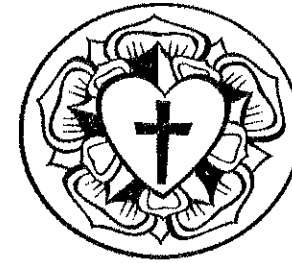




Student Loan Applications will be available the beginning of April for the 2021-22 school year. Student Loan Applications may be picked up in the Church Library located in the narthex, from a Student Loan Committee member, or by downloading the application from the website. Student Loan Committee Members include: Jeff Freeman, Charlene Egan, Marlene Troxell, Trish Krause and Mike Troxell. Completed Student Loan Applications should be returned to a committee member no later than 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 25, 2021.

**You may now make an offering to the church** through our website [www.SummerHillLutheran.org](http://www.SummerHillLutheran.org). Simply click on the online giving button on our home page and you will be directed to a secure site to make a one time or on-going offering. You may direct your offering from your checking or savings account or a credit or debit card. Use this QR code to go directly to the contribution page.



# The Epistle of St. Paul's

March 2021

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

## THE EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL'S

is published by:

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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[stpaulsummerhill.music@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsummerhill.music@gmail.com)

**Student Loan Committee email:**

[stpaulsummerhill.studentloan@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsummerhill.studentloan@gmail.com)

**Sunday Holy Communion Service –**

**8 am and 10:30 am**

**Saturday Holy Communion Service - 5 pm**

### Our Staff

The Rev. Kathleen Ash-Flashner	Pastor 570-977-4189
Matthew Hayes	Director of Music 484-794-7902
Linda Angstadt	Parish Secretary 570-754-7350
Eva Waldman	Church Sexton/Treasurer 570-754-7350
Cindy Brown	Pavilion Sexton 570-345-1279

### Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9 am - 3 pm

Closed from 12:00 pm to 12:30 pm for lunch

Save the dates...

June 6-10, 2021

Vacation Bible School





## Evangelism News

By Charles Hawk, Sr.

Can you believe it is the Season of Lent? Spring. New Growth. Warmer days. Preparation for the RESURRETION OF OUR

LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST!!!!!! No person has done more for the entire world than JESUS CHRIST. Because of HIM we will live forever. All we need to do is BELIEVE. Your sins are forgiven. We all have fallen short. We cannot go to HEAVEN on our own merits. Only by God's Grace through Jesus Christ can we NEVER DIE. We cannot earn our way to HEAVEN. We get there by a gift of God's only SON, JESUS CHRIST. Some people give things up during this season. It reminds us of how thankful we are for God's blessing and forgiving our sins. This is a time to prepare for HIS COMING. Is there anything more worthwhile to PRIORITIZE for? Ask yourself that question during these 40 Days! AMAZING GRACE HOW SWEET THE SOUND THAT SAVED A WRETCH LIKE ME!!!!!!



Please call office to make reservations for Holy Week Services.

Palm Sunday weekend services will be held Saturday at 5 pm, Sunday at 8 am and 10:30 am.

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday service will be held at 7 pm each evening. Easter Vigil service will be held Saturday at 5 pm. Easter services will be held at 6 am and 10:30 am.

**“Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love...” Joel 2:13b**

Dear Folks,

We begin every Lenten season acknowledging our need for God's mercy and forgiveness. We profess that “we are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation.” (From the Invitation to Lent, ELW Leader's edition, pg. 617) In an effort to more fully experience that community, we are invited to engage in self-reflection, prayer, fasting, and sacrificial giving including works of love as part of our Lenten practices.

On Ash Wednesday I confessed that I feel like we have been living a Lenten season since Lent 2020. Over this past year, we did not need the ashes on our forehead and the words, “Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return” to come face to face with our fragile mortality. The limits of our earthly life are detailed on news reports every evening. As it stands now over 500,000 people, loved ones to others have died from COVID-19. We have taken a year long journey of the sacrifice of social distancing, mask wearing, giving up plans to travel, visit family, and generally living a normal life. Gone is the beloved music and singing in our worship. It's been a year of sacrificing not being with loved ones as children are born and loved ones die.

In many ways we are like the people in the prophet Joel's time who heard the call to repent in troubled times. Joel proclaimed that even though the people were living in days of darkness and gloom, God was still with them. Joel reassured

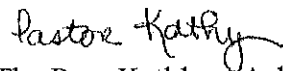
his people of God's mercy and steadfast love.

We, too, have that gift from God of steadfast love and mercy. Yes, in Lent we are called to examine ourselves because of our sin and brokenness. Yet, because we are loved by God, we have the promise of salvation through Jesus Christ's death and resurrection. It is by God's grace and mercy in our baptism, that we are released from that sin to live a new life.

Perhaps in this Lenten season, we don't focus on the sacrifices we usually do, sacrifices that hold no lasting meaning as they disappear come Easter Sunday. Instead, let us use our prayer and repentance to remind us of the grace filled life we live because of God's love and forgiveness for us. Perhaps our daily prayers can remind us that we are imperfect people and need God's love and mercy. Admitting we are in need of that grace, perhaps we can even extend that grace to others. Let's not be so quick to judge, but quick to share God's love, grace and forgiveness with others.

This past year has been tough on everyone. As we look for better days to come, allow God's love, grace, and mercy to sustain you through this present moment. God's grace has brought us this far and will continue to be with us in the days to come. May you have a meaningful Lenten season that reminds us of the sacrifice of God's son for us.

Serving in the name of Christ,



The Rev. Kathleen Ash-Flashner  
Pastor

### Keep in your prayers:



Richard Paxson, Dennis Ryan, Ron Boris, Jr., Gary & Shirley Krammes, Irene Peiffer, Arlene Lickman, Betty Freeman, Thelma Brensinger, Chester Johnson, Shirley Fessler, Barbara Pennypacker, Angie Lewis, Mark Fidler, Hayley Moyer, Helen Runkle, Eleanor Jamison, Adam Brink, Glenn & Linda Curtis, Arlene

Moyer, Charles Wernert, Stephen Curtis, Brayden Crews, John Strauch, Jr., Dianna Curry, Fern Staller, Pat Stevens, Lawrence Latsko, Rosemary Meade, Tyler Boland, Ray Yeich, David Axtt, Greg Phillips, Gaylene Ebling, Chrissy Kull, Connie Klinger, Stacey Rao, and Robert & Joyce Zeledonis. Those serving in the military: Brandon Felty, Karen Hall, Tom Leganza, Tyler Weller, Edward Hossler, Nick Lentz, Jake Schaeffer, Scott Aungst, Tyler Wolfe, Michael Hamilton, Kristian Svenson, Mark Weinus, Jr., Justin Weller, Jeremy Weaver, Cameron Lutz, Stephanie Boyer, and Brad Renninger

**Note:** This is the prayers list from the last bulletin printed in March 2020. If anyone should be removed or added, please leave the church office know. Thank you, Linda

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**Pastoral visits and home communions are available anytime.  
Please call the office or Pastor Kathy.**

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The deadline for items for the April newsletter is  
**March 15th.**



At the Church Council reorganization meeting on Wednesday, January 6, 2021, the following people were elected to office: Earl Paxson, President; Matthew Platt, Vice President; Holly Maldonado, Secretary; and Eva Waldman, Treasurer. Our church secretary Linda Angstadt was appointed

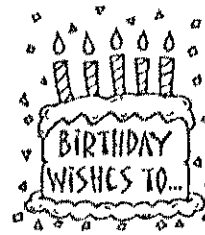
Financial Secretary. We thank these people for their willingness to serve in these positions.



The Social Ministry Committee would like to thank everyone who donated items to the Mitten Tree. The items were divided evenly between Schuylkill Women in Crisis and Servants to All, both of Pottsville. Items which were received were 47 pairs of gloves, 15 pairs

of mittens, 5 pairs of socks, 59 hats, 4 scarves, 2 pairs of slippers, 3 pairs of slipper socks, 2 hat & gloves sets, 19 hat & mittens sets, and 2 headbands. Thank you for your continuing support in this annual project.

In addition, the following items were received and delivered to Servants for All: 24 Coats and jackets, and 11 shirts, sweaters and sweatshirts. Thank you!



## Happy March Birthday To:

3/1 Ava Ciavarella  
3/3 Balin Honicker; Trudy Ryan  
3/4 Jacob Felty; Ayva Straus  
3/6 Donna Cox  
3/8 Danica Boyer; Matthew Cleary

3/9 Clair Moyer  
3/11 Shawn Davis  
3/12 Tyler Brensinger; Brittney Buchanan;  
Nicole Manbeck; Lindsey Seltzer; Jane Bressler;  
Aliyah Woll  
3/14 John Strauch, Sr.  
3/15 Linda Haberstroh  
3/16 Jane Schnoke  
3/17 Regina Phillips  
3/18 Kayla Fidler; Grayson Rollman  
3/19 Beverly Freeman  
3/20 Derek Boyer; Melvin Hoffman; Christian Yerusavage  
3/21 Soren Honicker; Lindsey Petrie; Mark Gilbert  
3/22 Adalynn Deal; Mark Durick; Carol Gordon  
3/24 Amanda Sisko  
3/25 Amy Schantzenbach; Wilbert Staller, Jr.; Landon Trostle  
3/26 Eva Andrew; Sandra Brooker  
3/27 Matthew Hayes  
3/30 Kyle Cleary  
3/31 Juliann Reazor



Remember to turn your clocks ahead on March 13<sup>th</sup>.

# Baskets of Promise

*"...satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday." Isaiah 58:10*

When emergencies like natural disasters or conflict arise, many families must flee their homes, leaving their belongings behind. When they arrive in a refugee camp or other place of safety, they are scared, vulnerable and dirty from the travel. The simple items included in a Personal Care Kit allow them to wash away the dirt and sweat, with the fresh scent of soap and the softness of a towel as reminders of someone's care and concern for them in their plight.

Items may be brought to the church during the Lenten Season.

Each kit includes:

- One light-weight bath-size towel (20" X 40" to 52" X 27"), dark color recommended.
- Two or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping; no mini or hotel size bars.
- One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging.
- One sturdy comb, (no picks or fine-toothed combs);
- One metal nail clippers (attached file optional)

If you wish to participate, but rather have someone else do the shopping, please place your donation in an envelope on the offering plate marked "Personal Care Kits."

## EASTER FLOWERS FROM FREEDS FLOWERS

LILIES: (\$10.00) \_\_\_\_\_

TULIPS: (\$10.00) \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF \_\_\_\_\_

PRESENTED BY \_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR OF \_\_\_\_\_

PRESENTED BY \_\_\_\_\_

TO THE GLORY OF GOD BY \_\_\_\_\_

**DEADLINE MARCH 15, 2021 PLEASE PLACE YOUR ORDERS ON 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 ON THE OFFERING PLATE OR BROUGHT TO THE CHURCH OFFICE.**

# March 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45 Genesis 21:1-7 Hebrews 1:8-12	<b>2</b> Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45 Genesis 22:1-19 Hebrews 11:1-3, 13-19	<b>3</b> Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45 Jeremiah 30:12-22 John 12:36-43	<b>4</b> Psalm 19 Exodus 19:1-9a 1 Peter 2:4-10	<b>5</b> Psalm 19 Exodus 19:9b-15 Acts 7:30-40	<b>6</b> Psalm 19 Exodus 19:16-25 Mark 9:2-8
<b>7</b> <b>Third Sunday of Lent</b>	<b>8</b> Psalm 84 1 Kings 6:1-4, 21-22 1 Corinthians 3:10-23	<b>9</b> Psalm 84 2 Chronicles 29:1-11, 16-19 Hebrews 9:23-28	<b>10</b> Psalm 84 Ezra 6:1-16 Mark 11:15-19	<b>11</b> Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 Genesis 9:8-17 Ephesians 1:3-6	<b>12</b> Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 Daniel 12:5-13 Ephesians 1:7-14	<b>13</b> Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 Numbers 20:22-29 John 3:1-13
<b>14</b> <b>Fourth Sunday of Lent</b>	<b>15</b> Psalm 107:1-16 Exodus 15:22-27 Hebrews 3:1-6	<b>16</b> Psalm 107:1-16 Numbers 20:1-13 1 Corinthians 10:6-13	<b>17</b> Psalm 107:1-16 Isaiah 60:15-22 John 8:12-20	<b>18</b> Psalm 51:1-12 Isaiah 30:15-18 Hebrews 4:1-13	<b>19</b> Psalm 51:1-12 Exodus 30:1-10 Hebrews 4:14—5:4	<b>20</b> Psalm 51:1-12 Habakkuk 3:2-13 John 12:1-11
<b>21</b> <b>Fifth Sunday of Lent</b>	<b>22</b> Psalm 119:9-16 Isaiah 43:8-13 2 Corinthians 3:4-11	<b>23</b> Psalm 119:9-16 Isaiah 44:1-8 Acts 2:14-24	<b>24</b> Psalm 119:9-16 Haggai 2:1-9, 20-23 John 12:34-50	<b>25</b> Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 Deuteronomy 16:1-8 Philippians 2:1-11	<b>26</b> Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 Jeremiah 33:1-9 Philippians 2:12-18	<b>27</b> Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 Jeremiah 33:10-16 Mark 10:32-34, 46-52
<b>28</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b>	<b>29</b> Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 36:5-11 Hebrews 9:11-15 John 12:1-11	<b>30</b> Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 71:1-14 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 John 12:20-36	<b>31</b> Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 70 Hebrews 12:1-3 John 13:21-32			

## A BRIEF LOOK AT SOME SUMMER HILL HISTORY

By Harry Schwenk

As people enter our church through the front glass doors, they are not really aware of the beautiful stained-glass window, which is above the entrance. Once inside the narthex and also when exiting the nave after church services, a view of the window is visible. Following is the story of this window.

A special service of the mortgage burning and narthex window dedication was held on Sunday, September 29, 1968 at 10:30 a.m. The service was led by the Rev. William C. Butts, pastor of the congregation. He preached the sermon "They Said It Couldn't Be Done." A brief history of the congregation was given by Russell Berkeiser, Congregational Recording Secretary. The Senior Choir presented the anthem, "Sing Men and Angels Sing." The anthem, "Come Sing," was presented by the Junior and Senior Choirs, under the direction of Robinette Eckert, church organist and directress.

After spoken responses between the pastor and the congregation, the actual mortgage was burned. Mrs. Emma Phillips proceeded to the altar with a taper, offered the Prayer of Thanksgiving, and received a light from the right candle on the altar. She proceeded to the center of the chancel, where Mrs. Mabel Steigerwalt, widow of the former pastor of St. Paul's, burned the mortgage in a receptacle. A child representative of the Church Stamp Fund, Judy Schwenk, and the members of the Church Building Committee were also present in the center of the chancel.

After the mortgage burning part of the service, Pastor Butts proceeded to the narthex. The congregation stood and turned to face the window in the narthex. (When the new church was built seven years earlier, the big window in the narthex had been clear glass.)

The interpretation of the symbolism of the new stained-glass window is in reference to St. Paul. He is referred to as the "Apostle to the Gentiles," but not one of the twelve apostles. Symbolized by an open Bible with the words "Spiritus Gladius" (sword of the Spirit), and behind the Bible, the sword of the Spirit itself. During spoken responses between the pastor and the congregation, the stained-glass window was dedicated.

The symbol of St. Paul, composed of the Bible, the sword of the Spirit and the cross was given in loving memory of Donna Marie Schwenk, daughter of Leroy and Ruth Schwenk. Donna had passed away in February of that year, at the age of eleven years. The window at large was presented to the Glory of God and also in memory of Milton, Samuel, and Edwin Sholl, the Rev. Clarence A. Steigerwalt, Lamar Hand, Guy Boyer, Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Krammes, and Paula Minchoff, by their respective families.



# SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

## Save the Dates: June 4 & 5, 2021

### Online Synod Assembly

We are moving forward on our Synod Assembly for June 4-5, 2021. The decision has been made to once again conduct our assembly online, for the safety of all participants. The theme will be "Growing Young and Vital" and will feature new ideas for ministry around three *vital signs* – healing the hurting, loving the land, and engaging the stranger. Registration will begin after March 31. We will also know by the end of March, more details about the program and the hours of each day's schedule. For now, save the dates and stay tuned for more information coming soon, over the next few weeks.



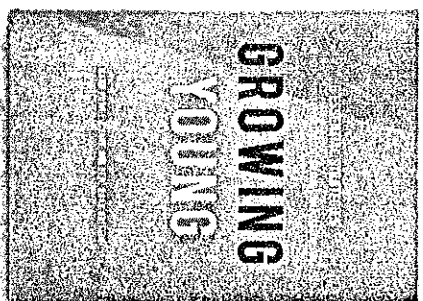
Growing Young & Vital

Northeastern PA Synod

MARCH 2021

## Growing Young

Want to reverse the effects of aging? Need more energy in your life? Sick of fine lines and wrinkles? Check out Growing Young! **What is Growing Young?** It is a movement in NEPA and throughout the greater ELCA and beyond that is based on a book of the same name which studied churches of all sizes, denominations and locations throughout the country who are maintaining and attracting youth and young adults in their congregations.



The authors of Growing Young have identified **6 key strategies** that these congregations have and that others congregations can utilize to help youth and young people discover and love the church. They are: **Unlocking keychain leadership, Empathizing with today's young people, Taking Jesus' message seriously, Fuel a warm**



### Meet Deacon Travis Woodfield, Director of Congregational Legacy

Hello! I have been fortunate to have a colorful adventure of a life, so, here's a little of my story. I studied Philosophy from the Franciscan University of Steubenville, and Franciscan Studies from St. Bonaventure University. I've been fortunate to have life experience ranging from a fishmonger, admissions counselor, Franciscan friar, hospital chaplain, and Campus Minister. I also have a MDiv. from Wake Forest University. Studying at Wake allowed me the chance to intern and work with the Center For Congregational Health. While I was working there, I found a vocation that combined many of the things I was interested in. When I was a hospital chaplain, I loved getting to walk alongside people when they were making meaning of changes in their life. I am honored that I get to do the same with churches in their meaning-making work, whether that be launching to a new vision, reconsidering what ministry the church is called to, or even considering what end-of-life care and legacy-making might look like.

Rachael, my wife, and I have been married 7 years. We have one cat who runs the house. In my spare time I love to play video games, cooking dinner, and playing guitar. I am also an amateur magician. When I get the pleasure of meeting you ask me if I have a deck of cards and I'll show you something!

**community, Prioritize young people everywhere, and Be the best neighbors.** These are not just strategies to help you attract young people, but are also 6 great strategies for great ministry, regardless if another young person ever walks through the doors of your church building or logs onto your worship service.

Growing Young cannot help you personally look or feel younger; it will not get rid of your wrinkles. But these strategies can help your congregation feel and be younger by reigniting energy in your members and attracting new younger worshipers that will reverse the effects of aging within our congregations.

**For more information about Growing Young, read the book "Growing Young: Six Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church" by Kara Powell, Jake Mulder and Brad M. Griffin from Fuller Youth Institute.**

Join the "Growing Young" BOOK STUDY hosted by Sammy Kelly and YoYoFa

The first, third, and fifth Wednesdays of the month starting March 3rd at 12 p.m. (March 3, 17, 31, April 7, 21, May 5, 19). All at 12 p.m. and all via Zoom.

For more information or to sign up contact [sammyenepsynod.org](mailto:sammyenepsynod.org) or sign up for the "Youth" emails for updates and links, which can be accessed through our Synod website.