



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.stpaulutheranjenera.org

ST. PAUL "MESSENGER"

OCTOBER ~ 2025

Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.

Exodus 14:13-114

Dear Friends,

Robert Noland is the author of the book *"INDIVISIBLE One Marriage Under God"*. Within the book are fifty daily devotions intended to bring help, healing, hope, inspiration, motivation, and a fresh vision for the marriage relationship. The devotions shared in the book are valuable lessons to learn for building relationships and for coping with the uncertainties of life in the world, especially a world that seems to be devastatingly broken.

The book points out that we are creatures of habit and people of patterns—good and bad. Patterns play on our emotions and may strain relationships. Noland writes, "Identifying the problem/pattern paradigm can help us understand why we do what we do on a predictable basis."

Like people, our nation experiences patterns that culminate in celebrations and remembrances. For example, the nation mourns each year in remembrance of the events of 9-11. This year that event was preceded by a mass shooting on August 27th at the Church of the Annunciation in Minneapolis where two children were killed, and 21 others injured. The assassination of Charlie Kirk occurred on September 10th the day before 9-11. The month of September ended with another attack on a church, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Grand Blank Township, Michigan. Four people were killed and eight others injured (to date). We struggle to understand why such evil exists in the world.

We are left feeling discouraged and in despair, wondering where God is and what God's plan for the world is today. The above text from Exodus reminds us that we are not the first of God's people to experience turbulent times. After Pharaoh had given Moses permission to lead the Israelites to freedom, he had a change of mind. He organized an army of six hundred-plus chariots and horsemen to bring them back to Egypt. Standing on the banks of the Red Sea, imagine the shock and terror the Israelites felt when they heard the thousands of hoof-beats rumbling across the land, heading directly for them. We know the end of the story—God parted the sea and let Moses and the people cross through unharmed. When Pharaoh's army tried to pass, the waters returned and the Egyptian army was lost.

In the times when we are afraid for what is happening in our lives, in our nation, in the world hear the words of Moses to the people, "Do not be afraid." Stand firm and trust God's deliverance. God will see us through the difficult times.

Let us pray: Lord Christ, you came into the world as one of us, and suffered as we do. As we go through the trials of life, help us to realize that you are with us at all times and in all things; that we have no secrets from you; and that your loving grace enfolds us for eternity. In the security of your embrace, we pray. Amen (Pastoral Care, page 360).

Put your trust in God!

Minister Deb

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2025 CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Chairperson: Jan Grieser	419-889-3339	Deacons: Nathan Cowan	419-721-1011
Vice Chair:		Lynn Boehm	419-722-8022
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	Financial Sec: Jake Leu	567-208-7739
Jacob Orwick	419-721-8882	Minister: Deb Noll	419-560-1988
Bart Welte	419-721-7127	Youth Ministry Coordinator: Amy Gibson	
Deb Clevenger	419-306-1150		419-348-1653
Dan Settlege	419-303-2513	Youth Board Representative:	
Sr. SS Supt: Emily Clark	419-722-6060	Amanda Price	419-957-1988

Ex-Officio Representatives —

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2025 – 7:00PM

Attendance: Jan Grieser, Jane Follas, Mary Coldren, Deb Clevenger, Nathan Cowan, Jacob Orwick, Amy Gibson, Tom Marquart, Minister Deb Noll, Cheryl Sondergeld (guest), 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. Council members reviewed and recited Mission Statement #7, and joined together in the Council Prayer.

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

- *Value #1 – We believe in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit as proclaimed in the Holy Bible and the Apostles' Creed.*
- *Value #2– We believe that all people are justified by grace through faith and are called to forgive as we have been forgiven by God.*
- *Value #3 – We believe that people who pray for God's guidance and work together can make things happen.*
- *Value #4 – We believe that interpersonal relationships centered on Christ build strong communities.*
- *Value #5 – We believe that, although diverse, everyone is a child of God created equally, loved unconditionally, respected and valued.*
- *Value #6 – We believe in reflecting God's love and sharing the gospel with all people of every generation through our words and actions.*
- *Value #7 – We believe that you learn from the past, live in the present, and plan for the future.*

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.

GUEST SPEAKER – Cheryl Sondergeld

As a representative of the Northwestern Ohio Synod, Cheryl presented information on *Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM)*, a candidacy to seminary program offered by Wartburg Seminary. The program values learning in community (*Journey Together*) and includes the local congregation, a mentor-mentee group, and a personal assessment team. A congregational vote would be needed after Minister Deb completes the program to officially call her to serve St. Paul Church, and this would be followed by ordination. Discussion was then held on available funding and scholarships. A motion was made by Jane Follas to support Minister Deb and her candidacy for seminary. The motion was seconded by Tom Marquart and approved.

STATUS OF GOALS FOR COUNCIL:

Update all job descriptions and update bylaws

- Staff Support has completed detailed job descriptions.
- Updates to our constitution will begin in the near future.

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

- We're still waiting for work to be completed before paying the final bill for new flooring in the Fellowship Hall.
- Designated Income received in July and August was \$3,850 and \$2,485, respectively. Of the July income, \$500 was designated for Youth Ministry.
- Financial statements were reviewed. Total income from Jan-Aug 2025 was \$184,606.31 vs. a budgeted amount of \$154,234.66. Total expenses for the same period were \$232,942.52 actual vs. \$180,847.38 budgeted.
- Interest income generated by our Money Market account is estimated at ~\$373 for August 2025.
- Discussion was held on 4th quarter Designated Income. Deb Clevenger moved that we donate to Open Arms of Findlay. The motion was seconded by Natalie McClelland and approved.
- Detailed account balances are as follows:

Account Balances at August 31, 2025

Checking

Current	132,346.22
Council Discretionary	577.99
Improvement	1,445.60
Missions	26,659.38
Special Projects	
Shipwreck Festival	2,314.09
Music	2,446.18
C. Price Memorial Funds	27,988.10
Bell Choir	1,429.67
Special Projects - Other	0.06
	<hr/> 34,178.10

Total Quickbooks Operating/MMDA **\$ 195,207.29**

Operating Account	66,795.93
Money Market Demand Accounty (MMDA)	128,084.14
Total Operating/MMDA - Bank	<hr/> \$ 194,880.07

Outstanding Deposits at 8/31/25	8,086.00
Outstanding Checks at 8/31/25	(7,758.78)
Total Reconciled Operating/MMDA	<hr/> \$ 195,207.29

Savings

General Memorial	\$ 14,770.94
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TRUSTEES REPORT – Tom Marquart

- Blacktop crack sealing will be done Wednesday, Sep. 10. Parking for sewing day will be at the service entrance.
- All yards have been sprayed for weeds.
- An estimate was obtained for future blacktop upgrades: \$14,500.00 to seal and stripe.
- Deb Clevenger is working on a plan to have Hempy Water supply softener salt and bottled water. We can set up an account for delivery, fill, and automatic payment.
- Regarding Fellowship Hall setup, tables should be left in 3 rows of 3 tables.

MINISTER'S REPORT HIGHLIGHTS – Deborah Noll

- Seven members were received through Affirmation of Baptism on Sunday, Sep. 7.
- Recent church activities and upcoming events were reviewed with emphasis on the following: Sep. 14 – Shipwreck Sunday; Oct. 4 – Blessing of Animals Service in the Pavilion; Oct. 11 – wedding and reception of Pat Mitchell and David Woodruff beginning at 1pm; Oct. 18 – Trunk or Treat and Fall Festival; Oct. 19 – Harvest Home Sunday with guest Bishop Beaudoin; and Oct. 31 – SAM renewal documents are due to the Synod Office.
- A request was received from Nancy Smith's son Mason to host the BGSU Men's Chorus for a concert on Friday, Nov. 7 at 7pm and provide a meal for ~ 110 men before the concert. This was approved by general consent.
- See full report at end of minutes.

YOUTH MINISTRY – Amy Gibson

Highlights:

- August
 - 10th – Mini Golf and Ice Cream: 14 youth 4 adults
 - 11th – Youth Board – 7:30pm
 - 18th – Parish Board – 7pm
- September
 - Sunday School Theme: TBD (Think Believe Do) – Prayer
 - 7th – Confirmation and Parent Meeting 3–8th graders 2–7th graders
 - 7th – Ignite 8 youth (Pizza and Labor Day Lesson – What God says about Rest)
 - 9th – Youth Board Meeting (By Email in September)

Upcoming September:

- 9th – Church Council – 7pm
- 14th – Confirmation – 5pm–6pm
- 14th – ReFUEL – 6pm–8pm
- 21st – Confirmation – 5pm–6pm
- 28th – Confirmation – 5pm–6pm
- 28th – ReFUEL – 6pm–8pm

Upcoming October: Sunday School Theme: TBD (Think Believe Do) – Sin

- 5th – Confirmation – 5pm–6pm
- 5th – Ignite Campfire Night – 6pm–8pm
- 12th – Confirmation – 5pm–6pm
- 12th – ReFUEL Campfire Night – 6pm–9pm
- 15th – WNL/Kids Praise Begins (WNL Theme: Fruit of the Spirit) – 6:30pm–7:30pm
- 18th – Fall Fest (Youth needed to volunteer)
- 19th – Confirmation – 5pm–6pm
- 22nd – WNL – 6:30pm–7:30pm
- 26th – Confirmation – 5pm–6pm
- 26th – ReFUEL – 6pm–8pm
- 29th – WNL – 6:30pm–7:30pm

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, Website
- Attend: Youth Board, Parish Board, Staff Meetings, Council

Council Requests: N/A

PARISH EDUCATION – Emily Clark

- Teachers were recognized on Sep. 7 with a loaf of sourdough bread from the Hurdwell Market in Arlington.
- Planning continues for Kids Praise beginning Oct. 15, Fall Fest with Trunk or Treat on Oct. 18, and the children's Christmas Program on Dec. 14.
- Three members will be needed on the list of 2026 nominees for Parish Board.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE – Nathan Cowan

- Minutes of the September meeting were attached to the agenda.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS – Minister Deb

- Updates are published in the News of the Flock weekly.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Research continues on a suitable app for prayer requests.
- Fellowship Hall rules have been finalized; they'll be posted in the hall and published in the NOTF and newsletter.
- Paul Hartman, Bob Coldren and Jan Grieser will begin updating the church constitution in September.

NEW BUSINESS

- Discussion was held on 2026 nominees for office.
- Jake Leu will begin working on the 2026 church budget.
- Information and estimates were presented on new playground equipment, placement, supplies, etc. Amy Gibson noted that youth have been wanting a GaGa ball pit for several years, so we'll look into how to construct it. General consent approval was given to begin this project. Discussion continued on sources of additional funding, as the cost of this project exceeds what was raised. It was noted that Clarabelle Price Memorial Funds could be used.

ADJOURN

- Prior to adjournment, prayer requests were presented. The meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer at 8:43pm. The next meeting will be held on October 14th at 7:00pm, led by Jan Grieser.

*Natalie McClelland,
Recording Secretary*

ST. PAUL CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL SEPTEMBER 9, 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

Acts 3:25 – ²⁵ *You are the descendants of the prophets and of the covenant that God gave to your ancestors, saying to Abraham, 'And in your descendants all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'*

Reflection

Recently, I was in Maria Stein, Ohio for four days of continuing education and spiritual renewal. The bishop, pastors and SAMs gathered together to read, study, and discuss the book “A Testament of Devotion” by Thomas R. Kelly. We worshiped together, ate together, shared fellowship, and prayed together. There was also time allotted for personal meditation and sacred rest. The Spiritual Retreat Center sits on property shared with the Maria Stein Shrine founded in 1846, that originally also served as the convent for the Sisters of the Precious Blood, the order in which my great aunt Sister Mary Adelia Clare Freeman was a nun.

While I was there, I learned that the Sisters of the Precious Blood helped to build the retreat center and that Sister Clare welcomed guests to the center. In my youth, my family frequently visited Sister Clare at the convent. She always made time for me, and I remember listening closely as she shared stories of the Freeman family and of her faith. She was one of three women from whom my faith was enriched. She is a well-remembered ancestor.

This Sunday, we celebrate the 194th Shipwreck anniversary. On Shipwreck Sunday, we remember the ancestors of many St. Paul members. The survivors of the Shipwreck, “solemnly vowed that annually on that day a “Schiffbruchsgottesdienst” (shipwreck thanksgiving festival) should take place in remembrance of that abject terror and the wonderful rescue.” Twelve generations later, we are still celebrating Shipwreck Sunday in “observance and honor of the conviction of these early settlers as they worked to establish life and witness in the ‘new world.’” (Quotes from our Church History as found on the website.)

All of us have ancestors from whom we have heard their faith stories, or we have listened to stories passed down from one generation to another. These stories have shaped our individual faith and the stories we continue to share. We have been blessed by those who have shared their faith in the promise of Jesus Christ crucified and risen for the salvation of the world.

Questions to Ponder

1. Can you name an ancestor who had an impact on your own faith journey?
2. With whom are you sharing your faith stories and those handed down from your ancestors today?

Let us pray: God of all time, we give you thanks for the ancestors of all time through whom we have heard the story of your gracious love through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Activity Since the August Council Meeting: Worship, Church Functions, Member Contact Outside of Worship

- Worship Services (x8)
- Funeral Preparation/Coordination (x1)
- Hospital Visits (x5)
- In-office, at home, rehab, and phone visitations (x5)
- Home Communion (x2)
- Worship Committee (x1)
- *Our Daily Bread* community meal @ the Orchards (x1)
- WELCA Retreat (x1)
- Sewing Day (x1)
- Pre-marriage Consultation (x1)
- Confirmation Class (x1)
- “The Jokers” Card Group (x4)

Related Church Activities

- SAM Supervisor Session (x3)
- SAM Cohort Monthly Zoom (x1)
- Spiritual Retreat and Continuing Education @ Maria Stein (four days)
- Central Conference WELCA Gathering (x1)

Celebrations

- Reception of 7 members through Affirmation of Baptism

Upcoming Events

- September 14, 2025 – Shipwreck Sunday
- October 4, 2025 – St. Francis of Assisi, Blessing of Animals Service (Pavilion)
- October 10, 2025 (6:00pm) – Pat Mitchell and David Woodruff Wedding Rehearsal
- October 11, 2025 (1:00pm) – Pat Mitchell and David Woodruff Wedding
- October 18, 2025 – Trunk-or-Treat and Fall Festival
- October 19, 2025 – Harvest Home – with Bishop Daniel Beaudoin
- October 31, 2025 – SAM Renewal documents are due to the Northwestern Ohio Synod office

Vacation

- No vacation time scheduled

For Council's Consideration

- SAM's Application for Candidacy – I'll email to Council Chair the appropriate forms for St. Paul Church to complete. Council's Recommendation for Candidacy and Costs will be Agenda Items for the November Annual Meeting.
- Request from Mason Smith (Nancy Smith's son) asking us to host the Bowling Green State University Men's Chorus for a concert on Friday, November 7, 2025 @ 7:00pm. We would need to provide a meal before the concert for about 110 men.

Respectfully Submitted,
Deb Noll, Synod Authorized Minister

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR OCTOBER 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: Uncover – Christine Kemerley
LECTOR: Janet Carey
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 SEPTEMBER 2025: Jacob Best (*16 year old son of Kelly & Susan and grandson of Sue Best*); Zac Carman (*son of Babette Grieser Reese*); family and friends of Dawn Curth (*friend of Jenny Welte*); John Firestone (*friend of Joe & Lisa Creque*); Jon Gast; Willow Gibson; Marsha Grieser; Shane Grieser; Norm Hahn; Lino Ibbarro (*friend of Steve McClelland*); Jim Jones (*brother-in-law of Sally Valentage*); Steve McClelland; Vera Sheets; Gregg Smith (*Sally Valentage's son*); Glen Stechschulte (*friend of Steve McClelland*); Dorine VonStein; Jim Von Stein; Louise Wilson; Bobbie Wright (*Minister Deb's sister-in-law*); 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 Eaton; Presiding Bishop-elect 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 ~ ~

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Thank you so very much for your continued prayers throughout this time. We appreciate you all and are thankful for you. There is still a long healing process ahead, but Samuel is pushing through. Please continue to keep us and our doctors in your prayers. Thank you so very much for your generous support. We will put the money toward paying medical bills. We are appreciative. Thank you for all you do and for all the prayers and support.

Sam and Courtney Weifhrauch

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!

As mentioned during our Semi-Annual Meeting, we are considering adjustments to our schedule in 2026 to better serve shut-ins and those unable to attend in person. This may mean stepping away from offering a monthly meal at the church as we explore new ways to reach more people in need.

As we prepare for this transition, we’d like to share our plans for the remainder of 2025:

- **October 26th—Community Meal served in the Fellowship Hall**
 - **November**—No Meal Scheduled—Plans for shut-in meals and care packages are currently in development.
 - **December**—No Meal Scheduled—We will distribute **Holiday Meal Bags**, continuing the tradition from 2024.
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The October Sewing Day will be on Wednesday, October 8th 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 9 people at the Sewing Day on Wednesday, September 24th. Six quilts were brought in and six quilts were finished.

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”.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4th at 10:00am in the Pavilion — *St. Francis of Assisi/Blessing of Animals Service.* Bring your Pets and Critters! *All God’s Creatures Great and Small*; bring them all. Animals are to be kept on a leash or in an animal carrier. Large animals (horses, sheep, cattle, etc.) should be tied to a trailer or post. This is for the protection of the animals and their owners. Owners are responsible for cleaning up after the animals! Thank you!

BISHOP DANIEL BEAUDOIN will be with us celebrate Harvest Home Sunday, October 19th. Bishop Beaudoin will preach and preside over Holy Communion, as well as help with the distribution of Bibles to our third graders, at our 9:00am and 11:15am worship services. A special offering will be collected, on the Bishop’s request in lieu of a stipend, for the Northwestern Ohio Synod’s Annual Fund to help meet local and community needs throughout the Synod. During the Sunday School hour, Bishop Beaudoin will offer a “teaching moment” and will engage in prayerful conversation with our members. The Synod Staff have recorded a short video that highlights the mission of our synod. The video helps to set the tone for our worship and time of learning together. The video can be seen at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gPBWIY4L6V0>. Come celebrate the harvest with Bishop Beaudoin and one another.

Sunday School Option: The Adult Sunday School class that meets in the conference room is providing an **alternative format.** They are reviewing current Christian movies with conversation. The movies are shown starting at 10:15AM. All adults are welcome.

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.

The Year of Listening



Welcome to 2025: The Year of Listening.

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

God’s invitation to listen is a gift that permeates the Scriptures. From the Shema, “**Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might**” (Deuteronomy 6:4-5).

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

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

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

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

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

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

Blessings, Minister Deb

ReFUEL and Ignite INFORMATION

Upcoming:

- Sunday, October 5th — Ignite – Campfire Night — 6pm–8pm
- Sunday, October 12th — ReFUEL – Bon Fire — 6pm – 9pm
- Wednesday, October 15th — WNL/Kids Praise Begins — 6th – 12th grade
(WNL Theme: Fruit of the Spirit) — 6:30PM – 7:30PM
- Saturday, October 18th — Fall Fest (Youth needed to volunteer)
- Sunday, October 26th — ReFUEL — 6pm–8pm

Confirmation Class Information for October

- Sunday, October 5th — Confirmation Class — 5:00PM – 6:00PM
- Sunday, October 12th — Confirmation Class — 5:00PM – 6:00PM
- Sunday, October 19th — Confirmation Class — 5:00PM – 6:00PM
- Sunday, October 26th — Confirmation Class — 5:00PM – 6:00PM

UPCOMING NOVEMBER EVENTS FOR ST. PAUL



Friday, November 7th at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary — *Bowling Green State University Men's Chorus* will provide a concert for our members and the community. Over a hundred men will lift their voices singing classical, current day, and gospel songs. Invite your friends to come enjoy an evening of excellent entertainment.

Sunday, November 23rd at 7:00pm at Good Hope Lutheran Church — *Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service.* Pastor Steve Ramsey will serve as host, Pastor Matt Blau will be lector, and Minister Deb will provide the “Thanksgiving” message. A time of fellowship will follow the service. Join us to bring in the Holiday Season by gathering together with our friends and neighbors to give thanks for the many blessings God bestows on us each and every day.



It's time for Kids Praise! Kids Praise will be held each Wednesday evening, beginning on October 15th and running through Wednesday, November 19th. We will be teaching, singing, crafting, and feeding the children, teachers and parents in attendance. There is a sign-up sheet in the welcome space if you would like to help with food donations. Monetary donations can be given to Christine Kemerley. Thank you for helping to feed inquisitive minds and hungry tummies.

Meal before Kids Praise — 5:45PM – 6:30PM

Kids Praise — 6:30PM – 7:30PM

Wednesday Night Live / Grades 6th – 12th
(WNL Theme: Fruit of the Spirit) — 6:30PM – 7:30PM



October 2025 Birthdays

Wednesday, October 1 st	Lindsay Hankins
Wednesday, October 1 st	Pete Wilson
Thursday, October 2 nd	Alex Coldren
Thursday, October 2 nd	Flint Gossman
Thursday, October 2 nd	Kolt Robinson
Friday, October 3 rd	Jordan Gillespie
Saturday, October 4 th	Emily Hirt
Saturday, October 4 th	MaryEllen Nesler
Sunday, October 5 th	R. J. Coldren
Sunday, October 5 th	Norm Hahn
Monday, October 6 th	Ryder Haley
Tuesday, October 7 th	Korbyn Robinson
Wednesday, October 8 th	Sherri Ward
Thursday, October 9 th	Lee Laird
Friday, October 10 th	Kristy Schroeder
Sunday, October 12 th	Kelsey Norway
Monday, October 13 th	Mia Wolford
Wednesday, October 15 th	Barb Schnelle
Wednesday, October 15 th	Jim vonStein
Thursday, October 16 th	Rachael Dundar
Thursday, October 16 th	Kaelynn Hirschy
Thursday, October 16 th	John Medvec III
Thursday, October 16 th	Bob Robison
Thursday, October 16 th	Todd Wilson
Friday, October 17 th	Stephen Cowan
Saturday, October 18 th	Amanda Crates Bayliff
Saturday, October 18 th	Van Follas
Saturday, October 18 th	Ryan McDowell
Sunday, October 19 th	Raena Bayliff
Sunday, October 19 th	Isaac Cowan
Sunday, October 19 th	Noah Cowan
Sunday, October 19 th	Kennedy Sickles
Sunday, October 19 th	Nathan Zuercher
Monday, October 20 th	Ellie Grieser
Monday, October 20 th	Jenny Welte
Tuesday, October 21 st	Jessica Depuy
Thursday, October 23 rd	Andrew Clark
Thursday, October 23 rd	Nathan Cowan
Thursday, October 23 rd	Erica Fisher
Thursday, October 23 rd	Randy Grieser
Thursday, October 23 rd	Beth Wilhelm
Friday, October 24 th	Zac Carman
Friday, October 24 th	Kelsie Gillespie
Saturday, October 25 th	Jerry Kimmel
Saturday, October 25 th	Sharon Rettig
Sunday, October 26 th	Theresa Grieser
Sunday, October 26 th	Sullivan Sheets

Monday, October 27 th	Orion Galloway
Monday, October 27 th	Elayna Huff
Monday, October 27 th	Amy Krantz
Monday, October 27 th	Mitch Wilson
Monday, October 27 th	Brett Young
Tuesday, October 28 th	Jessica Kemerley
Tuesday, October 28 th	Ashley Sickles
Tuesday, October 28 th	Morgan Tiell
Wednesday, October 29 th	Sonja Eversole
Wednesday, October 29 th	Craig Hankins
Wednesday, October 29 th	Amber Hirt
Thursday, October 30 th	Andrew Fitch
Thursday, October 30 th	Merritt VonStein
Friday, October 31 st	Adrienne Huss
Friday, October 31 st	Jonas McCasland



October 2025 Wedding Anniversaries

Wednesday, October 1 st	Rick and Jody Wolford – 47
Thursday, October 2 nd	Gideon and Erica Fisher – 15
Wednesday, October 8 th	Matthew and Caitlin Hankins – 4
Thursday, October 9 th	Chad and Beverly Snyder – 26
Friday, October 10 th	Waqar and Erica Habib – 18
Friday, October 10 th	Ron and Judy McDowell – 55
Sunday, October 12 th	Dave and Anna Wolford – 50
Tuesday, October 14 th	Mike and Pam Hoffman – 47
Sunday, October 19 th	Joe and Lisa Creque – 40
Sunday, October 19 th	Thad and Jennifer Dempster – 29
Monday, October 20 th	Zac and Lindsay Boehm – 8
Thursday, October 23 rd	Dick and Sharon Smith – 60
Friday, October 24 th	Shawn and Jennifer Griggs – 27
Friday, October 24 th	Jeff and Pam Pepple – 38
Sunday, October 26 th	Shawn and Amber Hirt – 23



ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ OCTOBER 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
ALTAR GUILD: Uncover – Christine Kemerley LECTOR: Janet Carey ORGANIST: October 5 th , 12 th , 19 th , and 26 th : Lisa Gossman			1	2 9:30AM Bible Study / Library 5:00PM Good Samaritan Gathering / Fellowship Hall 6:00PM “The Jokers”	3 6:00PM Set-up for Saturday Class Reunion / Fellowship Hall	4 10:00AM Blessing of the Animals / Pavilion 5:00PM Fellowship Hall reserved by Mary Coldren / Class Reunion
5 SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9:00AM Traditional Worship / Communion 10:15AM Sunday School 11:15AM Contemporary Worship / Communion 1:00PM – 4:00PM Fellowship Hall reserved by the Durlat Family 5:00PM – 6:00PM Confirmation Classes 6:00PM – 8:00PM Ignite / Campfire Night	6	7 6:30PM WELCA Fundraiser / Arlington Lion’s Club / Fellowship Hall	8 9:00AM – 2:00PM Sewing Day 7:00PM Senior Choir Practice	9 9:30AM Bible Study / Library 6:00PM “The Jokers”	10 Set-up for Mitchel / Woodruff Wedding 6:00PM Wedding Rehearsal	11 1:00PM Mitchel / Woodruff Wedding 6:00PM Kitchen reserved by Anna Wolford
12 EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9:00AM Traditional Worship / Communion 10:15AM Sunday School 11:15AM Contemporary Worship / Communion 1:00PM – 8:00PM Fellowship Hall reserved by the Wolford Family 3:30PM – 5:30PM Worship Area reserved by the Wolford Family 5:00PM – 6:00PM Confirmation Classes 6:00PM – 9:00PM ReFUEL / Bon Fire	13	14 7:00PM Congregational Council Meeting	15 5:45PM Meal before Kids Praise 6:30PM – 7:30PM Kids Praise 6:30PM – 7:30PM Wednesday Night Live Bible Study [6 th – 12 th Grade] 7:00PM Senior Choir Practice	16 9:30AM Bible Study / Library 6:00PM “The Jokers”	17	18 FALL FEST/TRUNK OR TREAT 5:30PM – 6:00PM Trunk or Treat 5:30PM – 8:00PM Fall Fest
19 NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST HARVEST HOME 9:00AM Traditional Worship / Communion 10:15AM Sunday School 11:15AM Contemporary Worship / Communion 5:00PM – 6:00PM Confirmation Classes	20	21 7:00PM WELCA Meeting	22 5:45PM Meal before Kids Praise 6:30PM – 7:30PM Kids Praise 6:30PM – 7:30PM Wednesday Night Live Bible Study [6 th – 12 th Grade] 7:00PM Senior Choir Practice	23 9:30AM Bible Study / Library 6:00PM “The Jokers”	24	25 9:00AM – NOON Outreach using Fellowship Hall and Kitchen
26 REFORMATION SUNDAY 9:00AM Traditional Worship / Baptism of Willow Gibson / Communion 10:15AM Sunday School 11:00AM – 2:00PM Outreach Community Meal 11:15AM Contemporary Worship / Communion 5:00PM – 6:00PM Confirmation Classes 6:00PM – 8:00PM ReFUEL		28	29 5:45PM Meal before Kids Praise 6:30PM – 7:30PM Kids Praise 6:30PM – 7:30PM Wednesday Night Live Bible Study [6 th – 12 th Grade]	30 9:30AM Bible Study / Library 6:00PM “The Jokers”	31	