

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

A Community of Faith for 242 Years

Saturday, September 12, 2026

The Power of Forgiveness:

Being Set Free

Matthew 18:21-35

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

YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@summerHillLutheran>

Saturday, September 12, 2026

Holy Communion

*stand +kneel

GATHERING

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE.....“A Song of Hope” by Michael Ryan

***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, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

C - Amen.

P - Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin. Compassionate God,

C - we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

P - Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ✝ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

C - Amen.

***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- Spoken)**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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 mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

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

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ,
only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:**

**receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P - Let us pray. O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, 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: Genesis 50:15-21

After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

R - The word of the Lord.

C - Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13 (Read Responsively)

- [¹ Bless the LORD, | O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's | holy name.
- ² **Bless the LORD, | O my soul,**
and forget not | all God's benefits—
- ³ who forgives | all your sins
and heals all | your diseases;
- ⁴ **who redeems your life | from the grave**
and crowns you with steadfast | love and mercy; R
- ⁵ who satisfies your desires | with good things
so that your youth is renewed | like an eagle's.
- ⁶ **O LORD, you provide | vindication**
and justice for all who | are oppressed.
- ⁷ You made known your | ways to Moses
and your works to the chil- | dren of Israel.
-] ⁸ **LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,**
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love; R
- ⁹ you will not al- | ways accuse us,
nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.
- ¹⁰ **You have not dealt with us according | to our sins,**
nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.
- ¹¹ For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.
- ¹² **As far as the east is | from the west,**
so far have you removed our transgres- | sions from us.
- ¹³ As a father has compassion | for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear | you, O LORD. **R**

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

R - The word of the Lord.

C - Thanks be to God.

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

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia. Alleluia.

***GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35**

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

P - The holy gospel according to Matthew.

C - Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹ Peter came and said to [Jesus,] “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?”

²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that

had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

P - The gospel of the Lord.

C - Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

***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

P - Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us. Move your church throughout the world away from judging and despising others. Lead us to embody the forgiveness you have given us in Jesus. Hear us, O God.

C - Your mercy is great.

P - The endless beauty of your creation reminds us of your mercy. Protect those who care for farms and ranches. Guide those who lead us to wonder at your creation. Hear us, O God.

C - Your mercy is great.

P - Raise up leaders to hold all in authority accountable for any misuse of the power entrusted to them. Hear us, O God.

C - Your mercy is great.

P - Calm the fears of all in need with your promises.

Compassionately free the lives of any who feel bound by their failures. Remember your children in need. Hear us, O God.

C - Your mercy is great.

P - Ground this congregation in the welcome you show us in forgiving our sin. Inspire each of us to welcome others for your honor and glory. Hear us, O God.

C - Your mercy is great.

P - With you is found the joy and promise of eternal life. Keep us in that joy as we remember all those who have gone before us. Hear us, O God.

C - Your mercy is great.

P - Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC - Dave Hartranft

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

***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**

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- Spoken)**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P - Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance. You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life, and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven. You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.

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 life given for us and his rising from the grave, we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.

By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal: strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want, and by this bread and cup make of us the body 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 - Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

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

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace.**

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 - Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

C - Amen.

SENDING

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

*BLESSING

P - The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

C - Amen.

P - The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

C - Amen.

P - The God of grace ✝ bless you now and forever.

C - Amen.

*DISMISSAL

P - Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

C - Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE.....“Higher Ground” - arranged by Lani Smith

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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 Fall Worship schedule will begin tomorrow. 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 tomorrow. Please speak to Brian Staller, Charity Staller or Deb Hummel for more information.

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.

You are invited to join St. Paul's UCC for their Rally Day picnic tomorrow! 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!

SCAN TO SHOP
AND SUPPORT!



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 September Newsletter. 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.

There will be a property meeting on Wednesday, September 16 beginning at 6:00pm.

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.

The Social Ministry Committee is sponsoring their annual 75 and over birthday party luncheon on Sunday, September 27th at 12 noon in the pavilion. Those who are 75 and over will receive invitations for this event. As stated on the invitation, please RSVP by Thursday, September 17th by calling the church office or calling Harry Schwenk, committee chairperson, or by seeing him in church. If you are 75 and over and have not received an invitation in a reasonable amount of time, please let us know. Maybe your birthday is not in the church records.

2026 One rock one Community FREE Music Festival- 3 DAY EVENT: Sept. 18th will be a special "rock recovery" night from 4:30pm till 8:30pm; Sept. 19th Main stage, Children's Stage and Motor show stage, 10:30am till 6:00pm; Sept. 20th will be a "Rock Revival", 3:30pm till 6:30pm. The event is held at the Stop 'n Rock, 1008 Rock Road, Pine Grove. Experience the power of music and fellowship at One Rock One Community. It is expressed through music, such as, gospel, bluegrass, country, and contemporary Christian, heavy Christian rock, and even Christian rap. There is a free children's area, food trucks, ice cream and so much more. See the flyers on the church bulletin board or visit the website for even more information: <https://www.onerockonecommunity.org/>

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. We 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.

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>

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, September 6, 2026 – 40 in person and 84 Facebook views as of September 10

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

Week of August 30 – September 5, 2026

Current	\$1,042.05
Benevolence/Synod	\$ 104.30
Local Benevolence	\$ 101.20
Plate	<u>\$ 35.00</u>
Total	\$1,282.55

THE WEEK OF SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2026

Saturday, September 12

5:00 PM -Worship Service and Annual Picnic with guest, Dave Hartranft

Sunday, September 13

9:15 AM -Sunday School

10:30 AM -Worship Service

11:30 AM -Invited to Picnic at St. Paul's UCC (Picnic Grove)

Tuesday, September 15 -Newsletter deadline

Wednesday, September 16

6:00 PM -Property Meeting

Thursday, September 17

1:00 – 6:00 PM -Council of Churches Blood Drive at Jerusalem Lutheran

6:00 PM -Bell Choir

Sunday, September 20

9:15 AM -Sunday School

10:30 AM -Worship Service

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday, September 14: Psalm 133; Genesis 48:8-22; Hebrews 11:23-29

Tuesday, September 15: Psalm 133; Genesis 49:29-50:14; Romans 14:13-15:2

Wednesday, September 16: Psalm 133; Genesis 50:22-26; Mark 11:20-25

Thursday, September 17: Psalm 145:1-8; Nahum 1:1, 14:2:2; 2 Corinthians 13:1-4

Friday, September 18: Psalm 145:1-8; Nahum 2:3-13; 2 Corinthians 13:5-10

Saturday, September 19: Psalm 145:1-8; Zephaniah 2:13-15; Matthew 19:23-30

Saturday September 12– 5:00 PM

Greeter: Eva Waldman

Lector: Sallie Sandler

Communion Assistant: Matt Platt

Counting Team:

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, Brian Staller, Joan Axtt

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

