Sunday, December 8, 2024 Second Sunday of Advent Holy Communion

* stand +kneel

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE Pastoral Symphony from Messiah George F. Handel arr. Mark L. Williams

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P- Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

C- Amen.

P- Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P- God of mercy,

C- we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

P- God of might,

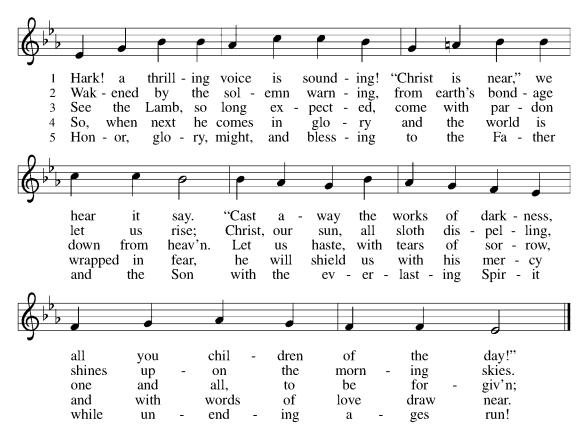
C- we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.

P- God in our midst, C- we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.

P- A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through \pm Christ Jesus, whose day draws near. **C-Amen.**

GATHERING SONG Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding! (ELW 246)





Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878 Music: MERTON , William H. Monk, 1823–1889

GREETING (ELW p. 138)

During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

*KYRIE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

P- Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through

Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C- Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture, reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4

God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means "my messenger") will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God's people, as silver and gold are refined.

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

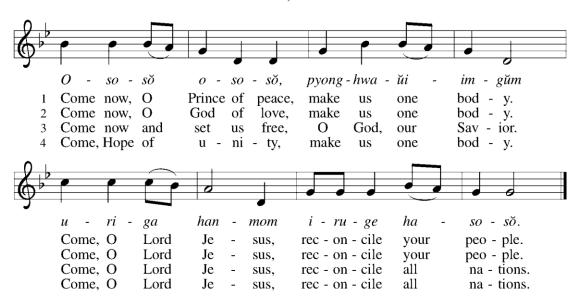
The reading may be concluded:

Word of God, word of life. *The assembly responds:*

Thanks be to God.

LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH VERSE 2

Come Now, O Prince of Peace Ososŏ, Ososŏ



Text: Geonyong Lee, b. 1947; tr. Marion Pope Music: OSOSŎ, Geonyong Lee, b. 1947 Text and music © Geonyong Lee

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PRAYER

Blessed are you, God of hope, for you promise to bring forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse who will bring justice to the poor, who will deliver the needy and crush the oppressor, who will stand as a signal of hope for all people.

As we light these candles, turn our wills to bear the fruit of repentance, transform our hearts to live in justice and harmony with one another, and fix our eyes on the root of Jesse, Jesus Christ, the hope of all nations.

O people of hope, come,

let us rejoice in the faithfulness of the Lord. Amen.

PSALM: Luke 1:68-79

- ⁶⁸ Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel, you have come to your people and set them free.
- ⁶⁹ You have raised up for us a mighty Savior, born of the house of your servant David.
- ⁷⁰ Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us from our enemies,
 - 71 from the hands of all who hate us.

- 72 to show mercy to our forebears, and to remember your holy covenant.
- ⁷³ This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:
 - 74 to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

free to worship you without fear,

- 75 holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.
- ⁷⁶ And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,
- 77 to give God's people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.
- ⁷⁸ In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
- ⁷⁹ to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11

The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.

one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵ because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰ to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹ having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The reading may be concluded:

Word of God, word of life. *The assembly responds:*

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION SPOKEN by All

Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord. All flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6

John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by "repentance for the forgiveness of sins." As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.

The gospel is announced.

P- The holy gospel according to Luke, the 3rd chapter.

C- Glory to you, O Lord.

P- ¹ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,

and the crooked shall be made straight,

and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

The gospel concludes:

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

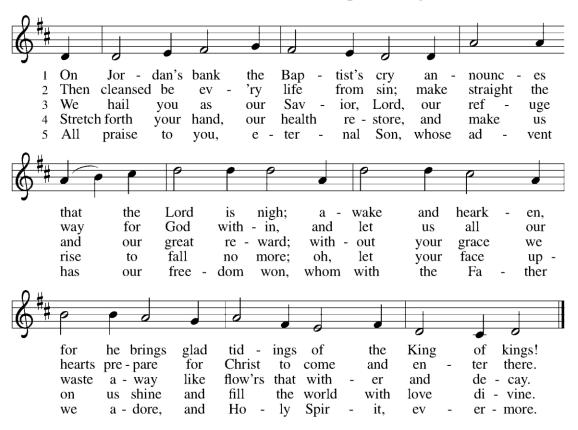
SERMON

The assembly is seated.

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry (ELW 249)

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite

Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

ALL-*APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.*

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

A brief silence.

P- Refining God, move through your church. Root out practices that harm your people, and kindle a fire for sharing the gospel among bishops, pastors, deacons, and all the baptized. Lord, in your mercy,

C- receive our prayer.

P- Renewing God, transform your creation. Steer us from habits that harm what you have made, and guide us in practices that preserve and restore creatures and habitats. Lord, in your mercy,

C- receive our prayer.

P- Ruling God, teach the nations your ways. Strengthen organizations and communities that broker peace and care for refugees, immigrants, and all caught in the center of conflict (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

C- receive our prayer.

P- Rescuing God, restore your people who are in any need. Heal all who are suffering (*especially*). Provide comfort and strength, and nurture sustained wholeness for the future. Lord, in your mercy,

C- receive our prayer.

P- Reforming God, fill this congregation with your presence. Enrich our seasonal preparations, and bless the efforts by worship committees, music ensembles, staff, clergy, and lay leaders as they work in the weeks ahead. Lord, in your mercy, **C- receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P- Reassuring God, we remember those who have died and rest in you. Guide us in deep gratitude for their life, and allow us to learn from their faithful witness. Lord,

in your mercy,

C- receive our prayer.

P- Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C- Amen.

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

P- The peace of Christ be with you always.

C- And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

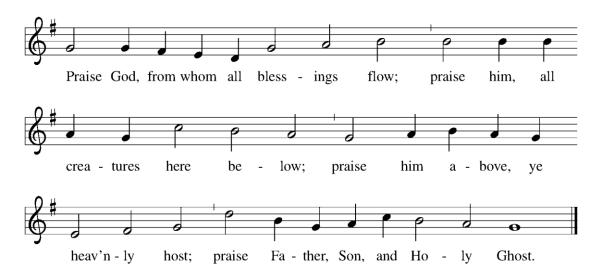
The assembly is seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (ELW 884)

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711

Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510-1561

OFFERING PRAYER

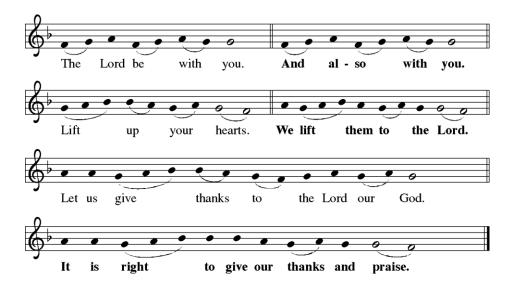
After the table is set, the assisting minister may lead one of the following or a similar prayer. Let us pray.

P- God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

C- Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

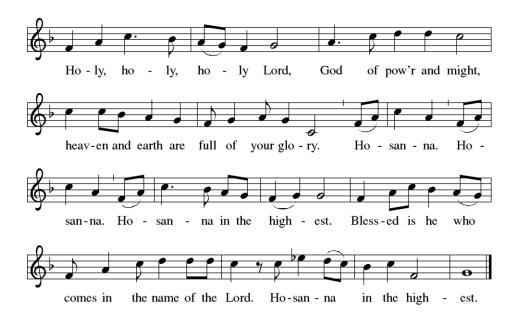


PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P- Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C- Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P- With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

C- Come, Lord Jesus.

P- Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.
C- Come, Holy Spirit.

P- All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. C- Amen.

ALL_LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,

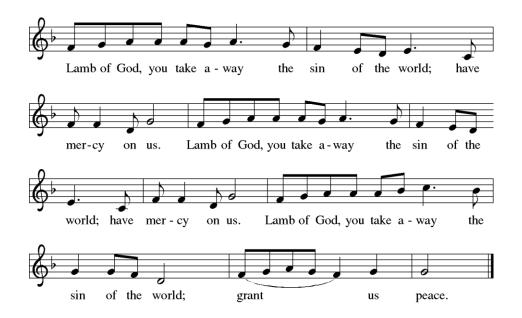
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P- God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

*COMMUNION SONG



COMMUNION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

P- The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond

Amen.

The ministers commune either after or before others commune.

*TABLE BLESSING

The presiding minister says a table blessing, and the assembly responds P- The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C- Amen.

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The assisting minister leads one of the following or a similar prayer after communion.

Let us pray.

P- God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C- Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

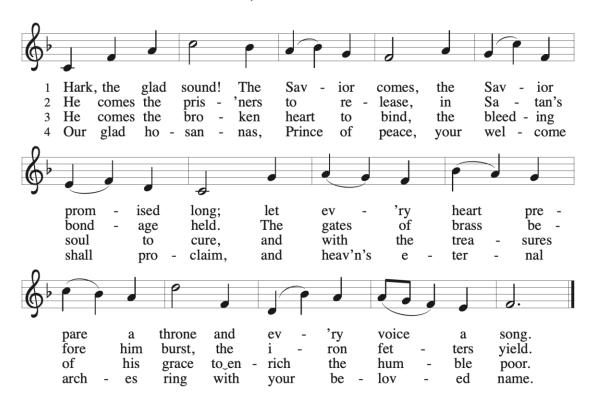
BLESSING

P- God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, + bless and keep you now and forever.

C- Amen.

SENDING SONG Hark, the Glad Sound! (ELW 239)

Hark, the Glad Sound!



Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–1751 Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE- Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus arr. Edward Broughton

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Important Please sign the Friendship Register in your pew. Members with a change of

address or visitors should complete the address section and telephone number. Visitors should also include the name and address of their home church so your home church can be notified that you received communion.

Prayer Requests – Please email or call the church office with your prayer requests. First names only will be used in our worship service that is livestreamed. You may give names to the person leading service prior to start of service.

Pastoral Coverage —Please call Linda in the Church Office with your request. If you and/or a family member are ill at home and not able to attend church, please contact the church office so that Pastor Marie can bring communion to your home.

Reminder: Hospital visits -The church is NOT informed when someone is in the hospital by the hospital. The person hospitalized or a family member must call the church to let us know they want a pastoral visit. If leaving a message on the answering machine, please remember to leave the hospital name and the room number. Some hospitals will not give the room number to a visitor, expecting you to know that.

Attendance for Nov 27, 2024 30 in person, no live stream.

Attendance for Dec 1, 2024 51 in person, 210 views and 3 shares as of Dec. 4, 2024.

On the first weekend of every month there will be a donation collected for Helping Harvest. This organization has put food trucks in areas to help the needy in place of the Pottsville Soup Kitchen after they closed.

We will once again provide gift cards for needy families for Christmas. Requests must be given in writing to the office but will only be approved by the pastor.

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. 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 8th. Social Ministry says thank you for your continuing generosity in our annual event.

The annual Mitten Tree will be in the narthex during the Advent and Christmas seasons to accept donations of mittens, gloves, scarves, socks, hats, and any other appropriate items. The items will be divided between Servants to All and Schuylkill Hope Center (formerly Women in Crisis.)

Notes from St. Paul's UCC Just to remind you, this Sunday, December 8th, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall immediately after the 10:30 AM service for our Christmas party sponsored by our Sunday School.

The party will be in lieu of our normal second Sunday fellowship time, so please plan to attend. All are welcome!

Hot dogs and drinks will be provided; you can bring a covered dish or holiday dessert to share. We will fellowship together while waiting for a special guest to arrive for the kids!

At 2:00 PM, we will depart for Christmas caroling with St. Paul's Lutheran to bring some holiday cheer to our homebound members.

If you are here for the Christmas party and plan to go caroling, bring some warm clothing, as it will be chilly.

If you plan just to go caroling, please arrive at church around 1:45 so we can organize to depart by 2:00 p.m.

We will return to the church around 5:30 PM, depending on how many people we can visit.

Confirmands: Remember, going Christmas caroling to our shut-ins will count as one of your service events!

December 11 the church will be decorated for the Christmas Season. If you can spare some time, it will be greatly appreciated.

Correction from newsletter Helen Runkle's mailing address is: Helen Runkle, Seton Manor, 1000 Seton Drive, Rm 204, Orwigsburg, PA 17961

Christmas Eve there will only be a service at 5 pm.

IMPORTANT DATES

December 7 - 5 pm spoken service

December 8- 10:30 am service only

December 8- return Angel Tree Gifts

December 8- Christmas Caroling for shut-ins at 2 pm

December 11- Decorating Church

STATISTICAL SUMMARY FROM THANKSGIVING EVE:

Plate Offering \$36.00 Thanksgiving \$85.00 **Total Received** \$121.00

2024 weekly envelope and plate budget: \$3,281.21

STATISTICAL SUMMARY FROM LAST WEEK:

Synod/ELCA Benevolence	\$70.00
Local Benevolence	\$162.50
Current	\$3027.55
Plate Offering	\$41.00
Thanksgiving	\$20.00
Initial	\$3.00
Helping Harvest	\$1753.00
Total Received	<u>\$5077.05</u>

2024 weekly envelope and plate budget: \$3,281.21

"THE WEEK AT A GLANCE"

Today: 10:30 am Worship Service

Thursday: 6 pm Bell rehearsal

Friday: Office Closed

Next Sunday: 10:30 am Worship Service

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Mon: Psalm 126; Isaiah 40:1-11; Romans 8:22-25 Tues: Psalm 126; Isaiah 19:18-25; 2 Peter 1:2-15 Wed: Psalm 126; Isaiah 35:3-7; Luke 7:18-30

Thu: Isaiah 12:2-6; Amos 6:1-8; 2 Corinthians 8:1-15 Fri: Isaiah 12:2-6; Amos 8:4-12; 2 Corinthians 9:1-15

Sat: Isaiah 12:2-6; Amos 9:8-15; Luke 1:57-66

ASSISTING AT WORSHIP

Greeter: 5 pm Brian Staller 10:30 am Helen Miller

Acolyte: Grayson Rollman

Lector: 5 pm Brian Staller 10:30 am Debbie Hummel Ushers: 8 am Eva Waldman 10:30 am Holly Maldonado

Counting Team: Reba Llewllyn, Becky Mairose

Council Greeter: 5 pm Brian Staller 10:30 am Holly Maldonado

Communion Assistants: 5pm Brian Staller 10:30 am Holly Maldonado

Church Office Hours: 9 am - 3pm Monday - Friday

Office closed for lunch 12 pm until 12:30 pm Church Telephone 570-754-7350 www.SummerHillLutheran.org – Church's website Facebook: St Paul Lutheran Church, Summer Hill Student Loan Committee email: stpaulsummerhill.studentloan@gmail.com

Rev. Marie Meeks, Pastor 716-353-1610

Email: stpaulsummerhill.pastor@gmail.com

Matthew Hayes, Director of Music 484-794-7902

Email: stpaulsummerhill.music@gmail.com

Linda Angstadt, Church Secretary 570-754-7350

Email: stpaulsummerhill@gmail.com

Cindy Brown, Pavilion Sexton 570-345-1279 Stacey Fidler, Church Sexton 570-754-7350 Eva Waldman, Treasurer 570-754-7350



Keep in your prayers: Charles Hawk, Sr., Richard Paxson, Dennis Ryan, Ron Boris, Jr., Shirley Krammes, Irene Peiffer, Betty Freeman, Thelma Brensinger, Chester Johnson, Angie Lewis, Mark Fidler, Hayley Moyer, Helen Runkle, Adam Brink, Arlene Moyer, Stephen Curtis, Brayden Crews, John Strauch, Jr., Rosemary Meade, Ray Yeich, David Axtt, Greg

Phillips, Stacey Rao, John and Betty Strauch, Nancy Vargas, Jerry Heffleger, Kathy Robinson, Brian Hunsberger, Cathy Moran, Diane Werner, Donovan Baker, Kyle Cleary. Peggy Davis, Harry Russell, Carol Beenick, Brittany & Joshua Gallagher, Shawnette Keller, Neida Hayes, Helen Miller, Sheila Tryon, Sallie Ann Sandler, Betty Fromm Yarnell, Kermit Snyder, Paulette White, Joseph and Linda Catizone, Don MacIntyre, Maxine Vanst, 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, Mitchell Moore, Timothy Bast, and Ryan Bast.