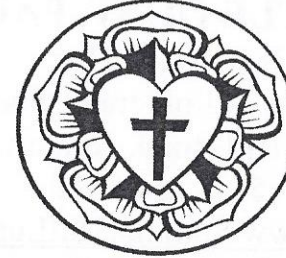




Confirmation class will begin a new year on September 11th during the Sunday School hour. Parents please come with your students so we can talk about what comes next for Confirmation in the midst of the pastoral transition. Seventh grade and older students are eligible to enroll. Call the church office if interested.

You may make an offering to the church through our website 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

September 2022

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
(570) 754-7350

Website: www.SummerHillLutheran.org

Facebook: St Paul Lutheran Church, Summer Hill

Church email:

stpaulsummerhill@gmail.com

Pastor email:

stpaulsummerhill.pastor@gmail.com

Director of Music email:

stpaulsummerhill.music@gmail.com

Student Loan Committee email:

stpaulsummerhill.studentloan@gmail.com

Sunday Holy Communion Service –

8 and 10:30 am Worship

Saturday Holy Communion Service - 5 pm

Our Staff

The Rev. Eileen Smith LeVan	Interim Pastor 530-802-0925
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 September Birthday To:



9/1 - Lynn Ney
9/3 – Marna Skripko
9/4 - Jillian Emerich
9/5 - Derek Reber
9/6 - Hunter Strauch
9/7 - Emma Fessler; Jennifer Lileck; Tara Schoffstall;
Lena Ferrence
9/8 - Sheryl Deal; Ashley Frankenstein
9/12 - Kylie Sinclair; Betty Strauch
9/14 - Christina Durick; Hailey Crossen
9/15 - Kylinn Hollenbach
9/17 - Elizabeth Moyer
9/20 - Earl Paxson
9/24 - Jason Tryon
9/25 - Brian Staller
9/26 - Jennifer Platt; Charles Wernert
9/28 -Bryan Schaeffer; Erin Schaeffer; Shaun Schaeffer;
Abram Reber
9/30 - Amanda Tokarick

COLLEGE STUDENT INFO NEEDED

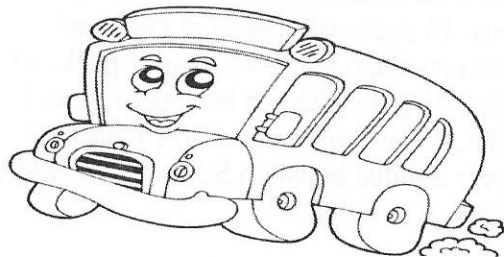
The Social Ministry Committee is seeking the names and addresses of our young people who are college students. Each year care packages of items donated by our members are sent to the college students twice a year, at mid-terms and finals. Parents and/or grandparents, please give this information to the church office or to Harry Schwenk, Social Ministry Chairperson, so your student will be able to receive their care package.

Evangelism News
By Charles Hawk, Sr.



Sometimes I think we all need reminded of how BLESSED we are to be a member of St. Paul's. We are coming into the fall season which means the schedules will be changed for church and Sunday church school when we begin. If you can think about the resources that we are fortunate to have available at St Paul's, let me elaborate: willing teachers who care, a Church council who works behind the scenes (so to speak) keeping reminding us of our member responsibilities, a Pastor whose knowledge about God's Word and how to present it is extraordinary, a church secretary who carries a load to keep us all straight is almost hard to comprehend as how she does it, committees who continually amaze us of their dedication of how they keep doing a terrific job of helping the WORD be spread, Just some of BLEESINGS WE ENJOY AT ST PAUL'S!!! If you haven't been to church or Sunday School for a while why not come and enjoy!! WE MISS YOU! GOD BLESS YOU!!

Back to School



From the Pastor's Pen

BECAUSE OF THE SCARS

Most of us carry scars on our bodies, the result of many different events and life experiences. Several of mine are ones that remind me of vivid and significant events in my life, such as the scars of 3 Cesarean sections for the births of my children.

As followers of Jesus, there are some scars that hold deep significance for us: the scars on the body of Jesus, inflicted on him by a humanity that responded to his mercy, compassion, generosity and inclusiveness with fear, violence and death.

These are not scars on the body of a brave and noble human being, but scars on the very human body that was willingly taken on by the God who created us, in an attempt to show us how deeply we, and all people, are loved by our Creator and that we are intended to be deeply and intimately a part of God's plan for creation.

Let's not be blinded to the fact that the human systems of hierarchy, privilege, entitlement, self-interest and self-preservation were so threatened by the power of Jesus' teachings and actions, teachings that ignored human value systems and granted equal value to all human beings, that killing him seemed like the only way to silence him.

The scars inflicted on Jesus during his crucifixion became the sign on his resurrected body of our sinful rejection of his teaching and the evidence of his power over death.

As followers of Jesus, what we seek is to become more and more like him, dealing less in death and more in life. As Lutherans, we believe life is an unconditional gift, ours to embrace or reject. But we also remember, with sorrow and, hopefully, with repentance, the scars we helped to inflict and seek to live in ways that do not inflict more scars, but that reveal life.

When we truly recognize the meaning of the scars Jesus bears on his

resurrected body, they serve as a reminder of the consequences of everything we do or don't do, every choice we make or ignore. They remind us that when we choose self-interest over the needs of others, we are helping to inflict scars on the world. When we assume and act as though human beings deserve different levels of respect or consideration because of their skin color, income level, educational level, their mental health status, their gender or sexual identity, or any other category we might choose, we participate in inflicting scars on God's creation. When we fail to act to oppose and change systems that are based on these same assumptions, we participate in inflicting scars on God's creation.

Our nation (and our world!) is experiencing turmoil. For many, the turmoil is based on politics and loyalty to a particular party or ideology. For those of us who are followers of Jesus, the turmoil is grounded in what we see as the inflicting of scars on God's creation, the wounding of fellow human beings by creating categories that allow them to be treated with less care, less dignity, less respect, less compassion because they fall into an arbitrary category, defined by a human power structure.

When we gather each sabbath for worship, something we do because of our hunger to be fed by God's Word and sacraments, we take time to confess the ways we inflict scars on God's creation, to receive the reassurance of God's mercy and forgiveness, to be fed with humility and great joy at the table of the Lord who bears the scars of the world, and to be challenged to repent, to make changes that will keep us from inflicting scars on God's creation and make us willing bearers of God's healing mercy and love to a hurting and wounded world.

And when, as sometimes happens, we find ourselves being urged to act in ways that may seem out of sync with what is "reasonable" or "rational," or ways that seem to violate common sense and we ask ourselves why we should follow those urgings, our response may very well be "because of the scars." *Blessings. Pr. Eileen*



office.

75th and Over Birthday Luncheon

The Social Ministry Committee is sponsoring the annual 75th and Over Birthday Party Luncheon on Sunday, September 26th at 12:00 noon in the pavilion. Church members who are 75 and over will be receiving or have already received invitations for this event. If you are in this age category and haven't received an invitation, please contact us. Maybe your birthday is not recorded in the church

THANK YOU



The Social Ministry Committee would like to thank everyone who donated back-to-school items. Collected were 4 backpacks, 3 rulers, 16 folders, 34 notebooks, 12 composition books, 2 pencil bags, 14 packs of crayons, 15 packs of pencils, 4 packs of colored pencils, 6 packs of pens, 4 packs of markers, 3 packs of Sharpies, 21 glue sticks, 6 bottles of glue, 1 pack of index cards, 1 binder, 4 packs of erasers, and 1 pack of post-it notes. The items were divided between Schuylkill Children & Youth and Schuylkill Women in Crisis.



Bits 'n Bytes for your spiritual life from Pastor Eileen

Here are some online links for a devotional resource and bible study that are favorites of mine:

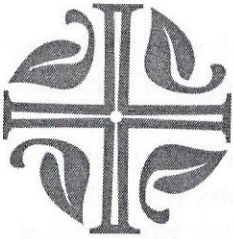
Sacred Space, a devotional site from the Irish

Jesuit community

<https://www.sacredspace.ie/>

Bible Study: **Enter the Bible**, from Luther Seminary, a site where you can find answers to questions and a basic study course for every book of the bible!

<https://enterthebible.org/>



Evangelical Lutheran Worship NEW DATE!

Have you ever noticed that our worship book is NOT called a "hymnal"? That's because it contains much more than hymns.

On September 24 & 25, Pastor Eileen will be doing a special sermon series about Lutheran

worship and the way our ELW (Evangelical Lutheran Worship) provides resources for worshipping together at church and worshipping in our homes.



ELCA World Hunger

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

In August, Pastor Eileen will be attending the ELCA World Hunger Leaders gathering as a representative of our synod.

On Labor Day weekend, September 3 and 4, she will be using the sermon time to share what she learned at that gathering about the current focus of ELCA World Hunger and how our giving supports the work our church does, both here at home and around the world.

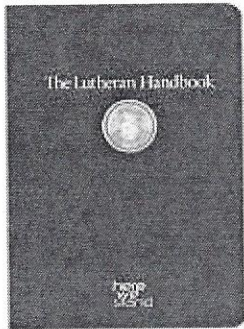


BIBLE STUDY ON ZOOM

MONDAYS AT 7:00 PM

On Monday evenings, Pastor Eileen leads a bible study on zoom. We've had lively conversations about the scripture texts, learned about the times when they were written, the people for whom they were originally written and talked about the ways they address our own lives and times. On September 5 (yes, on Labor Day!) we'll be starting a study of the writings of the prophet Isaiah.

If you'd like to join us, whether its every week or just when you can, send Pastor Eileen an email and she'll send you the zoom link. Stpaulsummerhill.pastor@gmail.com.



Did you know that there's a Lutheran Handbook?

It's a fun and informative book on Lutheran theology and culture.

We'll be looking at *The Lutheran Handbook* in the adult forum on Sunday mornings in September, beginning on September 11.

COLLEGE STUDENT INFO NEEDED



The Social Ministry Committee is seeking the names and addresses of our young people who are college students. Each year care packages of items donated by our members are sent to the college students twice a year, at mid-terms and finals. Parents and/or grandparents, please give this information to the church office or to Harry Schwenk, Social Ministry Chairperson, so your student will be able to receive their care package.



Come join us for our first after Covid "Dinner and a Movie" night on Saturday, October 8th at 5:45 pm.

The movie will be "The Shack", based on novel by the same name. "After his daughter's murder, a grieving father confronts God with desperate questions -- and finds unexpected answers -- in this riveting and deeply moving #1 NYT bestseller."

The door will be open to everyone on October 8th but the Social Ministry Committee would like to have a general idea of how many plan to attend so please contact a member of the committee or the church office if planning to attend.

Bring beach chairs for comfort.

Location will again be the annex after the Saturday evening worship service.



On Sunday, October 2nd, our church will join others in the Schuylkill Haven Area Council of Churches to walk the streets of Schuylkill Haven to end hunger. The annual Crop Walk will begin and end at the Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry (rear of the Walk-In Shoe Building). Registration is at 1:00 pm, worship is at 1:15 pm, and the walk begins at 1:30 pm. Monies collected will benefit the Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry, as well as people around the world through the Church World Service. Dig out those sneakers and walk with other church members of our area churches. Registration forms are available on the table in the church Narthex. Any questions, please call church office

Church Calendar for September 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 9am Worship Service	29 10am Prayer Shawl 7 pm Bible Study	30	31	1 6pm Bell Choir 7:30pm choir	2 Office Closed	3 5pm Worship Service
4 9am Worship Service	5 10am Prayer Shawl 7 pm Bible Study	6 12:30pm Quilting	7 7pm Council Meeting	8 6pm Bell Choir 7:30pm choir	9	10 5pm Worship Service
11 8am Worship Service 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service	12 10am Prayer Shawl 7pm Stewardship 7 pm Bible Study	13 7pm Social Ministry	14 1pm Evangelism	15 6pm Bell Choir 7:30pm choir	16	17 5pm Worship Service
18 8am Worship Service 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service	19 10am Prayer Shawl 7 pm Bible Study	20 12:30pm Quilting Office Closed	21 7pm Property Office Closed	22 6pm Bell Choir 7:30pm choir Office Closed	23 Office Closed	24 5pm Worship Service
25 8am Worship Service 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Service	26 10am Prayer Shawl 7 pm Bible Study	27	28	29 6pm Bell Choir 7:30pm choir	30 Office Closed	1 5pm Worship Service

September 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Psalm 1 Genesis 39:1-23 Philippians 2:25-30	2 Psalm 1 Deuteronomy 7:12-26 Colossians 4:7-17	3 Psalm 1 Deuteronomy 29:2-20 Matthew 10:34-42
4 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost	5 Psalm 101 2 Kings 17:24-41 1 Timothy 3:14—4:5	6 Psalm 101 2 Kings 18:9-18 1 Timothy 4:6-16	7 Psalm 101 2 Kings 18:19-25; 19:1-7 Luke 18:18-30	8 Psalm 51:1-10 Genesis 6:1-6 1 Timothy 1:1-11	9 Psalm 51:1-10 Genesis 7:6-10; 8:1-5 2 Peter 2:1-10a	10 Psalm 51:1-10 Genesis 8:20—9:7 John 10:11-21
11 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost	12 Psalm 73 Amos 7:1-6 1 Timothy 1:18-20	13 Psalm 73 Jonah 3:1-10 2 Peter 3:8-13	14 Psalm 73 Job 40:6-14; 42:1-6 Luke 22:31-33, 54-62	15 Psalm 113 Exodus 23:1-9 Romans 3:1-8	16 Psalm 113 Ezekiel 22:17-31 Romans 8:31-39	17 Psalm 113 Isaiah 5:8-23 Mark 12:41-44
18 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost	19 Psalm 12 Proverbs 14:12-31 Acts 4:1-12	20 Psalm 12 Proverbs 17:1-5 1 Corinthians 9:19-23	21 Psalm 12 Proverbs 21:10-16 Luke 20:45—21:4	22 Psalm 146 Proverbs 22:2-16 2 Corinthians 8:8-15	23 Psalm 146 Proverbs 28:3-10 Ephesians 2:1-10	24 Psalm 146 Proverbs 28:11-28 Luke 9:43b-48
25 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost	26 Psalm 62 Amos 6:8-14 Revelation 3:14-22	27 Psalm 62 Hosea 10:9-15 James 5:1-6	28 Psalm 62 Hosea 12:2-14 Matthew 19:16-22	29 Psalm 37:1-9 2 Kings 18:1-8, 28-36 Revelation 2:8-11	30 Psalm 37:1-9 2 Kings 19:8-20, 35-37 Revelation 2:12-29	

A Brief Look At Some Summer Hill History
By Harry Schwenk

This month we will take a look at some modern history, with events that happened at St. Paul's Church since the turn of this century.

In the year 2000, several changes were made in the life of St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Air conditioning was installed in the church, helping to make summer Sunday morning worship services more enjoyable and comfortable. In August, the congregation voted favorably to approve an addition to the church building. This addition was to be called the Steigerwalt Annex, in honor of Pastor Steigerwalt, pastor of St. Paul's from 1927 until his death in 1965. The annex would provide extra space for Sunday School classes, committee meetings and storage space for music supplies and other items. When a funeral is held at the church, the annex would provide a viewing area prior to the service. A handicapped lavatory and an elevator were included as part of the annex project. The lower level of the annex became the meeting place for the Teens and the gathering place for the Jolly Quilters. Ground was broken for the Steigerwalt Annex in the summer of 2001, and the dedication of the annex took place in the summer of 2002.

A new exterior plexi-glass cross, replacing the old iron cross, was purchased and placed on the church. It was given in memory of John Schwenk by his family and friends and was dedicated on January 27, 2002. The old cross was relocated to the southern end of the cemetery.

In the year 2003, several changes to the morning worship services occurred. Communion services were held on the first and third Sundays of each month and at the Saturday evening service before the first Sunday of the month. A sign language interpreter was hired to sign the 10:30 a.m. service on the first Sunday of each month.

In January 2004, the first sign language class, taught by Pegi and Charity Staller, was held at St. Paul's. The ten church members attending the class, met weekly for three months and graduated on Palm Sunday by signing the anthem, "Here I Am Lord" in front of the congregation. Over the next few years, other signing classes were held. Today, the sign language group, "Signs of Faith" signs a new anthem during the monthly Deaf and Hearing- Impaired service and signs at other churches and nursing facilities. Pastor Fisher was instrumental in forming a Contemporary Worship Team, consisting of vocalists and instrumentalists in the summer of 2004. The Contemporary Worship Service was held on the fourth Sunday of each month.

In September 2004, The Rev. Frederick Fisher announced his upcoming retirement, effective at the end of October. The confirmation class that was to be confirmed on Pentecost 2005 wanted to have Pastor Fisher confirm them. The young people faithfully attended extra classes to have their work done and to be able to be confirmed by Pastor Fisher on the last day of his preaching at St. Paul's. The evening before Pastor Fisher's final Sunday at St. Paul's, a surprise retirement dinner and celebration was held at Pine View Acres in Pottsville. Over 200 church members and former members of St. Paul's and family and friends of the Fisher family attended the event.



SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA



STRONGER Together

So Noah went out with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. And every animal, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth, went out of the ark by families.... God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth."

(Genesis 8:18-19; 9:12-13)

Following the flood – a disaster horrific in scope and cause – God brought forth a time and a place, where healing and renewal could begin. Camp Noah is a ministry, carrying on in God's covenantal promises of care and life, especially for families and especially for children whose loved ones may no longer be there to protect and nurture them. The "ark" that gets built, comes in the form of congregations and volunteers, along with professionals in counseling and in faith, who create a safe and supportive environment – where, for a day or a week, children can gather to run and play, draw and paint, sing and listen, pray and build new connections of love and care, new trust that God loves them and that the future can be better, brighter and bolder than the past. Christ is the rainbow and the rock, that provides new colors to paint and safe waters to drink and to splash in, without fear of drowning in grief and despair. As the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, we are honored and grateful to take part in this life-giving ministry, offering our resources, our time and our spaces, to make a bright new day for these kids, these families, and "for all future generations."

+ Bishop Christopher deForest

Have you ever felt overwhelmed and unable to cope with a situation? There have been times during covid that many have felt that way—worry about those who were sick—concerned for families who had lost someone. It was hard enough for adults—but what about children? Camp Noah is a Lutheran camping organization run out of Minnesota that provides weeklong camp experiences for children who have experienced traumatizing natural disasters like tornados, floods, hurricanes—and covid. This past summer, just such a camp was held in Oley, PA. Camp Noah provided a week of fun and engaging experiences through books, crafts, music, art, and games that allowed kids to express their feelings and concerns regarding covid. One young camper said, “this camp has been a blessing.” And it was! Everyone involved—including adult volunteers—felt the healing presence of God among them! Thank you to the many congregations whose Mission Support dollars to the Northeast Pennsylvania Synod provided grant money to help fund Camp Noah. It really was a blessing to all!

+ Pastor Julie Osterhout,
Trinity Lutheran-Wernersville

