

**St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**A Community of Faith for 242 Years**

**Sunday, March 15, 2026**

**FOURTH**



**SUNDAY**  
**in LENT**

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**Facebook: St Paul Lutheran Church, Summer Hill**

**YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@summerHillLutheran>**

**March 15, 2026**

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Holy Communion

\*stand +kneel

## **GATHERING**

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

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**...“Ah, Holy Jesus” by Johann Cruger; arr. by John Ferguson

### **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*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, who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**C - Amen.**

P - Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out  
all offenses.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P - Gracious God,

**C - have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P - For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:  
Gracious God,

**C - have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P - For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious  
God,

**C - have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P - For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work  
of the Spirit: Gracious God,

**C - have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P - For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdain  
the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

**C - have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P - For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

**C - have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P - For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

**C - have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P - God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

**C - Amen.**

**\*GATHERING SONG.....“There Is a Balm in Gilead” (ELW 614)**

# There Is a Balm in Gilead

*Refrain*

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged and think my work's in vain,  
2 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,  
3 Don't ev - er be dis - cour - aged, for Je - sus is your friend;

*Refrain*

but then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.  
you can tell the love of Je - sus and say, "He died for all."  
and if you lack for knowl-edge, he'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: BALM IN GILEAD, African American spiritual

## **\*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)**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

## **\*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** - Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** - **Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **WORD**

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

### **FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1-13**

*Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the LORD, designating David as the LORD's chosen successor to Saul.*

<sup>1</sup> The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” <sup>2</sup> Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’” <sup>3</sup> Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” <sup>4</sup> Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, “Do you come peaceably?” <sup>5</sup> He said, “Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. <sup>6</sup> When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely his anointed is now before the LORD.” <sup>7</sup> But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.” <sup>8</sup> Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” <sup>9</sup> Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” <sup>10</sup> Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.” <sup>11</sup> Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here.” <sup>12</sup> He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him, for this is the one.” <sup>13</sup> Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

R - The word of the Lord.

**C - Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM: Psalm 23 (Read Responsively)**

<sup>1</sup> The LORD<sup>1</sup> is my shepherd;  
I shall not<sup>1</sup> be in want.

<sup>2</sup> **The LORD makes me lie down<sup>1</sup> in green pastures  
and leads me be-<sup>1</sup>side still waters.**

<sup>3</sup> You restore my<sup>1</sup> soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways<sup>1</sup> for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall  
<sup>1</sup> fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they<sup>1</sup>  
comfort me. R**

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence<sup>1</sup> of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is<sup>1</sup> running over.

<sup>6</sup> **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days<sup>1</sup> of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the<sup>1</sup> LORD forever. R**

## **SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8-14**

*Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.*

<sup>8</sup> Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, <sup>9</sup> for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. <sup>10</sup> Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. <sup>12</sup> For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, <sup>13</sup> but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup> for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

R - The word of the Lord.

**C - Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION.....**"On My Heart Imprint Your Image" (ELW 811)

On my heart imprint your image, blessed Jesus, king of grace,  
that life's troubles nor its pleasures ever may your work erase.

Let the clear inscription be: Jesus, crucified for me,  
is my life, my hope's foundation, all my glory and salvation!

**\*GOSPEL: John 9:1-41** *Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.*

P - The holy gospel according to John.

**C - Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup> We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup> As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” <sup>6</sup> When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, <sup>7</sup> saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. <sup>8</sup> The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” <sup>9</sup> Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am he.” <sup>10</sup> But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” <sup>11</sup> He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” <sup>12</sup> They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.” <sup>13</sup> They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup> Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup> Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” <sup>16</sup> Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. <sup>17</sup> So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.” <sup>18</sup> The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup> and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” <sup>20</sup> His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, <sup>21</sup> but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do

we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.”<sup>22</sup> His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue.<sup>23</sup> Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”<sup>24</sup> So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.”<sup>25</sup> He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.”<sup>26</sup> They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”<sup>27</sup> He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?”<sup>28</sup> Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.<sup>29</sup> We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.”<sup>30</sup> The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes.<sup>31</sup> We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will.<sup>32</sup> Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.<sup>33</sup> If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”<sup>34</sup> They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”<sup>36</sup> He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.”<sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.”<sup>38</sup> He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him.<sup>39</sup> Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.”<sup>40</sup> Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?”<sup>41</sup> Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

P - The gospel of the Lord.

**C - Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

## \*HYMN OF THE DAY.....

“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound” (ELW 779)

### Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that  
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his  
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and  
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5  
Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851–1921, alt.

## \*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 -** Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

*A brief silence.*

**P -** God, our shepherd, we pray that you guide the church. Lead Christians in our community and across the globe in right paths for your name's sake. Hear us, O God.

**C - Your mercy is great.**

**P -** God our provider, we cry out for this planet and the life it holds. Rescue endangered animals and plants, preserve threatened ecosystems, and save creatures from natural disasters. Hear us, O God.

**C -Your mercy is great.**

**P -** God our sovereign, we plead for your peace on earth. Bring an end to war and violence, and raise up leaders in governments, courts, businesses, schools, and community organizations who seek goodness and mercy. Hear us, O God.

**C -Your mercy is great.**

**P -** God our healer, we call to you in our need. Uplift all who are made to feel unimportant, and transform the hearts of all infected by bigotry and prejudice. Care for all in special need this day. Hear us, O God.

**C -Your mercy is great.**

**P -** God our friend, we praise you for the diversity of people among us. Awaken us to share and receive the gifts we each possess, and stir up a spirit of understanding, celebration, and welcome for all. Hear us, O God.

**C -Your mercy is great.**

P - God our home, we thank you for all who have died and completed their baptismal journeys. Grant us faith to live until we too dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God.

**C - Your mercy is great.**

P - Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

**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.*

### **MEAL**

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God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

### **\*PRESENTATION OF OFFERING...**

“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful” (ELW 182)

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,  
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.  
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,  
that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;  
unite them with the prayers we offer now.  
Grace our table with your presence,  
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

### **\*OFFERING PRAYER**

P - O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring

forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.

**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**

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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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)**

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

### **\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

*The presiding minister continues, using one of the following or another appropriate form.*

P - Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C - Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P - O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

**C - Come, Holy Spirit.**

P - Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

**C - Come, Holy Spirit.**

P - With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, 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 - Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.**

## **\*COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 146)**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

## **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 - God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**C - Amen.**

## **SENDING**

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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** - Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ✠ bless you now and always.

**C** - Amen.

**\*SENDING SONG**.....“Lead Me, Guide Me” (ELW 768)

## Lead Me, Guide Me

768

*Refrain*

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way;  
 for if you lead me, I can - not stray.  
 Lord, let me walk each day with thee.  
 Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

1 I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r  
 2 Help me tread in the paths of righ - teous - ness,  
 3 I am lost if you take your hand from me,

to help me o - ver my weak - est hour.  
 be my aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press.  
 I am blind with - out . . . thy light to see.

Help me through the dark - ness thy face to see.  
 I am put - ting all . . . my trust in thee.  
 Lord, just al - ways let me thy ser - vant be.

*Refrain*

Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

**\*DISMISSAL**

P - Go in peace. Believe the good news.

**C - Thanks be to God.**

There is no postlude during Lent. Please use the time for the postlude for a quiet reflection of your Lenten journey.

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One vase of flowers is in honor of Grayson Rollman's Birthday (15) presented by Glenn and Helen Miller.

One vase of flowers given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Regina Phillips presented by the Schwenk Family.

**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.

**The deadline for Easter Flower Orders is TODAY.** The flowers will be from Forget-Me-Not Florist, and will be \$15.50 for lilies and 12.50 for tulips. Forms are on the table in the narthex. Please place your orders in the offering plate or bring them to the church office. Money for the flowers may be placed in the small brown envelopes on the bulletin board and placed in the offering plate or brought to the church office. Thank you!

**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!

**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.

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

**A Social Ministry meeting** will be held next Sunday, March 22nd after the church service.

**Donations for College Students:** 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.

**Summer Hill Cemetery:** Prior to March 28: Please remove any winter arrangements from the cemetery that you would like to keep. Thank you. Thank You!!

**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. 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!!!

**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>

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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 March 8, 2026** – 39 in person

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

**Week of March 4 - 8, 2026**

Current	\$938.05
Lenten Offering	\$93.00
Benevolence/Synod	\$81.30
Local Benevolence	<u>\$159.20</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,271.55</b>

**THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2026**

**Sunday, March 15 -Fourth Sunday in Lent -Easter Flower deadline -Newsletter Deadline**

9:15am -Sunday School

10:30am -Worship Service

**Tuesday, March 17 -St. Patrick's Day**

**Wednesday, March 18**

7:00 PM -Wednesday Lenten Worship Service

**Thursday, March 19**

6:00 PM -Bell Choir practice

**Friday, March 20 -First Day of Spring!**

**Sunday, March 22 -Fifth Sunday in Lent**

9:15am -Sunday School

10:30am -Worship Service

- Social Ministry meeting following worship

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

**Monday, March 16:** Psalm 146; Isaiah 59:9-19; Acts 9:1-20

**Tuesday, March 17:** Psalm 146; Isaiah 42:14-21; Colossians 1:9-14

**Wednesday, March 18:** Psalm 146; Isaiah 60:17-22; Matthew 9:27-34

**Thursday, March 19:** Psalm 130; Ezekiel 1:1-3, 2:8-3:3; Revelation 10:1-11

**Friday, March 20:** Psalm 130; Ezekiel 33:10-16; Revelation 11:15-19

**Saturday, March 21:** Psalm 130; Ezekiel 36:8-15; Luke 24:44-53

**Sunday March 15 – 10:30 AM**

**Greeter:** Jessica Rollman

**Acolyte:** Tobias Lileck

**Lector:** Debbie Hummel

**Usher:** Troy Hollenbach  
**Communion Assistant:** Debbie Hummel  
**Counting Team:** Debbie Hummel & Wendy Welsh

Rev. Marie Meeks, Pastor 716-353-1610; Email: [preachymarie@gmail.com](mailto:preachymarie@gmail.com)  
Matthew Hayes, Director of Music 484-794-7902; Email: [stpaulsummerhill.music@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsummerhill.music@gmail.com)  
Kelly Palerino, Church Secretary 570-754-7350; Email: [stpaulsummerhill@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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, Carole Wiscount, Carol Keesey

**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., Cameron Lutz, Stephanie Boyer, Mitchell Moore, Timothy Bast, and Ryan Bast

### QR CODE FOR ONLINE GIVING

