

You may now 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

October 2021

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

THE EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL'S

is published by:

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Sunday Holy Communion Service –

8 am and 10:30 am

Saturday Holy Communion Service - 5 pm

Sunday School – 9:15 am

Our Staff

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 October Birthday To:



- 1 - Harry Russell
- 2 - Matthew Mairose
- 3 - Denise Johnson
- 4 - Bryson Schrader, Sheree Bright
- 5 - Rachel Macfarlane; Tyler Weller
- 7 - Ruth Sholl
- 8 - Darrel Deal
- 9 - Joseph Freeman; Jerald Heffleger; Dale Reed
- 10 - Melissa Sisko
- 11 - Mary Sweigert
- 12 - Laura Woll; Beth Ulsh
- 13 - The Rev. Kathleen Ash-Flashner
- 14 - Diane Bailey
- 15 - Gary Sholl
- 17 - Evan Freeman; David Reber, Jr.; Mark Sandler
- 18 - Stephen Fessler; Joshua Mairose
- 19 - Sadie Tokarick
- 20 - Melissa Cleary
- 22 - David Kahl
- 23 - Stephen Fessler, Jr.; Elijah Strauss
- 25 - Elma Brown; Faye Williams, Kyran Murphy
- 26 - Russell Moyer
- 28 - Courtney Brown; Helen Runkle; Justin Weller
- 29 - Kevin Reber
- 30 - Corey Engle; Bennett Platt
- 31 - Nicholas Frankenstein

Evangelism News
By Charles Hawk, Sr.



I am dedicating this to Pastor Kathy. Her presence in the church for the past 16 years was a message from the HOLY SPIRIT. She was a very good Pastor in so many respects. As a human she had her faults as we all do, but they indeed were very minimal. I enjoyed her sermons and could tell they

were Spiritually led and Biblically based. In my opinion she was a fine leader and tried to keep our congregation moving in the right God-Fearing direction. We will miss her and especially the Bible Class she led every Thursday night. As a member of the Evangelism Committee her attendance was always welcomed and gave us the input and support, we needed. I can go on and on, but I wanted her to see just how much we thought of her and she will be missed. Our committee wishes her God's Speed in whatever endeavor she is embarking on (I hope she rests some) and enjoys her 'retirement'. GOD BLESS YOU PASTOR KATHY

"It is a good thing to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to herald your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night." Psalm 92:1-2

To All the Good and Faithful People of St. Pauls,

Thank you, thank you, thank you for the joy and privilege of serving as your pastor these last 16 years as we have given thanks to the Lord and have strived to show his love to others, especially those in need.

A heartfelt thank you for the cards, gifts and best wishes I have received as I end my ministry at St. Paul's and begin this new journey called retirement. Thank you to the Mutual Ministry Committee, Troy Hollenbach, Elizabeth Thomas, and Trish Krause, for their participation in the Farewell and Godspeed rite. It's not always easy to say formally mark the end of a ministry and say goodbye, but these 3 people fulfilled their role faithfully. Thank you to everyone who planned the farewell luncheon with covid safety guidelines in place. While I had to be talked into it, I am grateful for the opportunity to share a moment of celebration after my last service. Thank you to all of you who signed your signature on a quilt square. Not knowing what people would write, I was touched by some who shared those moments of standing on God's holy ground together whether that was beside a hospital bed or being with a family in times of crises. I was grateful for the opportunity that you allowed me to be part of those times and bring God's Word to you. I plan to design the quilt during those cold and snowy days of a Maine winter and will post a picture on my Facebook page when complete.

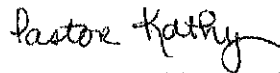
Now, our paths in serving God separate. My prayers will continue for you and the ministry of St. Paul's. I know that God has great opportunities for work in the name of Christ for St. Paul's and I will pray for the church council and staff as they provide leadership in this time of transition. Please keep the church council and staff in your prayers as well.

For me, I think the first National Park I will explore will be Acadia National Park in Maine. It has been at the top of my bucket list for a while. It is only 1 ½ hours from the house in Maine and the leaves should be beautiful in October. Let me know if you ever find yourself coming to the midcoast area of Maine.

I leave you with a prayer from the Morning Prayer service (ELW, pg. 304) that has always given me strength no matter what I was facing in any new day.

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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, Rosemary Meade, Tyler Boland, Ray Yeich, David Axtt, Greg Phillips, Gaylene Ebling, Connie Klinger, Stacey Rao, Betty Strauch and John Strauch, Sr., Helen Miller, Nancy Vargas, Jerry Heffleger, 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 Weinius, Jr., Justin Weller, Jeremy Weaver, Cameron Lutz, Stephanie Boyer, and Brad Renninger

Pastoral visits and home communions are available. Please call the office to schedule a visit.

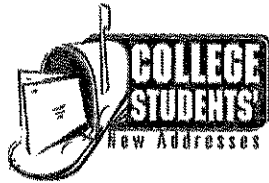


The deadline for items for the November newsletter is **October 15.**



End Hunger One Step at a Time, CROP Walk October 3rd. In 2020, with new challenges of disease and disaster leaving people hungry, our action is needed more than ever to end hunger.

Organize your own virtual CROP Walk or join the Schuylkill Haven Council of Churches CROP Hunger Walk, Sunday, October 3, at 1 PM. Registration begins at 12:30 PM at the Council's Food Pantry, 100 West Market Street behind Evan's Delivery and the Walk-In Art Center. Water will be provided along the Walk route but food will not be available. Registration and fundraising packets are available on the Narthex table. There is also a container for donations. Donations for the Crop Walk can also be directed for the church office.



The Social Ministry Committee is seeking the names and addresses of our young people who are college students. Each year, except the past year because of Covid, 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.



A Brief Look At Some Summer Hill History
By Harry Schwenk

Following is a poem about our old church, which existed from 1847-1958. The poem was discovered when we were preparing to celebrate our 225th Anniversary and was included in our Anniversary Book. The author is unknown, but included at the end were the initials, E.L.C.

HALLOWED

There's a hallowed place on Summer Hill,
It towers to the sky,
It's worth in gold unmeasured,
But its deeds doth glorify.

It's surrounded by a belfry,
Pointing up the way to God,
And it keeps the feet from straying,
From the paths that He has trod.

Though you roam in distant places,
Though you fail to heed His call,
When your mind reverts to homeland,
First you think of old St. Paul.

How the sweet tones from the belfry,
Soothes the heart, exalts the mind,
And the blessed peace and comfort,
Steals upon one, loving, kind.

So peal the bell on Summer Hill,
With the belfry in the sky,
For we know full joy will follow,
To friend and passerby.

There's a resting place out yonder,
In the shadow of St. Paul,
Where the loved ones, gone to homeland,
Wait your Master's loving call.

Church Calendar for October 2021

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

Lectionary Calendar for October 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					Psalm 8 Genesis 21:22-34 Romans 8:1-11	Psalm 8 Genesis 23:1-20 Luke 16:14-18
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost	Psalm 112 Deuteronomy 22:13-30 1 Corinthians 7:1-9	Psalm 112 Deuteronomy 24:1-5 1 Corinthians 7:10-16	Psalm 112 Jeremiah 3:6-14 Matthew 5:27-36	Psalm 90:12-17 Deuteronomy 5:1-21 Hebrews 3:7-19	Psalm 90:12-17 Deuteronomy 5:22-33 Hebrews 4:1-11	Psalm 90:12-17 Amos 3:13—4:5 Matthew 15:1-9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost	Psalm 26 Obadiah 1-9 Revelation 7:9-17	Psalm 26 Obadiah 10-16 Revelation 8:1-5	Psalm 26 Obadiah 17-21 Luke 16:19-31	Psalm 91:9-16 Genesis 14:17-24 Romans 15:7-13	Psalm 91:9-16 Isaiah 47:1-9 Revelation 17:1-18	Psalm 91:9-16 Isaiah 47:10-15 Luke 22:24-30
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Twentieth-first Sunday after Pentecost	Psalm 37:23-40 1 Samuel 8:1-18 Hebrews 6:1-12	Psalm 37:23-40 1 Samuel 10:17-25 Hebrews 6:13-20	Psalm 37:23-40 1 Samuel 12:1-25 John 13:1-17	Psalm 126 Jeremiah 23:9-15 Hebrews 7:1-10	Psalm 126 Jeremiah 26:12-24 Hebrews 7:11-22	Psalm 126 Jeremiah 29:24-32 Mark 8:22-26
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Twentieth-second Sunday after Pentecost	Psalm 119:17-24 Exodus 4:1-17 1 Peter 2:1-10	Psalm 119:17-24 2 Kings 6:8-23 Acts 9:32-35	Psalm 119:17-24 Jeremiah 33:1-11 Matthew 20:29-34	Psalm 119:1-8 Exodus 22:1-15 Hebrews 9:1-12	Psalm 119:1-8 Leviticus 19:32-37 Romans 3:21-31	Psalm 119:1-8 Numbers 9:9-14 Luke 10:25-37
31						
Reformation Day						

TIME & TALENT SURVEY

Please complete one form for *each* family member.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Worship Activities	Serve as Delegates to:	Church Office
Altar Guild _____	Council of Churches _____	Help in church office when needed _____
Lector Saturday _____	2022 Synod Assembly _____	
Lector Sunday _____		
Greeter Saturday _____	2022 Mission District _____	Volunteer Activities
Greeter Sunday _____	Assembly _____	Visitation: _____
Usher _____		Sick / shut ins _____
Acolyte or Crucifer _____	Fellowship/Social	Prospective members _____
Assisting Minister _____	Women of ELCA _____	Telephone _____
Eucharistic Minister _____	Jolly Quilters _____	Visit new members _____
Media / Audio Person _____	Prayer Shawl Ministry _____	Provide Transportation: _____
		To Worship _____
Music	Picnic Planning _____	To Doctor _____
Senior Choir _____		To Grocery _____
Handbells _____	Church Committees	Cleaning for elderly _____
Instrumental _____	Worship & Music _____	Prepare / deliver meal _____
Signs of Faith _____	Christian Education _____	Assist at Food Pantry _____
	Social Ministry _____	Prepare Baked Goods _____
Sunday School	Evangelism _____	Christmas Caroling to Shut-ins _____
Teacher _____	Finance _____	
Teacher Helper _____	Property _____	Maintenance
Substitute Teacher _____	Audit _____	Carpentry _____
or Helper _____	Nominating _____	Electrical _____
Vacation Bible School _____	Stewardship _____	Painting _____
Teacher _____ Helper _____	Technology Group _____	Outdoor _____
VBS Refreshments _____		Annual Work Day _____
	Elected/Appointed	Set up or break down tables for church functions _____
Youth Ministry	I have interest in:	
Youth Group _____	Student Loan _____	
Drivers /Helpers _____	Mutual Ministry _____	
	Church Council _____	

Worship Activities - All done in a rotation, number of times a year is dependent upon the number of people sign up.

Altar Guild - currently serves for one month, 4/6 times a year plus Christmas Eve

Lector, Greeter, Usher - approximately every 6 weeks

Acolyte/Crucifer - approximately 1 - 2 times a month

Assisting Minister - to assist in leading worship. Requires training.

Eucharistic Minister - takes Holy Communion to assigned shut-ins once a month, requires a full day training with Lutheran Congregational Services.

Music

Senior Choir - practices Thursday evening, 9 months/year

Handbells - practices Tuesday evening, 9 months/year

Signs of Faith - practices Tuesday evenings, requires completing basic sign language course

Serve as Delegates to:

Schuylkill Haven Council of Churches - 4th Tuesday, every other month

Fellowship/Social

Women of the ELCA & Jolly Quilters - 1st and 3rd Tuesday afternoons, 12:30 to 4:00 pm

Prayer Shawl Ministry - Monday mornings, 10:00 - 12 noon, lunch included

Picnic Planning - as needed to plan picnic once a year

Church Committees

Worship & Music – scheduled on a monthly basis

Christian Education – scheduled on a monthly basis, usually 1 hr. before Council meets

Social Ministry - 2nd Tuesday evening, 7 pm

Evangelism - 2nd Wednesday afternoon, 1:00 pm

Finance - 4th Monday evening, as needed, 7 pm

Property - 3rd Wednesday evening, 7 pm

Audit - work of committee is once a year

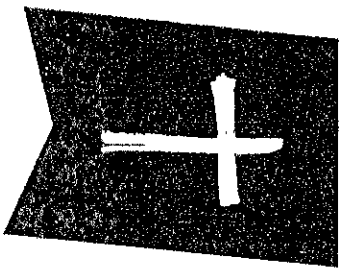
Nominating – work of committee is once a year

Stewardship - 2nd Monday evening, 7 pm

Student Loan - elected position, serves 5 years, meets as needed

Mutual Ministry - appointed Committee, serves 3 years, meets as needed

Technology Group – Sundays after 10:00 am Worship as needed



SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

OCTOBER 2021 • ISSUE 10 • VOLUME 29

CONGREGATIONAL LEGACY & PURPOSE

BY DEACON TRAVIS WOODFIELD

I have to admit, I'm a sucker for history, especially church history. I love learning about times in the past that I'll never get to experience, in places I can only aspire to visit. I've been fortunate to go to some of those places: I've stood in churches that were 1,000 years old across Europe and marveled at the engineering, been in the cradle of the Roman Empire, lived in New York City and Philadelphia, laid down, in the rain, in the grass of monasteries from 800 years ago that is now in ruins. In all of these places, I try to imagine what it was like to be part of a community from long ago. Sometimes it's easier than others, I know something unique about a place or I know how a building was built, but the end is the same- I am in a place, remembering what I can about it, being part of its history and life.

There is a cycle to these things. Empires come and go. Leaders and rulers come and go. Institutions come and go. All of these life cycles, being born, going through a growth period, living adulthood, moving into the twilight of life, and finally, death, are all part of our lives, whether on a personal or institutional level. Part of the incredible message of Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection is that death does not have the final word. However, no matter how much we try to avoid it, duck it, or deny it, death will have a word. Jesus himself understood that the only way to resurrection was through death - after all, if there's no death before resurrection, what we are really talking about is immortality, which is certainly not the Christian message.

These "deaths" can come in many forms in the church. Maybe it's moving a worship time, moving from 2 services to 1 so that the community might be one and ministry might be effective. It may be struggling with how to do "virtual" church in the time of a pandemic. Maybe it's letting a go special ministry that the church can no longer support with financial or labor. Maybe it's giving up a building to move to a building that fits the congregation. Maybe it's merging or closing.

The truth is that none of these realities, these deaths, are easy to imagine or even embrace. There is real grief, fear, anxiety, anger, and sadness that comes with even thinking about them. It's also true that we are not alone in these decisions. We do not know what resurrection may look like, but we know that it is Christ's promise. History always seems short when we are the ones participating in it. Christ sees the long view and, I think, wondering how we can participate in trying to see that long view is part of our call as a Christian. We cannot see the end but we can think and pray about what next, faithful steps may be. As a church, we have to start thinking about what those faithful steps might be, both as individuals, as a church, and as a synod.

Four years ago, I had the chance to go to the Isle of Iona in Scotland and visit the Benedictine abbey there, which is now a retreat center. Could a group of Benedictine nuns, living in the 1200's on a remote island of Scotland, possibly imagine that a guy from a land that had not been discovered yet to come visit their monastery? That, I would lay down, in the rain, in the ruins of their chapel, and imagine what it was like to worship there? 800 years ago, it would have been simply impossible to dream. What they did do was make faithful decisions that allowed that moment to happen and, even in the literal ruins of their communal life, there was a moment of that community's resurrection in my mind and heart, remembering them. As we move forward as a church, locally and as a synod, I pray that we can make faithful, prayerful decisions that are resurrection decisions and not immortality ones.



Synod Staff: STACEY BURKE

Stacey Burke is the Lutheran Center's receptionist and the friendly voice you will most likely hear when calling the Synod office. Her main responsibilities will be scheduling supply pastors and maintaining the database of congregations.

Stacey graduated with a graphic design and TV/Film degree and plans to use her positive attitude and creative mindset to fulfill God's work throughout the Synod office and beyond. Being an active member at Hope Lutheran Church in Cherryville for over 30 years, Stacey has volunteered her time in various committees including youth group, Vacation Bible School, choir, orchestra, and worship arts.

Stacey is inspired daily by her husband Kevin and their new baby boy. They love spending time together as a family, which also includes a cat named Duncan and a dog named Red. Stacey resides in Bethlehem and enjoys attending art festivals and concerts. In her free time, Stacey likes to capture photography, play the guitar, perform in theater arts and spend time outdoors. She is very excited to have the opportunity to join the Synod staff, and she looks forward to growing within the Lutheran Center and watching God inspire and work all around her.