

ST. PAUL'S
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

January 2023



Dear Friends in Christ,

As we begin the New Year many of us are trying to figure out what our new year's resolution should be—should we resolve to spend more time with our families, or exercise and lose weight, start saving more, etc... My resolution for St. Paul's is that we become a People of Prayer.

Some years ago, Barbara Brown Taylor, Episcopal priest and prolific author, wrote an article in which she told of her granddaughter Madeline's experience of the death of a friend and her parents' divorce.

Things came to a head on Madeline's birthday, when it was time for her to blow out the candles. Her grandfather told her to make a wish, and she balked. She had already wished for her friend to live, and the friend died. She wished for her parents to get back together, but knew that they wouldn't. Why bother? Nobody had much of an answer. I can just imagine how quiet it got around that birthday table.

But it did set Barbara to thinking. The subject had been wishes rather than prayer, but the two aren't that far apart—at least in the mind of a child. Barbara began to consider how to encourage Madeline to pray, even though she could not always expect her prayers to be answered as asked. After a good deal of thought, she wrote this article. I think that you will find it helpful. She said:

"What I want Madeline to know is that the best thing about prayer
is the relationship itself.

Whether or not she gets what she asks for,
I want her to keep asking.

I want her to pester God the same way she pesters her mother,
thinking of 12 different ways to plead her case.

I want her to long for God the same way she longs for her father,
holding fast to him even when his chair is empty."

She concluded the article this way:

"One day, when Madeline asks me outright whether prayer really works,
I am going to say, 'Oh, sweetie, of course it does.'

It keeps our hearts chasing after God's heart.

It's how we bother God,
and how God bothers us back.

There's nothing that works any better than that."

Prayer is one of God's vehicles for blessing. Let us be a people of prayer in this new year—so that we might also be a people of blessing.

Peace,

Pastor Mark

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	<div>Please email Bridge articles to Sharon Thieret at: officeadmin@stpaulsmassillon.org by the 15th of the month. Thanks!</div>

COMMITTEE INFORMATION	
<u>EVANGELISM COMMITTEE</u> Amy Burkett, Liaison Sue Ambrosic Gayle Jackson Becky Johnson Cindy Lash Deidra Monastra	<u>SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE</u> Lea Lang, Chair Amy Burkett John Liebermann Lisa Skelly
<u>FINANCE COMMITTEE</u> Dan Farrar, Chair Greg Klein John Liebermann Patty Long Tracie Schmolt Cindy Scott John Stanko Rick Stern	<u>STAFF SUPPORT COMMITTEE</u> Greg Klein, Chair Jennifer Nelson Maurer Jackie Pritchett Elizabeth Schehl
<u>MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND</u> Kathy Corban, Chair Sue Ambrosic Don Gray Karl Kalk Lynda Klein	
<u>PARISH FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE</u> Carol Stoner, Chair Laurel Borkowski Gary Collard Sue Reid	
<u>PROPERTY & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE</u> Jim Johnson, Chair Dave Allman Don Gray, Liaison for Chair Joe Hepler John Liebermann Craig Maurer Dennis Morgan John Stanko , Liaison for Chair	
<u>WELFARE & SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE</u> Cindy Lash, Chair Christine BatesL Lynda Klein Deidra Monastra Becky Myers Kim Oberlin JuDee Reed Cheryl Shaw David Stoner	
<u>WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE</u> Greg Klein, Chair Karl Kalk Rev. Kreemer Patty Long Kathryn Myers Kim Oberlin Chad Pittman	
<u>YOUTH & PARISH EDUCATION COMMITTEE</u> Scott Larson, Chair Tracie Brumfield Rachel Deerwester Adam Johnson	

Dear St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Pastor, Chad Pittman and musicians,

On behalf of the Community Candlelight Committee and myself we want to express our sincere appreciation for the countless hours of preparation and the truly beautiful performances of your musicians. Each church offered something unique that added to the magic of this special event.

We look forward to your continued participation in the 2023 CCW. For now have a blessed Christmas season and joyous New Year!

With Christmas spirit,

Nancy Jobe, Church liaison



To My Church Family,

Thanks for all of your prayers and beautiful cards! Your prayers, thoughts and Love are very appreciated.

God bless you all,

Paula Kritzer



In our prayers today we will remember

Kay Farrar, Bobby Mullen, Evelyn & Mark Eclm and their friend Bruce, Janice Sprankle, Russ Poling, Henry Leitner, Anna Langenfeld, Amy White, Rosemary Stephen, Jackie & Mike Bergerner, Robert Haas, Chris Collard, Linda Jefferson, Bob Reid, Michael Jordan, Dave Paul, Cheryl Shaw, Steve Kress, Mike Kress, Tiffany Weick, Noah Salberg, Bill Ruppel, Linda Williams, Bobbee DeGordon, Larry & Katheryn Sheets, Susan Carter, Matthew Cottle, Karen Painter, Kyle Whelan, Ken Dexter, Mike Zigelhoffer, Betty Ayers, Pam Dekowski, Sherrie Whelan, Paula Kritzer, Lynne Nunley, Matthew Kronenwetter, Mark Duris, Maria Garton, Carol Rohr, Ray Jones, Renee Brown, Josh Keller, Chrissy Sturtz, Donna Viles, Jean Dexter, Dan Landig, Karen Lunkwitz, Scott & Darlene Lewis, Maria Lichtenberger, Hazel Draper, Jennifer Mays

Serving During the Month of January 2023



Assisting Minister

If you are interested in becoming an Assistant Minister. Please contact Karl Kalk at (330)904-9797 or email at karlkal@msn.com

1/1 - Carol Stoner

1/8 - Andrew Lang

1/15 - Patty Long

1/22 - Scott Larson

1/29 - Karl Kalk

Communion Assistants

1/1 - Lea Lang & Greg Klein

1/8 - Carol Stoner & Amy Burkett

1/15 - Eric Myers & Don Gray

1/22 - Patty Long & Tracie Schmolt

1/29 - Cindy Lash & Scott Larson

Greeters

If you are interested in becoming a Greeter. Please Contact Karl Kalk at (330)904-9797 or email at karlkal@msn.com

1/1 - Sue Ambrosic

1/8 - Rob Pritchett

1/15 - Dick & Robin Cordes

1/22 - Craig Maurer

1/29 - Russ & Mary Ann Poling

January

Kathryn Myers

If you are interested in helping with Sacristy please call Kathryn Myers at 330)327-2590.



Lay Lector

If you are interested in becoming a Lay Lector. Please contact Karl Kalk at (330)904-9797 or email at KarlKal@msn.com

January

Patty Long

Ushers

If you are interested in becoming an Usher. Please contact Dick Longworth at (330)756-2943 or email at richardlongworth7569@gmail.com

January

Chuck Gesen

Chuck Richards

Mike Skelly

Dick Longworth

Sacristy

Community Meal and Community Closet

December 9, 2022

Our Lord taught us, ^{Mt 25:35}..for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.

^{Mt36} I was naked and you gave me clothing, ... ^{25:40} ...truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

We at St. Paul’s are privileged to serve our Lord though our monthly Community Meal and Community Closet. On December 14th we welcomed 97 friends for our monthly community meal. The Fellowship Hall was decorated with a beautiful lighted Christmas tree and Christmas wreath, while Christmas music was played in the background. Our menu consisted of ham, shredded potato casserole, green beans, coleslaw, dinner roll, choice of beverage, and a Christmas brownie for dessert. We were blessed this month by both a significant donation of Boy Scout cookbooks and a grant from Thrivent for a prepaid credit card. December was truly a month for giving!

There were three (3) small children in attendance. All were given a special Christmas toy as gifts from the Congregation.

Nearly all attendees visited both the Community Closet and our “special additional needs” tables either before or after the meal. As the cooler months are approaching, we are striving to have suitable warm clothing available. Please remember to bring in your hats and gloves and hang them on the giving tree in the lounge. They are needed and will be put to good use.

If you want to help us with this important ministry, please contact either Jack Fortune at 330-874-3525 or Lea Lang at 330-224-2263 to discuss.

St. Paul’s Community Meal and Community Closet provide a free meal and clothing for all on the 2nd Friday of each month. Our next opening is Friday, January 13, from 4:30 to 6:00. As always, we thank you for your many prayers and continued support.

Blessings,

Jack & Marsha Fortune

♪ **Music Notes** ♪
From Chad Pittman, Director of Music

CALLING ALL MUSICIANS!

After a lengthy two year recess due to the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are excited to announce that regular musical activities, rehearsals, and offerings in worship have resumed once again!

I look forward to joyfully welcoming back all regular singers and greeting new musicians to our ranks! The opportunity to make music in worship with this particularly amazing church family is truly incredible. I am always inspired by the reactions of new singers experiencing our wonderful music ministry for the first time. If you have ever thought about it, won't you join us this year? This supportive, fun and talented musical family is for all, no matter where you are on your musical journey. Come worship, learn, grow, and enjoy meaningful fellowship!

CHANCEL VOCAL CHOIR
Wednesdays from 7:30pm-9:00pm

*Anybody who wishes to offer musical talents as a soloist or with a small group in worship services is welcome and highly encouraged to contact Chad!

Cathedral Concerts in the Evening

Special thanks to all who made our partial 2022 season of *Cathedral Concerts in the Evening* a tremendous success! Our concert series brought extremely talented artists and performing groups to our beautiful space, uniting our congregation and greater Northeast Ohio community in worship, fellowship, and outreach.

I am grateful to all performers, attendees, volunteers (ushers, reception facilitation, sanctuary preparation, program creation), the Music and Worship Committee members, Pastor Mark Kreemer, and our incredibly generous sponsors (please see the back of any concert program) for making this possible.

We are currently planning an active and exciting second half for our 2022-2023 season. Have an idea for a concert? Want to sponsor the series or a specific concert in honor/memory of a loved one? Please don't hesitate to contact Chad. Our series is only possible with the support and generosity of our congregation and community!



Sue Ambrosic	1/1	Vera Gerber	1/19
Elizabeth Inkinen-Schehl	1/2	Jessica Reiman	1/19
Christopher Lash	1/2	Karen Daily	1/20
John Tasseff	1/2	Philip Halco	1/21
Katrina Hepler	1/5	Jacquie Zupp	1/21
Susan Reid	1/5	Bryce Brumfield	1/22
Matthew Brumfield	1/6	Dwight Butler	1/22
Matthew Skelly	1/14	Benjamin Myers	1/22
Linda Mutchler	1/15	Kathryn Myers	1/24
Robert Hall	1/16	John Stanko	1/24
Stephanie Hollender	1/16	Gregory Klein	1/27
Adam Johnson	1/18	Jack Fortune	1/29
Catarina Monastra	1/16	Lauren Klein	1/31





January Anniversaries

Philip & Gwen Halco *1/12*

Robert & Susan Reid *1/17*



Snip N Stitch

Do you have scrap material lying around? How about sheets or curtains that are no longer used? Our wonderful ladies of *Snip N Stitch* need your donations!!! They are very busy every Wednesday making quilts for *Lutheran Disaster Relief*. Donations can be dropped off at the office Monday thru Friday 9:00 - 1:00pm.

God bless and thank you, Gladys Zepp



Adult Sunday School

Growing in Wisdom

So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. (Psalm 90:12)

Gaining a wise heart is an objective never quite accomplished yet scripture is clear - we should never stop striving for it. Guided by God's Holy Spirit, we can grow in wisdom. That will be our focus as we start a new series of lessons in the adult Sunday school class. Join us as we begin the new year with Bible study and fellowship at 11:30 each Sunday morning, upper level of Parish Hall. An elevator is available for easy access. (There will be no class on January 1.)

May you know God's abundant blessings in the year ahead!

Patty Long

Adult Sunday School Teacher



Thursday Morning Bible Study

Beginning January 12th 10 am

In ***Forgiving What You Can't Forget*** bible study, Lysa TerKeurst shares her own deeply personal journey with forgiveness and what the Bible has to say about letting go of resentment and finding peace. In six 15-27 minute DVD sessions, you'll learn a step-by-step plan to free yourself from hurt, disempower triggers that hijack your emotions, deal with difficult relationships, and discover life-giving freedom our souls desperately need. Each lesson follows chapter readings from Forgiving What You Can't Forget Book and is recommended for use with the study

Sessions include:

- What Am I Supposed to Do with All the Hurt? (25:30)
- Your Mind, Your Mouth, Your Master (21:30)
- The Divine Echo (27:00)
- There's Always a Meanwhile (24:00)
- The Compounding Effect of Unforgiveness (15:00)
- This Isn't Easy, But It Is Good (21:00)

Dear Friends at St. Paul's Lutheran Church,

On behalf of Community Hospice, thank you for your generous donation of \$500.00 received on November 28, 2022. Community Hospice staff and volunteers have been serving patients and families in our communities for over 30 years. We would not be able to provide our high level of care without contributions by you and members of our community. Your generous gift assists us in providing:

- Palliative Care & Consultation Services
- Over \$124,000 last year from our Community Care Program, this helps to offset the costs for patients who lack a payer source. Community Hospice provides services to all qualifying patients, regardless of their ability to pay.
- “We honor Veterans” program, which honors those who have served our country through military service.
- Bereavement services for families, caregivers, friends and the community.

Sincerely,

Norm Mast, RN, BSN

President/CEO



Friendship Circle

Our annual Christmas party was a huge success with twenty-five people attending! Jim and Becky Johnson opened their beautiful home for us. The food was excellent! Parmesan crusted Chicken, broasted potatoes, corn, peas and salad started the wonderful meal! This was topped off by ice cream and cookies :) A big thank you to Dave and Tim who served this event. Carol played beautiful music on her cello for our musical entertainment. We shared lots of laughs as we played 'Name that Tune'! Our gift exchange is always lots of fun.

Our group 'Friendship Circle' is open to anyone who would like to attend. We do not meet in January, February or March. Our first meeting will be April 6th in the Gleitsman Lounge at 6:00pm with a light supper and bible study. Again, all are welcome to join.

Blessings,

Sue Ambrosic



Christmas Cantata





Mission Endowment Fund

Mission Endowment Fund committee members have adopted a new form for making nominations. This form is available by request from a committee member (listed on page 3). If you have an organization or cause for consideration please request the form and submit the details to the committee.

Download the St. Paul's Phone APP

Go to your Google or Apple app store on your smart phone and download the "My Church" by Pushpay. It is a free download.

Open the app and search for St Paul's by typing STPLC APP.

Then click on the St Paul's logo, that's it.



To take advantage of all the app's features you must create an account. Get notifications and reminders of upcoming events, access our live stream worship and worship bulletins, send prayer requests, see the church calendar, and you can even give electronically.

St. Jacob Euchre Night: **January 14, 2023**

Where: St. Jacob Social Hall

Arrival Time: 5:30 pm

Tournament: 5:50 to 9:00 P.M.

What to bring: A snack to share

Pop and Coffee provided

There is a \$5.00 donation



We hope some of your congregation at St. Paul's in Massillon will come to enjoy the fun, fellowship, and food. You will note there is a \$5.00 donation. This goes toward prizes and a contribution to a need identified by the group.

**RSVP by Friday, December 8th, to Sue
Phillabaumat smphillabaum@hotmail.com or
Carolyn Carasea at c.carasea@gmail.com**

Income and Expense Summary

Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Month Ending November, 2022

November

Income	\$ 29,833
Endowment Withdrawal	\$ 2,083
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>\$ 25,229</u>
Surplus or (Deficit)	\$ 7,687

YTD

Income	\$ 117,306
Endowment Withdrawal	\$ 15,428
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>\$ 128,355</u>
Surplus or (Deficit)	\$ 4,379

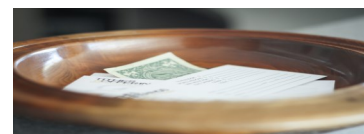
5th Sunday Offering

St. Paul's still relies on endowment funds to meet our current budget. One of the ways we hope to minimize our reliance on these funds is through a special offering on the 5th Sunday of the month.

In the 2023 fiscal year, there are three months with 5 Sundays in them and they are: January 2023, April 2023, and July, 2023.

We are asking members to make a "Special Offering" each of these 5th Sunday's of the month to reduce the deficit. Our challenge is that each family prayerfully consider making an extra week of offering for this fiscal year.

If you cannot make a full extra week of offering? Perhaps, you can spread it out over a few weeks, or even just a few dollars can make a difference. Every dollar adds up and with each donation we can greatly reduce or eliminate our reliance on endowment funds!



January 2023 Calendar

1/1 - Worship Service 10:00 am

1/3 - Red Cross

Blood Drive 12:00 - 6:00 pm

1/4 - Snip N Stitch 9 - 11:00 am

1/4 - Chancel Choir 7:30 - 9 pm

1/8 - Worship Service 10:00 am

1/8 - Adult Sunday School 11:30 am

1/10 - Mission Endowment 9:00 am

1/10 - Church Council 7:00 pm

1/11 - Snip N Stitch 9 - 11:00 am

1/11 - Chancel Choir 7:30 - 9pm

1/12 - Bible Study 10:00 am

1/13 - RSVP for Euchre @

St. Jacob's

1/13 - Community Meal &

Clothes Closet 4:30 - 6 pm

1/14 - Euchre @ St.

Jacob's Church 5:30 - 9 pm

1/15 - Worship Service 10:00 am

1/15 - Adult Sunday School 11:30 am

1/15 - Bridge Deadline

1/17 - Finance Committee 6 pm

1/18 - Snip N Stitch 9 -11:00 am

1/18 - Chancel Choir 7:30 - 9 pm

1/19 - Bible Study 10:00 am

1/22 - Worship Service 10:00 am

1/22 - Adult Sunday 11:30 am

School

1/25 - Snip N Stitch 9-11:00 am

1/25 - Chancel Choir 7:30 - 9 pm

1/26 - Bible Study 10:00 am

1/26 - Property Committee 6 pm

1/29 - Worship Service 10:00 am

1/29 - Adult Sunday School 11:30am

God's Kitchen Angels Christmas Party



A wonderful group of 19 ladies who know how to work in the kitchen and have fun.

We will be making soup in late January and February. Look for order forms soon. We will be adding ham and bean this year.



WELFARE & SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Blessings and thanks to our St. Paul's congregation for their outpouring of generosity to our salvation families in both gifts and food!

Thank you also for donating to purchase Christmas gifts for the Ukrainian children!

Our congregation is such a blessing!

Cindy Lash



Somehow not only for Christmas

Somehow not only for Christmas
But all the long year though,
The joy you give to others
Is the joy that comes back to you.
And the more you spend in blessing
The poor and lonely and sad,
The more of your heart's possessing
Returns to make you glad.

John Greenleaf Whitter



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3. Now that you have everything you need, visit thrivent.com/actionteam and click Apply Now to begin process.



Volunteer today!

‘United Way’

Volunteer income tax assistance.

Give back. Learn to prepare. Flexible hours.

Be the expert who helps families keep more money in their households. Volunteers for this program work with families to claim tax credits and save them fees, so they can use their refunds for essential needs like housing, utilities, and transportation.

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Call: 330)-491-9989

Text: (234)360-0136

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THE BRIDGE—CONNECTING CHURCH AND HOME

WORSHIP SERVICES

10:00 A.M. SERVICE

**ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

127 CHERRY ROAD NE
MASSILLON, OHIO 44646
PHONE: 330.832.7409
OFFICE HOURS: Mon-Fri 9-1