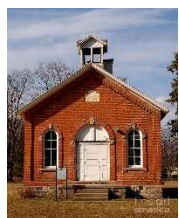


### **Calling all graduates!!!**

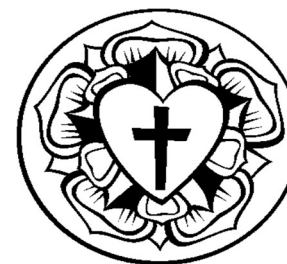


Please contact the church office with names of all graduates by May 15<sup>th</sup>. Please include with your name where you are graduating from and your future plans.



The Social Ministry's schoolhouse will be in the narthex from Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> until Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**You may make an offering to the church** through our website [www.SummerHillLutheran.org](http://www.SummerHillLutheran.org). Simply click on the online giving button on our home page and you will be directed to a secure site to make a one time or on-going offering. You may direct your offering from your checking or savings account or a credit or debit card. Use this QR code to go directly to the contribution page.



# **The Epistle of St. Paul's**

**April 2025**

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

## THE EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL'S

is published by:

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### **Student Loan Committee email:**

[stpaulsummerhill.studentloan@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsummerhill.studentloan@gmail.com)

**First Sunday Holy Communion Service –  
8 am and 10:30 am**

**Communion service every week at 10:30**

**First Saturday Holy Communion Service - 5 pm**

### **Our Staff**

The Rev. Marie Meeks	Pastor	716-353-1610
Matthew Hayes	Director of Music	484-794-7902
Linda Angstadt	Parish Secretary	570-754-7350
Eva Waldman	Church Sexton/Treasurer	570-754-7350
Cindy Brown	Pavilion Sexton	570-345-1279

### **Office Hours**

Monday - Friday 9 am - 3 pm  
Closed from 12:00 pm to 12:30 pm for lunch

### April Newsletter

Easter is late this year April 20<sup>th</sup>

Actually, Easter can be as early as the end of March all the way to mid to late April we all know Lent ends with Palm Sunday and the following Sunday is Easter. It's because the date for Easter is not ruled by the calendar but by the phases of the moon.

I have very little understanding about how Easter is determined or why Christmas day is always the 25<sup>th</sup> of December. I like things to stay the same, but Easter messes me up every year. Do I need my winter coat? Or just a light sweater?? Not to mention that when I lived up north there could be snow on Easter!

But Jesus comes into our lives at different times as well. What I mean is that feeling we get when we feel God with us, maybe at the funeral of a friend or family member. We sometimes feel God's love as we say goodbye but other times we feel God and we get angry because someone has died way too soon.

As we continue on our Lent Journey to the cross, we need to feel God with us as we come to worship on Wednesday just as we feel God with us on Sunday morning. Lent is a time of repentance and feeling our unworthiness. It is a time of looking over our lives and remembering that although we may ignore God or just forget that we are children of God. We are reminded in the scripture and in our daily lives that God is always with us, caring for us and all people through the gift of Jesus life death and resurrection.

Pastor Marie

### Keep in your prayers:



Charles Hawk, Sr., Richard Paxson,  
Dennis Ryan, Ron Boris, Jr., Shirley  
Krammes, Irene Peiffer, Betty Freeman,  
Chester Johnson, Angie Lewis, Mark  
Fidler, Hayley Moyer, Helen Runkle,  
Adam Brink, Arlene Moyer, Stephen  
Curtis, Brayden Crews, John Strauch, Jr.,

Rosemary Meade, Ray Yeich, David Axtt, Greg Phillips,  
Stacey Rao, John and Betty Strauch, Nancy Vargas, Jerry  
Heffleger, Kathy Robinson, Brian Hunsberger, Cathy Moran,  
Diane Werner, Donovan Baker, Peggy Davis, Harry Russell,  
Carol Beenick, Brittany & Joshua Gallagher, Shawnette Keller,  
Neida Hayes, Helen Miller, Sheila Tryon, Sallie Ann Sandler,  
Betty Fromm Yarnell, Kermit Snyder, Paulette White, Joseph  
and Linda Catizone, Don MacIntyre, Maxine Vanst,  
Christopher Tokarick, and Robert & Joyce Zeledonis. Those  
serving in the military: Brandon Felty, Karen Hall, Tyler  
Weller, Edward Hossler, Nick Lentz, Jake Schaeffer, Scott  
Aungst, Tyler Wolfe, Michael Hamilton, Kristian Svenson,  
Mark Weinus, Jr., Justin Weller, Jeremy Weaver, Cameron  
Lutz, Stephanie Boyer, Mitchell Moore, Timothy Bast, and  
Ryan Bast.

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**Pastoral visits and home communions are available anytime.**

**Please call the office or Pastor Marie.**

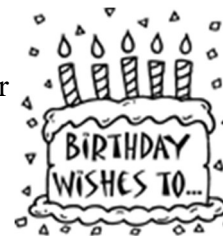
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The deadline for items for the May/June  
newsletter is **April 15th.**



### Happy April Birthday To:

4/1 Grace Bright  
4/2 Holly Maldonado: Matthew Chappell  
4/4 Jonathon Chappell  
4/5 Debbie Dowell  
4/6 Gary Lehman; Sallie Sandler  
4/7 William Swiger  
4/8 Elizabeth Hand  
4/9 Lois Sutton  
4/10 Jacob Emerich  
4/11 Cheyanna Middleton, Flynn Emerich  
4/12 Bobbi Lea Krammes; Wendy Paxson  
4/13 Michelle Hill; Joan Weegar  
4/15 Ashley Brown  
4/16 Sally Brensinger  
4/17 Joshua Iverson  
4/20 Travis Ulsh: Julianna Reber  
4/21 Eric Williams  
4/22 Gregory Raudenbush; Ashley Strausser  
4/23 Marvin Blankenhorn, Jr.  
4/24 Michael Troxell; Jennifer Henning  
4/25 Zachary Brooker; Kathleen Faust;  
Tobias Lileck  
4/26 Kevin Kahl; George Sholl, Jr.  
4/27 Angela Murphy;  
Bentley Crossen





The following have contributed memorial gifts in memory of Thelma Brensinger.

David & Elizabeth Chismar	\$100.00
Wayne & Rachel Brensinger	\$100.00
Robert & Shirley Byron	\$50.00
Darin & Crystal Brensinger	\$100.00
Jeffrey Moyer	\$250.00
Barry & Abby Weand	\$25.00
Bill & Ida Jagg	\$50.00
Debra Schaeffer	\$50.00

On behalf of the family of Thelma Brensinger, we want to express our appreciation to the church and its members for the care and love they continually showered on our mom, who went Home to Jesus February 28th. Mom and Dad were married in the original church building on Easter Day in 1948, and she remained a member until her final breath. The church has always remembered her, whether it was through card showers, meal deliveries, shawl ministry gifts, Christmas caroling, or flowers delivered from the altar. We are extremely thankful for your kindness and thoughtfulness.

We also want to thank everyone on the church staff and Cemetery Board for their cooperation and helpfulness with the arrangements of Mom's service and interment.

May God's richest blessings return upon you. Numbers 6:24-26

Elaine (Brensinger) and Allen Maneval and Wayne and Rachel Brensinger and families



Anyone who completed grades 1-12 that are interested in going to Bear Creek Camp in the summer please contact Leah Mullins Bowman.



Student Loan applications are available in the library for the 2025-2026 academic year. Please return completed, signed applications to a member of the Student Loan Committee or the church office by April 27, 2025. Contact a member of the Student Loan Committee (Michael Troxell, Cindy Brown, Jessica Rollman, Marlene Troxell, and Becky Mairose.) with any questions.



## VBS

This year again St. Paul's Lutheran Vacation Bible

School will be combined with St. Paul's UCC and held at St Paul's UCC church. Dates are June 16-20, 2025 from 6:00 to 8:30. The theme will be TRUE NORTH, trusting Jesus in a wild world. Details to follow.

## EASTER EGG HUNT



The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held Palm Sunday, April 13 at 2:00 pm in the fellowship hall for children up to and including those in grade 6. Advance registration is requested by April 6. To register your child(ren) sign sheet on bulletin board in back of church or email Reba at [llewell@verizon.net](mailto:llewell@verizon.net) or text or call 570-527-5116. Please leave child's name and age.



Egg Hunt Donations – Filled plastic eggs will be appreciated for the children's Egg Hunt on April 13. Please bring egg donations to the church by the morning of April 13 and place on table in the back of the fellowship hall. To sign up your donation, please sign sheet on bulletin board in back of the church or email Reba at [llewell@verizon.net](mailto:llewell@verizon.net) or text or call 570-527-5116. Thank you in advance for your donation.



## DINNER AND A MOVIE:

Saturday April 5th after service.

### LIFE WITH DOG

After losing his wife Alice in a mysterious bike accident, Joe begins a fast descent into the dark abyss of uncertainty. But his salvation arrives when a dog wanders into his garden and won't leave despite Joe's many attempts to rid him. "My wife had faith, I had doubt - you'd be surprised how well those two work together!" That's been Joe Bigler's "life operating manual" until his wife died in a mysterious bicycle accident. Now without her faith to help him mourn, and his doubt driving toward a mystery surrounding her death, Joe is left with more questions than he can handle, and quickly finds himself spiraling into a dark abyss - uncertain of all things. His rescue comes in the form of a Dog who wanders into his rose garden and refuses to leave. "Dog," as Joe unaffectionately refers to him, never utters a single bark, but engages Joe in silent conversation, and together they form an unexpected bond. And with that bond comes a new understanding of love, mercy, and compassion along with the beginnings of a personalized faith that helps Joe not only begin to grieve and heal, but also discover the answers to the unsolved mystery surrounding his wife's accident...and ultimately an ability to forgive at the highest level.

## Baskets of Promise

*"...satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday." Isaiah 58:10*

When emergencies like natural disasters or conflict arise, many families must flee their homes, leaving their belongings behind. When they arrive in a refugee camp or other place of safety, they are scared, vulnerable and dirty from the travel. The simple items included in a Personal Care Kit allow them to wash away the dirt and sweat, with the fresh scent of soap and the softness of a towel as reminders of someone's care and concern for them in their plight.

Items may be brought to the church during the Lenten Season.

Each kit includes:

- One light-weight bath-size towel (20" X 40" to 52" X 27"), dark color recommended.
- Two or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping; no mini or hotel size bars.
- One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging.
- One sturdy comb, (no picks or fine-toothed combs);
- One metal nail clippers (attached file optional)

If you wish to participate, but rather have someone else do the shopping, please place your donation in an envelope on the offering plate marked "Personal Care Kits."



"He will come to us as the showers,  
as the spring rains that water the earth." (Hosea 6:3)

# Lectionary Calendar for April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Psalm 53 Leviticus 25:1-19 Revelation 19:9-10	2 Psalm 53 2 Kings 4:1-7 Luke 9:10-17	3 Psalm 126 Isaiah 43:1-7 Philippians 2:19-24	4 Psalm 126 Isaiah 43:8-15 Philippians 2:25—3:1	5 Psalm 126 Exodus 12:21-27 John 11:45-57
6 <b>Fifth Sunday of Lent</b>	7 Psalm 20 Exodus 40:1-15 Hebrews 10:19-25	8 Psalm 20 Judges 9:7-15 1 John 2:18-28	9 Psalm 20 Habakkuk 3:2-15 Luke 18:31-34	10 Psalm 31:9-16 Isaiah 53:10-12 Hebrews 2:1-9	11 Psalm 31:9-16 Isaiah 54:9-10 Hebrews 2:10-18	12 Psalm 31:9-16 Leviticus 23:1-8 Luke 22:1-13
13 <b>Palm Sunday</b>	14 Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 36:5-11 Hebrews 9:11-15 John 12:1-11	15 Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 71:1-14 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 John 12:20-36	16 Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 70 Hebrews 12:1-3 John 13:21-32	17 <i>Maundy Thursday</i> Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14 Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 John 13:1-17, 31b-35	18 <i>Good Friday</i> Isaiah 52:13—53:12 Psalm 22 Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9 John 18:1—19:42	19 Romans 6:3-11 John 20:1-18
20 <b>Easter Sunday</b>	21 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 Joshua 10:16-27 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8	22 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 Judges 4:17-23; 5:24-31a Revelation 12:1-12	23 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 2 Samuel 6:1-15 Luke 24:1-12	24 Psalm 150 1 Samuel 17:1-23 Acts 5:12-16	25 Psalm 150 1 Samuel 17:19-32 Acts 5:17-26	26 Psalm 150 1 Samuel 17:32-51 Luke 24:36-40
27 <b>Second Sunday of Easter</b>	28 Psalm 122 Esther 7:1-10 Revelation 1:9-20	29 Psalm 122 Esther 8:1-17 Revelation 2:8-11	30 Psalm 122 Esther 9:1-5, 18-23 Luke 12:4-12			



# Church Calendar for April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>30</b> 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service	<b>31</b> 10am Prayer Shawl	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 7pm Council Meeting	<b>3</b> 6pm Bell Choir	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 5pm Worship Service
<b>6</b> 8am Worship Service 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service	<b>7</b> 10am Prayer Shawl	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 1pm Evangelism	<b>10</b> 6pm Bell Choir	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service	<b>14</b> 10am Prayer Shawl 7pm Stewardship	<b>15</b> 1:22pm deadline for newsletter articles	<b>16</b> 7pm Property	<b>17</b> 6pm Bell Choir	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service	<b>21</b> 10am Prayer Shawl	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 6pm Bell Choir	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service	<b>28</b> 10am Prayer Shawl	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b> 6pm Bell Choir	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 5pm Worship Service



A Brief Look At Some Summer Hill History  
By Harry Schwenk

After our new church was built and dedicated in 1961, our Lutheran Church Women sponsored "Everybody's Birthday Party" for several years during the 1960's and 1970's. Each month's birthday tables were decorated by two women of the group for their respective birthdays. Following is an article about the party in 1965.

The Lutheran Church Women of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Summer Hill held a birthday party on Wednesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> in the fellowship hall of the church for members and invited guests. The tables were set for each month of the year.

The following people attended:

January table- Ethel Bernheisel, Bertha Crowe, Rick Crowe, Thorne Woomert, Esther Reber, The Rev. Clarence Steigerwalt, Ann Fessler, and Mike Pohronezony.

February table- Jean Moyer, Dolores Weller, Elyse Weller, Leslie Weller, Susan Weller, Joseph Crowe, John Schwenk, Leonard Unger, and Edna Unger.

March table- Virgie Gaydos, Louise Hand, Della Bartolet, Vera Boyer, Minnie Krammes, Richard Freeman, Wayne Brensinger, William Berkheiser, Sadie Phillips, Mamie Shoener, Karen Dreher, and Shelly Hesse.

April table- Mabel Steigerwalt, Lucinda Bartolet, Nancy Bartolet, Betty Tobash, Edna Staller, Nancy Staller, Fern Staller, Debbie Freeman, Helen Frey, William Honicker, and Alice Honicker,

May table- Lottie Clauser, Betty Fessler, Tami Jo Heinbaugh, Sharon Freeman, Betty Freeman, Helen Freeman, Amy Reber, Alma Smith, Mrs. John Nagle, and Elona Trumbo.

June table- William Koch, Joe Crowe, John Nagle, Thelma Brensinger, Gladys Reed, Phyllis Shoener, and Vera Driesbach.

July table- Lillie Berkheiser, Russell Berkheiser, Katie Bowers, Mrs. Harold Berkheiser, Karen Berkheiser, Hannah Lea Krammes, and Laverne Frey.

August table- Violet Trumbo, Verna Schwartz, Elaine Frey, Aletha Heinbaugh, Oneida Fessler, Paul Krammes, Craig Staller, and John Fessler.

September table- Emma Phillips, Ruth Schwartz, Marion Bartolet, Alice Krammes, Quentin Frey, Mr. G. Pohronezony, Brian Staller, and Kenneth Trumbo.

October table- Sadie Morrison, Edna Schwartz, Dale Reed, William Crowe, Jim Reber, Paul Kalny, Terry Ferrence, Helen Reed, and Adam E. Heim.

November table- Edna Moyer, Quentin Frey Jr., Eva Koch, Helen Strauch, Erma Ferrence, and Ruth Miller.

December table- Sandy Berkheiser, Lillie Heim, Lewis Hand, Allen Reed, Edna Reber, Patty Reichert, Joyce Hesse, Judy J. Moyer, Esther Rhine, Jeffrey Freeman, Mabel Schwenk, and Orna Moyer.





# NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## 6261:

### Something New, Yet Something Old

*Submitted by: Deacon Kat Tigerman, Director of Evangelical Mission*



6261 : 6 congregations sharing 2 full-time pastors, 6 Licensed Lay Ministers (LLMs), and 1 full-time deacon. A parish-type model first presented by Bishop Christopher deForest at the Synod Assembly of 2023. A flexible framework to help congregations collaborate and thrive, while remaining unique and true to their own God-given gifts. A model designed to vitalize each congregation as together, they expand their ministries within the

community. A focus on the Gospel by increasing opportunities for worship, Bible studies, service, music, and ministry into the community.

There are currently 15 different areas across the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod at various discernment and exploration points about 6261. There is at least one area in each of the Synod's 9 Mission Districts.

The Synod's first 6261 Ministry Community officially launched on February 1, 2025 in Reading, PA as the "Pretzel City." This partnership includes six congregations: Bethany Lutheran (West Reading), Christ Lutheran (Reading), Hope Lutheran (Reading), Nativity Lutheran (Reading), St. Paul Lutheran (Reading), and Zion Spies Lutheran (Reading) along with Hope's Table (a Synod-Authorized Worshipping Community).

On February 19<sup>th</sup>, the Pretzel City 6261 Ministry Community hosted a potluck dinner, hymn sing, and celebration worship, co-lead by Bishop deForest and Deacon Kat Tigerman. In addition to the six Pretzel City congregations and 2 of their LLM candidates, members of Synod Council and congregations from around the Synod and West Berks Mission District attended to mark this momentous occasion.

The celebration worship included a reflection on the primary ministry project of the Pretzel City 6261: a food web ministry. Pastor Rebecca Knox gave this reflection, drawing on Psalm 126 and how God brought these congregations to this joyful point and will be with them as they continue to plant seeds, both literally and spiritually. Bishop deForest led a participatory reflection on Isaiah 58 including loud shouts of praise and the kind of fasting God wants: for us to love, heal, and engage with our neighbors. Bishop deForest also lifted up the sacrifice each congregation made for the good of the whole 6261 Ministry Community so that it could more fully live into this "fasting" call of service. The 6261 Ministry Community Covenant was signed by each President of the 6



congregations, and each congregation received a Pretzel City plaque as a reminder of their partnership and commitment to pray for one another. A joint 30-person choir sang "Lord, We As One United," a beautiful anthem for the offertory right after members from each congregation and Pastor Bruce Osterhout led the assembly in prayer. Worship concluded with Holy Communion and a special update from Pastor Drew Neidig celebrating some surprise gifts to the Pretzel City Bundle to help with their food web ministry. We are blessed to see such hope among us in such unprecedented times. We celebrate with Pretzel City, knowing that God goes before each of us on our ministry journeys so that we may have life abundantly (John 10:10).

To learn more about the 6261 Ministry Community, visit [godslove.org/6261mc](https://godslove.org/6261mc) or email Deacon Kat Tigerman at [kat@nepsynod.org](mailto:kat@nepsynod.org). Keep an eye out for an upcoming NEPA Synod 6261 article from the ELCA!

**DID YOU KNOW** that your Mission Support helps fund areas of the synod like this one and many other important initiatives? Your contributions are making a significant impact and helping others grow in faith, supporting the synod's lanes of Growing Young, Gaining Strength, and Going Beyond Death to Life, along with the directions of loving like Jesus, healing like Jesus, and engaging like Jesus. To learn more, visit [godslove.org/missionsupport](https://godslove.org/missionsupport).

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[godslove.org/assembly/2025](https://godslove.org/assembly/2025)

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**Connect the Dots**  
Northeastern PA Synod Assembly

**May 30-31**  
Christ Hamilton,  
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