



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

127 Cherry Rd. NE, Massillon, OH 44646

330 832-7409

August 2024 Newsletter

The Bridge

Connecting Church with Home

Contact Us

[Rev. Mark Kreemer, Senior Pastor](#)•[Dr. Patricia Long, Church Council President](#)•[Dr. Abigail Haake, Director of Music](#)•[Dr. Carol Butler, Newsletter Editor](#)•[Tracie Schmolt, Finance Administrator](#)

On the Web

[St. Paul's Home Page](#)•[Cathedral Concert Series](#)•[Online Worship Services](#)



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Pastoral message: Faith Amidst the Storm



Dear Friends in Christ,

Scripture Reading: Matthew 8:23-27 (NIV)

Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him. Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!" He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm. The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!"

In times of political unrest and uncertainty, it can feel as if we are caught in a storm, much like the disciples on the Sea of Galilee. The winds of change, the waves of division, and the tumult of societal conflict can cause fear and anxiety to rise within us. We might find ourselves echoing the disciples' cry: "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!"

Yet, Jesus' response to his disciples provides a powerful reminder for us today. "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" He challenges us to examine the source of our fear and to redirect our focus from the storm to Him. Jesus' authority over the natural elements underscores His sovereignty over all circumstances, including the political and social turmoil we face.

Reflection:

Christ is Present with Us in the Storm: Just as Jesus was physically present with His disciples in the boat, He is with us in the midst of our challenges. His presence provides comfort and assurance that we are not alone, no matter how fierce the storm.

Trust Over Fear: Fear often stems from uncertainty and a lack of control. However, as believers, we are called to live by faith, not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7). Trusting in God's plan and His goodness helps to quell the fear that arises from the chaos around us.

Prayerful Dependence: In times of political unrest, our first response should be to pray. Philippians 4:6-7 encourages us to bring all our anxieties to God in prayer and promises that His peace, which transcends all understanding, will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Active Faith: Having faith doesn't mean being passive. We are called to be salt and light in the world (Matthew 5:13-16), advocating for justice, peace, and truth in our communities. Engaging in the political process with a Christ-centered perspective can be a powerful testimony of our faith.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, we acknowledge Your sovereignty over all things, including the political storms we face. Help us to place our trust in You rather than being overwhelmed by fear. Grant us Your peace and wisdom to navigate these times with grace and faith. May we be instruments of Your love and justice in a world that desperately needs Your light. Amen.

In these turbulent times, let us hold fast to the truth that Jesus is in the boat with us, capable of calming any storm. Let our faith in Him guide our actions and bring peace to our hearts, no matter the political climate.

Blessings,
Pastor Mark

Upcoming events

The [church calendar](#) is always available on every page of the church [website](#) on the right side, along with the church address, phone number, email address, and Youtube link for the online services. The online calendar contains the most up-to-date listing of events.

[Click to see Church Calendar](#)

Weekly events

Sunday: **Worship** 10:00 am

Monthly events

Tuesday, August 13, 7 pm--**Church Council**
Friday, August 9, 4:30-6:00 pm--**Community Meal and Clothes Closet**

Church Picnic

August 18, immediately following worship service

Join us on the church lawn after church. Chuck Richard will be providing music, and we will have lawn games. Parish Fellowship will be grilling hamburgers and hot dogs and will provide drinks. Please bring a covered dish. If your last name starts with

A-F, bring a salad or appetizer

G-N, bring a side dish

O-Z, bring a dessert.

Bring a lawn chair if you want to be comfortable as you watch games and listen to music.

Congregational Meeting

August 25, immediately following worship service

Upcoming American Red Cross Blood Drives

If you are willing to give blood this summer,
show up at our church on

August 26, noon-6:00

Deadline for September issue news: August 21

Fall groups and activities are about to start. Keep your [newsletter editor](#) informed!

Bible studies on Sunday and Thursday

Adult Sunday School Class

Taking a break for the summer!

The Adult Sunday School Class will not meet during the summer months but will resume on September 8th with a new series of lessons. God's blessings to you!

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Taking a break for the summer!

Pastor Mark plans to start back up in September with a new study.

Friendship Circle

No Friendship Circle is scheduled for August. They will meet again in September on the first Thursday, the 5th.

Church Council highlights

Report from July 9, 2024, Council meeting

Welcome to new Council Members

Church Council met on July 9, the first of the new fiscal year when newly-elected members to Council fully participate. And they did! An orientation meeting was held for the new members prior to the full Council meeting in order to review the Church Constitution, particularly pertaining to the role and responsibilities of Church Council. We are grateful for the contributions these new members, Dwight Butler, Shane Jackson, Dennis Morgan, Barb Palmer, and Jackie Pritchett, are already making to the ministry work of St. Paul's.

Synod to explore collaboration

Pastor Mark shared his report which included informing the Council of a meeting on Saturday, August 3, at 9 am, organized by the synod to be held at St. Jacob Lutheran Church. Massillon area Lutheran churches have been invited to send clergy as well as Council members who will then consider together how the churches might more intentionally collaborate for the benefit of all. Seven Council members from St. Paul's are willing to attend along with Pastor Mark.

Patty Long to preach

Pastor Mark also informed Council that he will be away on Sunday, August 11, to preach at the church in which he was raised. Patty Long will lead the service at St. Paul's and preach on that Sunday.

Salvation Army School Supplies

Cindy Lash reported for the Welfare and Social Action Committee. Collecting school supplies from our members to be distributed by the Salvation Army is well underway. The contributions are greatly appreciated!

Care Bags

The Mission Endowment Committee recommended to Council that \$4,000 be donated out of the endowment fund to the St. Paul's Care Bag ministry. As reported by Veronica Kreemer who provides leadership for this ministry, its goal is "to contribute to the health and welfare of our community." The Care Bags include "a few non-perishable necessities to guests who dine at our Community Meal each month. Now more than ever, our guests tell us that the Care Bags help them to stretch their limited funds a bit each month." Council gladly approved the recommendation.

Boiler bid and roof maintenance

Dennis Morgan reported for the Property Management Committee. It was recommended to Council that we accept the bid from Standard Plumbing and Heating to install a boiler in the church building for \$115,588. Council approved the purchase and installation contract. The boiler has been ordered, and it's estimated it will be available for installation sometime in October. It was also reported that roof maintenance on the church building (flat roofs) has occurred in the last month to stop leaking around the flashing.

Capital Campaign Fund

Contributions are still being received for the Capital Campaign, including approximately \$100,000 from a donor who would like the funds to go toward the new accessible bathrooms to be built across the hall from the Gleitsman Lounge. It is anticipated that the next step will be to get architectural plans drawn for the project, as was recently done for the church entrance project. Be sure that there is activity underway to bring these capital improvement projects to fruition. However, with so much necessary planning, especially as it relates to building codes, construction will not likely begin before spring 2025. We continue to give thanks for the obvious generosity of our congregation toward these projects, even as support continues to be received for other ministries.

Congregational Meeting set for August 25th

New business for Council included approving the date for the August Congregational meeting, which will be August 25th, at which time the church will review the Annual Report for 2023-2024. Those chairing committees or providing leadership in other areas of ministry are asked to submit their reports electronically to Tracie Schmolt (financeadmin@stpaulsmassillon.org) no later than Friday, August 9. (Sunday, August 4 is preferred!)

Internal Audit Committee

Other new business included establishing a new church committee which will be called the Internal Financial Audit Committee. The committee will conduct an annual audit of the St. Paul's Lutheran Church financial records. The audit will take place as close to the end of the fiscal year as possible. The committee will prepare reports for both Church Council and the congregation. Three individuals who have accounting and business backgrounds have been identified to serve on the committee. They include Dwight Butler, Barb Palmer, and Craig Maurer. Their willingness to serve in this important work is greatly appreciated. The practice of conducting yearly internal financial audits reflects best practice regarding church finance, especially since many churches find external audits cost prohibitive.

Respectfully shared,

Patty Long

President, Church Council

Income and expense summary

	June		YTD
Income	\$ 21,722	Income	\$ 290,714
Endowment Withdrawal	\$ 2,083	Endowment Withdrawal	\$ 37,776
Expenses	\$ 30,395	Expenses	\$ 323,650
Surplus or (Deficit)	\$ (6,689)	Surplus or (Deficit)	\$ 4,841

Financial notes:

This was our second month in a row with a large deficit. We were over budget for repairs again this month that included \$3,200 for the Parish Hall window repairs. We did finish our fiscal year with a surplus for the first time since 2018, and we should be back on track in July.

Dan Farrar, Treasurer

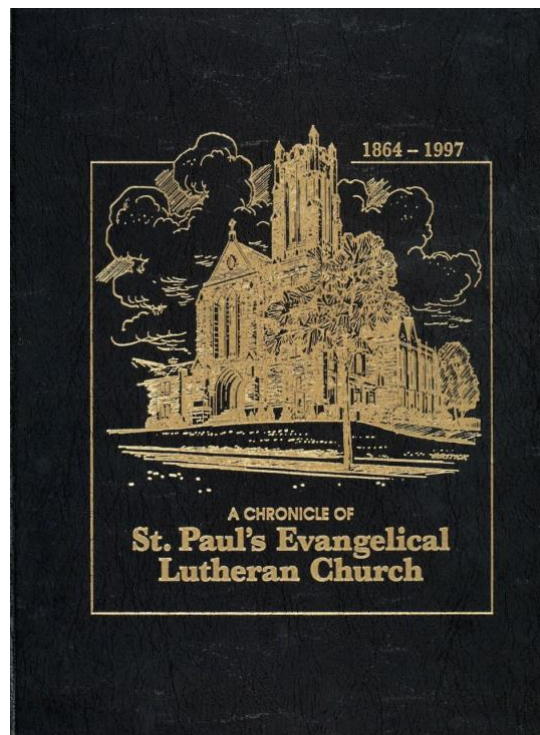
Capital Fund Update

Capital Campaign Report

Phase One Projects	\$337,000
Funds raised	\$288,357
Interest	\$ 5,192
Building Fund	\$ 30,000
<hr/>	
Remaining funds to be raised	<u>\$ 13,451</u>
Funds raised for Phase Two Projects	\$ 101,357

Phase 2 (Bathrooms & Heating and cooling)

New feature on church website: 1997
edition of church history



Under the "About Us" tab on our church [website](#), you will be able to access the entire 1997 edition of *A Chronicle of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church*, a legacy left to us by Jim and Mildred Cook.

We scanned the pages and made the chapters separate links for easy navigation.

[Click here to see the entire book](#)

[Click here to access the chapters](#)

Stained Glass Windows



One of the most beautiful features of our church is the stained glass art. Read about the meaning of this art form in the [chapter](#) devoted to the windows.

July Community Meal report

Jack and Marsha Fortune report on the past month's Community Meal:

St. Paul's opened its doors for the monthly Community Meal and Community Closet on Friday, July 12. All enjoyed our summertime menu consisting of a creamed chicken sandwich, homemade macaroni salad, a fresh fruit cup, a choice of beverage, and either a cookie or a brownie for dessert. The chicken, the fruit, and much of the dessert were donated. A total of 99 meals were served, with numerous seconds. Included in this number were 6 children. All were warmly welcomed and each given a special gift from the congregation. An excess tray of macaroni salad was donated to Make-A -Way.

We were very busy on this particular Friday. We are fortunate to have such a fine crew of dedicated volunteers. There is so much need, and it is important that we do what we can. Please know that we can always use more help. To find out how, please contact either Jack or Marsha Fortune.

The Community Closet was visited by nearly all of those who came to eat. This is such an important part of our ministry and we thank you for keeping us so well stocked! Your generosity of donations has been wonderful!

Our care bag tables presented a startling sight at the end of the evening. They were totally empty! Absolutely nothing was left! In all the many months that we have had this ministry, I have never seen it stripped clean, until now. God be praised that we have and are willing and able to support our community and their many needs.

Our ministry here is a reflection of our love for this community and those in need. We are all God's people. All praise and honor to Him!

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, August 9 from 4:30 to 6:00. Thank you for your prayers and continued support.

--Jack and Marsha Fortune

Salvation Army School Supplies

Note from Cindy Lash:

Thank you for your generous donations of school supplies to the Salvation Army.

Wednesday, August 7, school items will be given out at the Back-to-School Bash at the Salvation Army.

'24-'25 Concert Series

Note from our Director of Music, Dr. Abigail Haake:

Part of our mission is to make our concerts accessible to all. All concerts are offered at no cost to those attending, and while we do collect a free will offering at every concert, the monies collected cover only a portion of our expenses.

Would you consider helping us with this outreach ministry by becoming a patron? Any donation is gratefully and joyfully received!



Thomas, Abby, Henry, and John Haake are pleased to make St. Paul's their church home.

DONOR LEVELS to be recognized in programs at the concert:

Patron: \$50+

Beethoven Circle: \$150+

Bach Circle: \$250+

Conductor's Circle: \$500 and over

[Donor form pdf](#)

For more information, go to our [website](#), and click on “donor form.” <https://stpaulsmassillon.org/concert-series>

OR

You can also give electronically on your smart phone by texting STPAUL MASSILLON to 833-245-7486, and select one-time donation to Cathedral Concert Series.

Cathedral Concerts

— AT ST. PAUL'S —

Sunday, September 29, 2024, 5:00 PM
Singers Companye



Sunday, October 6, 2024, 4:00 PM
James Kibbie,
Organist

Thursday, November 7, 2024, 7:00 PM
Bowling Green State University
Men's Chorus & Festival Choir



Sunday, February 23, 2025, 4:00 PM
Minnita Daniel-Cox,
Soprano

Sunday, March 9, 2025, 4:00 PM
OPUS 216



Saturday, May 17, 2025, 2:00 PM
The Canton Symphony
Orchestra Chorus

CONCERTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO ALL. YOUR FREEWILL OFFERING IS GRACIOUSLY RECEIVED.



ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
127 CHERRY RD. NE
MASSILLON, OHIO 44646
<https://stpaulsmassillon.org>



Please note the time change from last month's *Bridge* for the first concert: 5:00 pm.
The date for the last concert has been corrected to Saturday.

Concert Series wins OAC grant

Ohio Arts
COUNCIL



Dr. Haake is very happy to announce that her application for an ArtSTART grant was approved for funding by the Ohio Arts Council. The concert series fund will receive **\$3,642** from the OAC for organizational project support as a matching grant for monies we fundraise.

The application process was very rigorous. Among the notes as to why we were awarded these funds were the following comments: **"highly qualified leadership, variety of performers is commendable, efforts to engage diverse audiences are notable, and budget is solid with excellent use of in-kind support."**

The goal to fund the concert series for the '24-'25 season is **\$20,000**, which would cover the costs of programs, advertising, honorariums, travel, lodging, and meals, as applicable to each concert. With your donations and this grant, we are well on the way!

Scholarship renewal and application

It's time to apply or renew scholarship applications for the 2024-2025 fall semester. The scholarship committee is running behind schedule due to the transition of new members on council, so this information is coming out a little later than usual.

All renewal applications are sent via email and text to the recipients from the previous year.

New applicants can request an application starting July 22 by texting Barb Palmer at 330-244-1602 for the application link.

DEADLINE to be considered for the scholarship is **August 12**. Scholarship recipients will then be voted upon by the Scholarship Committee. Recipients will be notified, and rewards will be sent via postal mail to the address on the application within the month of August.

Prayer list

Chrissy Sturtz, Donnie Whitman, Risa Blyer, Michael Jordan, Rick Theiss, Mary Ann Hinton, Dave Paul, Cheryl Lash, Jessica Swank, Mary Martin, Mary Ann Breslin, Amy White, Lindsay Mays, Errett Butler, and Theresa Eckleberry.

August birthdays

Favorite Bible or hymn verses: *Every month we invite those celebrating birthdays to share their favorite verses. Be ready to send yours in!*

Barbara Palmer: "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path" (Psalms 119:105).

Jim Myers: "Be joyful because you have hope. Be patient when trouble comes and pray at all times" (Romans 12:12).

Jonathon Stuck: "He has shown you what is good.

And what does the Lord require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy

and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8).

Aug 3--Richard Stern

Aug 3--Grant Lash

Aug 5--Jeannie Tidwell

Aug 5--Barbara Palmer

Aug 6--Paul Mutchler

Aug 7--Kim Gray

Aug 9--Brian Johnson

Aug 10--Riley Hostetler

Aug 10--JaredLafferty

Aug 11--Michael Skelly

Aug 13--Diane Books

Aug 14--Rebecca Moden

Aug 14--Gary Collard

Aug 14--Tracie Schmolt

Aug 15--James Myers

Aug 16--Larry Rollins

Aug 19--Eddie Langford

Aug 19--Niall Slater

Aug 20--Jonathon Stuck

Aug 21--Lori Davila

Aug 22--Karl Kalk

Aug 23--Haven Dovel

Aug 23--Alexander Myers

Aug 24--Natalia Monastra

Aug 25--Jack Hoffman

Aug 25--Antonio Davila

Aug 28--Sabrina Skelly

Aug 29--Patricia Long

Aug 30--Phillip Downey

Aug 30--Bob Englehart

Aug 31--Amy White

August anniversaries

Congratulations

Aug 3--Gregory & Lynda Klein

Aug 7--Paul & Karen Daily

Aug 9--Robert & Nancy Morningstar

Aug 12--Benjamin & Danese Bunting

Aug 16--Christopher & Sharon Johns

Aug 21--Scott & Jennifer Larson

Aug 22--Gary & Deborah Brown

Aug 23--Russell & Mary Ann Poling



Karen Smith and Paul Daily met each other in Jackson High School. They were married in St. Paul's 64 years ago by the Rev. James R Long. Paul was employed by Timken Roller Bearing, and served as a volunteer for 8 years for the Jackson Fire department. Karen was employed by Finefrock Furniture, and Casey's Countryside furniture. They have three children: Paula Wright, Brian Daily, and Denise Risaliti; as well as two grandchildren: Eliana and Rocco Risaliti. Their youngest daughter Denise and her husband Rocco were married also in St. Paul's on Karen and Paul's 50th wedding anniversary, August 7th. They shared a wonderful reception together.



Russell and Mary Ann Poling are celebrating 23 years on the 23rd!

"After meeting on the street corner watching the Massillon McKinley parade 24 years ago, we were married eight months later! It's been a fun and loving 23 years and hoping for many, many more!"



Scott and Jennifer Larson were married 20 years ago at the Church of Christ in Canton. Presiding ministers were Lance Lindenberger and Rev. Dr. John Mann. Their two children are Corey and Brooke.



Greg and Lynda Klein were married 33 years ago at St. Paul's by Assistant Pastor Charlie Woodward.

Flowers for the altar

Please text Sue Ambrosic at 330-844-7648 if you would like to have the Altar or Throne flowers for 2024.

The cost of Altar flowers is \$40 per Sunday; the Throne flowers are \$28. Please contact Patty Carmola if you have any questions at 330-832-9405. You will be billed directly by *Carmola's Flowers* in Massillon.

Council members

Patty Long, president
Greg Klein, vice-president
Dan Farrar, treasurer
Tracie Schmolt, secretary

Dwight Butler
Gary Collard
Shane Jackson
Cindy Lash
Dennis Morgan

Kathryn Myers
Barb Palmer
Jackie Pritchett
Carol Stoner

Committee members

EVANGELISM

Kathryn Myers, Chair

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

FINANCE

Dan Farrar, Chair

Shane Jackson
Greg Klein
John Liebermann
Patty Long
Tracie Schmolt
John Stanko

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Greg Klein, Chair

Carol Butler
Dwight Butler
Abigail Haake
Karl Kalk
Patty Long
Kathryn Myers
Kim Oberlin
Phyllis Staver

STAFF SUPPORT

Greg Klein, Chair

Jennifer Nelson Maurer
Jackie Pritchett
Elizabeth Schehl

WELFARE AND SOCIAL ACTION

Cindy Lash, Chair

Christine Bates
Judy Fichter
Lynda Klein
Deidra Monastra
Kathryn Myers
Kim Oberlin
JuDee Reed
David Stoner
LaShell Williamson

PARISH FELLOWSHIP

Carol Stoner, Chair

Gary Collard
Sue Reid

MISSION ENDOWMENT

Craig Maurer, Chair

Sue Ambrosic
Karl Kalk
Lynda Klein
Phyllis Staver

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Jim Johnson, Chair

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

SCHOLARSHIP

Barb Palmer, Chair

Amy Burkett
John Liebermann
Lisa Skelly

YOUTH AND PARISH EDUCATION

Jackie Pritchett, Chair

Scott Larson
Deidra Monastra
Sue Reid

Serving during the month of August

If you are interested in serving for a future month, click on the contact person's email link.

ASSISTING MINISTER

Contact [Karl Kalk](#)

Aug 4--Veronica Kreemer
Aug 11--Sue Reid
Aug 18--Karl Kalk
Aug 25--Kathryn Myers

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Contact [Patty Long](#)

Aug 4--Dennis Morgan
& Kathryn Myers
Aug 11--Tracy Schmolt & Carol Stoner
Aug 18--Dwight Butler & Cindy Lash
Aug 25--Patty Long & Gary Collard

GREETERS

Contact [Karl Kalk](#)

Aug 4--Russ & Mary Ann Poling
Aug 11--Greg & Linda Klein
Aug 18--Gary Collard
Aug 25--Craig Maurer

SACRISTAN

Contact [Kathryn Myers](#)

LAY LECTOR

Contact [Karl Kalk](#)
Larry & Kim Oberlin

USHERS

Contact [Dick Longworth](#)
Sue Ambrosic
Patty Long
Becky Johnson
Sue Reid

St. Paul's phone app



My Church

Choose My Church by Pushpay from the App Store.

Find the "My Church" by Pushpay app in the App store on your phone or computer. 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.

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 give electronically.

***St. Paul's
Evangelical Lutheran Church***

We are a community of believers called together to be the Body of Christ for the sake of our families, community and our world. We invite you to join us for worship on Sunday mornings as we celebrate God's redeeming and freeing grace in Jesus Christ our Lord.



The Reverend Mark Kreemer officiating.

Thank you to all who have submitted photos for this newsletter. To see more photos, follow the Facebook pages listed below.



Cathedral Concerts Facebook Page



St. Paul's Facebook Page

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

127 Cherry Rd. NE, Massillon, OH 44646
330 832-7409
Office Hours: T, W, F 9am-1pm



*ELCA Vision: A world experiencing the difference God's grace
and love in Christ make for all people and creation.*



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