

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

A Community of Faith for 242 Years

Sunday, January 4, 2026



1185 Summer Hill Road, Auburn, PA 17922

Pastor: Rev. Marie Meeks, Cell: 716-353-1610

Church Office Phone: 570-754-7350

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9am–2pm; Closed Friday

Church Email: stpaulsummerhill@gmail.com

Website: www.SummerHillLutheran.org

Facebook: St Paul Lutheran Church, Summer Hill

Sunday, January 4, 2026

Epiphany of Our Lord

Holy Communion

*stand +kneel

GATHERING

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE.....“The First Noel” arranged by Sharon Elery Rogers

***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, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior,
Prince of Peace.

C - Amen.

P - Trusting in God’s steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P - Reconciling God,

C - we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace. We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.

P - God’s grace upon grace flows over you. ☩ Christ’s presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

C - Amen.

***GATHERING SONG**.....“The First Noel” (ELW 300)

1 The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

2 They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. **Refrain**

3 And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. **Refrain**

4 This star drew near to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay. **Refrain**

5 Then entered in those wise men three,
full rev'rently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. **Refrain**

***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 mer - cy.

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

Lord, have mer - cy.

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 mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 139)**

Assisting minister

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,

we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

***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 - Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C - Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her because the light of God's presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God's praise.

- ¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
- ² For darkness shall cover the earth
and thick darkness the peoples,
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
- ³ Nations shall come to your light
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
- ⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together; they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms.
- ⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you;
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
- ⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

R - The word of the Lord.

C - Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 (Read responsively)

- ¹ Give the king your jus-¹ tice, O God,
and your righteousness to¹ the king's son;
- ² **that he may rule your¹ people righteously
and the¹ poor with justice;**
- ³ that the mountains may bring prosperity¹ to the people,
and the¹ hills, in righteousness.

- ⁴ **Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor. R**
- ⁵ May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,
from one generation | to another.
- ⁶ **Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.**
- ⁷ In his time may the | righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.
- ¹⁰ **May the kings of Tarshish and of the | isles pay tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba | offer gifts. R**
- ¹¹ May all kings bow | down before him,
and all the nations | do him service.
- ¹² **For the king delivers the poor who cry out | in distress,
the oppressed, and those who | have no helper.**
- ¹³ He has compassion on the low- | ly and poor,
and preserves the lives | of the needy.
- ¹⁴ **From oppression and violence he re- | deems their lives,
and precious is their blood | in his sight. R**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1-12

What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God's promised salvation.

¹ This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you gentiles, ² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you ³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵ In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶ that is, the gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷ Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ ⁹ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, ¹⁰ so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has

carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have access in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

R - The word of the Lord.

C - Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 142)**

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia. Alleluia.

***GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12**

God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.

P - The holy gospel according to Matthew.

C - Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage."

³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.' "

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

P - The gospel of the Lord.
C - Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY.....“Shine, Jesus, Shine” (ELW 671)**

Lord, the light of your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness, shining
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us
Set us free by the truth you now bring us
Shine on me, shine on me.

Refrain: Shine, Jesus, shine
Fill this land with the Father’s glory.
Blaze, Spirit, blaze
Set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow
Flood the nations with grace and mercy.
Send forth your word
Lord, and let there be light.

As we gaze on your kingly brightness
So our faces display your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story
Shine on me, shine on me. **Refrain**

***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 - Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

P - O God, you reveal yourself wherever two or three are gathered in your name. Be with us now, not only in the infant Jesus and resurrected Christ, but in the beloved people of this assembly. Hear us, O God.

C - Your mercy is great.

P - You reveal yourself in the waters of the womb; in brooks, ponds, and oceans; and in the waters of baptism. Grant us wisdom to tenderly care for the earth as a garden watered by your grace. Hear us, O God.

C - Your mercy is great.

P - You reveal yourself in blessed diversity. Help us to look for you in people near and far, in bodies of all kinds, and in kindred young and old. Let us seek you in many places, praising you in many tongues. Hear us, O God.

C - Your mercy is great.

P - You reveal yourself in new life. Support those beginning a new job, a new relationship, or a new living situation, especially those displaced because of tragedy or loss. Be with all others who need your life-giving touch this day. Hear us, O God.

C - Your mercy is great.

P - You reveal yourself in holy communion. Sustain all who provide food and fellowship in this congregation and in the wider community. Make our tables signs of your welcoming presence among us. Hear us, O God.

C - Your mercy is great.

P - You promise to turn mourning into joy and to comfort those who weep. We remember those who have died and look to being united with them in your glory. Hear us, O God.

C - Your mercy is great.

P - With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

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.

SIGNS OF FAITH (w/ the congregation)...**"This Little Light of Mine"** (ELW 677)

1 This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

2 Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

3 Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

***PRESENTATION OF OFFERING**

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" (ELW 884)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

P - Let us pray. Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 (ELW p. 144)**

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. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. 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)**



***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P - Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time your word brought light into the world. In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him. By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup, that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both 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**

The presiding minister may address the assembly in these or similar words.

P - God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy!

The assembly may be seated. The bread may be broken for the communion.

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

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way 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 - Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and
ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the
wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born
in us.

C - Amen.

SENDING

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 - The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter, ✠
bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

C - Amen.

***SENDING SONG.....** “As with Gladness Men of Old” (ELW 302)

1 As with gladness men of old
did the guiding star behold;

as with joy they hailed its light,
leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious Lord, may we
evermore be led by thee.

2 As with joyful steps they sped,
Savior, to thy lowly bed,
there to bend the knee before
thee, whom heav'n and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet
ever seek thy mercy seat.

3 As they offered gifts most rare
at thy cradle, rude and bare,
so may we with holy joy,
pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee, our heav'nly king.

4 Holy Jesus, ev'ry day
keep us in the narrow way;
and when earthly things are past,
bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide,
where no clouds thy glory hide.

5 In the heav'nly country bright
need they no created light;
thou its light, its joy, its crown,
thou its sun which goes not down;
there forever may we sing
alleluias to our king.

***DISMISSAL**

P - Glory to God in the highest!

C - And peace to God's people on earth!

P - Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

C - Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE.....“As With Gladness Men Of Old”
by William Chatterton Dix/ Conrad Kocher

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Two vases of flowers are in loving memory of Millie and Jim Sidler by Sandy, Ed and Family.

The bulletins are in memory of David and Violet Trumbo by Elona Fromm, Wendy Welsh and Trevor Reber.

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.

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.

Faithful Fellowship Time: Next Sunday, January 11 following worship, we will enjoy a tropical brunch Faithful Fellowship. Warm your soul with some food and fellowship! Also, mark your calendar for Sunday, February 15 for a Mardi Gras themed Faithful Fellowship.

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 Christmas Eve, December 24, 2025 – 145 in person; 362 online views, 1 share as of December 31.

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

THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2026

Sunday, January 4, 2026

9:15am -Sunday School

10:30am -Worship Service

Tuesday, January 6 - Epiphany

Wednesday, January

7:00 PM -Council Meeting

Thursday, January 8

6:00 PM -Bell Choir

Sunday, January 11

9:15am -Sunday School

10:30am -Worship Service

-Faithful Fellowship brunch (tropical theme)

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday, January 5: Psalm 72; Joshua 1:1-9; Hebrews 11:32-12:2

Tues., Jan. 6- Epiphany of the Lord: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

Wednesday, January 7: Psalm 72; 1 Kings 10:1-13; Ephesians 3:14-21

Thursday, January 8: Psalm 29; 1 Samuel 3:1-9; Acts 9:1-9

Friday, January 9: Psalm 29; 1 Samuel 3:10-4:1a; Acts 9:10-19a

Saturday, January 10: Psalm 29; 1 Samuel 7:3-17; Acts 9:19b-31

Rev. Marie Meeks, Pastor	716-353-1610; Email: preachymarie@gmail.com
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Stacey Fidler, Church Sexton	570-754-7350
Eva Waldman, Treasurer	570-754-7350

Interpreter- Pegi Staller

Student Loan Committee email: 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***

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

QR CODE FOR ONLINE GIVING

