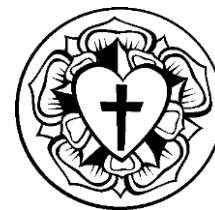




**The Epistle of St. Paul's**  
**A Publication of St. Paul's Evangelical**  
**Lutheran Church, Summer Hill**  
**July & August 2026**



## From the Pastor:

It's that time again,

Time for summer! As I do every year, I ask if you travel this July and August, please try to attend a service when you can, and bring me back a bulletin! I am always interested in how different congregations communicate their faith to members and visitors.

We will be reading through Matthew this summer. Mathew emphasizes Jesus walking with us, so remember that Jesus is always with you wherever you roam this summer, and even if you stay home!

Safe travels, or enjoy resting this summer!

Have a safe and blessed summer.

*Pastor Marie*

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## 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.

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## Summer Worship Schedule

During the summer months, worship is held at 9:00am on Sunday mornings. Please note: There is no Sunday school during this time.

The normal schedule will resume on **Sunday, September 13** with Sunday School at 9:15am followed by worship at 10:30am.

## 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.

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## Church Council Meetings

The Church Council will have their monthly meetings on **Wednesday, July 1 and Wednesday, August 5** beginning at 7:00pm in the church Annex.

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## Saturday Spoken Services

The Saturday service for the month of July is cancelled as it falls on Independence Day, **July 4**.

The next scheduled Saturday Service will be held on **Saturday, August 1** beginning at 5:00pm.

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## Outdoor Worship and Breakfast

There will be outdoor worship services followed by breakfast on **Sunday, July 12, Sunday, August 9 and Sunday, September 6** beginning at 9:00am. Please bring chairs or your favorite blanket. Food will be provided.

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## Property Meetings

There will be a property meetings on **Wednesday, July 15 and Wednesday, August 19** beginning at 6:00pm.

## Back to School Items

The Social Ministry's schoolhouse will be in the narthex to accept Back-to-School items from **Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup> until Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup>**. Items will be donated to the children associated with Schuylkill Children and Youth and Schuylkill Hope Center (formerly known as Women in Crisis.) Items to be donated include; notebooks, folders, back packs, pencils, pens, crayons, rulers, and any other appropriate children's school items. Your generosity is appreciated.

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## 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.

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## 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>

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*"America stands on two great pillars — faith and morality. Without these, our foundation crumbles."*

—George Washington

## Confirmation Class Registration Form

1st year confirmation classes are available to any young adult turning 12 or entering 7<sup>th</sup> 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: \_\_\_\_\_

## 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.

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### 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/>

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## Thank You, Thank you!!

-The Social Ministry Committee would like to thank everyone who donated paper products during our collection for Servants to All. Your participation is always appreciated by our committee and the organizations that we support.

-to those members contributing Thrivent Choice Dollars® in the amount of \$257

## The Revised Common Lectionary Readings:

### July 5-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67  
Psalm 45:10-17  
Song of Solomon 2:8-13  
Zechariah 9:9-12  
Psalm 145:8-14  
Romans 7:15-25a  
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

### July 12- Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 25:19-34  
Psalm 119:105-112  
Isaiah 55:10-13  
Psalm 65:(1-8), 9-13  
Romans 8:1-11  
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

### July 19- Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 28:10-19a  
Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24  
Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19  
Isaiah 44:6-8  
Psalm 86:11-17  
Romans 8:12-25  
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

### July 26- Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 29:15-28  
Psalm 105:1-11, 45b  
Psalm 128  
1 Kings 3:5-12  
Psalm 119:129-136  
Romans 8:26-39  
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

### August 2- Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 32:22-31  
Psalm 17:1-7, 15  
Isaiah 55:1-5  
Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21  
Romans 9:1-5  
Matthew 14:13-21



**August 9- Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28  
Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b  
1 Kings 19:9-18  
Psalm 85:8-13  
Romans 10:5-15  
Matthew 14:22-33

**August 16- Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**

Genesis 45:1-15  
Psalm 133  
Isaiah 56:1, 6-8  
Psalm 67  
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32  
Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28

**August 23- Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Exodus 1:8-2:10  
Psalm 124  
Isaiah 51:1-6  
Psalm 138  
Romans 12:1-8  
Matthew 16:13-20

**August 30- Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Exodus 3:1-15  
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b  
Jeremiah 15:15-21  
Psalm 26:1-8  
Romans 12:9-21  
Matthew 16:21-28

**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

- 1 - Cheryl Thomas
- 2 - Donald Paxson Sr.  
- Tyler Schweigert
- 3 - Kate Thomas
- 4 - Olivia Reber
- 6 - Cindy Brown
- 7 - Devin Carroll  
- Rita Lehman
- 8 - Alex Mullins
- 9 - Elaine Paxson
- 10 - Taylor Fidler
- 12 - Jill Gordon
- 17 - Laura Llewellyn  
- Jennie Raudenbush
- 19 - Sydnie Harig  
- Aiden Platt
- 20 - Tessa Benedict
- 22 - Lori Fidler  
- Shawn Frankenstein  
- Gregory Sholl  
- Lisa Sweigert  
- Ian Tokarick
- 23 - Emily Gordon
- 26 - Teresa Chappell  
- William Wolfe
- 27 - Thomas Bright
- 29 - Bonnie Bernat  
- Heather Geiger  
- Cecelia Reber
- 30 - Dustin Honicker  
- Tyler Reber  
- Kaleen Zerbe  
- Annabell Hossler



- 2 - Bruce Bailey
  - Blair Freeman
- 5 - Trisha Krause
  - Skip Riegel Jr.
- 6 - Paul Fabian
  - Aletha Heinbaugh
- 8 - Zachary Reber
- 9 - Dorothy Moyer
  - Matthew Troxell
  - Greyson Woll
- 10 - John "Jack" Edwards
- 12 - Jack Schwenk
- 14 - Kenneth Dowell
  - Naomi Reber
- 15 - Lee Ann Llewellyn
- 17 - Confey Maldonado Jr.
  - Ashley Nespeca
  - Emma Schweigert
- 18 - Abree Reed
- 20 - Joy Petrie
- 21 - Tabatha Vega
- 22 - Ryan Bailey
  - Sue Riegel
- 23 - Christopher Tokarick
  - Alyvia Trostle
- 24 - Frank Reber
  - Richard Reinert
- 25 - Elaine Schwenk
- 28 - Sharon Emerich
  - Laura Gordon
  - Jonathan Hummel
- 29 - Elizabeth Thomas
- 30 - Joan Axtt
  - Tracy Geiger
  - Brianna Leonard
- 31 - Jarett Felty

## Celebrating Our Confirmands

On Pentecost Sunday, May 24, 2026, we celebrated four young people who affirmed their Baptism through the Rite of Confirmation. Pastor Marie and Pastor Ken McDowell instruct joint Confirmation Classes with students from both churches. There was a total of 9 second-year Confirmation students who were confirmed this May, including 5 youth from St. Paul's UCC: **Charlee Ferguson, Elias Nagle, Landon Shadle, Ella Sterner and Jonathan Warke.** Congratulations to all the Confirmands on a job well done!

### Lena Ferrence

Lena is the daughter of Annie Ferrence and is a student in the Blue Mountain School District.

### Tanner Gormley

Tanner is the son of Leah Mullins and Eric Gormley. He is a student in the Blue Mountain School District.

### Tobias Lileck

Tobias is the son of Jennifer and Gary Lileck. He is a homeschooled student in the Blue Mountain School District.

### Sadie Tokarick

Sadie is the daughter of Karen and Joe Tokarick. She is a student in the Schuylkill Haven School District. Her mentor was Robin Ferguson.

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*"Freedom fails when people decide that it is their right to take and not to give."*

—Stanley Maxwell



**We celebrate with all graduates and their families as they complete this milestone in their lives. Our prayers are with them as they look to the future.**

### **Carly Mullins**

Carly Elizabeth Mullins, daughter of Leah Mullins and Matthew Bowman, Granddaughter of Keith and Trish Krause and the late Carl Mullins, and great granddaughter of Betty Heinbaugh, a 4th generation graduate of Blue Mountain High School, class of 2026. Her future plans are to attend Reading Area Community College.

**Congratulations!!!**

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## **Still Worth More Than You Know**

A speaker opened his seminar by holding up a \$20 bill and asking a crowd of 200 people, “Who would like this?”

Nearly every hand went up.

“I’ll give it to one of you,” he said. “But first...” He crumpled the bill tightly in his fist. “Who still wants it?”

Hands remained in the air.

He dropped it to the floor and ground it under his shoe. Then he picked up the wrinkled, dirty bill. “How about now?”

The hands rose again.

“My friends,” he said, “you’ve just learned an important lesson. No matter what I did to the money, it never lost its value. It was still worth \$20.” Life can feel the same way. We are dropped, crumpled and

ground down by our choices and by circumstances beyond our control. At times, we may even feel worthless. But our value does not change.

In God’s eyes, you are never less than priceless. Clean or dirty, wrinkled or whole, you remain precious to Him. As Isaiah 43:4 says in the NIV, “You are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you.”

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## **They Walked Everywhere**

When a teenager earned his driving permit, he approached his father, a minister, to discuss using the car. His dad replied, “I’ll make you a deal. Raise your grades, spend some time in your Bible and get your hair cut. Then we’ll talk.”

A month later, the young man came back. “Son, I’m proud of you,” his father said. “Your grades are up, and you’ve been faithful in your Bible study. But you didn’t get your hair cut.”

The teenager paused. “Well, Dad, I’ve been thinking. Samson had long hair. Moses had long hair. Noah had long hair. Even Jesus had long hair.”

His father nodded. “That’s true. And they walked everywhere they went.”

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## **Our Staff:**

**The Rev. Marie Meeks, Pastor:** 716-353-1610  
Pastor email: [preachymarie@gmail.com](mailto:preachymarie@gmail.com)

Matthew Hayes, Director of Music: 484-794-7902  
Director of Music email:  
[stpaulsummerhill.music@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:stpaulsummerhill.studentloan@gmail.com)



**Special Dates for July 2026:**

- Canada Day, *July 1, 2026*
- Independence Day, *July 4, 2026*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Back-to-School item collection: Sunday, July 19 <sup>th</sup> through Sunday, August 9 <sup>th</sup>			<b>1</b> Council Meeting- 7:00pm	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  <b>Independence Day</b>
<b>5</b> Worship- 9:00am  Sixth Sunday after Pentecost	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> Outdoor Worship – 9am Breakfast to follow  Seventh Sunday after Pentecost	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Property Meeting- 6:00pm	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> Worship – 9am  Eighth Sunday after Pentecost	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> Worship – 9am  Ninth Sunday after Pentecost	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	



**Special Dates for August:**

- Purple Heart Day, *August 7, 2026*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> Spoken Worship Service -5pm
<b>2</b> Worship – 9am  Tenth Sunday after Pentecost	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Council Meeting- 7:00pm	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> Outdoor Worship – 9am Breakfast to follow  Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> Worship – 9am  Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Property Meeting- 6:00pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> Worship – 9am  Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> Worship – 9am  Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost	<b>31</b>					

## **A Brief Look At Some Summer Hill History**

By Harry Schwenk

At this time, sixty-five years ago, our congregation was in the process of dedicating the new St. Paul's Lutheran Church on Summer Hill. Several special services were held from Sunday, June 25th to Sunday, July 9th, 1961.

On Sunday, June 25th at 2:30 p.m., the Dedication Service of the church occurred. The Clergy, Church Council, Choirs and congregation and friends assembled at the entrance to the church. Some of the Councilmen carried the Sacramental Vessels, Bibles, Service Book and Offering plates. On the church patio at the front door, Pastor Steigerwalt and the congregation read responses and the pastor offered a prayer. Then Psalm 24 was read responsibly.

Next was the presentation of the keys. The contractor, Edgar I. Zerbe spoke and presented the keys to the architect. The architect, Dana Gangaware spoke and presented the keys to the pastor. Pastor Steigerwalt said: "I certify that this building is in keeping with our desires, and stands as a testimony of the excellent work of the contractor and architect. I accept the keys on behalf of St. Paul's Lutheran Church." The keys were given to the pastor and he unlocked the door and said: "Peace be to this House." The congregation responded; "And to all that enter therein." Psalm 122 was read responsibly.

Moving slowly into the church, the congregation took their places in the pews and remained standing until the beginning of the first lesson. The choirs took their places in the Chancel, and the Church Council took their places in the front pew in the nave. Some of the Councilmen delivered the Communion Vessels, Bibles, Service Book, Offering Plates, and Alms Basin to their proper places. The pastor proceeded to the altar and gave a blessing. The hymn, "Come Holy Ghost" was sung, and the two Lessons were read.

Next was the Act of Dedication. Pastor Steigerwalt offered a prayer with seven petitions and then said: "I do now set apart this St. Paul's Lutheran Church and Parish School building as a House of God; and dedicate it to the glory and honor of Almighty God, and to the service of His Holy Church: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen." The congregation responded; "Amen." The hymn, "God Himself is Present" was sung.

The Liturgist for the day was The Rev. Craig J. Dorward, the son-in-law of The Rev. and Mrs. Clarence Steigerwalt. He led the congregation in the Kyrie and the Gloria in Excelsis, and he read the Epistle and Holy Gospel. Between the lessons, the Senior Choir sang, "How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place," and the Junior Choir sang, "Stand Up, Stand Up For Jesus." The hymn, "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" was sung. The Sermon was delivered by The Rev. Luther F. Schlenker, S.T.M., Assistant to the President of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania. The anthem, "Dedication" was presented by the Senior Choir. The Recessional Hymn was "Now Thank We All Our God."

Other special services were held on Wednesday evening, June 28th, Sunday morning and evening, July 2nd, Wednesday evening, July 5th and Sunday morning, July 9th.

# THE EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL'S

July & August 2026



St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
1185 Summer Hill Road,  
Auburn, PA, 17922

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Church Phone: 570-754-7350

Address Service Requested

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church email:**

stpaulsummerhill@gmail.com

**Website:** [www.SummerHillLutheran.org](http://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**

