

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
A Community of Faith for 242 Years
Sunday, August 23, 2026



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Sunday, August 23, 2026

13th Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Communion & Holy Baptism

*stand +kneel

GATHERING

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE.....“Built on a Rock” by Gilbert M. Martin

***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, whose compassion endures forever.

C - Amen.

P - Let us confess our sin to God. Compassionate God,

C - we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.

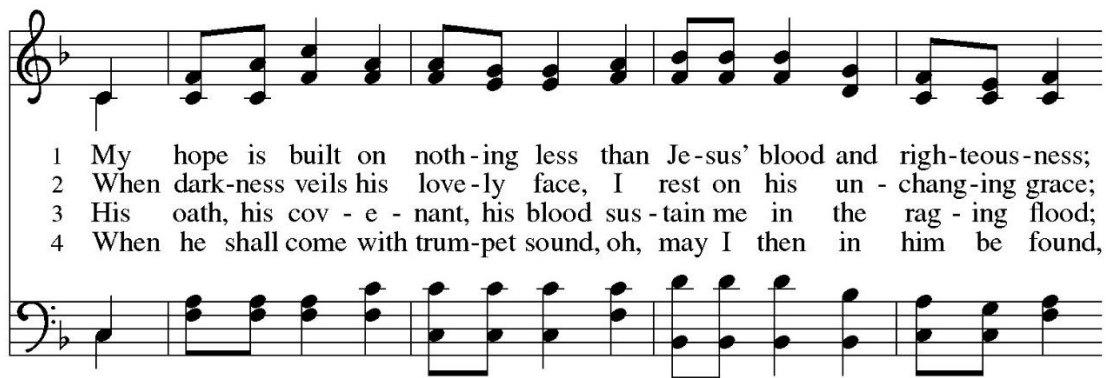
P - Jesus says, “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.” In the name of God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God’s love.

C - Amen.

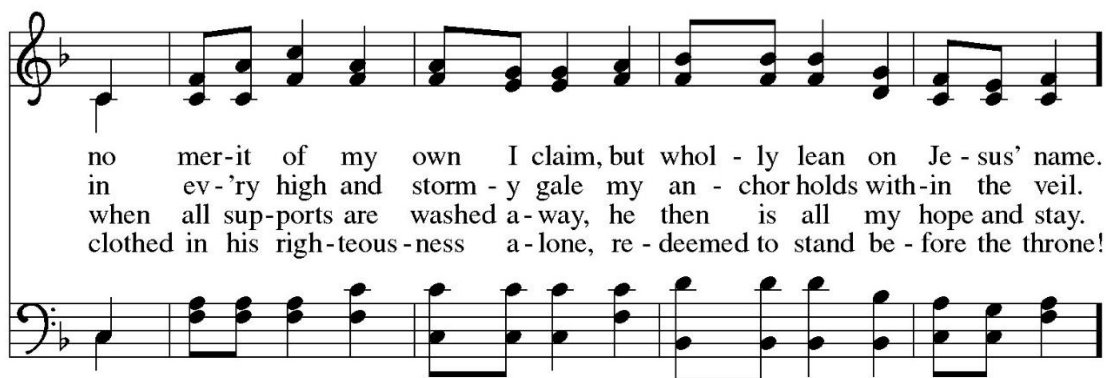
***GATHERING SONG**.....

“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less” (ELW 596)

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

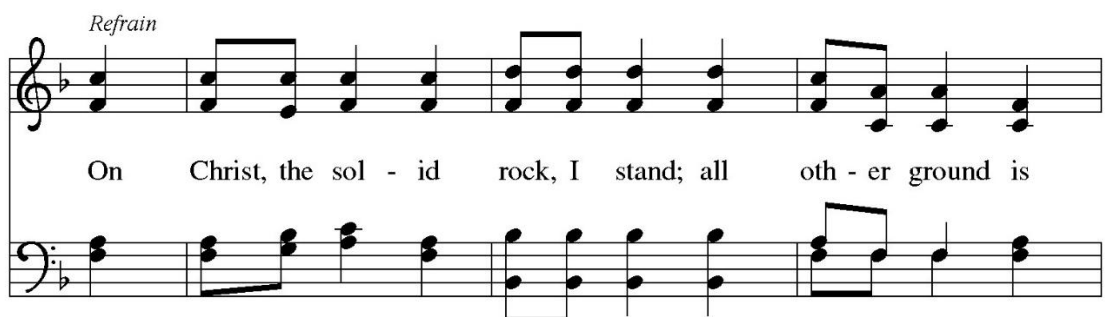


1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and righ-teous-ness;
2 When dark-ness veils his love-ly face, I rest on his un - chang-ing grace;
3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus - tain me in the rag - ing flood;
4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,

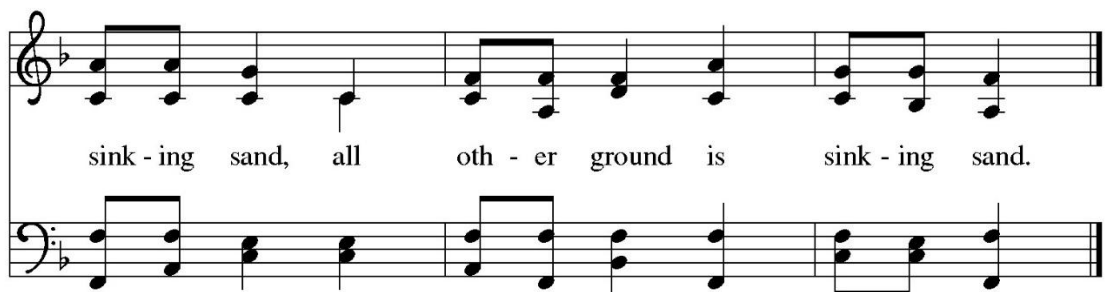


no mer-it of my own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
in ev-'ry high and storm - y gale my an - chor holds with-in the veil.
when all sup-ports are washed a-way, he then is all my hope and stay.
clothed in his righ-teous-ness a-lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is



sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt.
Music: THE SOLID ROCK, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

***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.**

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 204)**

Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.

Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:

we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.

Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.

Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.

Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above;
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.

Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.

Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;

Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:

Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.

For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P - Let us pray. O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C - **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 51:1-6

Just as God had called Abraham and Sarah and given them many descendants, so now God offers comfort to Zion. God's deliverance will come soon and will never end.

¹ Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek the LORD.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

² Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah, who bore you,
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.

³ For the LORD will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴ Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation,
for a teaching will go out from me
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

⁵ I will bring near my deliverance swiftly;
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.

⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens
and look at the earth beneath,
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,

and those who live on it will die like gnats,
but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

R - The word of the Lord.

C - Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 138 (Read Responsively)

¹ I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with | my whole heart;
before the gods I will | sing your praise.

² **I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your
name, because of your steadfast | love and faithfulness; for
you have glorified your name and your word a- | bove all
things.**

³ When I called, you | answered me;
you increased my | strength within me.

⁴ **All the rulers of the earth will praise | you, O LORD,
when they have heard the words | of your mouth. R**

⁵ They will sing of the ways | of the LORD,
that great is the glory | of the LORD.

⁶ **The LORD is high, yet cares | for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty | from afar.**

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you | keep me safe; you
stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your
right | hand shall save me.

⁸ **You will make good your pur- | pose for me; O LORD, your
steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works |
of your hands. R**

SECOND READING: Romans 12:1-8

In response to God's merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by the time in which we live but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work. God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

R - The word of the Lord.

C - Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 205)**

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.

Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.

Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

***GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-20**

At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.

P - The holy gospel according to Matthew.

C - **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"

¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

P - The gospel of the Lord.

C - **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY.....

“The Church's One Foundation” (ELW 654)

The Church's One Foundation

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It consists of six systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble and bass staves) and a piano line (treble and bass staves). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves.

1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,

she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:
by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.

From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
Oh, bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,

with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900
Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

PRESENTATION

The presiding minister addresses the assembly in these words.

P - In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

Sponsors present the candidate.

Sponsors: We present Kallie Rae Kahl for baptism.

The presiding minister addresses parents.

P - Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Kallie Rae Kahl baptized into Christ?

Parents: We do.

P - As you bring your child to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with her among God's faithful people, bring her to the word of God and the holy supper, teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in her hands the holy scriptures, and nurture her in faith and prayer, so that your child may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. Do you promise to help your child grow in the Christian faith and life?

Parents: We do.

The presiding minister addresses sponsors.

P - Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Kallie in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Sponsors: We do.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

P - People of God, do you promise to support this child and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

C - We do.

The assembly stands.

***PROFESSION OF FAITH**

The assembly may join in the responses.

P - I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

All: I renounce them.

P - Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

All: I renounce them.

P - Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

All: I renounce them.

The presiding minister addresses the baptismal group and the assembly.

P - Do you believe in God the Father?

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

P - Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

All - 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.

P - Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

All - 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.

***THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT**

The presiding minister leads the thanksgiving.

P - The Lord be with you.

All - And also with you.

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

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

Water may be poured into the font before or during the thanksgiving.

P - We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

All - Amen.

BAPTISM

The assembly may be seated. Water is poured on the candidate's head, as the presiding minister says:

P - Kallie Rae Kahl, I baptize you in the name of the Father,

Water is poured on the candidate's head a second time:

P - and of the Son,

Water is poured on the candidate's head a third time:

P - and of the Holy Spirit.

All - Amen.

After the baptism, the assembly responds with the following,

**C - Blessed be God, the source of all life, the word of salvation,
the spirit of mercy.**

The presiding minister continues:

**P - Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and
the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth,
cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.**

Laying both hands on the head of the newly baptized, the minister prays:

**P - Sustain Kallie with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of
wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the
spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in
your presence, both now and forever.**

All - Amen.

The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized. As the sign of the cross is made, the minister says:

**P - Kallie Rae Kahl, child of God, you have been sealed by the
Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.**

All - Amen.

WELCOME

A lighted candle may be given to the newly baptized (to a sponsor of a young child)

P - Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

The minister and the baptismal group face the assembly. Let us welcome the newly baptized.

C - We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

+PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P - With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation. God, our rock, you are the foundation on which the church is built. Strengthen and encourage your faithful people everywhere they gather, that they boldly proclaim your word of life to all the world. Merciful God,

C - receive our prayer.

P - You spoke and all creation came into being. Field and forest, wetland and wilderness—all reveal your glory. Sustain and nourish your creation. Teach us to be wise stewards of all you have made. Merciful God,

C - receive our prayer.

P - You bring deliverance to nations and peoples. Come to the aid of nations experiencing war, conflict, disease, famine, and disaster. Guide the work of relief agencies and peacemaking organizations. Merciful God,

C - receive our prayer.

P - You regard the lowly and hear us when we cry out to you. Be present among all who struggle with addiction, housing

insecurity, incarceration, and mental illness, that they know they are not alone. Hear our prayers for all in need this day.
Merciful God,

C - receive our prayer.

P - You draw together people with differing gifts. Lift up the many and varied gifts and talents of this congregation and strengthen the bonds of fellowship that all may be united as the body of Christ. Merciful God,

C - receive our prayer.

P - Your steadfast love endures forever. We give thanks for the faithful who died in the hope of this promise. Strengthen us in faith until the day we join them at your eternal banquet.
Merciful God,

C - receive our prayer.

P - Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised.
All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.

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 - Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

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. You reveal your glory as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your eternal glory. 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. 207)**

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P - Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation, the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise. When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.

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 acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, 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 - Heaven has come near. Come, share in the feast!

***COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 208)**

O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
you suffered death our lives to save: have mercy now, we pray.

O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mercy now, we pray.

O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;
eternal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION

P - The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

C - Amen.

***TABLE BLESSING**

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

C- Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P - Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as

you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

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 - Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

C - Amen.

***SENDING SONG.....**

“Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation” (ELW 645)

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation



1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and
 2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O Lord of
 3 Here be - stow on all your ser - vants what they seek from
 4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, praise and hon - or

cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
 hosts, and stay; come with all your lov - ing - kind - ness,
 you to gain; what they gain from you, for - ev - er
 to the Son, praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,

bind - ing all the church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
 hear your peo - ple as they pray; and your full - est
 with the bless - ed to re - tain; and here - af - ter
 ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and

help for - ev - er and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
 ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in these walls to - day.
 in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.
 one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
 Music: WESTMINSTER ABBEY, Henry Purcell, 1659–1695; arr. Ernest Hawkins, 1802–1868

***DISMISSAL**

P - Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

C - Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE.....“Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation” -arranged by Humphrey Turner

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One vase of flowers is in honor of Jennifer and Matthew Platt’s Anniversary (21) presented by Glenn and Helen Miller.

One vase of flowers is in honor of the 45th Wedding Anniversary of Pegi and Brian Staller.

A vase of flowers given by Dave & Kathy Kahl is in honor of our granddaughter Kallie Rae’s baptism.

The bulletins are in honor of our granddaughter Kallie Rae’s baptism by Dave and Kathy Kahl.

Today we welcome into the Fellowship of the Christian Church, by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, Kallie Rae Kahl, daughter of Kevin and Kathryn Kahl. Baptismal sponsors are Michele Hollinger and Brian Kahl.

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.

There will be a Stewardship Meeting following the 9am service today.

There will be a Christian Ed and Bear Creek Campers Meeting following the 9am service today. We are looking to have anyone interested in teaching/helping with our Sunday School program attend also.

We would like to have a card shower for Joan Axtt who will celebrate her 90th Birthday next Sunday, August 30. Her address is P.O. Box 108 Summit Station, PA 17979.

Bishop Fairwell Service: We will be hosting a farewell service for the Bishop here at our church this Saturday, August 29 at 1pm. If you are interested in attending, you can go on the Synod website to sign up. Please speak to Brian Staller for more information.



Help support our Bear Creek Campers and brighten your fall with beautiful mums! Scan the QR code or visit our Facebook page for the direct link. There are also order forms available in the narthex for those who prefer a paper copy. Orders are due by Wednesday, September 16. Pickup will be at the church on Sunday, September 20 from 10:30am - 12:30pm. If you need assistance ordering, please reach out to Leah: 570-617-7702.

Confirmation Class Registration Forms are available in the July/August and September Newsletters. 1st year confirmation classes are available to any young adult turning 12 or entering 7th grade this year. Please contact the church office if you need a form to register.

The Church Council will have their monthly meeting on Wednesday, September 2 beginning at 7:00pm in the church Annex.

The Saturday worship service in September will be moved from September 5 (the holiday weekend) to the second Saturday, September 12.

There will be an outdoor worship service followed by breakfast on Sunday, September 6 beginning at 9:00am. Please bring chairs or your favorite blanket. Food will be provided.

Handbell Choir (Joyful Noise)...New members wanted! Do you love music and having fun? Come join our handbell Choir! All ages welcome. No prior experience needed. No need to be able to read music. You will be taught what you need to know. Practice weekly: Thursdays @ 6:00pm, in the Annex, Our 1st practice will be September 10th. Play during the service once a month. We are a friendly group, who love spending time together! If interested, contact Matthew Hayes or any of the Joyful Noise members.

Mark your calendars! Dave Hartranft is coming back! He will return on Sat., September 12 at 5pm to worship with us and entertain us after the service, during our annual picnic. (A sign-up sheet will be placed on the bulletin board if you would like to share a food item.) Please join us, and bring a friend.

The Fall Worship schedule will begin on Sunday, September 13. Sunday School will be held at 9:15am, followed by the Worship service at 10:30am.

Sunday School News: We are excited to announce that there will be a new curriculum and new materials for the Sunday School program which will begin on Sunday, September 13. Please speak to Brian Staller, Charity Staller or Deb Hummel for more information.

You are invited to join St. Paul's UCC for their Rally Day picnic on **Sunday, September 13!** Everyone will gather in the UCC church picnic grove following the 10:30am worship (approximately 11:30am) for food, fellowship, and fun! Hamburgers, hot dogs, and snacks will be provided. Feel free to bring a favorite dish or dessert to share (although it is not necessary), along with a lawn chair, blanket, or kid-friendly outdoor games if you wish. All are welcome!

A Red Cross Blood Drive, sponsored by the Schuylkill Haven Council of Churches, will be held on Thursday, September 17 from 1-6pm at Jerusalem Lutheran Church in Schuylkill Haven. Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: Haven, to schedule an appointment.

Check Out Our YouTube Channel: We're livestreaming our worship services on our very own YouTube channel: @summerHillLutheran!!! We'll share the livestream link on Facebook every week. You can chat, comment, and worship together live just like always. Our website features a direct link to our YouTube channel, where you can already find recorded services beginning in February, our past livestreams, and our scheduled upcoming livestreams. So head on over, click Like, hit Subscribe, and ring that little bell 🔔 to be notified when livestreaming begins!

👉 Check us out here: <https://www.youtube.com/@summerHillLutheran>

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

Altar Flower and Bulletin Sponsorship: There are many openings available throughout the year to sponsor the fresh altar flowers and bulletins on a Sunday morning. Sponsorships can be in honor of, or in memory of someone. There are sign-up sheets for a few months at a time on the bulletin board in the hallway. You can also call the church office and speak to Kelly to be added at any time throughout the year. The cost of altar flowers is: \$17.50 to sponsor one vase, or \$35 to sponsor both vases. The bulletins are \$10 per sponsored Sunday.

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 on Sunday, August 16, 2026 – 33 in person; 21 YouTube views; 1 Facebook share as of August 20

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

Week of August 9 – August 15, 2026

Current	\$1,144.05
Benevolence/Synod	\$ 10.00
Local Benevolence	\$ 84.75
Plate	\$ 49.00
Total	\$1,287.80

THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2026

Sunday, August 23

9:00 AM -Worship Service

-Stewardship Committee, Christian Ed. and Bear Creek Campers

Meetings following worship

Sunday, August 30

9:00 AM -Worship Service

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday, August 24: Psalm 18:1-3, 20-32; 1 Samuel 7:3-13; Romans 2:1-11

Tuesday, August 25: Psalm 18:1-3, 20-32; Deuteronomy 32:18-20, 28-39; Romans 11:33-36

Wednesday, August 26: Psalm 18:1-3, 20-32; Isaiah 28:14-22; Matthew 26:6-13

Thursday, August 27: Psalm 26:1-8; Jeremiah 14:13-18; Ephesians 5:1-6

Friday, August 28: Psalm 26:1-8; Jeremiah 15:1-9; 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12

Saturday, August 29: Psalm 26:1-8; Jeremiah 15:10-14; Matthew 8:14-17

Sunday August 23 – 9:00 AM

Greeter: Kathie Faust

Acolyte: Lena Ferrance

Lector: Troy Hollenbach

Usher: Holly Maldonado

Communion Assistant: Michael Ziegler

Counting Team: Michael Ziegler & Wendy Welsh

Rev. Marie Meeks, Pastor	716-353-1610; Email: preachymarie@gmail.com
Matthew Hayes, Director of Music	484-794-7902; Email: stpaulsummerhill.music@gmail.com
Kelly Palerino, Church Secretary	570-754-7350; Email: stpaulsummerhill@gmail.com
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, Carole Wiscount, Carol Keesey, Elona Fromm, Nancy Sweitzer, Carol Boyer, Rev. Kathleen Ash-Flashner, ***Bob Ebling***

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

QR CODE FOR ONLINE GIVING

