



ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

9340 TOWNSHIP ROAD 32

JENERA, OH 45841

DEB NOLL, MINISTER

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

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

E-MAIL ADDRESS: stpaulyouthministry1@gmail.com

CHURCH OFFICE PHONE: 419-326-3535

CHURCH OFFICE E-MAIL: stpaullutheran6@yahoo.com

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN WEBSITE ~ www.stpaullutheranjenara.org

ST. PAUL "MESSENGER"

JUNE ~ 2025

*Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, ... to our beloved coworker Philemon ...
and to the church in your house. Philemon 1:1-2*

Dear Friends,

In the early days of the church people met in homes, gathering with family, friends, and neighbors to worship and study, sharing the good news of Jesus Christ crucified and risen. Philemon, a student and coworker of the Apostle Paul, opened his home in such a way. This is what Paul is referring to when he writes, "and to the church in your house." "Church in your house" took on a new meaning during COVID when worship was streamed on YouTube, Facebook, and other medias allowing people to worship at home. Some people continue to use these medias as their way of doing church. For the most part however, the idea of having church in our house—inviting others in to worship and study—isn't a routine occurrence.

Portals of Prayer Daily Devotions printed a devotion for Thursday, October 6, 1988, titled "The Church in Your House." In the devotion, it was written, "Few of us today may literally have a church in our house, but this phrase should be true in a *certain sense* of every Christian home (emphasis mine). In such a home, the members are bound together not only by family ties but also by their membership in the church, the body of Christ. Here Christ's love shines through in the daily incidents of life—patience in hectic moments, sympathy in times of disappointment, forgiveness for sins committed."

In this *sense*, the "church in your house" travels with you wherever you go. The Christian traits of "patience, sympathy, and forgiveness" are placed on Christian hearts as the Father and Son make their home in us, as it is written in John's gospel (14:23) "we come [God's people] to make a home with them."

As we enter these summer months, many of us will be traveling on vacations and will be away from our church home and church family. Meant to be relaxing and fun, vacations are sometimes stressful and taxing in need of patience, sympathy, and forgiveness. Whether we call it the church in our house or the Father and Son dwelling in us, "God's church" (the body of Christ) is a constant presence to be celebrated and shared.

As we travel, may we take time to be God's church every day in prayer, thought, word and deed.

O Lord, allow us to be like Philemon of the early church, willing to invite others into our conversations to share the good news of Jesus Christ crucified and risen for the salvation of the world. Let us bring your church into our homes today. Amen.

In Christ's Love,
Minister Deb

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 13, 2025 ~ 7:00PM

Attendance: Jan Grieser, Dan Settlege, Jacob Orwick, Minister Deb Noll, Emily Clark, Tom Marquart, Deb Clevenger, 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 our Mission Statement and Values, 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.*

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 is busy creating new job descriptions – June deadline
- The constitution needs updated – tabled until after the July Churchwide Assembly

Develop a five-year plan for ministry and building

- It was suggested the carpet be cleaned in the east hallway and classrooms; Jacob Orwick will follow up on this. When handling fellowship hall chairs, members are asked to check for stains, tears and floor protectors on legs. If not in good shape, swap out for a newer chair in the supply room. It was noted the current table setup is good for handicapped accessibility, but not good for youth activities. After soup suppers are finished, a different setup may be considered. Buckeye flooring will be coming back to finish installation. Basketball hoops will be brought back in at that time.
- Create a rough draft of the five-year plan for ministry and building

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 with one correction to a Council member's contact number. The update will be given to the church secretary.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Jake Leu

- Last month the Trust Committee distributed \$25,000 to Luther Home of Mercy in Williston; \$1,200 for camperships; and \$1,000 for the LYO Giving Blitz.
- Budgeted amounts for parsonage insurance will even out at year end. With the increase in liability insurance for the church, actuals will be over and we'll need to increase the amount next year.
- The balance of the operating account is higher than normal because we're still waiting on the invoice for second half of fellowship hall flooring payment.
- Financial statements were reviewed. Total income from Jan–Apr 2025 was \$109,719.02 vs. a budgeted amount of \$77,117.33. Total expenses for the same period were \$154,866.42 actual vs. \$90,423.60 budgeted.

- Interest income generated by our Money Market account is estimated at ~\$357 for April 2025. Since the fall of 2023 we've earned \$12,685 in interest.
- The Discretionary Fund balance is now \$1,053.54. Discussion was held last month on recipients in need including Jacob Miles of Jenera who suffered a house fire several weeks ago. Deb moved that we donate \$500 of this fund to Jacob and the motion was seconded by Natalie McClelland. Motion carried.
- Designated Income received in April was \$2,050.00 of which \$100 was designated anonymously for a prayer bench. Discussion was then held on what kind of a bench and where it would be located. It was noted that some churches that have a prayer room (similar to a small chapel) inside their buildings for individual meditation.
- Total contributions received for new playground equipment is now \$11,575.
- Detailed account balances are as follows:

Account Balances at April 30, 2025

Checking

Current	145,844.20
Council Discretionary	1,053.54
Improvement	410.73
Missions	20,441.55
Special Projects	
Shipwreck Festival	2,296.81
Music	2,427.91
C. Price Memorial Funds	27,779.11
Bell Choir	1,419.00
Special Projects - Other	0.06
	<hr/> 33,922.89

Total Quickbooks Operating/MMDA	\$ 201,672.91
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Operating Account	105,833.88
Money Market Demand Accounty (MMDA)	126,609.78
Total Operating/MMDA - Bank	\$ 232,443.66

Outstanding Deposits at 4/30/25	-
Outstanding Checks at 4/30/25	(30,770.75)
Total Reconciled Operating/MMDA	\$ 201,672.91

Savings

General Memorial	\$ 14,770.58
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TRUSTEES REPORT – Tom Marquart

- Everything has been moved back into the Fellowship Hall. The basketball hoops have new weighted bags that are clean and should be easier to move.
- Four new chairs have been assembled and placed in the library.
- We're in the process of obtaining estimates for cleaning all carpeting throughout the church.
- It has been recommended that cracks in the parking lot be filled. An estimate of \$6,879 was obtained from Clean Line. Lee Laird believes we can do it ourselves for much less. He has located a machine to use, but would need several volunteers. The cost would be approximately \$2,000.
- Bart Welte will repair some damaged spouting at the parsonage.
- The Trustees recommend moving the ship in the Fellowship Hall to a safer location or put it in a protective case. Tom reported one of the clean air grates was knocked out during a youth event recently, so they'd like to keep the ship safe. Minister Deb suggested putting it in the welcome space in the corner where the chalk painting of a ship is located. Discussion was held on how to enforce the rules of the Fellowship Hall as far as NO kicking balls, sweeping the floor after events, etc. New rules will be created and posted in larger size and/or in color.
- Trustees are working on estimates for having all air vents cleaned throughout the church. Dan Settlege will ask a carpet cleaning service if they can do this.
- Tom Marquart has talked with Brycen Lucius to address some landscaping issues around the parsonage.

- It was recommended that Council proceed with painting poles black and installing the new church signs.

MINISTER'S REPORT HIGHLIGHTS – Deborah Noll

- Recent church activities and upcoming events were reviewed. Minister Deb noted a vacation request and will need a supply pastor on July 20.
- Steve Weihrauch reached out to request time for a temple talk in the future regarding the work of the Gideons. It was suggested that his talk serve as the message on July 20 when Minister Deb is on vacation.
- Two digital cameras were found in Minister Deb's office. She will put them on the "FREE" table because they're outdated. She also found other print files that she'd like someone else to review before they are shredded.
- It was suggested that we consider a substitute for Jane Wilch so she can take vacation days.
- See full report at end of minutes.

YOUTH MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS – Amy Gibson

April

- 6th – Ignite – 13 attended
 - Snacks and Drinks provided
 - Lesson: Bullying – How can we show kindness and stop judging others with God
- 13th – ReFUEL/Kemerley Yard Cleanup - 10 attended
 - Youth Board purchased Jimmy Johns Sandwiches
 - Christine Kemerley provided treats and drinks
- 27th – ReFUEL – 3 attended
 - Snacks and drinks provided
 - Lesson: Bible Trivia, Bible Apples to Apples and Bible Jokes
- Confirmation 6th, 27th

Upcoming:

- May
 - 4th – Ignite – 6 attended
 - Meal provided by Jane Wilch
 - Lesson: Disappointment (How to handle it in life and with God)
 - 4th – ReFUEL – 6 attended
 - Made Lasagna and Garlic Bread with Christine Kemerley
 - 18th – ReFUEL
 - Confirmation 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th (25th is reserved for makeup classes)
- June
 - 1st – Sky Zone 6-8pm - \$10pp (This event is for both Ignite and ReFUEL youth)
 - Confirmation Sunday will be June 8th (Emma Smith and Nicholas Clark 9am service)

Ongoing:

- Planning & Execution of ReFUEL, Ignite, Wednesday Night Live (WNL), Sunday School, VBS Games, 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

- No report.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS – Minister Deb

- We continue collecting items to support Good Hope's food pantry.
- We've begun planning for the church picnic in July with Parish Board.
- In August we plan on having a picnic with residents of The Orchards in Arlington.

- This group is staying active, working hard to engage the congregation to live our mission statement of *Celebrate, Live, and Share*.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS – Minister Deb

- Two new members are needed for this committee.
- Many compliments were received on the “dialogue” version of the Passion Reading on Palm Sunday. In 2026 we will try to have several people involved in the reading of the Passion and let that be the “sermon/message” of the day. Appreciation was expressed for the music (singing of beloved hymns, choir, bell choir, praise team and special music, especially involving our young people).
- Upcoming dates to note: Mother’s Day – May 11; Graduate Recognition – May 18; Confirmation – June 8; Father’s Day – June 15; Shipwreck – September 14; Worship with Bishop Beaudoin – October 19.
- Minister Deb distributed worship plans for the remainder of the church year including:
 - I will be on vacation July 20. A supply pastor is needed (Service of the Word @ 9:00/ Holy Communion Service @ 11:15).
 - My vacation continues on July 27. No supply minister is necessary as it is the Outside Worship led by the youth (blessing of backpacks and teacher recognition which usually takes place during this worship will take place in September).
 - Shipwreck Sunday - September 14, 2025 (Using the lessons from the revised common lectionary with the exception of using the appointed Psalm as the first lesson in place of the appointed first lesson.)
 - Saturday, October 4, 2025 -- Francis of Assisi Day -- Blessing of Animals Service in the Pavilion at 10:00am.
 - October 19, 2025 - Bishop Beaudoin will be here, hoping for special music and bells

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Updates to the semi-annual meeting agenda were presented and reports were discussed.
- Options for a new prayer chain app continue to be discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

- Research continues on cleaning machines for the new flooring in the Fellowship Hall.
- It was suggested that we consider creating a *History of the Church* team to relocate items on library shelves and to add a *New Church Building* addendum to the existing Shipwreck narrative.

ADJOURN

- Prior to adjournment, prayer requests were presented. The meeting adjourned with The Lord’s Prayer at 8:10pm. The next meeting will be held on June 10, 2025 at 7:00pm, led by Jan Grieser.

Natalie McClelland, Recording Secretary

Attachments

ST. PAUL CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2025 SYNOD AUTHORIZED MINISTER’S REPORT

Word for Thought – a devotion for the Year of Listening, provided by the Northwestern Ohio Synod, written by Tonya Wagner, Soaring Arts Studio.

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

Ephesians 2:10 *“For we are God’s masterpiece, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”*

Zephaniah 3:17 *“He will rejoice over you with gladness. He will quiet you with His love. He will exalt over you with singing.”*

Reflection

When thinking about “listening to self,” the first thing that I think of is a question. “What voices do I hear in my head regarding myself?” “How do I see myself?”

A lot of times, we listen to the world’s standards of who we should be, and yet we aren’t of the world. We aren’t supposed to fit in those boxes. So, oftentimes “listening” requires building on the theme of rest that the Synod’s focus in 2024. It requires pausing, stilling our souls, and putting on those noise-cancelling headphones that help us to drown out all the other voices. It’s in that space that we begin to tune our ears to hear what is true. It’s there that we can start to heal and listen as God continually speaks His love and adoration over us.

Discussion Questions

1. What words (of encouragement, comfort, or gratification) do you personally need to hear?
2. What truths has God spoken over you today?

Prayer

Father God, thank you for your intentionality in creating us. Thank you for speaking your love over us, day in and day out. Help us to silence the other voices that aren’t life-giving, so that we can hear You clearly. Help us to listen as you speak of who we are to You. Then, may we have the God-fidence to be who You created us to be and live Your love into the world! It’s in Your amazing name we pray. Amen.

Activity Since the April Council Meeting:

Worship, Church Functions, Member Contact Outside of Worship

- Worship Services (x9)
- Midweek Worship Services (x1)
- Midweek Bible Study (x1) attendance 6
- Set up midweek Sensory Table in Welcome Space (x1)
- Soup Suppers (x1)
- Maundy Thursday Worship (x1)
- Good Friday Worship (x2)
- Easter Breakfast (x1)
- “The Jokers” Card Group (x3)
- In-office, at home, rehab, and phone visitations (x2)
- Confirmation Classes (x2)
- Outreach Committee (x2)
- *Our Daily Bread* community meal (x1)
- Worship Committee (x1)
- Youth Board (x1)

Related Church Activities

- SAM Supervisor Session (x2)
- SAM Cohort Monthly Zoom (x1)
- Renewal of Vows Synod Worship Service and Lunch with the Bishop @ Faith Lutheran Church, Fremont (x1)
- Serenity Spring Worship (x1)
- Women of the ELCA Central Conference Spring Retreat @ Good Hope, Arlington (x1)
- Zoom Watch – Pastor Adam Sornchai, St. John (Windfall) Cardington, Presentation and Defense of his doctorate thesis: *Sharing the Good News Amid Distortions of the Gospel: A Theological Exploration of Evangelism with Faithful Deconstructors.*

Upcoming Events

- May 15, 2025 Ecumenical Luncheon w/Pastor Steve Ramsey & Pastor Matt Blau
- May 15, 2025 Transitional Leaders Zoom Meeting
- May 17, 2025 – 9:00–4:00 Discernment Retreat in Bowling Green
- May 18, 2025 – 2025 St. Paul Graduates Recognition
- May 18, 2025 – Semi-annual Congregation Meeting
- May 21, 2025 – Central Conference Ministerial Gathering @ St. John, McComb
- May 25, 2025 – *Our Daily Bread* Community Meal
- June 1, 2025 – Lead Worship @ Serenity Spring
- June 8, 2025 – Confirmation for Emma Smith and Nicholas Clark @ 9:00am Worship
- August 25-28, 2025 – *Listening to the Spirit* Spiritual Retreat (Continuing Ed)
- September 14, 2025 – Shipwreck Sunday
- October 4, 2025 – St. Francis of Assisi, Blessing of Animals Service (Pavilion)
- October 19, 2025 – Harvest Home – Bishop Beaudoin will be with us
- Date & Location to be announced – Healthy Congregation Workshop (Continuing Ed)

Vacation

- Vacation Taken: Tuesday, April 22 to Thursday, April 24, 2025
- Vacation Request: Sunday, July 20 to Thursday, July 31, 2025 (supply pastor needed on Sunday, July 20th, but not on Sunday, July 27th due to one worship service at 10:00am that is youth led)

For Council's Consideration

- Temple Talk Request ... Steve Weihrauch reached out to request a temple talk regarding the work of the Gideons.

Respectfully Submitted
Deb Noll
Synod Authorized Minister

ST. PAUL YOUTH BOARD TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2025

Attendees: Amy Gibson, Jenny Welte, Amanda Leu, Tina Cowan, Amanda Price

Call to Order: 7:42pm

Open with Prayer and Devotion: Led by Amy.

Treasurer's Report:	Current	\$13,549.89
	Total Expenses:	\$400.86
	Total Deposits:	\$1,146.00 (Walleye game, Bowling Credit, Flapjack Fundraiser)

Ongoing/Upcoming Needs:

- -Snack Cabinet: Little Debbie's only
- -Meal Sign up in the Welcome Space: April 6th, 13th, 27th. Also place in News of the Flock and Prayer Chain. Feed approx. 10 people.

Old Business:

- **Ignite Walleye Game:** 9 youth, 5 adults attended.
- **ReFUEL:** March 16th, canceled due to lack of attendance. March 30th, canceled due to weather, illness, and lack of attendance.
- **Giving Blitz:** Request was sent on 2/10/25
- **Flapjacks and Flannel:** March 16th from 11–1. \$823 in donations. Expenses were 244.00. Decided to give RJ \$650 to support his summer Mission trip.

- **Soup Suppers:** March 12th. Canceled due to new flooring. March 19th. Council (Donated funds to Youth \$121.00) April 9th. Need Volunteers to help. Jenny said she would be able to help.

New Business:

Summer 2025: One event per month. Events will be finalized at the May meeting.

-June: Sky Zone. \$26/person. Open until 8pm

-July: Rent pool in Arlington. \$250 for Rental. This may possibly be with Good Hope.

-August: Meal Packaging or Anchor Putt Putt (Findlay).

Quarterly Mission:

-1st Quarter. Flapjacks and Flannel. Giving \$650 to RJ Coldren for Mission Trip.

-2nd Quarter. Kemerley Yard Clean up. April 6th. 4–6pm (Weather Depending)

-3rd Quarter. Meal Collection and Packaging at West Ohio Food Bank in Lima.

-4th Quarter. Giving Blitz.

End in Lord's Prayer.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:18pm

ST. PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MAY 18, 2025 – 10:15AM

PRE-CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Council members convened in the church office to discuss cleaning machine options. The Chair distributed written notes and information about various scrubbers. Wayne Young and Jason Kemerley have met with several vendors to find the right machine for our flooring, and it is their recommendation that we go with a riding scrubber from Brown Supply Company in Lima. This is the same company from which we get our janitorial supplies, and they will also mount a cleaning solution dispenser which will correctly add the amount of solution needed for the scrubber. Jason has operated machines like this, and Wayne reported this is a smaller version of what Cory–Rawson school uses and it has worked well for many years. Jason, Wayne, Allie Settlege and the Trustees will be trained how to use the scrubber and instructions will be posted on the wall. We will also post a schedule of cleanings and when to change the scrubbing pad. Jake Leu reported that over the past several years it has cost more than \$5,000 for carpet cleaning. The consensus was in favor of the purchase.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Jan Grieser called the meeting to order at 10:24am. Minister Deb Noll led the congregation in prayer, after which the Sunday School offering was collected.

APPROVE MINUTES OF 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

Following review, the minutes of the November 2024 congregational meeting were approved as written.

MINISTER'S REPORT

A written report by Minister Deb Noll was attached to the agenda. She noted that Kendra Parke has offered to reorganize the St. Paul library. This project brought attention to the need for a *History Team* to look at options for displaying items currently on the shelves, and to look ahead (prior to the 195th Shipwreck Anniversary in 2026) and write an addendum to the existing Shipwreck narrative, explaining the history of how we have come to worship in our current building. Please let Kendra know if you're willing to help with this project. In addition to the list of activities in her report, Minister Deb noted she also attends monthly Council meetings. She is hoping to begin a Lutheran Inquiry Class for new and existing members and is aware of four people who are interested. If you would like to participate in this class, please let her know. Other items of note included upcoming vacation in July; Shipwreck Sunday on Sep. 14; St. Francis of Assisi Day and Blessing of Animals service on Oct. 4 in the pavilion; and Harvest Home Sunday on Oct. 19 with Bishop Boudoin in attendance. Looking ahead, St. Paul will observe the 195th anniversary of Shipwreck in September 2026 and the 200th anniversary of Shipwreck in September 2031.

YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT

A written report of youth events and activities was provided in the agenda. Amy Gibson reviewed highlights of year–

to-date events, upcoming activities and ongoing activities, noting youth will be meeting monthly instead of every other week this summer due to scheduling conflicts. They're planning to support mission events on a quarterly basis, with the first quarter Flapjacks & Flannel brunch raising \$650 to support RJ Coldren's mission travel with Cru this summer. In the second quarter they held a yard cleanup day for Christine Kemerley and received a \$150 donation. During the third quarter, youth will be collecting donations for a college gift card basket for young adults (graduates through age 30). There will be a basket in the welcome space for your donation of fuel cards, grocery cards, etc. which will be distributed in late July or early August.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

A written report from this committee was provided by Minister Deb Noll. Two new members are needed to assist with planning and enhancing worship experiences at St. Paul to give glory and honor to God. Please prayerfully consider serving in this capacity, especially if you're aware of a need in worship that is not being met.

TRUSTEES REPORT

Tom Marquart provided a written report in the agenda. The Chair noted that all carpeting throughout the building will be cleaned in June, and cracks in the parking lot will be filled after planting season. Volunteers will be needed for parking lot work.

PARISH EDUCATION REPORT

Emily Clark highlighted two events held since the annual meeting in November 2024 including movie night in February with roughly 60 children and an Easter egg hunt in April with 70+ children attending. VBS is scheduled for July 13–17 with a Sky theme, and many volunteers will be needed. Following VBS, a float will be decorated around the Sky theme for the Arlington Festival Parade. The Outreach Committee is partnering with Parish Board to host the annual church picnic at end-July with children participating in the worship service and a tent for comfortable outdoor seating. The Chair thanked Grant Welte for weeding the playground area.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

A written report from this committee was provided in the agenda. Tammy von Stein thanked all who have helped with *Our Daily Bread* community meals and reviewed the mission and vision statements of the committee. Statistics and plans going forward were also presented. This committee is also grateful for congregational participation in other outreach ministries including the support of Good Hope's food pantry, Christian Clearing House programs, Stuff the Bus school supplies, and families in the community. Tammy noted that Outreach is committed to spreading God's love through services within the congregation and throughout the community. Please think about ways you can help keep our community, our committee, and Our Daily Bread missions alive and active. She closed her report with a verse from Galatians 6:9–10.

FINANCIAL REPORT

A written report was provided by Jake Leu. He began by reviewing account balances, noting Council deems our financial situation as healthy. With respect to budget vs. actual for the period Nov–2024 thru Apr–2025, contributions were above what was expected. Jake noted that line item #4140–Missions & Benevolence includes money received from the Trust Fund designated for: Luther Home of Mercy in Williston \$25,000; youth camperships \$1,200; and the LYO Giving Blitz \$1,000. With regard to expenses, everything is falling in line with what was budgeted with the exception of line item #6185–Liability Insurance, which will put us over by a couple hundred dollars due to rate increases. Next year's budget will be adjusted to reflect this increase and our insurance coverage will be reviewed. Another line item that will exceed budget this year is #6310–Church Building, under Repairs & Maintenance, due to new flooring in the fellowship hall. This purchase was approved outside of budget at the annual meeting last November. We still have one payment that will be made when final work on flooring is complete. But overall, we'll still end up in a healthy financial position at the end of the year. Jake noted that more than \$12,000 has been generated by our money market accounts since Oct–2023. This income has been used for various missions as well as Council's Discretionary Fund.

TRUST FUND COMMITTEE

A written report from this committee was attached to the agenda including account balances, dividends earned, and distributions made.

R.J. Coldren thanked the congregation for their financial support of his mission trips. He’s looking forward to his next trip to Ocean City, NJ to be part of the community and spread God’s word, and couldn’t have done it without the gracious support of the congregation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- The trim around the perimeter of fellowship hall flooring still needs to be installed, after which final payment will be made.
- The portable basketball hoops have been moved back in place with new weights, thanks to those who assisted with this project. Please do NOT hang on the rims; one is already bent, and we want to keep them in good condition.
- A Vice Chair of the congregation is still needed as well as two Worship Committee members. Please prayerfully consider these positions and let the Chair know if you’re willing to serve. The Worship Committee meets every other month to plan services, upcoming events, and enrich worship.
- The Chair would also like to have more backup people trained to operate our sound and presentation systems. Please see Jan or Marty Grieser if you can serve in this capacity.

NEW BUSINESS

The following summary was provided to inform members as to how their contributions were distributed in 2024. Designated offerings funded by money market interest and additional donations included:

- 2024Q1 Indian Lake Disaster Relief \$4,356.25
- 2024Q2 Hopewood Outdoors (LOMO) \$5,895.00
- 2024Q3 New playground equipment \$8,665.00 + \$2,860 additional
- 2024Q4 Lutheran Disaster Response \$11,590.00
(hurricane relief incl St. Peter’s Lutheran Church; Tom Frey, pastor)

Year-end contributions from the Missions Fund included:

- Hancock Christian Clearing House \$4,302.94
- Lutheran Disaster Response \$4,302.94
- St. John’s Food Pantry in Findlay \$4,302.94
- Wernle Home \$4,302.94

Discretionary Fund distributions to individuals in need were \$2,100. Trust Fund distributions included \$25,000 to Luther Home of Mercy; \$1,000 for the LYO Giving Blitz; and \$1,200 for youth camperships.

The Chair reported there will be new rules posted in the fellowship hall soon, emphasizing NO kicking balls due to a greater risk of damage. A clean air grate was knocked out recently and repairs had to be made. Council has also discussed the possibility of moving the Shipwreck replica and trophy cases to a different location. In the meantime, please leave the fellowship hall as you found it and parents, please supervise your children.

Discussion was held on machines that would best clean the new flooring in the fellowship hall. The Chair noted that standard mops will not clean it well enough because when they tested a machine after mopping, the water was filthy after just two passes back and forth. The Chair and other members have met with several companies and tested options to determine the right machine for all hard surfaces throughout the building. They recommend a riding scrubber from the Brown Supply Company in Lima. A chariot machine was tested, but it kept stalling due to the soft flooring in fellowship hall. Jason Kemerley has operated riding scrubbers at work. Wayne Young reported a similar machine is used at Cory–Rawson school and it continues to run fine after 15 years, roughly 4 hours a day. The only replacements needed are batteries, squeegees and pads. This type of machine usually retails for \$12,000–13,000 but after negotiating, the Brown Company came down to roughly \$9,000. They will also mount for free a dispenser to add the proper amount of cleaning solution for the machine. This saves the user time and ensures that neither too much nor too little solution is used. Wayne reiterated the difference in mopping floors vs. using a scrubbing machine which actually sucks up the dirt. Typically, what wears out a floor is dirt. So, if you keep the dirt cleaned up, your floor will last much longer. Custodians Jason Kemerley and Allie Settlage have already run this machine and the Trustees will also be trained. There will be a chart created to note when pads need to be changed, and the machine will be inspected monthly prior to every Council meeting to ensure it’s in good working order. The price quoted is \$9,015 and there’s no tax.

A motion to purchase the scrubber was made by Gary Wilson and seconded by Laurie Laird. Discussion followed. The Chair reported she's looked at used machines from \$4,300–\$6,500 but we don't know their history and there are no guarantees. The Brown Company scrubber has a 1-year warranty and all plastic on the machine is guaranteed much longer. A schedule will be made for weekly cleaning. Wayne Young noted a scrubber like this is a great way to get floors and hallways thoroughly cleaned without having to mop, saving time and energy. Also, it seems that floor cleaning gets done more often because it's quicker and easier. The Chair noted we have purchased large dust mops that should be used after every event and before scrubbing to pick up small pieces of paper, thread, etc. A question was asked about moving tables and chairs every time the scrubber is used. The Chair replied that the custodians will have to move these items every time they use the scrubber, and we're considering a cart to hold the tables. Wayne noted the custodians could go around the tables and chairs periodically to clean up specific spills like they do at Cory–Rawson school. Financial Secretary Jake Leu said we have plenty of money to cover this purchase. Another member noted if you buy used and cheap, you may be getting someone else's problem. Another member noted the machine is for commercial use so although it may cost more, it's built better. Another member asked about wheel attachments to table legs so they could be rolled away instead of sliding across the floor. The motion carried following a show of hands. New rules for fellowship hall use will be posted in a bigger and better format.

The Chair is excited about the future of St. Paul and amazed by all who have stepped up to be the hands and feet of Christ. We continue to seek God's guidance to lead us into the future by bringing his kingdom here on earth.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer at 11:05am.

Natalie McClelland, Recording Secretary

Note: Print copies of reports will be attached to the print copy on file with the secretary.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR JUNE 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: Natalie McClelland and Deb Clevenger

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 MAY 2025: Paul Acton (*father of a friend of Tammy vonStein*); Deb Best; Dawn Curth (*friend of Jenny Welte*); family and friends of Tom Ensminger (*friend of Stephen & Mary Cowan*); Jon Gast; Dean Glick; Marsha Grieser; Shane Grieser; Norm Hahn; Lori Hopkins (*step-sister of Mike & Elaine Ingram's niece*); Jessica Kemerley; Steve McClelland; John Shepard; Aaron Smith; Louise Wilson; Bobbie Wright (*sister-in-law of Minister Deb*); all military personnel including — Griffin Hartman, Lance Leisure, Brycen Lucius, Evan McMonigal, Justin Riegle, Nate Sheets, Colin Tobin, and Alex vonStein — Songambe Lutheran Church; Navajo Lutheran Mission School, Rock Point, AZ; Hancock County Religious Education; and Mission Possible for Haiti.

Thank You ~ Thank You ~ Thank You ~ ~

To the St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church Family, I want to "Thank You" so much for all of your prayers, contributions and the "Wonderful Community Soup Luncheon Fundraiser" that you helped coordinate for Robert and my future needs. Also, for allowing Robert and I to stay at the parsonage for a time. It is truly greatly appreciated.

Robert and Betty Sharrer family

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

Tom, Pat, Sandy, Paul, Millie, Jean, Paula, Jim, Ruth, Rollie, Julie, and Jolene ~ The Orchard Residents



WHAT IS LUTHERAN CHRISTIANITY? This question will be explored in a *Lutheran Inquiry* class led by Minister Deb during the Sunday school hour on Sundays, June 15th, 22nd, 29th, and July 13th. The class is for any Individual wishing to be a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church and for current members desiring a refresher on being Lutheran in the world today. There is a sign-up sheet on the information counter if you wish to come to explore with us.

Graduation Recognition Sunday was held on Sunday, May 18th.

2025 High School Graduates

Noah Cowan, son of Nathan and Tina [Bower] Cowan, will be graduating on Sunday, May 25th from Arlington High School. Noah is planning on attending Ohio Northern University to study Mechanical Engineering.

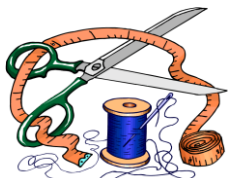
Isaac Cowan, son of Nathan and Tina [Bower] Cowan, will be graduating on Sunday, May 25th from Arlington High School. Isaac is planning on attending Ohio Northern University to study Civil Engineering.

Jameson Krantz, son of Amy [Cowan] Krantz, will graduate on Sunday, June 1st from Van Buren High School. His future plans include joining the workforce.

Becca Ludwig, daughter of Dan and Jean [Bachman] Ludwig, will graduate from Cory-Rawson High School on Sunday, May 25th. Becca will attend The Ohio State University main campus for Agricultural communications and business.

2025 College Graduate

Karissa Welte, daughter of Bart and Jenny [Baden] Welte, graduated from Bluffton University on Saturday, May 3rd with a Bachelor of Arts in Nutrition and Dietetics.



The June Sewing Days will be Wednesday, June 11th and Wednesday, June 25th from 9:00AM – 2:00PM. Come all of the time or part of the time. Please bring a dish to share for lunch. There were 11 people at the Sewing Day on Wednesday, May 28th. Four quilts were brought in and six quilts were finished.

The WELCA May meeting will be on Tuesday, June 17th beginning at 7:00PM. Mary Coldren is in charge of the Devotions and Mary Coldren and Marcia Russell are in charge of Hostess and Visiting.

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 next movie “The Forge” will be shown on Sunday, June 1st. The movies are shown starting at 10:15AM. All adults are welcome.

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

CONFIRMATION on PENTECOST SUNDAY, JUNE 8th

Nicholas Clark and Emma Smith will be confirmed on Pentecost Sunday, June 8th at the 9:00AM Traditional Worship Service.

ReFUEL and Ignite INFORMATION

YOUTH — Mark your calendars! Here are the Summer events for this year. All events will be combined Ignite and ReFUEL (grades 4th – 12th) for this summer. **Note we do not move up grade levels until school starts again. We will split into Ignite and ReFUEL again in the fall.

- Sky Zone –June 1st — 6pm–8pm –Cost: \$10 per person
- Pool Party at Arlington Pool –Friday, July 25th — 6pm–8pm — Cost: FREE
- Putt Putt and Ice Cream – Sunday, August 10th — 6pm–8pm

Locations: Anchored Sports (formerly Swing Time) and Mr. Twister. Cost: \$5 per person

Fall Calendar will be set/sent hopefully in July.

Be on the lookout for updates to the Pool Party and Putt Putt.

St. Paul LYO is collecting Gift Cards for our college age members to help ease expenses in college and work force. The cards for gas, groceries, coffee, and restaurants are being collected from June 1st to June 30th. The cards can be for any dollar amount you choose to donate. Monetary donations accepted to be used to purchase additional gift cards. If you have questions, please reach out to Amy Gibson or any member of the Youth Board. Thank you.



Our Daily Bread lunch in June will be on Sunday, June 29th from 11:00AM – 1:00PM. Boxed meals-to-go will be available and are a very popular request, especially during the busy months. Again, thank you so much for the continued prayers, support and financial donations to make this possible!! Please, continue to keep inviting!! You never know who might benefit from the meal and fellowship! Outreach Committee

ST PAUL LYO PRESENTS

GIFT CARD FUNDRAISER

Gift Cards for gas, groceries, coffee and restaurants

Collecting from
June 1st-30th

Gift Cards for college age
members to help ease expenses
in college and work force

ANY QUESTIONS? CONTACT AMY GIBSON OR YOUTH BOARD

**** MONETARY DONATIONS ACCEPTED TO BE USED TO
PURCHASE ADDITIONAL GIFT CARDS**

Vacation Bible School

July 13-17

Preschool - 5th Grade

You are invited to a

POOL PARTY

hosted by St. Paul Lutheran
Ignite and ReFUEL

JULY 25
7-9PM
Free! Bring your Friends!

Grades 4-12

St. Paul Ignite and ReFUEL
are invited

PUTT PUTT AND ICE CREAM

Anchored Sports Findlay
and Mr. Twister

AUGUST 10TH, 2025 TIME: 6-8PM

\$5 PER PERSON

June 2025 Birthdays

Sunday, June 1 st	Abbie Sheets
Tuesday, June 3 rd	Sandi Marquart
Tuesday, June 3 rd	Shiloh Ruehle
Tuesday, June 3 rd	Caden Russell
Friday, June 6 th	Rachel Hartman
Sunday, June 8 th	Jackie Bayer
Sunday, June 8 th	John Carey
Sunday, June 8 th	Nicole Galloway
Sunday, June 8 th	Joshua Hirt
Sunday, June 8 th	Garrett Smith
Tuesday, June 10 th	Allison Reule
Wednesday, June 11 th	Mary Jane Peyton
Thursday, June 12 th	Adam Dodge
Thursday, June 12 th	Carol Riegle
Thursday, June 12 th	Tom Valentage
Friday, June 13 th	Kevin Riegle
Saturday, June 14 th	Wayne Young
Sunday, June 15 th	Olivia Homera
Sunday, June 15 th	Leighton Price
Monday, June 16 th	Lynn Boehm
Monday, June 16 th	Shawn Griggs
Monday, June 16 th	Amy Keene
Monday, June 16 th	Makinlie Kerner Marquart
Monday, June 16 th	Amryn Leu
Monday, June 16 th	Jacob Orwick
Tuesday, June 17 th	Craig Durliat
Tuesday, June 17 th	Mackenzie Schroeder
Wednesday, June 18 th	Paisley Glick
Thursday, June 19 th	Tom Boehm
Friday, June 20 th	Aubrie Reichley
Saturday, June 21 st	Joshua Light
Saturday, June 21 st	Benson Sheets
Sunday, June 22 nd	Stephen Bower
Sunday, June 22 nd	Randi Glick
Sunday, June 22 nd	Tenley Schroeder
Monday, June 23 rd	Mary Boehm
Monday, June 23 rd	Olin Saum
Tuesday, June 24 th	Arlene Marquart
Wednesday, June 25 th	Mike Hoffman
Wednesday, June 25 th	Amanda Price
Thursday, June 26 th	Camden Boehm
Thursday, June 26 th	Joe Loy
Thursday, June 26 th	Jenna Pepple
Friday, June 27 th	Brodey Kroske
Friday, June 27 th	Marjorie Reichley
Saturday, June 28 th	Linda Isenbarger
Saturday, June 28 th	Zacary Leisure
Saturday, June 28 th	Kyle McDowell
Monday, June 30 th	Matthew Hankins



June 2025 Wedding Anniversaries

Sunday, June 1 st	Dustin and Amanda Price – 12
Monday, June 2 nd	Jon and Michelle Tarnay – 7
Tuesday, June 3 rd	Dale and Sara Geisinger – 25
Wednesday, June 4 th	Tom and Sally Valentage – 31
Saturday, June 7 th	Keith and Tammy Robinson – 45
Sunday, June 8 th	Darwin and Louise Wilson – 67
Tuesday, June 10 th	Tom and Cindy Boehm – 36
Monday, June 16 th	Andrew and Abbey Fitch – 13
Monday, June 16 th	Norm and Kathy Hahn – 16
Tuesday, June 17 th	Andrew and Lindsay Follas – 25
Tuesday, June 17 th	Paul and Sharon Hartman – 63
Wednesday, June 18 th	Raymond and Barbara Bower – 59
Wednesday, June 18 th	Marty and Marsha Grieser – 49
Friday, June 20 th	Ed and Tammy vonStein – 33
Sunday, June 22 nd	Scott and Lisa McDowell – 29
Monday, June 23 rd	Dan and Jean Ludwig – 24
Monday, June 23 rd	Glenn and Rebecca Peyton – 13
Wednesday, June 25 th	Troy and Jennifer Oeschler – 9
Monday, June 30 th	Joe and Amanda Panfil – 13
Monday, June 30 th	John and Kim Shepard – 15



ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ JUNE 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 9:00AM Traditional Worship / Communion 10:15AM Sunday School 11:15AM Contemporary Worship / Communion Afternoon Fellowship Hall reserved by the Durliat Family 6:00PM – 8:00PM Sky Zone	2	3 7:30PM Youth Board Meeting	4	5 6:00PM Sunday School Room reserved by “The Jokers”	6	7
8 THE DAY OF PENTECOST CONFIRMATION SUNDAY 9:00AM Traditional Worship / Communion / Confirmation 10:15AM Sunday School 11:15AM Contemporary Worship / Communion Morning/Early Afternoon Fellowship Hall reserved by Emily Clark / April Smith Afternoon Rock N Roll 4-H Meeting / Fellowship Hall	9	10 7:00PM Congregational Council Meeting	11 9:00AM – 2:00PM Sewing Day	12 6:00PM Sunday School Room reserved by “The Jokers”	13	14
15 THE HOLY TRINITY FATHER’S DAY “DOUGHNUTS FOR DAD” 9:00AM Traditional Worship / Communion 10:15AM Sunday School 10:15AM – 11:00AM Lutheran Inquiry Class 11:15AM Contemporary Worship / Communion	16	17 7:00PM WELCA Meeting	18	19 6:00PM Sunday School Room reserved by “The Jokers”	20	21
22 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9:00AM Traditional Worship 10:15AM Sunday School 10:15AM – 11:00AM Lutheran Inquiry Class 11:15AM Contemporary Worship / Communion	23	24	25 9:00AM – 2:00PM Sewing Day	26 6:00PM Sunday School Room reserved by “The Jokers”	27	28 9:00AM – NOON Fellowship Hall reserved by the Outreach Committee
29 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9:00AM Traditional Worship 10:15AM Sunday School 10:15AM – 11:00AM Lutheran Inquiry Class 11:15AM Contemporary Worship / Communion 11:00AM–1:00PM Community Meal / Fellowship Hall	30	ALTAR GUILD: Natalie McClelland and Deb Clevenger LECTOR: Janet Carey ORGANISTS: JUNE 1 st , 8 th , 15 th , AND 22 nd : Lisa Gossman JUNE 29th: Janet Carey				