



The Epistle of St. Paul's

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

March 2026



From the Pastor:

March, I have a problem with this month! March is the month that we have a taste of spring. March is the month of uncertain weather!

Spring is coming, but it will snow and be cold and wet. I don't mind the weather, but it seems that March is just too many seasons!!

The season we are in now is Lent.

It might be tempting to look at Lent as a time to get our lives in order, stop any bad habits, like eating too much, not exercising or watching too much TV. But Lent is not just about us, it is not a self-help program. It is a God help program. God's abounding love for humanity shows us how we are to live.

Psalm 51 is the traditional Psalm we hear on Ash Wednesday. Essentially, it's the theme for Lent. We hear a call for mercy and forgiveness of our transgressions and cleanse me from my sin. The Psalm also leads us to confess our sinfulness. I sometimes meditate on these verses, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me."

How is God calling you to open your heart for the grace and forgiveness in this time of Lent?

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.

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 trying something brand new – we'll soon be **livestreaming our worship services** on our very own YouTube channel: @summerHillLutheran!!!

No need to worry about missing a thing — once we launch, we'll share the livestream link on Facebook every week. You'll still be able to chat, comment, and worship together *live* just like always.

Our website now features a direct link to our YouTube channel, where you can already find recorded services beginning in February. 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>

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.

Women of the ELCA Collection

The Women of the ELCA will be collecting personal, school and baby items during the season of Lent. Check the table in the narthex for a list of all the items needed. All donations can be left on or under the table in the narthex. Please speak to Holly Maldonado for more information.

Lent & Holy Week

Wednesday night Lenten worship services continue with the theme of making change. The services are each Wednesday at 7:00pm **through March 25th**. We hope you will join us!

We will celebrate Palm Sunday on **March 29** at 10:30am with the Blessing of the Palms.

There will be a Maundy Thursday service with foot washing on **April 2** beginning at 7:00pm.

A Good Friday service will be held on **April 3** beginning at 7:00pm.

A Saturday Easter Vigil will be held on **April 4**. It begins outside at 6:45pm and then moves inside at 7:00pm.

We will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus on Easter morning, **Sunday, April 5** during the 10:30am worship service.

March- Saturday Spoken Worship Service

NOTE TIME CHANGE- The Saturday spoken service will not be held on Saturday, March 7. It has been moved to **Saturday, March 14**. The service will begin at 5pm.

Donations for College Students Needed

The Social Ministry's schoolhouse will be in the narthex from **Sunday, March 22nd until Sunday, April 12th**. We will be accepting donations of items

to be sent to our college students, to have while they are studying for their final exams. Items to be donated include snacks, pens, pencils, or any other small appropriate items. The packages will be given 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.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt



Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on **Sunday, March 29th** at 2pm. Please sign up any children that would like to participate on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board by **March 22**.

We will also have a sign-up sheet for plastic filled egg donations. If you're able to contribute, please see the bulletin board. Egg donations can be turned in by March 22. Thanks for your support.



Summer Hill Cemetery

Prior to March 28:

Please remove any winter arrangements from the cemetery that you would like to keep. Thank you.

Easter Cross

On Easter Sunday we will have the Cross at the front of the church again. We will have flowers available, but you are welcome to bring your own. We will put the flowers on as we come down from Communion. Let's see how beautiful it turns out this year!!!

Women of the ELCA Meeting

There will be a Women of the ELCA Cluster Meeting on **Saturday, April 25** beginning at 9am in the pavilion. The cost is \$10 per ticket, which includes breakfast and lunch. Please speak to Holly Maldonado or Karen Curtis for more information.

2026 Offering Envelopes and 2025 Giving Statements

If you have not already picked up your envelopes and/or statements, 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.

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.

March Birthdays

- 3 - Trudy Ryan
- 4 - Jacob Felty
 - Ayva Strauss
- 6 - Donna Cox
- 8 - Danica Boyer
- 9 - Clair Moyer
- 12 - Tyler Brensinger
- 14 - John Strauch Sr.
- 18 - Kayla Fidler
 - Grayson Rollman
- 19 - Beverly Freeman
- 20 - Derek Boyer
 - Christian Yerusavage
- 21 - Mark Gilbert
 - Lindsey Petrie
- 22 - Adalynn Deal
 - Mark Durik
 - Carol Gordon

- 25 - Amy Schantzenbach
 - Wilber tStaller Jr.
 - Landon Trostle
 - 26 - Sandra Brooker
-



-The Social Ministry Committee thanks everyone who contributed to our annual Souper Bowl Celebration event. Thank you for the monetary donations and also the donations of food. The food items were donated to the Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry, and the money was given to Helping Harvest. Thank you for your generosity.

-Thank you to those members for their contributions of \$28.00 in Thrivent Choice® dollars

-Dear Friends of St. Paul's Lutheran Church,

On behalf of Servants To All, I want to extend our deepest gratitude for your generosity through this year's mitten tree. Your collection of mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, socks, and other winter essentials is a beautiful expression of compassion during the Advent and Christmas seasons.

These items will bring warmth, comfort, and dignity to the individuals and families we serve, as well as those supported by Schuylkill Women in Crisis. Your kindness reaches far beyond the narthex- it touches neighbors who are facing some of the hardest moments of their lives.

Your congregation's commitment to caring for the community is truly inspiring. Thank you for sharing hope and love in such a tangible way. We are grateful for your continued partnership and for the light you bring to Schuylkill County.

With sincere gratitude, Jeanette Triano Sinn,
Executive Director, Servants to All

The Revised Common Lectionary Readings:

Second Sunday in Lent- March 1, 2026

Genesis 12:1-4a

Psalms 121

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9

March 8- Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 17:1-7

Psalms 95

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

March 15- Fourth Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalms 23

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

March 22- Fifth Sunday in Lent

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalms 130

Romans 8:6-11

John 11:1-45

March 29- Palm Sunday

Liturgy of the Palms Readings:

Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29

Matthew 21:1-11

Liturgy of the Passion Readings:

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalms 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Matthew 26:14-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54

April 2- Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14

Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

April 3- Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Psalms 22

Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

John 18:1-19:42

April 4- Holy Saturday

Job 14:1-14 or Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24

Psalms 31:1-4, 15-16

1 Peter 4:1-8

Matthew 27:57-66 or John 19:38-42

April 5- Easter

Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43

John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10

Our Staff:

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Cindy Brown, Pavilion Sexton 570-345-1279

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Student Loan Committee email:

stpaulsummerhill.studentloan@gmail.com

The King No One Expected



Sometimes we speak—or even shout—the truth without realizing just how right we are. That’s exactly what happened on the first Palm Sunday.

Jesus entered Jerusalem not on a prize-worthy stallion, but on a young, humble donkey. The crowd erupted in joy, shouting, “*Hosanna! Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!*” They waved palm branches, symbols of peace, and hailed Jesus as their king.

Was He a king? Jesus didn’t deny it. When the Pharisees told him to silence the crowd, he replied, “*I tell you, if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.*”

Later, Pilate—the Roman governor—mocked the religious leaders by saying, “*Here is your king.*” The chief priests bristled with anger, shouting, “*We have no king but Caesar!*”

When Pilate handed Jesus over to be crucified, he made one last jab at the furious crowd. John 19:19 tells us he ordered a sign to be placed above the cross. Written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek, it declared:

“Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.”

The chief priests demanded the sign be changed, but Pilate refused. “*What I have written, I have written,*” he said.

Was Jesus a king? The witnesses of His resurrection knew the answer. In Acts 17:7, the early believers were accused of “saying there is another king, Jesus.”

And the book of Revelation looks ahead to the day when all creation will know the truth:

“The Lamb will triumph ... for He is Lord of lords and King of kings.” — *Revelation 17:14*

Puzzle!

HOW'S THE WEATHER?

Use the code below to fill in these forecasts in places where Jesus traveled:

CODE:

A=☺	D=☼	H=☼	M=☆	P=◆	T=■	W=☒
B=♠	E=+	I=*	N=↑	R=●	U=□	Y=☞
C=☼	G=☼	L=★	O=↓	S=○	V=☒	Z=☞

Mt. Hermon

○ ↑ ↓ ☒

Jericho

☼ ↓ ■

Jerusalem

☆ * ★ ☼

Dead Sea Area

■ ● ↓ ◆ * ☼ ☺ ★ ☼ ✦ ☺ ■

Sea of Galilee

* □ ○ ■ ☒ ☼ * ↑ ☼ ○

Mediterranean Coast

● ● + + ☒ ☒

Answers: snow, hot, mild, tropical heat, gusty winds, breezy



- Special Dates- Marh 2026**
- World Day of Prayer, *March 6*
 - Daylight saving time begins, *March 8*
 - St. Patrick's Day, *March 17*
 - First day of spring, *March 20*
 - Holy Week, *March 29-April 5*
 - Palm/Passion Sunday, *March 29, 2026*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sunday School- 9:15am Worship- 10:30am Second Sunday in Lent	2	3	4 Lenten Worship Service- 7:00 PM Council Meeting- following the worship service	5 Bell Choir- 6pm	6	7 Summer Hill Youth Group Escape Room Event- 4-7pm (at the UCC)
8 Sunday School- 9:15am Worship- 10:30am Daylight Savings Time Begins Third Sunday in Lent	9	10	11 Lenten Worship Service- 7:00 PM	12 Bell Choir- 6pm	13	14 Spoken Worship Service- 5pm
15 Sunday School- 9:15am Worship- 10:30am Fourth Sunday in Lent Newsletter Deadline	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 Lenten Worship Service- 7:00 PM	19 Bell Choir- 6pm	20 First Day of Spring	21
22 Sunday School- 9:15am Worship- 10:30am Fifth Sunday in Lent	23	24	25 Lenten Worship Service- 7:00 PM	26 Bell Choir- 6pm	27	28
29 Sunday School- 9:15am Worship- 10:30am Palm/Passion Sunday	30	31				

A BRIEF LOOK AT SOME SUMMER HILL HISTORY

By Harry Schwenk

In a few days, March 7th will mark a date in the history of St. Paul's that occurred in 1782, 244 years ago.

As I have stated in previous articles over the years, even though our church takes 1784 as the year of the beginning of our church, our history dates earlier than that. It is presumed that both the Lutheran and Reformed congregations affiliated themselves with their Synods in 1784.

However, as early as the 1750's, settlers of the Lutheran faith settled in this area now known as South Manheim Township and gathered for worship at the farms. The first official record of our church property dates from December 23, 1767, when an application was made to the British government for the ground on which our church now stands. It wasn't until December 28, 1776 that a warrant was entered in the Land Office by Mr. Simon Marburger for a tract of land called "Devotions." There are no church records available from the time the warrant was entered in 1776 until 1782.

On March 7, 1782, the members of the Lutheran faith had invited those of the Reformed faith to meet with them for the purpose of uniting to form a union congregation and build a place for worship on the land owned by the Lutherans. This meeting took place at the farm of Nicholas Staller, which was located in the valley now underwater in Lake Wynonah, and whose property bordered our church land. Among the proceedings during the establishment of the union church in 1782, it was stated that, "If any difficulties arise in the congregations, there shall be elected Lutheran and Reformed members to settle the difficulties. No court or justice of the peace shall have anything to do with it." In addition to hosting this meeting, Nicholas Staller, who is a direct ancestor of many of us current members, was chosen as the Lutheran representative on the Building Committee for the House of Worship, and Egidius Meyer was the Reformed representative.

In addition to Mr. Staller and Mr. Meyer, those people who were present at the meeting and made initial donations to the cause were; Peter Brickly, Adam Christ, Johannes Dewald, George Grauel, Andreas Kraft, Andreas Krammes, George Lingefelter, Simon Marburger, Michael Meyer, Andreas Miller, Balzer Neyfang, Adam Schweigert, Jacob Schwenk, Marcus Schwenk, Christian Specht, Daniel Stoudt, Johannes Stoudt, Magdalena Webber, and Leonhart Werner.

Throughout the next few years as the church was being built, Mr. Dewald is listed as the carpenter. His first name is not listed, but it probably was Johannes, who attended the initial meeting. The lumber for the church came from the sawmills of Mr. Dreibelbis and Mr. Emerich. Also, during this time, Nicholas Staller, Egidius Meyer, and Peter Lingefelter continued to visit the people of the area and collected money for the cause. Finally, sometime during the year 1788, the church was completed and dedicated.

THE EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL'S

March 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: 10:30am
First Saturday
Holy Communion Service: 5pm**

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

QR CODE FOR ONLINE GIVING

