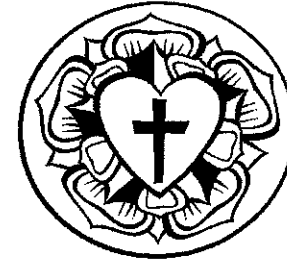




CHILD SAFETY POLICY REVIEW AND UPDATE MEETING

Anyone working with children and youth of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, is asked to attend a review and update meeting on Saturday, January 12, 2019 at 10:00 AM. Please mark your calendar.

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

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December 2018

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

THE EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL'S

is published monthly by:

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

1185 Summer Hill Road, Auburn, PA, 17922

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Church email: stpaulsummerhill@gmail.com

Pastor's email:

stpaulsummerhill.pastor@gmail.com

Facebook: St Paul Lutheran Church, Summer Hill

Sunday Holy Communion Service –

8 am & 10:30 am

Saturday Holy Communion Service - 5 pm

Our Staff

The Rev. Kathleen Ash-Flashner	Pastor 570-977-4189
Matthew Hayes (as of 12/2/18)	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



St. Paul's annual Congregational Meeting was held following the second service on November 18th. The following persons were elected for a 3-year term for church council Karen Curtis, Mary Lord, Holly Maldonado, and Janet Pavlick. Marlene Troxell was elected to a 5-year term on the Student Loan Committee. We thank these people for their willingness to serve in leadership positions of our church and look forward to their participation.

SIGNS OF FAITH



During the church service on All Saints Day, November 4th, Signs of Faith signed the anthem, "Heaven Came Down and Glory Filled My Soul." Emily Schwenk assisted us in signing the refrain. We will be learning a new anthem to be signed at the service on Sunday, December 2nd.



2019 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.



Come to the church on Tuesday evening, December 11th at 6 pm to help decorate the church for the Christmas season. Many hands make light work, and everyone is welcome!



service music.

Holy Communion will be celebrated at both candlelight services on Christmas Eve - at 5:00 pm and 8:00 pm. All members of St. Paul's are encouraged to receive the Sacrament at one of these special services celebrating our Lord's nativity. Come early and enjoyed the pre-



The Social Ministry Committee is sponsoring the annual Christmas Caroling event to our shut-ins and elderly members on Sunday December 2nd. We will leave the church parking lot at 1:30 pm. The rain/snow date is the following Sunday, December 9th. Everyone is invited to join us.



The annual Mitten Tree will be in the narthex throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons for donations of mittens, gloves, scarves, socks, hats, and any other appropriate items. These items will be given to children serviced by Schuylkill Women in Crisis. Thank you for your continued support for this worthwhile cause!

“By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”
Luke 1:78-79

Dear Folks,

In December we begin a new church year with the season of Advent. Four weeks we light the candles to watch and wait for a coming Messiah. This lighting is mirrored in our neighborhoods as homes are decorated in anticipation of the Christmas season. I enjoy this time as the lights of Christmas breaks into the darkness of winter, much like Jesus breaks into our world with his light of love and peace.

This new church year is also the beginning of the music ministry of Matthew Hayes at St. Paul's. Matthew was hired in the beginning of October, but needed to give 60 days notice to his current church. During this time, we've been blessed by the musical talent of Terri Keyworth who has helped us out most weeks. We also give thanks to Rachel Troxell who played a couple of weeks she was home from school. Now with the time of transition almost complete, we eagerly anticipate Matthew's arrival.

Matthew is coming to us from St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church in Hamburg, where he is the Director of Music. He previously served as Director in a number of UCC churches. Matthew directs the Blue Mountain Heritage Choir in Hamburg as well. With a love of organ playing, Matthew showed his musical talents on our organ as he filled in one Sunday at 10:30 am at a moment's notice. He even played the chimes!

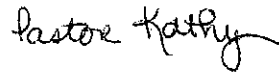
Matthew has a bubbly, creative personality and is eager to restart the Adult Choir to sing on Christmas Eve. The first Choir practice is scheduled for Thursday, December 6, 2018 at 7:30 pm. Everyone having a love of singing is invited

to come out and meet our new Director. His first Sunday will be December 2, 2018. We celebrate Matthew's coming and welcome him to our congregation. We pray he has a long and affirming music ministry with us!

With a new Director of Music and a new church year preparation is in the air with much anticipation! As you look forward to your Christmas celebration, may you prepare your hearts for Christ to enter as well. Anticipate God's presence. With watchful prayer find our coming Lord in scripture and the meal of Holy Communion. Live in the hope of the joy found in God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Mary rejoiced in what God had in store for her, even when those times would not always be easy. Our holiday preparations may not always be what we wish, but God's promise of hope and peace for each of us is real and always more than what we can imagine. Let us thoughtfully and prayerfully prepare to receive it.

May each of you have a hopeful Advent and a Blessed Christmas filled with joy!

In Christ's Service,



The Rev. Kathleen Ash-Flashner
Pastor

Join us Christmas Eve at 5 pm and 8 pm, and then again on Sunday, December 30th at 9 am to sing those beloved Christmas Carols and hear the Christmas proclamation.



midterms.

The Social Ministry Committee would like to thank everyone who donated items to be sent to our college students. Your generosity is always appreciated and the young people are glad for these packages at their time of



everything on the tag. These are just ideas of what the child could use.

The Angel Tree is in the Narthex with children's names from Schuylkill County Children and Youth and ideas of gifts for them. If you are interested, please take an ornament, put your name on the paper at the correct space, and attach the tag when you return your gift-wrapped packages. All gifts are to be brought to church by Sunday, December 9th. You do not have to buy



If you are not on our homebound list, but desire Pastor Kathy to bring Holy Communion to your home, please call the church office. Holy Communion to our homebound members for Christmas will begin right after Thanksgiving.



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 speak or email (stpaulsummerhill.pastor@gmail.com) Pastor Kathy or call the church office by December 10th.



Sunday, December 23 at the 9:00 am church service, Sunday School children will participate in a Nativity. Following the service, there will be a tour of trees decorated by the Sunday School classes. Children will be fitted for costumes during Sunday School December 9 and 16. Please join us for this special event.



Christmas Jar books are now available for those who have participated in the Stewardship Committee's Christmas Jar project. After saving your change all year, now's the time to choose your recipient. Need help or a suggestion, please see Pastor Kathy.

Keep in your prayers:



Richard Paxson, Dennis Ryan, Jane Frantz, Greg Phillips, Ron Boris, Jr., Gary & Shirley Krammes, Irene Peiffer, Arlene Lickman, Betty Freeman, Leonard & Yvonne Szpara, Thelma Brensinger, Chester Johnson, Shirley Fessler, Barbara Pennypacker, Angie Lewis, Mark Fidler, Hayley Moyer, Helen Runkle, Eleanor Jamison, Jeremiah Engleheart, Adam Brink, Glenn Curtis, Linda Van Dertorn, Georgia Sandler, Arlene Moyer, John Weegar, Alexandria Marshall, Charles Wernert, Stephen Curtis, Brayden Crews, John Strauch, Jr., Dianna Curry, Fern Staller, Carol Glaser, Pat Stevens, Pastor Mark, Lawrence Latsko, Rosemary Meade, Tyler Boland, Ray Yeich, Doris Epting, 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

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



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

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
- 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 most important month in the calendar year is December as we prepare for our Lord and Saviour's birth. Each family in our congregation will be receiving a beautiful card in the mail or at worship with a picture of our church interior last Christmas Eve. On it will be the times of our Worship for the Christmas Celebration. This identical card will also be mailed to our neighbors. We want everyone to know that CHRISTMAS is almost here. With what is happening in our country, now it is even more important to try to fill our pews. So many have gotten used to not attending church as a priority. Let's change our priorities. If we with the help of our neighbors could make an extra effort to come to our worship, it would be so pleasing to God and ourselves. It doesn't make any difference to Jesus when you came to church last. He never stops hoping that we will come. He never stops loving us if we don't come. He has asked us to come and bring someone with us. The very first commandment is to have no other Gods, only HIM. His very last commandment was to "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation." LET'S FILL OUR PEWS TO OVERFLOWING and show God we want HIM back into our country as it was years ago. Always remember we as a people have changed, GOD HAS NEVER AND WILL NEVER CHANGE.

The following members are home bound.

THELMA BRENSINGER

352 W. Deer View Drive
Auburn, PA 17922

DORIS EPTING

1104 Berne Drive
Auburn, PA 17922

BETTY FREEMAN

71 Eden View Road Apt. 383
Elizabethtown, PA 17022

RICHARD PAXSON

26 Chain Circle
New Ringgold, PA 17960

HELEN RUNKLE

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

FERN STALLER

24 Hikes Hollow Rd.
Pine Grove, PA 17963

DORIS WILLHOYTE

1285 State Route 183
Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972



Brighten their day and send them a card.

ELMA BROWN

Rosewood Rehab Center
401 University Drive
Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

RUSSELL FIDLER

School Yard Square Room A-1
11 High Street
Pine Grove, PA 17963

CONNIE KLINGER

160 Red Horse Road Room 227
Pottsville, PA 17901

REGINA PHILLIPS

404 Chaise Lane Apt. T18
Eagleville, PA 19403

GEORGIA SANDLER

159 Avenue D
Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

PATRICIA STEVENS

Box 77
Auburn, PA 17922

Lectionary Calendar December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Psalm 25:1-10 Nehemiah 9:26-31 Luke 21:20-24
2 First Sunday of Advent	3 Psalm 90 Numbers 17:1-11 2 Peter 3:1-18	4 Psalm 90 2 Samuel 7:18-29 Revelation 22:12-16	5 Psalm 90 Isaiah 1:24-31 Luke 11:29-32	6 Luke 1:68-79 Malachi 3:5-12 Philippians 1:12-18a	7 Luke 11:68-79 Malachi 3:13-18 Philippians 1:18b-26	8 Luke 1:68-79 Malachi 4:1-6 Luke 9:1-6
9 Second Sunday of Advent	10 Psalm 126 Isaiah 40:1-11 Romans 8:22-25	11 Psalm 126 Isaiah 19:18-25 2 Peter 1:2-15	12 Psalm 126 Isaiah 35:3-7 Luke 7:18-30	13 Isaiah 12:2-6 Amos 6:1-8 2 Corinthians 8:1-15	14 Isaiah 12:2-6 Amos 8:4-12 2 Corinthians 9:1-15	15 Isaiah 12:2-6 Amos 9:8-15 Luke 1:57-66
16 Third Sunday of Advent	17 Isaiah 11:1-9 Numbers 16:1-19 Hebrews 13:7-17	18 Isaiah 11:1-9 Numbers 16:20-35 Acts 28:23-31	19 Isaiah 11:1-9 Micah 4:8-13 Luke 7:31-35	20 Psalm 80:1-7 Jeremiah 31:31-34 Hebrews 10:10-18	21 Psalm 80:1-7 Isaiah 42:10-18 Hebrews 10:32-39	22 Luke 1:46b-55 Micah 4:1-5 Ephesians 2:11-22
23 Fourth Sunday of Advent	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 2 Chronicles 24:17-24 Acts 6:1-7; 7:51-60	27 Psalm 148 Proverbs 8:32-36 John 21:19b-24	28 Psalm 148 Isaiah 54:1-13 Revelation 21:1-7	29 Psalm 147:12-20 1 Chronicles 28:1-10 1 Corinthians 3:10-17
30 First Sunday of Christmas	31 Psalm 147:12-20 1 Kings 3:5-14 John 8:12-19					

Church Calendar December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	1 5pm Holy Communion service
2 8am and 10:30 am Holy Communion 9:15am Sunday School 1:30 pm Christmas Caroling to shut-ins and elderly members	3 10am Prayer Shawl 6 pm Ladies Christmas Dinner	4 12:30pm Jolly Quilters 6:30pm Bell Rehearsal	5 2:30 pm Worship 6pm Christian Ed 7pm Church Council	6 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	7	8 5pm Holy Communion service
9 8am and 10:30 am Holy Communion 9:15am Sunday School Rain/ Snow Date Christmas Caroling	10 10am Prayer Shawl 7pm Stewardship	11 Office Closed 6:30pm Bell Rehearsal 6:30 pm Signs of Faith	12 1pm Evangelism Meeting	13 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	14	15 5pm Holy Communion service
16 8am Holy Communion 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Holy Communion	17 Office Closed 10am Prayer Shawl	18 12:30pm Jolly Quilters 6:30pm Bell Rehearsal 6:30 pm Signs of Faith	19 7pm Property	20 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	21	22 5pm Holy Communion service
23 9 am Holy Communion with Children's Nativity and Christmas Trees Tour	24 Office Closed 5 pm Christmas Eve Service 8 pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Merry Christmas Office Closed	26	27	28	29 5pm Holy Communion service
30 9 am Holy Communion	31 10am Prayer Shawl	1 Office Closed	2 6pm Christian Ed 7pm Church Council	3 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	4	5 5pm Holy Communion service