



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.*

AMY GIBSON, YOUTH MINISTRY COORDINATOR: PHONE: 419-348-1653

E-MAIL ADDRESS: stpaulyouthministry1@gmail.com

CHURCH OFFICE PHONE: 419-326-3535

CHURCH OFFICE E-MAIL: stpaullutheran6@yahoo.com

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN WEBSITE ~ www.stpaullutheranjenera.org

ST. PAUL "MESSENGER"

MARCH ~ 2025

LENTEN JOURNEY

The Forty Days ~ We Come with Open Hearts

Our Lenten Journey theme is: *We Come with Open Hearts*. With open hearts we come to worship on Ash Wednesday and the five Wednesdays that follow, in addition to Sunday mornings. Each Wednesday begins with a Bible Study (5:00pm, Library), *Read, Reflect, Relax in God's Word*. Hearts will open to learning God's Word through the spiritual practices of *Lectio Divina*, *Visio Divina*, and *Praying with Imagination*. Soup Suppers (6:00pm, Fellowship Hall) will open hearts to appreciate the best soups as prepared by our members. A sensory table will welcome worshippers as they come to worship (7:00pm, Sanctuary). Our hearts will experience God's lessons focusing on: seeing, hearing, smelling, touching, and tasting as experienced at the sensory table and in worship. The Sunday schedule remains the same: Traditional Service, 9:00am, Sunday School, 10:15am, and Contemporary Service, 11:15am. Below are the dates and themes for each Sunday and Wednesday of Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday.

ASH WEDNESDAY — *A Life-giving Cross*

March 5, 2025 — 7:00pm – Worship with the Disposition of Ashes and Holy Communion

SUNDAYS OF LENT

March 9, 2025 – *Believe with the Whole Heart*

9:00am – Worship with Holy Communion

11:15am – Worship with Holy Communion

March 16, 2025 – *Fox and Hen*

9:00am – Service of the Word

11:15am – Worship with Holy Communion

March 23, 2025 – *Incline Your Ear ~ Listen*

9:00am – Service of the Word

11:15am – Worship with Holy Communion

March 30, 2025 – *Happy Are We!*

9:00am – Service of the Word

11:15am – Worship with Holy Communion

April 6, 2025 – *All Things New*

9:00am – Worship with Holy Communion

11:15am – Worship with Holy Communion

WEDNESDAYS OF LENT

March 12, 2025 – *Hearts Open to Sight*

5:00pm – *Read, Reflect, Relax in God's Word*

6:00pm – Soup Supper

7:00pm – Worship — Sensory Table: Seeing

March 19, 2025 – *Hearts Open to Sound*

5:00pm – *Read, Reflect, Relax in God's Word*

6:00pm – Soup Supper

7:00pm – Worship — Sensory Table: Hearing

March 26, 2025 – *Hearts Open to Scent*

5:00pm – *Read, Reflect, Relax in God's Word*

6:00pm – Soup Supper

7:00pm – Worship — Sensory Table: Smelling

April 2, 2025 – *Hearts Open to Touch*

5:00pm – *Read, Reflect, Relax in God's Word*

6:00pm – Soup Supper

7:00pm – Worship — Sensory Table: Touching

April 9, 2025 – *Hearts Open to Taste*

5:00pm – *Read, Reflect, Relax in God's Word*

6:00pm – Soup Supper

7:00pm – Worship — Sensory Table: Tasting

I look forward to seeing you often during this season of Lent. In Christ's Love, Minister Deb

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2025 – 7:00PM

Attendance: Jan Grieser, Jane Follas, Mary Coldren, Minister Deb Noll, Tom Carey, Jake Leu, Emily Clark, Tom Marquart, Nathan Cowan, Amy Gibson, Jacob Orwick, Amanda Price and Deb Clevenger.

CALL TO ORDER – Jan Grieser

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7pm and the following updated goals reflecting the Northwestern Ohio Synod focus *Year of Listening* were reviewed:

Listen and respond to the needs of our congregation and include more members

- Encourage and support young families
- Hearing the importance of friends for the young people at events
- Question: How do we encourage friendship building? The Chair will get input from Amy Gibson.

Update all job descriptions and church bylaws

- Contacted Paul Hartman to help with updates
- Will work with staff support to create new job descriptions by or before the June meeting
- The constitution needs updated after the church-wide assembly; need volunteers to serve on that task force

Develop a five-year plan for ministry and building

- I spoke with Pastor Steve Ramsey who reported five members of Good Hope are currently in foundational training to become a SAM if they choose. Pastor Steve suggested meeting with representatives of the four churches close to us to collaborate and determine how we can support each other. I reached out to them and we'll be meeting in the near future.
- I contacted the Synod and they are setting up a meeting to clarify who can be eligible (I welcome any volunteers to help develop this five-year plan to bring to Council)
- I spoke with Adam Willford about his qualifications

Expand Staff Support to include Parish Relations

- Staff Support will remain the same
- Elders will be available for congregational needs

Keep Council informed of Synod's activities, programs and resources

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

The Chair noted some confusion surrounding Lutheran Social Services due to the fact that LSS is also an adoption agency. Members can go to their website or on X for more information.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved with one correction: Youth Board representative for 2025 is Amanda Price, not Jen Welte.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Jake Leu

- Financial statements were reviewed. Total income in Jan-2025 was \$20,345.14 vs. a budgeted amount of \$19,279.33. Total expenses for the same period were \$47,105.05 actual vs. \$22,605.77 budgeted.
- Clarification was provided regarding the credit of a \$33.90 expense under Committees, Worship, Other.
- Account balances were then reviewed, and it was noted that the Council Discretionary Fund balance is now \$46.37 after gifting \$2,000 to Betty Sharrer toward housing following a devastating fire. It was also noted that the balance of \$12,480.66 in the Missions fund includes nearly \$10,000 that has been designated for new playground equipment, and contributions toward this equipment continues to come in.
- Expenses in January 2025 were higher than typical months due to the payment of new service projectors, property taxes, and year-end distributions.

- Interest income generated by our Money Market account is estimated at \$639.54 for January 2025. This amount is lower than previously because the former locked-in rate expired and the new lower rate now fluctuates several times a month. I will contact other banks to compare interest rates and report at next month's meeting.
- Year-end taxes have been filed, and employees have received their W-2s.
- The remaining contribution statements that have not been picked up in the welcome space will be mailed.
- The new payroll system is working well and no complaints have been received.
- We had an issue with regard to automatic payments to HDR Link, but that has been resolved.
- An issue that I realized recently was that I sent our first quarter contribution of \$2,500 to the ELCA, but failed to add it to my calendar and no more contributions were made in 2024. How should I handle this? A motion was made by Tom Marquart that we contribute a lump sum of \$7,500 to fulfill our 2024 commitment, and continue with typical quarterly contributions from this point forward. The motion was seconded by Jake Orwick and discussion followed. Motion carried.
- Discussion was held on a recipient of 2nd quarter designated income, but a decision was tabled until next month.

Account Balances at January 21, 2025	
Checking	
Current	175,368.73
Council Discretionary	2,046.37
Improvement	351.00
Missions	12,480.66
Special Projects	
Shipwreck Festival	2,281.83
Music	2,412.07
C. Price Memorial Funds	27,594.91
Bell Choir	1,412.75
Special Projects - Other	0.06
	<hr/>
	33,701.62
Total Quickbooks Operating/MMDA	\$ 223,948.38
Operating Account	36,117.58
Money Market Demand Accounty (MMDA)	205,263.89
Total Operating/MMDA - Bank	\$ 241,381.47
Outstanding Deposits at 12/31/24	-
Outstanding Checks at 12/31/24	(17,433.09)
Total Reconciled Operating/MMDA	\$ 223,948.38
Savings	
General Memorial	\$ 14,770.21

TRUSTEES REPORT – Tom Marquart

- Bart Welte posted a layout of electrical outlets on the kitchen refrigerator with regard to the use of crock pots.
- New lights were purchased for the outdoor parking lots and will be installed as weather permits.
- The floor mat contract with Kramer Enterprises has been cancelled. New mats have been ordered and will be put down after Kramer picks up their mats. The mat at the main entrance will be larger than existing one.
- New lights have been installed behind the stained-glass windows up front, thanks to Doug Coldren and Wayne Young for their assistance with this project.
- New batteries are on order and will be installed in all exit signs shortly, thanks to Wayne Young.
- Plans are underway in preparation for new floor installation in the fellowship hall the first week of March. Everything needs removed from the hall and conference room. Discussion was held on putting all chairs in the education hallway for one week instead of loading them on and off a trailer. This could be done on Sunday after Sunday School is over. Emily Clark noted her children's 4-H Club will be meeting the afternoon of Sunday, March 2 and could assist with this project. A notice will also be placed in the bulletin for volunteers. Tom noted this would be a good time to inspect for worn chairs, and replace them with new chairs that are currently in the storage room. The Chair asked Wayne Young for input on cleaning equipment for the new

- flooring as well as other hard surfaces throughout the building. Wayne hoped we could find a good, used ride-on floor cleaning machine for large areas for about \$2,000. It was thought having a ride-on machine would ensure more frequent floor cleanings. The Chair will also check with Buckeye Flooring for their input to be sure we're keeping the new flooring in optimal condition. Discussion was then held on where to store a cleaning machine as well as where to put tables the day of floor installation.
- Minister Deb noted that one of the lights in the fellowship hall was flickering during a recent dartball event.
- The Chair thanked the Trustees for installing insulation and heat tape around pipes.

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

- Recent church activities and upcoming events were noted.
- Bishop Beaudoin will be our guest speaker during worship on Oct. 19, 2025. Typically, he likes to hold a Bishop's Q&A teaching session during the Sunday School hour when he visits congregations. It was suggested that we consider the following options on that day: Q&A session at 9am, a single blended worship service at 10am, and a reception table in the welcome space with donuts and coffee.
- The ELCA Churchwide Assembly will be held from Jul. 28–Aug. 2, 2025 in Phoenix AZ, at which time a new Bishop will be elected to replace retiring Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. At this assembly there will be a vote on editorial revisions to the Human Sexuality statements (discussed last month), and a vote on the social statement Civic Life and Faith.

YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT – Amy Gibson

Highlights:

- January *12th – Ignite: Body of Christ*
 19th – Lock-In 6pm-12am: Proverbs and Dartball
 25th – Winter Jam
 Confirmation: 12th, 19th, 26th
 WNL: 15th, 22nd, 29th
- Upcoming:
- February *2nd – ReFUEL: Beatitudes*
 9th – Ignite: Bowling
 23rd – ReFUEL: Bowling
 Confirmation: 2nd, 16th, 23rd
 WNL: 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th
- March *9th – Ignite: Walleye Game*
 16th – ReFUEL
 30th – ReFUEL
 Confirmation: 16th, 23rd, 30th,
- Ongoing: - Planning & Execution of ReFUEL, Ignite, Wednesday Night Live (WNL), Sunday School and
 Confirmation - Create & Distribute: Newsletter Info, Flyers, Bulletin Board, Emails, Texts, Social Media Updates,
 Calendar, Website - Attend: Youth Board, Parish Board, Staff Meetings, Council

- With regard to our church directory, I have completed the Directory Addendum for 2025 with updated addresses and additions, and shared this information with the church secretary. Addendums will be updated annually as separate documents, and print copies will be in the welcome space so members can pick up and keep with their print directory. Mary Coldren and Jenny Welte had a sign-up sheet in the welcome space for members requesting additional print directories, so we plan to purchase 25 count which will give us a few extra copies for new members. Our cost is roughly \$10 each, so that's what members will be charged for additional copies. They will be available for pickup in the welcome space as soon as they arrive, along with addendums. I received today an invoice for renewal of the app which is a locked-in rate of \$99.80/year. Or we could renew for two years at \$169.60 (\$20 savings) or 3 years at \$248.40 (\$50 savings). The app has been updated and now includes a "Groups" category (Council, Youth Board, Parish Board, etc.). Discussion was held on how many members use the app and whether or not to renew it. This item was tabled until next month. Payment is due on March 31.

- Discussion was then held on an app for prayer requests, event updates, etc. Last month, information on the app Constant Contact was shared to Council members via email. However, the Chair has learned from Ed von Stein that we already have something similar available through our worship tools called Community. However, there is no app and it must be accessed through an internet browser. Nadine Boehm is currently experimenting with this tool.
- During discussion about worship tools, it was reported that some members have not been receiving prayer requests. The Chair suggested we put a notice in the bulletin and a sign-up sheet in the welcome space in case others have been accidentally dropped, recommending they report it. Minister Deb noted that Jen Welte recently agreed to serve as another contact for prayer requests, and she'll get with Nadine for the master list. A question was asked about the prayer chain tool and whether or not it also has a directory function. The Chair will check with Ed von Stein.
- Regarding Lenten soup suppers, as I mentioned last month all youth who help are involved in spring sports this year. So, I'm asking other St. Paul groups to host a supper after the youth host the first supper at the beginning of the season. Typical suppers include crock pots of soup, crackers, bread, and a dessert if desired. I'll continue to coordinate these events with the assistance of Mary Coldren. Nadine and Lynn Boehm wish to remain in charge of baking bread and assisting with the flow of Soup Supper. Council will host on March 19. Donations can be directed toward the choice of the host.

PARISH EDUCATION – Emily Clark

- Movie night is coming up this week on Feb. 16 at 6:30pm.
- Kid's Praise will be held two more times in February (19 and 26) despite the bulletin noting otherwise.
- Plans are underway for children's activities during Wednesday night Lenten services beginning the week after Ash Wednesday, similar to Kids Praise but scaled back.
- After Kid's Praise ends, we'll focus on planning the Community Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for April 12.
- RJ Coldren turned in a Campership Application for his mission trip this summer. Emily will give it to Trust Fund Committee Chair, Craig Durliat.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE – Tammy von Stein

- Our Daily Bread served 96 people on January 26. Our next meal will be held February 23 and will feature pork loin, cheesy potatoes, roll, and dessert. We will not be asking for any donations, but will be setting out a sign-up sheet for help with serving and clean up.
- Outreach January project of new bed linens, blankets & pillows yielded 4 pillows, 5 blankets and 16 twin bed linen sets along with some paper towels. Christian Clearing House was very appreciative of the donation.
- Outreach will continue be the hands and feet of the Lord and serve our community through Our Daily Bread monthly meals and continue with other outreach initiatives through various projects. Will be planning a collection in April and May in conjunction with Good Hope Food Pantry; more details to come.
- Minister Deb noted that Vera Sheets has resigned from this committee to serve on Worship Committee. Pam Pepple will fill the vacancy within Outreach. The Chair noted that Kay Sidle will be joining the Staff Support Committee.
- Minister Deb reported that a new member class will be held before year-end.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

- As mentioned in the previous report, Vera Sheets will fill the vacancy in this committee.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Jen Welte will be assisting Nadine Boehm with the distribution of prayer requests, and members who haven't been getting requests are asked to contact Jen or Nadine. Ed von Stein is researching a new tool for distribution.
- A nominee for the position of Vice Chair is still needed.

NEW BUSINESS

- The annual list of church cleaning groups was reviewed. The Chair noted this list was updated last year, but there are more members to be added and removed. Sean Adams will be added to list #2 Education Wing. Wayne Young was added to list #3 Fellowship Hall.

- Discussion was held on adding a digital calendar to the church website. Amy noted this was brought up in the past but no decision was made due to who will update/maintain it. Chelsea Boehm was suggested, but perhaps she should be a paid staff member because she already posts updates for several other groups.
- Minister Deb requested a heads-up when future activities/events are scheduled.

ADJOURN

- Prior to adjournment, the Chair asked for news of the flock and prayer requests. The meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer at 8:30pm. The next meeting will be held on March 11, 2025 at 7:00pm, led by Jan Grieser.

Natalie McClelland, Recording Secretary

Synod Authorized Minister's Report St. Paul Congregational Council February 11, 2025

Word for Thought – a devotion for the Year of Listening, provided by the Synod, written by Steve Ackerman, St. John Lutheran Church (Windfall), Cardington.

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

Devotional Reflection

2025 is the Year of Listening in the Northwest Ohio Synod. The theme verse is Isaiah 55:3a which reads “Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.” As I read this verse I am drawn to the word “incline”.

The use of this word suggests more than mere auditory perception, it suggests an attitude. To incline one's ear to God hints at a purposeful effort to direct our attention towards Him and comprehend His message. It implies a humble and receptive stance, demonstrating our eagerness to receive divine guidance and wisdom. By inclining our ear, we exhibit a willingness to be instructed and led by God.

When we incline our ear, we draw closer to God, fostering a deeper relationship with Him. This connection brings spiritual nourishment and fulfillment. Our hearts and minds are transformed, leading to personal growth and a more meaningful life.

Moreover, the word “incline” can also be used as a noun, illustrating the benefits of inclining our ear. An incline consists of two planes—a horizontal plane and a vertical plane. Through these planes, an incline enables us to move simultaneously forward and upward. Inclining our ear toward God moves us forward with the knowledge and insights we have already gained, while also propelling us upward to discover new revelations that He has in store for us.

As we embark on the Year of Listening, let us resolve to incline our ears towards God. May we seek His presence, actively listen to His voice, and respond with obedience and faith. In doing so, we will experience the transformative power of spiritual listening, leading to a more meaningful and fulfilling life in Him.

Reflecting on this, how can you cultivate a deeper sense of spiritual listening in your daily life?
What distractions might you need to set aside to truly hear and respond to God's voice?

Let us pray: Heavenly Father, thank You for inviting us to come to You and listen. Help us to quiet our hearts and minds so that we can hear Your voice clearly. Teach us to seek You earnestly and to prioritize our relationship with You above all else. May Your words bring life and direction to our paths. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Activity Since the January Council Meeting:

Worship, Church Functions, Member Contact Outside of Worship

- Worship Services (x8)
- Baptism (x1)

- “The Jokers” Card Group (x4)
- In-office, home, and phone visitations (x5)
- Hospital visitation (x1)
- Confirmation Classes (x3)
- Choir (x2)
- Dartball (x3)
- Outreach Committee Meeting (x1)
- *Our Daily Bread* community meal (x1)
- Care Cards & Thank You Cards Mailed (x13)
- Kids Praise (x3)
- Parsonage B&B Clean & Refresh (x1)
- Sewing Day Meal (x1)

Related Church Activities

- Community Meal Fundraiser for Betty Sharrer and son Robert (x1)
- Thank you letters sent to the donors and churches involved with the fundraiser (x11)
- SAM Supervisor Session (x3)
- SAM Cohort Zoom Meeting (x1)
 - This month’s speaker was Bishop Beaudoin
 - ✓ The Northwestern Ohio Synod serves 1.53 million people over the 23 counties of Northwestern Ohio
 - ✓ The Synod is divided into 7 Conferences served by Deans (liaisons to the bishop).
 - ✓ 143 parishes and 2 Synod Authorized Worshipping Communities
 - ✓ 201 Ordained Pastors (109 active and 92 retired)
 - ✓ 25 Synod Authorized Ministers serving Lutheran & Methodist congregations

Upcoming Events

- February 16, 2025 – Serenity Spring Sunday afternoon worship
- March 5, 2025 – Ash Wednesday Worship 7:00pm (distribution of ashes & Holy Communion)
- March 12, 19, 26, April 2, and 9 – Five Wednesdays of Lent; theme: *We Come with Open Hearts* Bible Study – *Read, Reflect, and Relax in God’s Word*, Soup Suppers, & Worship
- April 5, 2025 – First Communion Retreat Saturday 9:00 to Noon (4 youth)
- April 13, 2025 – Palm Sunday
- April 17, 2025 – Maundy Thursday w/Holy Communion and stripping of the altar
- April 18, 2025 – Good Friday, 2 services at 1:00 and 7:00
- April 20, 2025 – Easter Sunday
- October 19, 2025 – (Harvest Home) Bishop Beaudoin is scheduled to be with us.

Item of Interest

- July 28 – August 2, 2025, the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix, Arizona

Items for Consideration

- Setting date for Shipwreck Sunday (the 17th is on a Wednesday) Do we go back to the 14th or ahead to the 21st?
- Request for a Temple Talk . . . Dr. George Ghanem, Holy Land Christian Solidarity Cooperative

Respectfully Submitted
 Deb Noll,
 Synod Authorized Minister

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR MARCH 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: Marjorie Reichley – uncover / Vera Sheets – cover

LECTOR: Jane 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 FEBRUARY 2025: Austynn Beagle (*Mitch & Catherine Beagle's newborn at Children's Hospital, Columbus*); Edwin Boehm (*Allen's brother*); Mary Cowan; Jon Gast; Marsha Grieser; Norm Hahn; Nancy Wolford Heacock (*David Wolford's sister*); Deborah Jenkins (*cousin of Tom Valentage*); Jane Kidd (*sister-in-law of Vicky Bauman*); Steve McClelland; Dick Noll; Faye Pacher (*Beth Wilhelm's mother*); Peggy Pfeiffer (*fighting cancer & an Upper Sandusky dartball player*); family and friends of June Reger (*Louise Wilson's sister*); Norma Riegle (*starting chemo treatments & Betty Sharrer's sister*); Evelyn Robison; Betty Sharrer & son Robert (*house fire*); Debra Sharrer (*Betty's daughter*); Aaron Smith; all military personnel including — Griffin Hartman, Lance Leisure, Evan McMonigal, Justin Riegle, Nate Sheets, Colin and Annabelle Tobin, and Alex vonStein — Songambe Lutheran Church; Navajo Lutheran Mission School, Rock Point, AZ; Hancock County Religious Education; and Mission Possible for Haiti.

Thank You ~ Thank You ~ Thank You ~ ~

The residents of The Orchard wish to thank the Community Meal Committee for sharing the delicious chili and sliders with us.

The Orchard Residents

What a wonderful Christian outpouring of love was shown last Sunday at the benefit luncheon for Betty and Robert Sharrer. Thank you is inadequate for everyone who helped set up and take down, those who donated food, time and money, those who worked in the kitchen, and everyone from the four churches who worked together to make this happen. We sincerely appreciate your generosity and kindness.

The Organizing Committee: Cheri, Jonna, Teri, Rita, Sue, Lisa, Vera, & Christine

Thank you from Pastor Tom Frey via a text to Minister Deb:

Dear Members of St. Paul, Jenera, I have to admit it brought a tear to my eye and touched my heart deeply when I got word that you, my family and friends from St. Paul (which makes One Body of Christ), share with us not only your prayers but your financial gift. The people of St. Peter Lutheran, Fort Myers Beach, were touched deeply as well. I have been serving as interim pastor at St. Peter since November 2024, and the members are living proof that a church is not a building . . . but people! You – the members of St. Paul – are living proof as well! Hurricane Ian (a couple of years ago) wiped out our Sanctuary! The congregation was in the process of rebuilding and looking forward to moving back into the Sanctuary when hurricanes Helene and Milton wiped out any progress. We continue to worship under a tent along with two other congregations (Methodist and Episcopal) who decided not to rebuild. We are hoping to have a re-dedication of our new Sanctuary sometime before Easter! My prayers have always been — and will continue to be — with my “home” congregation of St. Paul. The people of St. Peter Lutheran Church and I join in giving thanks to God for you, your ministry, your prayers, your gift, and your love!

In His Love and Service, Pastor Tom Frey

Dear Friends in Christ! Thank You !! We have been so blessed by your giving. As I announced to our congregation on Sunday, we have chosen an appropriate name, “Blessing Basket Pantry”. God Bless you and your ministry.
Patti Heldman, St. John’s Lutheran Church Food Pantry

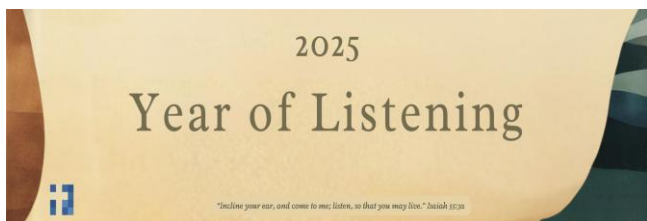
There is a Thank You card on the Information Counter in the Welcome Space signed by the boys who used the Fellowship Hall for basketball practice ~ **Thank you for allowing the 1st–3rd Grade Arlington boys to use the Fellowship Hall for basketball practice!**

It is time again to say “THANK YOU” to Emily Clark and the Parish Board, generous congregational members, WELCA, Dartball, teachers, helpers and kitchen staff for another great session of Kid’s Praise. This would not be possible without the cooperation of everyone working together. We are so blessed.

Thank you to all who helped in the kitchen for the Dartball Tournament which was held on Saturday, February 15th.

Linda Wilson

The residents of the Orchard wish to thank the Community Meal Committee and workers for sharing the wonderful meal on February 23rd. Thank you,
The Orchard Residents



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.

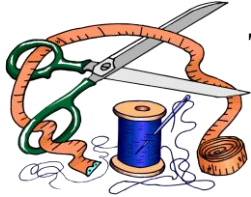
I’m excited to share in this “Year of Listening” and I hope you are too.

Blessings, Minister Deb



86 people attended the February 23rd Community Meal with an additional 26 take out orders for a total of 112 meals. The next Our Daily Bread Community Meal will be held on Sunday, March 30th. Again, we want to thank EVERYONE who helped with setup, donated food/money, helped serve during the meal and especially afterwards!!! Many hands help to lighten the load and it is greatly appreciated

Wishing Darwin Wilson a very happy, happy, happy 90th birthday on Tuesday, March 18th.



The March Sewing Days will be on Tuesday, March 11th and Tuesday, March 25th 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 7 ladies at the Sewing Day on Wednesday, February 26th. 6 quilts were brought in and 5 quilts were finished for a total of 55 quilts.

**EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM SPONSORED BY: ST. PAUL LYO
THE PROCEEDS FROM THIS EASTER FLOWER
SALE WILL GO TOWARDS: St. Paul Youth Projects**

Offered will be a 12–inch pansy bowl (and/or) a 6½ inch pot of tulips in Easter colors at a cost of \$13.00 per plant.

Deadline for placing orders will be Sunday, March 30, 2025.

Order forms are available on the Information Counter in the Welcome Space.

 **KIDS PRAISE**

There were 37 kids and 23 adults at the Wednesday, January 15th Kids Praise.
There were 53 kids and 26 adults at the Wednesday, January 29th Kids Praise.
There were 22 kids and 22 adults at the Wednesday, February 5th Kids Praise.
Kids Praise was cancelled for Wednesday, February 12th because of winter storm prediction.
There were 49 kids and 21 adults at the Wednesday, February 19th Kids Praise.
There were 58 kids and 23 adults at the Wednesday, February 26th Kids Praise Party.


Kids Praise will meet on Wednesdays during the Lenten Season from 6:45PM – 7:30PM.

ReFUEL and Ignite INFORMATION for MARCH

Sunday, March 9 th	Ignite / Walleye Hockey Game — 4:00PM
Sunday, March 16 th	ReFUEL — 6:00PM – 8:00PM
Sunday, March 30 th	ReFUEL — 6:00PM – 8:00PM

CONFIRMATION CLASSES for MARCH

Sunday, March 2 nd	Confirmation Classes	5:00PM – 6:00PM
Sunday, March 9 th	NOTE: <u>NO</u> Confirmation Classes	
Sunday, March 16 th	Confirmation Classes	5:00PM – 6:00PM
Sunday, March 23 rd	Confirmation Classes	5:00PM – 6:00PM
Sunday, March 30 th	Confirmation Classes	5:00PM – 6:00PM



St. Paul Lutheran Church
Ash Wednesday Service 7pm
Distribution of Ashes and Holy Communion

“...you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” Genesis 3:19



Lenten Midweek
Soup Suppers

Hosted By:
March 12th - Youth
March 19th - Church Council
March 26th - WELCA
April 2nd - KP Kitchen Crew
April 9th - **Volunteers Needed**

If you are able to volunteer, please contact Amy Gibson or Mary Coldren.

6PM

BRING YOUR FAVORITE SOUP OR DESSERT TO SHARE!

ST. PAUL LYO PRESENTS

FLAP JACKS AND FLANNEL

Pancake breakfast
Egg Bake,
Sausage Links,
Fruit, Milk,
Coffee and OJ

*Gluten Free and Sugar Free options available

March 16th, 2024
11AM - 1PM



Come to church in all your best flannel: shirts, jackets, pjs, etc.

Free will donation

Wednesdays
March 12th-April 9th

the **EPIC**
EASTER TRIVIA
Show

The **ULTIMATE** Final Answer

Lenten Kids Praise!
Grades PreK-5
6:45-7:30pm



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In God's Word

A Lenten Bible Study. 2025

This year, our Lenten Theme is: "We Come with Open Hearts".

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on Wednesday March 5th.

Following is our mid-week schedule:

Wednesday, March 5th, 7:00pm – Worship with disposition of ashes and Holy Communion

Wednesdays, March 12th, 19th, 26th and April 2nd and 9th:

5:00pm — Bible Study – "Read, Reflect, Relax in God's Word"

6:00pm — Soup Suppers

7:00pm — Worship – "We Come with Open Hearts"

The Spiritual Practices of Lectio Divina (divine listening), Visio Divina (divine seeing), and Praying with Imagination (imagining different aspects of the text) will be explored in the weekly Bible Studies. The Wednesday Worship Services will feature a different one of the human senses each week. During the week before and the evening of, a sensory table will be on display by which to explore God's love in Christ through sight, sound, scent, touch, and taste.



🌟 Treasure Hunt for a Cause — Annual Benefit Garage Sale! 🌟

📅 Event Dates & Times:

◆ Saturday, March 15 — 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM

◆ Sunday, March 16 — 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

📍 Location: Brinkman's County Corner
1800 East Sandusky Street, Findlay, Ohio

🎉 Treasures Galore! 🎉

Shop for incredible bargains on household items, books, toys, furniture, collectables and more— all while supporting Christian Clearing House's mission to assist neighbors in need.

📦 Donations Accepted:

We welcome your gently used items! Drop off donations

February 17 – March 8 during the following hours:

🕒 Monday — Friday: 9:00 AM — 4:00 PM

🕒 Saturdays (February 22nd, March 1st and March 8th): 9:00 AM — 1:00 PM

To schedule pick up of larger items contact CCH at 419-422-2222.

💜 Your donations and purchases make a difference in our community!

Thank you for supporting this meaningful cause.

For more information, contact CCH at 419-422-2222.

Dear St, Paul,

I pray this letter finds you well! I want to bring you up to date on what is happening in my life. I am in my sophomore year at Miami University Ohio. College has been a wonderful chapter in my life so far; I have learned much academically and have built some great relationships, but most importantly I have gained a new outlook and appreciation for my faith in Jesus Christ. I have found a strong community of fellow believers in the organization on campus called Cru. Unlike some activities or clubs that serve as a distraction from the real world, I have found Cru to provide opportunities to make meaningful change on campus and connections with some of my closest friends. My involvement in Cru has also allowed me to deepen my relationship with the Lord by participating in two Bible studies on campus, one as a student and one as a leader, as well as campus ministry and social outreach. Cru (www.cru.org) is an interdenominational ministry organization that has cared for college students since 1951. They have a huge presence on Miami's campus and on another 3,500 campuses in the U.S. and overseas. Thanks to the growth I have seen in my faith as a part of Cru, I have been given the opportunity to listen to God calling me to share His Word, first around Miami's campus and this summer on a mission trip.

This summer I have the incredible opportunity to go with approximately 90 other students from across the U.S. to Ocean City, New Jersey. An experience like this will be unlike anything I have been a part of before. There are few other environments that encourage the development of spiritual leadership and ministry skills, skills that will better equip me and the other missionaries for outreach not just on campus but in every future situation I find myself in. I will be sharing my faith mostly with vacationers and college students visiting this tourist town, including outreaches on the beach, at work, and in public campus spaces. When not doing outreach, I will be in a small group Bible study as well as discipleship under a Cru staff member. I am so excited to follow God's plan for me, deepening my focus on Him and sharing His Gospel with everyone I can this summer.

In order to go on this mission, I am developing a team of ministry partners to support my trip. One of the largest steps of faith is trusting the Lord in the process of going on a mission trip. The total cost is \$4,450, due by Saturday, May 31st, covering room and board, as well as the ministry training I will receive.

Would you prayerfully consider supporting my trip by giving a gift of \$25, \$50, \$100 or more? Whatever the Lord leads you to give is the right amount, and I would be greatly thankful for anything given. All gifts are tax deductible; you can make checks to the order of Cru with a note saying "deposit for RJ Coldren". You would mail this check to the mission trip treasurer: Sean Riley, 509 South Fancher Street, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48588. Or, you can give online directly through my giving link: <https://give.cru.org/1284265>. Please reach out to me with any questions you might have at my email: coldrerd@miamioh.edu, or texting my personal phone number (419)788-6454.

More than anything I need your prayers as I seek to follow the Lord by participating in this summer mission trip. Thank you for considering supporting my journey to help proclaim the Gospel and good news of Christ in Ocean City, New Jersey this summer!

With Love and Honor,



RJ Coldren



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CHURCH CLEANING ~ 2025

Our aim is to give our church a **general cleaning** once a year. It is a big task, and each of us should feel the responsibility to help in some way, if possible. There has been a good response on the part of many in the way we have done this cleaning for many, many years. The same cleaning groups are kept, but the chairmanship is rotated. **This list names the chairperson for 2025, and the vice chairperson who will be chairperson in 2026.** If for any reason you will not serve, please notify the chairperson of your committee. If you wish to trade places with someone on another committee, you may, but please notify the chairperson of the committees involved.

There is no rule about when the work should be completed, but we aim for completion by Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025. Chairpersons should co-ordinate their committee's schedule of work with the custodians, who are the general chairperson of all the committees. The work plan may be announced in the Sunday bulletin, or personally to the members of the cleaning committees involved. **Please be sure to notify the church secretary, Jane Wilch, (419-326-3535) when you decide which day or evening that you will be working, so that conflicts with other church meetings can be avoided.** Major cleaning supplies will be furnished. The chairperson or committees may turn in to the trustees any suggestions that they, or any of their committee, think good to consider. Please check with the custodians before any major cleaning of carpets are done.

THE FOUR AREA COMMITTEES AND THE CHAIRPEOPLE

#1 Worship Space / Sacristy

Chad Parke, CHP.

Pete Wilson, VCHP

Christine Kemerley
Larry Parke
Linda Isenbarger
Doug Coldren (drums)
Sean Tobin
Craig Durliat
Jerry Kimmel
James Kemerley
Merritt VonStein
Scott McDowell
Heather Walters
Beth Bell
Andrew Follas
Mike Ingram
Lisa Gossman
Amy Krantz
Ron McDowell
Tom Boehm
Mike Hoffman
Dave Wolford
Emil Nagel
Nathan Cowan
Darwin Wilson
Beth Wilhelm
Marty Grieser
Mark Bower

#2 Education Wing

Jake Leu, CHP.

Ryan Riegle, VCHP.

Allen Boehm
Ryan Leisure
Joe Loy
Jane Follas
Dustin Price
Steve Clark
Gary Wilson
Justin Gillespie
Britt Gibson
Tom Valentage
Mike Orwick
Sonja Eversole
Rachel Hartman
RuthAnn Bower
Ron Riegle
Mike Stoltz
Sean Adams
Kreg Sheets

**#3 Fellowship Hall / Kitchen /
Conference Room**

Marcia Russell, CHP.

Jill Bower, VCHP.

Ruth Lamberjack
Dan Settlege
Bob Coldren
Lynn Boehm
Vera Sheets
Steve McClelland
Doug Coldren
Marjorie Reichley
Bart Welte
Ed vonStein
Kay Sidle
Steve Reichley
Keith Bower
Nancy Smith
John Wilson
Mike Lentz
Nate Sheets
Nik Boehm
Chelsea Boehm
Wayne Young
Deb Clevenger
Roger Rettig

**#4 Welcome Space / Offices / Nursery /
Restrooms**

Ryan Robinson, CHP.

Tom Marquart, VCHP.

Derek Kerner
Melissa Kroske
John Rettig
Lauren Etler
Carlie vonStein
Jon Gast
Tom Carey
Paul Hartman
Dan Ludwig
Willis Marquart
James Marshall
Gerald Rettig
Kendra Rodriquez
Jan Grieser
Lee Laird
Amber Hirt
Deb Best
Joe Creque
Jeff Pepple
Aaron Smith
Phyllis Rettig
Mitch Wilson
Keith Robinson

You are ALL very much needed!

**If your name has been overlooked, please call the
church office — 419-326-3535.**

Mistakes can be made with this many names!

March 2025 Birthdays

Saturday, March 1 st	Riley Bayer
Saturday, March 1 st	Roger Rettig
Monday, March 3 rd	Reis Steinmetz
Tuesday, March 4 th	Amanda Leu
Wednesday, March 5 th	Mike Inbody
Wednesday, March 5 th	Patricia Reichley
Thursday, March 6 th	Sean Tobin
Friday, March 7 th	Greg Hartman
Friday, March 7 th	Raigan Smith
Saturday, March 8 th	Kieran Price
Saturday, March 8 th	Kollins Robinson
Sunday, March 9 th	Loretta Bower
Sunday, March 9 th	Jameson Krantz
Sunday, March 9 th	Ryan Redd
Tuesday, March 11 th	Dylen Hartman
Tuesday, March 11 th	Tom Marquart
Friday, March 14 th	Justin Gillespie
Friday, March 14 th	Lisa Gossman
Friday, March 14 th	Austin Grieser
Friday, March 14 th	Linda Wilson
Saturday, March 15 th	Willis Marquart
Sunday, March 16 th	Zachery Grieser
Sunday, March 16 th	Mary M. Wilson
Monday, March 17 th	Lindsay Boehm
Tuesday, March 18 th	Darwin Wilson
Wednesday, March 19 th	Michael Bower
Wednesday, March 19 th	Cami Settlege
Wednesday, March 19 th	Norah Welly
Thursday, March 20 th	Morgan Smith
Thursday, March 20 th	Payton Smith
Saturday, March 22 nd	Tim Bower
Saturday, March 22 nd	Emilee Bower
Sunday, March 23 rd	Melody McCloud
Sunday, March 23 rd	Nathan Norway
Monday, March 24 th	Tina Cowan
Monday, March 24 th	Connor Rader
Monday, March 24 th	Ruth Tobin
Monday, March 24 th	Ed vonStein
Monday, March 24 th	Bethanee Yost
Tuesday, March 25 th	Matthew Bower
Tuesday, March 25 th	Nick Luke
Thursday, March 27 th	Ben Grieser
Thursday, March 27 th	Cody Light
Thursday, March 27 th	John Wilson
Friday, March 28 th	Deb King
Saturday, March 29 th	Steve McClelland
Saturday, March 29 th	Dru Sidel
Monday, March 31 st	Emily Depuy



March 2025 Wedding Anniversaries

Wednesday, March 12 th	Van and Jane Follas – 49
Saturday, March 15 th	Joe and Toni Loy – 45
Tuesday, March 25 th	James and Jessica Kemerley – 19
Wednesday, March 26 th	Josh and Olivia Homera – 3



ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ MARCH 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Altar Guild: Marjorie Reichley – Uncover / Vera Sheets – Cover Lector: Jane Follas Organist: Lisa Gossman						1
2 TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD 9:00AM Traditional Worship / Communion 10:15AM Sunday School 11:15AM Contemporary Worship / Communion 2:00PM Rock N Roll 4-H Meeting / Fellowship Hall 4:00PM Move furniture for new Flooring / Fellowship Hall and Conference Room 5:00PM – 6:00PM Confirmation Classes	3	4 7:00PM Worship Committee Meeting 7:30PM Youth Board Meeting	5 ASH WEDNESDAY 7:00PM Ash Wednesday Worship Service / Communion / Distribution of Ashes	6 9:30AM Bible Study / Library 6:00PM Sunday School Room reserved by “The Jokers”	7	8
9 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS / SPRING FORWARD 9:00AM Traditional Worship / Communion 10:15AM Sunday School 11:15AM Contemporary Worship / Communion 4:00PM Ignite / Walleye Hockey Game	10	11 9:00AM – 2:00PM Sewing Day 7:00PM Congregational Council Meeting	12 5:00PM Bible Study 6:00PM Soup Supper 6:45PM Kids Praise 7:00PM Lenten Worship	13 6:00PM Sunday School Room reserved by “The Jokers”	14	15
16 SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT 9:00AM Traditional Worship 10:15AM Sunday School 11:00AM – 1:00PM LYO Flapjacks and Flannel Fundraiser 11:15AM Contemporary Worship / Communion 5:00PM – 6:00PM Confirmation Classes 6:00PM – 8:00PM ReFUEL Meeting	17	18 7:00PM WELCA Meeting	19 5:00PM Bible Study 6:00PM Soup Supper 6:45PM Kids Praise 7:00PM Lenten Worship	20 6:00PM Sunday School Room reserved by “The Jokers”	21	22
23 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT 9:00AM Traditional Worship 10:15AM Sunday School 11:15AM Contemporary Worship / Communion 2:00PM Rock N Roll 4-H Meeting / Fellowship Hall 5:00PM – 6:00PM Confirmation Classes	24	25 9:00AM – 2:00PM Sewing Day	26 5:00PM Bible Study 6:00PM Soup Supper 6:45PM Kids Praise 7:00PM Lenten Worship	27 6:00PM Sunday School Room reserved by “The Jokers”	28	29 Fellowship Hall reserved by Melvin and Susie Davis / 50 th Wedding Anniversary Gathering
30 FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT 9:00AM Traditional Worship 10:15AM Sunday School 11:00AM – 1:00PM Community Meal / Fellowship Hall 11:15AM Contemporary Worship / Communion 5:00PM – 6:00PM Confirmation Classes 6:00PM – 8:00PM ReFUEL Meeting	31					