



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 "MESSENGER"

AUGUST ~ 2024

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."

Galatians 6:9-10

(Outreach Committee's focus text for 2024)

Dear Friends in Christ,

At the recent special congregational meeting the question was raised, "Is there another way we could be serving the community?" The question was taken to heart, and as a result, the Outreach team is spearheading an effort to begin a feeding ministry. The name "OUR DAILY BREAD" was chosen as an easy reference for congregation and community members to identify the ministry. OUR DAILY BREAD ministry will happen through a once-a-month Community Meal.

Stephanie Soderstrom, in an article "How to Host a Community Meal" provides this definition, "A community meal is an occasion for gathering together with a group of people in order to share food and time together." The Bible tells stories of people—needy and blessed—being fed. Think of the wandering Hebrews receiving daily manna, or Jesus eating in Martha's home, or the Last Supper Jesus had with His disciples. The best example of a community meal is the one Jesus invites us to in Holy Communion. A community meal is a way to share the gospel and build community. Outreach sees this meal as an opportunity to feed St. Paul members and our neighbors in the wider community while building relationships.

This ministry is being introduced by the Outreach Committee, but sustainability of OUR DAILY BREAD will depend on the support of the congregation. We know how to feed large groups; funeral meals, VBS, and Kids Praise come to mind. Volunteers are the backbone of any ministry, and these ministries have faithful volunteers who keep them moving forward. Many of these same volunteers will step forward to help with OUR DAILY BREAD, and they will be welcomed.

But now is the time for thinking how God may be calling **you** to support this ministry. In the days/weeks ahead, members of the Outreach Committee will be reaching out to ask for support in various ways—Public Relations for The Courier, News of the Flock, Church Newsletter, and social media. Others are needed for set up, decorating, food donations and food prep (including alternative foods for special needs), serving, and cleanup. Do you have a knack for fundraising or grant writing? Your expertise would be welcome. Please ask God how you might serve Him through this ministry.

Of course, the effectiveness of this ministry, both in feeding people and in building meaningful relationships, hinges on consistent, committed volunteers; with the once-a-month meal, there are opportunities for short-term commitments as well. Family participation is encouraged, children learn to help by helping others. If you are motivated to get this ministry up and running, please let one of the Outreach Committee members know.

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve..." (Mark 10:45).

In Christ's Love, Minister Deb

**ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
 CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
 TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2024 ~ 7:0PM**

Attendance: Laurie Laird, Jane Follas, Mary Coldren, Deb Clevenger, Minister Deb Noll, Tom Marquart, Jacob Orwick, Tom Carey, Amy Gibson, Nathan Cowan, Emily Clark, Mike Stoltz, Jan Grieser, Jake Leu, and Natalie McClelland.

CALL TO ORDER – Laurie Laird

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7pm. Discussion was held on chapter 5 of our study book, “Energize Others Enthusiastically” and all members recited the Council prayer together. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Jake Leu

Account Balances at June 30, 2024	
Checking	
Current	184,383.55
Council Discretionary	1,136.29
Improvement	662.39
Missions	15,032.03
Special Projects	
Shipwreck Festival	2,232.94
Music	2,360.40
C. Price Memorial Funds	27,003.75
Bell Choir	1,751.40
Special Projects - Other	0.06
	33,348.55
Total Quickbooks Operating/MMDA	\$ 234,562.81
Operating Account	52,438.56
Money Market Demand Accounty (MMDA)	180,061.33
Total Operating/MMDA - Bank	\$ 232,499.89
Outstanding Deposits at 6/30/24	2,859.00
Outstanding Checks at 6/30/24	(796.08)
Total Reconciled Operating/MMDA	\$ 234,562.81
Savings	
General Memorial	\$ 14,264.47

- Council members reviewed financial statements provided by Jake. Contributions to the Current Fund for the period Jan-Jun 2024 totaled \$103,892.40 vs. a budgeted amount of \$113,114.83. Total expenses for the same period were \$135,587.40 actual vs. \$130,529.02 budgeted. Jake noted we fell shy of budgeted contributions to the Current Fund in June, but overall, givings exceed budget.
- It was suggested we move \$10,000 from the Operating account to the Money Market account to earn interest. A motion to do this was made by Jan Grieser and seconded by Deb Clevenger. Motion carried.
- Jake reported that 2nd quarter benevolence of \$5,895 will be donated to HopeWoods Outdoors (formerly LOMO).
- Interest income generated by our Money Market account during the past month is estimated at ~ \$685.
- The Chair inquired about making a blessing contribution from Council’s Discretionary Fund. Following discussion, it was decided that we wait until next month after obtaining more information on the needs of those previously discussed along with a new suggestion.

MINISTER’S REPORT HIGHLIGHTS – Deborah Noll (see full report attached at end of minutes)

- The report began with a Word for Thought and prayer on the subject of patience.

- I was able to attend the Boundaries Training workshop in Bowling Green despite Dick's recent health issues.
- Should a member of the congregation have needs and I am unavailable, Pastor Ramsey and Pastor Will Stenke have offered to assist.
- Pastor Christian Dittmar is scheduled to lead worship while Dick and I are on vacation Sunday, August 4.
- Upcoming events were then reviewed.

TRUSTEES REPORT – Tom Marquart

- The bell is nearly complete and a contractor has been secured to do the concrete and block work. Thank you to Bart Welte who has put a lot of time & effort in cleaning it up for mounting.
- Workers are needed to help with shelving installation in the church attic. Minister Deb noted there is no rush on shelving in the parsonage garage since Dick now has dialysis three days a week.
- Minister Deb requested names and numbers on both mail boxes to avoid confusion. Deb Clevenger will address this.
- Thank you to Grant Welte, Tom Boehm, and Merritt von Stein for assisting me with ark improvements. It has been power washed, stained and sealed.
- We're planning to install a storm door and a Ring doorbell at the parsonage for security purposes.
- If new flooring will not be installed in the fellowship hall soon, we need to schedule carpet cleaning.
- A hole in an upstairs closet at the parsonage will be repaired in the near future.
- We hope to have an update soon from the electrician who will install lighting on the stone church sign.
- Still need to paint church road signposts and install new signs. A previous workday was canceled due to weather.
- Cherry's propane has sent new LP gas pricing for summer fill at \$1.749/gal.

PARISH EDUCATION – Emily Clark

- A health update was given on the condition of Connor Sons, a student at Cory–Rawson who had surgery earlier this year to remove a brain tumor. His family is very grateful for all the community support received, including a donation from St. Paul Church.
- VBS begins on Sunday and runs through Thursday, from 6–8pm. Be sure to check out the video posted on Facebook and stop by next week to see the kids, crafts and activities. There will be ice cream and games after a post–VBS program on Thursday evening at 7:45pm.
- Rally Sunday will be held on August 18 followed by the annual church picnic. Boxed lunches will be served followed by water games, Bingo, etc.
- New materials were purchased for grades 9–12.

YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT – Amy Gibson

Highlights:

June Finished studying the Book of Job in Sunday School class and began Revelation.
 \ ReFUEL – Campfire Event
 2 Confirmation Class Makeup Sessions (multiple lessons taught each day)
 Working on “Operation Confirmation” – Summer overhaul
 See Letter from Minister Deb and I for more info.

Upcoming:

July 7th – ReFUEL
 14th, 16th, 18th – ReFUEL VBS After Hours
 21st – Cookout at the Coldren's

August 18th – ReFUEL

September 23rd – ReFUEL After the Game: Campfire
25th – ReFUEL at Millstream Racetrack
8th – Escape Wapak
22nd – ReFUEL
27th – ReFUEL After the Game: Campfire
* (re) Introducing youth group for grades 4-5: *Ignite!*

Ongoing: – Planning and Execution of ReFUEL, Sunday School, and Confirmation
– Create & Distribute: Newsletter Info, Flyers, Bulletin Board, Emails, Social Media Updates, Calendar, Website
– Attend: Youth Board, Parish Board, Staff Meetings, Council

Requests: – Approval from Council for additional Confirmation hours.

- A “Gen Z” Bible was purchased for youth to review.
- Regarding the youth group Ignite! for grades 4 & 5, Emily Clark asked if Amy would consider including grade 6 in this group. Amy will ask the youth for their input.
- Due to no youth leader at Good Hope Church, Amy was asked if St. Paul would host Fifth Quarter gatherings for students after home football games this fall. Plans are to meet at the pavilion for a camp fire and food.
- The church directories should arrive in less than a week.
- A youth fundraiser this fall will feature St. Paul spirit apparel and a coffee mug.
- Regarding Operation Confirmation, the Chair noted that Amy is working extra hours this summer to overhaul the program and would like to be compensated accordingly. The Chair requested that she present to Council a list of dates and hours worked each month. Natalie McClelland moved and Deb Clevenger seconded a motion to pay Amy for additional hours worked. Motion carried.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

- The Chair reported that Bibles and religious books are still being collected. Emily requested this material be boxed up and moved before VBS begins on Sunday.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Deb Clevenger asked about having Allie Settlage clean the parsonage upstairs, and possibly the downstairs as well, while Dick Noll needs dialysis. The Chair will ask Allie if she wants additional hours.
- Discussion was held on the special congregational meeting this Sunday in the sanctuary regarding the proposed Prayer Garden. A ballot vote will be taken, either yes or no to proceed. Jane Wilch will print ballots.
- Minister Deb provided an update on our Emergency Service Agreement with Serenity Spring (formerly Good Samaritan Center) of Arlington. In the event of a disaster, we would open our building to the residents for a period not to exceed 30 days. This was approved through general consent.
- Discussion was held on Fellowship Hall flooring. Jan Grieser will investigate the flooring at Parkview Church in Findlay. Jake Leu has drafted designs for basketball markings on whatever flooring is selected.

NEW BUSINESS

- Is there someone we can bless this month? Deb Clevenger suggested we consider Chad Beagle because his cancer has returned and the outlook is not good.
- Prayers are needed for an Arlington family who, through no fault of their own, must quickly find and move to another rental home.
- The date for Shipwreck Thanksgiving Service was set for September 15, 2024.

ADJOURN

- The meeting adjourned with The Lord’s Prayer at 8:24pm. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 13 at 7pm. Members are asked to read Chapter 6 of the study book prior to the meeting.

Natalie McClelland, Recording Secretary

Synod Authorized Minister’s Report St. Paul Congregational Council July 9, 2024

Word for Thought:

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and late rains. You also must be patient. James 5:7–8

Patience doesn’t come easily to people who sit in wait: a child waiting for the first day of school, a couple waiting for their wedding day. The nine months waiting on the birth of a child/grandchild. Waiting on the arrival of a desired purchase. Waiting that needed vacation. Waiting on a diagnosis. Waiting to be released from the hospital. (After 3–days of being told, “You are going home today,” Dick and I both were growing impatient.) Waiting isn’t easy!

When we know the date or an expected time of an anticipated event, we actively get involved in doing things to help pass the time. We mark the days off on a calendar. We make preparations—sending out invitations, buying new clothes for a trip, or preparing a nursery for the new arrival. Other times, we find ourselves just watching the clock. Only being able to watch the hands move on a clock can become very frustrating and patience grows thin. The more actively we prepare for an event, the more quickly it seems to come. “A watched pot never boils.” But setting the table while the water heats, often leads to it boiling over.

The early church thought that the return of Christ would happen soon. Christians have been waiting almost two–and–a–quarter centuries for His return. Are we patiently waiting? In our current day and time, it seems that patience running thin—with the decline of church attendance and more people questioning if there is a God. As we wait for Christ’s return, what can we do to keep ourselves from running out of patience?

We can engage ourselves in the ministry and mission set forth in our Baptismal calling: “to proclaim the praise of God and bear his creative and redeeming Word to all the world”. When we actively participate in reading the Word, being in communication with the Father in prayer, and sharing Christ’s love with our neighbor, God who is patient with us, will grant us patience. God calls us to be patient like the farmer waits for the precious crop. Christ’s return is the harvest for which we wait.

Activity Since the April Council Meeting:

Worship, Church Functions, Member Contact Outside of Worship

- Worship Services (x6)
- Confirmation Make-up Day (x1)
- Sewing Meal (x2)
- “The Jokers” Card Group (x3)
- In-office, Home, Hospital, Phone & Nursing Care Visitations (x6)
- Developed Sermon Series “Why Lutherans Worship the Way We Do!”
- Outreach Meeting (x1)

Related Church Activities

- SAM Supervisor Session (x2)
- Lunch with Bishop, Synod Staff, and other SAMs to discuss & review the SAM Clinical Pastoral Education experience (x1)

- Meeting with Synod Staff member Cheryl Sondergeld to discuss Discernment, Candidacy, and Educational Program Opportunities that could lead to ordination (x1)
- Churches-in-Transition – Zoom Meeting (x1)

Continuing Education

- Boundaries Training Workshop (x1)

Dick’s Hospitalization

- Dick has been hospitalized 15 days since June 15
- Resulted in my missing one Sunday worship (2 services), Worship Committee, Youth Board, and Parish Board meetings (Worship Team met via email—I submitted an email inquiring about Shipwreck Sunday; I do not always attend Youth Board and Parish Board meetings, but felt it should be noted why I did not attend these particular meetings)
- Released with the need for Outpatient Dialysis 3 days per week (MWF) at 5:15am in Findlay

Vacation

- Due to Dick’s need for outpatient dialysis, we have cancelled our Bus Trip to Lancaster County, Pennsylvania (August 1 to 4)
- Sunday, August 4, remains a Vacation Sunday
- The August 1–3 dates will be replaced with other days in August

Upcoming Events

- Churches in Transition Leaders Picnic @ Synod Hub in Findlay – July 11
- Vacation Bible School – July 14 to 18
- Arlington Parade – July 19
- Lead Worship at Serenity Spring – July 23
- Rally Day/Church Picnic – August 18
- Confirmation Sunday – August 25
- 193rd Shipwreck Sunday – September 15

Action Item Update

- Emergency Services Agreement with Serenity Spring at Arlington and St. Paul
 - I’ve reached out to Serenity Spring’s administration and received a revised form

Respectfully Submitted
Deb Noll, Synod Authorized Minister

**ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
SUNDAY, JULY 14, 2024 ~ 10:15AM**

Council Chairperson Laurie Laird called the meeting to order at 10:15am and Minister Deb Noll offered prayer. Regarding the proposed prayer garden, the Chair noted there’s still more information to gather, but it was decided that we hold a special meeting to determine whether or not to proceed with the project. The Chair then reviewed details of the project including: three points of access; concrete walks and patio area; a pergola over part of the patio for shade; vinyl fencing to hide A/C units; mostly stone landscaping for low maintenance; a water feature;

additional landscaping around outer edges for screening, wind protection, and color; and lighting for evening events. Concrete will be installed by Lee Laird, and the pergola by Northwest Masonry. It is hoped the congregation will provide physical labor as needed.

The inspiration for this project came from Tammy Robinson and Tammy von Stein. Tammy Robinson noted she recently participated in a conference where round table discussions revealed a wide variety of projects designed to reach out and serve others. The facilitator of the conference said his church purchased a house in order to offer services to the community. Tammy noted the idea of creating a prayer garden came to her, which could be used by anyone in the community for quiet time and meditation. Further, the area could be reserved for special services and/or social events.

The Chair opened the meeting for questions, including:

1. *Who's going to take care of the garden?*
[Tammy believes that members of the church will come together to maintain it.]
2. *With regard to a fellowship hall access door, will there be sufficient room to access other areas of the northwest yard so as to avoid wear & tear in the garden?*
[Yes, there is an ample sidewalk planned.]
3. *Could the money spent on this project be better spent in another way?*
[Although costs gathered exclude some expenses including an access door on the west side of the fellowship hall, electric wiring, and a water spigot, Clarabelle Price memorial funds will cover the majority of the cost and we'll continue to participate in other community projects such as food drives, disaster relief, youth camps, etc.]
4. *Why not put the garden out by the pavilion?*
[Because there are a number of playground additions planned, and the garden should be a quiet, peaceful place away from noise.]
5. *Will there be any signage to direct people to the prayer garden since it will be on the north side of the church?*
[Yes, in addition to a yard sign we can advertise in local newspapers and on social media.]
6. *Due to the location of the garden, will there be any security measures?*
[None planned, but if accessing the garden from the sanctuary, the door will lock behind you.]
7. *Concern was expressed about having to cut through tile when installing the prayer garden in the planned location, so why not create the garden in front of the church so it can be easily seen?*
[Soil will be added to raise the garden area, thereby avoiding having to dig too deep. Tile can be rerouted if need be so the garden can be on the north side of the church in a quiet, peaceful area.]
8. *Will there be a reservation procedure and who will be responsible for it?*
[Only church members can reserve the garden (similar to the fellowship hall) using a form obtained from the church secretary. If someone stops by to meditate and it's not in use, then they can use it.]
9. *Where will the remainder of funds come from, keeping in mind we still need money to complete the bell tower?*
[We're in a good financial position currently, and funds for both projects shouldn't be an issue.]
10. *Will this project affect the leech field?*
[No, it's on the east side of the building.]
11. *Regarding vinyl fencing around A/C units, you can hide them, but what about the noise? And will there be sufficient access to the units if need be?*
[Fencing will be placed to allow air flow and accessibility. It is hoped that a water feature will help deaden the noise of the A/C units.]
12. *What about seating in the garden?*
[Seating is planned along the sides of the garden and benches under trees. If additional seating is needed for a special event, chairs can be pulled from the fellowship hall.]

Ballots were distributed as announcements were made. The Chair noted VBS begins this evening, and volunteers are welcome. Thank you to those who restored the ark, just in time for VBS! Amy Gibson announced that print church directories will be delivered this week. One hundred were ordered; please take only one per family. Emily Clark reported on additions planned for the playground area including a Gaga ball pit, volleyball net, 4 Square in the Air, new swings, and climbing equipment. It was noted that our third quarter designated offering will go toward new playground equipment, along with funds from Parish Board. Minister Deb provided an update on Dick's health, noting that until his kidneys begin functioning on their own, he has dialysis 3 times per week beginning at 5:15am.

The voting results were announced as follows: 26 yes, 41 no. The Chair asked for a hand raise to determine if there would be more interest if the project was in the front of the church. The meeting concluded at 11am.

Natalie McClelland, Recording Secretary

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR AUGUST 2024

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: Dick Noll

WEBSITE COORDINATOR: Chelsea Boehm

PRAYER CHAIN CONTACTS

Nadine Boehm — nadineb@thewavz.com or 419-722-6370

Pam Hoffman — pkhoffman87@gmail.com or 419-235-0499

[**NOTE:** new phone number for Pam Hoffman]

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 JULY 2024: Abbi (8th grade student from Liberty–Benton School); Morgan Beaschler (friend of Christine Kemerley); Bishop Daniel Beaudoin; Beth Bracy (Deb Best's sister-in-law); Hailey Davis (daughter of a friend of Lisa Creque); Mike Doty (friend of Hoffman's); Jon Gast; Norm Hahn; Tom Hartman (Paul & Sharon's son); Mark Hoffman (Mike's brother); family and friends of Gerald Inbody; Daryl Ingram (Mike's brother); Doris Karhoff (friend of Pam Hoffman); Kyle McDowell; Diane Schilling Myers (friend of Marcia Russell); Dick Noll; Faye Parcher (Beth Wilhelm's mother); Linda Reuhrmund (friend of Minister Deb); Cindy Schulte (Greg Schulte's mother); Greg Schulte (Doris Karhoff's son-in-law); Andrew Slough (friend of Marcia Russell); Ann Welly (Stephen's wife); Beckett Wilson; all military personnel including — Griffin Hartman, Lance Leisure, Evan McMonigal, Justin Riegle, Nate Sheets, Colin and Annabelle Tobin, and Alex vonStein — Songambele Lutheran Church; Navajo Lutheran Mission School, Rock Point, AZ; Hancock County Religious Education; and Mission Possible for Haiti.

Thank You ~ Thank You ~ Thank You ~ ~

Another Vacation Bible School PandaMania is in the books and what a great week it was. There are many people to THANK so here it goes –

- * THANK YOU to Emily Clark and the many volunteers who organized, set up, taught, sang, walked with and helped in the classes.
 - * THANK YOU to the Outreach Committee, Worship Committee, WELCA, Dartball, and Parish Board for providing meals each evening.
 - * THANK YOU to faithful members who provided money, cookies, punch and items for the creative snacks.
 - * THANK YOU to our faithful kitchen crew who were there each evening to prepare and serve the many hungry kids and adults. What a blessing this outreach was to over 125 who were fed each evening.
- They say it takes a village and we certainly have a caring, generous, congregation, led by Minister Deb, who are always there to provide their support. Again we say THANK YOU to each one of you for all you do.

I received the prayer card from your church, and I thank you so much. Please share with the congregation our love, gratitude and appreciation.

Mike Doty

MANY THANKS to those who worked overtime to help make the celebration of life and funeral service for Gerald Inbody a wonderful tribute to a man with a dear heart for God and this congregation. Special thanks to Lisa for sharing her gift at the organ, to Ed for rearranging his schedule to accommodate the family's desire for special music and for securing a sound system for the fellowship hall. Thank you, Tom, for arranging to have the carpet professionally cleaned. Finally, thank you to everyone who donated food, worked in the kitchen, and helped serve the meal. I know that none of the people named would ask for such recognition, but the hand of God was seen working through each of you this week. It is your willingness to serve Him that everything was accomplished. Thank you, good and faithful servants.

Minister Deb

Outreach had a tremendous response to our back to school collection! We collected numerous back packs — which are always requested and needed. Pencils, glue sticks, crayons, tissues, bleach wipes, folders and notebooks. Outreach would just like to thank all of our generous St Paul members who helped contribute to our back to school drive. Your generosity is beyond appreciated and surely those colorful backpacks will make some children smile!!!

Our Christian Sympathy is extended to ~ ~

Our Christian Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Gerald Richard Inbody. Gerald 89, passed away on Saturday, July 20th at home surrounded by his family. His funeral was held here at St. Paul on Thursday, July 25th. May the family and friends of Gerald find comfort in the promise of the resurrection.



Nikolas Boehm married Miriam Estrada–Ruiz on Saturday, July 20th at Temple del Hospitalito (Catholic Church) in Irapuato, Mexico. Attending the ceremony were his parents, Lynn and Nadine; siblings, Zac and Chelsea; and aunt and uncle, Laurie and Lee Laird. May God’s Blessings be with Nik and Miriam as they begin their married live together.



Congratulations to Mitch and Jenna [Corban] Wilson for the birth of their son, Beckett Russell Wilson. Beckett was born at 10:45AM on Monday, July 22nd. He weighed 6 pounds and 8 ounces. He is welcomed by his big brother, Wyatt. Gary and Mary Wilson are his proud grandparents.

- Vacation Bible School Meal and VBS Attendance – Sunday, July 14th**
Meal attendance – 70 kids and 50 adults / 67 kids attended VBS
 - Vacation Bible School Meal and VBS Attendance – Monday, July 15th**
Meal attendance – 88 kids and 56 adults / 88 kids attended VBS
 - Vacation Bible School Meal and VBS Attendance – Tuesday, July 16th**
Meal attendance – 76 kids and 50 adults / 83 kids attended VBS
 - Vacation Bible School Meal and VBS Attendance – Wednesday, July 17th**
Meal attendance – 86 kids and 45 adults / 86 kids attended VBS
 - Vacation Bible School Meal and VBS Attendance – Thursday, July 18th**
Meal attendance – 75 kids and 40 adults / 75 kids attended VBS
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The August Sewing Day will be Wednesday, August 14th from 9:00AM – 2:00PM. Come all of the time or part of the time. We assemble quilts for Lutheran World Relief. If you can tie a knot, use scissors or pin material together, we’d love your help with this important ministry! Please bring a dish to share for lunch.

CHURCH DIRECTORIES have arrived and labeled with names on the table in the Welcome Space. Additional copies can be obtained per a sign – up sheet on the Information Counter in the Welcome Space. Cost will be determined by amount ordered. Instructions for app located there also. Please see Mary Coldren, Patty Orwick, or Jenny Welte if you have any questions.

St. Paul Outreach Committee Focus Statement for 2024

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’” Matthew 25:34–40

Jesus tells this parable to make the point that when we serve others, we serve God. After listing acts of service, including providing food to the hungry, drink to the thirsty, lodging for the homeless, clothes for the naked, and healing for the sick, Jesus concludes, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me”. Imagining Jesus as the ultimate recipient of our kindness is true motivation to serve in our families, church, neighborhood and world. When He prompts us to sacrificially invest in the needs of others, **we serve Him. When we love others, we love God.**

How can St. Paul serve Jesus in our community and love God by loving others in our path? If you know of a “neighbor” who could use some help, please let us know and we’ll prayerfully consider what we as a church family can do.

Loving God, please open our eyes to the needs of others around us so we can help them and love You better. Amen.

The St. Paul Outreach project for August will be to collect the following items for Good Hope’s Food Pantry. We will be collecting these items through Sunday, August 25th. Please put your items in the southwest corner of the Welcome Space. Thank you for being a blessing to our neighbors in need! Items to be collected are:

Mac and Cheese
Cereal
Laundry Soap
Laundry Softeners
Body Soap
Shampoo
Toothpaste

Offering Opportunity — **July through September our Designated Offering**, which on your envelope is Building, is **Update and Adding to our Playground Area**. Parish board has proposed updating and adding some additional items for kids young and old to play on. This may include updating the swing set and Volley Ball area. Plus adding a Jungle Gym and other possibilities. The play area is used by the congregation, guests and community. There have also been times when kids with their bikes have been observed playing on the playground.

2024: THE YEAR OF REST: The churches and friends of Northwestern Ohio Synod are invited to participate in the Year of Rest. Instead of the traditional daily Bible readings, we are invited to engage in daily rest practices using the seven types of active rest: Mental, Sensory, Emotional, Social, Creative, Spiritual, and Physical. Grounded in a weekly Bible verse, it is the Synod’s prayer that the guided calendar will help us discover daily moments of rest and peace. To learn more about the Year of Rest and the Seven Types of Active Rest, go to the Northwestern Ohio Synod website: <https://nwos-elca.church> scroll down to Bishop’s Writings and click on: 2024: The Year of Rest.

[There are copies of the August 2024—“The Year of Rest” on the Information Counter in the Welcome Space.]

ReFUEL / YOUTH INFORMATION FOR AUGUST

August 18th — ReFUEL — 6:00PM – 8:00PM
August 23rd — ReFUEL / YOUTH — After the Game: Campfire
August 25th — ReFUEL at Millstream Racetrack

ATTENTION ALL FAMILIES: “Together at the Treehouse Village” is an evening of rest and recreation while hanging out with Bishop Daniel Beaudoin. The Northwestern Ohio Synod invites you to come enjoy pizza, games, s’mores, songs and stories around the campfire (bring a lawn chair and a friend). The evening together begins at 6:00pm and goes to 9:00pm on Tuesday, August 13th, at Cannaley Treehouse Village in Swanton, Ohio (3520 Waterville Swanton Road). A fun time for all is guaranteed. RSVP by Saturday, August 10th to: https://bit.ly/NWOS_Treehouse.

ADDRESS FOR NATE SHEETS:

Spc Sheets, Nathaniel
T F Viper 304th EVCC
APO, AE 09333

August 2024 Birthdays

Friday, August 2 nd	Allen Boehm
Friday, August 2 nd	Dan Ludwig
Saturday, August 3 rd	Elise Rettig
Saturday, August 3 rd	Bart Welte
Sunday, August 4 th	Logan Bell
Monday, August 5 th	Wyatt Fitch
Monday, August 5 th	Babette Grieser
Tuesday, August 6 th	Chloe Gibson
Thursday, August 8 th	Pastor Steve Edmiston
Thursday, August 8 th	Chris Hoffman
Thursday, August 8 th	Christine Kemerley
Friday, August 9 th	Carol Breitigam
Friday, August 9 th	Kanon Dodge
Saturday, August 10 th	Megan McCasland
Sunday, August 11 th	Doug Coldren
Sunday, August 11 th	Ruth Lamberjack
Monday, August 12 th	Thad Dempster
Tuesday, August 13 th	Ryan Leisure
Tuesday, August 13 th	Kendra Parke
Tuesday, August 13 th	Kay Sidle
Wednesday, August 14 th	Jeff Breitigam
Friday, August 16 th	Jason Kemerley
Saturday, August 17 th	Mason Leu
Saturday, August 17 th	Caroline Riegler
Saturday, August 17 th	Sharon Smith
Sunday, August 18 th	Abbie Loy
Sunday, August 18 th	Brantley Price

Monday, August 19 th	Amy Gibson
Wednesday, August 21 st	Denise Durliat
Thursday, August 22 nd	Owen Griggs
Thursday, August 22 nd	Jill Langhals
Thursday, August 22 nd	Grace Riegler
Thursday, August 22 nd	Leah Riegler
Friday, August 23 rd	Janet Carey
Friday, August 23 rd	Luke Rettig
Sunday, August 25 th	Kelly Settlege
Monday, August 26 th	Nadine Boehm
Monday, August 26 th	Daulton Ludwig
Tuesday, August 27 th	Gerald Rettig
Wednesday, August 28 th	George Korte
Thursday, August 29 th	Steve Smith
Friday, August 30 th	Raymond Bower
Friday, August 30 th	Logan Grieser
Friday, August 30 th	Kristin McCasland

August 2024 Wedding Anniversaries

Friday, August 2 nd	Tom and Janet Carey – 49
Tuesday, August 6 th	Ben and Kendra Rodriguez – 2
Wednesday, August 7 th	Dennis and Sherri Ward – 42
Friday, August 9 th	Peter and Stephanie Krosnosky – 21
Saturday, August 10 th	Mike and Elaine Ingram – 56
Monday, August 19 th	John and Christine Fitzgerald – 29
Wednesday, August 21 st	Ryan and Alex McDowell – 3
Thursday, August 22 nd	Larry and Rindy Crates – 54
Thursday, August 22 nd	Pastor Steve and Stacy Edmiston – 37
Wednesday, August 28 th	Dick and Minister Deb Noll – 42

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ AUGUST 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Altar Guild: Janet Carey Lector: Dick Noll Organist: August 4 th , 11 th , 18 th , 25 th : Lisa Gossman				1 6:00PM Sunday School Room reserved by "The Jokers"	2	3
4 ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9:00AM Traditional / Communion 10:15AM Sunday School 11:15AM Contemporary / Communion	5	6	7	8 6:00PM Sunday School Room reserved by "The Jokers"	9	10 ALL DAY Pavilion reserved by David Wolford Family NOON – 5:30PM Kitchen in use
11 TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9:00AM Traditional / Communion 10:15AM Sunday School 11:15AM Contemporary / Communion	12	13 7:00PM Congregational Council Meeting	14 9:00AM – 2:00PM Sewing Day	15 6:00PM Sunday School Room reserved by "The Jokers"	16	17 TBD Rock N Roll 4-H Meeting / Fellowship Hall
18 THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST RALLY DAY / TEACHER APPRECIATION 10:00AM Worship / Outside Service / Picnic will follow 6:00PM – 8:00PM ReFUEL	19	20 6:30PM WELCA Retreat / Gillig's	21	22 6:00PM Sunday School Room reserved by "The Jokers"	23 YOUTH After game / Campfire	24
25 FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST CONFIRMATION SUNDAY 9:00AM Traditional / Confirmation Sunday 10:15AM Sunday School 11:15AM Contemporary / Communion 6:00PM – 8:00PM ReFUEL / Millstream Speedway	26	27	28	29 6:00PM Sunday School Room reserved by "The Jokers"	30	31