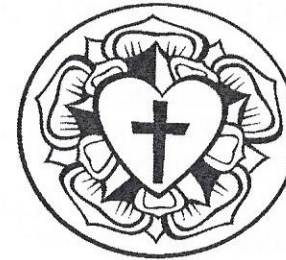




2024 Offering Envelopes are available in the Narthex for pickup. If you did not pick up your envelopes the last 2 years and still desire offering envelopes, please call the church office. If you do not want to receive envelopes because

you are contributing online, please send an email to the church's email address listed in the newsletter.

Note: If your envelope was number 226 through 250, you have been assigned a new number. For 2025 everyone will receive a new assigned number except the people who contribute online.



The Epistle of St. Paul's

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.



December 2023

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

THE EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL'S

is published by:

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1185 Summer Hill Road, Auburn, PA, 17922
(570) 754-7350

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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 (first Sunday of month) and 10:30 am Worship

Saturday Holy Communion Service (first Saturday of month) - 5 pm

Our Staff

Matthew Hayes
Linda Angstadt
Eva Waldman
Cindy Brown
Stacey Fidler

Director of Music 484-794-7902
Parish Secretary 570-754-7350
Treasurer 570-754-7350
Pavilion Sexton 570-345-1279
Church Sexton 570-754-7350

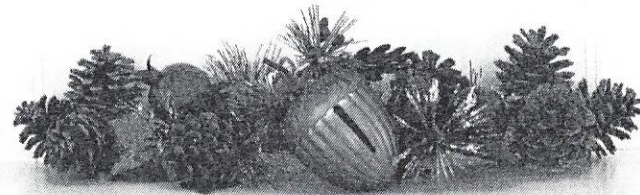
Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9 am - 3 pm
Closed from 12:00 pm to 12:30 pm for lunch



On Sunday, December 3rd, the Social Ministry Committee will sponsor Christmas Caroling to the shut-ins and elderly. We will be joining our sister congregation, St. Paul's U.C.C. for this event. Everyone is invited to join us. We will be carpooling and leaving from St. Paul's U.C.C. at 2:00 p.m.

*Unto Us
a Child is Born*



Keep in your prayers:



Richard Paxson, Dennis Ryan, Ron Boris, Jr., Shirley Krammes, Irene Peiffer, Arlene Lickman, Betty Freeman, Thelma Brensinger, Chester Johnson, Shirley Fessler, Angie Lewis, Mark Fidler, Hayley Moyer, Helen Runkle, Adam Brink, Arlene Moyer, Charles Wernert, Stephen Curtis, Brayden Crews, John Strauch, Jr., Dianna Curry, Rosemary Meade, Ray Yeich, David Axtt, Greg Phillips, Gaylene Ebling, Stacey Rao, John and Betty Strauch, Nancy Vargas, Jerry Heffleger, Kathy Robinson, Beverly Trumbo, Brian Hunsberger, Randy Ney, Donovan Baker, Kyle Cleary, Peggy Davis, Sue and Harry Russell, Carol Beenick, Brittany & Joshua Gallagher, Shawnette Keller, Neida Hayes, Helen Miller, Sheila Tryon, Sallie Ann Sandler and Robert & Joyce Zeledonis. Those serving in the military: Brandon Felty, Karen Hall, 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, Timothy Bast, and Ryan Bast.



Pastoral visits and home communions are available anytime. Please call the office.

The deadline for items for the January/February newsletter is **December 15.**

Happy December Birthday To:

- 1 Janet Pavlick
- 4 Patti Freeman
- 5 Allie Bright
- 6 Rose Edwards, Barrett Mullins
- 7 Jeffrey Hummel
- 13 Linda Fessler, Richard Kosmisky
- 14 Glenn Miller
- 15 Gereon Sholl
- 16 Vanessa Andrew, Courtney Schock, Larry Sweigert
- 18 Lilly Chappell, Johnathon Felty, Jr.
- 19 Matthew Platt, David Reber, Sr.
- 21 Nicholas Maldonado, Ava Woll
- 24 Betty Bailey, Jeffrey Freeman
- 25 Rhonda Krammes
- 26 Nancy Benedict, Abigail Ebling
- 27 Cindy Freeman
- 29 Jacqueline Paxson, Joanne Reinert
- 30 Janet Costenbader, Ryan Murphy
- 31 Debbie Hummel



DECEMBER Worship Schedule

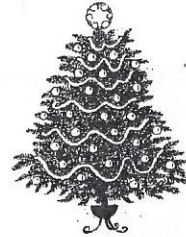


Sunday morning service will be held at 10:30 am every Sunday. December 2 at 5 pm will be the monthly Saturday evening spoken service led by Pastor Eileen Smith LeVan. Sunday December 3 at 8 and 10:30 am will be led by Brian Staller with no communion. Sunday December 10th will be led by Rev. Rob Reier. Sunday

December 17th will be led by Rev. David Werley. The morning service on December 24th will be led by Matt Platt with no communion. The 7 pm service will be led by Rev. Carl Filer. Sunday December 31st service will be also at 10:30 am led by Troy Hollenbach with no communion.



The Mitten Tree will be in the narthex throughout the weeks before Christmas to accept donations of mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, socks, etc. After the Christmas season, these items will be donated to Schuylkill Women in Crisis and Servants to All.



The Social Ministry's 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 Children and Youth and are available for anyone to sponsor. Please select an ornament and write your name on the paper at the correct 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 wrap the gifts and attach the ornament to the gift. Please place the gifts in the narthex by Sunday, December 10th. This will give the caseworkers time to get the gifts to the children in time for Christmas. This year, being our 21st year of sponsoring the event, Social Ministry thanks everyone who participates in the gift giving.



The Social Ministry Committee would like to thank everyone who donated items for the care packages for our college students. We received the names and addresses of five young people, who will be enjoying their packages as they study for their midterms/finals.

The following members are home bound.

SHIRLEY BAKER

61 Emerich Spur Road
Bethel, PA 19507

THELMA BRENSINGER

352 W. Deer View Drive
Auburn, PA 17922

RUSSELL FIDLER

Providence Place
2200 1st Avenue
Pottsville, PA 17901

BETTY FREEMAN

71 Eden View Road Apt. 383
Elizabethtown, PA 17022

BETTY HEINBAUGH

819 Summer Hill Road
Auburn, PA 17922

ARLENE MOYER

842 Moyers Station Road
Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972



Brighten their day and send them a card.

RICHARD PAXSON

C/O RSH Pinebrook
2 Woodbridge Road
Orwigsburg, PA 17961

REGINA PHILLIPS

Renaissance Home Pinebrook
2 Woodbridge Road Rm 26
Orwigsburg, PA 17961

HELEN RUNKLE

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

HARRY & SUE RUSSELL

P O Box 399
Saint Peters, PA 19470-0399

CHARLES WERNERT

507 Long Run Drive
Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

December 2023

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

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					¹ Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Zechariah 14:1-9 1 Thessalonians 4:1-18	² Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Micah 2:1-13 Matthew 24:15-31
³ First Sunday of Advent	⁴ Psalm 79 Micah 4:1-5 Revelation 15:1-8	⁵ Psalm 79 Micah 4:6-13 Revelation 18:1-10	⁶ Psalm 79 Micah 5:1-5a Luke 21:34-38	⁷ Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 Hosea 6:1-6 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10	⁸ Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 Jeremiah 1:4-10 Acts 11:19-26	⁹ Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 Ezekiel 36:24-28 Mark 11:27-33
¹⁰ Second Sunday of Advent	¹¹ Psalm 27 Isaiah 26:7-15 Acts 2:37-42	¹² Psalm 27 Isaiah 4:2-6 Acts 11:1-18	¹³ Psalm 27 Malachi 2:10—3:1 Luke 1:5-17	¹⁴ Psalm 126 Habakkuk 2:1-5 Philippians 3:7-11	¹⁵ Psalm 126 Habakkuk 3:2-6 Philippians 3:12-16	¹⁶ Psalm 126 Habakkuk 3:13-19 Matthew 21:28-32
¹⁷ Third Sunday of Advent	¹⁸ Psalm 125 1 Kings 18:1-18 Ephesians 6:10-17	¹⁹ Psalm 125 2 Kings 2:9-22 Acts 3:17—4:4	²⁰ Psalm 125 Malachi 3:16—4:6 Mark 9:9-13	²¹ Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 2 Samuel 6:1-11 Hebrews 1:1-4	²² Psalm 96 Zephaniah 3:8-13 Romans 10:5-13	²³ Psalm 96 Zephaniah 3:14-20 Romans 13:11-14
²⁴ Fourth Sunday of Advent And Christmas Eve	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 Psalm 148 Exodus 33:18-23 1 John 1:1-9	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 First Sunday of Christmas						

A Brief Look At Some Summer Hill History
By Harry Schwenk

During World War II, Pastor Steigerwalt and our church members, kept in contact with the church members who were serving our country. From what I have been reading, Christmas packages were sent to them. Two publications known as "The Assistant Pastor" and "The Messenger" were also sent to them. Following are some notes which the church received from our service people, and they were published and sent out to our members here at home.

From:

Pvt. Arlan Boyer, Camp Blanding, FL-Many thanks for the Christmas box from the Church. We were out on field maneuvers, a 25-mile hike from Camp and the box was certainly appreciated out there. I am enclosing two dollars for the Church. Thanks so much, Arlan. (Arlan never made it back home. He was killed in battle in Europe, and was the only child of Charles and Amy Boyer. He was confirmed at St. Paul's in 1937.)

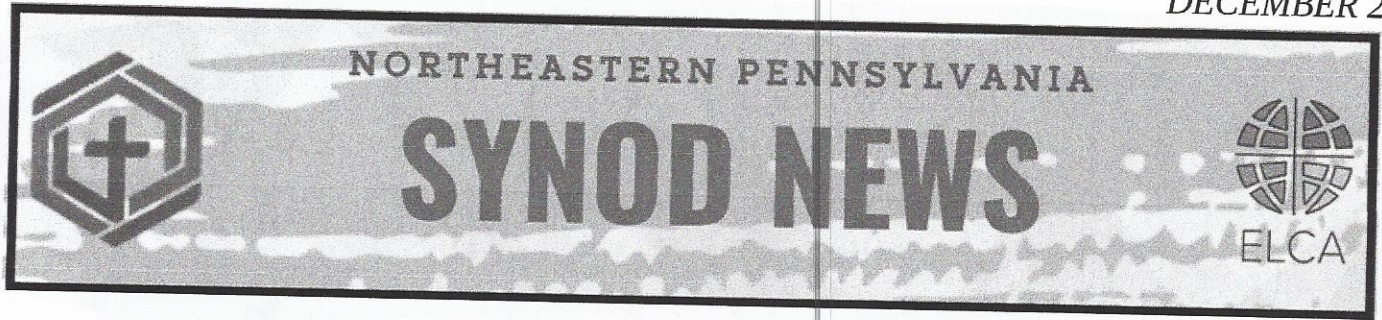
Cpl. Lewis Boyer, Southwest Pacific-A few of us took a six-mile hike to a Mission (native) Church. We were greeted by the natives, who gave us coconuts and tropical fruits. The natives may be only partly civilized, but they believe in God. On Sunday, the Church is used for worship and during the week it is used as a school to teach the youth how to read and write. Americans are very much loved by the natives. Some speak English very well. They sang some English hymns. (Lewis was the son of Clinton and Ellen Boyer and was a life-long member of St. Paul's. He was confirmed at St. Paul's in 1937.)

Darwin Dewald, S1/c., Oceanside, California-I received the Christmas box from the Church. Please express my appreciation to the congregation. Thanks a million. It really was swell. I am training here in a Joint Assault Signal Company to communicate with the troops and the ships on land. We are among the first to go ashore. (Darwin was the son of Calvin and Cora Dewald. He was confirmed at St. Paul's in 1943.)

Pfc. Willard Dreisbach, c/o P. M., N. Y.-I want to thank you and all the members for the nice Christmas box I received. Also, for all that you are doing for the service men. I know it is a lot of work and we do appreciate it. (Willard was the son of Mahlon and Vallie Dreisbach. He was confirmed at St. Paul's in 1935.)

Sgt. Russell Fidler, Italy- I sure was surprised to read in the Assistant Pastor about Ernest Krammes and the places he was at. I was between Naples and Vesuvius about the same time. It would have been great to see him. I sure appreciate the Messenger and Assistant Pastor. (Russell parents were Clinton and Annie Fidler. Presently, at the age of 101, Russell is the oldest member of our congregation and has been a life-long member. He was confirmed at St. Paul's in 1937.)

Pfc. Lewis Fidler, France-Many of the people here in France where we are, have lost their homes and are very poor. I spend most of my time in a fox hole, even sleep there. Last Sunday we had our church service under a large pine tree. (Lewis was the son of Jeremiah and Ellen Fidler, and also a cousin of Russell. He was confirmed at St. Paul's in 1941)



Young Adult in Global Mission: A Year in Senegal

Asalaa maalekum. May God's peace be upon you.

My name is Quentin Bernhard. I recently served with the ELCA program Young Adults in Global Mission—YAGM—in Senegal. My time with YAGM came to an end in July, and Senegal country cohort peers and I returned to the United States. We are among the 23 young adults from the 2022-2023 year who served in accompaniment in four different country programs.

I live in New Tripoli in Lehigh County, and I'm a member of New Life Lutheran Church in New Tripoli. Many individuals and congregations from our synod supported me in my YAGM year. Thank you for your support of my time in Senegal and for the opportunity to be in continuing relationship after my time abroad.

My coming to the United States, to the communities I grew up in in Pennsylvania, was also my leaving a community I grew in—a community I grew in as a Lutheran and as a young person, one I have good friends in. I lived in Yeumbeul Bene Baraque, in western Senegal, for ten months. I lived with a host family in a community. I saw friends every day, many when at my placement site. Connected with our partner organization Senegalese Lutheran Development Services—SLDS—I worked in a community center that serves the community in numerous ways, splitting my time between the library and the mutual fund credit union.

My friends and family in Senegal continue to send me voice messages, reminding me that I am also Maguette Ndiaye, my Senegalese name, and reminding me that we are still connected, even if connected in a different way now. Our relationships and our future—all of our future—is unknown to us. Our faith—and our trust in one another—can allow us to take steps and leaps in that future.

Quentin Bernhard

FINDING HOLY FOCUS IN HUNGERING TIMES

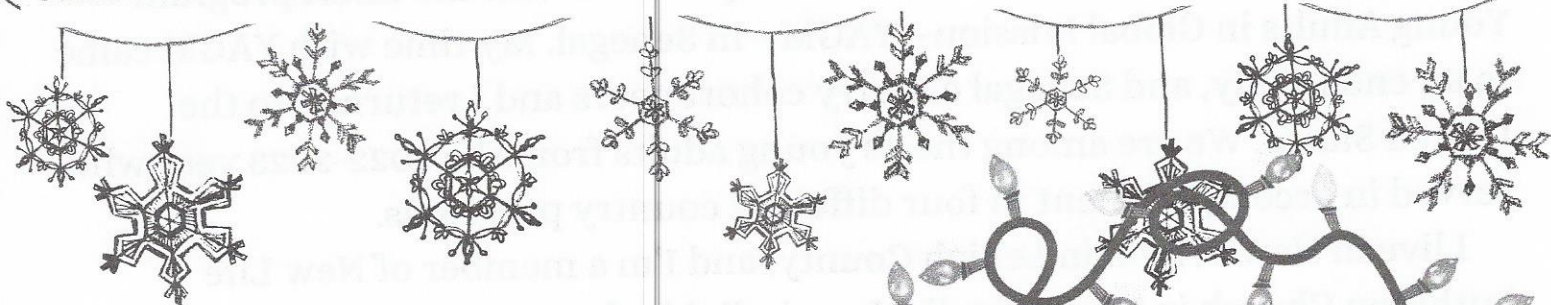
BISHOP'S CONFERENCE 2024

FEBRUARY 6-7, 2024

REGISTER
NOW!

PRESENTED BY:
NEPA SYNOD

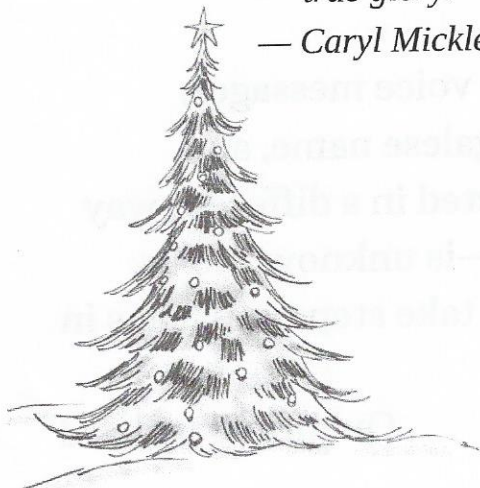
**FOR ALL ROSTERED LEADERS AND SYNOD AUTHORIZED LAY MINISTERS



God of Goodness, We give you praise for the ordinariness of Christmas - that the day comes the same as any other day. We give you praise that there is no sign in the heavens, and no bright star but the light of your presence in the ordinary birth of the child. We give you praise that unobtrusively you are in the center of human affairs, involved in the struggle of life, and sharing human experience.

We give you praise that out of compassion you take our part, and open to us a new way of life. We pray that this day we shall be able to see its true glory."

— Caryl Micklem



NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING

www.elca.church/gathering

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NOW!

