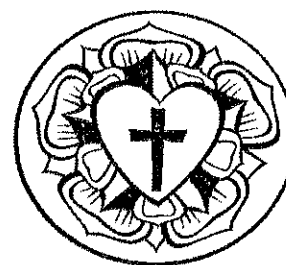




It is our hope to help families in our area who might need a bit extra at Christmas with the gift of a food card. If you know of someone or a family who would appreciate such a gift, please submit their name and address to Pastor Kathy (stpaulsummerhill.pastor@gmail.com) or call the church office by December 13<sup>th</sup>. Support for this ministry comes from the Local Benevolence Fund.

**Adult Bible Study** continues virtually on ZOOM on Thursday evenings at 7 pm for about an hour. In December we will be examining the Advent prophecy scriptures as we watch and wait for the Messiah. Contact Pastor Kathy for the link to the online Zoom meeting.

**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

**December 2020**

**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  
1185 Summer Hill Road, Auburn, PA, 17922  
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### **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

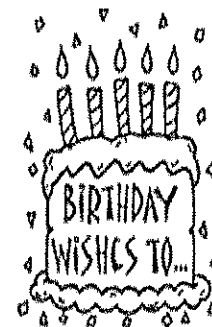
### **Office Hours**

Monday - Friday 9 am - 3 pm

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

## **Happy December Birthday To:**

1 Janet Pavlick  
2 Charles Moyer  
4 Josephine Sholl,  
Tyler Wisner, Patti Freeman  
5 Carrie Ferrence, Allie Bright  
6 Rose Edwards, Barrett Mullins  
7 Richard Deal, Jeffrey Hummel  
9 Scott Burcik, Sierra Hunter, Linda Wolfe  
11 Pamela Ball  
13 Linda Fessler, Richard Kosmisky,  
Wendy Merchant  
14 Glenn Miller  
15 Gereon Sholl  
16 Vanessa Andrew, Jonathan Merchant,  
Courtney Schock, Larry Sweigert  
18 Lilly Chappell, Johnathon Felty, Jr.  
19 Clayton Bubeck, Matthew Platt, David Reber, Sr.  
20 Todd Merchant  
21 Nicholas Maldonado, Ava Woll, Zo Martin  
23 Ulysses Staller  
24 Betty Bailey, Jeffrey Freeman  
25 Rhonda Krammes  
26 Nancy Benedict, Abigail Ebling  
27 Cindy Freeman, Stephen Sandler  
29 Jacqueline Paxson, Joanne Reinert  
30 Janet Costenbader  
31 Debbie Hummel, Ken Arnett





## Evangelism News

By Charles Hawk, Sr.

The election is over. I know that many people like the outcome and I know many people did not like the outcome. Fellow

Christians, any changes we would like to see happen does not happen because of what party is in the White House. It does not come because of who controls the Congress. It comes from our LORD AND SAVIOUR. That has not changed since the beginning of time.

When God gave us the 10 commandments it was for us to live an orderly life which begins with the very First Commandment: You shall have no other gods before me. Worships no idols. Bow down to no one or nothing. Why is this the first commandment? BECAUSE OUR CREATOR AND REDEEMER IS IN CONTROL. ALWAYS WAS AND ALWAYS WILL BE.

When people do the things they do and do not remember who is our Creator, we get in trouble. Our God must be wiping away tears every day looking at what we have done and continue to do here on earth. We need to remember to worship Him! THERE IS NO REASON FOR NOT WORSHIPPING OUR LORD. Everything else should be in second place. Even with the Covid situation we have the capabilities of going to church every Sunday without leaving our living room. PRAISE THE LORD!!!

**“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way.” Mark 1:2**

Dear Folks,

“I can’t wait until this year ends” is a familiar comment these days. It’s been a tough year and people are worn tired of the constant stress of the pandemic. In these last few days, we have seen the case numbers rise, heightening the desire to just leave 2020 behind and move quickly to 2021.

In the church we get a jump on the new year as the season of Advent begins the new church year. As our gospel readings move from the gospel of Matthew to the gospel of Mark, once again we hear the call of John the Baptist to prepare for the one who is coming. Advent is a time when we sit in hopeful expectation of the coming Messiah. It is a time when we are called to watch and wait.

In our fast-paced world, our Christmas preparation is more likely to be marked by stress and exhaustion rather than patient waiting. Perhaps the gift within these pandemic times is this year we have been unable to do things as they have always been done. In the church we have been pushed to learn about live-streaming and consider a new way providing the sacrament of Holy Communion. We have had to reimagine our worship space with social distancing in mind. Maybe this Advent, because of Covid-19, we have an opportunity to reimagine preparing for Christmas in a whole new light.

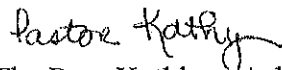
At St. Paul’s, we have already started this reimagining in our planning. Instead of decorating the Christmas trees and sanctuary on one night with everyone participating at the same

time, we are asking families (who have no need to social distance from each other) or individuals to decorate a part of the church on their own. One family might put the lights on the trees, while another will come in later to hang the Chrismons. Another family might volunteer to hang all the wreaths. I'm sure you get the picture. It won't be the community as in past years, but perhaps it will be a meaningful experience for families as we wait for God to come among us. Please let me know if you would like to participate.

Christmas Eve has always been an easy service to plan. We might switch a hymn and change the special music, but the format remains the same, candlelight and plenty of carol singing. We can still have the candlelight, but with the restrictions on singing, we need to imagine and create new and meaningful ways to declare the birth of the Christ child.

We're living in extraordinary times. Please don't allow the normal expectations of the season to overwhelm you. If there is a year to give yourself a break, this is it! Allow yourself to prepare for Christmas and the coming of the Christ child in the world in a way that renews you rather than wears you down. Allow Advent to be a time of patient waiting and prayerful preparation for God's coming into the world. Then in a Covid safe way, let us welcome Christ once again to open our eyes to God's love for us and the world. Have a Hopeful Advent and a Blessed Christmas!

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. 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 January/February newsletter is **December 15th.**



Want to help decorate the church for Christmas? The Worship Committee is inviting families to volunteer to take on a portion of the Christmas decorating as a family project. With the Covid-19 restrictions, we are decorating with one family participating at a time in order to remain safe distancing. Once the trees are set up, you will be contacted to set up a time convenient to the family. Please call the church office or see Pastor Kathy for more details.



Congratulations to Michael Troxell who volunteered to serve and was elected to the Student Loan Committee for a 5-year term. Unfortunately, there were no candidates or nominations for the 3-year terms to serve on Church Council. At it's December council meeting the Council will need to appoint 4 people to a one-year term until the next election. If you are willing to serve a one-year term, please contact Pastor Kathy or Jerry Heffleger. Our heartfelt thanks to Jerry Heffleger, who has served as our president, Charles Hawk, Julie Wisner, and Leah Mullins, who are completing their terms on council and to Dennis Gordon, who is completing his term on the Student Loan Committee. We are grateful for their willingness to serve and their leadership in their respective roles.

Copies of the approved church budget for 2021 are available in the narthex or they may be picked-up in the church office.



2021 Offering Envelopes are available in the Narthex for pickup. If you did not pick up your envelopes the last 2 years and still desire offering envelopes, please call the church office. If you do not want to receive envelopes because you are contributing online, please send an email to the church's email address listed in the newsletter.



Holy Communion will be celebrated at our candlelight services on Christmas Eve - at 5:00 pm, 7:00 pm, and 9:00 pm. We plan to livestream the 5 pm and 9 pm service. The Bell Choir will play at the 5 pm service and the 9 pm service will be signed for the deaf.

**Please call the church office to make reservations for the service you wish. With social distancing, attendance is limited. Masks are required.**



If you desire Pastor Kathy to bring Holy Communion to your home before Christmas, please call the church office. Because of the pandemic, Holy Communion to our homebound members this year is by family request. Social distancing, mask wearing, and safety protocols will be in place. In home Communion kits are also available for our livestreamed services.



**Christmas Jar** books for the Stewardship Committee's Christmas Jar project will be available December 6<sup>th</sup> or any time after that. After saving your change all year, now's the time to choose your recipient. Need help or a suggestion, please see Pastor Kathy.



**The annual Mitten Tree** will be in the narthex throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons to accept donations of mittens, gloves, scarves, socks, hats, and any other appropriate items. This year the items will be divided between Schuylkill Women in Crisis and Servants to All. As always, thank you for your generosity in helping to make this event a success.



The Angel Tree is in the Narthex with ornaments with children's names and some ideas for Christmas gifts for them. The names are from Schuylkill County Children and Youth and are available for anyone to sponsor. Please select an ornament and write your name on the paper at the appropriate place. Everything listed on the ornament does not have to be purchased for the child.

They are just ideas of what the child would need or be able to use. Please have wrapped gifts, with the ornament attached to the gift, under the tree by Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. This way, the employees from the organization will be able to have them delivered to the children for Christmas. Thank you for your continuing generosity in this annual event that Social Ministry has been sponsoring for the past 18 years.

This LIHEAP Information is included, especially for those who might find themselves needing help for the first time because of the pandemic. Our Good Samaritan Fund also may be able to help. Please contact Pastor Kathy.

### **Heating Assistance/Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**

The 2020-2021 LIHEAP opened on November 2, 2020, and is scheduled to close on April 9, 2021. If you need help paying your heating bills or have a heating emergency, LIHEAP may be able to help you.

#### **To receive help:**

- Apply between November 2, 2020, and April 9, 2021.
- You don't have to be on public assistance.
- You don't need to have an unpaid heating bill.
- You can either rent or own your home.

Pennsylvanians can apply for LIHEAP and other public assistance programs online at [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us). Paper applications can be printed from the website or request an application by phone at 1-800-692-7462 and mail it to their local County Assistance Office (CAO) or place it in a CAO's secure dropbox, if available. Dropping applications off at a CAO using the dropbox can help avoid an application delay due to postal service delays. While CAO's remain closed to the public, work processing applications, determining eligibility and issuing benefits continues. For helpful tips on keeping warm throughout the winter while saving money on utility costs, visit [www.energy.gov/energysaver/energy-saver](http://www.energy.gov/energysaver/energy-saver). For more information on LIHEAP, visit [www.dhs.pa.gov](http://www.dhs.pa.gov).



The following members are home bound.

**THELMA BRENSINGER**

352 W. Deer View Drive  
Auburn, PA 17922

**RUSSELL FIDLER**

Providence Place  
2200 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue  
Pottsville, PA 17901

**CONNIE KLINGER**

160 Red Horse Road Room 327  
Pottsville, PA 17901

**REGINA PHILLIPS**

404 Chaise Lane Apt. T18  
Eagleville, PA 19403

**FERN STALLER**

Providence Place  
2200 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue Rm 213  
Pottsville, PA 17901

**CHARLES WERNERT**

507 Long Run Drive  
Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

Brighten their day and send them a card.

**ELMA BROWN**

Rosewood Rehab Center  
401 University Drive  
Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

**BETTY FREEMAN**

71 Eden View Road Apt. 383  
Elizabethtown, PA 17022

**RICHARD PAXSON**

619 Forest Lane  
Pottsville, PA 17901

**HELEN RUNKLE**

Luther Ridge  
160 Red Horse Rd. Apt. 210  
Pottsville, PA 17901

**PATRICIA STEVENS**

Box 77  
Auburn, PA 17922

**DORIS WILLHOYTE**

1285 State Route 183  
Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

# Lectionary Calendar for December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Psalm 79 Micah 4:6-13 Revelation 18:1-10	2 Psalm 79 Micah 5:1-5a Luke 21:34-38	3 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 Hosea 6:1-6 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10	4 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 Jeremiah 1:4-10 Acts 11:19-26	5 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 Ezekiel 36:24-28 Mark 11:27-33
6 <b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>	7 Psalm 27 Isaiah 26:7-15 Acts 2:37-42	8 Psalm 27 Isaiah 4:2-6 Acts 11:1-18	9 Psalm 27 Malachi 2:10—3:1 Luke 1:5-17	10 Psalm 126 Habakkuk 2:1-5 Philippians 3:7-11	11 Psalm 126 Habakkuk 3:2-6 Philippians 3:12-16	12 Psalm 126 Habakkuk 3:13-19 Matthew 21:28-32
13 <b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>	14 Psalm 125 1 Kings 18:1-18 Ephesians 6:10-17	15 Psalm 125 2 Kings 2:9-22 Acts 3:17—4:4	16 Psalm 125 Malachi 3:16—4:6 Mark 9:9-13	17 Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 2 Samuel 6:1-11 Hebrews 1:1-4	18 Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 2 Samuel 6:12-19 Hebrews 1:5-14	19 Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 Judges 13:2-24 John 7:40-52
20 <b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>	21 Luke 1:46b-55 1 Samuel 1:1-18 Hebrews 9:1-14	22 Psalm 96 Zephaniah 3:8-13 Romans 10:5-13	23 Psalm 96 Zephaniah 3:14-20 Romans 13:11-14	24 Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]	25 Isaiah 62:6-12 Psalm 97 Titus 3:4-7 Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20	26 Psalm 148 Jeremiah 26:1-9, 12-15 Acts 6:8-15; 7:51-60
27 <b>First Sunday of Christmas</b>	28 Psalm 148 Jeremiah 31:15-17 Matthew 2:13-18	29 Psalm 148 Isaiah 49:5-15 Matthew 12:46-50	30 Psalm 148 Proverbs 9:1-12 2 Peter 3:8-13	31 Psalm 148 1 Kings 3:5-14 John 8:12-19		

## A BRIEF LOOK AT SOME SUMMER HILL HISTORY

By Harry Schwenk

Since this is the December newsletter, I decided to focus on a December event that occurred in our church's history.

Special services were held in St. Paul's Lutheran and Reformed Church, Summer Hill during the week of Sunday, December 7 to Sunday, December 14, 1941, in celebration of the dedication of the church's new organ. On Sunday afternoon and evening, December 7<sup>th</sup>, the church was crowded to its doors. A service of dedication was held in the afternoon, and in the evening a recital was given on the newly dedicated organ and chimes. The new organ was a two-manual Hall Pipe Organ with Maryland Class "A" Chimes, which replaced the old pipe organ which had been used for 83 years. The chimes were a gift from the Luther League and the Choir. Other items dedicated at this time were a pair of brass candlesticks presented by the Lutheran Confirmation Class of 1933 and a pair of brass vases given by the Lutheran Class of 1941. A Communion bread tray was presented by the Reformed Class of 1940 and a refinished brass Crucifix by the Lutheran Class of 1927. Choir gowns, presented by the choir, were also dedicated.

The dedication services were conducted by the Summer Hill pastors, the Rev. Clarence A. Steigewalt and the Rev. Lee D. Loos. The afternoon service included sermons by two guest pastors, the Rev. A. P. Snyder, S.T.M. of the Mahoning Lutheran Parish. The Rev. R. A. Bausch, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Pottsville, was also a guest pastor.

Following the dedication, J. H. Thomson of Hazleton, who installed the organ, presented the key to Roy Reber, president of the joint church councils. Mr. Reber then presented it to the organist, Mrs. Clark Rauch. Mr. Thomson designed the instrument to conform to the architecture and acoustics of the church. The organ was placed in the balcony in the rear of the church, and it was played from the console at the right of the altar, over forty feet away. The Cathedral Chimes were electrically operated and controlled from the console. Thirteen different volumes of tone were able to be given, and there were 25 bells in the set. Altogether the organ contained more than 600 pipes varying in length from  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch to sixteen feet. After attending the inspiring dedication service, members and friends of St. Paul's returned home to hear on their radios the news of the Japanese attack of our fleet in Pearl Harbor.

On Tuesday evening, December 9<sup>th</sup>, two former Summer Hill pastors preached at the service. The Rev. Howard H. Krauss, pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran from 1912-1925 and the Rev. Charles H. Brown, pastor of St. Paul's Reformed from 1920-1926 were the guest pastors.

On Wednesday evening, two other former Summer Hill pastors, the Rev. Edwin H. Smoll, D.D., Lutheran from 1886-1911; and the Rev. Samuel E. Moyer, Reformed from 1905-1906.

On Thursday evening, the message was given by the Rev. Gilbert J. Martin of St. John's Lutheran, Auburn, who was the president of the Pottsville Conference of the Lutheran Ministerium. Also preaching was the Rev. Lee M. Erdman of Reading, pastor of St. Thomas Reformed Church.

The concluding service of the week long celebration was on Sunday evening, December 14<sup>th</sup>. The Organ Committee consisted of the Rev. C. A. Steigewalt, the Rev. Lee D. Loos, Mrs. Clark Rauch, Organist, Uriah Krammes of the Lutheran Council, and William Krause of the Reformed Council.