessing, living bread.
God, renew us, guide our footsteps;
Free from sin and all its snares,
One with Christ in living, dying,
By your Spirit, children, heirs.

Oh, how deep your holy wisdom!
Unimagined, all your ways!
To your name be glory, honor!
With our lives we worship, praise!
We your people stand before you,
Water-washed and Spirit born.
By your grace, our lives we offer.
Recreate us; God, transform!

***GREETING**

During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

P - The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the
Holy Spirit be with you all.

C - And also with you.

***KYRIE (ELW p. 138)**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 139)**

Assisting minister

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,

we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.

P - Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

P - O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C - Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 42:1-9

God's servant is endowed with God's spirit in order to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever prevent the fulfilling of the servant's task. God's old promises have been fulfilled; the servant's new assignment is to bring light to the nations.

- ¹ Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
- ² He will not cry out or lift up his voice
or make it heard in the street;
- ³ a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
- ⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth,
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.
- ⁵ Thus says God, the LORD,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
- ⁶ I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness;
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
- ⁷ to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
- ⁸ I am the LORD; that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.
- ⁹ See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

R - The word of the Lord.

C - Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 29 (please read responsively)

¹ Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,

ascribe to the LORD glo-ry and strength.

² **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;**

worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

³ The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

⁴ **The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;**

the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor. R

⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;

the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

⁶ **the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,**

and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

⁷ The voice of the LORD

bursts forth in lightning flashes.

⁸ **The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;**

the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. R

⁹ The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.

And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"

¹⁰ **The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;**

the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.

¹¹ O LORD, give strength to your people;

give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace. **R**

SECOND READING: Acts 10:34-43

Peter crosses the sharp religious boundary separating Jews from Gentiles and proclaims the good news of God's inclusive forgiveness in Jesus' name to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. As a result of Peter's preaching, Cornelius and his family become the first Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

³⁴ Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced:

³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God

was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

R - The word of the Lord.

C - Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 142)**

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia. Alleluia.

***GOSPEL: Matthew 3:13-17**

Before Jesus begins his ministry, he is baptized by John, touched by the Spirit, and identified publicly as God’s child.

P - The holy gospel according to Matthew.

C - Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God’s Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

P - The gospel of the Lord.

C - Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY.....“Wade in the Water” (ELW 459)**

Refrain: Wade in the water,
wade in the water, children,
wade in the water,
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.

1 (See that host all dressed in white,)
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
(the leader looks like the Israelite.)
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. **Refrain**

2 (See that band all dressed in red,)
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
(looks like the band that Moses led.)
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. **Refrain**

3 (Look over yonder, what do I see?)
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
(the Holy Ghost a-coming on me.)
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. **Refrain**

4 (If you don't believe I've been redeemed,)
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water.
(just follow me down to Jordan's stream.)
God's a-goin'-a trouble the water. **Refrain**

INSTALLATION OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL

Those who are being installed may come forward at the conclusion of the hymn of the day.

The assembly is seated. The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

P - The following people have been *elected* by the congregation to positions of leadership. We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these *sisters and brothers* will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.

The presiding minister addresses those being installed.

P - *A reading from First Corinthians:* There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are

varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.
(1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

The presiding minister continues.

P - You have been *elected* to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation. You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church.

You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world.

You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified.

You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

The presiding minister addresses those being installed.

P - On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you: Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices to which you have been *elected*?

Elected Response - I will, and I ask God to help me.

The assembly stands. Those being installed face the assembly. The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

P - People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, your *elected* leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

C - We will, and we ask God to help us.

Those being installed face the presiding minister, who addresses them.

P - I now declare you installed as *council members* of this congregation. Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ.

C - Amen.

***APOSTLES CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to

the dead.* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

+PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

P - As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

A brief silence.

P - Steadfast God, give courage to your servant church. Heal our divisions and unite us in mission. Uphold our lay leaders, missionaries, pastors, and bishops, and all who proclaim hope in a broken world. Merciful God,

C - receive our prayer.

P - Restoring God, cleanse the life-giving waters of rivers, seas, and springs. Create in us an urgent desire to preserve the beauty and bounty of your good creation. Merciful God,

C - receive our prayer.

P - Righteous God, you guide the nations. Reconcile warring enemies and end cycles of violent retribution. Defend the rights of prisoners, detainees, and all who flee from persecution. Sustain international aid workers and peacemakers. Merciful God,

C - receive our prayer.

P - Compassionate God, you care for all in distress. Provide safety and support for those seeking asylum or in need of shelter. Be near to the dying, and comfort all who are grieving or ill. Merciful God,

C - receive our prayer.

P - Loving God, awaken the gifts of the Spirit in this congregation, that we may serve Christ by loving one another, our neighbors, and our enemies. We pray for travelers and those who are homebound. Merciful God,

C - receive our prayer.

P - Promising God, in baptism we die and rise with Christ. We give thanks for those who have gone before us, and we trust that we will join them in your everlasting peace. Merciful God,

C - receive our prayer.

P - Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

C - Amen.

***PEACE**

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

P - The peace of Christ be with you always.

C - And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

The assembly is seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

***PRESENTATION OF OFFERING**

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" (ELW 884)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

P - God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C - Amen.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P - The Lord be with you.

C - And also with you.

P - Lift up your hearts.

C - We lift them to the Lord.

P - Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C - It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***PREFACE (ELW p. 144)**

P - It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 144)**



***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P - Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all. By your powerful word you created all things. Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations. Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light. By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the

brilliance of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C - Amen.

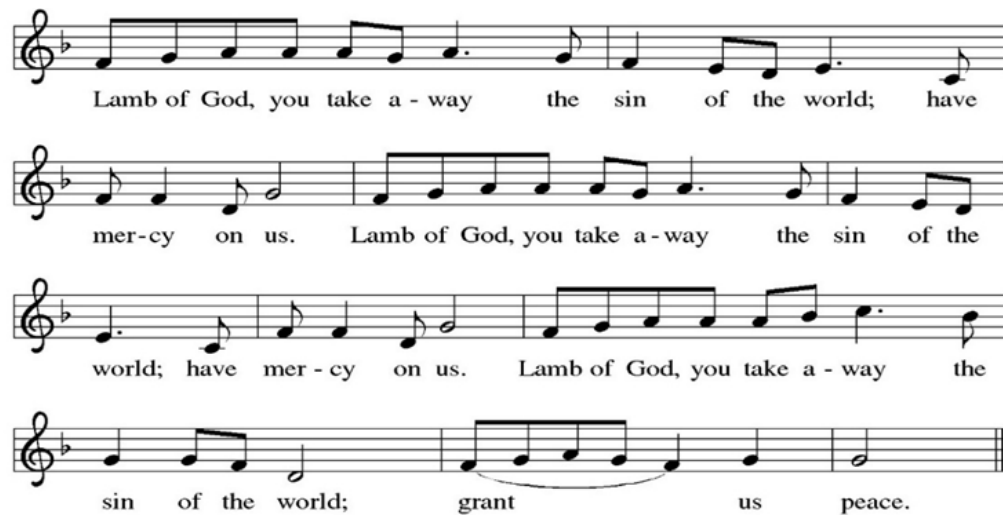
***LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P - Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table; taste and see.

***COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 146)**



COMMUNION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

**P - The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.
and each person may respond**

C - Amen.

The ministers commune either after or before others commune.

***TABLE BLESSING**

The presiding minister says a table blessing, and the assembly responds

P- The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C- Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P - Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C - Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

P - Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are *sick, homebound, and imprisoned*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C - Amen.

***BLESSING**

P - May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise ☩ bless you now and forever.

C - Amen.

***SENDING SONG.....“Oh, Love, How Deep” (ELW 322)**

1 Oh, love, how deep, how broad, how high,
beyond all thought and fantasy,
that God, the Son of God, should take
our mortal form for mortals' sake!

2 God sent no angel to our race,
of higher or of lower place,
but wore the robe of human frame,
in Christ our Lord to this world came.

3 For us baptized, for us he bore
his holy fast and hungered sore;
for us temptation sharp he knew;
for us the tempter overthrew.

4 For us he prayed; for us he taught;
for us his daily works he wrought,
by words and signs and actions thus
still seeking not himself, but us.

5 For us by wickedness betrayed,
for us, in crown of thorns arrayed,
he bore the shameful cross and death;
for us he gave his dying breath.

6 For us he rose from death again;
for us he went on high to reign;
for us he sent his Spirit here
to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

7 All glory to our Lord and God
for love so deep, so high, so broad;
the Trinity whom we adore
forever and forevermore.

***DISMISSAL**

P - Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

C - Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE.....“Postlude on "Deo Gracias"” -arr. by Edward Broughton

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The bulletins are in honor of Trevor Reber's Birthday by Elona Fromm and Wendy Welsh.

Please sign the Friendship Register in your pew. Visitors, or members with a change of address, please complete the address section and telephone number. Visitors may also include the name and address of your home church so they can be notified that you have received communion.

Prayer Requests – Please email or call the church office with your prayer requests. First names only will be used in our worship service that is livestreamed. You may also give names to the person leading service prior to the start of the service.

Faithful Fellowship Time TODAY following worship. Enjoy a tropical brunch to warm your soul! Also, mark your calendar for Sunday, February 15 for a Mardi Gras themed Faithful Fellowship.

Let's have a card shower for Earl Epting who will be 91 on January 19! Please send cards to: 1104 Berne Drive, Auburn, PA 17922

February Newsletter Deadline: Please have all February Newsletter information to the church office by this Thursday, January 15. Thank you!!

Helping Harvest donations will take place the first weekend of every month. This organization has put food trucks in areas to help the needy in place of the closed Pottsville Soup Kitchen.

Pastoral visits and home communions are available at any time. Please call the church office at 570-754-7350 or Pastor Marie at 716-353-1610.

Reminder for hospital visits: The church is not informed by the hospital when someone is admitted. Please call the church to let us know if a pastoral visit is desired.

Attendance January 4, 2026 – 47 in person; 314 online views, 3 share as of January 7, 2026.

The 2026 Weekly giving needed for budget is \$2,951.25.

THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2026

Sunday, January 11

9:15am -Sunday School

10:30am -Worship Service

-Faithful Fellowship brunch (tropical theme)

Thursday, January 15 – February Newsletter deadline

6:00 PM -Bell Choir

Sunday, January 18

9:15am -Sunday School

10:30am -Worship Service

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday, January 12, 2026: Psalm 89:5-37; Genesis 35:1-15; Acts 10:44-48

Tuesday, January 13, 2026: Psalm 89:5-37; Jeremiah 1:4-10; Acts 8:4-13

Wednesday, January 14, 2026: Psalm 89:5-37; Isaiah 51:1-16; Matthew 12:15-21

Thursday, January 15, 2026: Psalm 40:1-11; Isaiah 22:15-25; Galatians 1:6-12

Friday, January 16, 2026: Psalm 40:1-11; Genesis 27:30-38; Acts 1:1-5

Saturday, January 17, 2026: Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Kings 19:19-21; Luke 5:1-11

Sunday, January 11, 2026 – 10:30 AM

Greeter: Kathie Faust

Acolyte: Tobias Lileck

Lector: Troy Hollenbach

Usher: Kathie Faust

Communion Assistant: Wendy Welsh

Counting Team: Wendy Welsh & Brian Staller

Rev. Marie Meeks, Pastor	716-353-1610; Email: preachymarie@gmail.com
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Cindy Brown, Pavilion Sexton	570-345-1279
Stacey Fidler, Church Sexton	570-754-7350
Eva Waldman, Treasurer	570-754-7350

Student Loan Committee email: stpaulsummerhill.studentloan@gmail.com



Keep in your prayers: Richard Paxson, Irene Peiffer, Betty Freeman, Mark Fidler, Helen Runkle, Stephen Curtis, John & Betty Strauch, John Strauch, Jr., Greg Phillips, Jerry Heffleger, Harry Russell, Neida Hayes, Helen Miller, Sheila Tryon, Sallie Ann Sandler, Tonia McKague, Robert & Joyce Zeledonis, Earl & Grace Paxson, Betty Fromm Yarnell, Wayne Brensinger, Ralph Hueske, Shawnette Keller, Brittany Gallagher, Kay & Jerome Hayes, Debbie Toro, Pete and Stacy Smulligan, Terry Tryon

Those serving in the military: Brandon Felty, Karen Hall, Tyler Weller, Edward Hossler, Nick Lentz, Jake Schaeffer, Scott Aungst, Tyler Wolfe, Michael Hamilton, Mark Weinus, Jr., Jeremy Weaver, Cameron Lutz, Stephanie Boyer, Mitchell Moore, Timothy Bast, and Ryan Bast

QR CODE FOR ONLINE GIVING

