



## 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](mailto:stpaulyouthministry1@gmail.com)

CHURCH OFFICE PHONE: 419-326-3535

CHURCH OFFICE E-MAIL: [stpaulutheran6@yahoo.com](mailto:stpaulutheran6@yahoo.com)

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN WEBSITE ~ [www.stpaulutheranjenera.org](http://www.stpaulutheranjenera.org)

---

### ST. PAUL "MESSENGER" FEBRUARY ~ 2026

---

*For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven  
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater... (Isaiah 55:10)*

Greetings,

This morning, as I look out my office window, I see mounds of snow and snow swirling in the wind. The sun is also shining making it appear warmer than the current temperature of 9° with a windchill of -20°. The extreme temperatures make it hard to enjoy the snow. It is unsafe even to build a snowman. But as the passage from Isaiah points out, there is promise and hope found in the snow.

Isaiah tells us the snow is a gift from heaven. It waters the earth and makes it bring forth and sprout. It gives seed to the sower and bread to the eater. Winter's snow brings with it the promise of spring and new birth and new life.

February 2<sup>nd</sup> is most commonly known as Groundhog Day, a weather lore that also looks to the promise of spring. A quick google search and AI overview says that Groundhog Day originated from European/German tradition where a badger or hedgehog predicted the end of winter. German settlers brought the lore to Pennsylvania in the 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> centuries. It evolved to use a groundhog in place of the badger or hedgehog, because those were not widely available. The saying goes, "If the groundhog sees his shadow, there will be six more weeks of winter; if he does not, Spring will come early."

The Groundhog Day tradition bears resemblance to the Pagan festival of Imbolc, which is the seasonal turning point of the Celtic calendar, celebrated on February 1<sup>st</sup>. It also stems from a European Christian tradition known as Candlemas, a day to bless and distribute candles to bring light in the darkness. Candlemas is celebrated annually on February 2<sup>nd</sup> the day recognized as the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. It occurs exactly 40 days after Christmas, during the season after Epiphany. The feast day celebrates the "Light" which Jesus brings to the world.

According to legend, "Early Christians decided that clear skies on Candlemas Day meant a longer winter was ahead, while a cloudy day foreshadowed the end of winter." The following verse reflects that:

If Candlemas be fair and bright,  
Winter has another flight.  
If Candlemas brings clouds and rain,  
Winter will not come again.

So, if on Groundhog Day the sun is shining bright and the groundhog sees its shadow, he retreats to his burrow indicating a longer winter. If the day is overcast, the groundhog cannot see its shadow, so there is expectation and hope for an early spring.

According to Issaiah the snow reminds us of the necessity of water (through the melting snow) to produce new life from which the seeds come to plant and from the seeds, the harvest for the making of our daily bread. Water is the earthly element joined with God's Word in sacrament of Holy Baptism. In holy baptism we are born anew into the family of God. The Holy Spirit plants the seed in us through which a harvest of new believers might be born, in the spreading of God's Word.

May your Candlemas/Groundhog Day be overcast, so as to reveal the promise and hope of the warmth and light of spring.

Shine in Christ's Light, Minister Deb

## 2026 CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

|  |              |   |              |
|--|--------------|---|--------------|
| <b>Chairperson:</b> Jan Grieser          | 419-889-3339 | <b>Deacons:</b> Sean Adams                    | 740-490-5308 |
| <b>Vice Chair:</b>                       |              | Steve Clark                                   | 419-722-6060 |
| <b>Recording Sec:</b> Natalie McClelland | 419-722-4324 | Lee Laird                                     | 419-355-4095 |
| <b>Treasurer:</b> Jane Follas            | 419-722-7458 | Lynn Boehm                                    | 419-722-8022 |
| <b>Elder:</b> Mary Coldren               | 419-722-5118 |   |              |
| <b>Elder:</b> Lynn Boehm                 | 419-722-8022 | <b><u>Ex-Officio Representatives —</u></b>    |              |
| <b>Trustees:</b> Deb Clevenger           | 419-306-1150 | <b>Financial Sec:</b> Jake Leu                | 567-208-7739 |
| Bart Welte                               | 419-721-7127 | <b>Minister:</b> Deb Noll                     | 419-560-1988 |
| Dan Settlage                             | 419-303-2513 | <b>Youth Ministry Coordinator:</b> Amy Gibson |              |
| Wayne Young                              | 419-722-1801 |   | 419-348-1653 |
| Joe Creque                               | 419-672-8318 | <b>Youth Board Representative:</b>            |              |
| <b>Sr. SS Supt:</b> Sally Valentage      | 419-306-1585 | Amanda Price                                  | 419-957-1988 |

### ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2026 – 7:00PM

*Attendance: Jan Grieser, Jane Follas, Mary Coldren, Minister Deb, Sally Valentage, Joe Creque, Dan Settlage, Wayne Young, Lynn Boehm, 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. All joined together in reciting our church mission statement and the Council prayer.

#### COUNCIL GOALS 2026 – Jan Grieser

The Chair presented the following scriptures to guide us in 2026:

- *Gal. 5:22-25 – “But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives he will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control; here there is no conflict with Jewish laws. Those who belong to Christ have nailed their natural evil desires to his cross and crucified them there. If we are living now by the Holy Spirit’s power, let us follow the Holy Spirit’s leading in every part of our lives.”*
- *John 13 34-35 – “A new command I give you: love one another; as I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”*

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

#### FINANCIAL REPORT – Jake Leu

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| <b>Account Balances at December 31, 2025</b> |                      |
| <b>Checking</b>                              |                      |
| Current                                      | 109,984.05           |
| Council Discretionary                        | 1,492.25             |
| Improvement                                  | 1,687.33             |
| Missions                                     | 17,194.57            |
| <b>Special Projects</b>                      |                      |
| Shipwreck Festival                           | 2,332.56             |
| Music  | 2,465.72             |
| C. Price Memorial Funds                      | 10,636.32            |
| Bell Choir                                   | 1,662.35             |
| Special Projects - Other                     | 0.06                 |
|  | 17,097.01            |
| <b>Total Quickbooks Operating/MMDA</b>       | <b>\$ 147,455.21</b> |
| Operating Account                            | 47,857.23            |
| Money Market Demand Accounty (MMDA)          | 100,530.97           |
| <b>Total Operating/MMDA - Bank</b>           | <b>\$ 148,388.20</b> |
| Outstanding Deposits at 12/31/25             | 2,515.00             |
| Outstanding Checks at 12/31/25               | (3,447.99)           |
| <b>Total Reconciled Operating/MMDA</b>       | <b>\$ 147,455.21</b> |
| <b>Savings</b>                               |                      |
| General Memorial                             | \$ 14,821.69         |

- Account balances and financial statements were reviewed. Total income from Jan–Dec 2025 was \$285,370.31 vs. a budgeted amount of \$231,352.00. Total expenses for the same period were \$376,579.52 actual vs. \$271,271.25 budgeted. Interest income generated by our Money Market account is estimated at ~\$236.00 for December 2025.
- Jake made a recommendation that we lock into a fixed Money Market rate with WesBanco.
- Jake asked to approve the purchase of a hard drive for \$70 to back up church financials as opposed to relying on “the Cloud”. A motion was made by Jane Follas to proceed with the purchase, seconded by Mary Coldren. Motion carried.
- The decorating committee would like to buy a new 10’ tree to replace an existing one, as well as 2 tree storage bags. Mary Coldren moved that we allow the purchase of these items not to exceed \$1,500. The motion was seconded by Dan Settlege and approved.
- Designated Income received in December was \$1,845.00. Open Arms Domestic Violence Shelter in Findlay is the 2025Q4 recipient, with nearly \$5,000 to be disbursed. Total 2025 Designated Income received and distributed will be \$24,190.
- Distribution of year–end benevolence was discussed. A total of \$12,220 is available and will be shared equally with the following organizations: Not an Ordinary Place, Lutheran Disaster Relief, Wycliffe Bible Translators, and Women’s Resource Center in Findlay.
- Employee information notices were reviewed by Council members. The notices, approved by general consent, include information specific to each employee and will be given to them annually.

### **MINISTER’S REPORT HIGHLIGHTS – Deborah Noll**

- Minister Deb provided updates relating to her candidacy for Seminary.
- She noted that the Northwestern Ohio Synod Assembly will be Saturday, May 30, 2026 from 9am to 6pm at St. Mark’s Lutheran Church in Bowling Green. St. Paul can send two adults and one youth/young adult to the assembly as voting members in addition to her, and she suggested asking RJ Coldren or Grant Welte if either one is available on that day.
- See full report at end of minutes.

### **YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT – Amy Gibson**

#### **Highlights:**

- December
  - Sunday School Theme: How the Grinch Met Jesus
  - 7<sup>th</sup> – Confirmation 4:30–5:30pm\*\*
  - 7<sup>th</sup> – SOAR Findlay 6–8pm (19 youth 3 adults)
  - 14<sup>th</sup> – Confirmation 4:30–5:30pm \*\*
  - 14<sup>th</sup> – Bowling Norada Lanes Ada 6–8pm (11 youth 2 adults)

#### **Upcoming:**

- January
  - 4<sup>th</sup> – Ignite 6–8pm (Attendance 10)
  - 7<sup>th</sup> – WNL 5:45–7:30pm
  - 8<sup>th</sup> – Youth Board Meeting 7:30pm
  - 11<sup>th</sup> – Confirmation 5–6pm
  - 11<sup>th</sup> – ReFUEL 6–8pm
  - 12<sup>th</sup> – Parish Board Meeting 7pm
  - 14<sup>th</sup> – WNL 5:45–7:30pm
  - 18<sup>th</sup> – Confirmation 5–6pm
  - 21<sup>st</sup> – WNL 5:45–7:30pm
  - 24<sup>th</sup> - Winter Jam – Columbus – 1:30pm
  - 25<sup>th</sup> - Confirmation 5–6pm
  - 28<sup>th</sup> – WNL 5:45–7:30pm
- February
  - 1<sup>st</sup> - Confirmation 5–6pm
  - 1<sup>st</sup> – Ignite 6–8pm

- 4<sup>th</sup> – WNL 5:45–7:30pm
- 7<sup>th</sup> - ReFUEL Movie Night 6–9pm
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Confirmation 5–6pm
- 11<sup>th</sup> – WNL 5:45–7:30pm
- 15<sup>th</sup> – Snow Trails – 2pm
- 22<sup>nd</sup> – Confirmation 5–6pm

### **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**

### **TRUSTEES REPORT – Dan Settlege**

- Fellowship hall rules have been revised and a draft policy was reviewed by Council members.
- Furnace filters throughout the building have been replaced, thanks to Tom Marquart and Wayne Young. Wayne was also able to troubleshoot one of the furnaces on the west side which had stopped running.
- Joe Creque, Tom Marquart and Wayne Young will be meeting at the church to do a walkthrough and review Trustee duties & responsibilities, including the transfer of the “Trustee Manual”. Joe then plans to summarize and review with the rest of the Trustees.
- Wayne Young has ordered controls for condensate water.
- Discussion was held on a heat deflector in the sanctuary that has come loose.
- One LED light is out in the hallway and replacements will be costly due to 4 different controllers. The Trustees will look into options before more lights go out.
- Discussion was held on replacing the Christ candle with a battery–operated candle. One option may be to remove the oil portion inside the candle and insert a battery-operated candle.
- Regarding the crack in the sanctuary ceiling, the Trustees are considering a piece of trim to hide the crack instead of patching and painting the crack, only to have it reappear in the future as the building settles.
- Regarding carpet cleaning, this is currently done on an “as needed” basis. Dan Settlege reported that most churches have scheduled cleanings on a regular basis, and the Trustees suggest we consider this twice a year (after VBS in July and just before Christmas). Dan is familiar with a commercial carpet cleaning business “Just Go Dry” in Columbus Grove that quoted \$2,000 per cleaning for carpet throughout the building.
- The playground equipment is ready to install when weather cooperates.
- It has been suggested that we hang the eternal candle from the old church somewhere in the sanctuary in memory of all saints passed. The Trustees will investigate options.
- Discussion was held on cleaning and/or painting the walls in the sanctuary.

### **PARISH EDUCATION – Sally Valentage**

- A Movie Night is planned in February with a Toy Story theme.
- A Community Easter Egg hunt will be scheduled prior to Easter Sunday.
- Kids Praise resumed on Jan. 7 and will run 6 weeks. Following that, a scaled–back version is planned during Lent.
- Vacation Bible School is scheduled for July 12–16 using a Kingdom theme.
- The annual church picnic is planned for early fall including a tent for handicapped accessibility.
- Trunk or Treat with a haunted woods will be held in October.
- A Christmas program is planned for December.
- A recipient(s) of third Sunday offerings is under discussion.

### **WORSHIP COMMITTEE – Minister Deb**

- Minutes of this committee’s January meeting were attached to our packet. Minister Deb noted they’re discussing how to blend the Holden Evening Prayer service into our Lenten worship.

## **OUTREACH COMMITTEE – Minister Deb**

- The community meal to be served in January includes chili, salad, bread sticks, and dessert.
- New bedding items are being collected in January to support Christian Clearing House.
- The committee plans to collaborate with Parish Board on the annual church picnic.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Wednesday night soup suppers during the Lenten season were discussed. A signup sheet will be placed in the welcome space for members willing to help.
- An outline of benefits (paid holidays, vacation time) given to our church secretary was discussed and approved by general consent.
- Discussion was held on the possibility of a committee or specific person(s) to coordinate special events such as weddings and funerals.
- Jane Follas will serve as Audit Committee Chair. The Chair will ask another member to assist if needed.

## **ADJOURN**

- The meeting adjourned with prayer requests and The Lord’s Prayer at 8:20pm. The next meeting will be held Feb. 10, 2026 at 7pm.

*Natalie McClelland, Recording Secretary*

---

## **St. Paul Congregational Council January 13, 2026 Synod Authorized Minister’s Report**

### **Word for Thought**

**Northwestern Ohio Synod Theme:** *The Way of Love, 2026*

**Northwestern Ohio Synod Memory verse:** 1 John 4:19 – *“We love because he first loved us.”*

Devotion written by: Bishop Daniel Beaudoin, Minister of Word and Sacrament, serving the people of God of Northwestern Ohio as Bishop of the Northwestern Ohio Synod.

**“We love because he first loved us.”** (1 John 4:19)

What is Love? Love is a gift from God that calls us to imitate the self-giving love of Jesus, which transforms us, to transform the community and the world!

In July, 2000, I was blessed to gather with over 35,000 young people for the ELCA Youth Gathering in St. Louis, Missouri. One of the main speakers was Archbishop Desmond Tutu from South Africa. It was at this gathering where I first heard about the South African principle of “Ubuntu” which is translated, “I am because we are”. Archbishop Tutu taught us that when the love of God is combined with the power of “we”, the result is the healing and transformation of the community and the world.

The Apostle John understands both the gift of God’s love and the power of “we”. In 1 John 4:7–19, John teaches the community of faith that God is love, and as followers of Jesus we are called to imitate God’s self-giving love, not only as individuals, but also as a community of faith. Notice that 1 John 4:19, does not begin with a “me”, but with a “we”. “We” are called to love, in the same way that God, in Christ Jesus, loves us. The love that John writes about is a love that begins with God, a love that we are called to imitate: a love that changes the community and the world.

In his book, *Love Is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times*, Episcopal Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, helps us to put God’s self-giving love into perspective. He simply asks, “Is this love about me, or is it about we?” Does the decision that I am about to make serve my own self-interest, or might this decision serve the greater good? If the answer is “me, myself, and I”, the way of love calls us to reconsider our next step. According to Presiding Bishop Curry, Archbishop Tutu, the Apostle John, and Jesus, we embrace the “we” before the “me”, for that is the way of love. And it can be that simple... and also that challenging. But at the end of the day, love is the only way. “We love because He first loved us”.

1. *In 1 John 4:7–19, the writer reminds the church about the self-giving love of God. How is this self-giving love lived out in your community of faith? Please share some examples.*
2. *Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the Apostle John, and Jesus, all call us to a love that puts the “we” before the “me”. Why do you think this self-giving love is so challenging for us to live out? Can you share a story of a time you experienced this kind of love in your life? In the life of your parish?*

Let us pray: Gracious and Loving God, we thank you for the gift of Your love and we seek Your forgiveness when we fail to love as we are loved. Fill us with Your gentle and self-giving love, so that we might share it with others. Empower us to forgive, serve, and follow you in the way of love. Lead us to share Your love with our neighbor and the world, transforming us from who we are into the people You long for us to be. In the name of Jesus, crucified and risen for the world. Amen.

### **Activity Since the December Council Meeting:**

#### **Worship, Church Functions, Member Contact Outside of Worship**

- Worship Services (x9)
- Christmas Eve Service (x1)
- Epiphany Home Blessing Devotion posted to prayer chain (x1)
- Hospital Visits (x7) two members in the hospital
- In-office, at home, assisted living, rehab, and phone visitations (x1)
- Staff Meeting (x1)
- Confirmation Class (x2)
- Worship Committee (x1)
- Community Meal (x1)
- “The Jokers” Card Group (x2)
- Hosted the Jokers for a holiday lunch (x1)
- Choir (x1)
- Kids Praise (x1)
- Dartball (x2)
- Dartball 4-man tournament (x1)
- Funeral Planning w/family (x1)
- Funeral Service (x1)
- Funeral Visitations (x2)

#### **Related Church Activities**

- SAM Supervisor Check-in (x3)
- SAM Cohort (x1)
- SAM/Supervisor Text Study (x1)

#### **Candidacy/Seminary Update**

- Psychological Evaluation – An online evaluation processed through Leaderwise will take approximately 14 hours to complete; includes inventory assessments, personal interviews, and evaluation conversations to take place over an extended period of time.
- ELCA application for candidacy has been completed, entrance interviews will be scheduled as soon as all essays and forms have been sent to the Synod office.
- University transcripts have been received by Wartburg seminary and the Synod office.

#### **For Council Consideration**

- Northwestern Ohio Synod Assembly – May 30, 2026, 9:00am to 6:00pm at St. Mark’s Lutheran Church, Bowling Green. St. Paul can send two adults and one “youth/young adult” to the assembly and Minister Deb suggested asking RJ Coldren or Grant Welte to be our young adult representative if either one is available on that day in addition to the Synod Authorized Minister. Congregation Council can vote on who to send as voting representatives. Registration is open from January 1, 2026 to April 30, 2026. Registration cost per

voting member is \$100 from January 1 through March 31, 2026. Late registration will be \$150 from April 1–30, 2026. Now is the time to consider and invite to be our representatives to the Assembly.

Respectfully Submitted, Deb Noll, Synod Authorized Minister

---

### **WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR FEBRUARY 2026**

**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:** Sally Valentage  
**LECTOR:** The Clark Family  
**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 JANUARY 2026:** Kelly Carder (*neighbor of Valentage’s*); Zac Carman; Susan Culp (*wife of Tammy von Stein’s cousin*); Vicki Dinovo (*Tammy von Stein’s mother*); Lawrence Durenberger, Jr. (*uncle of Beth Kimmel*); family and friends of Jon Gast; Britt Gibson; Richard Gray (*Mary Cowan’s cousin*); Jim Jones (*brother-in-law of Sally Valentage*); John Jordan (*son of Judy [Grieser] Jordan*); Norm Hahn; Steve McClelland; Carol Russell (*friend of Ingram’s*); Vera Sheets; Kassie Stine (*Kelly’s daughter*); Ginny Walters (*HS classmate of Christine Kemerley*); Crosby Willford (*son of Crystal and Adam*); Louise Wilson; David Wolford; all military personnel including — Griffin Hartman, Lance Leisure, Brycen Lucius, Evan McMonigal, Nate Sheets, Colin Tobin, and Alex von Stein.

**PRAYERS FOR CHURCH LEADERSHIP:** ELCA Presiding Bishop Curry; Northwestern Ohio Synod Bishop Beaudoin; 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.

---

**WINTER WEATHER INFORMATION:** It is the policy of St. Paul Lutheran Church that if there is a Level 3 Snow Emergency for Hancock County, we will not be having in-person worship or any scheduled activities. If there is a Level 2 Snow Emergency, a decision regarding worship will be made by the Minister and Congregational Council's Executive Committee and information will be posted through the Prayer Chain. In the case of Kids Praise, if Arlington School is cancelled due to weather, then there will be No Kids Praise that evening. PLEASE use your best judgement in all cases of inclement weather. Our trustees do their best to stay on top of winter weather conditions, but the church parking lot and sidewalks may still be icy even without a snow emergency. In all circumstances, be safe!

**PLEASE NOTE:** IN CASE OF A LEVEL 2 SNOW EMERGENCY –

Confirmation classes and Youth Group activities will be cancelled.

---

## *Thank You ~ Thank You ~ Thank You ~ ~*

Thank you to the Church Council for the gift card I received. The card was very much appreciated. *Marty Grieser*

**Thank you** for the willing helpers for the Dartball 4-Man Tournament on Saturday, January 3, 2026.

Your help was greatly appreciated.

*Linda Wilson*

**Dear St. Paul ~ We appreciate** being able to use St. Paul's for dad's [Pastor Bernie Boehm] visitation. It has a lot of meaning for us as does your support.

*Lola, Kathy, and Beth*

**Thank you** for your prayers and cards. Please continue the prayers because I have no weight bearing until March 13<sup>th</sup>.

*David Wolford*

---

## **Our Christian Sympathy is extended to ~ ~**

**Our Christian Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Jon Gast.** Jon, 70, passed away on Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>. May the family and friends of Jon feel God holding them close and fill them with resurrection hope.

---

**RESULTS OF THE OUTREACH PROJECT IN JANUARY:** **Thank you for the many donations of Sheet Sets, Blankets, and Pillows.** We were able to take 25 sets of Sheets, 14 Blankets, and 22 Pillows to the Women's Resource Center and they were so appreciative of all of your generous donations. Thank you so much, Outreach Committee

**Outreach also wants to THANK EVERYONE** who has been contributing to Good Hope's food pantry. We have had a great response from our congregation, which shows we care about others and want to be "feet on the ground" to help serve. Good Hope's staff has been extremely thankful for our congregation's response and support. They continue to see more people coming to the food pantry for assistance. Outreach will continue to support their efforts. Watch the bulletin for future "needs list".

---

**NEW ADDRESS:** Colin and Annabelle Tobin  
513 Lucky Lane  
Clarksville, TN 37042

---

**\*\* Men's Faith and Fellowship will meet on Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM in the Library.**

---

**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.

---

**2026 FIRST QUARTER DESIGNATED OFFERING is for: City Mission of Findlay.** City Mission is a Christian organization with a purpose to live out the Gospel of Jesus Christ through their actions towards others, specifically those in need. City Mission's mission statement is: To provide emergency help to the homeless and hungry through collaborative efforts to meet physical, spiritual, vocational, and mental health needs. To offer the compassion, time, and tools to help those who are served make life-changing choices. Their vision is to seek to end homelessness and hunger by providing food, shelter, discipleship, and access to essential services to men, women, and children. City Mission is located at 510 West Main Cross Street, Findlay, Ohio. Phone: 419-423-9151. E-mail: info@findlaymission.org. Donations to benefit City Mission of Findlay can be made through your 2026 Giving Envelope and listed in the box marked Designated.

---

**Sewing Days for February will be on Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> 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 12 people at the Sewing Day on Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>. 9 quilts were brought in and 5 quilts were finished for a total of 14 quilts. The Sewing Day scheduled for Wednesday, January 28<sup>th</sup> was cancelled because of inclement weather.

---

**DARTBALL SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY 2026**

[ALL First and Second Half season games throughout the season begin promptly at 7:00PM]

Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> Salem, Findlay @ Jenera Jr.  
Jenera Sr. @ Upper Sandusky

Monday, February 9<sup>th</sup> Week Off [Make-Up Date, if needed]

Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup> Saturday League Tournament @ Jenera  
[Doors open at 9:00AM / Starts at 10:00AM]

Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup> Banquet at Salem New Beginnings Church  
[Doors open at 5:30PM / Starts at 6:00PM]

---

**ReFUEL and Ignite Information for February 2026**

Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup> Ignite 6:00PM – 8:00PM

Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup> ReFUEL 6:00PM – 9:00PM — Movie Night

Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup> ReFUEL meet at Church at 12:30PM to go to Snow Trails – 2:00PM

Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup> YOUTH / Winter Jam — 2:00PM

---

**Confirmation Class Information for February**

SUNDAYS, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup> Confirmation Class — 5:00PM – 6:00PM

**NO** Confirmation Class on Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>

---

**\*\* The 2025 Contribution Statements are available along with the 2026 Contribution Envelopes on the Fellowship Counter in the Welcome Space.**

**DO YOU NEED SOMETHING TO DO THIS POST HOLIDAY SEASON? 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 Lent begins—one piece at a time.

## **Growing in Faith — Preparing people to be the Church of Tomorrow**

If you have ever felt drawn to be more effective in the ministries you are already involved in or inspired to start something new in your community or just wanted to learn more about the Christian faith, but you just didn't know where to start, diakonia may be a good fit for you.



**Practical Courses**  
Registration now open for:  
**Healthy  
Congregations**

Thursdays nights from 6-9 PM  
February 5th - March 5th  
Cost: \$65 for this 5-Week Class  
Location: Zoom

Learn more:  
[www.growinginfaithohio.org](http://www.growinginfaithohio.org)

Register Now!



**Foundations Courses**  
Registration now open for:  
**Intro to  
New Testament**

Thursdays nights from 6-9 PM  
February 5th - March 5th  
Cost: \$65 for this 5-Week Class  
Location: Zoom

Learn more:  
[www.growinginfaithohio.org](http://www.growinginfaithohio.org)

Register Now!

**Diakonia Classes Registering Now  
for Classes on  
Thursdays, February 5<sup>th</sup>  
thru March 5<sup>th</sup>  
6:00PM – 9:00PM on Zoom**

Registration is now open to the next Growing In Faith: Diakonia courses! Two virtual courses will run simultaneously every Thursday from 6:00PM – 9:00PM during the five weeks of February 5<sup>th</sup> to March 5<sup>th</sup>! For Course 4, the Foundations Course is Intro to New Testament and the Practical Course is Healthy Congregations.

Find More Information and Register @ Northwestern Ohio Synod's Website or go directly to:  
<https://growinginfaithohio.org/>

## February 2026 Birthdays

|                                      |                    |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Sunday, February 1 <sup>st</sup>     | Gideon Fisher      |
| Sunday, February 1 <sup>st</sup>     | Susanna Gant       |
| Sunday, February 1 <sup>st</sup>     | Emersyn Tiell      |
| Sunday, February 1 <sup>st</sup>     | Karter Tiell       |
| Monday, February 2 <sup>nd</sup>     | Tyler Amos         |
| Monday, February 2 <sup>nd</sup>     | Regan Zehender     |
| Tuesday, February 3 <sup>rd</sup>    | Dick Noll          |
| Wednesday, February 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Kathy Hahn         |
| Thursday, February 5 <sup>th</sup>   | Nancy Smith        |
| Thursday, February 5 <sup>th</sup>   | Rick Wolford       |
| Friday, February 6 <sup>th</sup>     | Sherry Sickles     |
| Saturday, February 7 <sup>th</sup>   | Nathaniel Edmiston |
| Saturday, February 7 <sup>th</sup>   | Gary Reichley      |
| Monday, February 9 <sup>th</sup>     | Beth Kimmel        |
| Tuesday, February 10 <sup>th</sup>   | Ben Wolford        |
| Wednesday, February 11 <sup>th</sup> | Joe Panfil         |
| Wednesday, February 11 <sup>th</sup> | Diane Parke        |
| Wednesday, February 11 <sup>th</sup> | Paula Tomlins      |
| Thursday, February 12 <sup>th</sup>  | Paul Hartman       |
| Thursday, February 12 <sup>th</sup>  | Nancy Tobin        |
| Friday, February 13 <sup>th</sup>    | Jennifer Oechsle   |
| Saturday, February 14 <sup>th</sup>  | Kreg Dodge         |
| Tuesday, February 17 <sup>th</sup>   | Katie Kramer       |
| Tuesday, February 17 <sup>th</sup>   | Larry Parke        |
| Wednesday, February 18 <sup>th</sup> | Megan Follas       |
| Thursday, February 19 <sup>th</sup>  | Josie Boehm        |
| Thursday, February 19 <sup>th</sup>  | Harold Bower       |
| Thursday, February 19 <sup>th</sup>  | Sandra Boyd        |
| Thursday, February 19 <sup>th</sup>  | Abbey Dempster     |
| Thursday, February 19 <sup>th</sup>  | Deb Harvitt        |
| Saturday, February 21 <sup>st</sup>  | Mike Grieser       |
| Saturday, February 21 <sup>st</sup>  | Steven Reichley    |
| Saturday, February 21 <sup>st</sup>  | Isaac von Stein    |
| Sunday, February 22 <sup>nd</sup>    | Seth Carey         |
| Monday, February 23 <sup>rd</sup>    | Keith Bower        |
| Monday, February 23 <sup>rd</sup>    | Melanie Leisure    |
| Tuesday, February 24 <sup>th</sup>   | Stacey Edmiston    |
| Tuesday, February 24 <sup>th</sup>   | Renee Rammel       |
| Thursday, February 26 <sup>th</sup>  | Jennifer Dempster  |
| Thursday, February 26 <sup>th</sup>  | Scott McDowell     |
| Friday, February 27 <sup>th</sup>    | Beth Bell          |
| Friday, February 27 <sup>th</sup>    | Kellen Steinmetz   |



## February 2026 Wedding Anniversaries

|                                     |                            |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Saturday, February 7 <sup>th</sup>  | Larry and Ilene Parke – 55 |
| Thursday, February 12 <sup>th</sup> | Cory and Randi Glick – 15  |
| Tuesday, February 24 <sup>th</sup>  | Bob and Paula Tomlins – 30 |
| Friday, February 27 <sup>th</sup>   | Lynn and Nadine Boehm – 44 |



# ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ FEBRUARY 2026

| SUN   | MON  | TUE   | WED   | THU  | FRI              | SAT   |
|---|--|---|---|--|------------------|---|
| <p><b>Altar Guild:</b> Sally Valentage<br/> <b>Lector:</b> The Clark Family<br/> <b>Organist:</b> February 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup>: Lisa Gossman</p>   |  |   |   |  |                  |   |
| <p><b>1 FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY</b><br/>           9:00AM Traditional Worship / Communion<br/>           10:15AM Sunday School<br/>           11:15AM Contemporary Worship / Communion<br/>           2:00PM Minister Deb leading Worship at Serenity Spring<br/>           5:00PM – 6:00PM Confirmation Class<br/>           6:00PM – 8:00PM Ignite</p>     | <p><b>2 GROUNDHOG DAY</b><br/>           7:00PM Dartball<br/>           Salem, Findlay @ Jenera Jr.<br/>           Jenera Sr. @ Upper Sandusky</p>   | <p><b>3</b></p>   | <p><b>4</b><br/>           5:45PM – 6:30PM Meal served before Kids Praise<br/>           6:30PM – 7:30PM Kids Praise<br/>           7:00PM Senior Choir Practice</p>  | <p><b>5</b><br/>           9:30AM Bible Study / Library<br/>           1:30PM – 4:30PM “The Jokers”<br/>           5:30PM – 7:00PM Arlington 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Basketball / Fellowship Hall</p>   | <p><b>6</b></p>  | <p><b>7</b></p>   |
| <p><b>8 FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY</b><br/>           9:00AM Traditional Worship / Communion<br/>           10:15AM Sunday School<br/>           11:15AM Contemporary Worship / Communion<br/>           4:00PM Rock–N–Roll 4–H Meeting<br/>           5:00PM – 6:00PM Confirmation Class<br/>           6:00PM – 9:00PM ReFUEL / Movie Night</p>                | <p><b>9</b><br/>           Dartball / Week Off [Make-up Date, if needed]</p>   | <p><b>10</b><br/>           7:00PM Congregational Council Meeting</p> | <p><b>11</b><br/>           9:00AM – 2:00PM Sewing Day<br/>           5:45PM – 6:30PM Meal served before Kids Praise<br/>           6:30PM – 7:30PM Kids Praise<br/>           7:00PM Senior Choir Practice</p> | <p><b>12</b><br/>           9:30AM Bible Study / Library<br/>           1:30PM – 4:30PM “The Jokers”<br/>           5:30PM – 7:00PM Arlington 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Basketball / Fellowship Hall<br/>           6:00PM – 7:00PM Girl Scout Troop 1335 / SS Classroom &amp; Library<br/>           7:00PM Men’s Faith and Fellowship / Library</p> | <p><b>13</b></p> | <p><b>14 VALENTINE’S DAY</b><br/>           9:00AM – 2:00PM Dartball Tournament [Doors open at 9:00AM / Tournament starts at 10:00AM]</p> |
| <p><b>15 TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD</b><br/>           9:00AM Traditional Worship<br/>           10:15AM Sunday School<br/>           11:15AM Contemporary Worship / Communion<br/>           12:30PM Meet at Church for ReFUEL / Snow Trails – 2:00PM<br/> <u>No</u> Confirmation Class<br/>           6:30PM Parish Ed sponsored Movie Night / Fellowship Hall</p> | <p><b>16 PRESIDENTS DAY</b><br/>           2:00PM YOUTH / Winter Jam<br/>           6:00PM Dartball Banquet / Salem New Beginnings Church, Findlay [Doors open at 5:30PM / Dinner at 6:00PM]</p> | <p><b>17</b><br/>           7:00PM WELCA Meeting</p>                  | <p><b>18 ASH WEDNESDAY</b><br/>           7:00PM Ash Wednesday Service / Communion</p>  | <p><b>19</b><br/>           1:30PM – 4:30PM “The Jokers”<br/>           5:30PM – 7:00PM Arlington 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Basketball / Fellowship Hall</p>  | <p><b>20</b></p> | <p><b>21</b></p>  |
| <p><b>22 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT WASHINGTON’S BIRTHDAY</b><br/>           9:00AM Traditional Worship<br/>           10:15AM Sunday School<br/>           11:15AM Contemporary Worship / Communion<br/>           5:00PM – 6:00PM Confirmation Class</p>  | <p><b>23</b></p>   | <p><b>24</b></p>  | <p><b>25</b><br/>           9:00AM – 2:00PM Sewing Day<br/>           6:00PM – 7:00PM Soup Supper<br/>           7:00PM Lenten Worship Service</p>  | <p><b>26</b><br/>           1:30PM – 4:30PM “The Jokers”<br/>           5:30PM – 7:00PM Arlington 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Basketball / Fellowship Hall<br/>           6:00PM – 7:00PM Girl Scout Troop 1335 SS Classroom &amp; Library</p>  | <p><b>27</b></p> | <p><b>28</b></p>  |