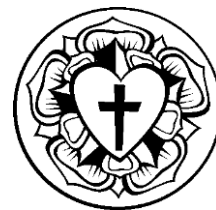




The Epistle of St. Paul's

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

September 2026



From the Pastor:

Dear Family,

And just like that summer disappears before our eyes. It's hard to believe it's almost September already and the kids are back at school. Please hold students and teachers in your prayers.

With the children heading back to school, it's a good time to reflect on the Christian Education programs we offer here at St Paul's. We will be using a new curriculum in the Sunday School for children, and I will be leading an adult Sunday forum.

Ongoing Christian Education does more than simply build up our personal faith. Research shows that creating community in various small groups strengthens the health and vitality of our congregation. These groups are more than friend groups. They are groups whose purpose is centered on God and God's love for us. To discuss God's Word and how it informs who we are as Christians

I urge you to make the time to begin this new adventure!

Pastor Marie

Pastoral Visits

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

Church Council Meeting

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

Saturday Worship Service

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

Outdoor Worship and Breakfast

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.

Thank you!

Becky, Dianna, Elizabeth, Faye, Holly, Karen, Leah, Sandy, or Trish

Helping Harvest

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.

Special Music Saturday & Faithful Fellowship Picnic

Pastor Fred Fisher once said, “a congregation can only become a community when the members get to know one another. Otherwise they remain strangers, though they may worship together every week.”

You are invited to our **Special Music Saturday & Faithful Fellowship Picnic on September 12@ 5:00pm.**

Enjoy an inspiring service, followed by a relaxing evening of music with Dave Hartranft, warm community, and delicious food.

A sign up sheet will be placed on the bulletin board if you would like to share a food item.

Hope to see you there! Please bring a lawn chair and a friend.

Fall Worship Schedule

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.

New Sunday School Curriculum

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

Please Note: The October Newsletter Deadline is **Tuesday, September 15.**

St. Paul's UCC Rally Day

You are invited to join St. Paul's UCC for their Rally Day activities on **Sunday, September 13!** We will gather in the UCC church picnic grove around 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!

Property Meeting

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

Check out our FUNDRAISER: FALL MUM SALE 2026

Support St. Paul's Bear Creek Campers and brighten your fall with beautiful mums!

- Gorgeous fall mums in a variety of colors
- Perfect for porches, gardens, and gifts
- Every purchase directly supports our campers

TAKING ORDERS UNTIL: 9/16

PICK UP AT CHURCH: 9/20 10:30AM-12:30PM

If you need ordering assistance contact Leah 570-617-7702

SCAN TO SHOP AND SUPPORT!

Thank you for your support!

Confirmation Class Registration Form

1st year confirmation classes are available to any young adult turning 12 or entering 7th grade this year.

(Please return completed forms to the church office.)

Name: _____
(please include middle name)

Address: _____

Parents: _____

Home Phone #: _____

Parent Cell Phone #: _____

Confirmand Cell Phone #: _____

Parent Email: _____

Confirmand Email: _____

Grade Entering in the Fall: _____

School: _____

Birth Date: _____

Baptismal Date: _____

Baptismal Church: _____

Mentor: _____

Council of Churches Community Blood Drive

There will be a Red Cross Blood Drive sponsored by the Schuylkill Haven Council of Churches 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 to schedule an appointment.

75 & Over Birthday Party Luncheon

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.

Save the Date For Dinner and a Movie!

The Social Ministry Committee is sponsoring their annual fall "Dinner and a Movie Night" on **Saturday, November 7**, beginning at 5:45 p.m. (following the church service.) We hope you will join us for fun and fellowship. More information will be available in next month's newsletter and future bulletins. In the meantime, if any questions, please speak to Karen Curtis.

Prayer Requests

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

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. 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.

A Prayer for Joy and Laughter

Give me a sense of humor, Lord,
Give me the wit to see a joke
To get some humor out of life,
And pass it on to other folk.

—Anonymous

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/>



Schuylkill County Walk for Recovery



WHEN **LIVE MUSIC 6:00PM**
Thursday, September 3, 2026

- CHECK-IN BEGINS AT 5:00PM
- WALK KICKS OFF AT 6:30PM.

WHERE
Island Park

- 1 BROADWAY, SCHUYLKILL HAVEN, PA.
- BRING YOUR OWN CHAIRS

WHY
Walk to Support

- OUR NEIGHBORS IN RECOVERY
- COMMUNITY MEMBERS STRUGGLING WITH SUBSTANCE USE
- FAMILY AND FRIENDS IMPACTED BY A LOVED ONE'S SUBSTANCE USE
- FAMILY AND FRIENDS WHO ARE PROUD TO CELEBRATE THE RECOVERY OF A LOVED ONE!

BONUS: THE FIRST 250 ATTENDEES WILL RECEIVE A FREE EVENT T-SHIRT!



SCAN to REGISTER





Free Music Festival Weekend 2026

Friday, Sept 18 to

Sunday, Sept 20

Rock Recovery

Friday—Sept 18

Starting at 4:30 PM

Food Trucks, Cornhole, Just Chilling

5:30 PM—Show Starts

Scarlet Meridian and Torment Ridden

Music, Testimonies

6:45 PM Recovery Church

7:30 Music & Wrap

Guest Jeff Brickie, Rap & Hip-Hop

OROC Free Music Festival—Saturday, September 19

10 AM Motorsports Show—go to website for registration information

Music by Rock of Ages

11 AM to 6 PM—Music and Speakers Main Stage: Mercy Run, Emily High, Stars Burn Down, Wander No More and

Bodie from NBC's 'The Voice'

11 AM to 4 PM—Kids Area: Crafts, Petting Zoo, Games, Face Painting, Barrel Train and Bounce Houses. Music: Roth Family Band and DJ Clyde. Wrist band and waiver required.

Food available from on site food trucks & Stop N Rock Ice Cream.

Location: 1008 Rock Rd, Pine Grove, PA 17963

Use QR code or go to www.onerockonecommunity.org for the Program



If you would like to volunteer please go to our website and click "volunteer" in the upper right corner to get more information.

Children's Area Helpers require background checks.

Rock Revival of Hope & Faith

Sunday, September 20

3:30 PM to 6:30 PM

Community Potluck (Bring a Dish if you Wish)

and Select Free Food Truck Favs

Speaking: Vince Papale (Eagles Legend)

and author Bruce Charsky

Children's Area Open

Live Music & Prayer

Thank You, Thank you!!

-Dear Fellow Members,

Thank you for all your prayers and thoughts. Thank you for all the visits, cards and pretty flowers while I was in rehab. I do appreciate it. God bless you all.

Elona Fromm

-Thank you to everyone who donates, and those who take the time to put together the college goodie bags! It is very much appreciated!

Aiden Platt

-to the Thrivent clients directing Thrivent Choice Dollars® to St. Paul's in the amount of \$89.00

-Greetings Pastor Meeks and our good friends at St. Paul's Lutheran,

My name is Dave Delozier and I am the Chief Development Officer at Helping Harvest Food Bank. I'm writing to say thank you so much for your recent gifts and for your generous support over the years. Your partnership means so much to us as we work together to address hunger and food insecurity in Schuylkill County. You are truly helping us make a difference for many individuals and families. Last year we distributed a record 11 million pounds of food through our vast network of over 350 pantries, shelters, churches and schools in Berks and Schuylkill counties. We are on pace to break that record in 2026. The need is great. (See the next page of the newsletter for a colorful graphic showing the impact you are helping us to make.)

With gratitude,

David C. Delozier

Chief Development Officer,
Helping Harvest

-The Social Ministry Committee would like to thank everyone who donated back-to-school items to our schoolhouse. The items were divided and given to Schuylkill Children and Youth and Schuylkill Hope Center. The donations included; 55 notebooks, 24 folders, 16 composition books, 8 binders, 15 backpacks, 1 tablet, 2 rulers, 2 pairs of scissors, 6 glue sticks, 4 containers of glue, 2 packs of pens, 11 packs of pencils, 5 packs of colored pencils, 1 pack of markers, 11 erasers, 39 packs of crayons, 1 desk set, 6 pencil cases, and 2 pencil and eraser sets. This is the largest collection that we have had in the past few years. We always appreciate everyone who donates to this annual collection, and the children who receive the items really appreciate them too.

Faith and works are like the light and heat of a candle; they cannot be separated.

—Joseph Beaumont

The Revised Common Lectionary Readings:

September 6- Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 12:1-14
Psalm 149
Ezekiel 33:7-11
Psalm 119:33-40
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20

September 13- Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 14:19-31
Psalm 114
Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21
Genesis 50:15-21
Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35

September 20- Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 16:2-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
Jonah 3:10-4:11
Psalm 145:1-8
Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16

September 27- Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32
Psalm 25:1-9
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32

October 4-Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20
Psalm 19
Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 80:7-15
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46





- 4 - Jillian Krammes
 - 5 - Derek L. Reber
 - 7 - Lena Ferrence
 - Brian Kahl
 - Jennifer Lileck
 - 8 - Sheryl Deal
 - Ashley Frankenstein
 - 14 - Christina Durik
 - 15 - Kylinn Hollenbach
 - 17 - Elizabeth Moyer
 - 20 - Bud Paxson
 - 24 - William Ennis
 - 26 - Jennifer Platt
-

Prayer of Remembrance for Patriots Day

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter through every storm, and our eternal home:

We come before You remembering the lives lost on September 11, 2001. Though many years have passed, the sorrow of that day still lingers in the hearts of families, friends and a grieving nation.

Lord, comfort those who continue to carry loss. Grant peace to the brokenhearted, strength to the weary and light to those walking through seasons of grief. Let Your presence bring hope where memories still ache.

Teach us to care for one another with compassion and courage. Help us to be a people who offer kindness to the hurting, encouragement to the discouraged and justice to those who suffer. Stir our hearts to live with mercy, humility and love for our neighbors.

Forgive us when our words are greater than our actions. May we strive each day to reflect the values of faith, unity and grace that honor You and strengthen our communities.

Thank You, Lord, for Your constant care and unfailing mercy. Even in tragedy, You remain our refuge and our hope.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The life of the nation is secure only while
the nation is honest, truthful and virtuous.*

—Frederick Douglass

*I have learned that plotting revenge only allows the
people who hurt you to hurt you longer.*

—Anonymous

*When a man is wrapped up in himself,
he makes a very small package.*

—John Ruskin

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

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



Special Dates for September:

- Labor Day, *September 7*
- Patriot Day, *September 11*
- National Grandparents Day, *Sept. 13*
- Hispanic Heritage Month, *September 15-October 15*
- First Day of Autumn, *September 22*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Council Meeting- 7pm	3	4	5
6 Outdoor Worship- 9:00am Breakfast to follow Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost	7 Church offices closed Labor Day	8	9	10 Bell Choir- 6:00pm	11	12 Worship, annual picnic and music by guest artist, Dave Hartranft- 5:00pm
13 Sunday School- 9:15am Worship- 10:30am St. Paul's UCC Rally Day Picnic- approx. 11:30am Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost	14	15 Newsletter Article Deadline	16 Property Meeting- 6:00pm	17 Bell Choir- 6:00pm Council of Churches Blood Drive at Jerusalem Luth.- 1-6pm	18	19
20 Sunday School- 9:15am Worship- 10:30am Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost	21	22	23	24 Bell Choir- 6:00pm	25	26
27 Sunday School- 9:15am Worship- 10:30am 75 and Over Birthday Party Luncheon- 12pm Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost	28	29	30	1 Bell Choir- 6:00pm	2	3 Spoken Worship Service -5pm

A Brief Look At Some Summer Hill History

By Harry Schwenk

This month we will take a look at some modern history, with events that happened at St. Paul's Church since the turn of this century.

In the year 2000, several changes were made in the life of St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Air conditioning was installed in the church, helping to make summer Sunday morning worship services more enjoyable and comfortable. In August, the congregation voted favorably to approve an addition to the church building. This addition was to be called the Steigerwalt Annex, in honor of Pastor Steigerwalt, pastor of St. Paul's from 1927 until his death in 1965. The annex would provide extra space for Sunday School classes, committee meetings and storage space for music supplies and other items. When a funeral is held at the church, the annex would provide a viewing area prior to the service. A handicapped lavatory and an elevator were included as part of the annex project. The lower level of the annex became the meeting place for the Teens and the gathering place for the Jolly Quilters. Ground was broken for the Steigerwalt Annex in the summer of 2001, and the dedication of the annex took place in the summer of 2002.

A new exterior plexi-glass cross, replacing the old iron cross, was purchased and placed on the church. It was given in memory of John Schwenk by his family and friends and was dedicated on January 27, 2002. The old cross was relocated to the southern end of the cemetery.

In the year 2003, several changes to the morning worship services occurred. Communion services were held on the first and third Sundays of each month and at the Saturday evening service before the first Sunday of the month. A sign language interpreter was hired to sign the 10:30 a.m. service on the first Sunday of every month.

In January 2004, the first sign language class, taught by Pegi and Charity Staller, was held at St. Paul's. The ten church members attending the class, met weekly for three months and graduated on Palm Sunday by signing the anthem, "Here I Am Lord" in front of the congregation. Over the next few years, other signing classes were held. Today, the sign language group, "Signs of Faith" signs a new anthem during the monthly Deaf and Hearing- Impaired service and signs at other churches and nursing facilities. Pastor Fisher was instrumental in forming a Contemporary Worship Team, consisting of vocalists and instrumentalists in the summer of 2004. The Contemporary Worship Service was held on the fourth Sunday of each month.

In September 2004, The Rev. Frederick Fisher announced his upcoming retirement, effective at the end of October. The confirmation class that was to be confirmed on Pentecost 2005 wanted to have Pastor Fisher confirm them. The young people faithfully attended extra classes to have their work done and to be able to be confirmed by Pastor Fisher on the last day of his preaching at St. Paul's. The evening before Pastor Fisher's final Sunday at St. Paul's, a surprise retirement dinner and celebration was held at Pine View Acres in Pottsville. Over 200 church members and former members of St. Paul's and family and friends of the Fisher family attended the event.

THE EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL'S

September 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

