

ST. PAUL'S
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

January

2024

The Bridge

"Connecting Church and Home"

Christmas Eve 2023



 * Please contact Sue Ambrosic at 330-832-5798 if you would like to have the Altar or *
 * Throne Flowers for 2024. Thank you! *

Dear Friends in Christ,

Scripture: Philippians 3:13-14 (NIV) - "Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

As we stand at the threshold of a new year, it is a time when many of us reflect on the past and anticipate the future. In the midst of this reflection, the concept of New Year resolutions often takes center stage. It is a time when we set goals, make promises to ourselves, and envision positive changes in our lives. From a Christian perspective, New Year resolutions can be more than just personal aspirations; they can become acts of spiritual growth and commitment.

The Apostle Paul, in his letter to the Philippians, provides us with a profound insight into the Christian journey and the pursuit of higher ideals. He acknowledges that he has not yet attained perfection but emphasizes the importance of pressing on toward the goal set by God. As we consider our New Year resolutions, let us adopt a similar mindset.

1. Reflect on the Past: Just as Paul encourages us to forget what is behind, we should take time to reflect on the past year. Acknowledge the successes and learn from the challenges. Seek God's guidance in discerning what areas of your life need growth and transformation.

2. Set Christ-Centered Goals: As you outline your resolutions, invite Christ into the process. Align your goals with His teachings and the principles found in the Scriptures. Whether it's fostering love, practicing patience, or cultivating gratitude, let your resolutions be a reflection of your commitment to follow Christ more closely.

3. Pray for Guidance: In the pursuit of our resolutions, we often encounter obstacles and setbacks. Invite God into your journey through prayer. Seek His wisdom, strength, and grace to overcome challenges and to stay focused on the goals you've set.

4. Community Support: Share your resolutions with fellow believers and create a community of support. Encourage one another, hold each other accountable, and celebrate victories together. The body of Christ is a powerful source of strength and encouragement.

5. Persevere in Faith: The Christian journey is one of perseverance. As you encounter difficulties in keeping your resolutions, remember that your strength comes from Christ. Trust in His promises, and let your resolutions be a testimony of your faith in Him.

As we step into the new year, let our resolutions not be mere self-improvement goals but rather a journey of spiritual growth, drawing us closer to the One who calls us heavenward in Christ Jesus. May our aspirations be guided by the Holy Spirit, and may the coming year be a time of deepened faith, abounding love, and transformative grace.

Blessings,

Pastor Mark

COMMITTEE INFORMATION

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

Kathryn Myers, Chair
Amy Burkett,
Sue Ambrosic
Gayle Jackson
Becky Johnson
Cindy Lash
Deidra Monastra

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Lea Lang, Chair
Amy Burkett
John Liebermann
Lisa Skelly

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Dan Farrar, Chair
Greg Klein
John Liebermann
Patty Long
Tracie Schmolt
John Stanko

STAFF SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Greg Klein, Chair
Jennifer Nelson Maurer
Jackie Pritchett
Elizabeth Schehl

MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND

Craig Maurer, Chair
Sue Ambrosic
Karl Kalk
Lynda Klein
Phyllis Staver

PARISH FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Carol Stoner, Chair
Gary Collard
Sue Reid

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Jim Johnson, Chair
Dave Allman
Joe Hepler
John Liebermann
Dennis Morgan
Paul Mutchler
John Stanko, Liaison for Chair

WELFARE & SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Cindy Lash, Chair
Christine Bates
Lynda Klein
Deidra Monastra
Becky Myers
Kim Oberlin
JuDee Reed
Cheryl Shaw
David Stoner

WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE

Greg Klein, Chair
Abigail Haake
Karl Kalk
Rev. Kreemer
Patty Long
Kathryn Myers
Kim Oberlin

Phyllis Staver
Carol Butler
Dwight Butler

YOUTH & PARISH EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Scott Larson, Chair
Deidra Monastra
Sue Reid

PATTY LONG, PRESIDENT

330.704.2755 or patricialong318@yahoo.com

GREG KLEIN, VICE PRESIDENT

330.837.3705 or gllklein@sssnet.com

DAN FARRAR, TREASURER

330.477.6913 or farrard2@gmail.com

TRACIE SCHMOLT, SECRETARY

330.704.7825 or tschmolt@gmail.com

GARY COLLARD

330.936.2903 or collard_gary@yahoo.com

LEA LANG

330.224.2263 or the savvyrabbit.info@gmail.com

SCOTT LARSON

330.309.5442 or larson4scott@yahoo.com

CINDY LASH

330.417.7407 or cindydew211@gmail.com

KATHRYN MYERS

330.327.2590 or kkirk124@yahoo.com

JOHN STANKO

330.418.4360 or jstanko@sssnet.com

CAROL STONER

330.413.3703 or stonercarol6@gmail.com

DAVID STONER

330.844.1185 or stoner_david@sbcglobal.net

STAFF

REV. MARK KREEMER

727.479.2303 or revmkreemer@gmail.com

DR. ABIGAIL HAAKE, Director of Music/Organist

Abby@stpaulsmassillon.org

TRACIE SCHMOLT, Finance Administrator

330.704.7825 or financeadmin@stpaulsmassillon.org

EDDIE LANGFORD, Maintenance Manager

330.481.9888 or langfordeddie.47@gmail.com

Church Council Highlights

Your Church Council met on December 12th. In his report, Pastor Mark shared as a reminder that he will be on vacation from the evening of December 31st until the evening of January 7th. Kathryn Myers and Pastor Lynn Williamson will cover the service on January 7th.

Regarding the Capital Campaign and the improvement projects, Dan Farrar, treasurer, reported that the Capital Campaign fund continues to grow and had a balance of \$131,575 at the end of November. Plans continue for the renovation of the Gleitsman Lounge. Cabinets have been moved to allow for a larger refrigerator in the kitchen off the lounge. Special thanks go to Larry and Kim Oberlin for their good work with removing and relocating the cabinets. On behalf of the Property and Management Committee, John Stanko presented three bids for painting the lounge and adjoining areas and NO Mohr Runs Painting will be doing the work. The painting will be completed first and then the flooring installed with the project beginning in January. Again, thank you in advance for your patience as these improvements are made to the lounge.

The Evangelism Committee was busy in early December preparing for the many visitors to the church during the Candlelight Walk. Kathryn Myers and others had refreshments ready along with a warm welcome. Our music director, Abby Haake and the Chancel Choir offered beautiful music of Advent and Christmas, along with other soloists and duets. It is estimated several hundred visited St. Paul's.

The Welfare and Social Action Committee has been very busy completing the work of sharing Christmas gifts to children through the Salvation Army as well as food baskets (bags) through our own Community Meal and Clothes Closet. Every tag on the Christmas tree in our lounge was taken by congregational members and the gifts purchased. We cannot thank you enough for your incredible generosity in support of these families in need.

The American Red Cross Blood Bank has shared with us the scheduled dates for St. Paul's. They include January 2, March 4, and May 5. The hours are from 12 to 6 p.m. in the Parish Hall dining room. If you are interested in helping to sign in people on one of more of these dates, please let Cindy Lash or Pastor Mark know of your interest. We definitely need the help. This was a ministry Don Gray faithfully contributed to, and with his passing, we need others to step up. Thank you for considering this ministry opportunity.

Church Council officially approved the membership of Judy Fichter and Janet Kuller. Both Judy and Janet have been worshipping with us for a while and we appreciate this opportunity to officially welcome them into the faith community of St. Paul's!

As we celebrate Christ's birth and look forward to the year ahead, we give thanks for God's abundant blessings showered upon us. I am very grateful to Pastor Mark, each member of Council, and all those of you who contribute to sharing Christ's love through the various ministries of this church. I pray you have a very blessed Season of Christmas and New Year, filled with all the good that comes from loving and serving Jesus Christ our Lord.

Respectfully shared,

Patty Long
President, Church Council



Adult Sunday School

We have learned so much from studying the prayers of saints recorded in Scripture that we are going to continue the study into the month of January. We'll focus on the prayers of saints such as Simeon, Esther, Habakkuk, and Huldah. This study has been a wonderful way to encourage our life of prayer and increase our knowledge of individuals in the Bible who, by faith and in obedience, regularly communicated with God. Consider strengthening your study of Scripture for the year ahead and join us. The class meets following the Sunday worship service, beginning at 11:30am, on the third floor of Parish Hall. An elevator is available for your convenience.



Prayer List Changes

In order to communicate the names of those who are in need of our more immediate attention and prayers, the names of individuals will be kept on the prayer list found in the church bulletin for one month and then removed. If there is an individual who needs to remain on the list, a call should be made to the church office requesting the name be placed on the list. Please know these changes are being made so we might give particular prayerful attention to those more recently added to the list. Thank you for your kind understanding. - (Worship and Church Music Committee)

In our prayers today we will remember

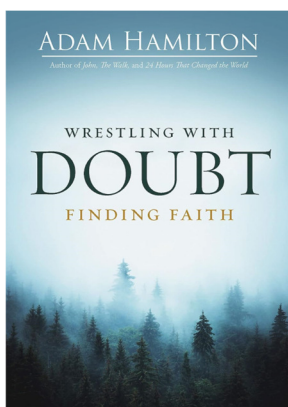
Pat Adams, Brenda Brown, Roxie Bader, Chris Collard, Vickie Groenke, Mary Hardesty, Dick Longworth, Martha Scott, Linda Shaffer, Rick Sofir, Chrissy Sturtz



Our Sympathies

Our prayers go out to David Dourm upon the passing of his brother, Paul Dourm. May eternal rest grant him, O Lord.

Thursday Morning Bible Study: *Wrestling With Doubt* by Adam Hamilton Beginning January 11, 10:00 am



Struggling with uncertainties on your spiritual journey? Whether a longtime Christian or brand new to the faith, get to know the God who is unafraid of hard questions. Hamilton draws from the wisdom of the Bible to approach reservations with honesty and insight. Learn how doubt can drive you to a deeper encounter with the Lord!

DECEMBER COMMUNITY MEAL

It's Christmas time all over the world. This was never more evident than at St. Paul's on Friday, December 8 as we celebrated the season at our monthly community Meal and Community closet. We had surprises, games,(with prizes), drawings, giveaways, a disc jockey playing Christmas music, plus the usual clothes and care bag giveaways, special donated Christmas cookies a fabulous ham dinner with cheesy potatoes and coleslaw. We served 101 including several children. It was truly a magical evening.

We at St. Paul's are privileged to serve our Lord through our monthly Community Meal and Community Closet On this special night the Fellowship Hall was decorated with a beautiful lighted Christmas tree, Christmas wreaths, and Christmas-themed centerpieces on all the tables. Thrivent helped with our expenses by supplying us with a \$250 prepaid credit card. As stated before, everything about this night was truly magical.

Among the attendees were 9 children. All were given a special Christmas toy as gifts from the Congregation.

Attendees were very grateful for the wonderful meal, warm clothing, and generous outpouring of groceries provided to them by St. Paul's. This is God's hand at work and we are blessed to be a part of it. All praise and glory to Him!

We look forward to an exciting 2024.

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.

Jack and Marsha Fortune



Clothing Closet



Please help our organization and storage efforts and be mindful of the season when donating items

Spring/ Summer donations requested 2nd week of April - September 1st

Fall/ Winter donations requested 2nd week of September - April 1st

ITEMS ALWAYS NEEDED - Personal care items, purses, undergarments (mens underwear and undershirts, womens underwear, bras, pajamas), Seasonally appropriate outerwear like jackets and shoes

HELP SORT CLOTHES-The 3rd Wednesday of the month (January 17th)

HELP DURING SHOPPING - Every 2nd Friday of the Month 4:15 - 6:00pm

Many hands make light work and we appreciate all of your support with one of our most popular ministries!

Thank you to all the volunteers who have helped sort clothing the past couple months. We appreciate the extra help! There is still a lot to organize, but we appreciate the help!

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.

Download Today!

St. Jacob Euchre Night: January 13, 2024

**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, January 12 2024, to Sue Phillabaum
at smphillabaum@hotmail.com or
Carolyn Carasea at c.carasea@gmail.com**

St. Paul's Seeking an Administrative Assistant

The primary purpose of this position is to initiate, coordinate, and manage the multiple modes of communication at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, working in collaboration with church staff, leadership and other members of the congregation. It is a part time salaried position – 20 hours per week which includes in-office hours 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mon. - Fri. The full job description is available on the church website. We encourage anyone who is interested in the position or who may know someone who would be interested to check out the full description and submit a cover letter and a resume to the church office to the attention of the Staff Support Committee.

Friendship Circle Christmas Party 2023

Hosted By Sue Ambrosic & Becky Johnson

Happy Anniversary Jim & Becky Johnson!



Serving During the Month of January 2024



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



1/7 - Patty Long

1/14 - Andrew Lang

1/21 - Kathryn Myers

1/28 - Karl Kalk

Communion Assistants

1/7 - Carol & David Stoner

1/14 - Kathryn Myers & Gary Collard

1/21 - Patty Long & Tracie Schmolt

1/28 - 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

1/7 - Rob Pritchett

1/14 - Rev. Lynn & LaShell Williamson

1/21 - Dick & Robin Cordes

1/28 - Russ & Mary Ann Poling

Sacristan

Mary Ann Poling

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

The Oberlins

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

Dick Longworth

Chuck Richards

Mike Skelly



Income and Expense Summary

Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Month Ending November 2023

	<u>November</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$18,697	\$116,366
Endowment Withdrawal	\$2,083	\$14,732
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>\$21,816</u>	<u>\$116,845</u>
Surplus or (Deficit)	(\$1,036)	\$14,253





January 2024 Birthdays



- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Sue Ambrosic | 19. Vera Gerber, Jessica Reiman |
| 2. Elizabeth Inkinen-Schehl,
Christopher Lash, John Tasseff | 20. Karen Daily |
| 5. Katrina Hepler, Sue Reid | 21. Philip Halco, Jacquie Zupp |
| 6. Matthew Brumfield | 22. Bryce Brumfield, Dwight Butler, Benjamin
Myers |
| 14. Matthew Skelly | 24. John Stanko, Kathryn Myers |
| 15. Linda Mutchler | 27. Gregory Klein |
| 16. Chris Hall, Catarina Monastra | 29. Jack Fortune |
| 17. Richard Cordes | 31. Lauren Klein |
| 18. Adam Johnson | |
-



Jan. 12 - Philip & Gwen Halco



Fun at Sunday
School





1/1 – New Year's Day

1/3 - Snip N Stich 8:30am

1/7 - Worship Service 10:00am

1/9 - Church Council 7:00pm

1/10 - Snip N Stich 8:30am

1/11 - Bible Study 10:00am

1/12 - RSVP for Euchre @ St. Jacob's

1/12 - Community Meal & Clothes Closet 4:30 – 6:00pm

1/13 - Euchre @ St. Jacob's 5:30–9pm

1/14 - Worship Service 10:00am

1/15 - Bridge Deadline

1/16 - Finance Committee 6:00pm

1/17 - Snip N Stich 8:30am

1/17 - Help sort clothes—Clothes Closet 5:30pm

1/18 - Bible Study 10am

1/21 - Worship Service 10:00am

1/24 - Snip N Stich 8:30am

1/25 - Bible Study 10am

1/28 - Worship Service 10:00am

1/31 - Snip N Stich 8:30am

Please email newsletter articles to Tracie Schmolt at financeadmin@stpaulsmassillon.org by the 15th of the month. Thank you!!

God's Kitchen Angels' Christmas Party 2023



Check us out on:



Address Service Requested

VISIT US AT : WWW.STPAULSMASSILLON.ORG

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