



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 ~ 2025

A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Isaiah 40:3

Happy New Year,

The new church year begins with Advent. We celebrate the presence of God's Word in our daily lives as we anticipate the Savior's birth, and await his coming again. The texts for this Advent Season are from the Gospel according to Matthew. Matthew's gospel doesn't offer the angel's visitation to Mary, nor does it give a manger scene, or shepherds. Matthew's account begins with the lineage of Jesus and family connections through the line of David and Abraham.

Making family connections can be a struggle during the holiday season. Think about ways your family might connect during this time of the year. What about devotions around an Advent wreath? The wreath is symbolic of everlasting life. It represents the crown of Jesus and his victory over death. Lighting the wreath brings Christ's light into the home, and smoke carries his message into the world. *Sundays and Seasons* offer these suggestions:

Week 1 – Peace, focus on Mary

Light A Candle: Baby Jesus, your arrival will change everything. With Mary, we know we're not ready yet. We light one candle and take comfort that we have time to prepare for the peace that comes. Amen. **Gospel:** Matthew 1:18. **Discussion:** What might this experience be like for Mary? What would you say to Mary to offer comfort?

Blessing: May God's peace attend us this night. Whatever challenges we face, help us know that we are never alone. The triune God – Holy Spirit as close as breath, Christ drawing near in comfort, and the Creator granting courage – watch over us. Amen.

Week 2 – Hope, focus on Joseph

Light Two Candles: We light two candles and think about all the ways God calls us to unity. We light these candles in gratitude and hope for the unity of the world. Amen. **Gospel:** Matthew 1:18–20. **Discussion:** What do you think it was like for Joseph to realize Mary was pregnant? What does Joseph gain by stepping openly into a position of care and taking a risky step that many would see as disgraceful? When have you unexpectedly faced a call to care for someone as a family? What difficulties and blessings did you find? **Blessing:** Same as Week 1.

Week 3 – Joy, focus on Emmanuel on the Way

Light Three Candles: We light three candles and know the time of holy birth draws near, whether we are ready or not. We welcome you, Emmanuel, God with us, and pray for your loving presence to stay with us. Amen. **Gospel:** Matthew 1:18–23. **Discussion:** The angel calms Joseph's fears by instructing him to name the baby Emmanuel, assuring him of God's presence. Where does "God with us" appear around you? Where do you see new life, tender and vulnerable, emerging for you in your family relationships? **Blessing:** Same as Weeks 1 and 2.

Week 4 – Love, focus on Jesus

Light Four Candles – We light four candles anxiously awaiting the holy child's birth. In Jesus we know the love of the one who sent him, God the Father of all creation. May all the earth know His love. Amen. **Gospel** – Matthew 1:18–25. **Discussion** – How does Joseph's response demonstrate his faith and willingness to obey God even when it is challenging? How does this passage speak to God's role in intervening in our lives and fulfilling God's plans? **Blessing** – Same as Weeks 1, 2, and 3.

May your home be filled with peace, hope, joy and love this Advent and Christmas Season.

Minister Deb

2025 CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Chairperson: Jan Grieser

419-889-3339

Vice Chair:

419-721-1011

Recording Sec: Natalie McClelland

419-722-4324

Treasurer: Jane Follas

419-722-7458

Elder: Tom Carey

419-306-3451

Elder: Mary Coldren

419-722-5118

Trustees: Tom Marquart

419-306-8260

Jacob Orwick

419-721-8882

Bart Welte

419-721-7127

Deb Clevenger

419-306-1150

Dan Settlage

419-303-2513

Sr. SS Supt: Emily Clark

419-722-6060

Deacons: Nathan Cowan

Lynn Boehm

419-722-8022

Ex-Officio Representatives —

Financial Sec: Jake Leu 567-208-7739

Minister: Deb Noll 419-560-1988

Youth Ministry Coordinator: Amy Gibson 419-348-1653

Youth Board Representative:

Amanda Price 419-957-1988

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2025 – 7:00PM

Attendance: Jan Grieser, Jane Follas, Mary Coldren, Deb Clevenger, Amy Gibson, Minister Deb Noll, Tom Carey, Tom Marquart, Jacob Orwick, Dan Settlage, Nathan Cowan, Jake Leu, and Natalie McClelland.

CALL TO ORDER – Jan Grieser

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7pm and Minister Deb provided a word for thought and prayer. Attendees then recited our Mission Statement: *We celebrate God's love and forgiveness by living the Word and sharing the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.* Members joined together in the Council prayer: *Our gracious God, You have called us to be Your people and to bring Your word to our community. Help us to respond to the guidance and direction of Your Holy Spirit, so that all we do is done according to Your will and gives praise and glory to Your name. Amen.*

STATUS OF GOALS FOR COUNCIL:

Update all job descriptions and update bylaws

- Staff Support has completed detailed job descriptions.
- Updates to our constitution are underway.

Develop a five-year plan for ministry and building

- Create a rough draft of five-year plan; will have a four-year plan in September.

Keep Council informed of Synod's activities and programs

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Jake Leu

Account Balances at October 31, 2025

Checking

Current	126,393.18
Council Discretionary	1,093.31
Improvement	751.65
Missions	12,647.06
Special Projects	
Shipwreck Festival	2,323.44
Music	2,456.07
C. Price Memorial Funds	10,594.71
Bell Choir	1,635.89
Special Projects - Other	0.06
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	17,010.17

Total Quickbooks Operating/MMDA

\$ 157,895.37

Operating Account

Money Market Demand Account (MMDA)	39,532.28
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Total Operating/MMDA - Bank	128,781.09

\$ 168,313.37

Outstanding Deposits at 10/31/25

-

Outstanding Checks at 10/31/25

(10,418.00)

Total Reconciled Operating/MMDA

\$ 157,895.37

Savings

General Memorial	\$ 14,821.32
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- Account balances and financial statements were reviewed. Total income from Jan-Oct 2025 was \$223,656.31 vs. a budgeted amount of \$192,793.33. Total expenses for the same period were \$307,451.39 actual vs. \$226,059.22 budgeted.
- Fellowship hall flooring is to be completed before end of week, after which a final payment will be made.
- Interest income generated by our Money Market account is estimated at ~\$346.00 for October 2025.
- Designated Income received in October was \$1,625.00. Total 4th quarter income has been designated for Open Arms Domestic Violence Shelter in Findlay.
- Regarding a Catechism stipend for Amy Gibson, a motion was made by Tom Marquart to not extend the stipend for Amy starting in January with the new budget. Amy's hours will remain the same with a 3% increase. The motion was seconded by Jacob Orwick and approved.
- The 2026 Church Operating Budget was presented and reviewed. It was noted that total income for 2026 is projected based on year ago Current Givings. This budget will be adjusted downward by \$2,006.40 to account for the Catechism stipend that was declined. A motion to approve the 2026 Church Operating Budget was made by Dan Settlage, seconded by Tom Marquart. Motion carried.
- Discussion was held on a recipient(s) of the Church Discretionary Fund. A suggestion was made to donate to Lutheran Disaster Relief following the hurricane in Jamaica. However, the consensus was to distribute this money locally and consider Lutheran Disaster Relief when distributing year-end benevolence.

TRUSTEES REPORT – Tom Marquart

- It has been recommended that we replace our current oil-filled candles with electric ones. The projector filters are getting soot-filled quickly and dark lines can be seen on the ceiling in the sanctuary. The Chair presented an example of an electric candle that a local church is using. It was also noted that electric candles are safer than open flames in the building and may reduce our insurance premiums. Following discussion, a motion was made by Natalie McClelland to switch from oil candles to electric candles except for special occasions including weddings, the lighting of Advent candles, etc. Jacob Orwick seconded the motion, which was approved.
- Some playground equipment has been unloaded in the pavilion, with more to come this week.
- The water heater for the kitchen had a new element replaced; thank you to Wayne Young.
- The can light in the welcome space is not working; hoping to replace this week. This requires going into the attic for access and replacement. All Phase Electric Supply will be out to provide replacement options.

- The inside door button at the main entrance is not working. Company was called Monday, Nov. 10 and we're waiting to hear back. This may be an outlet issue.
- Kids coat racks in the fellowship hallway have been tightened.
- New batteries were installed in all clocks at the time change; thanks to Keith Robinson.
- Wayne Young will be inspecting the ceiling crack in the sanctuary.
- Thanks to Pete Wilson and John Wilson for taking down two dead pine trees at the parsonage.
- Thanks to Jacob Orwick for removing the old wooden border beams from the stoned playground area.

MINISTER'S REPORT HIGHLIGHTS – Deborah Noll

- Dick and I were very pleased to be received as new members of St. Paul recently.
- The BGSU Men's Chorus concert was wonderful and the students were thrilled with the dinner.
- I've begun working on my required essays for candidacy and seminary admission.
- Bob & Evelyn Robison requested a letter of transfer from St. Paul to English Lutheran Church in Bluffton.
- I'll be taking vacation from Tuesday, Dec. 2 through Friday, Dec. 5, 2025.
- Noll's Holiday Open House will take place at the parsonage on Jan. 4, 2026 from 3-8pm.
- See full report at end of minutes.

YOUTH MINISTRY – Amy Gibson

Highlights:

- October
 - Sunday School Theme: TBD (Think Believe Do) – Sin
 - 12th – Confirmation: Judges 5–6pm
 - 12th – ReFUEL Campfire Night 6–9pm
 - 15th – WNL/Kids Praise Begins (WNL Theme: Fruit of the Spirit) 6:30–7:30pm
 - 18th – Fall Fest (Youth needed to volunteer)
 - 19th – Confirmation Youth will be asked to assist with Worship service
 - 22nd – WNL 6:30–7:30pm
 - 26th – Confirmation: Ruth 5–6pm
 - 26th – ReFUEL 6–8pm
 - 28th – Youth Board 7:30pm
 - 29th – WNL 6:30–7:30pm
- November
 - Sunday School Theme: Gratitude
 - 2nd – Confirmation: Kings 5–6pm
 - 2nd – Ignite 6–8pm
 - 5th – WNL 6:30–7:30pm
 - 9th – Confirmation: Babylonian Captivity 5–6pm
 - 9th – ReFUEL 6–8pm

Upcoming:

- November (continued)
 - 12th – WNL 6:30–7:30pm
 - 16th – Confirmation: Prophets 5–6pm
 - 19th – WNL 6:30–7:30pm
 - 23rd – Confirmation: Psalm 4:30–5:30pm**
 - 23rd – Giving Blitz (grades 7–12) 6–9pm
 - 25th – Youth Board Meeting 7:30pm
- December
 - Sunday School Theme: How the Grinch Met Jesus
 - 7th – Confirmation 4:30–5:30pm**
 - 7th – SOAR Findlay 6–8pm
 - 14th – Confirmation 4:30 – 5:30pm **
 - 14th – Bowling Norada Lanes Ada 6–8pm

Ongoing:

- Planning and Execution of ReFUEL, Ignite, Wednesday Night Live (WNL), Fundraisers, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School Games and Confirmation
- Communication: Newsletter Info, Flyers, Bulletin Board, Emails, Texts, Social Media Updates, Calendar 3–6 months in advance, Website, One on One with Youth (face to face or call/text)
- Attend: Youth Board, Parish Board, Weekly Staff Meetings, Council

Council Requests: N/A

PARISH EDUCATION – Emily Clark

- Kids Praise began on Oct. 15 and has been well attended. There will be two more sessions before taking a holiday break and resuming in January 2026.
- Plans are underway for the children's Christmas program, *A Joy Story*, on Dec. 14 at 10am. The program will include music by the bell choir, senior choir, and praise team. A Christmas brunch will follow the program, hosted by the Outreach Committee.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE – Nathan Cowan (see full report at end of minutes.)

OUTREACH COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS – Chris Sheets

- Our fall outreach project continues as we collect items to support Good Hope's food pantry.
- We will be coordinating a Christmas Brunch following the children's Christmas program on Sunday, Dec. 14 at 10am. The menu includes breakfast casseroles, smoked sausages, cheesy potatoes, fruit, and mini donuts.
- Holiday meal bags will be distributed in December, continuing the tradition from 2024.
- Our January outreach project will support Christian Clearinghouse's bedding drive.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- An app for prayer requests is still being investigated.
- The following slate of officers for 2026 were reviewed:
 - Chair: Jan Grieser
 - Vice Chair: _____
 - Elder: Mary Coldren and Lynn Boehm*
 - Recording Secretary: Natalie McClelland
 - Treasurer: _____
 - 9am Service Deacons: Sean Adams*, _____
 - 11:15am Service Deacons: Lee Laird, Lynn Boehm
 - Trustees: Deb Clevenger, Bart Welte, Dan Settlage, Wayne Young*, Joe Creque*
 - Parish Board Superintendent: Sally Valentage
 - Parish Board Assistant Superintendent: Kendra Parke
 - Parish Board Secretary: Amanda Price
 - Parish Board Treasurer: April Rettig
 - Parish Board Members: Carlie von Stein, Kelsie Gillespie, Lauren Etler *, _____, *, _____, *
- Youth Board: appointed by Council (need Secretary and Vice Chair)

* *Indicates first year of term*

NEW BUSINESS

- The Chair would like to move forward with paying \$3,000 for Minister Deb's portion of seminary cost using funds available from the Monroe & Bessie Crates Education Fund. The motion was made by Deb Clevenger and seconded by Tom Carey. Motion carried. Minister Deb will complete the application so there is a paper trail.
- Discussion was held on thank–you gift cards for volunteers who spend a great deal of time and effort at St. Paul.
- It was reported that the storage area in the fellowship hall has become cluttered again.

ADJOURN

- Prayer requests were presented prior to adjournment. The meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer at 8:15pm. The next meeting will begin with refreshments in the fellowship hall on Dec. 9 at 6:30pm. New members are invited, and all are asked to bring a snack to share.

Natalie McClelland, Recording Secretary

ST. PAUL CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL NOVEMBER 11, 2025 SYNOD AUTHORIZED MINISTER'S REPORT

Word for Thought

Northwestern Ohio Synod Year of Listening Memory Verse

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

Scripture

Psalm 116:1–2

¹ *I love the LORD because he has heard my voice and my supplications.* ² *Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.*

God listens when we pray. God hears our sighs. God hears our cries. God hears our confessions. God hears our shouts of joy. God listens to us. God hears us. God responds to our prayers.

During November our thoughts go to Thanksgiving – the holiday, football games, family dinners with turkey/ham and trimmings. If you pay attention to media and the world around us, there is hardly any attention being given to Thanksgiving Day. Businesses are promoting “Early Black Friday Deals.” Christmas movies, songs, and items are being shown, played, and displayed on TV, radios, and in stores. Our confirmation youth are arguing about when to put up the Christmas tree – some want to do it right now, while others want to wait until after Thanksgiving. Why do we want to pass over the one day specifically set aside for giving thanks?

Maybe, it is because when we stop to reflect on all that we have, we are forced to think about those who have nothing. Maybe that reflection causes us to feel guilty because we haven't done enough to show “love for our neighbor.” Maybe Thanksgiving Day makes us aware that we need a forgiving and loving God and not to rely on ourselves.

I have a pastor friend who claims that when he was young and would want to stay home from church, his mother would respond by saying, “If you have nothing to be thankful for, then you can stay home.” Of course, he always had something to be thankful for, so he always went to church. So:

What do you have to be thankful for this year? “Thank You, Jesus!”

How are you sharing your blessings with your neighbors? “Help me love my neighbor in need.”

Let us pray: Tonight Lord, we give you thanks for veterans who have fought for liberty and freedom. We give you thanks for this church and the many ways in which we offer hospitality, worship, and praise. Help us to learn how we can do more. Let us remember each day to give you thanks for all you have given us 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, Sermons x6, Assistant to the Bishop x2)
- Third Grade Bible Presentation (x1)
- Third Grade Sunday School Lesson on Bible (x1)
- Baptism (x1)
- Funeral Planning / Family Consultation (x1)
- Funeral Visitation (x1)
- Funeral Service (x1)
- Hospital Visits (x1)
- In-office, at home, assisted living, rehab, and phone visitations (x11)
- Outreach Committee (x1)

- WELCA (x1)
- Staff Meeting (x2)
- Confirmation Class (x3)
- “The Jokers” Card Group (x4)
- Choir (x2)
- Kids Praise (x4)
- Trunk-or-Treat (x1)
- Staff Support/Elders (x2)
- Worship Team (x1)
- Dick and I joined the St. Paul Family of Faith

Related Church Activities

- SAM Supervisor Check-in (x3)
- SAM Cohort Monthly Zoom (x2)
- SAM/Supervisor Text Study (x1)
- Central Conference Ministers Gathering (x1)
- Serenity Spring Worship (x1)
- Bishop Daniel Beaudoin’s Visit (Presiding over Worship & Teaching)

Community Involvement

- Bowling Green State University Men’s Chorus
- Ecumenical Ministers’ Lunch

Candidacy/Seminary Update

- Have begun writing the required essays for candidacy and seminary administration

Upcoming Events

- November 13, 2025, 6:00pm – Candidacy & Seminary Meal @ St. John’s Findlay
- November 16, 2025 – Annual Congregational Meeting
- November 19, 2025 – Central Conference Minister’s Gathering @ English, Bluffton
- November 23, 2025, 2:00pm – Serenity Spring Worship
- November 23, 2025, 7:00pm – Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship @ Good Hope, Arlington
- November 30, 2025 – First Sunday of Advent
- December 8, 2025, 6:00pm – SAM/Supervisor CaSTLE Grant dinner @ Hilton Garden Inn, Findlay
- December 14, 2025, 10:00am – Special Christmas Worship planned by Parish Board
- December 14, 2025, after worship – *Our Daily Bread* community meal
- January 4, 2026, 3:00–8:00pm – Noll’s Holiday Open House @ the Parsonage
- January 11, 2026, both services – Installation of Council Officers and Members

Vacation

- Forthcoming Vacation: December 2 through 5, 2025 (Tuesday thru Friday)

For Council’s Information

- Bob and Evelyn Robison requested a letter of transfer from St. Paul to English Lutheran in Bluffton.

Respectfully Submitted
Deb Noll, Synod Authorized Minister

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
WORSHIP COMMITTEE MINUTES
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2025 – 7:00PM

Attendance: Vera Sheets, Minister Deb Noll, Lisa Gossman, Marty Grieser, Nathan Cowan, Jenny Welte, Nancy Tobin, Jan Grieser

The meeting was called to order by Nathan at 7:00pm. Nancy led us in devotions based on Isaiah 38:2.

Old Business:

1. Personal Testimonies

- a) Jenny Welte will do the first Faith Story/Personal Testimony at both services on November 30.
- b) Minister Deb will do a brief Homily, followed by a 5–10 minute Faith Story/Personal Testimony.

2. Special Christmas Service – December 14 (Coordinated by Parish Board)

- a) Bells will be playing 3 pieces. Praise Team and Sr. Choir will also be participating in the service.
- b) Otherwise, nothing new to report on this currently. Will wait for Emily and the Parish Board to reach out with more information, as needed.

3. Plans for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany

- a) The Advent wreath is ready. No new candles are needed. Marty has the prayers for during the lighting of the candles. Jenny will get readers for the 9:00 service and Jan will find readers for the 11:15 service.
- b) The Bell Choir will be providing some pre-service music for the Christmas Eve service. Nancy shared that she has heard comments from people wanting more “special music” in order to make the Christmas Eve service stand out from a regular Sunday morning service.

4. January – March Services.

- a) February 18 – Ash Wednesday
- b) April 5 – Easter
- c) Minister Deb passed out an outline of service plans for Ash Wednesday through Easter.
- d) Discussion was held regarding using Holden Evening Prayer during Lenten evening services. Jenny, Deb and Lisa will collaborate. Jenny is willing to take the leader role.

5. Past Services – feedback:

- a) Bishop Beaudoin enjoyed his time with us on October 19. He commented that our congregation “is blessed”, noting that the music provided that day was beautiful and moving.
- b) People like singing “The Lord’s Prayer” in the services.
- c) Putting herself in the place of a family and sponsors during a baptism, Vera wondered if we can do the Prayers of the People after the baptism, rather than during, so the family and sponsors do not have to stand up in front of the congregation for an extended time period. We will pursue the change for future baptisms.
- d) It was noted that we have had visitors at both 9:00 and 11:15 services recently.

6. BGSU Men’s Chorus Concert

- a) This Friday evening, November 7 at 7:00 pm. We are hoping for a large crowd. Keep inviting!

7. Acolytes and Crucifer for Special Worship Services at 9:00 am service

- a) Minister Deb is coordinating with Amy Gibson to utilize Confirmation students in these roles.

New Business:

1. Personal Testimony Updates

- a) 5th Sundays in 2026 are as follows: March 29, May 31, August 30 and November 29. Minister Deb has communicated this in her message in the November newsletter and we will have more information about it in upcoming News of the Flock.

2. Candle Concerns

- a) It has been discovered that the smoke emitted from the altar candles is affecting the projector filters, shortening the life span of the filters immensely. Jan will bring this information to the next Council meeting with a suggestion that we replace our candles with battery or electric operating candles.

3. Palm Sunday Procession

- a) Minister Deb would like to coordinate with the Parish Board and have the children do a Procession with palms on Palm Sunday.

4. *Hymns*

- a) Marty will pick January, 2026 hymns.
- b) Nathan will pick February, 2026 hymns

Next meeting date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 at 7:00 pm. **Devotions for Next Meeting:** Bob

We closed the meeting by praying The Lord's Prayer at 7:42 pm.

**ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2025 – 10:15AM**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Jan Grieser called the meeting to order at 10:15am.

DEVOTIONS AND OPENING PRAYER

Minister Deb Noll presented devotions from the 4th chapter of Ephesians, followed by prayer.

APPROVAL OF MAY 2025 MINUTES

The minutes of the semi-annual congregational meeting were approved as written.

FINANCIAL REPORT & 2026 OPERATING BUDGET

St. Paul Financial Secretary Jake Leu presented a list of current balances at Oct. 31, 2025 totaling \$157,895.00, which is a very healthy balance for our congregation. He then reviewed the 2026 Operating Budget, noting that estimated income is based on Current Givings from Nov. 2024-Oct. 2025. If you include that with current funds, we have a total of roughly \$361,000 of estimated resources in 2026. Although our Current Givings were down approximately \$28,000 from last year, other accounts were fairly static which lowered our operating budget.

Jake reviewed and explained the following line items which differed from year ago: Pastor Mileage, Youth Coordinator Mileage, Equipment Rental, Liability Insurance, Guest Organists, Consulting Fees, Repairs & Maintenance, Phone & Internet, Seminars & Education, Propane, Designated Expenses, and Salaries. He noted that actual amounts for Repairs & Maintenance 2025 to date were higher than estimated due to sizable projects including church bell restoration & mounting, projector upgrades, new flooring, a new floor scrubber, and new playground equipment. At this time, however, we have no significant projects planned in 2026. Salaries reflect a 3% increase across the board. Lastly, \$10,000 budgeted under Designated Expense reflects our annual commitment to the Northwest Ohio Synod. Although the budget shows a deficit under Net Ordinary Income, we have resources to cover all expenses in 2026, and we're in a healthy financial position overall.

A question was asked as to why the budget showed a decrease in the church secretary's salary. Jake explained her salary is based on an estimated 25 hours per week, and sometimes that fluctuates depending on workload. A motion to accept the 2026 Church Operating Budget was offered by Kay Sidle and seconded by Nathan Cowan. Motion carried.

MINISTER'S REPORT – Minister Deb Noll

Two reports were attached to the agenda with the first being a personal reflection of the status of the church, looking at the past and planning for the future. Minister Deb believes God has called her to pursue the path to ordination, a desire of hers for many years. That desire prompted her to become a Synod Authorized Minister (SAM) and serve St. Paul. She has made application with Wartburg Seminary and her studies will begin in January. She is thankful for this opportunity and requests our prayers and support during the journey. Her second report is a statistical report of life ministries at St. Paul as well as beyond the walls of the church. She is especially proud of our quarterly designated offerings, particularly the \$6,670 donation to St. John the Baptist Church in Maria Stein, Ohio. She read a letter that was received from the church thanking us for our generous contribution as they move forward in faith following a devastating fire. Minister Deb thanked everyone for allowing her to serve as minister of the congregation, and soon to be Vicar.

PARISH BOARD – Emily Clark

- A successful Vacation Bible School program this summer averaged 70–80 children per night. Thanks to all the volunteers. Decorations were used to adorn a parade float during the Arlington Festival.
- Kids Praise began in September, averaging 40–50 kids per night. Again, thanks to all the volunteers who help with this program. Children will meet again this Wednesday, then take a holiday break until January.
- Planning for the children’s Christmas program on Dec. 14 is underway and will include the Praise Team, Senior Choir and handbells. There will be one service at 10am, with a brunch immediately following the program.
- Lastly, volunteers are always appreciated and welcome to help with any event.

TRUSTEE REPORT – Tom Marquart

- LP gas contract with Cherry’s is prepaid and booked for winter heating.
- All the carpets have been cleaned.
- New road signs have been installed.
- Most of the lights in the church have been updated, reflecting 400 new bulbs.
- New floor mats have been purchased and put down.
- All exit signs have new batteries installed.
- Black top cracks were sealed at minimal cost due to volunteer labor and donated equipment.
- Two large dry mops were purchased for the fellowship hall. They’re in the maintenance room.
- A new floor scrubber for the fellowship hall was purchased.
- Flooring in the fellowship hall is now complete.
- Guidelines for the fellowship hall have been updated and posted.
- New parking lot lights have been put up.
- Roof gutter and fascia were repaired on the parsonage while a lift was on site.
- Air conditioning units have been cleaned.
- Council approved the replacement of oil candles with battery powered candles which are cleaner and safer.
- New playground equipment has arrived; currently waiting for the company to install.
- Handrails are installed in women’s restroom.
- Landscaping at the parsonage has been completed.
- Thank you to Trustees Bart Welte, Jacob Orwick, Dan Settlage, and Deb Clevenger as well as the following individuals: Keith Robinson, Ed von Stein, Lee Laird, Wayne Young, Joe Creque, Pete Wilson, Jim Marshall, Willis Marquart and others who helped with various projects.

YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT – Amy Gibson

In addition to printed reports attached to the agenda, Amy noted the youth held several combined events over the summer. They’re currently planning for the Annual Giving Blitz on Nov. 23 during which they will use monies received from the Trust Fund to buy gifts for the Arlington Christmas Giveaway. She noted the kids look forward to this event and make a competition out of it. After the Giving Blitz they have some Christmas events coming up in December. Thank you to all parents and youth who help with activities and events. Amy noted her appreciation of the turnout at a recent yard cleanup for a senior citizen with little advance notice. She expected only a few kids to be available, but 10 showed up along with parents for a total of roughly 20 people. What a blessing it is to be able to respond to others quickly when a call goes out.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT – Tammy von Stein

- The November meal in a bag for Good Hope will feed 35 families in need; thank you to all who donated.
- Our next community meal will be a brunch served on Dec. 14 after the Christmas program. Many members of the bell choir will be in the program, so other volunteers would be appreciated.
- Collections for the Good Hope food pantry will continue through December.
- Donations for Operation Eagle will be collected through November. Monetary donations can be placed in a marked box in the welcome space to provide fresh baked cookies for soldiers at Ft. Campbell who are unable to return home for the holidays.

TRUST FUND REPORT

- The Chair directed members to the last page of the agenda packet for a detailed report of the Trust Fund Committee. She noted that Undesignated Memorial Trust Funds include the Monroe & Bessie Crates Education Fund which will support Minister Deb Noll’s seminary costs.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Fellowship hall flooring – As reported earlier, flooring is now complete so payment will be made.
- Playground update – Jacob Orwick, Tom Marquart, and Dan Settlage helped unload equipment in the pavilion and the Chair helped with inventory to ensure everything was received. Installation should take place in the next week or two. After that, weed barrier fabric will be placed under the equipment, followed by pea gravel on top. Volunteers are welcome to help with this project.

NEW BUSINESS

The following slate of officers for 2026 were reviewed. The Chair thanked those who have served their term(s) and asked for volunteers to fill the open positions below, with Steve Clark volunteering to serve as Deacon at the 9am service. Janet Carey moved the adoption of the ballot as adjusted, seconded Laurie Laird. Motion carried.

- Chair: Jan Grieser
- Vice Chair: _____ *
- Elder: Mary Coldren and Lynn Boehm*
- Recording Secretary: Natalie McClelland
- Treasurer: _____ *
- Deacons 9:00am Service: Sean Adams*, Steve Clark*
- Deacons 11:15am Service: Lee Laird, Lynn Boehm
- Trustees: Deb Clevenger, Bart Welte, Dan Settlage, Wayne Young*, Joe Creque*
- Parish Board Superintendent: Sally Valentage*
- Parish Board Assistant Superintendent: Kendra Parke
- Parish Board Secretary: Amanda Price
- Parish Board Treasurer: April Smith
- Parish Board Members: Carlie von Stein, Kelsie Gillespie, Lauren Etler*, _____, *, _____ *
- Youth Board: appointed by Council (need Secretary and Vice Chair)

* Indicates new members

The Chair reported a 5-Year Plan was created at the beginning of the year, including the following projects:

- Updating employee job descriptions – Thank you to the Staff Support Committee for updating job descriptions to include all church employees. The committee continues to work on annual evaluations.
- Updating our Constitution – Thank you to Paul Hartman and Bob Coldren for assisting me with updates.
- Parking lot repairs – Thank you to Lee Laird for overseeing blacktop repairs and donating his time and equipment to fill cracks.
- Under the category Ministry and Building, it was reported that new A/C condensers may be needed in the next 5 years. One of them was found leaking this past summer, but it was able to be repaired instead of replaced. That may not always be the case. The Trustees are also looking into options for repairing the sanctuary ceiling which has developed dark lines and cracks. Lastly, new educational opportunities are being explored for young adults and families with young children.

The Chair expressed her thanks to the following individuals and groups for their time, effort and dedication: Wayne Young, Joe Creque, Lee Laird, Outreach Committee, Audio/Visual technicians, kitchen crews for funerals/Kid's Praise/other events, Sunday School/Kid's Praise/VBS teachers, senior choir, handbell choir, Praise Team, inside decorating crew, outside Christmas decorating crew, etc. The Chair is looking for volunteers to put up outdoor Christmas lights and set up the nativity scene this year. Also, two more A/V technicians are needed for the 9:00am service and 3 more needed for the 11:15am service.

CHALLENGE FOR 2026

The Chair asked that we continue focusing on the mission of sharing Christ's love to one another and throughout the community. She noted that youth are learning about the fruits of the spirit during Wednesday Night Live, and she challenged everyone to strive for these qualities that were taught by Jesus including kindness, patience, gentleness, and self-control. There are bracelets available in the welcome space to remind us, "What Would Jesus do"?

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer at 10:52am.

Respectfully submitted by Natalie McClelland, Recording Secretary

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR DECEMBER 2025

SENIOR CHOIR DIRECTOR: Lisa Gossman

PRAISE TEAM DIRECTOR: Jan Grieser

HANDBELL CHOIR DIRECTOR: Tammy Robinson

AUDIO VIDEO: Marty Grieser and Ed von Stein

ALTAR GUILD: Anna Wolford

LECTOR: Paul Hartman

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 NOVEMBER 2025: Joyce Bosse (*sister-in-law of Christine Kemerley*); David Bower (*Ilene Parke's brother*); Zac Carman; Pegi Crates (*mother of Sean Adams*); Andy Creque (*Joe's cousin*); family and friends of Dave Creque (*Joe's brother*); Dick Cupples (*friend of Marcia Russell*); Danny Dangler (*classmate of Keith Bower*); family and friends of D. Ann Demler; Vicki Dinovo (*Tammy von Stein's mother*); Sonja Eversole; Jon Gast; Britt Gibson; Richard Gray (*Mary Cowan's cousin*); Norm Hahn; John Jordan (*son of Judy [Grieser] Jordan*); family and friends of Tom & Julie Lauck; Steve McClelland; family and friends of Marilyn McDowell (*Ron and Judy's sister-in-law*); Roger Rettig; Donna Szymanski (*friend of Marcia Russell*); family and friends of Connie Thomas (*Denise Durliat's sister*); family and friends of Jim Walters (*friend of Minister Deb & Dick*); Louise Wilson; all military personnel including — Griffin Hartman, Lance Leisure, Brycen Lucius, Evan McMonigal, Justin Riegle, Nate Sheets, Colin Tobin, and Alex vonStein.

PRAYERS FOR CHURCH LEADERSHIP: ELCA Presiding Bishop Curry; Northwestern Ohio Synod Bishop Beaudoin; Central Conference Dean Pastor Stenke; Minister Deb; and all Missions of Ministry.

PRAYER CHAIN INFORMATION: If adding a name to the Prayer Chain please be sure you have permission from the immediate family that their name can be included in the Prayer List in the News of the Flock. Thank you.

Thank You ~ Thank You ~ Thank You ~ ~

Thank you for the very delicious dinner that you delivered to us on Sunday, October 26th. We wish to thank the Outreach Committee, the workers, and drivers for the time to prepare and deliver the meal.

Thank you again, *Pat, Sandy, Paul, Millie, Jean, Paula, Jim, Ruth, Rollie, Julie, Jolene, Wanda,*

Nancy, and Larry ~ The Orchard Residents

Zac Carman would like to thank you for all your prayers, concerns, and cards that have been sent to him. He is on the journey to getting better. Continued prayers and cards are always welcomed.

THANK YOU! October slipped away too quickly for me to write a “Thank You” to the congregation for the beautiful flowers and gift cards for “Pastor Appreciation”. A funny note: One planter was filled with real flowers, the other artificial. For a week, I watered both planters. I noted one was taking its natural course of decay, but the other was staying fresh as new. When the planter overflowed one day is when I noticed the flowers in it were artificial. It brought a good laugh on a solemn day knowing that I had been fooled. God has a great sense of humor. Thank you for showing your appreciation, and please know how much I appreciate each of you.

Blessings, Minister Deb and Dick

A HEARTFELT THANKS to everyone who offered hospitality, donated food, served, and helped with clean-up for the BGSU Men's Chorus concert. The young men enthusiastically expressed their appreciation for our church, our hospitality, and the “excellent” food. Thank you to everyone who was involved and who attended the event.

THE FALL SESSION OF KIDS PRAISE CONCLUDED ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19th.

Below are the numbers for meals served to kids and adults during Kids Praise.

- ** 40 kids and 28 adults were served a meal at the Wednesday, October 15th Kids Praise.
- ** 41 kids and 20 adults were served a meal at the Wednesday, October 22nd Kids Praise.
- ** 46 kids and 18 adults were served a meal at the Wednesday, October 29th Kids Praise.
- ** 53 kids and 17 adults were served a meal at the Wednesday, November 5th Kids Praise.
- ** 52 kids and 26 adults were served a meal at the Wednesday, November 12th Kids Praise.
- ** 48 kids and 22 adults were served a meal at the last Kids Praise on Wednesday, November 19th

The Fall session of Kids Praise is finished for 2025. Thank you to: Emily and Amanda for their organizational skills.

- Teachers and helpers for feeding hungry minds.
- Parents for bringing their children each week
- Kitchen helpers who fed hungry tummies each week
- A special thanks to everyone who donated cookies, snack cups, punch, and money to help with food costs.

Everything is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for the many coats, hats, scarves, and socks that were donated for Coats for Christmas. Thank you for the 11 Coats – 187 Hats – 13 Scarves – 3 pair Socks that were donated for Coats for Christmas.

A Heartfelt Thank You from The Outreach Team ~ The Outreach Team would like to extend our sincere gratitude to everyone who has supported “**Our Daily Bread Ministry**”. Your time, generosity, and faithful donations have been the foundation of our ability to serve the community. We’re especially grateful for the amazing bakers here at **St. Paul** — your delicious contributions have been deeply appreciated and thoroughly enjoyed by all!

The Outreach Committee Information

Here are the plans for the remainder of 2025:

- **November Outreach delivered 35 Meals in a Bag to Good Hope for Food Pantry Patrons.**
- **December 14th — Daily Bread Community Meal from 11:00AM – 1:00PM in the Fellowship Hall**

St. Paul Lutheran Church, I thank Him for you often – and with all my heart. The bundle of food I received was very kind and generous. The casserole recipe was a great idea as well . . . Looking forward to seeing everyone during this Season of Blessings. Sincerely, *David Featheringill*

BIG SHOUT OUT of THANKS to Ed von Stein and Keith Robinson, Diane and Kendra Parke who assisted the decorating team with the Christmas decorating this year. From helping to set up the trees, carrying down totes and decorating the trees — Tammy and Tammy could NOT have done it without our husbands' help and our beloved decorating friends!!! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. . . . Tammy & Tammy

Our Christian Sympathy is extended to ~ ~

Our Christian Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of D. Ann Demler. Ann, 90, passed away at The Heritage on Saturday, November 15, 2025.

Our Christian Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Connie Thomas. Connie, 75, is Denise Durliat's sister. Connie passed away on Saturday, November 22nd.

May the family and friends of Ann Demler and Connie Thomas feel God's love surrounding you and fill you with the hope of the resurrection.



THE PARSONAGE B&B is available for holiday guests coming in from out-of-town with no place to stay. Three rooms equipped with a Queen-size, Full-size, and Twin-size bed are available. A coffee maker, microwave, and refrigerator are also available to our guests. Dick and I are pleased to offer the church's house, our home, to all who enter and stay with us. Check with Minister Deb to make arrangements for your guests.



THE NOLL HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE will be Sunday, January 4, 2026 at the Parsonage from 3:00 to 8:00pm. Please mark your calendars now to join Dick and I in celebrating the holiday season and welcoming the new year.
Thanks, Minister Deb



Save the Date! Christmas Caroling: Wednesday, December 17th beginning at 1:00PM. Plan to join us to spread the joy of Christ's birth to our shut ins. More information will be announced soon.

Sunday School Option – The conference room Sunday School is starting a new movie Series, "The Chosen". This movie digs deeper into the back stories of the people and events of the Gospel. Come join us for the movie, discussion and fellowship.



Please consider donating pretzels, cookies, crackers, etc. for the Fellowship Table. If donating, please leave them on the Fellowship Counter. Monetary donations can be left in the donation can and snacks will be purchased.

DESIGNATED OFFERINGS: The Fourth Quarter offerings will benefit Open Arms Domestic Violence & Rape Crisis Services in Findlay, Ohio. The mission of Open Arms is: Serving individuals affected by domestic violence and sexual assault through crisis intervention, emergency shelter, outreach, advocacy, prevention, and education. Open Arms provides shelter, safety, and support while helping survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault to live an abusive-free healthy life. The number for the 24-hour Crisis Hotline is: 419-422-4766. Prayerfully consider giving to this cause through your giving envelope, designated under “building fund”.

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).

o 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

DARTBALL SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 2025

[NOTE: Copies of the Dartball Schedule are available on the Information Counter in the Welcome Space.]
[ALL First and Second Half season games throughout the season begin promptly at 7:00PM]

Monday, December 1st	Dola @ Jenera Jr.
Monday, December 8th	Jenera Sr. @ St. Johns/Trinity, Findlay
Monday, December 15th	Jenera Jr. @ Upper Sandusky
Monday, December 22nd	Dola @ Jenera Sr.
Monday, December 29th	Jenera Jr. @ Salem, Findlay
Saturday, January 3rd	Upper Sandusky @ Jenera Sr. Christmas Holiday Break New Year's Break Saturday 4-Man Tournament at St. Paul, Jenera Starts at 10:00AM [Registration starts at 9:00AM] This event is now open to the public, so please invite others.

ReFUEL and Ignite INFORMATION FOR DECEMBER

- Sunday, December 7th — Ignite — Christmas Party / SOAR Adventure Park — 6pm – 8pm
- Sunday, December 14th — ReFUEL — Christmas Party / Bowling — 6:00PM

Confirmation Class Information for December

- Sunday, December 7th — Confirmation Class — 5:00PM – 6:00PM
- Sunday, December 14th — Confirmation Class — 5:00PM – 6:00PM
- Sunday, December 21st — NO Confirmation Class
- Sunday, December 28th — NO Confirmation Class
- Sunday, January 4th — NO Confirmation Class

Our congregation, along with other local churches, was contacted by Good Hope regarding their food pantry. Earlier this year, the food pantry was supporting an average of 10 families per distribution. In August and September, the need increased to approximately 22 families per distribution. The food pantry has supported 51 families so far this year. Because of this growing need, the food pantry shelves have been severely depleted. Good Hope is asking for 3 things:

1. Pray for this ministry.
2. Refer any families in need.
3. Food donations to stock their shelves.

Each local church was given a different grocery list of items.

The following items were requested of St. Paul:

Pork and Beans	Kidney Beans	Chili Beans
Chili Spice	Jiffy Muffin Mix	Boxed Mashed Potatoes
Gravy Packet		
Cake Mix (White, Yellow, Chocolate)		Frosting (Chocolate or Vanilla)
Brownie Mix		
Cookie Mix (Sugar or Chocolate Chip)		
Bag of Rice		
Macaroni & Cheese		
Canned Vegetables — Green Beans	Corn	
	Carrots	Peas
		Mixed Veggies
Pickles (spears or whole)		
Canned Soups — Chicken Noodle — Tomato — Beef Vegetable —		
Cream of Mushroom — Cream of Chicken — Chili — Dinty Moore Stew		

This food collection drive will last through at least December. As you are doing your grocery shopping, if you can pick up some extra items to support these families in need, it would be greatly appreciated.

Donations can be put in the baskets in the welcome space. You can also give money to a member of the Outreach Committee, and we can do the shopping for you.

If you have any questions, please contact any member of the Outreach Committee. Thanking you in advance for your donations.

FYI — There are copies of the Food Pantry List on the Information Counter in the Welcome Space if you would want a copy to use when you go grocery shopping.

The following items were delivered to the food pantry on Monday, November 17th

**Pork and Beans – 3
Kidney Beans – 4
Jiffy Muffin Mix – 4
Frosting – 9
Cake Mix – 18
Bag of Rice – 3
Macaroni and Cheese – 14
Noodles – 4
Spaghetti – 2
Spaghetti Sauce – 4
Canned Vegetables – 68
Canned Soups – 17
Ramen Noodles – 12
Hash – 2
Tuna – 8
Fruit – 4
Beets – 1
Catsup – 6
Mustard – 6
Mayonnaise – 3
Cereal – 24
Oatmeal – 2
Pop Tart – 1
Pancake Mix – 1
Syrup – 1
Canned Gravy – 2
Laundry Detergent – 1**

We continue to thank you for your generous donations. Please continue to donate!

Our Daily Bread – Christmas Brunch – Sunday, December 14th

Join us for a time of food and fellowship following the Christmas program on Sunday, December 14th at 11am. The following will be served: Breakfast Casseroles

Smoked Sausages
Cheese Potatoes
Fruit
Assortment of Mini Donuts

We are asking the congregation to provide the breakfast casseroles. If you can make a casserole, please sign up on the sheet on the Information Counter in the Welcome Space. We are also in need of people to help in the kitchen before, during, and after the brunch. If you can help in any capacity, please sign up on the sheet on the Information Counter in the Welcome Space. There will also be a sign-up sheet on the Information Counter in the Welcome Space if you plan to attend the brunch.

Outreach Project in January

The Outreach committee's January project will be to collect new bedding items to support Christian Clearing House. The following items are needed: * Full/Queen sheet sets

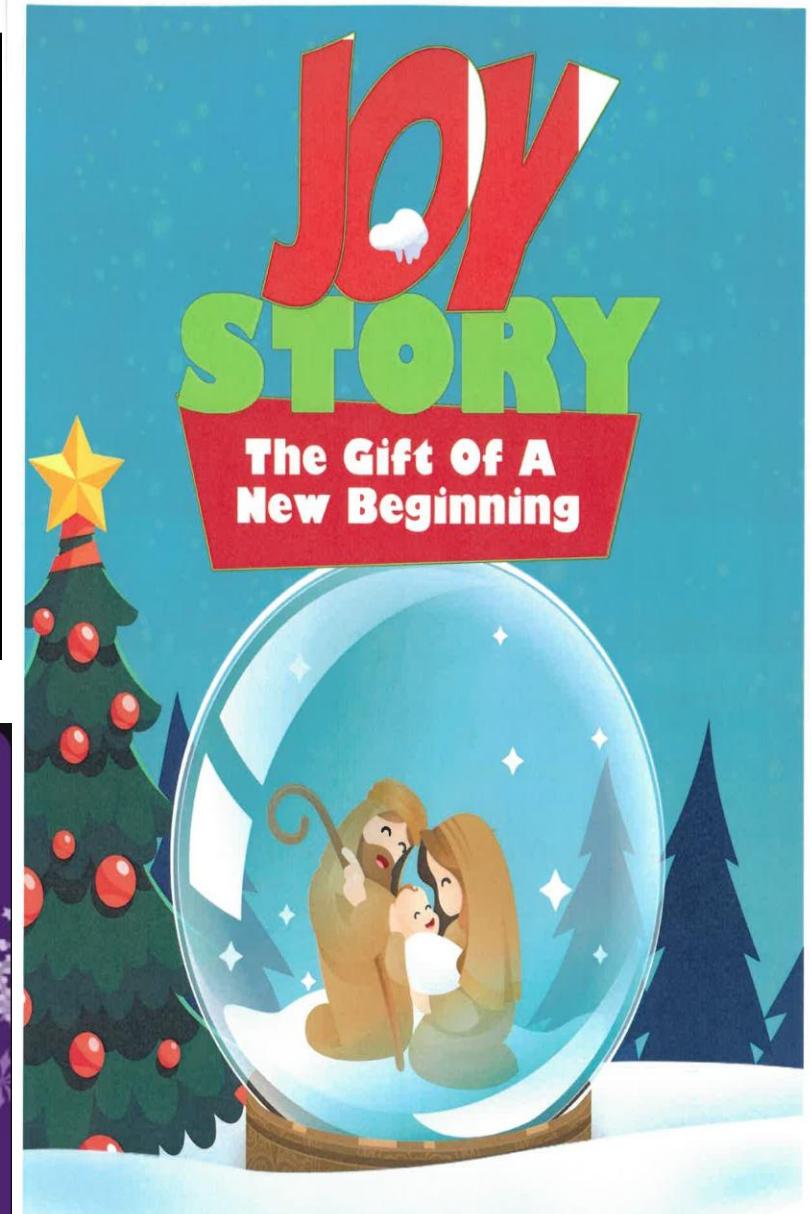
* Pillows
* Warm blankets – any size
* Sleeping bags

These items usually go on sale before Christmas. If you see a good deal and would like to help support this project, feel free to pick up an item or two. We will begin collecting these items the beginning of the new year.

HOLIDAY STRESS GETTING YOU DOWN! *DO YOU LIKE JIGSAW PUZZLES?*

I have set up a puzzle table in my office and thought you might want to join me (mostly you) in completing it. It's a great way to de-stress during the holiday hustle and bustle. You are welcome anytime you see my office door open. Take a few minutes, an hour, or a whole day, sitting in quiet contemplation/meditation. You will not disturb me, and I hope not to disturb you. Come, let's see if we can get the puzzle done before Christmas—one piece at a time.

Minister Deb



132 AND 133 PERFORMANCE OF

HANDEL'S *Messiah*

7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5, 2025
Yoder Recital Hall, Bluffton University

7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6, 2025
Winebrenner Auditorium, University of Findlay

Conducted by SeaHwa Jung

Tickets required.
Reserve your free ticket at
www.bluffton.edu/tickets
Free-will offering appreciated

UPCOMING DATE FOR ST. PAUL
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14TH — CHRISTMAS PROGRAM — “JOY STORY ~ THE GIFT OF A NEW BEGINNING” — ONE SERVICE AT 10:00AM FOLLOWED BY THE DAILY BREAD COMMUNITY MEAL FROM 11:00AM – 1:00PM.



ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI

Stewardship Department

Stewardship@CatholicAOC.org

513.263.3345

November 3, 2025

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
c/o Minister Deborah L. Noll
9340 Township Road 32
Jenera, OH 45841

Dear Friends in Christ,

"If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy."
— 1 Corinthians 12:26

St. Paul reminds us in his letter to the Corinthians, that we are one Body of Christ. Thank you for witnessing to the unity of Christ's Body with your gift of \$6,670.00 to the St. John the Baptist Maria Stein Community Fund. Though one part of our local church has certainly experienced suffering with the devastating fire at St. John the Baptist church, your generosity is a testimony to the strength of faith and the joy we can all experience in Christ Jesus.

These funds will be used in the recovery efforts of the St. John the Baptist Parish community. Thank you for standing with this community as we move forward in faith.

Please continue to keep everyone affected by this tragic fire in your prayers and please pray for the discernment and decisions that lie ahead as we look to continue the growth of faith in Mercer County and beyond.

Thank you again for supporting the St. John the Baptist Maria Stein Community Fund. May God richly bless you and your family.

In Christ,

Most Reverend Robert G. Casey
Archbishop of Cincinnati

Rev. Ken Schnipke, C.P.P.S.
Pastor of St. John the Baptist, Maria Stein &
Christ Our Light Family of Parishes

The Archdiocese of Cincinnati Stewardship Department is providing gift processing services for this special appeal. All proceeds are directed to the recovery efforts of the St. John the Baptist community in Maria Stein, OH.

You did not receive any goods or services in consideration of your gift. Please retain this letter for your tax filing purposes and consult with a tax professional regarding the deductibility of your gift.

RADIATE CHRIST

Pastoral Center

100 East Eighth Street

Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

www.CatholicAOC.org

December 2025 Birthdays

Monday, December 1st James Norman
Tuesday, December 2nd Maya Riegle
Tuesday, December 2nd Richard Smith
Thursday, December 4th James Kemerley
Friday, December 5th Corey Henson
Friday, December 5th Shawn Hirt
Friday, December 5th Liam Norway
Friday, December 5th Laine Smith
Friday, December 5th Corbin Yost
Saturday, December 6th Nik Boehm
Saturday, December 6th Christian Panfil
Monday, December 8th Eli Fitch
Monday, December 8th Katie Krantz
Monday, December 8th Joseph Leisure
Tuesday, December 9th Emil Nagel
Wednesday, December 10th Hunter Dodge
Wednesday, December 10th Linda Kroske
Wednesday, December 10th Jonathan Krosnosky
Wednesday, December 10th Maren Krosnosky
Wednesday, December 10th Minister Deb Noll
Wednesday, December 10th Keegan Puthoff
Wednesday, December 10th Anna Wolford
Friday, December 12th Emily Clark
Friday, December 12th Jamie Kemerley
Saturday, December 13th Chris Reichley
Saturday, December 13th Zhanna Ruehle
Sunday, December 14th Hayden Walters
Tuesday, December 16th Amanda Panfil
Tuesday, December 16th Stephen Welly
Wednesday, December 17th Zoya Habib
Thursday, December 18th Chelsea Boehm
Friday, December 19th Paul Kroske
Sunday, December 21st Andrew Kroske
Sunday, December 21st Lance Leisure
Monday, December 22nd Colin Tobin
Tuesday, December 23rd Ellieana Marquart
Tuesday, December 23rd Beverly Snyder
Wednesday, December 24th Freya Ruehle
Thursday, December 25th Emelia Carey
Friday, December 26th RuthAnn Bower
Friday, December 26th Lucas Henson
Sunday, December 28th Alex von Stein
Sunday, December 28th Blake Wilson
Monday, December 29th Stephanie Krosnosky
Wednesday, December 31st Elaine Ingram



December 2025 Wedding Anniversaries

Saturday, December 6th Bill and Arlene Marquart – 67
Thursday, December 18th Chad and Penny Ward – 15
Monday, December 22nd Phil and Tracy Riegle – 18





**Wednesday, December 24th
Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion
7:00PM.**

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ DECEMBER 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 7:00PM Dartball Dola @ Jenera Jr. Jenera Sr. @ St. Johns/Trinity	2 6:00PM – 8:00PM 6 th Grade Boys Basketball	3 7:00PM Senior Choir Practice	4 1:00PM – 4:00PM “The Jokers” – SS Room 5:30PM – 7:00PM Arlington Girls 5 th Grade Basketball 7:00PM – 8:00PM Arlington Boys Basketball	5	6
		Minister Deb and Dick on Vacation — Tuesday, December 2 nd thru Friday, December 5 th				
7 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:00AM Traditional Worship / Communion 10:15AM Sunday School 11:15AM Contemporary Worship / Communion 5:00PM – 6:00PM Confirmation Class 6:00PM – 8:00PM Ignite / Christmas Party / SOAR Adventure Park	8 7:00PM Dartball Jenera Jr. @ Upper Sandusky Dola @ Jenera Sr.	9 6:30PM Congregational Council Meeting	10 7:00PM Senior Choir Practice	11 1:00PM – 4:00PM “The Jokers” – SS Room 5:30PM – 7:00PM Arlington Girls 5 th Grade Basketball 7:00PM – 8:00PM Arlington Boys Basketball	12	13 9:00AM – NOON Outreach using Kitchen and Fellowship Hall
14 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 10:00AM Children's Christmas Program / “Joy Story” 11:00AM – 1:00PM Outreach Community Meal 5:00PM – 6:00PM Confirmation Class 6:00PM ReFUEL / Christmas Party / Bowling	15 7:00PM Dartball Jenera Jr. @ Salem, Findlay Upper Sandusky @ Jenera Sr.	16 6:00PM – 8:00PM 6 th Grade Boys Basketball	17 1:00PM Choir Christmas Caroling begins	18 1:00PM – 4:00PM “The Jokers” – SS Room 5:30PM – 7:00PM Arlington Girls 5 th Grade Basketball 7:00PM – 8:00PM Arlington Boys Basketball	19	20 ALL Day Fellowship Hall reserved by Cheryl Lentz
21 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:00AM Traditional Worship 10:15AM Sunday School 11:15AM Contemporary Worship / Communion NO Confirmation Class	22 NO Dartball / Christmas Break	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 7:00PM Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion 	25 CHRISTMAS DAY Church Office Closed ALL Day Fellowship Hall reserved by Rachel Hartman	26	27
28 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS 9:00AM Traditional Worship 10:15AM Sunday School 11:15AM Contemporary Worship / Communion 2:00PM Minister Deb leads Worship at Serenity Spring NO Confirmation Class	29 NO Dartball / New Year's Break	30 7:30PM Youth Board Meeting	31	ALTAR GUILD: Anna Wolford LECTOR: Paul Hartman ORGANIST: December 7 th , 14 th , 21 st , 24 th and 28 th : Lisa Gossman		