



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

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ST. PAUL LUTHERAN WEBSITE ~ www.stpaullutheranjenera.org

ST. PAUL "MESSENGER" SEPTEMBER ~ 2025

*As long as the earth endures,
seedtime and harvest, cold and heat,
summer and winter, day and night
shall not cease."*

Genesis 8:22

Dear Friends,

As I write this I am sitting in my room at the Maria Stein Retreat Center on the last night of our Spiritual and Educational Retreat. We have had a wonderful week and the weather has given us a taste of what is to come. We will soon say good-bye to the dog days of Summer and hello to the cool days of Fall. Very soon farmers who were busy planting fields of grain in the spring will be entering those same fields to gather—in the harvest. The days leading to the harvest are very similar to those days after planting; adequate rain is needed and prayed for at both ends of the growing season.

The perpetual cycle of seedtime and harvest invites farmers and farming communities into the mercy of God's plan, to trust the Master Gardener. We put our faith in God to provide everything needed to bring a full and plentiful harvest.

That is what we ask for God's people also; that God will nourish the seeds of faith planted in the hearts of people with Bread for the Day and Life—giving Water to produce good fruit.

Fall is a time for planting and new birth in the church. On September 7th, six new and one member previously moved back to active status will be making Affirmation of Baptism. Some names are familiar ones with a few new ones. Come, help us welcome Stephen Clark, II; Justin Gillespie, Kelsie Gillespie, Patricia Mitchell, Kelly Stine, and Isaac vonStein along with Sean Adams into the St. Paul family.

The 194th anniversary of the Shipwreck will be lifted up in worship on September 14th at both worship services and at the monument in the cemetery at two o'clock.

October will see the return of Kids Praise and family meals, Trunk—or—Treat and Fall Festival will be October 18th. Harvest Home Sunday with Bishop Daniel Beaudoin as our guest is October 19th. On that day, our third graders will receive Bibles and Minister Deb and Dick will be received as members to St. Paul by Letter of Transfer.

You can see there are many opportunities for planting seeds of God's Word and Love in the months ahead. Like the farmers who plant seeds in the ground, we must trust God to nourish the seeds of faith to grow. Let us give thanks to the Lord of the Harvest for the changing seasons in nature and in the life of the church.

Plant a seed! Invite a Friend to join You in Church.

In Christ's Love,
Minister Deb

2025 CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Chairperson: Jan Grieser	419-889-3339	Deacons: Nathan Cowan	419-721-1011
Vice Chair:		Lynn Boehm	419-722-8022
Recording Sec: Natalie McClelland	419-722-4324		
Treasurer: Jane Follas	419-722-7458		
Elder: Tom Carey	419-306-3451		
Elder: Mary Coldren	419-722-5118		
Trustees: Tom Marquart	419-306-8260		
Jacob Orwick	419-721-8882	Financial Sec: Jake Leu	567-208-7739
Bart Welte	419-721-7127	Minister: Deb Noll	419-560-1988
Deb Clevenger	419-306-1150	Youth Ministry Coordinator: Amy Gibson	419-348-1653
Dan Settlage	419-303-2513	Youth Board Representative:	
Sr. SS Supt: Emily Clark	419-722-6060	Amanda Price	419-957-1988

Ex-Officio Representatives —

Financial Sec: Jake Leu	567-208-7739
Minister: Deb Noll	419-560-1988
Youth Ministry Coordinator: Amy Gibson	419-348-1653
Youth Board Representative:	

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2025 – 7:00PM

Attendance: Jan Grieser, Mary Coldren, Jane Follas, Deb Clevenger, Nathan Cowan, Tom Marquart, Dan Settlage, Amanda Price, Jacob Orwick, Minister Deb Noll, 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 recited Value #6 below and joined together in the Council Prayer.

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

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

COUNCIL PRAYER: Our gracious God, You have called us to be Your people and to bring Your word to our community. Help us to respond to the guidance and direction of Your Holy Spirit, so that all we do is done according to Your will and gives praise and glory to Your name. Amen.

STATUS OF GOALS FOR COUNCIL:

Update all job descriptions and update bylaws

- Staff Support has completed a rough draft of detailed job descriptions. The Chair passed around the new draft for members to review, noting there are also descriptions for a Pastor and SAM.
- Updates to our constitution will begin soon since the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly has convened.

Develop a five-year plan for ministry and building

- Rough draft of five-year plan; will have a four-year plan in September. Tom Marquart noted some building projects that may arise with age including repairs and/or updates to the HVAC system, ceiling, drywall, parking lot, etc. Jake Leu noted that \$10,000 is typically included in the budget for these types of repairs.

Keep Council informed of Synod's activities and programs

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

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

FINANCIAL REPORT – Jake Leu

- Since Council did not meet last month, Jake reported that interest income for June was ~\$359; Designated Income received in June was \$1,975; and total 2nd quarter Designated Income for St. Jude's was \$6,030.
- A check for \$500 was received for Youth Ministry with no directives. Deb Clevenger moved the amount be divided between Youth Board and Parish Board. The motion was seconded by Mary Coldren and approved.
- Currently we have a savings account balance of \$14,770.94 reflecting undesignated memorial monies. Jake suggested we transfer as much as possible to the Trust Fund for a better rate of return. He will contact the bank to find out if we need to maintain a minimum balance. Jacob Orwick moved that we transfer the majority of these funds to the Trust Fund. The motion was seconded by Tom Marquart and approved.
- Jake noted he has an invoice to be passed on to a Cemetery Trustee.
- Financial statements were reviewed. Total income from Jan–Jul 2025 was \$161,728.31 vs. a budgeted amount of \$134,955.33. Total expenses for the same period were \$217,418.76 actual vs. \$158,241.39 budgeted.
- Interest income generated by our Money Market account is estimated at \$372.04 for July 2025.
- Discussion was held on a recipient of the Council Discretionary Fund. Dan Settlage moved that we give \$500 to Sam Weihrauch and \$500 to Cullen Hickerson. Jacob Orwick seconded the motion which was approved by all.
- Detailed account balances are as follows:

Account Balances at July 31, 2025		
Checking		
Current		130,747.07
Council Discretionary		1,323.91
Improvement		942.84
Missions		23,973.42
Special Projects		
Shipwreck Festival		2,309.67
Music		2,441.50
C. Price Memorial Funds		27,934.60
Bell Choir		1,426.94
Special Projects - Other		0.06
		<hr/> 34,112.77
Total Quickbooks Operating/MMDA		\$ 191,100.01
Operating Account		67,993.00
Money Market Demand Account (MMDA)		127,711.01
Total Operating/MMDA - Bank		\$ 195,704.01
Outstanding Deposits at 7/31/25		-
Outstanding Checks at 7/31/25		(4,604.00)
Total Reconciled Operating/MMDA		\$ 191,100.01
Savings		
General Memorial		\$ 14,770.94

TRUSTEES REPORT – Tom Marquart

- Sign posts were painted by Grant Welte and new signs have been hung.
- Many comments have been made that carpet throughout the church looks nice after having been cleaned.
- New parking lot lights have been installed.
- Roof gutter and fascia was repaired at the parsonage.

- New lights for the cross were ordered and picked up yesterday; Justin Gillespie will assist with installation.
- Cracks will be sealed in September (weather permitting) and several volunteers will be needed.
- Wayne Young has completed drywall repairs and installed a new water valve in the front of the church. He also cleaned all the outdoor A/C units.
- A contract with Cherry's Propane has been signed for the 2025–26 heating season.
- A new refrigerator was placed in the parsonage garage.
- Guidelines for the fellowship hall were drafted and are ready for review and approval.
- A request was made for additional carts to store chairs in the fellowship hall. It's easier for women to put chairs on carts than to pick them up, turn them over, and place upside down on tables. Further, putting the chairs up on tables creates a tipping hazard, especially if children are running between the tables.
- An estimate was presented for updates to parsonage landscaping including removal of mulch and replacing with river rock. Minister Deb also noted a couple repairs were needed to the porch. Deb Clevenger moved and Jacob Orwick seconded the motion to accept the updates to landscaping. Motion carried.
- Landscaping around the church will be trimmed by New Leaf.
- Two new magnetic signs have been posted in the fellowship hall regarding the use of a dry mop after events and no kicking balls.

MINISTER'S REPORT HIGHLIGHTS – Deborah Noll

- Recent church activities and upcoming events were reviewed with emphasis on the following: Aug. 20 – request donuts & coffee for Central Conference Ministerial Gathering at St. Paul; September – reception of new members (day TBA); Oct. 11 – wedding and reception of Pat Mitchell and David Woodruff beginning at 1pm; Oct. 19 – Harvest Home Sunday with guest Bishop Beaudoin; and Oct. 31 – SAM renewal documents are due to the Synod Office.
- Also noted were two bullet points under “For Council’s Consideration” including SAM’s Candidacy for Ordination and individuals recommended for membership. Deb Clevenger moved to accept the following individuals for membership: Stephen Clark, Justin Gillespie, Kelsie Gillespie, Patricia Mitchell, Kelly Stine, and Caleb von Stein. Sean Adams, who previously was transferred from inactive to active status, will also make Affirmation of Baptism with these new members. The motion to accept these individuals for membership was seconded by Natalie McClelland and approved.
- There's a possibility I will need a new office printer because my current printer is malfunctioning.
- See full report at end of minutes.

YOUTH MINISTRY – Amy Gibson

Highlights:

- June 1 – Sky Zone Lima, 13 youth and 3 adults; June 8 – Affirmation of Faith, Nicholas Clark and Emma Smith
- July 25 – Arlington Swimming Pool, 15 youth 2 adults (plus lifeguards)
- Aug. 10 – Putt Putt and Ice Cream, 14 youth and 4 adults

Upcoming:

- Sep. 7 – Confirmation Parent Meeting and first class; Ignite grades 4–6
- Sep. 14 – ReFUEL grades 7–12
- Sep. 28 – ReFUEL 6–8pm
- Oct. 5 – Ignite Campfire Night 6–8pm
- Oct. 11 or 12 – ReFUEL Corn Maze
- Oct. 15 – WNL/Kids Praise Begins (WNL Theme: Fruit of the Spirit)
- Oct. 18 – Fall Fest (Youth needed to volunteer)
- Oct. 26 – ReFUEL 6–8pm

Ongoing:

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

Council Requests: N/A

PARISH EDUCATION – Emily Clark

- Over 90 children were registered for VBS and average attendance was 70 per night. Thank you to everyone who helped. We enjoyed great food, ice cream, model airplanes, a plane flyover, a drone, and rockets. A float for the Arlington Festival parade was adorned with VBS decorations.
- We appreciated the collaboration with the Outreach Committee for the annual church picnic which was attended by more than 90 people.
- Upcoming events include Rally Day & Teacher Appreciation, Kids Praise beginning mid–October, Fall Fest with Trunk or Treat on Oct. 18, and the children’s Christmas Program during one service on December 14.
- The Chair reported that Shane Grieser will draft a design for the layout of new playground equipment.

AUDIT COMMITTEE – Jane Follas

- All audits have been completed and found to be in order.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS – Minister Deb

- Nathan Cowan is chairing this committee.
- Lisa Gossman serves as secretary.
- Bob Coldren is a new member.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS – Minister Deb

- It was noted that committee updates are published in the News of the Flock weekly.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Research continues on a suitable app for prayer requests.

NEW BUSINESS

- Discussion was held on bottled water and volunteers to supply it. It was noted the refrigerator is currently full and extra cases are in the custodial closet. In the past Merritt von Stein purchased cases of 10-oz bottles (24 count) at Aldi’s or Hempy’s.
- A Constitution Review Committee is being formed. Paul Hartman volunteered to serve, but 3 more people are needed.
- Discussion was held on nominations for 2026 positions. Discussion will continue at the September meeting.
- We may need to consider another volunteer to bake bread for Holy Communion.

ADJOURN

- Prior to adjournment, prayer requests were presented. The meeting adjourned with The Lord’s Prayer at 8:24pm. The next meeting will be held on Sep. 9 at 7:00pm, led by Jan Grieser.

Natalie McClelland, Recording Secretary

ST. PAUL CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

AUGUST 12, 2025

SYNOD AUTHORIZED MINISTER’S REPORT

Word for Thought

Northwestern Ohio Synod Year of Listening Memory Verse

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

Scripture

Matthew 17:5 *While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!”*

Reflection

The Northwestern Ohio Synod's theme for 2025 is the “Year of Listening.” On the day of Jesus' Transfiguration, the chosen disciples who climbed with him to the mountain top were in awe at being in the presence of Moses and Elijah. Peter was bold to say, “let us build tents, one for [Jesus], one for Moses, and one for Elijah”. While Peter was speaking, the voice of God came through a cloud, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” The disciples fell to the ground and were overcome by fear.

On Sunday we heard Jesus say to the disciples, “Have no fear, little flock, for it is the Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”

The thought that the Father's good pleasure is to give me a place in His kingdom leaves me awe-struck and in fear that I am not worthy of such a precious gift. In those times of fear, God calls me to “Listen!” When I stop to listen, it is then that I hear the good news, the gospel message, “God so loved the world that God sent His Son so that all who believe in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.”

When Jesus died on the cross, he secured a place in God's kingdom for all who believe, listen, and obey God's word. We do not listen as intently to God's Word as we should, because much of the Word is hard for us to understand. Jesus said to his disciples, “The reason I speak in parables is that ‘seeing they do not perceive, and hearing they do not listen, nor do they understand.’”

The way to understanding God's Word is not to ignore reading it, but rather to read it more. Ask God to guide your reading: to open your eyes to see, and your ears to hear, so you can understand the Awesome Gift of God that is Jesus Christ, crucified and risen for your salvation.

Questions for Thought

1. When and where to do you take time to read God's Word, to listen for God to speak in your life?
2. How can you make time to be in God's Word?

Prayer

Bountiful God, you bestow upon us all that is essential and extraordinary. Open our eyes and ears, hands and hearts, that we might live in constant amazement and awe of your eternal majesty. Amen.

Activity Since the June Council Meeting:

Worship, Church Functions, Member Contact Outside of Worship

- Worship Services (x14)
- Lutheran Inquiry Classes (x4)
- Vacation Bible School (x5)
- Family Visit for Funeral Preparation (x1)
- Funeral (x1)
- Hospital Visits (x2)
- In-office, at home, rehab, and phone visitations (x12)
- Home Communion (x4)
- Christian Care Cards (x2)
- Worship Committee (x1)
- Youth Board (x1)
- Outreach Committee (x1)
- *Our Daily Bread* community meal (x1)
- WELCA (x1)
- Sewing Day (x1)
- “The Jokers” Card Group (x4)

Related Church Activities

- SAM Supervisor Session (x4)
- SAM Cohort Monthly Zoom (x1)
- Meeting with Cheryl Sondergeld, Director of Leadership Development NWOS
- Serenity Spring Worship (x2)
- Hosted Lutheran Men in Mission Board Members and Wives @ the Parsonage (x2)
- On-line streaming of the ELCA Churchwide Assembly (x5 days)

Upcoming Events

- August 20, 2025 (9:00 to Noon) Central Conference Ministerial Gathering—here @ St. Paul
- August 25-28, 2025 – *Listening to the Spirit* Spiritual Retreat in Maria Stein (Continuing Ed)
- September – Confirmation Classes Resume
- September (TBA) Reception of New Members
- September 2, 2025 – Worship Committee Meeting
- September 14, 2025 – Shipwreck Sunday
- October – Fall Session of Kids Praise Begins
- October 4, 2025 – St. Francis of Assisi, Blessing of Animals Worship (Pavilion)
- October 11, 2025 (1:00pm) – Pat Mitchell and David Woodruff wedding and reception
- October 18, 2025 – Trunk-or-Treat and Fall Festival
- October 19, 2025 – Harvest Home – with Bishop Daniel Beaudoin
- October 31, 2025 – SAM Renewal documents are due to the Synod Office

Vacation

- Vacation Days Taken: Sunday, July 20; Tuesday, July 21; Wednesday, July 22, Thursday, July 23; Friday, July 24; Sunday, July 27; Tuesday, July 29; Wednesday, August 6. (Takes into consideration that Mondays and Saturdays are regularly scheduled days off).

For Council's Consideration

- SAM's Candidacy for Ordination – Application process has begun for ELCA Candidacy and Wartburg Seminary's "Journey Together" Programs. Cheryl Soundergeld from the Synod Office will meet with our Council to discuss the Candidacy Process and Costs (date TBA). Council's Recommendations for Candidacy and Costs will be Agenda Items for the November Congregational Meeting.
- The following individuals are recommended for membership of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA) Jenera: Stephen Clark, Justin Gillespie, Kelsie Gillespie, Patricia Mitchell, Kelly Stine, and Caleb vonStein. Sean Adams, who previously was transferred from in-active to active status, will also make Affirmation of Baptism with these new members.

Respectfully Submitted
Deb Noll, Synod Authorized Minister

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR SEPTEMBER 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: Jane Follas

LECTOR: Nathan Cowan

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 AUGUST 2025: family and friends of Tammy [Parish] Babcock; Jacob Best (*16 year old son of Kelly & Susan and grandson of Sue Best*); Emilee Bower (*granddaughter of Keith & Loretta Bower*); family and friends of Carol Breitigam; Zach Carman (*son of Babette Reese Grieser*); John Firestone (*friend of Joe & Lisa Creque*); Jon Gast; Marsha Grieser; Shane Grieser; Norm Hahn; Terry Hunter (*Kelly Stine's father*); Lino Ibarro (*friend of Steve McClelland*); Jim Jones (*brother-in-law of Sally Valentage*); Pastor Aaron Layne (*serves at All Saints Lutheran Church, Worthington, Ohio*); Ted Mazza (*husband of a friend of Marcia Russell*); Steve McClelland; Vera Sheets; Glen Stechschulte (*friend of Steve McClelland*); Amy Steward (*daughter of Keith Bower's cousin*); Dorine VonStein; Louise Wilson; Bobbie Wright (*Minister Deb's sister-in-law*); all military personnel including — Griffin Hartman, Lance Leisure, Brycen Lucius, Evan McMonigal, Justin Riegle, Nate Sheets, Colin Tobin, and Alex vonStein — Songambele Lutheran Church; Navajo Lutheran Mission School, Rock Point, AZ; Hancock County Religious Education; and Mission Possible for Haiti.

NEW MEMBERS WILL BE RECEIVED on September 7th — Six new and one member previously moved back to active status will be making Affirmation of Baptism. Some names are familiar ones with a few new ones. Come, help us welcome Stephen Clark, II; Justin Gillespie, Kelsie Gillespie, Patricia Mitchell, Kelly Stine, and Isaac vonStein along with Sean Adams into the St. Paul family.

Our Christian Sympathy is extended to ~ ~

Our Christian Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Carol [Inbody] Breitigam. Carol, 83, passed away at Blanchard Valley Hospital on Thursday, August 21st. Her funeral was held here at St. Paul on Tuesday, August 26th at 11:00AM. May the family and friends of Carol feel God holding them close and fill them with the hope of the resurrection.

Thank You ~ Thank You ~ Thank You ~ ~

Thank you for the very delicious picnic dinner that you delivered to us on Sunday, July 27th. 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, Jolene, Wanda, Nancy, Virginia & Larry, ~ The Orchard Residents*

Thank you for the very delicious barbecue dinner that you delivered to us on Sunday, August 17th. We wish to thank the Outreach Committee, the workers, and drivers for the time to prepare and deliver the meal. Thank you again,

Tom, Shirley, Pat, Sandy, Paul, Millie, Jean, Paula, Jim, Ruth, Rollie, Wanda, Nancy, Virginia, and Larry ~ The Orchard Residents

From the disciples of St. Mark's Lutheran Church (Bowling Green) to the disciples of St. Paul Lutheran (Jenera)

Thank you! We are humbled and blessed by your prayers. United in Christ we share with you the joy and hope given to us by God through Jesus Christ. We appreciate your encouragement and friendship. Please know that we included you in our prayers, as well. It is good for our attenders to know that we do not worship alone, but we are with you in Spirit! God's blessings, Pastor Robin K. Small, St. Mark's

[The Thank You card is on the Information Counter in the Welcome Space]

Thank you to all who volunteered to provide cases of small water bottles for our congregation to enjoy. We have set up a schedule for those who have volunteered. Thank you again.

May the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way. Thank you so very much for the wonderful picnic meal. Bless you all. Arlington Manor

[The Thank you card is on the Information Counter in the Welcome Space.]



The September Sewing Day will be on Wednesdays, September 10th and 24th 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 14 people at the Sewing Day on Wednesday, August 13th. Five quilts were finished.

A Heartfelt Thank You from The Outreach Team

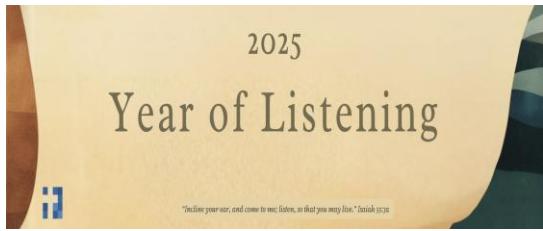
The Outreach Team would like to extend our sincere gratitude to everyone who has supported **“Our Daily Bread Ministry”**. Your time, generosity, and faithful donations have been the foundation of our ability to serve the community. We’re especially grateful for the amazing bakers here at **St. Paul**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

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

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

- **September** – No Meal Scheduled
- **October 26th** – Community Meal served in the **Fellowship Hall**
- **November** – No Meal Scheduled – Plans for shut-in meals and care packages are currently in development.
- **December** – No Meal Scheduled – We will distribute **Holiday Meal Bags**, continuing the tradition from 2024.

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



The Year of Listening

Welcome to 2025: The Year of Listening.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I'm excited to share in this "Year of Listening" and I hope you are too.

Blessings, Minister Deb

ReFUEL and Ignite INFORMATION

Upcoming:

- Sep. 7 – Confirmation Parent Meeting and first class; Ignite grades 4-6
- Sep. 14 – ReFUEL grades 7-12
- Sep. 28 – ReFUEL 6-8pm
- Oct. 5 – Ignite Campfire Night 6-8pm
- Oct. 11 or 12 – ReFUEL Corn Maze
- Oct. 15 – WNL/Kids Praise Begins (WNL Theme: Fruit of the Spirit)
- Oct. 18 – Fall Fest (Youth needed to volunteer)
- Oct. 26 – ReFUEL 6-8pm

Confirmation Class Information for September

- Sunday, September 7th – Confirmation Parent Meeting and first class – 5:00PM – 6:00PM
- Sunday, September 14th – Confirmation Class – 5:00PM – 6:00PM
- Sunday, September 21st – Confirmation Class – 5:00PM – 6:00PM
- Sunday, September 28th – Confirmation Class – 5:00PM – 6:00PM

DESIGNATED OFFERINGS: The Third Quarter offerings, that began on Sunday, July 6th, will benefit the rebuilding of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Maria Stein, Ohio. On Thursday, May 29, 2025, the church experienced a tragic fire. The gifts given to St. John the Baptist Maria Stein Community Fund will be used in support of this community for the needs that lie ahead on the path to recovery. Evaluation of the church structure continues and options are still being weighed, but whatever path this community of believers choose to take for the future there will be considerable expenses. Prayerfully consider giving to this cause through your giving envelope, designated under "building fund."

⁵ *Then the heads of the families of Judah and Benjamin and the priests and the Levites — Everyone whose spirit God had stirred —got ready to go up and rebuild the house of the LORD in Jerusalem.*

⁶ *All their neighbors aided them with silver vessels, with gold, with goods, with livestock, and with valuable gifts, besides all that was freely offered. Ezra 1:5-6*

September 2025 Birthdays

Monday, September 1st Addison Rammel
Tuesday, September 2nd Emily Durliat
Tuesday, September 2nd Theodore Kroske
Tuesday, September 2nd Tanner Rader
Tuesday, September 2nd Rose Tarnay
Wednesday, September 3rd Kian Sidle
Thursday, September 4th Lauren Bower
Friday, September 5th Aaron Smith
Saturday, September 6th Declan Peyton
Saturday, September 6th Michael Rettig
Sunday, September 7th Deb Clevenger
Sunday, September 7th Elora Haley
Sunday, September 7th Caiti Hankins
Sunday, September 7th Pam Hoffman
Sunday, September 7th Cody Rader
Sunday, September 7th Heather Smith
Sunday, September 7th Sarah Solt
Tuesday, September 9th Nathan Bower
Tuesday, September 9th Matthew Robinson
Wednesday, September 10th Allison Coldren
Friday, September 12th Nicholas Clark
Friday, September 12th Brycen Lucius
Friday, September 12th Nate Sheets
Sunday, September 14th Delilah Grieser
Tuesday, September 16th Adalie vonStein
Wednesday, September 17th Scott Bower
Thursday, September 18th Hannah Bayer
Thursday, September 18th Anna Edmiston
Thursday, September 18th Noah Edmiston
Friday, September 19th Addison Smith
Saturday, September 20th Jonathan Coldren
Sunday, September 21st Kelsey Dempster
Sunday, September 21st Ethan Grieser
Sunday, September 21st Ryan Riegle
Monday, September 22nd Abby Fitch
Tuesday, September 23rd Carole Luke
Thursday, September 25th Amanda Henson
Thursday, September 25th Mike Ingram
Thursday, September 25th Brittany Kerner
Thursday, September 25th Keith Robinson
Thursday, September 25th Dennis Ward
Friday, September 26th Leah Durliat
Friday, September 26th Lindsay Gossman
Saturday, September 27th Brittan Reichley
Sunday, September 28th Zaim Habib
Sunday, September 28th Tracy Riegle
Sunday, September 28th Brandon Zuercher
Monday, September 29th Miriam Kroske
Tuesday, September 30th Jared Griggs
Tuesday, September 30th Jacob Young



September 2025 Wedding Anniversaries

Wednesday, September 3 rd	Nate and Lauren Etler – 9
Friday, September 5 th	David and Stacey Laird – 16
Monday, September 8 th	Merritt and Dorine VonStein – 68
Tuesday, September 9 th	Scott and Allison Reule – 19
Thursday, September 11 th	Jon and Kris Russell – 32
Friday, September 12 th	Aaron and April Smith – 16
Wednesday, September 17 th	Curtis and Kristy Schroeder – 20
Thursday, September 18 th	Jake and Amanda Leu – 15
Friday, September 19 th	Gary and Mary Wilson – 44
Friday, September 19 th	Derek and Brittany Kerner – 10
Sunday, September 21 st	Michael and Rebecca Stoltz – 34
Friday, September 26 th	Kreg and Chris Sheets – 33
Friday, September 26 th	Nathan and Olivia Zuercher – 2



MARK YOUR CALENDAR — Sunday, September 14th will be the 194th Observance of the Shipwreck of the Brig. James Beacham [aka “The Famous Dove”]. A service will also be held at St. Paul Cemetery at the Shipwreck Monument led by Pastor Steve Ramsey at 2:00PM.

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ SEPTEMBER 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 LABOR DAY Church Office Closed – Holiday	2 7:00PM Worship Committee Meeting	3	4 6:00PM “The Jokers” meet	5	6 9:00AM – 1:00PM WELCA Fall Gathering, St. Luke’s Lutheran Church, North Baltimore
7 THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9:00AM Traditional Worship / Communion 10:15AM Sunday School 11:15AM Contemporary Worship / Communion 5:00PM – 6:00PM Confirmation Parent Meeting and 1 st Class 6:00PM – 8:00PM Ignite (grades 4 th – 6 th)	8	9 7:00PM Congregational Council Meeting	10 9:00AM – 2:00PM Sewing Day	11 6:00PM “The Jokers” meet	12 ALL DAY Fellowship Hall reserved by the Durlat Family	13
14 FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 194th OBSERVANCE OF THE SHIPWRECK OF “THE FAMOUS DOVE” – SHIPWRECK SUNDAY 9:00AM Traditional Worship / Communion 10:15AM Sunday School 11:15AM Contemporary Worship / Communion 2:00PM Shipwreck Service at the Shipwreck Monument at St. Paul Cemetery 5:00PM – 6:00PM Confirmation Class 6:00PM – 8:00PM ReFUEL (grades 7 th – 12 th)	15	16 7:00PM WELCA Meeting	17	18 6:00PM “The Jokers” meet	19	20
21 FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9:00AM Traditional Worship 10:15AM Sunday School 11:15AM Contemporary Worship / Communion 5:00PM – 6:00PM Confirmation Class	22	23	24 9:00AM – 2:00PM Sewing Day	25 9:30AM Bible Study / Library 6:00PM “The Jokers” meet 6:00PM Fellowship Hall or Conference Room reserved by the Quilt Club	26	27
28 SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9:00AM Traditional Worship 10:15AM Sunday School 11:15AM Contemporary Worship / Communion 12:30PM – 3:00PM Fellowship Hall Reserved for Wilson Reunion 5:00PM – 6:00PM Confirmation Class 6:00PM – 8:00PM ReFUEL	29	30	Altar Guild: Jane Follas Lector: Nathan Cowan Organist: September 7 th , 14 th , 21 st , 28 th : Lisa Gossman			