



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



## From the Pastor:

This month as we celebrate our 250th Independence Day, we can relish to freedom we take for granted, including freedom of speech, religion, and assembly. But we can also be mindful of Jesus' command that we love our neighbors as ourselves.

As the heat rises and we seek places to find refreshment and protection from the sun while trying to also enjoy all the things that come with summer and vacation time, we need to remember that poverty and hunger do not stop when the weather gets warm.

We are called as followers of Jesus to care for our neighbors and love them as God loves us.

If you are traveling this summer, and attending worship in different places, please save and bring back a bulletin if you can! And if there was something in the service that we might want to try, please let the Worship and Music Committee know.

Have a great summer and keep cool!

*Pastor Marie*

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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.

## 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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## 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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## Paper Product Donations

Now through **June 7**, the Social Ministry Committee will be sponsoring a collection of paper products for Servants to All, a homeless shelter in Pottsville. Items needed include paper or Styrofoam plates, cups, and bowls, plastic ware, paper towels, wipes, small packs of tissues, take out containers, and coffee cups with lids. Please place the items in the narthex.

## Church Council Meeting

The Church Council will have their monthly meeting on **Wednesday, June 3** beginning at 7:00pm in the church Annex.

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## Saturday Spoken Services

The next scheduled Saturday Service will be held on **June 6** beginning at 5:00pm.

The Saturday service for the month of July will be cancelled as it falls on Independence Day, **July 4!**

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## Movie Night Saturday, June 6



A “Dinner and a Movie Night” is scheduled for **Saturday, June 6** beginning at 5:45pm (following the spoken church service).

The movie is titled “Here Today”, a 2021 American comedy-drama film directed, produced by, and starring Billy Crystal. The story follows veteran comedy writer Charlie Burnz (Crystal), who is experiencing the early stages of dementia, and his unlikely friendship with a New York street singer named Emma Payge (Tiffany Haddish).

Join us for an evening of fun and fellowship! Please speak to Karen Curtis for more information.

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## Summer Worship Schedule

Our summer worship schedule will begin on **Sunday, June 7**. During the summer months, worship will be held at 9:00am on Sunday mornings. Please note: There will be no Sunday school during this time.

## Outdoor Worship and Breakfast

There will be an outdoor worship service followed by breakfast on **Sunday, June 7** at 9:00am. Please bring chairs or your favorite blanket. Food will be provided.

The outdoor worship service and breakfast in July will be held on **Sunday, July 12** due to Independence Day weekend.

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## Helping Harvest

Helping Harvest donations will take place the first weekend of every month, with the next one **Sunday, June 7**. This organization has put food trucks in areas to help the needy in place of the closed Pottsville Soup Kitchen.

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## Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the next newsletter will be **Monday, June 15**. Thank you.

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## Property Meeting

There will be a property meeting on **Wednesday, June 17** beginning at 6:00pm.

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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.



## WELCOME TO RAINFOREST FALLS.... EXPLORING THE NATURE OF GOD

St. Paul's Lutheran Church and St. Paul's United Church of Christ will once again be combined for Vacation Bible School. VBS will be held at St. Paul's UCC from **June 22-26**. All children ages 4-12 (grade 6) are welcome and invited to attend. Please save the date and share with all your relatives, friends and neighbors. No child will be turned away, however, to guarantee that there will be enough supplies for every child, we would like to have children registered. Please contact the church office for more information. ALL ARE WELCOME!!

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### Graduates Recognition

We will be recognizing graduates during the worship service on **Sunday, June 28** at 9:00am.

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### Thank You, Thank you!!

-Dear St. Paul's Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$1000 given to your Synod, which was received by the ELCA church wide organization. Your gift is a reminder that our work of faith and labor of love are not done alone. We give thanks for our shared work and our shared hope, which inspire ELCA churchwide ministries, in

partnership with congregations and synods, to make God's love real in exciting and ever-changing ways.

Your generosity is starting new faith communities and sustaining existing ones, empowering leaders, responding to disaster with long-term commitment, and addressing hunger and poverty. Through your gifts, you join with the whole church in loving our neighbors and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

Thank you! May the God of all good gifts continue to work among you.

In Christ,  
The Rev. Daniel Rift,  
Director, Congregational Generosity

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### The Revised Common Lectionary Readings:

#### June 7- Second Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 12:1-9  
Psalm 33:1-12  
Hos 5:15-6:6  
Psalm 50:7-15  
Romans 4:13-25  
Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

#### June 14- Third Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7)  
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19  
Exodus 19:2-8a  
Psalm 100  
Romans 5:1-8  
Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)

#### June 21- Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 21:8-21  
Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17  
Jeremiah 20:7-13  
Psalm 69:7-10, (11-15),16-18  
Romans 6:1b-11  
Matthew 10:24-39

#### June 28-- Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 22:1-14  
Psalm 13  
Jeremiah 28:5-9

Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18  
Romans 6:12-23  
Matthew 10:40-42

**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

## From Gratitude to Faithful Praise



Gratitude is the beginning of faith; faith leads us to the ultimate gratitude.

Gratitude is often the first quiet step of faith. Before answers come, before circumstances change, gratitude teaches the heart to notice God's presence and provision. Scripture reminds us, "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (1 Thessalonians 5:18, KJV). Giving thanks, even in uncertain moments, opens our eyes to God's faithfulness already at work.

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***"Summer afternoon — summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language."***

— Henry James

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- 2 - Victoria Lord
  - Rebecca Mairose
- 7 - Richard Thomas
  - Brittney Tokarick
- 10 - Stacey Lehman-Tenuto
- 12 - Kathy Robinson
- 14 - Troy Hollenbach
- 16 - Brian Ferrence
- 17 - Logan Rollman
- 20 - David Brooker
- 25 - Michelle Bachman
  - Sheila Tryon
- 26 - Beth Cleary
- 28 - Kurt Sinclair
- 30 - Annie Ferrence
  - Matthew Middleton
  - Abigail Minrod

As gratitude grows, it naturally leads us into deeper trust. When we remember what God has done, faith finds solid ground. "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1, KJV). Gratitude strengthens that hope by anchoring it in God's past mercies. Each thankful prayer becomes a reminder that the same God who carried us before will carry us again.

Faith, in turn, leads us to ultimate gratitude, not just for blessings received, but for God himself. "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift" (2 Corinthians 9:15, KJV). This gratitude reaches beyond circumstances and rests in Christ, the greatest gift of all. When gratitude begins our journey and faith guides our steps, our hearts learn lasting praise, thankful not only for what God gives, but for who he is.

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***"Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant."***

—Robert Louis Stevenson

## Called Friends by Christ

According to John’s Gospel, Jesus said to those who knew him best, “No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends. ... You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit” (John 15:15–16, ESV).

The depth of Christ’s friendship is seen in his willingness to give his life for his friends — and for us as well. “Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you” (John 15:13–14, ESV).

By obeying our Lord and showing love to others, we demonstrate our friendship with Christ. Friendship with Christ and with one another is, according to the Christian layman and president Woodrow Wilson, “the only cement that will hold the world together.”

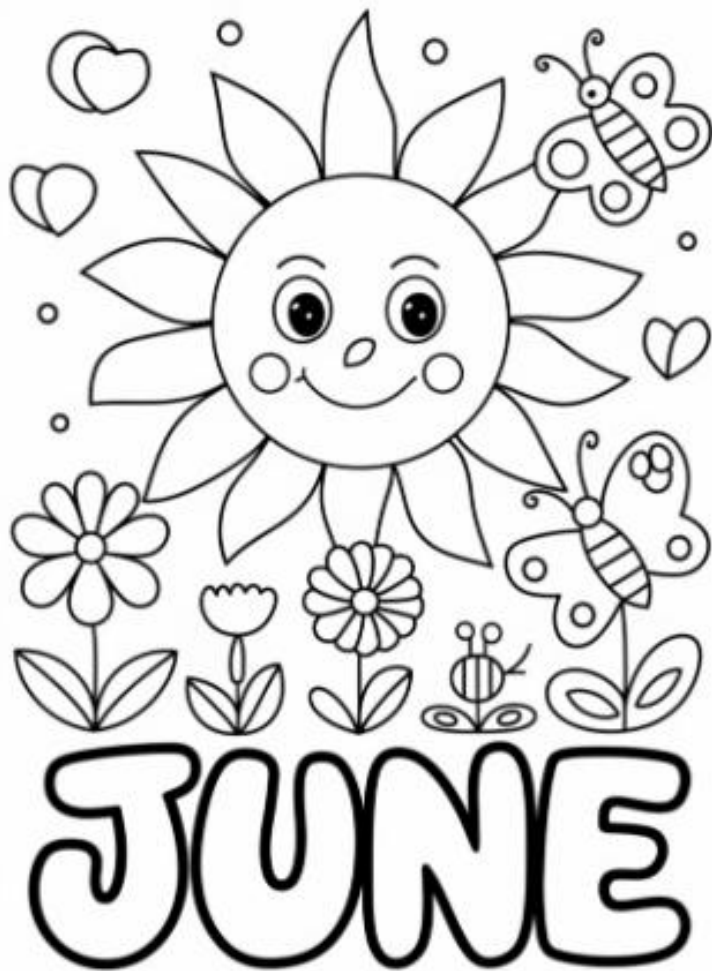
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## Reflecting the Father’s Name

Renowned actor Sidney Poitier once said, “I decided in my life that I would do nothing that did not reflect positively on my father’s life.” For those blessed with a father they admire and respect, such a decision can be deeply shaping. How might it influence the way you set priorities, live with integrity, or serve as a positive example to the young people watching your life?

For all of us — children of the only perfect Father — may this be our prayer and intention:

God, while earthly fathers are a blend of strengths and flaws, you give yourself to us as our heavenly Father, wholly loving, kind and deeply invested in our good. Help me seek to reflect positively on you. May my life spread your love, kindness and care far and wide, and may others see you in me. Amen.



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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 June 2026**
- Flag Day, *June 14, 2026*
  - Juneteenth, *June 19, 2026*
  - Father's Day, *June 21, 2026*
  - First Day of Summer, *June 21, 2026*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
**Paper Product collection: Through June 7**	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Vacation Bible School Meeting (UCC)- 7pm	<b>3</b> Council Meeting- 7:00pm	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Spoken Worship Service -5pm Dinner and a Movie- 5:45pm
<b>7</b> Outdoor Worship- 9:00am Breakfast to follow	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Pastor Marie's Birthday	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Worship – 9am Flag Day	<b>15</b> Newsletter Deadline	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Property Meeting- 6:00pm	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> Worship – 9am First Day of Summer & Father's Day	<b>22</b> Vacation Bible School (held at the UCC)- 6-8:30pm	<b>23</b> Vacation Bible School (held at the UCC)- 6-8:30pm	<b>24</b> Vacation Bible School (held at the UCC)- 6-8:30pm	<b>25</b> Vacation Bible School (held at the UCC)- 6-8:30pm	<b>26</b> Vacation Bible School (held at the UCC)- 6-8:30pm	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> Worship with graduate recognition – 9am	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b> Council Meeting- 7:00pm	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  Independence Day

# A Brief Look At Some Summer Hill History

By Harry Schwenk

Ninety-nine years ago, in May 1927, our congregation united with the Lutheran congregations of St. John's of Friedensburg and Zion's Red Church of Pinedale to form the "Friedensburg Lutheran Parish." St. John's of Auburn, a former part of the four-church parish, was granted permission by the parish, conference, and Synod to separate. The Rev. Clarence A. Steigerwalt was selected as the pastor of the newly formed parish.

Seventy-four years ago, on June 1, 1952, a special service and banquet were held in honor of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the parish. Following are some of the writings of Pastor Steigerwalt that he included in the 1953 Parish Directory.

"We look back upon the past year with a deep sense of gratitude and joy, as it marks 25 years of working together as a Parish and as a pastor. The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary service and banquet will always linger on as we continue to press forward as a parish and as congregations. We are grateful to Almighty God that we have had this privilege of being workers together for such a long period of time. Your pastor is deeply grateful for the councilmen and the members who have upheld his hands and assisted him in the work of these congregations entrusted to his leadership. There may have been times when the future seemed uncertain and our efforts were weak, but we ventured forth in faith knowing that our labors in the Lord would not be in vain. These 25 years were fruitful in many ways, fruitful in bringing men and women and children to the Lord Jesus Christ, in the winning of souls, and the addition of new members to our congregations. They have been fruitful in developing the congregations to become a powerful plant in the life of the community, fruitful in the support of the work of the Church at large. During these years many changes have taken place in the secular world round about us, our communities have been changing and our churches are challenged to meet these changes. The Church with the attitude of doing business as usual in this unusual time is not sufficient to meet the changing conditions in the community. We have come a long way in meeting the needs of today, but there is still so much that we can do."

In 1952, the average Sunday attendance at St. Paul's was 234.

St. Paul's Church Council consisted of:

Elders-Milton Miller and John Rhine                      Trustee- Adam E. Heim  
Deacons-Calvin Dewald, Lewis Dreisbach, Roy Reber and Wilbert Staller.  
Ushers- Warren Baker, Clifford Boyer and George Gaydos, Jr.  
Altar Guild- Clara Fessler, Virgie Gaydos, Helen Reichert, and Mabel Steigerwalt.  
Organist and Choir Director- Mrs. Elvin Kunsman                      Acolytes- Gerald Reber and Jacob Sholl

The Sunday School Officers were:

President- George Berkheiser                      Superintendent- Paul Dewald                      Asst. Supt.-Kenneth Kreager  
Secretary- Clarence Reichert                      Asst. Secy.-Paul Heim                      Treasurer- William Berkheiser  
Pianist- Gloria Baker                      Asst. Pianist- Gladys Reed                      Cradle Roll- Lillie Berkheiser  
Librarians- Gary Ferrence, Jean Hand, Jean Moyer, and George Reber  
Home Dept.- Anna Peiffer and Helen Reichert

# THE EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL'S

June 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**

