



St. Paul's
Evangelical
Lutheran Church

127 Cherry Rd. NE, Massillon, OH
44646

330 832-7409

January 2025
Newsletter

The Bridge

Connecting Church with Home



The original version of this newsletter is a full-color email that has clickable links. To see that version, click on *2025 January Bridge* on the front page of our church website: stpaulsmassillon.org.

Additional photos are often in the original version. To subscribe to the email, contact the church office:
officeadmin@stpaulsmassillon.org.

Living the new year with purpose in Christ



Scripture Reading: *"Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established."*
– Proverbs 16:3

Dear Friends in Christ,

As the new year begins, it's natural to reflect on the past and look ahead with hope and intention. Many of us make resolutions, whether to improve our health, pursue a goal, or deepen relationships. While these intentions are valuable, the key to lasting transformation lies in anchoring our resolutions in Christ.

Start with God's Purpose

Before setting any goals, take time to pray and seek God's guidance. Ask, "Lord, what do You desire for my life this year?" Remember, God created you with a unique purpose. By aligning your resolutions with His will, you ensure they are not only meaningful but also eternal.

Reflection:

What areas of your life could benefit from spiritual growth? Is there a habit, relationship, or attitude you need to surrender to the Lord?

Focus on the Heart

Many resolutions focus on external changes, but true transformation starts within. Jesus reminds us in Matthew 6:33 to *"seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."* As you plan for the new year, prioritize growing in faith, love, and service to others.

Challenge:

Instead of just resolving to "exercise more" or "save money," consider how these goals can

honor God. For example, commit to caring for your body as a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19-20) or using your finances to bless others.

Pace Yourself with Grace

We often approach resolutions with enthusiasm, only to feel defeated when we falter. God's grace is a reminder that His love for us isn't dependent on our performance. When setbacks occur, don't give up. Instead, lean on His strength and keep moving forward.

Encouragement:

Philippians 4:13 says, *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."* Remember, the power to succeed in your resolutions comes from God, not from sheer willpower.

Be a Light to Others

Your resolutions can be a testimony of Christ's work in your life. Whether it's showing kindness, sharing the gospel, or living with integrity, let your actions point others to Jesus. As Matthew 5:16 says, *"Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."*

Prayer for the New Year:

Heavenly Father, as I step into this new year, help me to fix my eyes on You. Guide my heart and mind as I set goals, ensuring they reflect Your purpose and glory. Give me strength to persevere and grace for the journey. May this year be a testimony of Your faithfulness in my life. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Blessings,
Pastor Mark

Upcoming events

Weekly events

Sunday: **Worship** 10:00 am
Sunday: **Sunday School** 11:30 am
Wednesday: **Chancel Choir** 7 pm
Wednesday: **Snip-N-Stitch** 9 am
Thursday: **Bible Study** 10 am

Monthly events

Tuesday, January 7, 6:30 pm--**Worship and Music Committee (1st Tuesday of month)**
Friday, January 10, 4:30-6:00 pm--**Community Meal and Clothes Closet
(2nd Friday of month)**
Tuesday, January 14, 7 pm--**Church Council (2nd Tuesday of month)**
Tuesday, January 21, 6 pm--**Finance Committee (3rd Tuesday of month)**
Tuesday, January 21--**Deadline for February issue news**

Blood Drive Dates

Save the dates to give the gift of life.

2025 Blood Drives @ St. Paul's:

Noon until 6:00 pm

Monday January 6, 2025
Monday March 3, 2025
Monday May 5, 2025
Monday, August 25, 2025

Click on or copy and paste the link below to schedule an appointment for our next blood drive.

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/>

Bible studies on Sunday and Thursday

Adult Sunday School Class

God is Faithful - Always!

Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God... (Deut. 7:9a)

As we begin a new year, we continue our study in Genesis and see the faithfulness of God as he keeps his promises to Abraham and Isaac, often in astounding ways. Yes, grace upon grace! The class meets each Sunday at 11:30, top floor of Parish Hall. An elevator is available for your convenience.

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Beginning January 9th, 2025

Jesus was fond of asking questions, many of which cut right to the heart of what it means to be human. Why are you terrified? What do you live for? Who do you say that I am?

Magrey deVega explores six of the most provocative questions Jesus posed to others and guides us in answering them for ourselves. Asking these questions takes courage. Not only do they reveal what Jesus really cares about, they open a window into our hearts. When we dare to raise them, these questions bring us a fuller appreciation for the wisdom, power, and presence of God in our lives.

Are you ready to answer the *Questions Jesus Asked?*

Women's Lenten Retreat: March 8

Save the date for this upcoming event:

Women's Lenten Retreat: "Prayer: Let's Talk to God"

March 8, 9 am-3 pm
Leaders: LaShell Williamson and Patty Long
St. Paul's Lutheran Church

God's Kitchen Angels celebrate for Christmas

Wrapping up a busy and fruitful fall season of pumpkin rolls, chili, Christmas cookies, and numerous meals for the church, the Kitchen Angels take time to relax and enjoy each other's company. Entertainment was provided by a talented young guitarist.



Debbie Hannum, Carol Stoner, and Deb Schmolt put in many hours in the kitchen and deserve this time off.



The smiles say it all: Carole Fisher, Julia Englehart, Judy Hall, and Janet Kuller share the Christmas cheer.

Friendship Circle gathers for a party

Members of the Friendship Circle enjoyed some lovely hospitality at the annual Christmas dinner and gift exchange. Sydney Johnson serenaded the 20 attendees with her flute.



Judy Fichter, Janet Kuller, and Sue Ambrosic relaxed at Jim and Becky Johnson's home. The dinner was hosted by Sue Ambrosic.



Judee Reed, Kim Oberlin, and Carol Marlow shared a few laughs.

Church Council highlights

Report from Tuesday, December 10, 2024, Council meeting

Pastor Mark's Report

Church Council met on December 10th. In his report to Council, Pastor Mark let us know that the individual who spray painted some symbols on the church building, which were quickly painted over, has been identified. Pastor has been asked for and will provide a "victim impact statement" for the court. Pastor Mark also passed out pamphlets for Lifecare Family Health & Dental Services which has opened a location near the former Affinity Hospital on Amherst Rd. The pamphlets will be distributed to those attending our Community Meal to make them aware of this local source of affordable and accessible healthcare. Pastor also reported that the Community Candlelight Walk was a beautiful evening of music and opportunity for nearly 500 people to come into the church on Dec. 1. Special thanks are extended to Abby Haake, soloists, and choir members for the approximately 28 different and wonderful musical offerings presented that evening. Moving ahead with future planning, Pastor Mark is meeting with other Massillon clergy to plan for midweek services during Lent.

Treasurer's Report

Our treasurer, Dan Farrar, noted in his report the wonderful generosity and financial support of St. Paul's members as the calendar year is drawing to a close. One of the major expenses since the last report was our insurance payment. We have been forewarned that the coverage may not be extended to St. Paul's in the future since many insurance companies are moving away from insuring churches. The value of our properties was another consideration. Dan and the Finance Committee will explore options for a possible change in insurance providers.

Delay in stonework repair

In other reporting, replacing the flat roofing of the church and repairing stonework has been delayed until there is a break in the weather. We have been assured that it will commence when the opportunity presents.

Plans for bathrooms

Pastor Mark reported on the Capital Campaign. We have received more detailed plans from John Picard, architect, on the new entry way and enclosure as well as the new accessible bathrooms to be installed across from the Gleitzman Lounge. These plans will be used to elicit bids from contractors in mid-January. Pastor Mark, Jim Johnson, Greg Klein, and Patty Long will meet with John Picard for a final review of the plans before they are distributed for bid. Not until a final bid is settled on will we know the exact cost of the project, but it is estimated that approximately \$65,000 in additional funds need to be raised to cover expenses.

Welfare and Social Action Committee

Cindy Lash reported for the Welfare and Social Action Committee. The gifts purchased by St. Paul's parishioners to be distributed by the Salvation Army on December 18 and 19 were delivered. Special thanks to all who contributed to the gift donations as well as the food collection for distribution at our Community Meal. It was also reported that after many years of planning and preparing meals for the Community Meal, Marsha and Jack Fortune would like to step away from that ministry responsibility. They still hope to be involved in serving at the meal but leave the planning and preparation to others. Thankfully, Kim Oberlin and David Stoner have agreed to step into this opportunity! We are very grateful for the years of dedication from Marsha and Jack as well as the willingness of Kim and David to carry on the important work of planning and preparing the meals. They will be joined by a team of volunteers who continue to serve those who attend each month and then help with clean up.

Respectfully shared,

Patty Long

President, Church Council

Income and expense summary

Income and Expense Summary			
Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Month Ending November, 2024			
November		YTD	
Income	\$ 31,890	Income	\$ 117,059
Endowment Withdrawal	\$ 2,083	Endowment Withdrawal	\$ 18,707
Expenses	\$ 28,559	Expenses	\$ 124,921
Surplus or (Deficit)	\$ 5,415	Surplus or (Deficit)	\$ 10,846

Financial notes: Our expenses were up due to a pump replacement in the clothes closet building and an increase in our property insurance retroactive to September 1. Our November donations were also up and not only covered our increased expenses but also gave us a monthly surplus. Thank you for your generous donations.

--Dan Farrar, Treasurer

Capital Fund Update

Capital Campaign Report

Remaining Phase One Projects	\$377,000
Funds raised	\$311,696
Remaining funds to be raised	\$ 65,304

Christmas Eve Services



Our two Christmas Eve services proclaimed the good news of the Christ child.



The 7:00 pm service featured younger musicians, Thomas Haake on violin and vocalists Anderson Rambler and Sydney Johnson.



Anchored by the Camarada Brass, the 10:30 service was graced with "O, Holy Night" by soprano Megan Myers, "Some Children See Him" by Veronica Kreemer, and two pieces by the Chancel Choir, "Night of Silence" and "Before the Marvel of this Night." The congregation enjoyed singing the favorite carols, including the candle-lit "Silent Night."

'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!

DONOR LEVELS to be recognized in programs at the concert:

Patron: \$50+
Beethoven Circle: \$150+
Bach Circle: \$250+
Conductor's Circle: \$500 and over

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

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>



[Upcoming Concerts](#)



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

[Cathedral Concerts at St. Paul's on Facebook](#)

Art show by Peggy Gibbs

Enjoy the photography by Peggy Gibbs in the Gleitsman Lounge. If you would like to own a print, sign up for the photos you'd like to purchase. (More than one person can select the same photo.) Pick up and pay dates on **December 15th** and **January 12th**. Prints are \$25 each. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the church.



Peggy captures the beauty of our church in 22 portraits.

Handbells played for Advent service



The congregation was pleased to enjoy the beautiful music of our Handbell Choir on December 15.



"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" was the prelude,
and "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" was the offertory anthem.

Christmas Caroling

Christmas Caroling to our Homebound

A group of 14 carolers visited 9 locations, including nursing homes and homes of those unable to attend services. Their ministry enlivened the spirits of all who heard them. Thank you to those who participated in this outreach.

St. Stephen's Winter Market

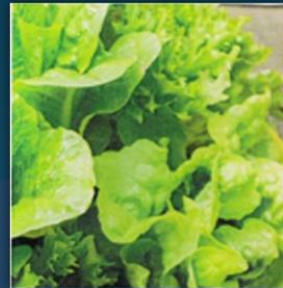
INDOOR WINTER MARKET

January 11, 2025
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

St. Stephen Martyr Lutheran Church

4600 Fulton Dr. NW, Canton

Wherelovelives.org



Greetings from St. Stephen Martyr Lutheran Church!

We would like to invite you to attend our annual Indoor Winter Market on Saturday, January 11, 2025. On January 11, from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm, we should have over 20 vendors selling various homemade food products. We have vendors that sell candy, apples, baked goods, produce, soup, and meat, We have found that this market is a wonderful way to support local vendors during the winter months. If there a someone you know that would like to sell their products at this market, (keeping in mind it is NOT a craft show), please contact us for an application.

We look forward to seeing you at the Market!

Sincerely,
St. Stephen Martyr Lutheran Church

Madrigal Choir's annual visit to St. Paul's



The Firestone CLC Madrigal Choir ushered in our Advent season on December 1. Led by our Chancel Choir alto Megan Myer and featuring our baritone Andy Rambler, their spirit and skill amazed us all.



Even our littlest congregation member was held spellbound by the madrigal singers. Matthew Klein Karch sits on his grandmother Lynda's lap at the service.

Community Candlelight Walk on December 1

Instrumentalists and vocal soloists joined our Chancel Choir in creating a continuous presentation of music for the Community Candlelight Walk on December 1. Twenty-eight different pieces were prepared for the two and a half hours of music.



The choir, which included several members of our collaborating Lutheran neighbors, sang "Night of Silence," "In the Stillness," "The Virgin's Slumber Song," and "The King Shall Come."



Sydney Johnson presented "Coventry Carol," "What Child Is This," "Good King Wenceslas," and "O Come, All Ye Faithful" on the flute as well as vocals on "The Little Drummer Boy" and "The First Noel."



Dwight Butler played "Joy to the World" and "O, Little Town of Bethlehem" on the trumpet. Other soloists were vocalists Veronica Kreemer, Sammy Kay Smith, and Andy Rambler and instrumentalists Carol Butler on cello and Ellie Manes on steel drum. Abby played two organ solos and accompanied 25 different pieces of music!

December Community Meal report

It's Christmas time all over the world. This was never more evident than at St. Paul's on Friday, December 13, as we celebrated the season at our monthly Community Meal and Community Closet. We had surprises, games (with prizes), drawings, giveaways, Christmas music, plus the usual clothes and care bag giveaways, which included grocery items this month.

Our Christmas meal consisted of a fabulous turkey dinner with mashed potatoes and gravy, buttered corn, cranberry Jell-O salad, and multiple desserts including cake, pie, and cookies. We served 105 in person diners and 20 carry outs for a meal total of 125. This is a new record! 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. We are especially grateful and happy to report the receipt of a sizable contribution from the Rodney Klein Stock Market Museum & Library in support of our ministry. We are also pleased to report some sizable gifts from individual members in support. As our numbers continue to grow, we are most grateful for the outpouring of support.

This December night was bittersweet for Marsha and me. After years of planning and preparing meals for our community, we are turning over the reins to two equally capable persons, Dave Stoner and Kim Oberlin. I am sure you will give them your full support. When Marsha and I first took over this ministry 10 years ago, we were serving 26 people. We now regularly serve 100+. This ministry is alive and well. Please continue to support it with your time, your gifts and most importantly, your prayers. We look forward to an exciting 2025.

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 10, from 4:30 to 6:00. As always, we thank you for your many prayers and continued support.

--Jack and Marsha Fortune

Gratitude to Jack and Marsha

Jack and Marsha Fortune have overseen The Community Meal for 10 years. Even though they are stepping down as the leaders, they'll still be there every month to help out as they are able.

Marsha primarily ran the kitchen, while Jack loved being in the dining room with the guests--especially the kids.

At the December Community Meal, they were presented with cakes, flowers, and a gift card to go out to dinner.



Community Meal Friends,

We really appreciate your thoughtfulness. It's been a pleasure working along with you all. We wouldn't have been able to go on this journey without the support of our church and church family.

Our deepest appreciation
Jack & Marsha

Gift bags for homebound



Kim Oberlin, JuDee Reed, Judy Feichter, and Kathryn Myers prepared the gift bags to bring Christmas cheer to our homebound members.

Nonperishables delivered at Community Meal



The collections which begin in October for nonperishable food and supplies were delivered on Friday, December 13, at the Christmas Community Meal.

Cindy Lash and the Welfare and Social Action Committee thank you all for your generosity.

Prayer list update

Amy Williams, Phyllis Wilson, Jackie Whitman, Jessie Shaffer, Mark King, Rick Theiss, Jim Loveday, Rosemary Stephen, Ariane Roberts, Shane Reed, Chrissy Sturtz, Donnie Whitman, Mary Martin.

January birthdays

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

Karen Daily, January 20:

"For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, do not fear for I will help you." (Isaiah 41:13)

Dwight Butler, January 22:

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20, The Great Commission)

Kathryn Myers, January 24:

"For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law."(Romans 3:28)

Jan 1--Sue Ambrosic
Jan 2--Christopher Lash
Jan 2--Elizabeth
Inkinen Schehl
Jan 2--John Tasseff
Jan 5--Susan Reid
Jan 6--Matthew Brumfield
Jan 14--Matthew Skelly
Jan 15--Linda Mutchler

Jan 16--Catarina Monastra
Jan 16--Chris Hall
Jan 17--Richard Cordes
Jan 18--Adam Johnson
Jan 19--Vera Gerber
Jan 19--Jessica Reiman
Jan 20--Karen Daily
Jan 21--Philip Halco
Jan 22--Benjamin Myers

Jan 22--Dwight Butler
Jan 22--Bryce Brumfield
Jan 24--Kathryn Myers
Jan 24--John Stanko
Jan 27--Heidi Hall
Jan 27--Gregory Klein
Jan 29--Jack Fortune
Jan 31--Lauren Karch

Has your birthday or anniversary been missing from the published lists? If so, please contact the office so we can add it to our database. Thank you!

90th birthday party for John Tasseff: congregation invited

Join the family and friends of long-time member John Tasseff on Saturday, January 11, from 2-4 in Fellowship Hall for a very special celebration. The family has invited the St. Paul's congregation to this party. They request no gifts, just your presence!

January wedding anniversaries

Congratulations

Jan. 12--Philip & Gwen Halco

Flowers for the altar for 2025

Please text Sue Ambrosic at 330-844-7648 if you would like to have the Altar or Throne flowers for 2025.

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.

We are now posting the flower chart on the Parish Hall bulletin board, indicating open dates that are available.

Sacristy volunteers

Note from Kathryn Myers:

Preparing the elements for Holy Communion is an essential and important job. I am always looking for volunteers to assist in this duty. Training will be provided.

If you have questions or are interested, please contact me. Thank you.

kkirk124@yahoo.com
330 327-2590

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 January

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

ASSISTING MINISTER

**COMMUNION
ASSISTANTS**

GREETERS

Contact [Karl Kalk](#)

1/5: Veronica Kreemer
1/12: Sue Reid
1/19: Kathryn Myers
1/26: Patty Long

Contact [Patty Long](#)

1/5: Shane Jackson & Barb Palmer
1/12: Jackie Pritchett & Greg Klein
1/19: Dennis Morgan & Kathryn Myers
1/26: Tracie Schmolt & Carol Stoner

Contact [Karl Kalk](#)

1/5: Marilyn Norton
1/12: Sue Ambrosic
1/19: Rob Pritchett
1/26 Pastor Lynn & Lashelle Williamson

SACRISTAN

Contact [Kathryn Myers](#)

Mary Ann Poling

LAY LECTOR

Contact [Karl Kalk](#)

Scott Larson

USHERS

Contact [Dick Longworth](#)

Chuck Gesen, Dick Longworth,
Chuck Richards, Mike Skelly

St. Paul's phone app



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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