



ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

9340 TOWNSHIP ROAD 32

JENERA, OH 45841

DEB NOLL, MINISTER

*We celebrate God's love and forgiveness
by living the Word and sharing the life,
death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

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ST. PAUL LUTHERAN WEBSITE ~ www.stpaullutheranjenera.org

ST. PAUL "MESSENGER"

MAY ~ 2025

I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection.

Philippians 3:10

Dear Friends,

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Hallelujah!

What amazing power these words have! These are the words that fill churches on Easter. Many, if not most, people attend worship on Easter due to the significance of the power of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Individuals who do not regularly attend worship want to gather with Christians to commemorate this Holy event. There may be other reasons to attend such as the festive atmosphere, or the music, or because work has given the day off, and unfortunately, some come to fulfill a family obligation. Somewhere among all of these people, there are individuals who come with a desire "to know Christ and the power of his resurrection."

Lifeway Research did a survey of Protestant Pastors asking the question, "At your church, which day typically has the highest (second highest, third highest) attendance for worship services?" Fifty-two percent of the pastors responding said that Easter was the highest attended, followed by Christmas at 28% and Mother's Day at 6%. When combined with the 2nd and 3rd highest attendance, Easter led with 90%, followed by Christmas at 81%, and Mother's Day at 51%.

Along denominational lines, Easter service tops the list for Lutherans (98%), Methodists (95%), Presbyterian/Reformed (87%), Pentecostal (84%) and Restorationist Movement pastors (78%)—Data reported by Starlette Thomas, "Easter Still Draws the Largest Crowd for Many Churches" April 5, 2024. As a Lutheran congregation, St. Paul, Jenera aligns with the survey. We doubled our average attendance on Easter Sunday, and if the survey is accurate, we can expect to see a large attendance on the second Sunday of this month—on Mother's Day.

Creasters is a term given to those who attend church only on Christmas and Easter. The sad news is that they miss the good news of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ celebrated and proclaimed every Sunday. It is the resurrection story that makes Christ's coming in the flesh at Christmas and all other worship services meaningful. Without the promise of hope in the Resurrection and Christ's victory over death and the grave, there would be no reason for Christians to gather at all.

The world is filled with individuals wanting to "know Christ and the power of his resurrection." If they are only showing up a few times of the year to worship (or not at all), then Christians need to be vigilant—watchful and attentive—to where these people are in our daily walk so as to bring to them the good news. Christ's victory over sin, death, and the devil through the cross and Resurrection is the message we are called to share in a world that needs living hope.

We value this sharing as a congregation; it is our mission to . . . Celebrate God's love and forgiveness by living the word and sharing the life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus—So, go into the world to Celebrate, Live, and Share!

In Christ's Love,
Minister Deb

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 8, 2025 ~ 7:00PM

Attendance: Jan Grieser, Jane Follas, Jacob Orwick, Minister Deb, Emily Clark, Amanda Price, Tom Carey, Amy Gibson, Jake Leu, and Natalie McClelland.

CALL TO ORDER – Jan Grieser

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7pm and Minister Deb provided a word for thought. Council members reviewed our Mission Statement and Values, and joined together in the Council Prayer.

MISSION STATEMENT: We celebrate God's love and forgiveness by living the Word and sharing the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

- Value #1 – We believe in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit as proclaimed in the Holy Bible and the Apostles' Creed.
- Value #2– We believe that all people are justified by grace through faith and are called to forgive as we have been forgiven by God.
- Value #3 – We believe that people who pray for God's guidance and work together can make things happen.

COUNCIL PRAYER: Our gracious God, You have called us to be Your people and to bring Your word to our community. Help us to respond to the guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit, so that all we do is done according to Your will and gives praise and glory to Your name. Amen.

STATUS OF GOALS FOR COUNCIL:

Update all job descriptions and update bylaws.

- Staff Support is busy creating new job descriptions – June deadline.
- The constitution needs updated – tabled until after the July Churchwide Assembly.

Develop a five-year plan for ministry and building.

- It was suggested the carpet be cleaned in the east hallway and classrooms; Jacob Orwick will follow up on this. When handling fellowship hall chairs, members are asked to check for stains, tears and floor protectors on legs. If not in good shape, swap out for a newer chair in the supply room. It was noted the current table setup is good for handicapped accessibility, but not good for youth activities. After soup suppers are finished, a different setup may be considered. Buckeye flooring will be coming back to finish installation. Basketball hoops will be brought back in at that time.
- Create a rough draft of the five-year plan for ministry and building.

Keep Council informed of Synod's activities and programs.

- elca.org
- Living Lutheran weekly email
- Seeds monthly
- nwos-elca.church.org or nwoscares.org/
- On the Way: News from NWOS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the previous meeting were approved with one correction/explanation to the third bullet point under Minister's Report Highlights: Pastor Robin Owen is retiring and moving away, but will remain on the Synod's pulpit supply list. If St. Paul were to invite her to cover for Minister Deb's vacation, we would make the Parsonage B&B available to her.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Jake Leu

- Current givings are in line with what was budgeted.
- The budget for church property insurance will be increased next year.
- Replacement flooring was not included in the budget approved last fall. Discussion was held on whether interest from the Trust Fund could be used for this purpose. The Chair will look into it.
- Financial statements were reviewed. Total income from Jan–Mar 2025 was \$61,826.24 vs. a budgeted amount of \$57,838. Total expenses for the same period were \$111,618.79 actual vs. \$67,817.78 budgeted.

- Interest income generated by our Money Market account is estimated at \$409.45 for March 2025.
- The Discretionary Fund balance is \$793.86. Are there needs in the community? It was noted that Jacob Miles of Jenera had a house fire recently and could probably use financial help. Will discuss further next month.
- Regarding designated income, of the \$5,980 received in 2025Q1, \$2,860 was designated for playground equipment and \$3,120 for the Navajo Lutheran Mission. Total contributions received for new playground equipment is \$11,525.
- Designated Income during 2025Q2 will be given to St. Jude's Children Hospital as approved last month.
- Account balances at March month-end are as follows:

Account Balances at March 31, 2025

Checking	
Current	138,997.07
Council Discretionary	793.86
Improvement	225.48
Missions	18,497.24
Special Projects	
Shipwreck Festival	2,292.73
Music	2,423.60
C. Price Memorial Funds	27,729.77
Bell Choir	1,416.48
Special Projects - Other	0.06
	<hr/> 33,862.64
Total Quickbooks Operating/MMDA	<hr/> \$ 192,376.29
Operating Account	66,278.84
Money Market Demand Accounty (MMDA)	126,252.81
Total Operating/MMDA - Bank	<hr/> \$ 192,531.65
Outstanding Deposits at 3/31/25	-
Outstanding Checks at 3/31/25	(155.36)
Total Reconciled Operating/MMDA	<hr/> \$ 192,376.29
Savings	
General Memorial	\$ 14,770.58

TRUSTEES REPORT – Tom Marquart

- Jacob Orwick reported on behalf of the Trustees, noting the fellowship hall flooring is not yet complete. Buckeye Flooring will be paid the second half of payment when the job is finished.
- Four new chairs were purchased and will be assembled to replace four in the library and classroom. They are identical to the chairs in the sanctuary.
- Chairs in the fellowship hall are being inspected for rips, tears and missing floor protecters and will be swapped out for better chairs in the storage room.
- We're looking at new rope lights for the exterior cross as the current lights appear dim, especially during cold weather. Justin Gillespie will use his bucket truck to install, and outdoor lights at the church and parsonage will be replaced at the same time.
- Brycen Lucius, grandson of Deb Best, will be contacted about trimming some trees around the parsonage. Deb Clevenger noted a cedar tree on the east side of parsonage needs trimmed or taken out because it's getting too big. Also, one of the pine trees is dead. Deb reported that Brycen Lucius is now a licensed tree trimmer.
- Two large dry mops have been purchased for fellowship hall cleaning. Extra mop heads were also purchased so they can be swapped out and washed.
- Bart Welte and Wayne Young are working on installation of lighting up front for the organist and praise team.
- New lights in the parking lot will be installed as weather permits.
- We will be getting a quote for sealing cracks in the black top of parking lot. Lee Laird and volunteers have done this in the past, but Lee no longer has access to the equipment since retirement.
- New church road signs will be hung to replace the outdated signs when weather permits.
- Amy Gibson asked about a rug in the middle of the east wing and wondered if it should it be moved to the end of the hallway near the exit doors.

- The Chair presented information on riding scrubbers to keep the flooring clean and looking good in the fellowship hall and welcome space. Jacob spoke with the custodians who informed him they were fine with a walk-behind scrubber, which would be less expensive than a riding scrubber.
- It was suggested that we consider hiring a commercial cleaning service for annual church cleanings in the future.

MINISTER'S REPORT HIGHLIGHTS – Deborah Noll

- Recent church activities and upcoming events were reviewed.
- See full report at end of minutes.

YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT – Amy Gibson

Highlights:

March 9th – Ignite: Walleye Game (14 attended: 9 youth and 5 adults)
 16th – ReFUEL – Cancelled due to lack of attendance (Only 1 youth)
 30th – ReFUEL – Cancelled due to weather, illness, and busy student schedules
 30th – Kemerley Yard Clean up – Postponed due to weather. (April 6th)
 Confirmation: 2nd, 16th, 23rd, 30th (Amy was out of town for class on the 2nd, Cancelled 30th due to weather, illness and busy student schedules)
 Soup Supper: March 12 hosted by Youth (Cancelled due to New Flooring)

Upcoming:

April 6th – Ignite
 13th – ReFUEL
 27th – ReFUEL
 Confirmation 6th, 27th
 May 4th – Ignite
 4th – ReFUEL
 18th – ReFUEL
 Confirmation 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th
 Confirmation Sunday will be June 8th (Emma Smith and Nicholas Clark 9am service)

Ongoing:

- Planning and Execution of ReFUEL, Ignite, Wednesday Night Live (WNL), Sunday School, and Confirmation
- Communication: Newsletter Info, Flyers, Bulletin Board, Emails, Texts, Social Media Updates, Calendar, Website
- Attend: Youth Board, Parish Board, Staff Meetings, Council

Council Requests: N/A

PARISH EDUCATION – Emily Clark

- The community Easter egg hunt is scheduled for Saturday, April 12 at 3pm.
- Kid's Praise activities offered during Wednesday night Lenten services will end tomorrow.
- Four youth submitted campership applications.
- Three children have completed a First Communion Retreat with Minister Deb and will receive the sacraments on Maundy Thursday.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE – Chris Sheets

- Outreach's March Community Meal (Our Daily Bread) was successful. We fed 137 people which includes take out meals. The menu included spaghetti and meatballs, salad, garlic bread, and Amish pies.
- The April Community Meal will be served on April 27 and will include chicken and noodles, mashed potatoes, green beans, dinner roll, and fresh fruit.
- We continue to collect items to support Good Hope's food pantry. Our focus is to support families who will be feeding children during the summer months. We have collected granola and fruit bars. For the next few weeks we will collect pudding cups, fruit cups, and applesauce cups. Later in May, we'll collect peanut butter and jelly.
- We will celebrate Mother's Day on Sunday, May 11 featuring "Muffins With Mom" where an assortment of mini muffins will be available.

AUDIT COMMITTEE – Jane Follas

- Audits continue until all files have been reviewed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Regarding tent rental for the annual picnic on July 27, Dan Settlege provided the following quote from A-1 rentals: a 40 x 40 tent with 16 tables and 128 chairs = \$1,215. This quote includes side panels if needed. Emily moved that we spend up to \$1,215 for rental items, and Jacob Orwick seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Ecumenical brochures featuring local churches, service times, other programs, and activities have been printed and mailed throughout the community. Thank you to Dan Settlege for his assistance with this project.
- Research continues on a suitable app for prayer chain distribution.

NEW BUSINESS

- The agenda for the Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting was reviewed, and the meeting was scheduled for May 18 beginning at 10:15am. The Chair will contact the Cemetery Trustees for their report.
- Details of the Crates Education Memorial Scholarship will be published this month.

ADJOURN

- Prior to adjournment, the Chair asked for prayer requests. Minister Deb noted that Betty and Robert Sharrer have moved out of the parsonage and into a rental home in Findlay. Council members reviewed Mission Statement #3: “We believe that people who pray for God’s guidance and work together can make things happen.” The meeting adjourned with The Lord’s Prayer at 8:25pm. The next meeting will be held on May 13, 2025 at 7:00pm, led by Jan Grieser.

Natalie McClelland, Recording Secretary

ST. PAUL CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL SYNOD AUTHORIZED MINISTER’S REPORT TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2025

Word for Thought – a devotion for the Year of Listening, provided by the Northwestern Ohio Synod, written by Jean Cohrs, Filling Homes of Mercy.

Northwestern Ohio Synod Year of Listening Memory Verse

Isaiah 55:3a – “*Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.*”

Scripture

James 1:19 – “Let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger.”

Devotional Reflection

In our fast-paced world, listening can often feel like a lost art. We are more prone to speak or respond quickly, or even interrupt, rather than taking the time to listen deeply to others. Yet in the Bible, we are repeatedly encouraged to listen—both to God and to one another. James 1:19 reminds us that we should be “quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger.” This simple instruction speaks to the heart of how we should engage in our relationships, especially when we are trying to build community and love one another as Christ loves us. In a world that often prioritizes talking over listening, we are called to be different. Listening is more than just hearing words – it is about giving someone the dignity of being **truly heard**. To listen in the biblical sense is to understand the heart behind the words, to value the other person’s thoughts and perspective, and to respond with empathy and Christian kindness.

- How does it feel when someone attentively listens to you, hears you completely, and shows empathy to you?

Take time this week to “incline your ear,” to listen closely to a loved one, friend, co-worker, or maybe someone you hardly know. While listening, remind yourself to be “slow to speak.” Then ask yourself:

- How did it feel to actively listen to someone without interrupting?

- How did it feel knowing you were responding as Christ would have you do?

Prayer

Heavenly Gracious God, we come before You with open hearts and minds, seeking Your presence in the quiet moments and the busy ones. Help us to be still enough to hear Your voice, even in the midst of the noise that surrounds us. Grant us the patience to listen to those we encounter, recognizing that every person has something valuable to share. Thank You, God, for the gift of hearing, for the opportunity to connect with others, and for the grace to listen. May we be your instrument of peace and understanding in all our conversations, reflecting Your love in every word. In your holy and precious name, we pray. Amen.

Activity Since the March Council Meeting:

Worship, Church Functions, Member Contact Outside of Worship

- Worship Services (x8)
- Midweek Worship Services (x4)
- Midweek Bible Study (x4) average attendance 10
- Set up midweek Sensory Table in Welcome Space (x4)
- Soup Suppers (x4)
- Flapjack and Flannel (x1)
- Staff Meeting (x1)
- “The Jokers” Card Group (x4)
- In-office, at home, rehab, and phone visitations (x8)
- Hospital visitation (x1)
- Confirmation Classes (x3)
- Choir (x2)
- *Our Daily Bread* community meal (x1)
- First Communion Retreat (x1)—3 attended
- WELCA (x1)
- Sewing (x2)

Related Church Activities

- SAM Supervisor Session (x3)
- Central Conference Ministerial Gathering (x1)
- Ecumenical Lunch (x1)
- Parsonage B&B House Guests (due to fire, 2-month stay)

Upcoming Events

- April 9 – Fifth Wednesday of Lent: Bible Study, Soup Supper, Kids Praise and Worship
- April 13 – Palm Sunday
- April 15 – Renewal of Vows Worship @ Faith Lutheran Church, Fremont
- April 17 – Maundy Thursday Worship @ 7:00pm (First Communion)
- April 18 – Good Friday Worship @ 1:00pm and 7:00pm
- April 20, 2025 – Easter (Breakfast @ 9:00am, Worship @ 10:00am)
- April 22–24, 2025 – Vacation
- May 17, 2025 – 9:00-4:00 Discernment Retreat in Bowling Green
- October 19, 2025 – (Harvest Home) Bishop Beaudoin is scheduled to be with us.
 - Regular Worship Schedule to be followed, adult Sunday School Bishop Beaudoin learning moment and Q&A

Vacation

- Tuesday, April 22 to Thursday, April 24, 2025

Continuing Education Request

- August 25–28, 2025 *Listening to the Spirit* Spiritual Retreat for Rostered Leaders and SAMs, Maria Stein, Ohio ... \$75 nonrefundable deposit due with registration, total cost \$375.
- Healthy Congregation Workshop: Date/Time/Location to be announced. 3½–hour workshop with workbook ... \$99 per person.

For Council's Consideration

- Healthy Congregation Workshop(s) for Congregational Leaders ... can be scheduled upon request

Respectfully Submitted
Deb Noll, Synod Authorized Minister

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH YOUTH BOARD MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2025

Attendees: Amy Gibson, Jenny Welte, Amanda Leu, Tina Cowan

Call to Order: 7:25pm

Open with Prayer and Devotion: Led by Amy.

Treasurer's Report: Current \$12,804.75

Total Expenses: \$217.04 (bowling and food)

Total Deposits: \$0.00

Ongoing/Upcoming Needs:

Food: – Restock Candy

– Meal Sign up in the Welcome Space: March 16th and 30th. Also, place in News of the Flock and Prayer Chain.

– Feed approx. 10 people.

– Digital Bible Jeopardy and Bible Family Feud @ Cost of \$8.00.

Old Business:

Ignite Bowling Feb. 9th: 4 Youth attended. Charged for large package by mistake.

Refund check for \$72.00 issued.

ReFUEL Bowling Feb.23rd: 9 Youth attended

Giving Blitz: Request was sent on 2/10/25

Flapjacks and Flannel: March 16th from 11–1.

– Supplies list complete.

– We need 2 griddles.

– Janet will have gluten free options available.

– Free Will Donations. Proceeds will go to RJ Coldren for Mission Trip.

New Business:

Soup Suppers: Youth will be underlining support. Purchase 1 Meijer Cookie Tray for back up. Youth will host 1st soup supper on March 12th. May need assistance April 9th. (Final Soup Supper)

Quarterly Mission:

– First Quarter opportunity – Assistance for RJ Coldren for Summer Mission Trip. \$650.

– 2nd Quarter opportunity – Servant weekend at Hopewood Shores. Looking at dates in May. May not work out due to Youth being busy. This is a free will offering (\$250.00 recommendation). Due to student's schedules we will look into a different opportunity.

– Summer Opportunity: Statewide Synod youth event June 29th–July 2nd. (4–H Camp is June 25th–29th.) At Hopewoods Pines, aka LMC. Grades 6–12. Cost is \$150/youth.

Summer of 2025: Biweekly event or once a month. It was decided to do Once a month for ReFUEL and Ignite. End in Lord's Prayer.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:35pm.

Next Meeting: April 1, 2025

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR MAY 2025

SENIOR CHOIR DIRECTOR: Lisa Gossman
PRAISE TEAM DIRECTOR: Jan Grieser
HANDBELL CHOIR DIRECTOR: Tammy Robinson
AUDIO VIDEO: Marty Grieser and Ed vonStein
ALTAR GUILD: Janet Carey
LECTOR: Andrew Follas
WEBSITE COORDINATOR: Chelsea Boehm

PRAYER CHAIN CONTACTS

Nadine Boehm — nadineb@thewavz.com or 419-722-6370
Jenny Welte — jwelte92@gmail.com or 419-788-0724

HOSPITAL STAYS

It is important to the church that we support you through illness and hospitalizations. If you are admitted to Blanchard Valley Hospital for an overnight stay we would like to know.

If you are planning an admission to any hospital, please call the church office at 419-326-3535 to let us know the date you are entering and how long you anticipate staying.

At admission to BVH, *planned or unplanned*, you (or your spokesperson) will be asked several questions,

1. Religion: this may be asked at pre-registration or at admission along with your address, phone number, etc. Please give our denomination.
2. If you wish to be on the Hospital Directory and the Religion List. These questions will be asked of you (or your spokesperson) during the “Consent to Treatment” process. Please answer “yes” to both.

In order to protect your privacy the hospital does not routinely call the church to tell us you have been admitted, unless you specifically ask them to call us. We depend on you or your family to let us know if you have been admitted.

If you have been in the hospital for a day or two and have not been visited, please ask your family or nurse to contact the church office.

A new federal law greatly restricts the disclosure of patient information by hospitals. As a result, the pastors and church office may not know that a member of the church has been admitted to the hospital. If you are hospitalized and would like to notify the pastor, it is important that you or a member of your family inform the church office as soon as possible at 419-326-3535 and the secretary will contact the pastor.

PERSONS ST. PAUL HAS PRAYED FOR DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL 2025: Richard Curl (*employee & friend of Nancy Tobin*); Dawn Curth (*friend of Jenny Welte*); family and friends of Tom Ensminger (*friend of Stephen and Mary Cowan*); Jon Gast; Marsha Grieser; Shane Grieser; Norm Hahn; Dave Herring (*friend of Marcia Russell*); Jessica Kemerley; Steve McClelland; Joann Musgrave (*co-worker of Sally Valentage*); Debbie Purdy (*sister of Sally Valentage*); Elise Rettig (*granddaughter of Roger & Judy Rettig*); Mark Shick (*friend of Mary Wilson*); Aaron Smith; Kelly Stine; Louise Wilson; all military personnel including — Griffin Hartman, Lance Leisure, Brycen Lucius, Evan McMonigal, Justin Riegle, Nate Sheets, Colin and Annabelle Tobin, and Alex vonStein — Songambebe Lutheran Church; Navajo Lutheran Mission School, Rock Point, AZ; Hancock County Religious Education; and Mission Possible for Haiti.

Thank You ~ Thank You ~ Thank You ~ ~

We wish to thank the Outreach Community Meal Committee and all the workers for the delicious meal that you sent to us at The Orchard. Thank you. The Residents of the Orchard

Thank you to everybody who helped clean in the kitchen, conference room, and the fellowship hall. Your help was greatly appreciated. Thank you so much.

#3 Cleaning Committee chairperson and vice-chair person — Marcia Russell and Jill Bower

Many thanks for all the cards and visits on my 90th. God bless you all!

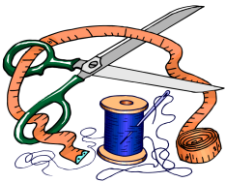
Darwin

St. Paul Church ~ I wanted to say thanks for having a program for the young kids similar to youth group for my 4th grader. She has absolutely loved coming to the events and learning more about her walk with Christ. Thank you to those who lead and invest in our Kids!
Anonymous

Thank you for the many hands that helped clean the Worship Space and Sacristy – Cleaning Committee #1. Many hands made the cleaning faster and easier. Your help was greatly appreciated!
Chad Parke, chairperson / Pete Wilson co-chairperson

Thank you to everyone who donated food and money and for the help to prepare and serve the Salvation Army dinner. 31 hungry souls were served. They are always happy to enjoy our hot delicious meal. Thank you, WELCA

Thank you for the very delicious dinner that you delivered to us on Sunday. We wish to thank the Outreach Committee, the workers, and drivers for the time to prepare and deliver the meal. Thank you again,
The Orchard Residents

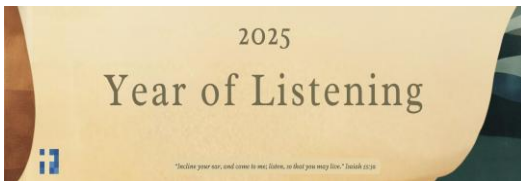


The May Sewing Days will be on Wednesday, May 14th and Wednesday, May 28th from 9:00AM – 2:00PM. Come all of the time or part of the time. Please bring a dish to share for lunch. There were 12 people at the Sewing Day on Wednesday, April 23rd. One quilt was brought in and five quilts were finished.

The WELCA May meeting will be on Tuesday, May 20th beginning at 7:00PM. Janice Durenberger is in charge of Devotions and also Hostess and Visiting.

Sunday School Option: The Adult Sunday School class that meets in the conference room is providing an alternative format. They are reviewing current Christian movies with conversation. All adults are welcome. Snacks will be provided.

The Year of Listening



Welcome to **2025: The Year of Listening.**

The focus of the Northwestern Ohio Synod in 2025 is to learn the sacred art of listening. Listening to God. Listening to Ourselves. Listening to Others. And Listening to the Community.

God's invitation to listen is a gift that permeates the Scriptures.

From the Shema, **"Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might"** (Deuteronomy 6:4–5).

To the Psalms, **"Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer"** (Psalm 61:1).

To the words of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount, **"Everyone who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock"** (Matthew 7:24).

To the words the Exalted Jesus repeats to the seven churches in Revelation, **"Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches"** (Revelation 2–3).

God longs for us to hear, so God invites us to listen.

The Synod has provided an eight-session Bible Study, Devotions for small gatherings, Weekly Listening Practices, and a New Testament Reading Plan. All the information can be found on the Northwestern Ohio Synod ELCA website <https://nwos-elca.church/listening/> and some parts will be shared with the St. Paul congregation throughout the year in the News of the Flock and monthly newsletter.

I'm excited to share in this "Year of Listening" and I hope you are too.

Blessings, Minister Deb

ReFUEL and Ignite INFORMATION for MAY

Sunday, May 4th

Ignite — 2:00PM – 4:00PM

ReFUEL — 6:00PM – 8:00PM

Sunday, May 18th

ReFUEL — 6:00PM – 8:00PM

CONFIRMATION CLASSES for MAY

Sunday, May 4th

Confirmation Classes 5:00PM – 6:00PM

Sunday, May 11th

Confirmation Classes 5:00PM – 6:00PM

Sunday, May 18th

Confirmation Classes 5:00PM – 6:00PM

Sunday, May 25th

Confirmation Classes 5:00PM – 6:00PM

There is a ReFUEL and Ignite Youth Group Meal sign-up sheet on the Information Counter in the Welcome Space. If you are interested in providing our youth with dinner for youth group, please sign-up. Meals should be ready by 6:00PM. Please let Amy know in advance what you plan to provide. Your help is greatly appreciated.



Outreach Daily Bread lunch served 108 on Sunday, April 27th. Our next meal will be on Sunday, May 25th. Boxed meals-to-go are a very popular request, especially during the busy months. Again, thank you so much for the continued prayers, support and financial donations to make this possible!! There will soon be a sign-up sheet on the Information Counter in the Welcome Space to let the Outreach Committee know how many boxed meals will be needed. Continue to keep inviting!! Never know who might benefit from the meal and fellowship! Outreach Committee

Spring is in the air and Outreach has chosen a project for St Paul's congregation to help with in the coming weeks. As summer is approaching, many children will be at home raiding the cupboards, saying "I'm hungry!" Sound familiar :) Every 2 weeks we are asking, if you are able, to bring in a different food item and place in the Welcome Space. Good Hope Lutheran Church has been contacted of St Paul's initiative Spring drive and are very **THANKFUL** for our support!! Last year we supplied many boxes of cereal, peanut butter and jelly – and all found a home to feed! **OK! Members of St Paul's church are off to a GREAT start in helping to supply Good Hope's Food Pantry!** So far we have collected granola bars, pudding cups, fruit cups, and applesauce cups. **We will continue to collect for Good Hope's Food Pantry until end of May. The next two weeks we will be collecting Peanut Butter and Jelly.** Good Hope's church is very thankful for St Paul's help with contributions, especially with the summer months coming up. **Thank you so much for your contribution.** Let's keep our initiative drive going!!! May St. Paul's congregation be a blessing to those in need and support Good Hope's food pantry! **CELEBRATE! LIVE! AND SHARE!** Outreach Committee



Graduation Recognition Sunday will be held on Sunday, May 18th. ** Seniors — College / Trade School / High School — please provide your graduation information and future plans to the church secretary.

Kendra Parke will be organizing the library. There is a survey on the Information Counter in the Welcome Space that she would like the congregation to fill out. Also, if anyone would like to volunteer their time to help with organizing and accounting for what books we currently have they can reach out to me via email at Klparke02@gmail.com. Thanks so much! Kendra Parke



May 2025 Birthdays

Thursday, May 1 st	April Smith
Thursday, May 1 st	Chad Snyder
Friday, May 2 nd	Kendall Bayliff
Friday, May 2 nd	Brock Galloway
Saturday, May 3 rd	Jon Gast
Saturday, May 3 rd	Benjamin Hirt
Saturday, May 3 rd	Cohen Leu
Saturday, May 3 rd	Kalin Smith
Saturday, May 3 rd	Erin Tobin
Saturday, May 3 rd	Jada Todd
Wednesday, May 7 th	Mary Cowan
Thursday, May 8 th	Kylee Geissinger
Thursday, May 8 th	Chad Grieser
Friday, May 9 th	Brieahna May
Friday, May 9 th	Greyson Welly
Saturday, May 10 th	Sherry Grieser
Tuesday, May 13 th	Jean Crooks
Wednesday, May 14 th	Ella Panfil
Friday, May 16 th	Teresa Medvec
Friday, May 16 th	Dan Settlege
Friday, May 16 th	Michelle Tarnay
Sunday, May 18 th	Sydney Depuy
Monday, May 19 th	Mark Bower
Monday, May 19 th	Anthony Wolford
Tuesday, May 20 th	Rindy Crates
Thursday, May 22 nd	Natalie Clark
Thursday, May 22 nd	Amy Rettig
Friday, May 23 rd	Lexi Rader
Saturday, May 24 th	Mitchell Bayer
Saturday, May 24 th	Heather Walters
Sunday, May 25 th	Peter Krosnosky
Sunday, May 25 th	Courtney Stoltz
Monday, May 26 th	Sean Fitzgerald

Monday, May 26th
 Monday, May 26th
 Tuesday, May 27th
 Wednesday, May 28th
 Saturday, May 31st

Jayme Inbody
 Judy Rettig
 Jeffrey Bosse
 Jocelyn Ward
 Austin Welly



May 2025 Wedding Anniversaries

Thursday, May 1 st	Keith and Loretta Bower – 60
Sunday, May 4 th	Mike and Jayme Inbody – 34
Monday, May 5 th	Ken and Jessica DePuy – 24
Monday, May 5 th	Steve and Heather Smith – 24
Tuesday, May 6 th	Bart and Jenny Welte – 25
Friday, May 9 th	Scott and Sherry Grieser – 33
Saturday, May 10 th	Mike and Patty Orwick – 28
Tuesday, May 13 th	Cameron and Adrianne Huss – 8
Saturday, May 17 th	Wes and Patricia Loetz – 28
Monday, May 19 th	Matt and Carole Luke – 35
Monday, May 19 th	Adam and Renee Rammel – 13
Tuesday, May 20 th	Stephen and Mary Cowan – 53
Sunday, May 25 th	Tim and Deb Bower – 33
Tuesday, May 27 th	Roger and Judy Rettig – 48
Tuesday, May 27 th	Pete and Linda Wilson – 58
Friday, May 30 th	Nathan and Tina Cowan – 27

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ MAY 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Altar Guild: Janet Carey Lector: Andrew Follas Organist: May 4 th , 11 th , 18 th , and 25 th : Lisa Gossman				1 6:00PM Sunday School Room reserved by “The Jokers”	2	3
4 THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER BLESSING OF THE SEED AND SOIL 9:00AM Traditional Worship / Communion 10:15AM Sunday School 11:15AM Contemporary Worship / Communion 2:00PM – 4:00PM Ignite 5:00PM – 6:00PM Confirmation Classes 6:00PM – 8:00PM ReFUEL	5	6 5:00PM Fellowship Hall reserved by Christine Kemerley [Lion’s Club] 7:00PM Worship Committee Meeting 7:30PM Youth Board Meeting	7	8 6:00PM Sunday School Room reserved by “The Jokers”	9	10
11 FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER MOTHER’S DAY “MUFFINS FOR MOM” 9:00AM Traditional Worship / Communion 10:15AM Sunday School 11:15AM Contemporary Worship / Communion 5:00PM – 6:00PM Confirmation Classes	12	13 7:00PM Congregational Council Meeting	14 9:00AM – 2:00PM Sewing Day 6:30PM Senior Choir Practice and Picnic	15 6:00PM Sunday School Room reserved by “The Jokers”	16	17
18 FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING RECOGNIZE GRADUATES 9:00AM Traditional Worship 10:15AM Semi-Annual Meeting 11:15AM Contemporary Worship / Communion 5:00PM – 6:00PM Confirmation Classes 6:00PM – 8:00PM ReFUEL	19	20 7:00PM WELCA Meeting	21	22 6:00PM Sunday School Room reserved by “The Jokers”	23 ALL DAY Fellowship Hall reserved by the Cowan Family	24 9:00AM – NOON Kitchen and Fellowship Hall reserved by the Outreach Committee
25 SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 9:00AM Traditional Worship 10:15AM Sunday School 11:00AM – 1:00PM Outreach Community Meal 11:15AM Contemporary Worship / Communion 5:00PM – 6:00PM Confirmation Classes	26 MEMORIAL DAY Church Office Closed	27	28 9:00AM – 2:00PM Sewing Day	29 6:00PM Sunday School Room reserved by “The Jokers”	30	31 PM Fellowship Hall reserved by the Durliat Family / [tentatively]