# The Epistle of St. Paul's

## A Publication of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Summer Hill

## November 2026

## From the Pastor:

As I write this Halloween is looming over my shoulder. The grand and great grand members of my family (we call them the littles) are making choices about what they will wear and what they will be dressing up as. My family usually likes to make the costumes, so we start planning in early September. I seem to remember a cardboard firetruck one year!

I am aware that this is November's newsletter and we need to not cover up our faults and actions from our God. But God loves us even when we fail to admit our faults. God loves us no matter what we do, or don't do.

As I look at my calendar here are some events coming in November. Please remember our veterans on the 11th, Thanksgiving is coming followed by the unofficial beginning of the Christmas shopping!

I pray that you will have a blessed month!

*Pastor Marie*

## All Saints Day

On **Sunday, November 1**, All Saints' Sunday, we will remember those saints who have died during the past year. In addition, during the distribution of Holy Communion, we will remember any loved ones who have died, no matter what time has passed. If you would like a loved one's name to be read in remembrance, please call or email the church office.

## Helping Harvest

Helping Harvest donations will take place on 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.

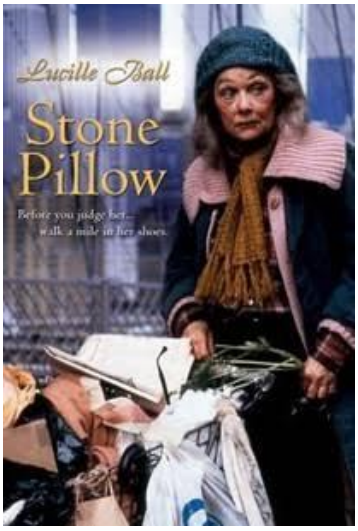
## Church Council Meeting

The Church Council will have their monthly meeting on **Wednesday, November 4** beginning at 7:00pm in the church Annex.

## Saturday Spoken Services

The next scheduled Saturday Service will be held on **November 7**, beginning at 5:00pm.

## Dinner and a Movie!



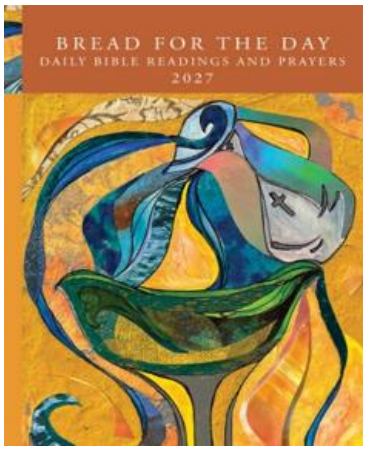

The Social Ministry Committee is sponsoring their annual fall "Dinner and a Movie Night" on **Saturday, November 7,** beginning at 5:45pm, following the church service.

This 1985 television drama titled, Stone Pillow, featured this central tagline: "Before You Judge Her...Walk

A Mile in Her Shoes". The great Lucille Ball *(I Love Lucy, Yours, Mine and Ours)* plays Florabelle, an elderly bag lady struggling to survive on the streets of New York City. She carries her most prized possessions in a shopping cart and has staked out a Manhattan street corner as "home". When approached by Carrie, a curious young social worker played by Daphne Zuniga *(Melrose Place, Spaceballs)*, Florabelle introduces her to the underground of Grand Central Station and the details of daily survival. Together both women discover a new perspective on their lives.

We hope you will join us for a great movie, fun and fellowship. If you have any questions, please speak to Karen Curtis.

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## 2027 Bread for the Day Books

There is an order sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for anyone interested in ordering the new books. The cost is $12 per book, and the deadline to order is **Sunday, November 8.** A sample of the book is on the table in the narthex.

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## Donations for College Students Needed

The Social Ministry's schoolhouse will be in the narthex until **Sunday, November 8th.** We will be accepting donations of items to be sent to our college students, to have while they are taking their mid-term exams. Items to be donated include snacks, pens, pencils, or any other small appropriate items that the young people could use while studying for their exams. The packages will be sent to the students, whose families have provided us with their names and addresses. We thank everyone for their continuing generosity in donating to our project.

**Remember to Honor Those Who Served…Veteran's Day Wednesday, November 11**

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## Newsletter Deadline

Newsletter articles for a combined December 2026 and January 2027 newsletter are due to the office by **November 15**.

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## Congregational Meeting

The annual Congregational meeting will be held on **Sunday, November 15** following the 10:30am worship service.

The Nominating Committee is accepting names for open positions on the 2027 Church Council and the Student Loan Committee. Please submit nominees to Brian Staller or you may also submit to the church office. Election of Church Council, and adoption of the budget will be on the agenda.

Copies of the church budget for 2027, last year's meeting minutes and Time and Talent Surveys will be available in the narthex or may be picked up in the church office prior to the Congregational Meeting.

Please complete and turn in the Time and Talent Survey (also found on pages 9 & 10 of the newsletter). Please complete one form for each family member. You may submit surveys up to and including the day of the Congregational Meeting on **November 15**, which are then eligible for Stewardship prizes.

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## Property Meeting

There will be a property meeting on **Wednesday, November 18** beginning at 6:00pm.

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## Pastoral Visits

Pastoral visits and home communions are available at any time. Please email (stpaulsummerhill@gmail.com) or call (570-754-7225) the church office.

# Join Us For Faithful Fellowship

### Sunday, November 22

In this busy season of Thanksgiving, let's take a break from all the holiday preparations to enjoy fellowship and an easy lunch of pizza and salad. Sign-up sheets will be on the large bulletin board. Please speak to Sandy Wentz (570-573-4532) for more information or if you would like to help in any way. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!!

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# Joint Worship Service




The annual Thanksgiving Eve joint (with our friends at the UCC) worship service will be held on **Wednesday, November 25** at 7:00pm. This year the service will be hosted here at St. Paul's Lutheran church, with Pastor Marie Meeks and Pastor Ken McDowell leading the service. All are invited and encouraged to attend.

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# Social Ministry News

By Harry Schwenk, Chairperson

On Sunday, September 27, we sponsored our annual 75 and Over Birthday Party Luncheon. 34 people attended, including birthday people, guests, committee members, and helpers. Kauffman chicken dinners, along with ice cream and homemade cupcakes, were enjoyed by all. Games were played, prizes were won, and door prizes were given. We sang Happy Birthday to Harry Russell, our oldest church member who was celebrating his 96th birthday on October 1. He and his daughter traveled from Chester County to join all of us at the birthday party. As with all of the other years since we have been having the gathering, it was a success, with thanks to all who were involved with it.

We will again will be having our usual Christmas time activities. The Angel Tree will be in the narthex to receive hats, gloves, etc. We will be getting names from Children and Youth to purchase gifts. More details will be in the next newsletter and future bulletins. Also, we will be sponsoring our annual Christmas caroling event with St Paul's U.C.C. More information on caroling is in a separate article in this newsletter.

Thank you to everyone who supports our committee in all of our activities, projects, and events.

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# Christmas Caroling

On **Sunday, December 6th**, our Social Ministry Committee will sponsor Christmas Caroling to the shut-ins and elderly. 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 2:00 pm.

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# Hospital Visits

Reminder for hospital visits: The church is not informed by the hospital when someone is admitted. Please email (stpaulsummerhill@gmail.com) or call (570-754-7225) the church office to let us know if a pastoral visit is desired.

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# Prayer Requests

Please email (stpaulsummerhill@gmail.com) or call (570-754-7225) 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 worship service.

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***I have a great need for Christ;***
***I have a great Christ for my need.***

—Attributed to Count Zinzendorf

# 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
- 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 (Becky, Dianna, Elizabeth, Faye, Holly, Karen, Leah, Sandy, or Trish).

Thank you!

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# 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

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***I awoke this morning with devout thanksgiving***
***for my friends, the old and the new.***
***Shall I not call God the Beautiful,***
***who daily showeth himself to me in his gifts?***

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

# 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. You can celebrate a Birthday, Anniversary, Graduation, etc. 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.

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# The Revised Common Lectionary Readings:

**November 1- Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost**
Joshua 3:7-17
Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
Micah 3:5-12
Psalm 43
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13
Matthew 23:1-12

**November 1- All Saints Day**
Revelation 7:9-17
Psalm 34:1-10, 22
1 John 3:1-3
Matthew 5:1-12

**November 8-Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**
Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
Psalm 78:1-7
Amos 5:18-24
Psalm 70
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

**November 15- Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**
Judges 4:1-7
Psalm 123
Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
Psalm 90:1-8, (9-11), 12

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30

**November 22- Reign of Christ**
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 100
Psalm 95:1-7a
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46

**November 26- Thanksgiving Day**
Deuteronomy 8:7-18
Psalm 65
2 Corinthians 9:6-15
Luke 17:11-19

**November 29- First Sunday of Advent**
Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
I Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37

**December 6- Second Sunday of Advent**
Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

## November Birthdays

1 - Jayde Krammes
2 - Eleanor Wernert
4 - Joy Eldridge
- Emery Reber
- Chauncey Trostle
5 - Diannah Swiger
6 - Elyse Gilbert
7 - Doris Gregory
8 - William Cleary Jr.
- Taylor Frankenstein
9 - Kelsey Sisko
10 - Grace Paxson
- Hanna Peto
- Erin Sholl
- Marlene Troxell
11 - Edward Wentz
12 - Kyle Honicker
15 - Wendy Welsh
16 - Crystal Reber
17 - Amanda Sholly
18 - Nicholas Lord
- Kelly Schweigert
20 - Ross Weller Jr
21 - Douglas Boyer
22 - Tanner Gormley
- Kathleen Kahl
- Beth Reed
- Nancy Sweitzer
24 - Charlene Egan
28 - David Peto
30 -Gregory Schwartz Jr.

## Faithful Witnesses



Many churches observe All Saints' Day on November 1, a time to remember believers who have died in the faith and give thanks for their faithful witness.

The story of Christianity is filled with ordinary people who held fast to Christ in both joyful and difficult seasons. Across the centuries, countless believers have followed Jesus with courage, and many have even given their lives while bearing witness to God's love and the saving grace of Christ. Even today, Christians in some parts of the world continue to face persecution for their faith.

On this day, take time to remember our Christian heritage with gratitude. Give thanks for those who remained faithful before us, and ask God to help us follow Christ with the same courage, hope and steadfast faith.

## Honoring Faithful Service



Each year on Veterans Day, we pause to give thanks for the men and women who have served our country with courage, sacrifice and devotion. Their willingness to defend freedom reminds us that service often comes with great cost.

As Christians, we are called to honor those who serve and to pray for veterans, active-duty military members and their families. We also remember that true peace comes from God, who is our refuge and strength.

May this day lead us to gratitude, prayer and renewed commitment to serve others with humility, courage and love.

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## The Journey of the Church Year

Advent begins on Sunday, November 29, in 2026. In many Christian traditions, Advent also marks the beginning of the church year. Rather than starting with a new calendar, the church begins by preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

Advent leads to Christmas, followed by Epiphany, traditionally observed on January 6, 2027, to remember the revelation of Christ to the nations and the visit of the wise men. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 10, and guides believers toward Holy Week and Easter Sunday, March 28.

Forty days after Easter, Christians observe Ascension Day on May 6, remembering how Jesus "was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight" (Acts 1:9, ESV). Pentecost follows on May 16, 50 days after Easter. On that day, the Holy Spirit empowered Christ's followers and united them for the church's mission.

The season after Pentecost continues until Advent arrives once more, inviting the church to begin the sacred journey again.

## Our Staff:

**The Rev. Marie Meeks, Pastor**: 716-353-1610
Pastor email: preachymarie@gmail.com

Matthew Hayes, Director of Music: 484-794-7902
Director of Music email:
stpaulsummerhill.music@gmail.com

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|---|---|
| Kelly Palerino, Secretary | 570-617-2972 |
| Eva Waldman, Treasurer | 570-754-7350 |
| Cindy Brown, Pavilion Sexton | 570-345-1279 |
| Stacy Fidler, Church Sexton | 570-754-7350 |

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

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## ELCA Website

Do you want to learn more about what is going on with our church? You can learn all about the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by visiting their informative website:

**https://www.elca.org/**

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## A Reason to Give Thanks

After Eddie Rickenbacker and his companions were rescued after more than three weeks adrift in life rafts in the Pacific, he was asked what lesson he had learned from the ordeal.

He answered that anyone with plenty of fresh water to drink and enough food to eat should never complain.

His words still speak clearly today. Many blessings can become so familiar that we barely notice them. This Thanksgiving, pause to give thanks for clean water, nourishing food, a safe place to rest and the people God has placed in your life. Let gratitude continue long after the holiday table is cleared.

# SUMMER HILL YOUTH GROUP EVENT

## DISASTER RELIEF BUCKETS

We'll be building five gallon Disaster Relief Buckets packed with supplies to help people in need!

We'll build them in a team relay-race style!




## RESCHEDULED!

New Date:

**DECEMBER 4TH**

**6:00PM – 8:30PM**

**DECEMBER 4**

6:00PM – 8:30PM

**ST. PAUL'S**

SUMMER HILL UCC
1235 SUMMER HILL ROAD
AUBURN, PA 17922

**FOOD**

WILL BE PROVIDED!

RSVP to Laura Carll
(484) 269-4405
is appreciated, but not required.

Make a difference. Together.




Social Ministry's schoolhouse will be in the narthex until Sunday, November 8

**Special Dates for November:**

- All Saints' Day, *November 1, 2026*
- Daylight saving time ends, *November 1, 2026*
- Veterans Day, *November 11, 2026*
- Christ the King Sunday, *November 22, 2026*
- Thanksgiving Day, *November 26, 2026*
- First Sunday of Advent, *November 29, 2026*

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1**<br>Sunday School- 9:15am<br>Worship- 10:30am<br>**Daylight Savings Ends**<br>**All Saints Day**<br>**Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost** | **2** | **3**<br>**Election Day** | **4**<br>Council Meeting- 7pm | **5**<br>Bell Choir- 6:00pm | **6** | **7**<br>Spoken Worship Service -5pm<br>Dinner and a Movie-5:45 |
| **8**<br>Sunday School- 9:15am<br>Worship- 10:30am<br>Deadline to order Bread of the Day books<br>**Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost** | **9** | **10** | **11**<br>**Veteran's Day** | **12**<br>Bell Choir- 6:00pm | **13** | **14** |
| **15**<br>Sunday School- 9:15am<br>Worship- 10:30am<br>Annual Congregational Meeting<br>Newsletter Deadline<br>**Twentieth-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost** | **16** | **17** | **18**<br>Property Meeting- 6:00pm | **19**<br>Bell Choir- 6:00pm | **20** | **21** |
| **22**<br>Sunday School- 9:15am<br>Worship- 10:30am<br>Faithful Fellowship Luncheon following worship<br>**Christ the King** | **23** | **24** | **25**<br>Thanksgiving Eve Joint Worship Service (at the Lutheran Church)- 7:00pm | **26**<br>Church offices closed<br>**Thanksgiving Day** | **27** | **28** |
| **29**<br>Sunday School- 9:15am<br>Worship- 10:30am<br>**First Sunday of Advent** | **30** | **1** | **2**<br>Council Meeting- 7pm | **3**<br>Bell Choir- 6:00pm | **4** | **5**<br>Spoken Worship Service -5pm |

# TIME & TALENT SURVEY

**Please complete one form for *each* family member.**

Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

**Worship Activities**

Altar Guild _____
Lector Saturday _____
Lector Sunday, 10:30am _____
Greeter Saturday, 5pm _____
Greeter Sunday, 10:30am _____
Usher Sunday, 10:30am _____
Acolyte or Crucifer _____
Assisting Minister _____
Eucharistic Minister _____
Media/Audio Person _____
PowerPoint Presentation
5pm _____ 10:30am _____

**Music**

Senior Choir _____
Handbells _____
Instrumental _____
Signs of Faith _____

**Sunday School**

Teacher _____
Teacher Helper _____
Substitute Teacher _____
or Helper _____
Vacation Bible School ____
Teacher ____ Helper_____
VBS Refreshments ____

**Youth Ministry**

Youth Group _____
Drivers/Helpers _____

**Serve as Delegates to:**

Council of Churches ___
2027 Synod Assembly
_____
2027 Mission District
Assembly _____

**Fellowship/Social**

Women of ELCA _____
Jolly Quilters _____
Prayer Shawl Ministry
_____
Picnic Planning _____

**Church Committees**

Worship & Music _____
Christian Education ___
Social Ministry _____
Evangelism _____
Finance _____
Property _____
Audit _____
Nominating _____
Stewardship _____
Technology Group ____

**Elected/Appointed**
**I have interest in:**

Student Loan _____
Mutual Ministry _____
Church Council _____

**Church Office**

Help in church office when
needed _____

**Volunteer Activities**

Visitation:
Sick/shut ins _____
Prospective members ____
Telephone _____
Visit new members ____
Provide Transportation:
To Worship_____
To Doctor _____
To Grocery _____
Cleaning for elderly ____
Prepare/deliver meal ____
Assist at Food Pantry ____
Prepare Baked Goods ____
Christmas Caroling to Shut-ins
_____

**Maintenance**

Carpentry _____
Electrical _____
Painting _____
Outdoor _____
Annual Work Day _____
Set up or break down tables for
church functions _____

**Worship Activities** - *All done in a rotation*; The number of times a year is dependent upon the number of people that sign up.

Altar Guild - Requires about 15 minutes post-service; Training is provided
Greeter, Lector, Greeter, Usher - Training is provided
Acolyte/Crucifer - Typically youth but not required. Training is provided
Assisting Minister - Assists in leading worship. Please see Pastor with any questions. Requires training.
Eucharistic Minister - Takes Holy Communion to assigned shut-ins once a month, requires a full day training with Lutheran Congregational Services.

**Music**

Senior Choir - practices as needed
Handbells - practices Thursday evening, 9 months/year
Signs of Faith - practices as needed; requires completing basic sign language course

**Serve as Delegates to:**

Schuylkill Haven Council of Churches - 4th Tuesday, every other month
Mission District Assembly - typically the 1st weekend in June

**Fellowship/Social**

Women of the ELCA & Jolly Quilters – meeting as needed
Prayer Shawl Ministry - meeting as needed
Picnic Planning - as needed to plan picnic once a year

**Church Committees** - *All meet monthly or as needed*

See more information about committees and groups on our website:

https://summerhilllutheran.org/committees-and-groups

# A Brief Look at
# Some Summer Hill History

by Harry Schwenk

With Veterans Day being observed in a few days, I thought it would be appropriate to write about two of my 4th great grandfathers, who are veterans of the Revolutionary War and are buried in Summer Hill Cemetery.

Conrad Roeder was born on May 13, 1751 in North Driedorf-Nafau, Diellenburg, Germany. He immigrated to America from Rotterdam via Portsmouth, England into Philadelphia. In 1776, Conrad enlisted as a soldier in the Army of the U.S. under Captain Hettering in Chester County. Conrad stated in his declaration that he was at Fort Lee, Amboy and Fort Washington. At Fort Washington, he was taken prisoner and held for eight weeks at Bridewell Prison. After his release from prison, Conrad returned to Chester County. In 1777, Conrad once again enlisted in the Army for one year. During this year, he was at Trenton, Amboy, White Plains, Valley Forge, Brandywine, Germantown, and Monmouth Meeting House.

At the end of his service in the Army, Conrad returned to Chester County and remained there for four years. He then moved to Berks County for a short period of time. Then the family moved to present day Southern Schuylkill County and began attending services on Summer Hill. Conrad passed away on August 6, 1834 and is buried with his wife Magdalena in the Summer Hill Cemetery. Quite a few of our members have Conrad as an ancestor.

Johannes Reber was born on January 6, 1758 in Windsor Township, Berks County. At the age of eighteen, Johannes enlisted in the Revolutionary War in July 1776, under Captain George May. He served in Co. Haller's Regiment of the Flying Camp, marching from Windsor Township to Amboy, New Jersey. Johannes was at the Battles of White Plains and York Island. After Johannes returned to Windsor Township, he was drafted into the Pennsylvania Militia, served under Captain Joseph Hiester, and was at Barren Hill near Philadelphia.

Johannes also drove a team of horses and wagon in the Continental Service from Windsor Township. Among places he was with the team was Valley Forge, probably delivering food-stuffs to Washington's troops. Sometime in the 1780's, Johannes, his wife Catharina, and their family moved to the area which is now South Manheim Township, and attended services on Summer Hill.

The Rebers were the parents of twelve children, ten sons and two daughters. Johannes passed away on March 27, 1836. He and his wife Catharina are buried in the Summer Hill Cemetery. Many of our church members have Johannes as an ancestor.

# THE EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL'S

**November 2026**

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church**
**1185 Summer Hill Road,**
**Auburn, PA, 17922**

**Church Phone: 570-754-7350**

**Address Service Requested**

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church email:**
stpaulsummerhill@gmail.com

**Website:** www.SummerHillLutheran.org

**Facebook:**
St Paul Lutheran Church, Summer Hill

**YouTube channel:**
https://www.youtube.com/@summerHillLutheran

**Communion service every Sunday:** 9:00am
**First Saturday**
**Holy Communion Service:** 5pm

**Office Hours:**
Monday – Thursday,
9am - 2pm (closed Friday)

**QR CODE FOR ONLINE GIVING**