St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church A Community of Faith for 241 Years Sunday, December 7, 2025



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, December 7, 2025

Second Sunday of Advent Holy Communion *stand +kneel

GATHERING

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE		Come,	Thou Long	g-Expected Jesus'
by	Charles Wesley/ Rowland	Hugh	Prichard	

*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 home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

C - Amen.

P - Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- P Long-expected God,
- C we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.
- P God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. + You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.
- C Amen.

*GATHERING SONG....."Prepare the Royal Highway" (ELW 264)

1 Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near! Let ev'ry hill and valley a level road appear! Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story: **Refrain**: Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

2 God's people, see him coming:
your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before him!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you! **Refrain**

3 Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation its tribute too may bring.
All lands will bow before him; their voices join your singing: **Refrain**

4 His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding: **Refrain**

*GREETING

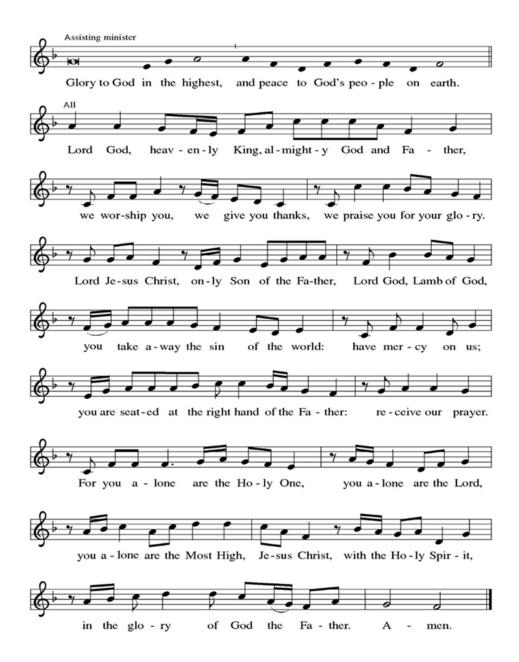
During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

- 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)



*CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 139)



*PRAYER OF THE DAY

The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.

P - Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; 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 11:1-10

Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.

- ¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
- ² The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
- ³ His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see

or decide by what his ears hear,

- ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
- ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
- ⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them.
- ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
- ⁹ They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.
- ¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.
- R The word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

"Christ Be Our Light" (Verses 1 & 2)

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
 Longing for truth, we turn to you.
 Make us your own, your holy people,
 light for the world to see.

Refrain: Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice. *Refrain*

PSALM: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 (please read responsively)

- ¹ Give the king your jus- [|] tice, O God, and your righteousness to [|] the king's son;
- ² that he may rule your | people righteously and the | poor with justice;
- ³ that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people, and the | hills, in righteousness.
- ⁴ Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people, rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor. R
- ⁵ May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure, from one generation | to another.
- ⁶ Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field, like showers that wa- | ter the earth.
- ⁷ In his time may the [|] righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall [|] be no more.
- ¹⁸ Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel; you alone do wondrous deeds!
- ¹⁹ And blessed be your glorious | name forever, and may all the earth be filled with your glory. A- | men. Amen. **R**

SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13

God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.

- ⁴ Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.
- ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- ⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors ⁹ and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles

and sing praises to your name";

¹⁰ and again he says,

"Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people";

¹¹ and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him";

¹² and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,

the one who rises to rule the gentiles;

in him the gentiles shall hope."

- ¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- 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 3:1-12

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

P - The holy gospel according to Matthew.

C - Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

P - The gospel of the Lord.

C - Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY....."On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" (ELW 249)

1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh; awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings! 2 Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin; make straight the way for God within, and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.

3 We hail you as our Savior, Lord, our refuge and our great reward; without your grace we waste away like flow'rs that wither and decay.

4 Stretch forth your hand, our health restore, and make us rise to fall no more; oh, let your face upon us shine and fill the world with love divine.

5 All praise to you, eternal Son, whose advent has our freedom won, whom with the Father we adore, and Holy Spirit, evermore.

*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 - In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

P - With wisdom and understanding, inspire the faithful around the world. Unite hearts and minds in work to address poverty, access to housing, and equity among peoples. God of grace,

C - hear our prayer.

P - With counsel and might, move us to care for creation. As we dream of the day when all creatures will flourish alongside one another, guide us in ways humanity and all creation will mutually thrive. God of grace,

C - hear our prayer.

P - With righteousness and faithfulness, encourage nations to live in harmony with one another. We pray for international student and teacher exchanges, for our partner churches, and for the shared mission of Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response. God of grace,

C - hear our prayer.

P - With steadfastness and encouragement, strengthen those who have lost hope in the face of grief, depression, or disease (*especially*). Renew the spirits of those recovering from surgery and medical procedures. God of grace,

C - hear our prayer.

P - With welcome and hospitality, embolden us in our shared ministry to overcome all that divides. In acts of repentance, reconciliation, and reparation, may we serve in the way of Christ. God of grace,

C - hear our prayer.

P - With joy and peace, we remember our ancestors in the faith. Fill us with the hope of the Holy Spirit now and into the ages of ages. God of grace,

C - hear our prayer.

P - Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

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 - Let us pray. God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

C - Amen.

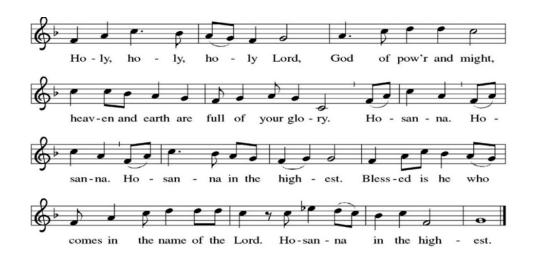
*GREAT THANKSGIVING

- 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 - Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

- P Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
- C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
- P With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.
- C Come, Lord Jesus.
- P Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.
- C Come, Holy Spirit.

P - All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, 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.

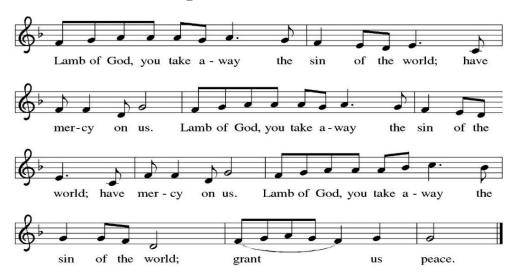
*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The presiding minister may address the assembly in these or similar words.

P - Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

The assembly may be seated. The bread may be broken for the communion.

*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.

*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 - Let us pray. God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, 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 God who comes among us, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

C - Amen.

*SENDING SONG......"Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!" (ELW 246)

1 Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding!

"Christ is near," we hear it say.

"Cast away the works of darkness,

all you children of the day!"

2 Wakened by the solemn warning, from earth's bondage let us rise; Christ, our sun, all sloth dispelling, shines upon the morning skies.

3 See the Lamb, so long expected, come with pardon down from heav'n. Let us haste, with tears of sorrow, one and all, to be forgiv'n;

4 So, when next he comes in glory and the world is wrapped in fear, he will shield us with his mercy and with words of love draw near.

5 Honor, glory, might, and blessing to the Father and the Son with the everlasting Spirit while unending ages run!

*DISMISSAL

P - Go in peace. Keep awake.

C - Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE..."Come Thou Long- Expected Jesus" arranged by Edward Broughton

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Two vases of flowers are in honor of Rose Edwards' Birthday by the family.

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.

The Mitten Tree will be in the narthex during the Advent and Christmas seasons to accept donations of mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, socks, etc. After the Christmas season, these items will be donated to Schuylkill Women in Crisis and Servants to All.

Christmas Caroling to the shut-ins and elderly, sponsored by the Social Ministry Committee, will take place TODAY. We will be joining our sister congregation, St. Paul's U.C.C. for this event. Everyone is invited to join us. We will be carpooling and leaving from St. Paul's U.C.C. at 2:00pm.

The Christmas tree will be decorated this Wednesday, December 10th at 6pm. Please come and lend a hand—get in the holiday spirit too!!

Faithful Fellowship- A time of fun, fellowship and yummy treats will be held following the 10:30am worship service next Sunday, December 14. We would like our treats to be Christmas cookies. If anyone would like to donate a dozen cookies, it would be greatly appreciated.

Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24: Join us for a 6:30pm musical prelude followed by the 7pm worship service. The service will feature candlelight and the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

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.

A sign-up sheet for Bread for the Day 2026 is on Bulletin Board. The cost is \$12 per book.

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 November 30, 2025 – 28 in person, 263 online views, 2 shares as of December 4, 2025.

The 2025 Weekly giving needed for budget is \$3,166.75.

THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

Sunday, December 7 *Deadline for gifts for the Angel Tree donations

9:15am -Sunday School

10:30am - Worship Service

2:00 PM -Christmas Caroling

Wednesday, December 10

6:00pm -Decorate the Christmas tree

Thursday, December 11

6:00 PM -Bell choir

Sunday, December 14

9:15am -Sunday School

10:30am - Worship Service

-Faithful Fellowship following worship

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday, December 8: Psalm 21; Isaiah 24:1-16a; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

Tuesday, December 9: Psalm 21; Isaiah 41:14-20; Romans 15:14-21

Wednesday, December 10: Psalm 21; Genesis 15:1-18; Matthew 12:33-37

Thursday, December 11: Psalm 146:5-10; Ruth 1:6-18; 2 Peter 3:1-10 **Friday, December 12:** Psalm 146:5-10; Ruth 4:13-17; 2 Peter 3:11-18 **Saturday, December 13:** Psalm 146:5-10; 1 Samuel 2:1-8; Luke 3:1-18

Sunday, December 7 – 10:30 AM

Greeter: Jeff Freeman Acolyte: Grayson Rollman Lector: Debbie Hummel Usher: Brian Staller

Communion Assistant: Jeff Freeman

Counting Team: Jeff Freeman & Debbie Hummel

Interpreter: Pegi Staller

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

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

