



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" DECEMBER ~ 2024

³³*Beware, keep alert, [keep watch] for you do not know when the time will come.*

³⁷*And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake." Mark 13:33 and 37*

Dear Friends in Christ,

Welcome December! Welcome Advent! Welcome Christmas! Advent is about the "coming days." God's people have lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the appointed Advent texts. As the Advent candles are lit, we hear God's word of hope, peace, joy, and love and are reminded of God's promises.

The Advent Wreath is one of the best-known customs for the Advent season. The wreath and winter candle-lighting in the midst of growing darkness strengthen some of the Advent images found in the Bible. The unbroken circle of greens is an image of everlasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, or the wheel of time itself. Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and our growing expectation.

Why are the candles for Advent blue instead of purple? The color blue suggests hope. Blue associated with Advent originated at a time when purple dye was too expensive for many churches to purchase and use.

Why the pink candle? In the Middle Ages, the third Sunday of Advent was celebrated as *Gaudete Sunday* (Latin meaning "rejoice"). *Gaudete Sunday* functioned as a one-day respite from the austerity of the season, and while few congregations today emphasize penitence and repentance during Advent, *Gaudete Sunday* nevertheless remains an opportunity to intentionally pause and celebrate the beauty, the sweetness, and the nearness of the birth of Jesus Christ. Rose is traditionally the color of the day.

Our Advent theme is: "Waiting for the One Who Will Come to Turn the World Around". Based on that theme, here is a litany and prayer to use in your home this Advent season:

We live in a world that trades in isolation and comparison, competition and fear.

We are waiting for the One who will turn the world around, causing us to live in connection and compassion and mutual support and liberation.

We live in a world that races for money and success, that worships busyness and productivity, that hoards and consumes.

We are waiting for the One who will turn the world around, so we will know that there is enough and that we are enough, and so we can be still and rest.

We live in a world that tries to hide from death by pursuing eternal youth.

We are waiting for the One who will turn the world around and bring new life from places we would call dead and worthless.

We live in a world that is broken and hurting.

We are waiting for the One who will turn the world around to heal and comfort all people.

God, restore our hope in this time of watching and waiting. Give us a spirit of wisdom and understanding, counsel and might, knowledge and reverent trembling in your presence. Reveal to us that our stories are woven together, that we will be healed and whole when all people are fed and free. Gather us together in the shelter of your righteousness. Amen.

May God be with you as you journey through this season of Advent, and may you celebrate a wonderful Christmas with family and friends. (Above insights come from *Sundays and Seasons*, and the ELCA liturgical colors resource.)

In Christ's Love, Minister Deb

**ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
 CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
 TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2024 ~ 7:00PM**

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

CALL TO ORDER – Laurie Laird

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7pm, followed by review and discussion of chapter 9 in our study book. All members recited the Council prayer together and minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Jake Leu

Account Balances at October 31, 2024

Checking

Current	186,928.05
Council Discretionary	1,870.16
Improvement	192.78
Missions	21,057.97
Special Projects	
Shipwreck Festival	2,261.23
Music	2,390.29
C. Price Memorial Funds	27,350.29
Bell Choir	1,395.46
Special Projects - Other	0.06
	33,397.33

Total Quickbooks Operating/MMDA **\$ 243,446.29**

Operating Account	47,005.05
Money Market Demand Accounty (MMDA)	203,054.65
Total Operating/MMDA - Bank	\$ 250,059.70

Outstanding Deposits at 10/31/24	-
Outstanding Checks at 10/31/24	(6,613.41)
Total Reconciled Operating/MMDA	\$ 243,446.29

Savings

General Memorial	\$ 14,769.84
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- Council members reviewed financial statements. Total income for the period Jan-Oct 2024 was \$230,418.43 vs. a budgeted amount of \$188,524.71. Total expenses for the same period were \$216,125.31 actual vs. \$217,548.37 budgeted.
- Interest income generated by our Money Market account is estimated at \$789.68 during the past month.
- 3rd quarter income designated for playground equipment totaled \$7,565.
- The Chair reported no changes were made to the 2025 church budget that was reviewed last month.

MINISTER’S REPORT HIGHLIGHTS – Deborah Noll

- The report began with a Word for Thought followed by prayer.
- Upcoming events were then reviewed including Confirmation youth participating in worship on Nov. 17, Annual Congregational Meeting on Nov. 17, Christ the King Sunday on Nov. 24, and Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at Arlington Methodist Church on Nov. 24 at 7pm. See full report attached at end of minutes.

TRUSTEES REPORT – Tom Marquart

- The first phase of shelves in the attic are complete.
- The base for mounting the old church bell is under construction near the main entrance. We're waiting for the cap to come in and be installed prior to the bell installation. The mason is also going to make repairs to a few bricks on the front of the church.
- Discussion was held on when to open a time capsule found in the old building. It was decided that we open it at the start of the Annual Congregational Meeting this Sunday and ask the children to come up front for a brief history and a close look at the contents. A new time capsule will be placed in the church bell structure and will include one piece of the old capsule contents, a new church directory, the Shipwreck story, information pertaining to our new building and dedication, photos of VBS, etc.
- A concern was expressed about an individual who brings his dogs to run loose throughout the cemetery. A Trustee will approach this individual noting the concern and suggest that he run his dogs on the east church lawn, provided he cleans up after them.
- Minister Deb reported a sink stopper is not working in one of the parsonage bathrooms.
- Bart Welte took the new road signs home to place reinforcement strips at the top before hanging.
- Amy noted the door handle to the youth room is still not working properly.
- Old chairs from the sanctuary are being used in some classrooms, but the vinyl covering is peeling and they look unsightly. Christine Kemerley will attempt to recover them. If this doesn't work, they'll be removed and extra chairs from the fellowship hall can be used in their place.

PARISH EDUCATION – Emily Clark

- Kids Praise attendance has been higher than previously, with 60+ per session, and additional teachers may be needed during the winter months.
- A successful Fall Fest and Trunk or Treat was held last month. The haunted woods will be brought back next year.
- The children's Christmas program is planned for Dec. 15, with a single service at 10am incorporating a variety of music.
- New materials were purchased for two classes.

YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT – Amy Gibson

Highlights:

October Weekly Confirmation, Ignite by the fire and Suter's, ReFUEL x2, WNL x4 Fall Fest
October 27th – November 17th – St. Paul LYO "SWAG" Fundraiser

Upcoming:

November 2nd – Ignite goes to Suter's Corn Maze
3rd – ReFUEL
6th, 13th, 20th, - KP/WNL
17th – ReFUEL Giving Blitz – Donations towards Local Christmas Giveaway in Arlington
November 10th – December 1st – Stocking Stuffer Collection for the Christmas Giveaway
December 1st - ReFUEL
8th – Ignite Christmas Party, ReFUEL Christmas Party
Confirmation – November 3rd, 10th, 17th (in service) December 1st, 8th

Ongoing:

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

Amy noted this Sunday will be the last day to sign up for St. Paul swag.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

- Minister Deb reported that planning is underway for a combined November/December Community Meal on December 1, 2024.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

- Minister Deb also reported for this committee, reviewing upcoming events and themes thru Lent.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Regarding new flooring in the Fellowship Hall, members of Council were available during the Sunday School hour on Nov. 10 to answer questions and/or address concerns prior to the annual meeting of the congregation scheduled for Nov. 17 at 10:15am. The Chair reported that several people stopped by to ask questions about Landmark Endurance Sports flooring out of Toledo. Wayne Young offered to provide another quote on Sunday for athletic flooring from Buckeye Floor & Ceiling out of Lima. It was recommended that markings for basketball be half court. Dart ball players inquired about markings for their events and in the event of stray darts, it was suggested that rugs be placed under all boards during practice and games to ensure no holes puncture the flooring. The Chair noted we already have \$20,000 in the budget for Special Projects and \$14,000 in memorial monies to use for flooring. A concern was raised about needing new video equipment and flooring at the same time, but it was decided we need to proceed with both. The Chair noted the only choice on the ballot will be athletic flooring with YES or NO, preceded by a motion. The estimate printed in the bulletin was for flooring in the fellowship hall, hallway and conference room, as well as taking up the old carpet.
- Regarding church positions, most have been tentatively filled except for Vice Chair. Amy Gibson noted a Vice Chair is also needed for Youth Board, and she will send other Youth Board information to Laurie.

NEW BUSINESS

- Ed von Stein reported that our video equipment has not been working correctly since mid-summer. The projectors are more than 10 years old and considered obsolete. Marty has been changing out lamps in the projectors, but is not sure how much longer they'll last. They could be replaced, but would have to be adapted which would reduce the quality of resolution. The front projector was working on Sunday morning 15 minutes prior to the service, but then it suddenly quit. Following discussion, it was suggested we replace both projectors (\$3,500 each) at the same time and upgrade the extender. Total replacement costs may run \$9000-\$11,000. For the time being the back projector has been moved to the front. Ed noted that most new churches use a TV instead of a screen, but they're more expensive and may not last any longer than a projector. Ed also reported that our worship services cannot currently be projected to the nursery or the kitchen. However, replacing an extender will fix this. Ed will provide estimates by the time of the congregational meeting on Sunday.
- The Annual Congregational Meeting agenda was reviewed. Amy Gibson will make a motion to replace the carpet with athletic flooring.
- Discussion was held on outsourcing Payroll for purposes including direct deposit, payroll taxes, quarterly reports, annual reports, and W-2s. Jake will provide estimates at the next meeting and offered to take a reduction in pay because he'll have fewer responsibilities if the decision is made to outsource Payroll.
- The Chair will post a notice in the bulletin requesting volunteers for placing & removing outdoor Christmas decorations.
- A letter of resignation from Tom & Cindy Boehm was read by Jan Grieser. The chair created a formal reply to be signed and sent on behalf of all Council members. Discussion was then held on the social statements of ELCA.

ADJOURN

- Prior to adjournment, the Chair asked for news of the flock and prayer requests. Jan Grieser announced a Teacher Appreciation event at Hull's Trace on Friday, Nov. 15 from 6:30-8:30pm. The meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer at 8:50pm. The next meeting will be held on Dec. 10 at 6:45pm in the fellowship hall. In addition to reading Chapter 10 of our study book, members were asked to bring snack foods to share and eat during the December meeting.

Natalie McClelland, Recording Secretary

Synod Authorized Minister's Report
St. Paul Congregational Council
November 12, 2024

Word for Thought:

Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and dearly loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a grievance against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you are also to forgive. Above all, put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. And let the peace of Christ, to which you were also called in one body, rule your hearts. And be thankful. Colossians 3:12–15

The campaign ads are done. The election is over. A decisive victory was declared. Yet, in the media this week, I heard individuals saying that if you are disappointed with friends, family members, or loved ones because of whom they voted, then you should exclude them from your holiday festivities. Where is love and forgiveness in doing that?

We live in a world where disagreements on issues (national, political, and yes, even in the church) cause division, heartache, and suffering. Often, the people we love and the things we hold in common are not enough to overcome what seems to be the bigger issue. In that case, separation might be the only answer for resolution or peace.

Whatever the reason for any separation, all individuals involved will feel pain and grief. What is important to remember is that every person is one of God's children, holy and dearly loved; called to kindness, understanding, gentleness, forgiveness, love and support. The perfect bond for unity is unconditional love which brings the peace of Christ to broken hearts.

Let us pray: Pour into our hearts, O God, the Holy Spirit's gift of love, that we may share the joy of friendship, human and divine, revealed in the love of Jesus Christ, who lays down his life for his friends. Grant that your holy and life-giving Spirit may move every human heart; that the barriers dividing us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; and that, with our divisions healed, we might live in peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Activity Since the October Council Meeting:

Worship, Church Functions, Member Contact Outside of Worship

- Worship Services (x8)
- Sewing Meal (x1)
- “The Jokers” Card Group (x4)
- In-office, home, and phone visitations (x8)
- Hospital visitation (x4)
- Outreach Meeting (x2)
- *Our Daily Bread* community meal (x1)
- Worship Committee Meeting (x1)
- Youth Board (x1)
- Confirmation Classes (x2)
- 3rd Grade Bible Use Sunday School (x1)
- Kids Praise (x4)
- Trunk-or-Treat (x1)
- Choir (x2)

Related Church Activities

- SAM Supervisor Session (x2)
- SAM Cohort Zoom Meeting (x2)
- Ecumenical Partners Lunch (x1)
- Funeral of Carl Hummel (friend of Tom & Sally Valentage)
- WELCA Central Conference Gathering (Service with Holy Communion, served 17)
- Serenity Spring Worship (x1)
- Meeting with Rachel Beaudoin (Darwin & Louise Wilson's daughter)

Vacation Taken

- Wednesday thru Saturday, November 6-9, 2024
- Sunday, November 10, 2024

Upcoming Events

- Sunday, November 17, 2024 – Theme for the day: Rainbows & Covenants – Confirmation Youth participation in worship
- Sunday, November 17, 2024 – Congregational Meeting
- Sunday, November 24, 2024 – Christ the King Sunday – Jesus, A Different Kind of King
- Sunday, November 24, 2024, 7:00pm – Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service @ Arlington Methodist Church
- December 1, 2024 – Advent Begins – Advent Theme: Waiting for the One Who Will Turn the World Around

Items for Consideration

- I will be working through the winter months to address Candidacy and Seminary enrollment and reaching out to a Spiritual Adviser.

Respectfully Submitted, Deb Noll, Synod Authorized Minister

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2024 ~ 10:15AM

Prior to the opening of the meeting, a time capsule dated 1953 found in the cornerstone of our previous building was opened. The children were invited to come to the front of the sanctuary for a close look of the contents which included the church constitution, the history of St. Paul Church, bulletins, programs, hymnals, prayer books, Bibles, a Lutheran calendar, a Catechism book, issues of local newspapers, Lutheran publications for adults and youth, a list of Council members, an income statement, and a report of contributions. The Sunday School offering was then collected.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Laurie Laird called the meeting to order at 10:18am. Devotions and prayer were led by Minister Deb.

APPROVE MINUTES OF SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Following review, the minutes were approved as written.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Jake Leu reviewed account and fund balances as well as the 2025 Operating Budget. Salaries were increased by 3%. Jake noted generous responses to designated quarterly offerings for Indian Lake tornado relief, Hopewood Outdoors children's camp, new playground equipment for St. Paul youth, and Hurricane Helene relief. A motion to approve the 2025 Operating Budget was made by Marty Grieser and seconded by Kay Sidle. Motion carried.

MINISTER'S REPORT

Minister Deb Noll noted that her written report was attached to the agenda, which included a list of key statistical components overseen by her since the 2023 Annual Meeting. She offered her sincere thanks for the support and encouragement of the congregation, which she and her husband Dick consider a true blessing.

TRUSTEE REPORT

Tom Marquart provided a list of projects completed in 2024 including handicapped-accessible doors at front entrance, new overhead door installed on storage barn, trees and stumps removed around church property, new light installed at service entrance, lights installed in front of large, stone church sign, new batteries installed for security and fire alarms, contract with Cherry's Propane and LP gas prepaid, metal storage shelves moved upstairs to front room and supplies stocked on them, and new heavy-duty racks built and installed upstairs for more storage. Regarding the old church bell, Tom noted it has been refurbished. Hartman Concrete has built the base for the it, and we're currently waiting on the limestone cap to be installed. Prior to that, a new time capsule will be placed in the base. When completed, the bell will be mounted and usable. It can be rung manually for special occasions, but will be locked in place when not in use.

YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT

Amy Gibson provided a list of youth events since the previous congregational meeting in May. She noted that today is last day to purchase St. Paul swag items. Also, today the youth will be shopping for a Giving Blitz. LYO is also asking for stocking stuffers for the Arlington Area Christmas Giveaway. Gift ideas are printed in the News of the Flock and donations can be placed in an oversized stocking in the welcome space.

PARISH EDUCATION REPORT

Emily Clark highlighted several events held this year including a successful week of VBS, a VBS-themed float decorated for the Arlington Festival parade, the annual church picnic, and the Fall Festival. Emily noted that Kids Praise is currently averaging 60+ children per night. Because of high attendance, they'll need additional volunteers after the first of the year. Christine Kemerley offered her thanks to members who have donated food, money, and time so meals can be offered to the children and their parents. A round of applause was given to all volunteers.

OUTREACH REPORT

Tammy Robinson provided an update on Community Meals, noting the next one will be a combined Nov/Dec meal on Sunday, December 1st. Attendance at meals has averaged 70–75 people per month, and a holiday gift box will be distributed next month. Tammy offered her thanks to all who have contributed and assisted with this ministry.

TRUST FUND REPORT

A written report was attached to the agenda. If you have any questions, please contact Craig Durliat.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

2025 Church Positions: The Chair announced that Sally Valentage has been nominated for the position of Assistant Sunday School Superintendent. However, nominees for Congregation Vice Chair and Youth Board Vice Chair are still needed. A motion was made by Bob Coldren and seconded by Janet Carey to accept all nominees to date. Motion carried.

Replacement of projectors and equipment: The Chair reported that one of our service projectors no longer works despite several attempts to repair it, and we've also had issues streaming services outside the sanctuary. Both projectors are now considered obsolete, so estimates for new projectors and related equipment were obtained from JB Net AV of Findlay. The cost to remove all obsolete equipment, replace with new, and train on use is \$11,136 including labor. Mike Ingram moved that we replace this equipment and the motion was seconded by Jonathon Coldren. Motion carried.

Replacement of carpet in Fellowship Hall: Jan Grieser provided an overview and estimates of athletic flooring sold by a company based in Toledo. She recommended this type of flooring over new carpeting because we would still have to pay for professional carpet cleaning once or twice a year, while spills on athletic flooring can easily be mopped or wiped up. A total estimate of \$71,100 was presented for new flooring in the fellowship hall (with basketball striping), hallway, and conference room. Wayne Young provided estimates on similar flooring from Buckeye Floor & Ceiling out of Lima. They will remove the old carpet, grind and level the floor, repair cracks, lay new flooring, seal joints, etc. Wayne noted they've had this product at Cory Rawson school for almost 10 years and have had no issues. Further, the contractors were very helpful and professional. Buckeye's estimate was \$47,911 for the fellowship hall only or \$65,690 for the fellowship hall (includes basketball striping), hallway, and conference room. Wayne suggested we could consider other, less expensive flooring options for the conference room to save money on the project.

Discussion was held and the following questions were asked and answered:

Q: When are we planning to replace the flooring?

A: After Easter, in the spring of 2025.

Q: What about damage from stray darts during dart ball games and tournaments?

A: We can place floor mats under the boards or use leftover carpeting that is in the attic.

Q: Will the flooring be damaged by using a lift or other heavy equipment on it?

A: Wayne reported no marks or split seams after using a lift at Cory Rawson school.

Q: Can Buckeye Floor & Ceiling install striping for basketball?

A: Yes. Amy Gibson noted that her youth groups want to play basketball every time they meet. Janet Carey noted that having a facility with a basketball court is a great form of community outreach. Other members inquired about the possibility of striping for pickleball and 4–square.

Q: Will striping be full–court or half–court? If full court, what about damage to the trophy cases?

A: Safety glass has been used for trophy cases. Half–court striping has been suggested.

Q: Does the first estimate of \$65,690 include conference room flooring?

A: Yes

Q. What about crack issues?

A: Repairs are included in the second quote from Buckeye.

Q: How long will it take for installation?

A: Buckeye estimates 3–4 days.

As far as how to fund the flooring project, the Chair reported we can use \$14,000 from the Memorial fund and \$20,000 from the Special Projects fund. We could also designate the 2nd quarter 2025 offering for flooring. A suggestion was made that we could approve the flooring now, but add the lines later. However, the second quote mandates purchase within 90 days. Mike Ingram moved that we hire Buckeye Floor & Ceiling to install new athletic flooring in the fellowship hall (with basketball striping), hallway, and conference room at a cost of \$65,690? The motion was seconded by Bob Coldren and ballots were distributed. Wayne Young was asked if he would be willing to oversee this project, and he agreed. While the ballots were being counted, Jan Grieser offered her sincere thanks to Laurie Laird for her service as Council Chair, after which Laurie noted we still need a Vice Chair to begin serving in 2025. Christine Kemerley noted that volunteers are also needed to transport Bob Robison home from work on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Following a count of ballots, the flooring project was approved with 81 YES votes and 2 NO votes. Buckeye Flooring of Lima will be contacted for this project.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Nancy Tobin and seconded by Marty Grieser. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer at 11:17am.

Natalie McClelland, Recording Secretary

Note: Reports will be attached to the master copy on file.

Annual Meeting Results – If you could not attend, here is a recap. The 1953 Time capsule was opened and its contents are on the table in the Welcome Area. Please check it out. Many of your parents and grandparents are listed. We are still in need of a Council Vice Chair and a Youth Board Vice Chair but all other positions are filled. It was approved to purchase new projectors for the Sanctuary and also to use the company out of Lima to replace the carpet in the Fellowship Hall, Hallway, and Conference room with a Sport flooring material.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR DECEMBER 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: Anna Wolford

LECTOR: Paul Hartman

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

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 NOVEMBER 2024: Jeff Freed (*friend of Keith & Tammy Robinson*); Rex Gallant (*friend of Lisa Creque*); Jon Gast; Chris Gibson (*grandmother of Mandy Henson*); Marsha Grieser; Norm Hahn; Mark Hoffman (*Mike’s brother*); Christine Kemerley; Steve McClelland; Kyle McDowell; family and friends of Carol Myers (*maternal grandmother of Adam Willford*); Dick Noll; Faye Parcher (*Beth Wilhelm’s mother*); Evelyn Robison; Andrew Slough (*friend of Marcia Russell*); 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 ~ ~

Thank you so much for the beautiful quilt and the little yellow sweater. Delilah looks so cute in the yellow sweater and lays on the quilt all the time. Thank you again,

Ellie Grieser and Payton Simon

A Teacher / Helper Appreciation Event was held on the evening of Friday, November 15th at Hull’s Trace in Arlington. Thank you to the teachers and helpers for sharing their talents for our Youth Program.

Dear Giving Church Family, Thank you so much for your generous support of the Kid’s Praise program.

This session has been exceptional. We fed an average of 65 children and 20 adults each Wednesday evening and they learned about bugs, had a Bible lesson and sang. Thank you to Emily and the Parish Board for their support; the many teachers and helpers; WELCA and Dartball for providing food; our generous members for monetary donations, cookies, punch, and snack cups. All of these donations were greatly appreciated. We are so grateful for our dedicated kitchen help: Janet, Mike, Elaine, Tom, Sandy, Minister Deb, Dick, Vera, Pete, Linda, and Christine. With this large number of children many helpers are needed, (it takes a village) so if you would be able to lend a helping hand when our next session begins on Wednesday, January 15th please contact Emily.

Thank you for the generous donations of coats gloves, hats, and socks to be given to the “Coats for Christmas”. Thirty–eight coats and numerous gloves, hats, and socks were donated and have been taken to City Apparel for distribution.



Congratulations to Logan and Sophie Sheets on the birth of their son, Sullivan Martin Sheets. Sullivan was born on October 26th at 2:59PM. He weighed 8 pounds and 12 ounces and was 22½ inches long. He is welcomed by his big sister, Benson. Proud grandparents are Kreg and Chris Sheets and great grandparents are Barb Martin and Vera Sheets.

Congratulations to Dustin Price who is the head football coach at USV [Upper Scioto Valley]. The team won the Northwest Central Conference championship game. Dustin earned his 50th coaching win and was named Coach of the Year. Amanda is his proud wife and equally proud are his children, Brantley, Kieran, and Leighton.

**Christmas Program ~ “He Made a Way in A Manger”
Sunday, December 15th at 10:00AM**

We invite your kids to sing with us at our combined Christmas Worship with special music from the Senior Choir, Praise Team, and Bell Choir



**Christmas Eve Family Worship with Holy Communion
Tuesday, December 24th at 7:00PM**

REMINDER – If you are having family or friends in for the holidays and they have no place to stay, the Parsonage B&B is available and waiting for someone to occupy the upstairs space that the congregation so joyfully made accommodating. Dick and I welcome your family and friends as our own. Happy Holidays!

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE – Mark your calendars now for the Noll’s annual Open House on Sunday, January 5, 2025 from 3:00pm to 7:00pm.

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.



Outreach has decided to move the next Daily Bread Lunch to SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1st from 11:00AM – 1:00PM. We moved the date due to availability of the fellowship hall and availability of congregational members to volunteer/share their time. With all that being said, our menu will include:

Ham — Cheesy potatoes — Green bean casserole
Hot roll — Dessert (St Paul's choice)

If anyone wishes to contribute to the financial expenses, please give your financial donation to Tammy vonStein or Elaine Ingram. Continue to invite others to dine-in or take-out lunch.

At the last community meal, we enjoyed welcoming and sharing time with more community members.

Outreach also decided to not serve a lunch the last Sunday of December. BUT what we will be offering for pick-up on Saturday, December 21st is a meal in a box that is available to anyone. The meal in a box would include a canned meat, noodles, green beans, and dessert. **In order to get an accurate count, we would want community members / congregants to call the church office at 419-326-3535 (can leave a message) by Monday, December 16th to reserve a box. Pickup will be on Saturday, December 21st from 9:00AM-NOON. One box per family.**

As Always, THANK YOU St Paul's Church for your continued support, help, financial gifts and prayers as we continue on this outreach journey!!

Offering Opportunity (giving envelope box 'building')

It was previously announced that our designated giving for the fourth quarter would be the Navajo Lutheran Mission School. But due to the hurricane activity in the southeastern United States, it has been decided that for at least the month of October (maybe longer) the designated giving will go to Hurricane Relief efforts either through Lutheran Disaster Relief or through direct means. If you are personally touched by this disaster, either through family or friends living in one of the areas impacted, please reach out to a member of Church Council, the church office, or Minister Deb to make us aware of those individual(s). If possible, provide a church or emergency services contact so we can follow up as to how to best get them the assistance they need.

Lutheran Disaster Relief suggests the following ways to offer help:

- 1. PRAY** — Please pray for the safety of communities impacted by hurricanes, including people in their paths and any emergency services personnel who are responding. May God's healing presence give peace and hope in this time of need. Pray that God will deliver comfort to those who mourn and strength to those working diligently to rescue survivors;
- 2. GIVE** — Your gifts will support disaster-impacted communities. Gifts to LDR equip them to respond to those affected by hurricanes and related disasters, such as mudslides, severe storms and flooding. These gifts also empower LDR to respond to disasters whenever and wherever they strike. Gifts to "Hurricane Response" will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by hurricanes, until the response is complete;
- 3. SHARE** — Spread the word throughout your community to give Lutheran Disaster Response an even greater impact as it serves our neighbors on the long road to recovery.

We live into God's mission by helping others in need. Prayerfully consider how you can help give hurricane relief at this time. Again, you can donate through your giving envelope or visit www.elca.org for more information on Lutheran Disaster Relief.

May God use you as a beacon of light shining in the darkness during this time of immediate response and long-term recovery. Amen.

Thank you, Minister Deb

**Kids Praise will begin again on Wednesday, January 15th with Bible Lessons based on BUGS.
Meal at 5:45PM — Kids Praise from 6:30PM — 7:30PM
Wednesday Night Live Bible Study [6th – 12th Grade] from 6:15PM – 7:30PM**

ReFUEL and YOUTH INFORMATION for DECEMBER

On Sunday evening, November 17th, LYO participated in their fourth annual Giving Blitz! This year they purchased 193 items to donate to the Arlington Area Christmas Giveaway. Items will benefit families in need in the area this holiday season. They rounded out the evening with fellowship and a meal.

Youth Information for December

Sunday, December 1st — ReFUEL — 6:00PM – 8:00PM

Sunday, December 8th —

Ignite Christmas Party — 3:00PM – 5:00PM

ReFUEL Christmas Party — 6:00PM – 8:00PM

CONFIRMATION CLASSES for DECEMBER

Sunday, December 1st and

Sunday, December 8th

Confirmation Classes

5:00PM – 6:00PM

NO Confirmation Classes on Sunday, December 15th,

Sunday, December 22nd, Sunday, December 29th, and

Sunday, January 5, 2025 — Holiday Break

2024–2025 Dartball Schedule for December 2024

[Copies of the Dartball Schedule are available on the Information Counter in the Welcome Space]

Monday, December 2nd 7:30PM

Dola @ Jenera Jr.

Jenera Sr. @ St. Johns/Trinity, Findlay

Monday, December 9th 7:30PM

Jenera Jr. @ Upper Sandusky

Dola @ Jenera Sr.

Monday, December 16th 7:30PM

Jenera Jr. @ Salem, Findlay

Upper Sandusky @ Jenera Sr.

Monday, December 23rd Christmas Holiday Break

Monday, December 30th New Year's Holiday Break



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 December 2024—"The Year of Rest" on the Information Counter in the Welcome Space.]

2024 ST. PAUL TIME CAPSULE

On Monday evening, November 25th, Tom Marquart received a phone call saying that the cap for the bell was going to be placed on Wednesday afternoon, November 27th. Laurie Laird, Jane Wilch, Minister Deb, Jan Grieser, Tom Marquart, Amanda Leu, and Amy Gibson gathered the items for the time capsule on Tuesday, November 26th. All items have been documented, and pictures of all the items will be available in the welcome space to see what was placed inside. Including a photo of the time capsule being placed. Below is a list of the items in the 2024 Capsule.

There had been some concern about putting the capsule under the bell. We decided to put a plaque on the outside of the pillar to let future generations know it is there. The pillar will keep it safe and protected for many future generations. The 1953 capsule was put in place as a new church was being built. They understood that when the capsule was opened, it meant the church had been torn down. The 1953 capsule was placed a few days before my 1st birthday; most, if not all, of us will never know when the 2024 capsule is opened.

We have a list of items we placed in the capsule. We included a few items from the 1952 capsule, pictures of the church destroyed by fire, a picture of the church that replaced it, and information on the new church. Minister Deb included a prayer for the future generations.

We will have a dedication of the bell on a Sunday in December (weather permitting the bell to be put in place) after the 9:00 service. More details to come.

We will keep the items from the 1953 capsule displayed for a while, then move them to the church Library.

Laurie Laird – Council Chairperson

List of items in 2024 Capsule:

From the old cornerstone:

- Holy Bible belonged to Sam Rettig (age 87) dated July 19, 1953
- 2 Church Building photos
- Church bulletin/Program dedicating the building

New items:

- Prayer to the future church from Minister Deb Noll
- Letter to the future church leader from Minister Deb Noll
- Memories booklet from 150th Anniversary in 2003
- Cat's Meow block and magnet of the Church – 150th Anniversary 2003
- Items from the 2013 New Church dedication
- Coronavirus Mask from 2020
- Shipwreck History booklet
- Total Eclipse glasses from 4/8/24
- Current Church Directory – 2023/2024
- 2024 Congregational Council and Committees list
- November 2024 Annual Meeting Report
- Church Brochure
- Church Bulletin dated 11/24/24
- November 2024 Newsletter
- With One Voice (WOV) Hymnal
- Photos including: 2024 First Communion, 3rd grade Bible distribution, Confirmation, Current Oldest Member, Kids Praise, VBS, WELCA, Sewing Ladies, 2023 Outdoor Church service, and additional events.
- Christ in our Home Devotional
- A “tiny Jesus” one of the figures the youth hid at Easter 2024
- The Courier Newspaper dated 11/27/2024

December 2024 Birthdays

Sunday, December 1st James Norman
 Monday, December 2nd Sam Luke
 Monday, December 2nd Maya Riegle
 Monday, December 2nd Richard Smith
 Tuesday, December 3rd Colleen Boehm
 Wednesday, December 4th James Kemerley
 Thursday, December 5th Corey Henson
 Thursday, December 5th Shawn Hirt
 Thursday, December 5th Liam Norway
 Thursday, December 5th Kris Russell
 Thursday, December 5th Laine Smith
 Friday, December 6th Nik Boehm
 Friday, December 6th Christian Panfil
 Saturday, December 7th Kim Shepard
 Sunday, December 8th Eli Fitch
 Sunday, December 8th Katie Krantz
 Sunday, December 8th Joseph Leisure
 Monday, December 9th Emil Nagel
 Tuesday, December 10th Hunter Dodge
 Tuesday, December 10th Linda Kroske
 Tuesday, December 10th Jonathan Krosnosky
 Tuesday, December 10th Maren Krosnosky
 Tuesday, December 10th Minister Deb Noll
 Tuesday, December 10th Keegan Puthoff
 Tuesday, December 10th Anna Wolford
 Wednesday, December 11th Taylor Welty
 Thursday, December 12th Emily Clark
 Thursday, December 12th Jamie Kemerley
 Friday, December 13th Chris Reichley
 Friday, December 13th Zhanna Ruehle
 Saturday, December 14th Hayden Walters
 Monday, December 16th Amanda Panfil
 Monday, December 16th Stephen Welly
 Tuesday, December 17th Zoya Habib
 Wednesday, December 18th Chelsea Boehm
 Thursday, December 19th Paul Kroske
 Saturday, December 21st Andrew Kroske
 Saturday, December 21st Lance Leisure
 Sunday, December 22nd Taylor Laird
 Sunday, December 22nd Colin Tobin
 Monday, December 23rd Ellieana Marquart
 Monday, December 23rd Evelyn Robison
 Monday, December 23rd Beverly Snyder
 Tuesday, December 24th Freya Ruehle
 Wednesday, December 25th Emelia Carey
 Thursday, December 26th RuthAnn Bower
 Thursday, December 26th Jennifer Griggs
 Thursday, December 26th Lucas Henson

Saturday, December 28th Kirsten Grostick
 Saturday, December 28th Kevin Light
 Saturday, December 28th Alex vonStein
 Sunday, December 29th Stephanie Krosnosky
 Tuesday, December 31st Elaine Ingram




December 2024 Wedding Anniversaries

Friday, December 6th Willis and Arlene Marquart – 66
 Wednesday, December 18th Chad and Penny Ward – 14
 Sunday, December 22nd Phil and Tracy Riegle – 17



ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ DECEMBER 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:00AM Traditional Worship / Communion 10:15AM Sunday School 11:00AM – 1:00PM Community Meal 11:15AM – 12:15AM Contemporary Worship / Communion 5:00PM – 6:00PM Confirmation Classes 6:00PM – 8:00PM ReFUEL	2 7:30PM Dartball Dola @ Jenera Jr. Jenera Sr. @ St. Johns/Trinity	3	4 7:00PM Senior Choir Practice	5 6:00PM Sunday School Room reserved by "The Jokers" 6:30PM Youth Board Meeting / Hull's Trace	6	7
8 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:00AM Traditional Worship / Communion 10:15AM Sunday School 11:15AM – 12:15AM Contemporary Worship / Communion 3:00PM – 5:00PM Ignite Christmas Party 5:00PM – 6:00PM Confirmation Classes 6:00PM – 8:00PM ReFUEL Christmas Party	9 7:30PM Dartball Jenera Jr. @ Upper Sandusky Dola @ Jenera JSr.	10 6:30PM Congregational Council Meeting	11 7:00PM Senior Choir Practice	12 6:00PM Sunday School Room reserved by "The Jokers"	13	14
15 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 10:00AM Christmas Program "He Made a Way in A Manger"	16 Deadline to order "Meal in a Box" 7:30PM Dartball Jenera Jr. @ Salem, Findlay Upper Sandusky @ Jenera Sr.	17 NO WELCA Meeting	18 Choir – Christmas Caroling	19 6:00PM Sunday School Room reserved by "The Jokers"	20	21 9:00AM – NOON "Meal in a Box" pick-up
22 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:00AM Traditional Worship 10:15AM Sunday School 11:15AM Contemporary Worship / Communion	23 NO Dartball / Christmas Break	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 7:00PM Christmas Eve Service / Communion 	25 NATIVITY OF OUR LORD CHRISTMAS DAY Church Office Closed Fellowship Hall reserved by Rachel Hartman	26	27	28
29 FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS 9:00AM Christmas Hymn Sing 10:15AM Sunday School 11:15AM Contemporary / Communion	30 NO Dartball / Holiday Break	31	ALTAR GUILD: Anna Wolford LECTOR: Paul Hartman ORGANIST: DECEMBER 1 ST , 8 TH , 15 TH , 22 ND , 24 TH , AND 29 TH – Lisa Gossman			