



## ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

9340 TOWNSHIP ROAD 32

JENERA, OH 45841

DEB NOLL, MINISTER

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

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

E-MAIL ADDRESS: stpaulyouthministry1@gmail.com

CHURCH OFFICE PHONE: 419-326-3535

CHURCH OFFICE E-MAIL: stpaullutheran6@yahoo.com

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

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### ST. PAUL "MESSENGER" NOVEMBER ~ 2024

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*"Onward, then, ye people, join our happy throng, Blend with ours your voices in the triumph song; Glory, laud, and honor, unto Christ the King; This thro' countless ages men and angels sing"*

*The hymn "Onward Christian Soldiers" fourth stanza*

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I write this, we are less than a week away from the presidential election; it is obvious just how divided America is. The ideal of unity is being professed while division is escalating. The state of America's democracy is being debated, and people on both sides of the aisle are afraid. Many fear that whoever wins, the result will lead to violence or war. I hear the voice of Jesus say, "Fear not!"

In the face of the storm, Jesus said to his disciples, "Fear not!" and to the ravishing waters he said, "Be still!" The waters became silent, and there was peace.

In the raging storms of life, our greatest fear is that of evil — Satan's effort to separate humanity from God's love. In the 1980s there was an effort to remove the hymn "Onward Christian Soldiers" from mainline church hymnals because of its perceived militaristic imagery and language. It was feared that the hymn's language might promote violence or aggression in the name of Christianity.

Some of the words from that familiar hymn might be comforting to hear today. The third stanza reads, "Like a mighty army moves the church of God; [Siblings], we are treading where the saints have trod; We are not divided; all one body we, One in hope and doctrine, one in charity. Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war, with the cross of Jesus going on before!"

The hymn was written by Savine Baring-Gould in the mid-1860s for children to sing as they marched to rivers and fonts on their baptismal day. Going before them was the cross of Christ. On the cross is "the sign of triumph" from where "Satan's host doth flee". It is not a victory over members of another culture, or religion, or life style, or even republicans or democrats, rather it is the victory of good over evil, victory over death and the grave.

That the hymn is too militaristic is in conflict with biblical language. Military metaphors fill the scriptures. The Apostle Paul goes into great length advising putting on the whole armor of God in Ephesians chapter six. Lift high the cross of victory for what God has done through Jesus Christ the Lord of our salvation.

We are living in the midst of a battle. Remember that the foe is not the candidates or the victor of the election. Rather the foe is sin — the source of all evil, from which Jesus won the battle for those who believe.

O God, let us cling to "Christ, the royal Master" who "leads against the foe" trusting in His victory. Then let us proclaim Christ's victory, and "join the happy throng" blending our voices with the angels and saints to sing "the triumph song, 'Glory, laud, and honor, unto Christ the King'". Amen.

In Christ's Love,  
Minister Deb

**ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
 CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING  
 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2024 – 7:00PM**

*Attendance: Laurie Laird, Jane Follas, Mary Coldren, Deb Clevenger, Minister Deb Noll, Mike Stoltz, Tom Carey, Jen Welte, Jan Grieser, Jake Leu, Emily Clark, Nathan Cowan and Natalie McClelland.*

**CALL TO ORDER – Laurie Laird**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:01pm, followed by review of chapter 8, *Hope Relentlessly*, in our study book. All members recited the Council prayer together, and minutes of the previous meeting were approved with one change: payment to Seth Carey as substitute Praise Team Director will be made directly, not reimbursed by Jan Grieser.

**FINANCIAL REPORT – Jake Leu**

<b>Account Balances at 9/30/24</b>	
<b>Checking</b>	
Current	190,431.67
Council Discretionary	1,257.75
Improvement	50.15
Missions	19,832.66
Special Projects	
Shipwreck Festival	2,253.89
Music	2,382.54
C. Price Memorial Funds	27,257.05
Bell choir	1,767.83
Special Projects Other	0.06
	33,661.37
<b>Total Quickbooks Operating/MMDA</b>	<b>245,233.60</b>
Operating Account	54,108.49
Money Market Demand Account (MMDA)	192,264.97
<b>Total Operating/MMDA – Bank</b>	<b>246,373.46</b>
Outstanding Deposits at 5/31/24	
Outstanding Checks at 5/31/24	-1,139.86
<b>Total Reconciled Operating/MMDA</b>	<b>245,233.60</b>
<b>Savings</b>	
General Memorial	14,769.84

- Council members reviewed financial statements. Total income for the period Jan-Sep 2024 was \$210,695.43 vs. a budgeted amount of \$169,672.24. Total expenses for the same period were \$194,379.37 actual vs. \$195,793.53 budgeted.
- Interest income generated by our Money Market account is estimated at \$731.80 during the past month. Jake will transfer an additional \$10,000 from the Operating fund to the Money Market account this month.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter income designated for playground equipment totaled \$7,565.
- The 2025 church budget was reviewed. Minister Deb noted she may be enrolling in Seminary next year. It was suggested she apply for the Crates Memorial Scholarship. Deb Clevenger moved and Emily Clark seconded a motion to approve the budget as presented. Motion carried.
- The Chair reported that the recipient of 4<sup>th</sup> quarter designated income was changed to Lutheran Disaster Relief due to recent hurricanes. A motion was made by Jan Grieser and seconded by Natalie McClelland to ratify this change. Motion carried.

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

- The report began with a Word for Thought based on 1 Timothy 2:1–3, followed by prayer
- Upcoming events were then reviewed (see full report attached at end of minutes).

## **TRUSTEES REPORT – Tom Marquart**

- Regarding the enhancement of the large stone sign, Deb Clevenger reported she talked to Charlie Crates but they only work with granite. Deb also talked to Northwest Masonry but the only option they suggested was sandblasting. Following discussion, it was decided that we leave the sign as is.
- The base for the old church bell is under construction.
- Jan Grieser asked about the status of posting new church signs. Amy noted the youth had a date set for painting poles some time ago, but it was postponed due to rain.

## **PARISH EDUCATION – Emily Clark**

- Kids Praise will begin Oct. 16; Christine Kemerley has meals planned for the season.
- Planning for the Fall Festival is underway; the date is Oct. 20 and the event will include Trunk or Treat, food, games, hayrides, etc.
- The children's Christmas program is planned for Dec. 15 with a single service at 10am.

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

### **Highlights:**

*September* Weekly Confirmation began Sept. 15 we have 2 - 8<sup>th</sup> graders and 3 - 7<sup>th</sup> graders  
2 ReFUEL Youth Group events  
Ignite – Nerf Wars: 28 youth in attendance (grades 4-6)

### **Upcoming:**

*October* 5<sup>th</sup> – Ignite by the Campfire: 11 youth in attendance  
6<sup>th</sup> – ReFUEL  
16<sup>th</sup> – KP/WNL  
20<sup>th</sup> – Fall Fest  
23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> – KP/WNL

*November* 2<sup>nd</sup> – Ignite goes to Suter's Corn Maze  
3<sup>rd</sup> – ReFUEL  
6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, - KP/WNL  
17<sup>th</sup> – ReFUEL Giving Blitz – Donations towards Local Christmas Giveaway in Arlington

*October 27<sup>th</sup> – November 10<sup>th</sup> – St. Paul LYO “Spiritwear” Fundraiser*

*November 17 – December 1<sup>st</sup> – Stocking Stuffer Collection for the Christmas Giveaway*

### **Ongoing:**

- Planning and Execution of ReFUEL, Ignite, Wednesday Night Live (WNL), Sunday School, and Confirmation
- Create and Distribute: Newsletter Info, Flyers, Bulletin Board, Emails, Texts, Social Media Updates, Calendar, Website
- Attend: Youth Board, Parish Board, Staff Meetings, Council

## **OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

- A second community meal (taco bar) will be served in October with signs, flyers, and digital advertisement.

## **WORSHIP COMMITTEE**

- Minutes of the October meeting as recorded by Minister Deb are attached at the end of this report.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- Regarding new flooring in the Fellowship Hall, Jan Grieser presented a carpet estimate from Frey Carpet & Flooring for \$25,000. This will be presented at the Annual Congregational Meeting along with an estimate of \$61,000 from Endurance Sport Sheet Flooring.
- Jan noted the new portable sound system will be used this Saturday during the WELCA fall conference.
- Council positions for 2025 were further reviewed.

## NEW BUSINESS

- The date of the Annual Congregational Meeting was set for Nov. 17, 2024 during the Sunday School hour.
- Thanksgiving offering was designated for Outreach Committee to help offset the cost of community dinners.
- The Chair asked members to review St. Paul's Values, Mission and Vision statement.
- Emily reported that the Schlotterbeck family, previous members of St. Paul, is aware of many residents of Asheville NC that need help. She will look into this and report back on their needs.
- The Chair asked whether a crew from New Leaf should come this fall to trim the landscaping at the church and parsonage. This was approved through general consent.
- Minister Deb was excused from the meeting and her evaluation was discussed. The chair asked members who had not yet completed an evaluation to do so, and return the form to her.

## ADJOURN

- Prior to adjournment, the Chair asked for news of the flock and prayer requests. The meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer at 8:58pm. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 12 at 7pm. Members are asked to read Chapter 9 of the study book, *Imagine Immeasurably*, prior to the meeting.

*Natalie McClelland, Recording Secretary*

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## SYNOD AUTHORIZED MINISTER'S REPORT ST. PAUL CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL – SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

### Word for Thought:

*"First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings [rulers] and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all goodness and dignity. This is right and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior." (I Timothy 2:1–3)*

Recently, Dick and I registered to vote in Hancock County. In the next few of weeks, we will study up on local issues and persons whose names are on the ballot. We welcome the input of St. Paul members to help guide us in our decision making. Of course, the main concern on everyone's mind [I believe] is the presidential election. We are called to informed and conscientious citizens discerning what issues or candidates will do the better good for the people. By the time council meets again the election will be over and prayerfully we will have a president-elect who is the undeniable winner. As we meet this evening, we are also concerned for the nominees to be placed on the ballot for leadership here at St. Paul. In both the national and congregational elections, we pray for faithful and just leaders to emerge.

Let us pray: *Everlasting God, source of all liberty, before whom every earthly ruler must bow and bend the knee, we lay our nation [and our congregation] before you as we prepare for an election. Breathe upon us your Spirit of wisdom and discernment. Grant all who seek public office [and leadership here at St. Paul] the mind of Christ, who came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life for the freedom of all. Hold before us those who face uncertain futures, or who have no voice in our political process. Uphold and safeguard poll workers and election officials in their work. Spare us from the crushing weight of cynicism. Give us grace to speak courageously, but with love, without which our words are noise and we are nothing. Gather us together under the cross, where, in all of our differences, we can stand as one people, redeemed in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.* (ELCA Worship Resources for a National Election, 2024)

### Activity Since the September Council Meeting:

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

- Worship Services (x8)
- Shipwreck Cemetery Service (x1)
- Sewing Meal (x2)
- "The Jokers" Card Group (x4)
- In-office, home, and phone visitations (x7)
- Hospital visitation (x6)

- Outreach Meeting (x2)
- *Our Daily Bread* community meal, set up and baking bread (x1)
- *Our Daily Bread* community meal (x1)
- Worship Committee Meeting (x1)
- Parish Board (x1)
- Youth Board (x1)
- Confirmation Classes (x3)
- Attended the funerals of Daryl Ingram (brother of Mike) and Linda Ruehrmund (personal friend and frequent visitor to St. Paul)
- Attended the Youth production of “The Music Man” @ the Marathon Center for the Performing Arts (Jonathan Coldren was in the production.)

### **Related Church Activities**

- SAM Supervisor Session (x4)
- SAM Renewal Meeting with the Bishop Beaudoin & Synod Staff
- Ecumenical Partners Lunch (x1)
- Check-in meeting with Bishop Beaudoin (x1)
- Churches in Transition Zoom (x1)

### **Upcoming Events Prior to the Next Council Meeting**

- October 9 – Choir resumes
- October 16 – Kids Praise begins
- October 20 – Harvest Home, 3<sup>rd</sup> graders receive Bibles, Trunk-or-Treat & Fall Festival
- October 27 – Reformation Sunday “Reformation/Transformation”
  - ✓ 100 “fall bulbs” will be purchased to distribute to members to take home to plant.
- October 27 - *Our Daily Bread* Community Meal
- October 27 – Worship @ Serenity Spring
- October 31 – SAM Renewal Letter and Evaluations are due in the Synod Office
- November 3 – All Saints Sunday (Bell dedication)
- December 15 – Blended Christmas Worship Service
  - ✓ Council Approval

### **Items for Consideration**

- Wartburg Seminary offers a Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) program that is modular based. The student works at his/her own pace through the modules. At the end of the program, if the student has achieved all the ELCA requirements for candidacy, the student may be ordained for Word and Sacrament.
  - ✓ I am interested in this pathway to ordination and will continue to explore costs and what assistance is available from the Northwestern Ohio Synod.
  - ✓ My question is, should I enroll in the program, will I have the support (spiritual and financial) of the St. Paul council and congregation?
- Spiritual Advisor – in my meeting with Bishop Beaudoin, we discussed the passing of my friend Linda and what her loss means to me emotionally and spiritually. Bishop Daniel suggested that I might consider meeting regularly with a Spiritual Advisor. There would be an expense related with this and Bishop suggested using through my continuing education budget to cover the expense.
  - ✓ Is the council in agreement of my exploring this further? A final decision can be made after I have all the information.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Deb Noll, Synod Authorized Minister

**WORSHIP COMMITTEE NOTES**  
**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2024 – 7:00PM**

**Present:** Jan Grieser, Nancy Tobin, Marty Grieser, Lisa Gossman, Minister Deb

**Devotions:** Minister Deb. From “You Will Always Be ...” from the book, Be Still and Know That I Am God by Gus Keiser. Text – Malachi 3:16-18, focus verse 17, “*They shall be mine, says the Lord of Hosts*”.

**Old Business**

1. Review of Shipwreck Sunday
  - All agreed that Shipwreck Sunday went well.
  - The song, “Jesus Calms the Storm” should be kept in rotation . . . it went over well.
  - Consider having one worship service, if not too close to youth Sunday and church picnic
  - The 194<sup>th</sup> should be worship as usual, with a bigger focus being on the 195<sup>th</sup> in 2026
2. Reading three lessons at 11:15 service has been implemented. And no complaints have been heard. Minister Deb appreciates that all lessons are being read.
3. New Advent candles have been purchased, and will work well.
4. Other:
  - Jan shared her appreciation that Seth and Ashley Carey helped lead the 11:15 service through song on September 29. It is hoped that we can invite them again.
  - Nancy suggested perhaps inviting them every month with a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday.

**New Business**

1. Sunday, October 20 – 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday After Pentecost
  - Harvest Home
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders Bible Presentation
2. Sunday, October 27, Reformation Sunday
  - Theme – Reformation Transformation
  - Bell Choir will play two pieces of music
  - 100 “fall bulbs” will be purchased to distribute (Why? Will be shared in the message)
3. Sunday, November 3 – All Saints Sunday
  - Sign Up Sheets for the Saints (Minister Deb will work with Jane on this)
  - Dedication of the Bell
4. Sunday, November 17
  - Confirmation youth involved in Worship
    - ✓ Greet
    - ✓ Read Lessons
    - ✓ Read Prayers of the People
  - Minister Deb and Amy will get the lessons and prayers to the youth in time to practice.
5. Sunday, November 24 – Christ the King Sunday
  - Theme: Christ’s Throne Is Different – from a Manger to the Cross
  - Need a small wooden cross (about 2’ x 18”) – Marty will ask Shane if he can make it for us.
6. Sunday evening, November 24 – Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service @ Arlington Methodist – 7:00 pm
  - Hospitality – Pastor Matt Blau, Arlington Methodist
  - Sermon – Pastor Steve Ramsey, Good Hope, Arlington
  - Lessons & Prayers – Minister Deb Noll, St. Paul, Jenera
  - Needed: Organist/Pianist (Jan suggested Pam McCloud or Lou Ann Cusino) Deb will forward those names to Pastor Matt.
7. Season of Advent – Sundays December 1, 8, 15, & 22
  - Theme –Waiting for the One Who Will Turn the World Around
  - Families Light the Advent Wreath (Jan requested someone other than herself to recruit families, she will ask Kelly.)
  - Minister Deb will work on getting readings to Marty.
8. Special Christmas Event – Worship Team’s Responsibility this year

- December 15, 2024 – One combined worship.
  - Jan will coordinate with Lisa on the blending of music for the day.
  - Jan will check with Tammy to see if bells will play
  - Ask Parish Board to work with the children to sing a couple of songs.
9. Tuesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve
- 7:00 evening service, with Communion
10. Sunday, December 29 – First Sunday of Christmas
- Hymn Sing
11. Sunday, January 5 – Second Sunday of Christmas
- Gospel Lesson – John 1:1–18
12. Other
- Lisa raised the question of using “Somewhere Over the Rainbow” as a postlude for a quad piano performance by her students.
  - It was agreed that an entire worship service could be built around the Rainbow theme, as long as she announces the date in time to prepare.

November Hymns: Marty

December Hymns: Lisa

January Hymns: Will be determined at next meeting

**Next Meeting date: Tuesday, November 5, 2024 @ 7pm (Election Day)**

Devotions Next Meeting: Nancy Tobin

To be discussed: Epiphany January 6. Time after Epiphany: January 12, 2025 Baptism of Our Lord; February 2, 2025 Presentation of Our Lord; March 2, 2025 Transfiguration of Our Lord; Theme for Lent

Respectively Submitted,  
Minister Deb Noll

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## **2025 Church Positions**

Chairperson	Jan Grieser [1 <sup>st</sup> year of 2 year term]
Vice Chairperson	Open
Elders	Tom Carey [2 <sup>nd</sup> year of 2 <sup>nd</sup> term] Mary Coldren [2 <sup>nd</sup> year of 1 <sup>st</sup> term]
Recording Secretary	Natalie McClland [2 <sup>nd</sup> year of 1 <sup>st</sup> term]
Treasurer	Jane Follas [2 <sup>nd</sup> year of 2 <sup>nd</sup> term]
Trustees	Tom Marquart [2 <sup>nd</sup> year of 2 <sup>nd</sup> term] Jacob Orwick [2 <sup>nd</sup> year of 2 <sup>nd</sup> term] Mike Stoltz – [end of 1 <sup>st</sup> 2 year term?] Bart Welte – [end of 1 <sup>st</sup> 2 year term?] Deb Clevenger – [2 <sup>nd</sup> year of 1 <sup>st</sup> term]
9:00 Deacons	Nathan Cowan [ 2 <sup>nd</sup> year of 2 <sup>nd</sup> term] Aaron Smith [2 <sup>nd</sup> year of 1 <sup>st</sup> term]
11:15 Deacons	Lynn Boehm – ? Lee Laird – [2 <sup>nd</sup> year of 1 <sup>st</sup> term]
Parish Board Sup't.	Emily Clark [ 2 <sup>nd</sup> year of 1 <sup>st</sup> term] Assistant – Open Secretary – Rebecca Stoltz – [end of 1 <sup>st</sup> term ?] Treasurer – April Smith – [end of 2 <sup>nd</sup> term ?]
PB Members	Kendra Parke, Amanda Leu, Erin Tobin, Chelsea Boehm, Jenna Stoltz ??
Cemetery Trustees	Allen Boehm, Raymond Bower, Steven Reichley??
Staff Support	Gary Wilson, Craig Durliat, Mike Ingram, Janet Carey ??

Trust Fund Comm.	Craig Durliat, Anna Wolford, Lisa Gossman, Doug Coldren, Jane Follas ??
Youth Board	?? (appointed)
YB Chair	Chris Sheets
YB Vice Chair	Jenny Welte
YB Treasurer	Lindsay Follas
YB Secretary	Tina Cowan
YB Adults	Amanda Leu, April Smith
YB Youth	Open

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### WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR NOVEMBER 2024

**SENIOR CHOIR DIRECTOR:** Lisa Gossman  
**PRAISE TEAM DIRECTOR:** Jan Grieser  
**HANDBELL CHOIR DIRECTOR:** Tammy Robinson  
**AUDIO VIDEO:** Marty Grieser and Ed vonStein  
**ALTAR GUILD:** Mary Coldren  
**LECTOR:** Janet Carey  
**WEBSITE COORDINATOR:** Chelsea Boehm

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### PRAYER CHAIN CONTACTS

Nadine Boehm — nadineb@thewavz.com or 419-722-6370  
Pam Hoffman — pkhoffman87@gmail.com or 419-235-0499

### 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.

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**PERSONS ST. PAUL HAS PRAYED FOR DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2024:** Stephanie Beaschler (*friend of Christine Kemerley*); Dean Bollinger (*friend of Minister Deb and Dick*); Grace Bowers (*5 month old granddaughter of a customer of Mike Hoffman*); Jim Carey; Jeff Freed (*friend of Keith & Tammy Robinson*); Jon Gast; family and friends of Gene Grieser; Marsha Grieser; Norm Hahn; Nancy Heacock; Mark Hoffman (*Mike’s brother*); family and friends of Carl Hummel (*friend of Tom Valentage*); Jim Jones (*brother-in-law of Sally Valentage*); Christine Kemerley; Connie Makrides (*Jessica Kemerley’s grandmother*); Steve McClelland; Kyle McDowell; Dick Noll; Faye Parcher (*Beth Wilhelm’s mother*); Claudia Phillips (*friend of Marcia Russell*); Evelyn Robison; Rod Settlemire (*friend of Pam Hoffman*); Andrew Slough (*friend of Marcia Russell*); family and friends of Dawn Zumberger



(cousin of Janet Carey); all military personnel including — Griffin Hartman, Lance Leisure, Evan McMonigal, Justin Riegle, Nate Sheets, Colin and Annabelle Tobin, and Alex vonStein — Songambele Lutheran Church; Navajo Lutheran Mission School, Rock Point, AZ; Hancock County Religious Education; and Mission Possible for Haiti.

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

**Thank you so much** for the beautiful quilt and the little yellow sweater. She looks so cute in the yellow sweater and lays on the quilt all the time. Thank you again,

*Ellie Grieser and Payton Simon*

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

**Our Christian Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Eugene H. “Gene” Grieser. Gene, 84, passed away on Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup>.** Graveside services for Gene were held at St. Paul Cemetery on Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. May the family and friends of Gene Grieser feel God holding them close and fill them with resurrection hope.

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**Congratulations to Dustin Price** who is the head football coach at USV [Upper Scioto Valley]. The team won the Northwest Central Conference championship game. Dustin earned his 50<sup>th</sup> coaching win and was named Coach of the Year. Amanda is his proud wife and equally proud are his children, Brantley, Kieran, and Leighton.

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### **St. Paul Outreach Committee Focus Statement for 2024**

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’” Matthew 25:34–40

Jesus tells this parable to make the point that when we serve others, we serve God. After listing acts of service, including providing food to the hungry, drink to the thirsty, lodging for the homeless, clothes for the naked, and healing for the sick, Jesus concludes, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me”. Imagining Jesus as the ultimate recipient of our kindness is true motivation to serve in our families, church, neighborhood and world. When He prompts us to sacrificially invest in the needs of others, **we serve Him. When we love others, we love God.**

**How can St. Paul serve Jesus in our community and love God by loving others in our path?** If you know of a “neighbor” who could use some help, please let us know and we’ll prayerfully consider what we as a church family can do.

*Loving God, please open our eyes to the needs of others around us so we can help them and love You better. Amen.*



**Bible Study meets in the Library on Thursdays beginning at 9:30AM. We are studying the Book of Joshua. All are welcome! The last Bible Study date will be Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup> and will resume on Thursday, January 9, 2025 at 9:30AM.**

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## **October / November Offering Opportunity (giving envelope box ‘building’)**

It was previously announced that our designated giving for the fourth quarter would be the Navajo Lutheran Mission School. But due to the recent hurricane activity in the southeastern United States, it has been decided that for at least the month of October (maybe longer) the designated giving will go to Hurricane Relief efforts either through Lutheran Disaster Relief or through direct means. If you are personally touched by this disaster, either through family or friends living in one of the areas impacted, please reach out to a member of Church Council, the church office, or Minister Deb to make us aware of those individual(s). If possible, provide a church or emergency services contact so we can follow up as to how to best get them the assistance they need.

Lutheran Disaster Relief suggests the following ways to offer help:

- 1. PRAY** — Please pray for the safety of communities impacted by hurricanes, including people in their paths and any emergency services personnel who are responding. May God’s healing presence give peace and hope in this time of need. Pray that God will deliver comfort to those who mourn and strength to those working diligently to rescue survivors;
- 2. GIVE** — Your gifts will support disaster-impacted communities. Gifts to LDR equip them to respond to those affected by hurricanes and related disasters, such as mudslides, severe storms and flooding. These gifts also empower LDR to respond to disasters whenever and wherever they strike. Gifts to “Hurricane Response” will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by hurricanes, until the response is complete;
- 3. SHARE** — Spread the word throughout your community to give Lutheran Disaster Response an even greater impact as it serves our neighbors on the long road to recovery.

We live into God’s mission by helping others in need. Prayerfully consider how you can help give hurricane relief at this time. Again, you can donate through your giving envelope or visit [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org) for more information on Lutheran Disaster Relief.

May God use you as a beacon of light shining in the darkness during this time of immediate response and long-term recovery. Amen.

Thank you, Minister Deb

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## **ReFUEL and YOUTH INFORMATION for NOVEMBER**

### **Youth Information for November**

**Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>      ReFUEL      6:00PM – 8:00PM**

**Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>      YOUTH / Giving Blitz      6:00PM – 8:00PM**

**Wednesday Night Live [WNL] – Wednesdays, October 30<sup>th</sup> November 6<sup>th</sup>, November 13<sup>th</sup>, and November 20<sup>th</sup> 6:15PM – 7:30PM** — This year Wednesday Night Live (WNL) will be centered for grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>. Our Bible study will be Echo the Story. Students will take a deep dive into the Bible and learn how to connect the Word of God to our daily lives. I am VERY excited about this Bible study. Hope to see you there! 5:45PM – lite meal — 6:15PM – 7:30PM Bible study and games/activities. Begins Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup> — Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>.

Invite your friends!

### **CONFIRMATION CLASSES**

**SUNDAYS, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, November 10<sup>th</sup> — 5:00PM – 6:00PM**

**Confirmation Class — November 17<sup>th</sup> participating during Worship Service**

**NO Confirmation on November 24<sup>th</sup>**

**LYO is hosting a SWAG Fundraiser from Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup> — Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>.** We are selling items with either the St. Paul Church Design or Shipwreck Design. Travel mugs are being fulfilled by Rachel Gerber. There are 3 options available: 30 oz mug, no handle. 20 oz mug with handle, 12 oz mug with handle – \$25 Each. Clothing will be fulfilled by Immeasurably More Custom Designs (Ann Rader). Items available include: T-shirts, Long Sleeve T-shirts, Hooded Sweatshirts, Crewneck Sweatshirt with or without front pocket, Embroidered Polos, Sweatpants and Joggers. Items are available in a variety of colors and sizes. Prices range from \$16–\$30. LYO will receive \$5–\$6 back for each item sold. Thank you for your continued support for our youth programs! Order Forms available in the Welcome Space.

Thank you all for your continued support of our youth programs. I know life is busy and these years fly by. We at St. Paul want to do our best to help support the development of faith for each and every one of our youth. To those we haven't seen in a while, know that we miss you and invite you to join us soon! You are always welcome to any event, worship, and Sunday school.

If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know. Thank you.  
Blessings, Amy Gibson, Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator

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### **Replacing the carpet in Fellowship Hall**

#### **Discussion for Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Congregational Meeting.**

Council has decided that the carpet in the fellowship hall is in need of replacement. After repeated cleanings, the stains keep coming back up. We have been researching different options and these are the three that we think are the best:

- #1 replace the carpet with similar carpet from Frey Carpet (the ones who installed the current carpet).  
Estimated price: \$25,000  
Possible replace after 12 years  
(Frey can't install commercial flooring)
- #2 install commercial type flooring called Landmark Endurance 7mm Sports flooring with welded seams. (we contacted St. Mark's Lutheran church in B.G. who has this in their fellowship hall — they love it — it is durable and spills are easy to clean up)  
Estimated price: \$61,120  
(It has a one-year installation warranty and a 10-year warranty on flooring.)
- #3 add basketball game line paint to the Landmark Endurance flooring (can't do this with carpet)  
Estimated price: \$9,980  
Total price: \$71,100 — flooring and painting

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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR ~ Kids Praise began on Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup> and will run through Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup> [6 weeks]. Dinner at 5:45PM and Kids Praise from 6:30PM–7:30PM.**

**Wednesday Night Live Bible Study / Grades 6<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> — 6:15PM – 7:30PM**

- \*\* Forty-eight children and 15 adults were fed on Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. A total of 61 children attended the October 16<sup>th</sup> Kids Praise.**
- \*\* Fifty-seven children and 19 adults were fed on Wednesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> Kids Praise.**
- \*\* Sixty-six children and 30 adults were fed on Wednesday, October 30<sup>th</sup> Kids Praise.**

**PLEASE CHECK THE LIST ON THE INFORMATION COUNTER IN THE WELCOME SPACE for needed food items for the remaining Kids Praise Meals — Wednesdays, November 6<sup>th</sup>, November 13<sup>th</sup>, and November 20<sup>th</sup>.**

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**TIME TO ORDER POINSETTIAS** — There are order forms on the Information Counter in the Welcome Space.



Fill out the form and put the form and money in the box provided on the Information Counter in the Welcome Space. Payment must accompany orders and checks need to be made payable to: St. Paul Lutheran LYO. Deadline for placing orders will be Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>. The poinsettia plants will each come in a 6-inch container at a cost of \$10.00 per plant. Colors available are: Red — White — Ice Crystal. **THE PROCEEDS FROM THIS POINSETTIA SALE WILL GO**

**TOWARDS: St. Paul Youth Projects**

**2024: THE YEAR OF REST:** The churches and friends of Northwestern Ohio Synod are invited to participate in the Year of Rest. Instead of the traditional daily Bible readings, we are invited to engage in daily rest practices using the seven types of active rest: Mental, Sensory, Emotional, Social, Creative, Spiritual, and Physical. Grounded in a weekly Bible verse, it is the Synod’s prayer that the guided calendar will help us discover daily moments of rest and peace. To learn more about the Year of Rest and the Seven Types of Active Rest, go to the Northwestern Ohio Synod website: <https://nwos-elca.church> scroll down to Bishop’s Writings and click on: 2024: The Year of Rest. [There are copies of the November 2024—“The Year of Rest” on the Information Counter in the Welcome Space.]

**November 2024 Birthdays**

Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup> Holly Saum  
 Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> Claire Fisher  
 Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> Arianna Swanner  
 Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup> Marc Depuy  
 Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup> Collin Haley  
 Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> Judy McDowell  
 Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> Pam Pepple  
 Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> Carly Amos  
 Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup> Melissa Kroske  
 Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup> Reid Rammel  
 Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup> Ron Riegle  
 Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup> Kerwin Gillespie  
 Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup> John Rettig  
 Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup> Bryce Geissinger  
 Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup> Sarah Grostick  
 Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup> Ryan Wilhelm  
 Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> Ed Boehm  
 Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> Max Langhals  
 Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> Jacob Leu  
 Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> Phil Riegle  
 Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup> Lisa Creque  
 Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup> Shane Grieser  
 Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup> Cameron Huss  
 Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup> Charles Breitigam  
 Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> Barbara Bower  
 Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> Cheryl Gast  
 Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> Rebecca Peyton  
 Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> Brantley Trout  
 Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> Everly Trout  
 Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup> Alex McDowell  
 Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup> Jenna Stoltz  
 Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup> Rebecca Stoltz  
 Monday, November 18<sup>th</sup> Emma Smith  
 Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> Sean Adams  
 Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> Amber Durliat  
 Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> Cindy Durliat  
 Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> Lauren Etler  
 Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup> Lisa McDowell  
 Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup> Aaron Korte  
 Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup> Kennedy McCasland  
 Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup> Bailey Parke  
 Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup> Tammy vonStein

Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> Brittany Robinson  
 Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> Jacob Russell  
 Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> Wyatt Wilson  
 Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> Deb Bower  
 Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> Berkley Grieser  
 Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> Elizabeth Haley  
 Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> Cheryl Lentz  
 Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup> Hannah Rader  
 Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup> Grant Wilson  
 Tuesday, November 26<sup>th</sup> Shiuli Sidle  
 Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup> Carrie Ludwig  
 Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup> Tammy Robinson  
 Thursday, November 28<sup>th</sup> Cameron Haley  
 Friday, November 29<sup>th</sup> Zachary Durliat  
 Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup> Ryan Wolford



**November 2024 Wedding Anniversaries**

Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup> Steve and Emily Clark – 18  
 Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup> Mark and Morgan Tiell – 17  
 Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup> Robert and Leilani Beery – 45  
 Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup> Ryan and Brittany Robinson – 13  
 Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup> David and Jackie Bayer – 32  
 Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup> Robert and Evelyn Robison – 55  
 Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> Charles and Carol Breitigam – 63  
 Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup> Richard and Jean Crooks – 57  
 Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup> John and Mary Wilson – 59

# ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ NOVEMBER 2024

**ALTAR GUILD:** Mary Coldren  
**LECTOR:** Janet Carey  
**ORGANIST:** November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>: Lisa Gossman

**1**  
**2**  
 2:00PM – 5:00PM IGNITE /  
 Suter's Corn Maze

**3 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY**  
**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME**  
**ENDS / FALL BACK**  
 9:00AM Traditional Worship /  
 Communion  
 10:15AM Sunday School  
 11:15AM Contemporary Worship /  
 Communion  
 5:00PM – 6:00PM Confirmation  
 Classes  
 6:00PM – 8:00PM ReFUEL

**4**  
 7:00PM Youth Board  
 Meeting

**5 ELECTION DAY**  
 7:00PM Worship  
 Committee Meeting

**6**  
 5:45PM Meal before  
 Kids Praise  
 6:15PM – 7:30PM  
 WNL  
 6:30PM – 7:30PM Kids  
 Praise

**7**  
 9:30AM Bible Study / Library  
 6:00PM Sunday School Room  
 reserved by "The Jokers"

**8**

**9**

Minister Deb and Dick will be taking vacation from Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>

**10 TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY**  
**AFTER PENTECOST**  
 9:00AM Traditional Worship  
 10:15AM Sunday School  
 11:15AM Contemporary Worship  
 5:00PM – 6:00PM Confirmation  
 Classes

**11**

**12**  
 7:00PM Congregational  
 Council Meeting

**13**  
 5:45PM Meal before  
 Kids Praise  
 6:15PM – 7:30PM  
 WNL  
 6:30PM – 7:30PM Kids  
 Praise

**14**  
 9:30AM Bible Study / Library  
 6:00PM Sunday School Room  
 reserved by "The Jokers"

**15**

**16**

Minister Deb & Dick — vacation

**17 TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY**  
**AFTER PENTECOST**  
 9:00AM Traditional Worship  
 10:15AM Annual Congregational  
 Meeting  
 11:15AM Contemporary Worship /  
 Communion  
 6:00PM – 8:00PM YOUTH /  
 Giving Blitz

**18**

**19**  
 7:00PM WELCA  
 Meeting

**20**  
 5:45PM Meal before  
 Kids Praise  
 6:15PM – 7:30PM  
 WNL  
 6:30PM – 7:30PM Kids  
 Praise

**21**  
 9:30AM Bible Study / Library  
 6:00PM Sunday School Room  
 reserved by "The Jokers"  
 6:30PM – 9:00PM Fellowship  
 Hall reserved by Mary  
 Wilson / Quilt Club

**22**

**23**  
 NOON – 5:00PM  
 Fellowship Hall reserved  
 by Boehm Family


**24 TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY**  
**AFTER PENTECOST**  
 9:00AM Traditional Worship  
 10:15AM Sunday School  
 11:15AM Contemporary Worship /  
 Communion  
 12:30PM – 5:00PM Fellowship Hall  
 reserved by Boehm Family  
 NO Confirmation Classes  
 7:00PM Ecumenical Thanksgiving  
 Service / Arlington United  
 Methodist Church

**25**

**26**

**27**

**28 THANKSGIVING DAY**  
**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**  
 Fellowship Hall reserved by  
 Rachel Hartman



**29**

**30**