



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

127 Cherry Rd. NE, Massillon, OH 44646

330 832-7409

May 2025 Newsletter

The Bridge

Connecting Church with Home

Contact Us: Click to send an email

[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](#)•[Jackie Pritchett, Office Volunteer](#)

On the Web

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



Contents in This Issue

- Pastoral Letter
- Upcoming Events
- Blood Drive Dates
- Thursday Morning Bible Study
- Monday Night Bible Study Resumes May 5
- Church Council Highlights
- Income and Expense Summary
- Capital Fund Update
- Easter Sunday 2025
- '24-'25 Concert Series: One Remaining Concert
- Sonnenberg Station Delivered a Strong Performance
- Handbell Concert at St. Stephen's: May 3
- New Assisted Hearing Devices Available
- April Community Meal Report
- Prayer List Update
- May Birthdays
- Surprise Party for Anneliese
- May Wedding Anniversaries
- Notification of Deaths in our Church Family
- Flowers for the Altar for 2025
- Thank You Notes
- Council Members
- Committee Members
- Serving During the Month of May
- St. Paul's Phone App

Pastoral Letter



Dear friends in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

As we gather in spirit and in truth this Easter season, we are reminded once again of the profound hope and joy found in the empty tomb. The stone has been rolled away, and with it, all fear, doubt, and despair are overcome by the victory of Christ.

Easter is not merely a date on the calendar—it is the heartbeat of our faith. It proclaims that life triumphs over death, that light conquers darkness, and that love endures forever. Jesus' resurrection is the promise that no matter how deep the valley, how long the night, or how heavy the cross—we are never alone, and we are never without hope.

This year, I invite you to let the truth of Easter sink deeply into your hearts. Let it renew your strength, revive your joy, and reignite your passion for sharing God's love with the world. As a community of believers, we are called to be Easter people—living witnesses of resurrection power and grace.

To each of you, thank you for the ways you reflect Christ's love, whether in worship, service, prayer, or simply showing kindness in your daily lives. You are a vital part of this church family, and I am grateful for the journey we share.

May the peace of the Risen Christ fill your homes, your hearts, and your lives. May His joy be your strength, and may the glory of the Resurrection shine brightly through you.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

With love and blessings,
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

Sunday: **Sunday School** 11:30 am

Wednesday: **Chancel Choir** 7 pm

Wednesday: **Snip-N-Stitch** 9 am

Thursday: **Bible Study** 10 am

Monthly events

Thursday, May 8, 6:30 pm: **Worship and Music Committee (normally 1st Tuesday of month; changed for this month)**

Tuesday, May 13, 7 pm: **Church Council (2nd Tuesday of month)**

Friday, May 9, 4:30-6:00 pm: **Community Meal and Clothes Closet (2nd Friday of month)**

Tuesday, April 20, 6 pm: **Finance Committee (3rd Tuesday of month)**

May 18: Groundbreaking Ceremony and Congregational Meeting

We will have a groundbreaking ceremony on May 18th immediately following the worship service. It will be brief but meaningful, allowing us a chance, first and foremost, to give thanks to the Lord for bringing us to this point in the history of St. Paul's Church where this new capital project might begin, and to also recognize and give thanks for the generous contributions of so many allowing us to move forward with the renovation and construction without incurring any financial debt.

After this ceremony we will meet in the Parish Hall dining room. The agenda will include review and approval of the operating budget and church elections.

Blood Drive Dates

Save the dates to give the gift of life.

2025 Blood Drives @ St. Paul's:

Monday May 5, 2025: Noon until 6:00 pm

Just added: Saturday, July 26, 2025: 9am-2pm

Monday, August 25, 2025: Noon until 6:00 pm

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

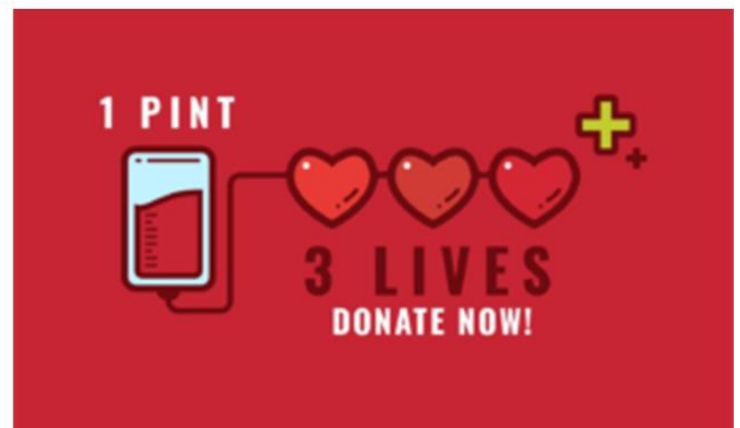
<https://www.redcrossblood.org/>



Noon until 6:00 pm

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

2025 Blood Drives



Adult Sunday School Class

Joseph and God's Grace

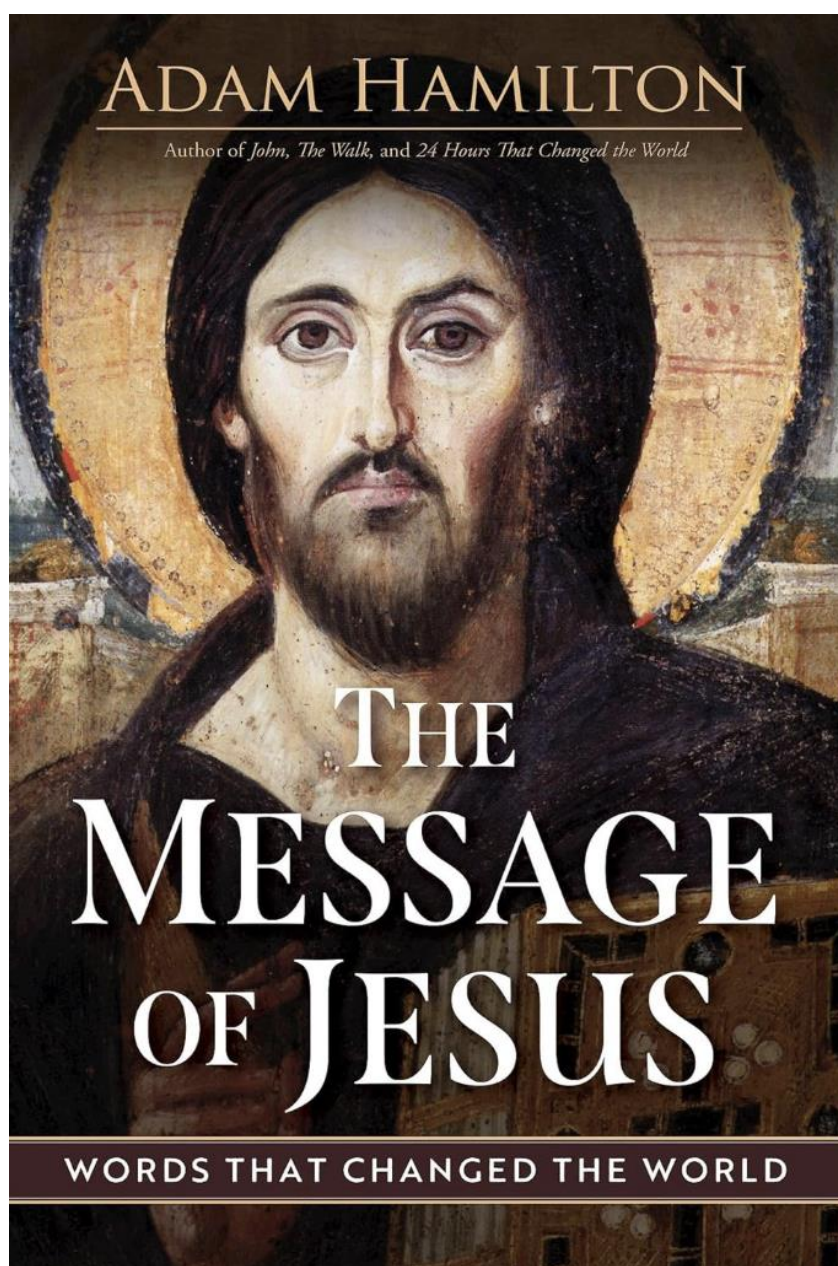
"Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good..."

(Genesis 50:20a)

Joseph, favorite son of Jacob, lived a life of challenges and privilege. By God's redeeming grace, Joseph was used to support and protect the people of God's covenant and was a

righteous leader in the land of Egypt. During May, we will conclude our study in the book of Genesis and once again be reminded that grace abounds for God's glory and our lasting good. The class meets on Sundays at 11:30, top floor Parish Hall. An elevator is available for your convenience.

Thursday Morning Bible Study



The Message of Jesus: Words That Changed the World

By: [Adam Hamilton](#)

The four New Testament Gospels aren't the same story, but they offer the same Resurrection hope. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John devote most of their story detailing Jesus' last week in Jerusalem, all highlighting Jesus' triumphant entry into the city, the suffering and humiliation of the cross, and the empty tomb come Sunday morning, but the stories they tell aren't quite the same.

Each Gospel offers a different lens through which we understand Jesus' Passion. One portrait reveals Jesus to be in control, while another emphasizes his suffering. In one story Jesus offers hope to the thief on the cross, and in another Jesus only receives derision. These different perspectives aren't a reason to dismiss the Gospels; rather they reveal an abundant, diverse, and complementary picture of God's work in the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

Monday Night Bible Study Resumes April 28



Monday Evening Bible Study

6pm Tremont Coffee 215 Erie St N. Massillon, OH

Join us for the return of our weekly Monday Night Bible Study beginning **April 28 at 6:00 pm**, hosted at **Tremont Coffee on Erie**. This spring series will be co-led by Pastor Tina Crog (St. Jacob) and Pastor Ash Welch (Christ Lutheran) and will focus on scriptures commonly read at funerals, as well as the theology and hope woven into our Lutheran funeral liturgy.

In this Easter season, as we journey from resurrection to Pentecost, we'll reflect on how our faith speaks to life, death, and the promise of new creation. All are welcome—come with your questions, your Bible, and an open heart.

Church Council Highlights

Report from April 8, 2025

Pastor's Report

In his report, Pastor Mark announced that the date for Impact Massillon will be Saturday, June 14. Scott Larson has graciously agreed to be the project leader for St. Paul's. Watch for volunteer recruiting efforts, coming soon!

Finance Committee

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Dan Farrar and Tracie Schmolt presented the recommended church operating budget for the next fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2025. The recommended budget comes out of the Finance Committee and is then shared with Council for its review. After carefully considering each line of the budget for both expenses and sources of income, Council approved the recommended budget, which will now be presented to the congregation for final approval at the May 18th business meeting.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee plans to meet after the service on Sunday, April 13, to begin the process of identifying individuals willing to run for various elected positions, including four Council members, two members for the Mission Endowment Fund Committee, two individuals

to be the 2026 Synod Assembly representatives, and six members for the 2026 Nominating Committee. It is hoped there will be those willing to accept the opportunity to serve in these various positions.

Property Management Committee

Dennis Morgan reported for the Property Management Committee. Buxton Roofing is continuing its work on the flat roof areas around the church building as is Coon Restoration on the stonework of the church. These projects will be completed soon, weather permitting. When the cranes are gone, that will signal completion! The Standard Heating & Plumbing Company is now in full possession of the new boiler system that will soon be installed in the church building. It is anticipated installation will begin in mid to late May and last for several weeks.

Mission Endowment Fund Committee

Two proposals came to Council from the Mission Endowment Fund Committee. It was proposed that \$500 be donated to the local Meals on Wheels. The second proposal came from the Property Management Committee asking that \$13,325 be set aside in the Capital Improvement Fund and used to continue switching the Parish Hall heating and cooling system to split units, as has been done for the lounge and choir practice area. (Note: as specified in the St. Paul's Church Constitution under "Continuing Resolutions" for the Mission Endowment Fund (CR1.14), "Up to 15% for capital improvements, debt reduction or a building program of St. Paul's" may be contributed annually.)

Capital Campaign Committee

Reporting for the Capital Campaign committee, Pastor Mark presented the final bid details to Council for the north entrance renovation and portico enclosure as well as for the fully accessible restrooms to be built across from the Gleitzman Lounge. The final bids were received from the general contractor Paragon Builders and Developers, D & A Plumbing and Heating, ComfortPro Heating & Cooling, and Wood Electric, Inc. The total cost of the capital improvement project, which includes the fee for the architect and project manager, John Picard, is \$396,278. Council approved the bids. The Council president will sign the contracts for each of the companies, which includes a construction start date of May 19, 2025. So far, \$382,538 has been raised for the project leaving \$13,740. We are so grateful to the Lord Jesus and the faithfulness of this congregation, as so many have generously given over many months to allow these projects to begin. Thanks be to God!

Respectfully shared,

Patty Long
President, Church Council

Income and Expense Summary

Income and Expense Summary			
Fiscal Year 2025, Month Ending March 2025			
March		YTD	
Income	\$ 23,306	Income	\$ 225,793
Endowment Withdrawal	\$ 2,083	Endowment Withdrawal	\$ 31,186
Expenses	\$ 28,646	Expenses	\$ 239,528
Surplus or (Deficit)	\$ (3,257)	Surplus or (Deficit)	\$ 17,451

Financial notes: Our new assisted hearing devices purchase and another month of high utility bills contributed to our deficit. St. Paul's is scheduled to approve our fiscal year 2025 – 2026 operating budget at our May Congregational meeting. Your input is welcome.

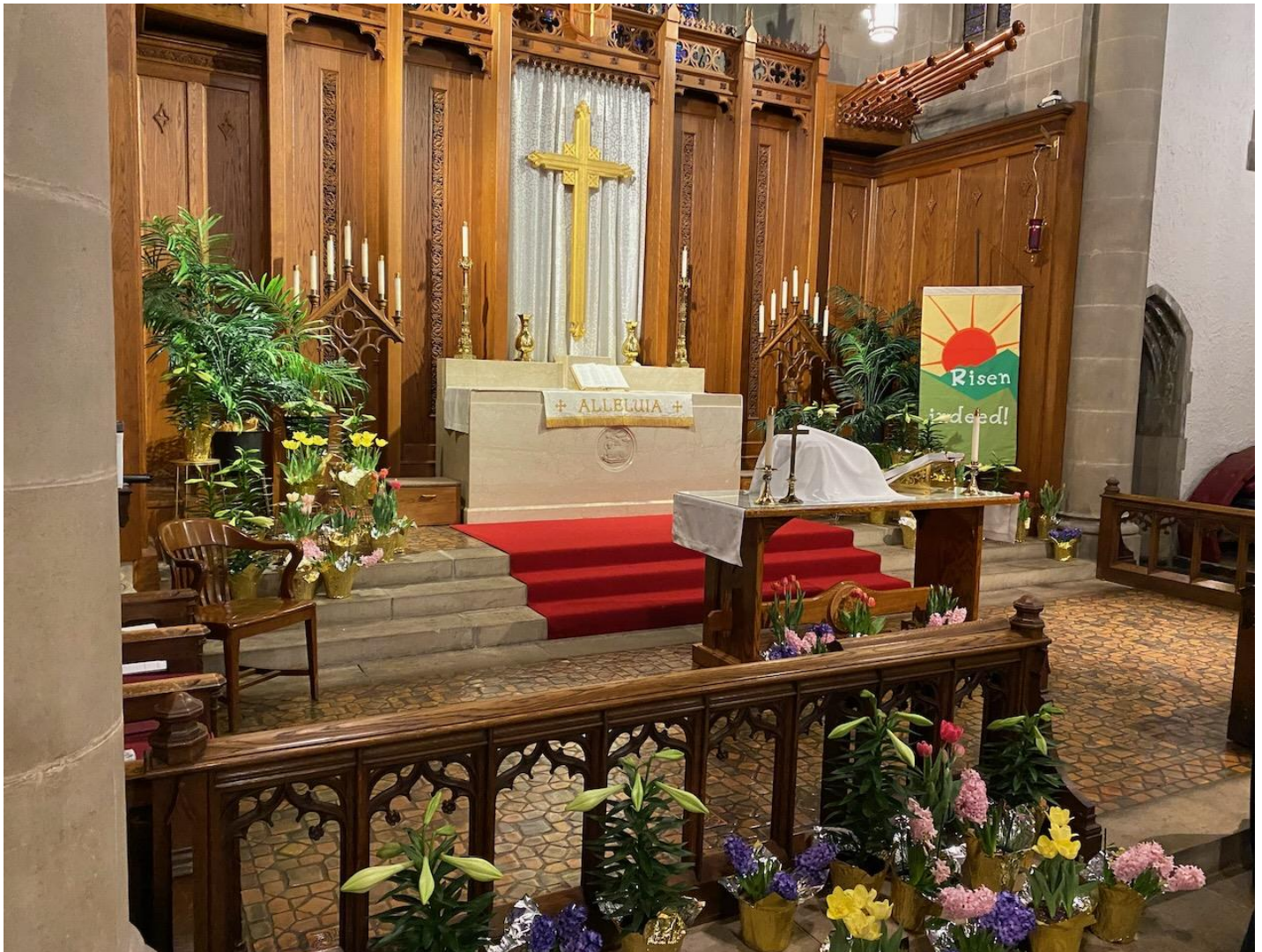
Dan Farrar, Treasurer

Capital Fund Update

Capital Campaign Report

Remaining Phase One Projects	\$396,278
Funds raised	\$382,538
Remaining funds to be raised	\$ 13,740

Easter Sunday 2025



Flowers adorned the altar area for Easter.
It was wonderful to see the church so full: 180 people attended the 10 am service.



The Camarada Brass Quintet added to the majesty of our service.

'24-'25 Concert Series: One Remaining Concert



CANTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CHORUS

IN CONCERT PRESENTS

COME TO THE Water



Doug Beery, Director of Choruses

May 17, 2025

2:00 PM

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

127 Cherry Rd. NE, Massillon, OH 44646

Admission: Free Will Offering

CantonSymphony.org

Our Cathedral Concert series ends with the well-received CSOC, presenting excerpts from their Masterworks concert with the Canton Symphony Orchestra, *A Sea Symphony*, and numerous pieces dealing with the same theme, including "Come to the Water," "The Naval Hymn," and "Wade in the Water."



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

Sonnenberg Station Delivered a Strong Performance



As part of their Spring Concert Tour, Sonnenberg Station, a men's ensemble, presented a free concert at St. Paul's on Sunday, April 6, 3 pm.

Their eclectic program entitled "Movers and Shakers" featured music by Elaine Hagenberg, Alice Shaw, arrangements of Shaker tunes, spirituals, and even a setting of Bob Dylan's "The Times, They Are a Changin'."

They were joined by the Singing Comets from central Christian High School under the direction of Tim Shue.

Handbell Concert at St. Stephen's: May 3



New Assisted Hearing Devices Available



Four assisted listening devices are available at the sound system table in the back of the sanctuary at the beginning of worship. Please see Jim Johnson or John Stanko if you need assistance with these devices.

You can also use your smartphone to access the system. Go to your app store and download the **WaveCAST** app. Then connect to the sanctuary Wi-Fi:

Network: sound media

Password: Sound127

Once connected to the Wi-Fi, open the WaveCAST app and tap on **St. Paul's** to access the worship service. If you need help, please see Jim or John.

April Community Meal Report



On a cold and cloudy afternoon, we celebrated the day, serving ham, hash browns, corn, applesauce, roll, and dessert for a total of 78 attendees, with many asking for seconds. The dining room was decorated for Easter, with spring flowers and eggs.

Cindy Lash and Sydney Johnson gave out Easter eggs filled with candy, and some included gift cards. This was a big hit with everyone. In addition, Lucy from Central Catholic High School passed out treats as well. Students from area high schools come to help as part of a "Reach Out to the Community" project for their schools. Thank you, ladies.

As always, Veronica Kreemer provided staple goods for those who need assistance with necessities. Again, as with our entire mission, financial donations are much appreciated.

If you're interested in providing desserts for our meals, please deliver them to the church the Friday by noon, the day of our meal. **Our next meal is May 9th.** Thank you.

Our clothing closet was well attended, and now it's time to offer spring and summer clothing. (Yay!) Please drop off clothing in good condition, along with **new** under garments to the church at your convenience. Many thanks.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Kim or David.

Blessings and Peace,

phone links: **Kim Oberlin** and **David Stoner**

email links: **Kim Oberlin** and **David Stoner**

Prayer List Update

Richard Green, Tina Cotopolis, Izabella Edwards, Randy Balder, Jessica Cascera, Chad Beyington, Jason Loveday, Darlene Lewis, Betty Scot, Anna Lagenfeld, Jay Danielson, Chrissy Sturtz, Matt Moore, Amy Williams, Phyllis Wilson, Jackie Whitman, Jessie Shaffer.

May Birthdays

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

Loren Veigel, May 14:

"Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,

Robed in the flowers of blooming spring.
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
He makes our sorrowing spirit sing!" Verse 2 of "Beautiful Savior"

May 1--Amelia Deerwester
May 4--Leona Corban
May 4--Seth Dunlap
May 7--Roxanna Bader
May 8--Trisha Lash
May 10--Sandra Bennett
May 11--Paul Daily

May 11--Vivianne Greene
May 11--Susan Dovel
May 11--Thomas Haake
May 12--James Johnson
May 14--Peggy Gibbs
May 14--James Howe
May 14--Barbara Starrett

May 14--Loren Veigel
May 17--Izabella Haring
May 20--Bob Funderburk
May 21--Kiera Lafferty
May 22--Audrey Hepler
May 28--Elizabeth Haring
May 29--Gayle Jackson

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!

Surprise Party for Anneliese



God's Kitchen Angels had a surprise 90th birthday party for our Angel Anneliese Daniels at our monthly meeting. 27 Angels attended. We celebrated at the VFW with lunch and a delicious dessert of fruit pizza.

All are welcome to join God's Kitchen Angels. We usually meet once a month. The group supports St. Paul's Lutheran Church by its many culinary talents. Our focus is fellowship, friendship, supporting each other, and enjoying lots of laughter. If interested in joining, please contact our fearless leader, Sue Ambrosic.



May Wedding Anniversaries

Congratulations

May 12--Richard & Mary Jo Theiss

May 23--Ed & Lori Davila

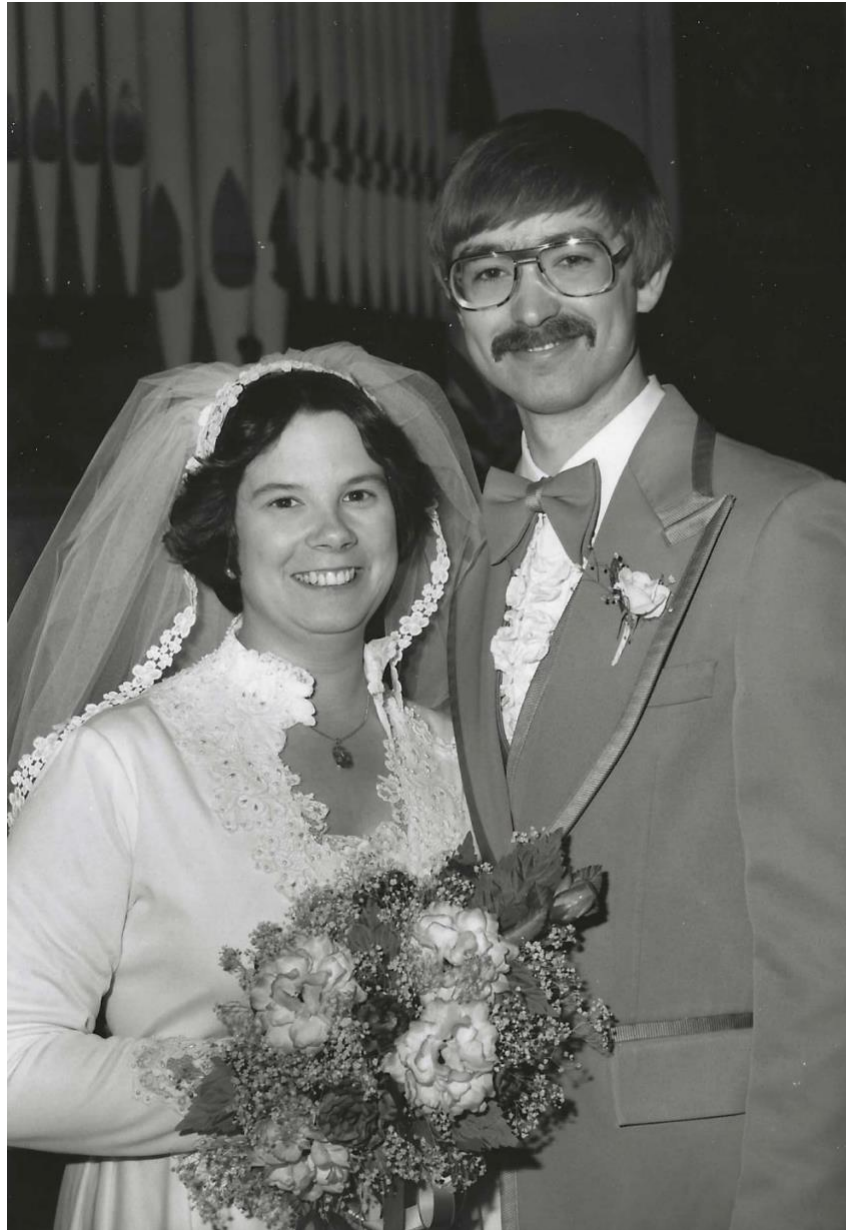
May 25--Michael & Rachel Deerwester

May 26--Jan & Monte Geuy

May 27--Carl & Gretchan Sekulich

May 27--Eric & Carla Myers

May 30--Robert & Marilyn Perkowski



Monte and Jan Geuy will celebrate their 46th wedding anniversary. They were married on May 26, 1979, in Saint Paris, Ohio.

Notification of Deaths in our Church Family

To improve our communication to our church family when a death has occurred, we will be sending an "Our Church" CCB email to announce the death of the individual (member or regular attender). To be as prompt as possible, we will be sending the notice even before funeral arrangements have been finalized. Once people know, they can easily access an obituary with those details.

In the next month's *Bridge*, we will include links to the obituary and a photo, if submitted.

Sympathies

We extend our sympathies to the families of Rick Sadler, brother-in-law of Patty Long and Kathryn Sheets, who passed away this month.

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.

The flower chart on the Parish Hall bulletin board indicates open dates that are available. You may sign up on that and we will follow through.

Thank You Notes

Anneliese's Birthday

Dear Friends in Christ,

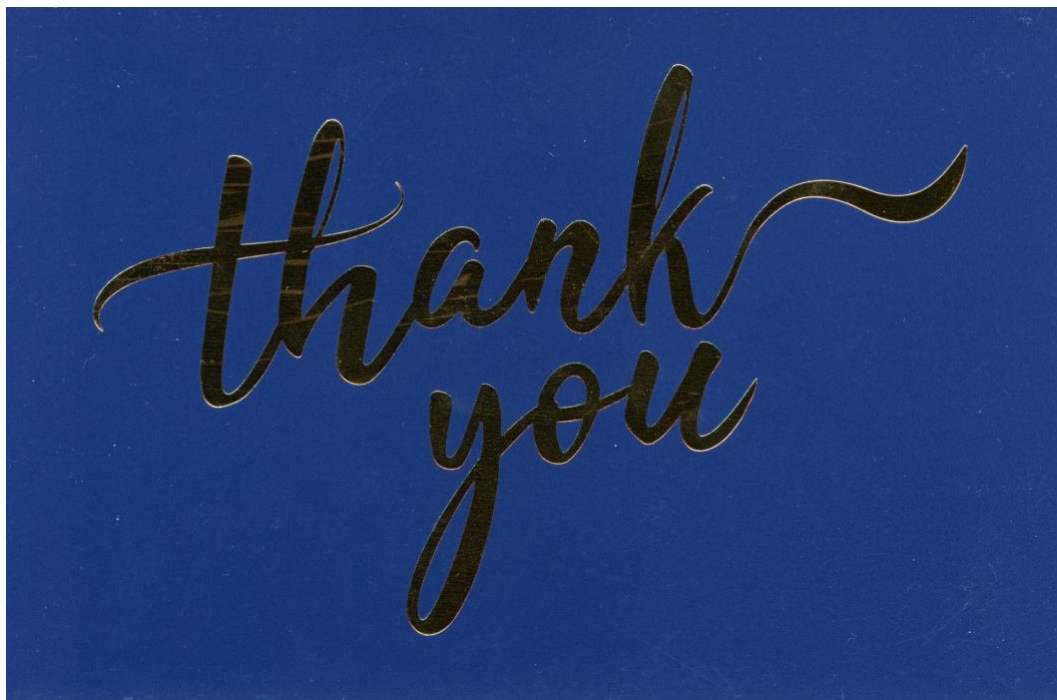
To say the least, I was completely overwhelmed by the outpouring of love shown at my recent birthday.

I am grateful for all of you, my church family, and the friendships that have been cultivated over the years.

Thank you for celebrating me so well, both in church, as well as at the open house held by my family. I so appreciate your cards, gifts, and well wishes.

In His Love,
Anneliese

Scholarship Recipient



Hello,

Thank you so much for awarding me this scholarship this year. I greatly appreciate all the help you have given me over the years, in my pursuit of my degree at Ohio State. Your support not only makes a significant impact on my education but also motivates me to work hard and give back in the future.

Thank you again for all the contributions to my education
- Aaliyah Litman

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

FINANCE

Dan Farrar, Chair

Shane Jackson
Greg Klein
John Liebermann
Patty Long
Tracie Schmolt

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Greg Klein, Chair

Carol Butler
Dwight Butler
Abigail Haake
Karl Kalk

STAFF SUPPORT

Greg Klein, Chair

Jennifer Nelson Maurer
Jackie Pritchett
Elizabeth Schehl

Deidra Monastra

John Stanko

Patty Long
Kathryn Myers
Kim Oberlin
Phyllis Staver

**WELFARE AND
SOCIAL ACTION**

**PARISH
FELLOWSHIP**

**MISSION
ENDOWMENT**

**PROPERTY
MANAGEMENT**

Cindy Lash, Chair

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

Carol Stoner, Chair

Gary Collard
Sue Reid

Craig Maurer, Chair

Sue Ambrosic
Karl Kalk
Lynda Klein
Phyllis Staver

Jim Johnson, Chair

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

SCHOLARSHIP

YOUTH AND PARISH EDUCATION

Barb Palmer, Chair

Amy Burkett
John Liebermann
Lisa Skelly

Jackie Pritchett, Chair

Scott Larson
Deidra Monastra
Sue Reid

Serving During the Month of May

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

ASSISTING MINISTER

Contact [Karl Kalk](#)

May 4—Dave Stoner
May 11—Kathryn Myers
May 18—Scott Larson
May 25—Sue Reid

**COMMUNION
ASSISTANTS**

Contact [Patty Long](#)

5/4—Patty Long & Gary Collard
5/11—Shane Jackson & Barb
Palmer
5/18—Jackie Pritchett & Greg
Klein
5/25—Dennis Morgan & Kathryn
Myers

GREETERS

Contact [Karl Kalk](#)

May 4—Gary Collard
May 11—Rob Pritchett
May 18—Craig Maurer
May 25—Marilyn Norton

SACRISTAN

Contact [Kathryn Myers](#)

Kathryn Myers

LAY LECTOR

Contact [Karl Kalk](#)

Karl Kalk

USHERS

Contact [Dick Longworth](#)

John Liebermann
Lynn Williamson
John and Jennifer Stanko

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.