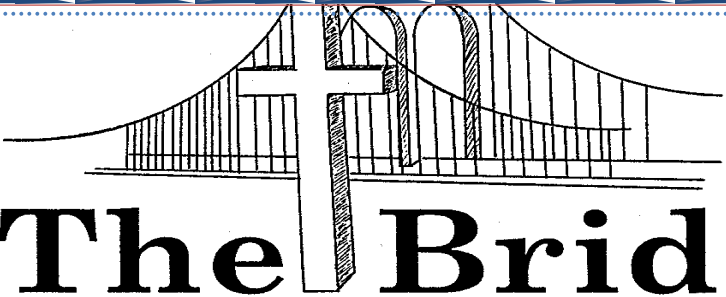


**ST. PAUL'S
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

February

2024



The Bridge

"Connecting Church and Home"



Lenten Services



Ash Wednesday

February 14th 7:00 PM

Wednesday Community Lenten Services

February 21st

St Paul's Lutheran

February 28th

Grace UCC

March 6th

Central Presbyterian

March 13th

St Timothy's Episcopal

March 20th

First Baptist

Holy Week

St Paul's Lutheran Church

Palm Sunday

March 24th, 10:00 AM

Maundy Thursday

March 28th, 7:00 PM

Community Stations of the Cross

March 29th, 12:00 (noon)

Good Friday

March 29th, 7:00 PM

Easter Sunrise

March 31st, 7:30 AM

Easter Morning

March 31st, 10:00 AM

"A Love That Transcends: Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day Devotion"

Dear Friends in Christ,

This month we celebrate the beginning of **Lent, Ash Wednesday**, on the same day we celebrate the **Day of Love, Valentine's Day**. On Ash Wednesday, we mark our foreheads with ashes as a symbol of humility and repentance. As we bear this visible sign, let us also remember the ashes from which humanity was formed and the eternal love that breathes life into our existence.

Valentine's Day, a celebration of love, invites us to reflect on the love that surrounds us – the love of family, friends, and the divine love that binds us all. This month, let us explore the connection between these two seemingly contrasting observances.

Psalm 51:10-12

"Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me."

In the convergence of Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day, we find a profound truth – a love that transcends our flaws and shortcomings. The ashes on our foreheads remind us of our need for repentance, and yet, in the midst of our brokenness, God's love remains unwavering.

As we reflect on the pure heart that Psalm 51 speaks of, let us recognize that true love requires humility, forgiveness, and a commitment to renewal. Just as the ashes signify our acknowledgment of sin, they also represent the potential for transformation through God's grace.

On this Valentine's Day, let us extend the love we receive from God to others. Reach out to those who may feel unloved or forgotten. Embrace the opportunity to mend relationships and sow seeds of compassion. In doing so, we mirror the divine love that seeks reconciliation and redemption.

Let us Pray.

Heavenly Father, as we journey through this season of Lent, may Your love guide us. Grant us the strength to repent, the courage to love unconditionally, and the wisdom to seek reconciliation. May the ashes on our foreheads be a symbol of Your transformative love at work within us. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

May this devotional inspire a meaningful reflection on both Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day, embracing the profound love that transcends our imperfections.

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

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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

Church Council met on January 9th. Pastor Mark shared with us in his report plans to attend the Northeastern Ohio Synod "All-Ohio Rostered Minister Gathering" to be held January 23-25. Pastor also reminded us that Ash Wednesday is February 14th and we at St. Paul's will be hosting a Community Lenten service on February 21st.

Progress continues on the improvements to the Gleitsman Lounge with painting and flooring to be completed during the month of January. Furniture selection and purchase will also likely take place during January with a goal to have most of the project completed by Easter, which is March 31st. The balance in the Capital Campaign Fund is \$141,000, (Of that amount, \$100,000 has been given specifically for the renovation of the side church entrance, including enclosure of the portico and reconstruction of the approaching driveway.)

Regarding Youth and Parish Education, Scott Larson reported that children's Sunday School is continuing to meet with many meaningful and fun activities for the children. It is hoped that the good word about the Sunday School will spread and more children will participate.

Dan Farrar shared that the Mission Endowment Fund has approved a \$1,000 gift to Christian Children's Home of Ohio, located in Wooster, which has as its mission: "To be a safe and stable environment where abused, neglected, and traumatized children find healing, discover hope and experience unconditional love." It is a privilege for our church to support such ministries and services, made possible through the generous donations that established and continue to sustain the Mission Endowment Fund at St. Paul's.

Another endowment fund that allows for financial distribution in support of others is the St. Paul's Scholarship Fund. Scholarships were awarded to the following for the second half of the academic year: Antonio Davila, Caroline Deerwester, Audrey Hepler, Lauren Klein, Aaliyah Litman, and Ben Myers. We pray God's blessings upon these among our church family who are continuing their studies.

The worship services held during the month of December, particularly on Christmas Eve, provided the opportunity to not only spiritually enrich regular attenders at St. Paul's, but others in our community as well. It was a wonderful outreach opportunity. Many were involved in the preparation of and participation in these beautiful Advent and Christmas services. Pastor Mark, Dr. Abbe Haake, all those in the Chancel Choir and many others, who work behind the scenes to make certain all goes well, are greatly appreciated. Ultimately, of course, all thanks and praise go to the Lord!

Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness. (Psalm 115:1)

Respectfully shared,

Patty Long
President, Church Council

Adult Sunday School Getting Ready for Easter



What is a spiritual discipline? During this series of lessons, we'll explore spiritual disciplines that help get us ready for Easter, for resurrection, including our own. What is the place in our daily Christian lives for such practices as meditation, fasting, simplicity, and submission? And is there joy in this preparation, these disciplines? The answer is a resounding, yes! Please join us as we meet each Sunday for Bible study and fellowship at 11:30, top floor of Parish Hall. An elevator is available for easy access.



In our prayers today we will remember

The family of Martha Scott, Lyn Delon-Fellonsteps, Mary Hardesty, Vickie Groenke, Pat Adams, Jessie Shaffer, Linda Shaffer, Chris Collard, Chrissy Sturtz, Carol Rohr, Baby Zayne, Mary Gainer, Linda & Will Vandevander



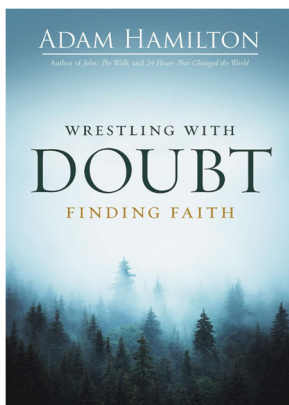
(In order to communicate the names of those who are in need of our more immediate attention and prayers, the names of individuals will be kept on the prayer list found in the church bulletin for one month and then removed. If there is an individual who needs to remain on the list, a call should be made to the church office requesting the name be placed on the list.)

Our Sympathies

Our prayers go out to Martha Scott's family. Martha J. Scott passed on January 17th. The funeral was held on Monday, January 22nd. May eternal rest grant her, O Lord.

Our prayers go out to Ann Hopkin's family. Ann Hopkins passed on November 27, 2023. May eternal rest grant her, O Lord.

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



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!

JANUARY COMMUNITY MEAL

Happy New Year!

We began the 2024 New Year for our monthly Community Meal and Community Closet on Friday, January 12. *It* was a very cold night, but we warmed up our guests with a bowl of hot turkey noodle soup, a pulled barbequed pork sandwich, beverage and assorted desserts. The number of people served was 71. There was plenty to eat, with many enjoying seconds.

Five young children were in attendance on this night. All received a special toy as a gift from the congregation.

Our monthly "care bag team" was, as usual, very busy. This part of the ministry fills the need these people have beyond a quality meal and quality clothing. Many look forward to this part of our offering as it provides them with much-needed common necessities such as paper towels, and Kleenex, among other things. These items are useful and needed by many in our community. Praise God we are in a position to help!

Our Community Closet was likewise visited by most who attended. Many warm coats and other "gently used" items were put to use on this night. Your wonderful generosity as we progress through the winter months is much appreciated.

We are especially grateful and happy to report the receipt of a sizeable contribution from the Rodney Klein Stock Market Museum & Library in support of our ministry. Some of this gift was directed to the Community Meal, while a portion was also directed to the Community Closet. We are thankful to all who support us in any way they can.

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, February 9, from 4:30 to 6:00. Thank you for your 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 (February 21st)

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: February 10, 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, February 9, 2024, to Sue Phillabaum
at smphillabaum@hotmail.com or
Carolyn Carasea at c.carasea@gmail.com**

Forty Days of Giving

Join us we enter the Lenten season with "Forty Days of Giving". We will join together to help provide hunger resources at home and around the world. Starting Sunday February 11th you will find Lenten Calendars at the side and rear entrances of our church. The Lenten calendars will give you daily praise and reflections with Scriptures as we celebrate Christ Jesus. Our youth Sunday School class is preparing displays with information about "God's Global Barnyard" and more resources for you to take home. With your help we can buy a farm, chicks, honey bees and more. We can also help community programs to fight hunger. With this program you can be part of God's work. Look for giving envelopes and banks at the displays. We will be gathering our gifts at the altar on the Sunday after Easter (April 7). Thank you for joining us!!



A note of Thanks...

I'd like to thank my/our church family for all the prayers, cards, phone calls, and support that we received during my recent health issues. I'm on the road to a full recovery. It's great to be back at St. Paul's.

Thanks again! Dick & Leslie Longworth

P.S. We *really* need ushers. Please contact me if you're willing to help.

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.

Thank you to Jackie Pritchett for volunteering her time to staff the church office from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday each week while we continue to seek an administrative assistant for the church. Other volunteers and staff are in the office on Monday and Thursdays so now Pastor Mark will not have to answer the phones or do other general office duties daily. If you would be willing to fill in for Jackie when she needs to take a day off, please let either Jackie or Pastor Mark know.

Serving During the Month of February 2024



Assisting Minister

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



2/4– Scott Larson
2/11 - Carol Stoner
2/14 - Veronica Kreemer
2/18 - Sue Reid
2/25 - Patty Long

Communion Assistants

2/4 - Lea Lang & Greg Klein
2/11 - Carol Stoner & Gary Collard
2/18 - Kathryn Myers & David Stoner
2/25 - Patty Long & John Stanko

Greeters

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

2/4 - Greg & Lynda Klein
2/11 - Gary Collard
2/18 - Craig Maurer
2/25 - Marilyn Norton

Sacristan

Lynda Klein

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

February

Scott Larson

Ushers

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

February

John & Linda Litman
Carol Marlow
Mark Waltz



Income and Expense Summary

Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Month Ending December 2023

	<u>December</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$36,597	\$152,963
Endowment Withdrawal	\$2,083	\$16,815
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>\$33,090</u>	<u>\$149,935</u>
Surplus or (Deficit)	\$5,591	\$19,843



God's Kitchen Angels

SOUP, SOUP, AND MORE SOUP!!!!

God's Kitchen Angels will once again be making soup.

Soups available will be:

Chicken Rivel Ham & Bean Stuffed Pepper Vegetable Beef

Each quart is only \$8.00. PLEASE place your orders as soon as possible, as amounts will be limited.

CONTACT: Sue Ambrosic at (330)832-5798 or use this form and drop it in the offering plate or bring it into the office during office hours.

Order due date is: Sunday, February 11th

Pick up date is: Sunday, March 10th.

Payment is due at pick up.

As always, we thank you for your support.

Sue Ambrosic, God's Kitchen Angels

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Chicken Rivel _____ Ham & Bean _____

Stuffed Pepper _____ Vegetable Beef _____

God's Kitchen Angels'

**In loving memory of
long time member**

Martha Scott

May 19, 1935 - January 17, 2024

You will be greatly missed.



Beginning the Gleitsman Lounge renovations



Choosing the new flooring



Programs and resources to amplify your generosity

How to apply for a Thrivent Action Team

Your passion and excitement for your community are sure to make your Thrivent Action Team a success. Follow these steps to apply—and don't forget to share the results of your project with us.

1. Visit thrivent.com/actionteam for resources to help you brainstorm ideas and prepare for your project.
2. Once you have your project idea, get ready to apply. Here's what you'll need to have handy when you fill out the application:
 - Your User ID and password.
 - Your estimated project date. (Allow 14 days for your Thrivent Action Kit to arrive.)
 - A short description of your project and how your volunteer team will be involved.
 - The church or other nonprofit organization that will benefit from the project, if applicable.
 - How you'll use the Community Impact Card.
 - Number of volunteers on your team and T-shirt sizes.
3. Now that you have everything you need, visit thrivent.com/actionteam and click **Apply Now** to begin the application process. Applying for a Thrivent Action Team takes less than 15 minutes.
4. If it is your first time logging in, you will need your Thrivent ID. If you don't know your Thrivent ID, please contact your Thrivent financial advisor or call 800-847-4836 for assistance.

After you've completed the application, watch your email inbox to see if your project was approved. You should receive an email within 24 hours of submitting your application.

After your project

Go to thrivent.com/actionteam and share your story. Reporting on your project takes less than 10 minutes. Make sure you have the following handy:

- Your User ID and password.
- What your team accomplished.
- Number of:
 - Volunteers on your team (and their names).
 - Hours to plan the event and length of event.
 - Hours (on average) each person volunteered.
 - Total participants.
- The amount raised if you hosted a food drive or fundraiser.

Questions? We're here for you.

Call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Action Teams."

Membership benefits are not guaranteed contractual benefits. The interpretation of the provisions of these benefits is at the sole discretion of Thrivent. These benefits are reviewed and evaluated regularly. Thrivent reserves the right to change, modify, discontinue or refuse to provide any of the membership benefits or any part of them at any time.

Directing Choice Dollars® and personal giving: A how-to guide

Direct Choice Dollars Online

1. Visit thrivent.com/thriventchoice.
2. Select **Direct Choice Dollars**.
3. Log in by entering your User ID and password.
(If you haven't yet registered on thrivent.com, click **Register for account access**.)
4. Choose the organization to which you want to direct Choice Dollars:
 - a. To direct to a previous organization:
 - Click **Direct Now** next to the organization's name, or
 - Click on the **View activity history** link, scroll down and click on the name of the desired organization.
 - b. To direct to a new organization, **enter keyword(s)** like organization name, ZIP code, cause, etc. Click **Search**.
5. Choose **Direct All** or **enter a specific number** and click **Direct Now**. Follow the prompts on the confirmation page to direct Choice Dollars.

Direct Choice Dollars by Phone

1. Call 800-847-4836 and when prompted, say "**Thrivent Choice**."
2. **Press 1** to direct Choice Dollars or **2** to hear Thrivent Choice Dollars program Terms and Conditions.
(If prompted, say or enter your phone number and date of birth.)
3. A client service professional will work with you to direct Choice Dollars.

Want to make an even bigger difference?

Make a personal donation at thrivent.com/thriventchoice. Thrivent pays the processing fees so 100% of your donation goes to help.* Click **Make a personal donation** and search the Thrivent Choice Catalog. Once you locate the organization to which you wish to donate, click **Make a Personal Donation**. You'll then be sent to Thrivent Charitable Impact & Investing® to make the donation.

*Thrivent will pay up to \$300,000 in online processing fees per calendar year for personal donations made through Thrivent's online giving platform. The Thrivent Choice® charitable grant program engages Thrivent clients with membership and Thrivent Member Networks in providing grants that support charitable activities, furthering Thrivent's mission and its purposes under state law. All grant decisions, including grant recipients and amounts, are made at the sole discretion of Thrivent. Directing Choice Dollars® is subject to the program's Terms and Conditions available at thrivent.com/thriventchoice.



Members can designate last year's Thrivent Choice Dollars up to March 31st. I recommend sooner than later especially if they plan to call in.

Thank You,
Dave Zastawny
Thrivent



**February
2024
Birthdays**



- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Andrew Lang, Mike McGraw | 13. Henry Haake |
| 2. Linda Gesen | 15. Marcia Wright, Gladys Zepp |
| 3. David Burkett, Connie Downey, Carla Myers | 16. Tyler Myer |
| 4. David Dourm | 18. Aaron Inkinen |
| 5. Mary Jo Theiss | 19. Larry Oberlin |
| 6. Alyson Dunlap | 20. Ryan Hostetler |
| 11. Lucinda Lash | 22. Deborah Brown, Alexis Juergensen |
| 12. Carole Fisher, Cheryl Shaw | 29. Louise Diuk |



Feb. 19 - Charles & Linda Gesen

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