

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

A Community of Faith for 242 Years

Sunday, January 25, 2026



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

Worship Plan for Sunday, January 25, 2026

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Holy Communion

Sunday, January 25, 2026

GATHERING

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE.....“How Brightly Shines The Morning Star”- J. S Bach

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ELW p. 94)**

The assembly stands. 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, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

C - **Amen.**

P - Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P - Mighty God, lover of justice,

C - **you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

P - The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in ✙ Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

C - **Amen.**

***GATHERING SONG**.....“Will You Come and Follow Me: The Summons”
(ELW 798)

1 "Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,

will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?

2 "Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare,
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer pray'r
in you and you in me?

3 "Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the pris'ners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?

4 "Will you love the you you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?"

5 Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

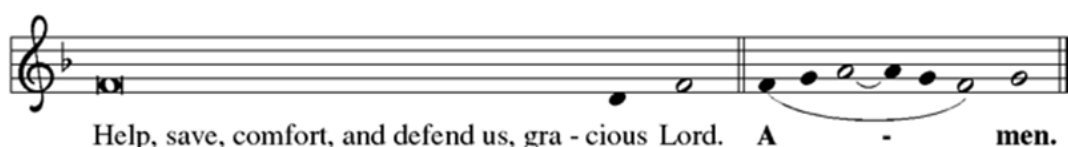
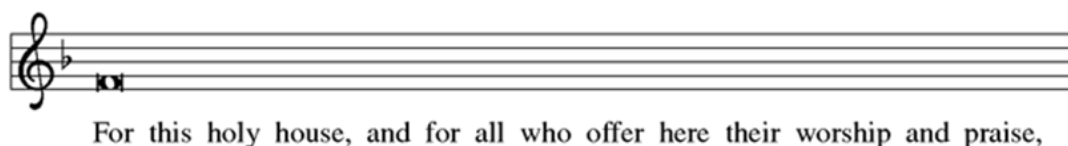
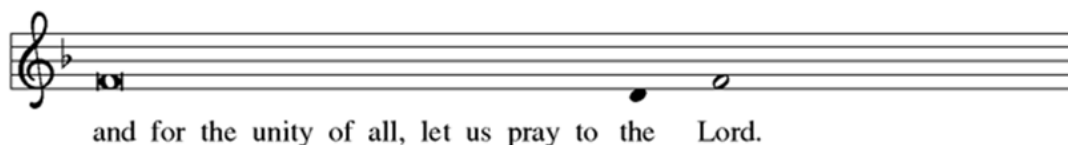
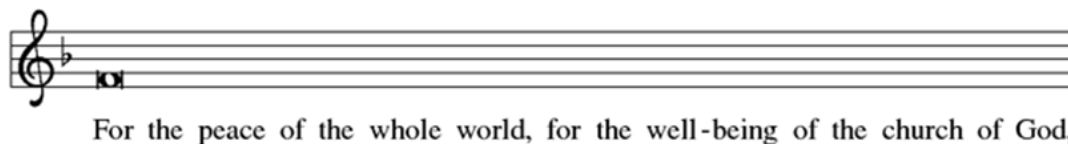
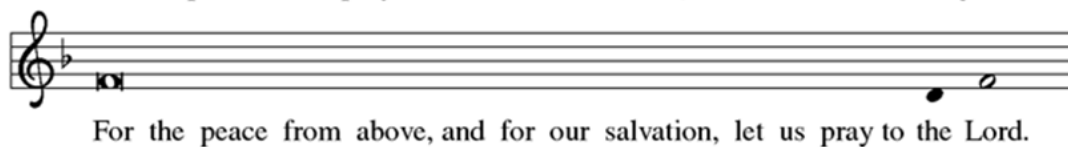
*GREETING

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)

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.

P - Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

P - Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us.

Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C - Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:1-4

The northern tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali experienced the gloom of defeat by Assyrian military forces, but they are assured that their condition will be reversed when God makes a light-filled appearance. The joy they will experience will resemble celebrations of great harvests, because God will deliver them from everything that diminishes or oppresses them.

¹ There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the LORD] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. ² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.

³ You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden
and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

R - The word of the Lord.

C - Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 27:1, 4-9 (please read responsively)

¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then [|] shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I [|] be afraid?

⁴ **One thing I ask of the LORD; one [|] thing I seek;**
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze
upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God [|] in the temple.

⁵ For in the day of trouble God will [|] give me shelter,
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high up- [|] on a rock.

⁶ **Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies [|] who surround me.**
Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I
will sing and make music [|] to the LORD. R

⁷ Hear my voice, O LORD, [|] when I call;
have mercy on me and [|] answer me.

⁸ **My heart speaks your message— [|] “Seek my face.”**
Your face, O LORD, [|] I will seek.

⁹ Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your ser- [|] vant in anger.
Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of [|]
my salvation. **R**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Paul calls on the Corinthians to end their dissensions and share the unified outlook of the gospel. Discord arises when we forget that we belong not to human leaders or institutions but to Christ. Indeed, the unifying word of the cross of Christ is the center of the gospel and the power of God's salvation.

¹⁰ Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹ For it has been made clear to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹² What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." ¹³ Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴ I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶ I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel—and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

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 4:12-23**

Jesus begins his public ministry shortly after John the Baptist is imprisoned by Herod. He proclaims the nearness of God's reign and calls four fishermen to be his first disciples.

P - The holy gospel according to Matthew.

C - Glory to you, O Lord.

¹² Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³ He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵ "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—

¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light,

and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.”

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

¹⁸ As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers.

¹⁹ And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.”

²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

²³ Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

P - The gospel of the Lord.

C - Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY.....“We Are Marching in the Light” (ELW 866)**

We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching--oo--
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching--oo--
we are marching in the light of God.

Additional stanzas- We are dancing.....
We are praying..... We are singing.....

***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 - As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

A brief silence.

P - Holy One, you entrust the message of the cross and the mission of the gospel to the church in every land. Guide the newly baptized and deepen the faith of all who follow Christ. Merciful God,

C - receive our prayer.

P - Holy Creator, you lavish creation with splendor, and we praise you for the gift of life. Teach us to live as wise stewards, sharing the earth's resources with all inhabitants of this garden planet. Merciful God,

C - receive our prayer.

P - Holy Judge, your power is love, and you judge the nations by the measure of Christ. Free any who are unjustly accused or wrongly condemned. We pray for those in authority. Merciful God,

C - receive our prayer.

P - Holy Lover, you care for vulnerable young children, frail elders, and any who are sick. We pray for all who are affected by natural disasters. Provide for their needs and relieve their suffering. Merciful God,

C - receive our prayer.

P - Holy Giver, you gather, forgive, and shape us as disciples of Christ. Nurture in us a spirit of patience and respect, that we may love one another as you love us. Merciful God,

C - receive our prayer.

P - Holy Savior, you free us from the power of death. Lead and guide us until we come at last into the communion of all your saints in light. Merciful God,

C - receive our prayer.

P - Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

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.

BELL ANTHEM- "Joyful Noise"....."Rise Up, O Church Of God"
Arranged by Tammy Waldrop

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 - God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, 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 - Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all. By your powerful word you created all things. Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations. Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

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 preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light. By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that,

refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance 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 - Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table; taste and see.

***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 - Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, 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 the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise ☩ bless you now and forever.

C - Amen.

***SENDING SONG**.....“Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” (ELW 815)

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain: In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

2 I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father.

Refrain: In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus.

Refrain: In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

***DISMISSAL**

P - Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

C - Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE.....“Choral Song” - Samuel S. Wesley; arr. by Dorothy Wells

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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.

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.

2026 Offering Envelopes: If you have not already picked up your envelopes, they are available on the table in the Narthex. If you do not want to receive envelopes because you are contributing online, please contact the church office.

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.

Souper Bowl Sunday will be observed on Sunday, February 8th. Food and monetary donations will be accepted in the narthex. The food will be donated to the Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry, and the money will be donated to Helping Harvest. Your generosity is appreciated.

Faithful Fellowship Time: Mardi Gras Faithful Fellowship, following the service on Sunday, February 15. Let's get together and sample some Louisiana culture. Not too spicy, we promise! Please check out the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board to add your contribution. We're excited to hear what you come up with! Perhaps you'd like to bring a friend!

Mark your calendars! There will be an Ash Wednesday worship service on February 18 beginning at 7:00pm. The service will include the imposition of ashes and the Sacrament of Holy Communion. There will also be Wednesday night Lenten worship services with the theme of making change. The services will take place each Wednesday at 7:00pm from February 25 through March 25. We hope you will join us!

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 January 18, 2026 – 12 in person; 361 online views, 3 shares as of January 22.

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

January 2-9, 2026 Offering

Current	\$3,921.30
Benevolence/Synod	\$ 197.30
Local Benevolence	\$ 220.70
Helping Harvest	\$1,037.00
Initial	\$ 39.00
Christmas	\$ 170.00
Plate	\$ 41.00
Total	\$5,626.30

January 11-16, 2026 Offering

Current	\$1,150.55
Benevolence/Synod	\$ 15.00
Local Benevolence	\$ 148.75
Initial	\$ 11.00
Plate	\$ 36.00
Total	\$1,361.30

THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026**Sunday, January 25**

9:15am -Sunday School

10:30am -Worship Service

Thursday, January 29

6:00 PM -Bell Choir

Sunday, February 1

9:15am -Sunday School

10:30am -Worship Service

DAILY BIBLE READINGS**Monday, January 26:** Psalm 27:7-14; Judges 6:11-24; Ephesians 5:6-14**Tuesday, January 27:** Psalm 27:7-14; Judges 7:12-22; Philippians 2:12-18**Wednesday, January 28:** Psalm 27:7-14; Genesis 49:1-2, 8-13, 21-26; Luke 1:67-79**Thursday, January 29:** Psalm 15; Deuteronomy 16:18-20; 1 Peter 3:8-12**Friday, January 30:** Psalm 15; Deuteronomy 24:17-25:4; 1 Timothy 5:17-24**Saturday, January 31:** Psalm 15; Micah 3:1-4; John 13:31-35**Sunday, January 25, 2026 – 10:30 AM****Greeter:** Helen Miller**Acolyte:** Tanner Gormley**Lector:** Harry Schwenk**Usher:** Becky Mairose**Communion Assistant:** Michael Ziegler**Counting Team:** Michael Ziegler & Matt Platt

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

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

