



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

CHURCH OFFICE PHONE: 419-326-3535

CHURCH OFFICE E-MAIL: stpaul Lutheran6@yahoo.com

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN WEBSITE ~ www.stpaul Lutheranjenera.org

ST. PAUL "MESSENGER"

JUNE ~ 2024

So then, a sabbath rest still remains for the people of God;
Hebrews 4:9

Dear Friends in Christ,

The Northwestern Ohio Synod has been celebrating 2024 as "The Year of Rest." For those who have been following the monthly calendar and suggested moments for rest in the News of the Flock, you know that "getting into nature" is a frequent suggestion for finding sacred rest.

At the semi-annual meeting, a presentation was given for a proposed meditation/prayer garden to go in the northwest corner space off the sanctuary and beside the kitchen/fellowship hall. God placed the idea for the meditation space on the heart of an individual who brought it to the attention of Outreach to see if there might be interest in pursuing it. With the support of Outreach, measures were taken to obtain plans and costs for providing a space for individual and small group meditation, prayer, and worship. The thought is that the space would be available for our own members as well as for use by the greater community.

Imagine: Senior pictures being taken in the space; a simple wedding being held in God's creation; the minister meeting with a grieving spouse or family allowing God's gentle breeze to embrace and comfort them. Can you hear a Bible story being read to children on Sunday mornings, at Kids Praise and VBS. Could it be a place for our Youth to have Bible study before engaging in activities in the fellowship hall? Can you imagine a private place for sabbath rest for someone struggling with the burdens of daily life? What about offering an Easter meditation in the garden before the Easter Breakfast? These are only some of the possibilities that could be explored with an outside Spiritual space.

We are blessed to have individuals in our congregation familiar with landscape work. We are blessed to have individuals who can see beauty in the land and space that God has provided, and envisioning a way to using it for God's glory. Is it possible that some of the work can be completed by volunteers, thus giving a new generation a sense of contribution to the life of St. Paul that those who participated in the building of the church experienced a decade or so ago?

The meditation/prayer garden may seem expensive, but materials and labor are not going to become less expensive over time. The seed has been planted, and now it is up to the members of the congregation to decide if it will take root and grow. I invite you to look at the plans on display in the welcome space. Ask questions. Express your thoughts, concerns, and ideas with Outreach and members of Council. Then Pray that God's will be done. If it is God's plan, the means for making it a reality will be made available. If God says, "Not at this time", then so be it. We serve at the mercy of God's grace. Now is the time for discernment; a vote will be taken at a later time.

In Christ's Love,
Minister Deb

**ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
 CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
 TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2024 – 7:00PM**

*Attendance: Laurie Laird, Natalie McClelland, Jane Follas, Deb Clevenger, Tom Carey, Bart Welte,
 Tom Marquart, Minister Deb Noll, Jan Grieser, Amy Gibson.*

CALL TO ORDER – Laurie Laird

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7pm. Discussion was held on chapter 3 of our study book, “Affirming Continuously”. All members recited the Council prayer together, and the minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Jake Leu

Account Balances at April 30, 2024	
Checking	
Current	186,732.85
Building	0.00
Improvement	60.18
Missions	8,592.72
Special Projects	
Shipwreck Festival	2,219.23
Music	2,345.90
C. Price Memorial Funds	26,837.91
Bell choir	1,740.64
Special Projects Other	0.06
	33,143.74
Total Quickbooks Operating/MMDA	228,529.49
Operating Account	54,215.21
Money Market Demand Account (MMDA)	178,670.53
Total Operating/MMDA – Bank	232,885.74
Outstanding Deposits at 4/30/24	
Outstanding Checks at 4/30/24	-4,356.25
Total Reconciled Operating/MMDA	228,529.49
Savings	
General Memorial	14,264.12

- Council members reviewed financial statements provided by Jake Leu.
- The Chair reported on behalf of Jake, noting that everything held steady last month. Jake considered moving money from the operating account to the Money Market account, but decided against it after receiving a bill from Charles Beagle Electric in the amount of \$9,946 for wiring work in the parsonage.
- 2024 farm rent was received from Jon Musgrave in the amount of \$822.
- Interest income generated by our Money Market account during the month of April is estimated at \$680.

MINISTER’S REPORT HIGHLIGHTS – Deborah Noll (see full report attached at end of minutes)

- The report began with a Word for Thought and prayer.
- On the Day of Pentecost (May 19), Good Hope Church will host a Central Conference Assembly from 3pm–6pm.

- A Synod Assembly will be held on Saturday, June 1 at St. Mark's Church in Bowling Green. Minister Deb and three members will attend.
- We've sold our property in Cardington, and as of yesterday Dick is fully retired. I'll be gone the next 3 Fridays to finish boxing and moving with the help of our son, but can be reached by phone.

TRUSTEES REPORT – Tom Marquart

- Electric is done in the garage.
- The hole in parsonage closet is repaired.
- Tree stumps are removed. The chips were taken away and dirt added and seeded with grass.
- The brush pile has been burned and the bare spot seeded.
- Roundup has been sprayed in play area and driveway.
- The church and parsonage yard has been sprayed and fertilized. (Special thank you to Keith Robinson!)
- The lights behind the stained glass have been acting up and some bulbs were replaced. Doug Coldren is looking over them and possibly replacing the fixtures.
- Tom met with Norm the Electrician who worked on the front doors. Got a lesson on batteries that will need replaced from time to time.
- Norm has agreed to install spotlights on our large, stone church sign. He just finished Calvary Baptist and will start at St. Paul shortly.
- Future projects to be completed include the shelving upstairs. Bart is getting the supplies. We will need some help when we start.
- In parsonage there is shelving not being used. Minister Deb would like to have put up for some storage.
- The refrigerator in garage is not working again. Anyone know of one available, or I will talk with Doug Coldren about getting a new one at Whirlpool.
- Amy Gibson reported the blinds in her room are not working.

PARISH EDUCATION – Emily Clark

- Planning continues for "Pandamania" VBS to be held July 14–18, and a float will be decorated accordingly for the Arlington Homecoming parade on July 19.
- A roller-skating party is planned in June for the entire congregation.

YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT – Amy Gibson

- I've put together a summer calendar with tentative service ideas. Youth also chose events, beginning with a Mudhens game on June 30.
- Six graduating seniors will be recognized this Sunday, May 19.
- Bart asked about youth painting area church sign posts black (only those made of steel). It was noted that the new signs should be reinforced for hanging.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE – Tammy von Stein

- Laurie talked to us about the Prayer Garden and had some plans to show us. Information will be presented at the semi-annual meeting.
- Laurie provided Outreach with a list of "Special Project Ideas" that Council discussed, and will put out to the congregation to hopefully energize the congregation. Tammy Robinson and Tammy von Stein will be attending a joint conference at Good Hope on May 19 from 3–6 to discuss joint outreach opportunities with our community churches.
- Muffins for Moms – Mother's Day, May 12.
- Donuts for Dad – Father's Day, June 16.
- Chalk Talk picture – Tammy V. will work on getting it sprayed and framed for the guest bedroom at the parsonage.
- Outreach checking account balance: \$ 1,504.81. No checks were written during the month of April.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- The Chair reviewed a rendering of the proposed Prayer Garden. Tammy will present this information during the semi-annual meeting, but there will be no vote yet.
- Regarding the time capsule from 1953 that Minister Deb found in her office, it was suggested that we incorporate it in the church bell mounting and display. Bart reported the bell is still undergoing restoration. It will be functional and can be rung with a wheel. It will be mounted outside just west of the main entrance.
- The Chair inquired about the status of the church directory. Amy noted she was busy for weeks with soup suppers and waiting on addresses, but she plans to submit it for printing very soon. It will then take 4–6 weeks to receive the print copies. Amy talked about the app associated with the directory so that any member can access a digital copy of the directory on their mobile phones. The cost is \$100 per year and has already been paid. Amy will provide an update on this at the semi-annual meeting on Sunday.
- There is still a need for an Assistant Sunday School Superintendent (or co-superintendents).

NEW BUSINESS

- Discussion was held on changing the line item “Building Fund” in the budget to “Council’s Discretionary Fund”, which will be funded from interest earned on our Money Market accounts. A motion was made by Jan Grieser, seconded by Deb Clevenger. Motion carried. It was noted this is separate from “Pastor’s Discretionary Fund”.
- The semi-annual meeting agenda was reviewed.
- The Chair asked members to consider a benevolence recipient for the 3rd quarter. A recipient will be designated at the June meeting.
- The Conference Room Sunday School class requested permission to show the movie, “Letter to the American Church”, by Eric Metaxas to members who wish to see it. Discussion followed. Jan Grieser noted this movie is also available on YouTube.

BRAINSTORMING

- The Chair reviewed an updated list of ways that St. Paul members can bless others. This will be presented during the semi-annual meeting.

ADJOURN

- The meeting adjourned with The Lord’s Prayer at 8:25 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June at 11 at 7 p.m. Members are asked to read Chapter 4 of the study book prior to the meeting.

Natalie McClelland, Recording Secretary

**Synod Authorized Minister’s Full Report
St. Paul Congregational Council
May 14, 2024**

Word for Thought:

“...and [Jesus] spent the night in prayer to God. And when day came, he called his disciples and chose twelve of them, whom he also named apostles ...”

God always provides-usually in a completely unexpected way. Because God usually provides in unexpected ways, it’s easy to miss it when it happens. That’s why it is so important for us to keep looking for God.

Sunday was a good example of God providing what was needed at a completely unexpected time and way. On Saturday my voice was fine. On Sunday morning, I barely had a voice. In the midst of the nine

o'clock worship I asked for a volunteer to read the prayers of the people. The request was responded to and the prayers were lifted up on behalf of the church, creation, and all in need. For the 11:15 service the lessons, prayers, and even the sermon were delegated out to individuals who hadn't expected to be called upon to serve. God is good; God always provides a way for His work to be done.

When we get ready to do something in the church, our first reaction is almost always the same. "How are we going to find someone to lead this project—or fill this position—or help us with all the work?" The answer is, "God will provide". When we try to take care of things ourselves, we run around twisting arms, begging, and lamenting our lack of help. This is not only unproductive, it's spiritually destructive.

Laurie has introduced our council to the idea of "brainstorming ways St. Paul can be a blessing to more people". She will share these ideas with our members at our semi-annual meeting this Sunday, along with plans for a meditation/prayer garden, and the need for repairs in the outside play area. Will everything that is proposed be done this year? Maybe; maybe not!

What we as a council can do is model Christ's behavior. Jesus always chooses the better path. When it was time to choose his apostles, he spent the night in prayer and let God show him who to choose. As counterintuitive as it seems, the best way to fill a position or begin a new adventure is to start with prayer and then see who God sends our way. Trusting God won't let us down.

Let us pray: Lord Jesus: Your example is crystal clear, trust God and act in faith. Why is so hard for us to remember . . . ? Amen.

Acknowledgement to Pastor Dave Westphal for the inspiration of this devotion based on his daily Easter reflections.

Activity Since the April Council Meeting:

Worship, Church Functions, Member Contact Outside of Worship

- Worship Services (x6)
- Choir (x1)
- Confirmation Class (x3)
- Sewing Meal (x2)
- "The Jokers" Card Group (x2)
- In-office, Home & Nursing Care Visitations (x1)
- Homebound Communion (x1)
- Worship Team (x1)
- Youth Board (x1)
- Outreach Team (x1)
- Care Cards sent (x40)
- Dick's Retirement Party
- Ascension Day Email (on Prayer Chain)

Related Church Activities

- SAM Cohort Zoom Session (x2)
- SAM Supervisor Session (x2)
- Outreach/Service Meeting w/Pastor Ramsey, Jim Fleming (SAM @ St. Mark, Ada) and Tammy Robinson to brainstorm Outreach/Service opportunities to inspire discussion at the Central Conference Gathering to be held May 19 @ Good Hope, Arlington (x1)

Continuing Education

- Stephen Ministry Continuing Education @ St. John Lutheran Church, Cardington (x1)

Vacation Taken

- April 15 to 28, 2024

Upcoming Events

- Central Conference Assembly/Gathering, May 19 from 3:00pm–6:30pm
 - At Good Hope, Arlington
 - ❖ For all Rostered Leaders, Congregational Leaders, Youth Coordinators, Church Members and Youth
 - ❖ Worship, Round Table Discussions, and dinner
 - ❖ Pre-Synod Assembly Discussion for Voting Members to the Synod Assembly
- **Synod Assembly** – Saturday, June 1, 2024 at St. Mark Lutheran Church, Bowling Green.

Respectfully Submitted by Deb Noll, Synod Authorized Minister

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MAY 19, 2024 – 10:15A.M.

CALL TO ORDER – Laurie Laird

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:27 a.m. Devotions and prayer were given by Minister Deb Noll.

APPROVE ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting held on Nov. 19, 2023 were approved as written.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Jake Leu

Account Balances at April 30, 2024	
Checking	
Current	186,732.85
Building	0.00
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Special Projects	
Shipwreck Festival	2,219.23
Music	2,345.90
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Bell choir	1,740.64
Special Projects Other	0.06
	33,143.74
Total Quickbooks Operating/MMDA	228,529.49

- An overview of account balances was provided. Jake noted the Current fund has a healthy balance, continues to grow, and provides us with opportunities not only at St. Paul but throughout the community. The Building fund reflects a zero balance due to the loan being paid off. When we receive our 2025 offering envelopes, the category previously labeled Building Fund will be labeled Designated Fund, and a recipient(s) will be selected every quarter. For the first quarter of 2024, a total of \$4,356.25 was collected and designated to Indian Lake tornado relief. All money received in the Missions category will be divided at the end of the year and given to several recipients based on need. Last year's recipients were St. Jude's, Lutheran Social Services, Wernle Children's Home, and Women's Resource Center and each received roughly \$2,500. Under Special Projects, these funds have a special purpose and typically do not receive additional revenue throughout the year unless someone designates money toward them.

- The Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual report was reviewed, reflecting Nov–2023 through Apr–2024. Total income for this period was \$164,842.43. Donations to the Current Fund have exceeded what was budgeted by more than \$14,000. Total expenses for the same period were \$151,692.44 and fall within our budget. Jake noted that the annual fee for accounting software Quickbooks has been moved from Miscellaneous Expense to Dues & Subscriptions – Office. Also, the insurance premium for the church and parsonage increased, but we’re still within our budget. Our Money Market Fund has done well since inception, generating roughly \$2,000 interest from Sep-Dec 2023, and \$2,700 in interest during the first four months of 2024.

MINISTER’S REPORT – Deb Noll

- Although not listed in my written report, I officiated the funeral of Lee Best in January here at St. Paul.
- Since the annual congregational meeting, we have celebrated another season of Lent and Easter. The Lenten theme was, “A Lenten Journey Through Hymns”, highlighting a different hymn each week with a history of the hymn and how it related to Christ’s journey to the cross. On Wednesday nights soup suppers were held, fellowship was shared, Kids Praise was enjoyed by children, and it was a joy to lead Bible study prior to Lenten worship services. Easter Sunday began with a carry-in breakfast, followed by a single, blended worship service to celebrate the risen Christ.
- Thanks to all members for their thoughts, prayers and concerns during Dick’s unexpected time in the hospital the week after Easter.
- We rejoice for the celebration of Dick’s retirement from OSU on May 4. Thanks to everyone who made his party a huge success.
- We’ve sold our house in Cardington and will be turning over the keys to the new owners on May 31. I look forward to being “home” in the parsonage full time and not have to drive back & forth weekly.
- In July, I plan to offer a series of sermons on “Why we do what we do in worship”, a look at Lutheran liturgy and church life.
- Another Bible study, “Read, Reflect and Relax in God’s Word” is planned, with the time and location yet to be determined.
- I remain dedicated to carrying out the mission of St. Paul’s congregation: “We celebrate God’s love and forgiveness by living the word and sharing the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.”
- The Chair noted that she approved the hiring of Two Men & a Truck to finish moving Minister Deb & Dick because several members who may have helped with this are planting their crops.

YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT – Amy Gibson

- The annual Giving Blitz was held during the 2023 holiday season and youth gathered many items for Hope House. If you know of another organization that needs assistance next year, please let me know.
- A Christmas bowling party in Ada was held on December 3.
- A fundraiser, “Flapjacks and Flannel”, was held on January 21 where members were invited to wear flannel to church and enjoy flapjacks after worship. This event raised more than \$450.
- Youth traveled to Snow Trails in Mansfield on January 28 for winter activities.
- In February, youth attended a Walleye game and a Winter Jam concert.
- A lock-in was also held in February including food, games, movies, and Bible study.
- Youth hosted 5 of 6 Soup Suppers on Wednesday evenings during the Lenten season.
- Regular meetings were held in addition to special events.
- Amy then presented information about the church directory, which is under Unfinished Business.

TRUSTEES REPORT – Tom Marquart

- A new overhead door was installed on the storage barn across the road.
- Two trees and four stumps were removed and the areas seeded.

- Church and parsonage grounds have been sprayed for weed control.
- Shelves will be installed in the church attic for more organized storage.
- The parsonage garage now has a workbench and electricity.
- The automatic open feature of the main entrance doors is complete. The electrical contractor who worked on the doors has agreed to run wiring to spotlight the large stone church sign near the road. This project will begin soon.
- Restoration of the old church bell is underway; it will be powder coated, painted, reassembled, and mounted. It will be located outside, just west of the main entrance. The bell can be run manually on special occasions and locked for security. Thanks to Bart Welte for working on this project.
- A time capsule dated 1953 from the old church was found and is in Minister Deb's office. When the old church bell restoration is complete, we plan to have a dedication ceremony and open the time capsule and assemble a new one to incorporate into the bell display.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

- This committee continues to collect items monthly based on community needs. During the month of May, members are encouraged to bring peanut butter & jelly to church, which will be donated to Good Hope's food pantry.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Church directory progress. Amy reported on the status of the directory, noting several delays including waiting on member information. Once she has received all the information she will submit it, and the print directories will arrive roughly 6–8 weeks later. However, Council approved the purchase of a directory app so members can access a digital directory NOW or anytime on their mobile device. To do this, go to instantchurchdirectory.com and download the app. Then create a login using the email address you provided on the directory form and designate your own password. Members can submit updates on this app, and the church will have the ability to update and print a PDF version annually. More information about the app will be available in the welcome space.
2. Church bell and discovery of time capsule. This was already discussed in Trustees Report above.
3. Assistant Sunday School Superintendent. The Chair noted we are still looking for a volunteer for this position, or two volunteers to serve as co-assistants.
4. Carpet replacement in fellowship hall. Jake Leu has created a diagram with mark-outs for basketball, pickleball, and dart ball. The next step is to find someone who will install the carpet and mark-outs. Jan Grieser will check with Parkview Christian Church to find out who did their installation.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Change line item in budget from Building Fund to Council's Discretionary Fund. The Chair reported that Council has been discussing how St. Paul can be a blessing to others since we are blessed financially and no longer have a building loan. We could use a portion of interest from our Money Market Accounts (which generate \$600-700 a month) to help a family in need or fund special projects within the church and/or community. This line item will be separate from the Minister's Discretionary Fund, which provides for immediate needs such as groceries, gasoline, etc. However, we could use money from the Council's Discretionary Fund to replenish the Minister's Discretionary Fund as needed. A motion was made by Lynn Boehm to approve this line item change, and seconded by Nancy Tobin. Motion carried.
2. List of ways St. Paul can be a blessing to others. The Chair noted this idea came from our current Council book study, specifically: "The church is not just a building; it's the people in it. How can our church – building AND people – be a blessing to others in our community and beyond?" She asked Council members to think "out of the box" and submit ideas, a list of which were included in the agenda. She encouraged members to consider more ideas and let her know.

3. New church brochure. Thank you to Chelsea Boehm for designing a new St. Paul brochure that can be given to prospective members.
4. Employee change. Cami Settlage will be replaced by her sister Allie as custodian.
5. Prayer Garden diagram and estimates presented. Tammy von Stein reported on behalf of the Outreach Committee, noting they try to reach out to the church and community to determine ways to help those in need and/or to say we're thinking of you. This past year it was placed on a lot of hearts to ask the question, "What can we do next?" One idea to bring the community to St. Paul was the creation of a prayer garden, located north of the sanctuary. Tammy Robinson then explained that a prayer or meditation garden is designed to restore the mind and body. At its core, it is a natural space that allows and invites you to disconnect, slow down, and listen. The idea was placed on the hearts of several members of the congregation, and since St. Paul is not in town, we have a unique and quiet place for people to meditate. We're also blessed to have the expertise of several St. Paul members to assist with this project. The Chair presented estimates and designs including three points of access to the garden, a concrete sidewalk and patio, a pergola for partial shade, and white vinyl fencing to hide the AC units, reduce noise and heat. She noted that all of her customers over the years ask for low maintenance designs, so that's what she presented. Most of the proposed beds are stone, but water will be needed for flower beds, so she recommends installing a water spigot and using leaky hoses for watering. Additional proposals are evergreen screening (to protect from wind), a water fountain, and several electric outlets for evening use and/or special events. One of the three points of access will be from a new door on the west side of the fellowship hall. Rough estimates for the project using information to date range from \$25,000–28,000. There will be no vote today, just information presented and questions entertained. However, we could hold a special meeting in late summer to provide updates on the design and estimates. As far as funding the project, the Chair noted we could consider using the Clarabelle Price Memorial Fund which would cover the majority of the cost. If any member would like to contribute to the project, please contact Laurie Laird or any member of Council.

ADJOURN

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer at 11:13 a.m.

Natalie McClelland, Recording Secretary

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR JUNE 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: Deb Clevenger and Natalie McClelland
LECTOR: Sally Valentage
WEBSITE COORDINATOR: Chelsea Boehm

PRAYER CHAIN CONTACTS

Nadine Boehm — nadineb@thewavz.com or 419-722-6370
 Pam Hoffman — pkhoffman87@gmail.com or 419-358-1682

HOSPITAL STAYS

It is important to the church that we support you through illness and hospitalizations. If you are admitted to Blanchard Valley Hospital for an overnight stay we would like to know.

If you are planning an admission to any hospital, please call the church office at 419–326–3535 to let us know the date you are entering and how long you anticipate staying.

At admission to BVH, *planned or unplanned*, you (or your spokesperson) will be asked several questions,

1. Religion: this may be asked at pre–registration or at admission along with your address, phone number, etc. Please give our denomination.
2. If you wish to be on the Hospital Directory and the Religion List. These questions will be asked of you (or your spokesperson) during the “Consent to Treatment” process. Please answer “yes” to both.

In order to protect your privacy the hospital does not routinely call the church to tell us you have been admitted, unless you specifically ask them to call us. We depend on you or your family to let us know if you have been admitted.

If you have been in the hospital for a day or two and have not been visited, please ask your family or nurse to contact the church office.

A new federal law greatly restricts the disclosure of patient information by hospitals. As a result, the pastors and church office may not know that a member of the church has been admitted to the hospital. If you are hospitalized and would like to notify the pastor, it is important that you or a member of your family inform the church office as soon as possible at 419–326–3535 and the secretary will contact the pastor.

PERSONS ST. PAUL HAS PRAYED FOR DURING THE MONTH OF MAY 2024: Abbi (*8th grade student from Liberty–Benton School*); family and friends of Ralph Anderson; George Beaudoin (*Bishop Beaudoin’s father*); Mark Crates; Kris Cupp (*friend of Pam Hoffman*); Hailey Davis (*daughter of a friend of Lisa Creque*); Nancy Frankart (*friend of Pam Hoffman*); Jon Gast; Norm Hahn; Mark Hoffman (*Mike’s brother*); Gerald Inbody; Daryl Ingram (*Mike’s brother*); Doris Karhoff (*friend of Pam Hoffman*); Kyle McDowell; Faye Parcher (*Beth Wilhelm’s mother*); Sean Tobin; Marcella Utendorf (*friend of Marcia Russell*); Deb Whitesell (*friend of Tom & Cindy Boehm*); 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.

Thank You ~ Thank You ~ Thank You ~ ~

THANK YOU! Dick and I wish to thank the St. Paul congregation for your loving kindness and participation in celebrating Dick’s retirement. From the moment the date was set, I was being asked, “What can I/we do to help?” Letting go to let others do, is not easy, but the results can be amazing when we do let go. Thank you to those who coordinated and contributed food, to Chelsea for taking pictures, to everyone who sent cards, gave gifts, shared words of kindness, or contributed in any other way. Thank you, especially to everyone who came and showed gracious hospitality to out–of–town guests. The evening would not have been as blessed without the support of the members of St. Paul. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. *Dick and Minister Deb*

A BIG Thank you to the members of the Youth Group [Isaac and Noah Cowan, Mason, Morgan, Payton, and Nancy Smith, and Amy and Andrew Gibson] who helped clean up the trees that were taken down by my house. Thanks to my grandson, Justin Gillespie, for furnishing the equipment and hauling it away. *Sonja Eversole*

Our Christian Sympathy is extended to ~ ~

Our Christian Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Ralph Anderson. Ralph, 92, passed away on Thursday, May 9th. Don Anderson, Paula Tomlins, and Pam Pepple are Ralph's children. May the family and friends of Ralph feel God holding them close and fill them with resurrection hope.

The June Sewing Days will be Wednesdays, June 12th and June 26th from 9:00AM – 2:00PM. Come all of the time or part of the time. We assemble quilts for Lutheran World Relief. If you can tie a knot, use scissors or pin material together, we'd love your help with this important ministry! Please bring a dish to share for lunch.

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.

Outreach Project for June – We will be collecting Bibles and Christian books to be taken to WTGN Radio station in Lima. These Bible and books will then go to Mission Cry who, since 1956, have been sending Bibles and Christian literature around the world sowing God's Word into the lives of those who cannot afford it. Mission Cry is equipping orphans, evangelists, pastors and missionaries for the works of service all the while setting up distribution centers, lending libraries, Bible College libraries, and holding crusades. If you have extra Bibles or Christian books laying around your house that are not being used, please consider donating them to this mission project to help spread God's Word around the world.

The following items are what they are looking for:

BIBLES — We accept all versions of the Bible.

- As long as we can read the pages, we accept Bibles and Christian books even if there is writing or highlighting
- Used Bibles
- New Bibles

COLLEGE / SEMINARY STUDIES

- Church History
- Commentaries
- Concordances
- Dictionaries (Bible, English)
- Discipleship

MIXED LIBRARY

- Biographies (Christian)
- Christian Living
- Church and Church History
- Counseling
- Classical Literature
- Cults
- Discipleship

SUNDAY SCHOOL (FROM THESE PUBLISHERS)

- Bible Studies
- CEF Publishers
- Children's Ministry
- David C. Cook
- Group Publishers

ACCEPTED LITERATURE

- Evangelism
- Faith
- Fiction (Christian)
- Financial
- Foreign Language Materials
- Heaven
- History (Bible, General)
- Missionology
- Reference Software
- Religious Education
- Theology and Doctrine

Mission Cry is located in Fowlerville, Michigan. If you would like more information, their website is:
<https://missioncry.com/>

St. Paul Prayer Garden ~ It has been suggested by The Outreach Committee that it would be nice to have a Prayer Garden. This would be located in the back of the church where the Kitchen and Sanctuary meet. There is a drawing in the Welcome Space and pictures of some of the material used in the plan. There would be access through the Sanctuary door, the West parking lot [so anyone in the community could use it], and the door that is proposed from the Fellowship Hall where a window is now. This area could be used for private time, special services, or social events like a meeting or small wedding or other events. There would be lights for evening use, a fountain, a Pergola for shade and some benches. The pricing that we have so far includes the landscaping and installation, the Pergola and installation, the 2 fences that will hide the AC units [no installation included], material for concrete for walks and patio [no installation] and a fountain. This so far comes to \$26,000. — 28,000. We hope to get some volunteer labor. Other work we will need to hire includes, door installation, water spigot through wall, electrical and others. Take a look at the plan and give us your thoughts? We hope to have a special Congregational meeting later this summer to approve the installation that would start maybe late summer. One idea to fund this project is to use the Clarabelle Price Memorial Funds which is around \$26,000.00. Any questions, please contact Laurie Laird, Tammy vonStein or Tammy Robinson.

Offering Opportunity — For the second quarter we are collecting for **HopeWood Outdoor Ministry**. Formally known as LOMO (Lutheran Outdoor Ministry in Ohio). HopeWood’s mission is to bring people together to experience Christ through nature and programs. HopeWood offers summer camp experiences for youth grades K–12 along with family camp and year round retreat opportunities for all ages. In addition, HopeWood also has an outreach day camp/vbs type programs where they travel to congregations throughout the summer. Donations received this quarter will help fund for staff, programming, materials and upkeep of the grounds.

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 June 2024—“The Year of Rest” on the Information Counter in the Welcome Space.]

ReFUEL INFORMATION FOR JUNE

Sunday, June 2nd	6:00PM – 8:00PM
Sunday, June 23rd	6:00PM – 8:00PM Campfire Night
Sunday, June 30th	Mud Hens Game



The poster features a cartoon duck character in a baseball uniform swinging a bat. The text is arranged as follows: 'BASEBALL' in large white letters, 'GAME' in white letters inside a yellow rounded rectangle, 'FAITH AND FAMILY NIGHT' in white letters, 'GRADES 6-12 SIBLINGS WELCOME PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED' in white letters, and 'Sign up deadline May 26th' in white letters.

June 30th, 2024

Ticket \$7 | Game Time 4PM

**Come and Listen to the players share
their faith pre-game time TBA**

June 2024 Birthdays

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

Friday, June 28th
 Friday, June 28th
 Friday, June 28th
 Sunday, June 30th

Linda Isenbarger
 Zacary Leisure
 Kyle McDowell
 Matthew Hankins



June 2024 Wedding Anniversaries

Saturday, June 1st Dustin and Amanda Price – 11
 Sunday, June 2nd Jon and Michelle Tarnay – 6
 Monday, June 3rd Dale and Sara Geissinger – 24
 Tuesday, June 4th Tom and Sally Valentage – 30
 Friday, June 7th Keith and Tammy Robinson – 44
 Saturday, June 8th Darwin and Louise Wilson – 66
 Monday, June 10th Tom and Cindy Boehm – 35
 Saturday, June 15th Michael and Jennifer Frommer – 28
 Sunday, June 16th Andrew and Abbey Fitch – 12
 Sunday, June 16th Norm and Kathy Hahn – 15
 Monday, June 17th Andrew and Lindsay Follas – 24
 Monday, June 17th Paul and Sharon Hartman – 62
 Tuesday, June 18th Raymond and Barbara Bower – 58
 Tuesday, June 18th Marty and Marsha Grieser – 48
 Thursday, June 20th Ed and Tammy vonStein – 32
 Saturday, June 22nd Scott and Lisa McDowell – 28
 Sunday, June 23rd Dan and Jean Ludwig – 23
 Sunday, June 23rd Glenn and Rebecca Peyton – 12
 Tuesday, June 25th Troy and Jennifer Oeschler – 8
 Sunday, June 30th Joe and Amanda Panfil – 12
 Sunday, June 30th John and Kimberly Shepard – 34

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ JUNE 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Altar Guild: Deb Clevenger and Natalie McClelland Lector: Sally Valentage Organists: June 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th: Lisa Gossman June 23rd: Janet Carey</p>						<p>1 ALL Day Fellowship Hall / Pavilion reserved by Settlege Family 10:30AM – 1:00PM Graduation Open House for Taylor Follas, Bluffton Sportsmen’s Club, 405 North Spring Street, Bluffton 4:00PM – 8:00PM Graduation Open House for Cami Settlege – Pavilion or Fellowship Hall</p>
<p>2 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9:00AM Traditional Worship / Communion 10:15AM Sunday School 10:15AM Outreach Committee Meeting 11:15AM Contemporary Worship / Communion 6:00PM – 8:00PM ReFUEL</p>				<p>6 6:00PM Sunday School Room reserved by “The Jokers”</p>		<p>8 3:00PM Rock N Roll 4-H Meeting / Fellowship Hall</p>
<p>9 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9:00AM Traditional Worship / Communion 10:15AM Sunday School 11:15AM Contemporary Worship / Communion</p>		<p>11 7:00PM Congregational Council Meeting</p>	<p>12 9:00AM – 2:00PM Sewing Day</p>	<p>13 6:00PM Sunday School Room reserved by “The Jokers”</p>		
<p>16 FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST FATHER’S DAY 9:00AM Traditional Worship 10:15AM Sunday School 11:15AM Contemporary Worship / Communion</p>		<p>18 7:00PM WELCA Meeting</p>		<p>20 6:00PM Sunday School Room reserved by “The Jokers”</p>		<p>22 ALL Day Pavilion / Fellowship Hall reserved by Carey Family</p>
<p>23 FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9:00AM Traditional Worship 10:15AM Sunday School 11:15AM Contemporary Worship / Communion 6:00PM – 8:00PM ReFUEL/ Campfire Night</p>			<p>26 9:00AM – 2:00PM Sewing Day</p>	<p>27 6:00PM Sunday School Room reserved by “The Jokers”</p>		<p>29 Noon – 6:00PM Fellowship Hall reserved by Kay Sidle</p>
<p>30 SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9:00AM Traditional Worship 10:15AM Sunday School 11:15AM Contemporary Worship / Communion 4:00PM Mud Hens Game</p>						