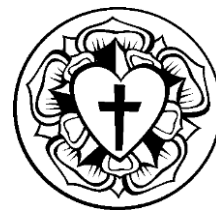




# **The Epistle of St. Paul's**

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

### **February 2026**



## **From the Pastor:**

Well, here we are again! Starting a new calendar year!

As I look out my window, the sun is shining, but of course at this time of the year that does not mean it is warm outside!

We are in that season of temperature fluctuation—changes to snow to sunshine and warm(ish) temperatures, to ice and back again. It is enough to give you whiplash as you try to figure how many layers of clothing you will need.

We are in a similar situation in our world. As someone once said “wars and rumors of wars” seem to pop up where we least expect it. I am not talking about shooting wars, although that is happening. I am thinking about all the things that are going on seemingly every day. As Christians we believe that God calls us to love one another, care for those in need, and generally live lives of compassion and love for all things, but it can be hard when seemingly everyone is yelling at each other about so many things.

It is easy to get caught up in all the discord, but we are called to live another way. God calls us to love one another, no matter what their ideology, nationality or gender. SO, how do we do this? I believe that we need to see the smaller picture. Who am I with right now? What am I called to be with others?

Followers of Jesus are called to love.

But this person is mean and angry.

This person just doesn't understand.

And so many are in need of God's love.

My teacher responded to me when I tried to explain why I did not do my homework. After listening to me for a bit she would say to me “No buts, just get it done!”

It sounds harsh but it worked for me.

Could God be saying the same to us when we fail to follow Jesus, loving our neighbors as ourselves?

Just Love.

But Jesus.....

But to me “No buts, just love always.”

Love God, love your neighbor, be the body of Christ in the world!

*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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## **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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## **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.

## Offering Envelopes

If you have not already picked up your 2026 Offering Envelopes, 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.

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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.

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## Souper Bowl Sunday

Souper Bowl Sunday will be observed on **Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>**. Food and monetary donations will be accepted in the narthex. The food will be donated to the Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry, and the money will be donated to Helping Harvest. Your generosity is appreciated.

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## Ash Wednesday/Lenten Services

There will be an Ash Wednesday worship service on **February 18<sup>th</sup>** beginning at 7:00pm. The service will include the imposition of ashes and the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

There will also be Wednesday night Lenten worship services with the theme of making change. The services will take place each Wednesday at 7:00pm from **February 25<sup>th</sup> through March 25<sup>th</sup>**. We hope you will join us!

## Faithful Fellowship



Mardi Gras Faithful Fellowship, following the service on **February 15<sup>th</sup>**. Let's get together and sample some Louisiana culture. Not too spicy, we promise!

Please check out the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board to add your contribution. We're excited to hear what you come up with! Perhaps you'd like to bring a friend!

**We hope you can join us!!**

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## Annual Egg Hunt

Mark your calendars for our annual Easter Egg Hunt which will be held on **March 29<sup>th</sup>** at 2pm. In the coming weeks there will be sign-up sheets on the bulletin board for any children interested in participating, and also for plastic filled egg donations. Please watch future bulletins and the March newsletter for more information!

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## Thank You!!

-those members who designated Thrivent Choice® dollars in the amount of \$787.00

-Dear Social Ministry Committee and others,

To the St. Paul's Lutheran and St. Paul's UCC Christmas carolers, I thank you all for your visit. I enjoyed singing along. I thank you, too, for my lovely shawl- and it has pockets!

I thank you, too, for my bag of goodies. I also thank everyone who sent birthday cards in November and for all my beautiful Christmas cards.

I wish you all a Blessed Christmas!

Nancy Sweitzer

-The Social Ministry Committee would like to thank everyone who donated items to our Mitten Tree. The items included: 32 hats, 4 hat and glove sets, 22 pairs of socks, 35 pairs of gloves, 2 pairs of mittens, 1 scarf and hat set, 1 blanket and hat set, 1 pair of slippers, 2 scarves, and 2 headbands. The items are divided between Servants to All and the Hope Center. Thank you for all of the donations.



- 2 - Debbie Lord
- 3 - Sandy Wentz
- 4 - Brenda Phillips
  - Angie Saylor
- 6 - Rachel Brensinger
  - Alan Romberger
- 8 - Noah Brensinger
  - Brandon Koury
  - Reba Llewellyn
- 11 - Emily Brown
  - Matthew Krammes, Jr
- 14 - Myles Honicker
  - Jacob Woll
- 16 - Jessica Rollman
- 17 - Karen Tokarick
- 18 - Eric Thomas
- 22 - Carl Schwenk
  - John Strauch Jr.
- 23 - Francis "Buddy" Frankenstein
  - Mary Jo Moss

25 - Jennifer Minrod

- Cindy Reidler

26 - Richelle Carroll

- Brandon Felty

- Mason Reber

28 - Lisa Lehman

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## **The Revised Common Lectionary Readings:**

### **Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany- Feb. 01, 2026**

Micah 6:1-8

Psalms 15

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12

### **Fifth Sunday after Epiphany- February 8, 2026**

Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12)

Psalms 112:1-9 (10)

1 Corinthians 2:1-12, (13-16)

Matthew 5:13-20

### **Transfiguration Sunday- February 15, 2026**

Exodus 24:12-18

Psalms 2 or Psalm 99

2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-9

### **Ash Wednesday- February 18, 2026**

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12

Psalms 51:1-17

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

### **First Sunday in Lent- February 22, 2026**

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

Psalms 32

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

### **Second Sunday in Lent- March 1, 2026**

Genesis 12:1-4a

Psalms 121

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

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



### Special Dates- February 2026

- Black History Month, February 1-28, 2026
- Groundhog Day, February 2, 2026
- Valentine's Day, February 14, 2026
- Presidents Day, February 16, 2026
- Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026

| Sunday   | Monday                          | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday                        | Friday    | Saturday                                      |
|--|---------------------------------|-----------|---|---------------------------------|-----------|---|
| <b>1</b><br>Sunday School-<br>9:15am<br>Worship- 10:30am<br>Fourth Sunday<br>after the<br>Epiphany   | <b>2</b>                        | <b>3</b>  | <b>4</b><br>Council Meeting-<br>7pm   | <b>5</b><br>Bell Choir-<br>6pm  | <b>6</b>  | <b>7</b><br>Spoken<br>Worship<br>Service- 5pm |
| <b>8</b><br>Sunday School-<br>9:15am<br>Worship- 10:30am<br>Fifth Sunday after<br>the Epiphany   | <b>9</b>                        | <b>10</b> | <b>11</b>   | <b>12</b><br>Bell Choir-<br>6pm | <b>13</b> | <b>14</b><br>Valentine's<br>Day               |
| <b>15</b><br>Sunday School-<br>9:15am<br>Worship- 10:30am<br>Mardi Gras<br>Faithful<br>Fellowship Feast<br>following worship<br>Newsletter Deadline<br>Transfiguration | <b>16</b><br>President's<br>Day | <b>17</b> | <b>18</b><br>Ash Wednesday<br>Worship Service –<br>7:00 PM<br>Ash Wednesday | <b>19</b><br>Bell Choir-<br>6pm | <b>20</b> | <b>21</b>                                     |
| <b>22</b><br>Sunday School-<br>9:15am<br>Worship- 10:30am<br>First Sunday<br>in Lent   | <b>23</b>                       | <b>24</b> | <b>25</b><br>Lenten Worship<br>Service- 7:00 PM                             | <b>26</b><br>Bell Choir-<br>6pm | <b>27</b> | <b>28</b>                                     |

# **A BRIEF LOOK AT SOME SUMMER HILL HISTORY**

**By Harry Schwenk**

After the old church burned in 1958, many events and fundraisers were held to benefit the building of the new St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Following is one of the fundraisers which was held in July 1962.

A two-hour band concert will be presented by the Cressona Band, with J. Richard Zimmerman, director and Harry Yeich, director emeritus in St. Paul's Lutheran Church Grove, Summer Hill, on Sunday, July 15 at 2:30 p.m. The Rev. Dr. Clarence A. Steigerwalt, pastor of St. Paul's, has been a pioneer in promoting numerous firsts. This is probably the first church throughout the section to sponsor a sacred band concert on a Sunday afternoon

St. Paul's, located northwest of Auburn and northeast of Summit Station, overlooks the beautiful valleys with the Blue Mountains in the distance. There is ample parking on the parking lots of the church.

Among the musical numbers, Mrs. Joan Ridler of Pottsville, the soloist, will sing "Bless This House," "The Lord's Prayer," and "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." A trumpet solo, "Rock of Ages," will be given by J. Richard Zimmerman, as well as numbers by Bruce Hummel, Robert Hughes, William Rehman, and John Zimmerman. The concert will also include "The Overture in the Opera Seville," "The Barber of Seville by Rossini," "Goin' Home" from Largo of the New World Symphony by Anton Dvorak, and the male quartette consisting of overture, "In the Cathedral" by Frankheiser. Marches by John Philip Sousa will be "Hands Across the Sea," "Semper Fidelis," "The Concert March," and "Brass Pagentry" by A.E. Ostling. Edward Beck, Roy Baldinger, and Bruce Hummel will present a trumpet trio. Selections from Show Boat by Jerome Kern, Can-Can by Cole Porter, and marches by Goldman will also be among the selections.

The concert will be given for the benefit of the debt fund of the new St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

The band will consist of the following members:

Clarinets: Austin Dewald, Howard Coulson, Elmer Evans, Joseph Galko, Clark Schaeffer

Saxophones: Max Trassert, Robert Boyer, Leonard Ketner

Horns: Lambert Butz, Robert Beck, Jeffrey Zimmerman, Anthony Tremiere

Trombones: William Stanton, Ray Oswald, Dan Semar, John Tucci, Charles Emerich

Baritones: William Beck, John Zimmerman, William Rehman Jr.

Coronets: Edward Beck, Roy Baldinger, Bruce Hummel, John Waltman, David Laubenstine

Basses: John Dizenzo, Jerry Vollmer, Joseph Centifanti

Piccolo: Benjamin Schnerring

Percussion: Robert Hughes, Terry Dewald, Terry Heffner, William Ney

Announcer: William Rehman, Sr.

Vocalist: Mrs. Joan Ridler

Director: J. Richard Zimmerman

Director Emeritus: Harry E. Yeich

## THE EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL'S

February 2026



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

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**Church Phone: 570-754-7350**

### QR CODE FOR ONLINE GIVING



**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

**Communion service every Sunday: 10:30am**

**First Saturday**

**Holy Communion Service: 5pm**

#### **Office Hours:**

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

### **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)