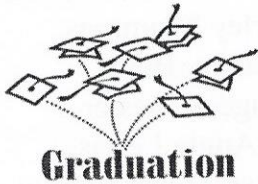


Calling all graduates!!!

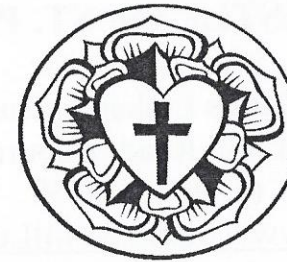


Please contact the church office with names of all graduates by May 15th. Please include with your name where you are graduating from and your future plans.



Student Loan applications are available in the library for the 2024-2025 academic year. Please return completed, signed applications to a member of the Student Loan Committee or the church office by April 21, 2024. Contact a member of the Student Loan Committee (Trish Krause, Michael Troxell, Cindy Brown, Jessica Rollman and Marlene Troxell,) with any questions.

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

April 2024

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

THE EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL'S

is published by:

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stpaulsummerhill.music@gmail.com

Student Loan Committee email:

stpaulsummerhill.studentloan@gmail.com

Sunday Holy Communion Service –

8 am and 10:30 am

Saturday Holy Communion Service - 5 pm

Our Staff

The Rev. Marie Meeks	Pastor	716-353-1610
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

Keep in your prayers:



Charles Hawk, Sr., 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, 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, 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.



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

The deadline for items for the May/June newsletter is **April 15th.**

Happy April Birthday To:

4/1 Grace Bright
4/2 Holly Maldonado; Matthew Chappell
4/4 Jonathon Chappell
4/5 Debbie Dowell
4/6 Gary Lehman; Sallie Sandler
4/7 William Swiger
4/8 Elizabeth Hand
4/9 Lois Sutton
4/10 Jacob Emerich
4/11 Cheyanna Middleton, Flynn Emerich
4/12 Bobbi Lea Krammes; Wendy Paxson
4/13 Michelle Hill; Joan Weegar
4/15 Ashley Brown
4/16 Sally Brensinger
4/17 Joshua Iverson
4/20 Travis Ulsh; Julianna Reber
4/21 Eric Williams
4/22 Gregory Raudenbush; Ashley Strausser
4/23 Marvin Blankenhorn, Jr.
4/24 Michael Troxell; Jennifer Henning
4/25 Zachary Brooker; Kathleen Faust;
Tobias Lileck
4/26 Kevin Kahl; George Sholl, Jr.
4/27 Stephen Felty; Angela Murphy;
Bentley Crossen

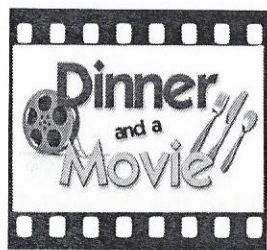


Harry and Jack Schwenk have donated \$25.00 to the memorial fund in memory of Sue Russell.



DONATIONS FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS NEEDED

The Social Ministry's schoolhouse will be in the narthex from Sunday, March 24th until Sunday, April 14th. We will be accepting donations of items to be sent to our college students, to have while they are studying for their final exams. Items to be donated include snacks, pens, pencils, or any other small appropriate items. The packages will then be sent to the students, whose families have provided us with their names and addresses. We thank everyone for their continuing support with this project.



DINNER AND A MOVIE: Saturday
April 6th after services.

Letters to God is a 2010
American Christian drama film
directed by David Nixon and
starring Robyn Lively, Jeffrey
Johnson, Tanner Maguire, Michael

Bolten and Bailee Madison. The story was written by
Patrick Doughtie about his son Tyler, with the screenplay
penned by Doughtie, Art D'Alessandro, Sandra Thrift
and Cullen Douglas. The story took place in Nashville,
Tennessee, but the movie was filmed in Orlando, Florida.

Letters to God is based on the true story of Tyler Doherty,
who was played in the film by Tanner Maguire. Parts of
the story are real, and others were fictionalized, such as
the character of a drunken mailman named Brady
McDaniels (Jeffrey Johnson), who receives Tyler's "letters
to God". The film was released to theaters on April 9,
2010, with mixed reviews. Despite opening at #10 at
the box office, it fell just \$92,000 short of its \$3 million
budget with a final gross of \$2.9 million.



BEAR CREEK CAMP

Explore, celebrate & grow in God's creation!

Anyone who
completed grades 1-
12 that are interested
in going to Bear
Creek Camp in the

summer please contact Leah Mullins Bowman.

APRIL
SHOWERS

BRINGS
MAY
FLOWERS



Church Calendar for April 2024

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

Lectionary Calendar for April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 Genesis 1:1-19 1 Corinthians 15:35-49	2 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 Genesis 1:20—2:4a 1 Corinthians 15:50-58	3 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 Song of Solomon 3:1-11 Mark 16:1-8	4 Psalm 133 Daniel 1:1-21 Acts 2:42-47	5 Psalm 133 Daniel 2:1-23 Acts 4:23-31	6 Psalm 133 Daniel 2:24-49 John 12:44-50
7 Second Sunday of Easter	8 Psalm 135 Daniel 3:1-30 1 John 2:3-11	9 Psalm 135 Daniel 6:1-28 1 John 2:12-17	10 Psalm 135 Isaiah 26:1-15 Mark 12:18-27	11 Psalm 4 Daniel 9:1-19 1 John 2:18-25	12 Psalm 4 Daniel 10:2-19 1 John 2:26-28	13 Psalm 4 Acts 3:1-10 Luke 22:24-30
14 Third Sunday of Easter	15 Psalm 150 Jeremiah 30:1-11a 1 John 3:10-16	16 Psalm 150 Hosea 5:15—6:6 2 John 1-6	17 Psalm 150 Proverbs 9:1-6 Mark 16:9-18	18 Psalm 23 Genesis 30:25-43 Acts 3:17-26	19 Psalm 23 Genesis 46:28—47:6 Acts 4:1-4	20 Psalm 23 Genesis 48:8-19 Mark 6:30-34
21 Fourth Sunday of Easter	22 Psalm 95 1 Samuel 16:1-13 1 Peter 5:1-5	23 Psalm 95 1 Chronicles 11:1-9 Revelation 7:13-17	24 Psalm 95 Micah 7:8-20 Mark 14:26-31	25 Psalm 22:25-31 Amos 8:1-7 Acts 8:1b-8	26 Psalm 22:25-31 Amos 8:11-13 Acts 8:9-25	27 Psalm 22:25-31 Amos 9:7-15 Mark 4:30-32
28 Fifth Sunday of Easter	29 Psalm 80 Isaiah 5:1-7 Galatians 5:16-26	30 Psalm 80 Isaiah 32:9-20 James 3:17-18				

A Brief Look At Some Summer Hill History
By Harry Schwenk

This month, we will take a look back at what was happening at St. Paul's in 1982, 42 years ago.

OFFICERS FOR 1982

CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS

President- The Rev. Frederick I. Fisher
Vice President- Brian Ferrence
Secretary- Alice Honicker
Treasurer- Emma Phillips
Financial Secretary- Gloria Roeder

ORGANIST

Elaine Schweigert

ALTAR GUILD

Directress- Dolores Weller
Asst. Directress-Mrs. Eva Frederiksen
Sec-Treas-Fern Staller

SENIOR CHOIR

President- Ethel Bernheisel
Sec-Treas-Bertha Crowe

LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

President- Helen Frey
Vice President- Alice Honicker
Secretary- Laura Campbell
Treasurer- Orna Moyer

MEN'S BIBLE CLASS

President- Sterling Staller
Vice President- John Schwenk
Secretary- Leroy Schwenk
Treasurer- Levere Feeser

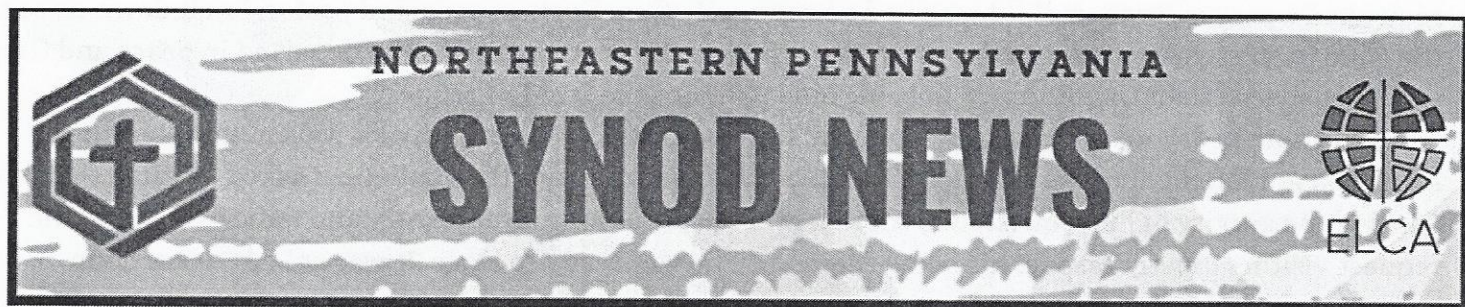
SEXTONS

Levere and Annie Feeser

SNOW REMOVAL

Kenneth Trumbo
George Shuler





Just Being There: Our Alaska Experience as Sitka Lutheran Church Volunteers

By: Gail Colahan

Sitka is located on the west coast of Baranof Island in the Alaska panhandle. Most of the island lies within the limits of the Tongass National Forest, a temperate rainforest, rich with wildlife and scenic vistas. Inhabited by Tlingit for over 10,000 years, ruled by Russia starting in 1799, then transferred from Russia to the US in 1867, this island community of 8,400 people continues to reflect characteristics of these varied cultures. For over 30 years the abundance of nature, scenery and cultural heritage has attracted cruise ships to Sitka. For most of that time Sitka Lutheran Church (SLC) has supported a summer volunteer program to assist the church in being a welcoming presence amidst a burgeoning tourist presence, which numbered nearly 600,000 in 2023 when we participated as volunteers.

Flash back to June 2019 when we first visited Sitka, not as cruise passengers but as plane travelers on a self-guided tour throughout Southeast Alaska. It just so happened we were in Sitka on Sunday morning so we decided to go to worship after finding an ELCA church within walking distance of our hotel. Entering the church, we read from hallway signage that in 1840 while Sitka was a Russian colony, Finns founded SLC making it the oldest Protestant congregation on the US West Coast. Included with other historical signage hung a poster declaring "Volunteers Wanted". The sign combined with our fascination with the church's origins, its geographic location, and the history and culture of this place prompted us to make further inquiries. We learned about SLC's program inviting volunteers to come to Sitka for a month to welcome summer cruise ship visitors to SLC, with the SLC faith family providing housing and the use of a car during the volunteers' stay. Our intrigue with the idea of such an opportunity prompted us to complete an interest form despite knowing we weren't in a position at the time to make such a commitment.

Four years later we found ourselves in Sitka. Driving into town to open the church, we marveled at vistas of Sitka Sound and surrounding forest-covered land while passing marinas filled with fishing vessels. On days when large cruise ships were in port, Greg greeted visitors outside SLC's front door, enticing them with the smell of freshly popped popcorn and the query, "Did you know that Sitka Lutheran is the oldest Protestant congregation on the west coast?". Gail provided a brief overview of the church's history and pointed out historical objects from the original 1843 church for the curious who ventured inside, and at times drifted into conversations about faith and the church. All visitors received a warm welcome whether they choose to hear the church's history, find solitude in the sanctuary, take a much-needed rest break, or buy some popcorn.

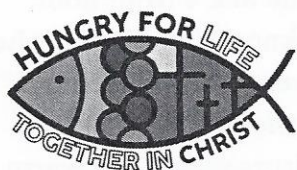
While Greg often felt frustrated when people just walked by with their heads down (probably in part due to the modern façade of SLC's 3rd church building as compared to the original features of the nearby Russian Orthodox Cathedral), he did experience some gratifying encounters - a conversation with a gentleman from China who was interested in talking about the history of Sitka and well-wishers who knew about SLC's volunteer program and just wanted to say hi. On the day we transitioned with the previous volunteers, Greg stood alongside Kurt out in front of the church. A family walking by stopped and

requested a prayer for their child who had a health affliction. Kurt, an ordained pastor, knelt down close to the child in the stroller and proceeded to offer a prayer. Afterwards, the family departed in peace and Greg and Kurt shared their thankfulness in being able to honor the family's request.

On another day with few visitors in town, two seasonal shuttle bus drivers walked into the church. After Gail guided them to the sanctuary to share the church's story, the gentleman asked for time to pray. Sensing the gravity of his request, Gail invited him to stay as long as necessary and indicated she would request visitors quietly respect his being there until he was ready to leave. It was at least a half hour before he and his friend emerged from the sanctuary and shared that his sister was dying and he couldn't be with her and that his time spent in prayer in the church had been the best way for him to face the crisis. Thanks be to God.

In addition to our encounters with visitors, the people of Sitka Lutheran Church blessed us with the warmest of welcomes. Pastor Rudd shared personal and church background and introduced us to Alaska Synod's Bishop Shelly during a SLC hosted Southeast Cluster Meeting. Heather, the secretary who grew up in Sitka, assisted with everything from the latest cruise schedule updates to lending intriguing details and answers to questions about Sitka's more recent history. Sue provided a tour around town to familiarize us with the schools, hospitals, and businesses that are part of the daily life of this area and took us to a refuge for orphaned bear cubs. Paula, another parishioner, gifted us with sweet treats and invited us to her house for a grilled salmon dinner. Wayne guided us through the Alaska wilderness on a glorious hike past cascades and waterfalls to Bear Lake. Harvey and Kathleen, managers of the SLC volunteer program, provided not only a place to stay but enjoyable storytelling over meals and desserts. Even the neighbors extended their welcome with soup and muffins. We were truly humbled by the kindness, generosity, hospitality, and support we received.

Just being there was such a wonderful experience on so many levels – experiencing what it's like to be strangers welcomed into a community, serving as volunteers at SLC, living for 5 weeks on an island in a different environment, exploring the beauty and wonder of the Tongass rainforest and its wildlife, learning about the history and cultures that influenced and characterize Sitka, meeting and talking with people from around the world, and getting to know and become friends with the SLC faith family. We will never know the impact of our being there for most tourists who visited the church. However, SLC parishioners were abundantly grateful and thanked us profusely for assisting in their being a welcoming presence. We also know that the experience had a profound impact on us. Just being there we experienced so many wonderful God moments and blessings – lives touched, joy witnessed, beauty revealed, friendships made. We are so much richer for having had the opportunity to live in a different place and serve as volunteers for Sitka Lutheran Church.



Keynote Speaker: Marie Anne serves as the Senior Director for Building Resilient Communities (BRC) at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Ms. Sliwinski has 20 years of experience working in the non-profit sector, 14 of which are dedicated in international humanitarian and development programs. Ms. Sliwinski oversees BRC, which draws together the ministries of ELCA World Hunger, Lutheran Disaster Response, AMMPARO and the ELCA's Social Ministry Organization to share knowledge, collaborate effectively, invest in new ideas and foster new opportunities for the ELCA, partners, companions and neighbors to strive together "for justice and peace in all the earth." Marie Anne holds a master's degree in international relations from the University of Chicago, and currently resides in the Chicago suburb with her husband and two children. **Register today at nepasynod.org/assembly2024/**