



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

127 Cherry Rd. NE, Massillon, OH 44646

330 832-7409

April 2026 Newsletter

The Bridge

Connecting Church with Home

Contact Us: Click to send an email

[Rev. Mark Kreemer, Senior Pastor](#)•[Kathryn Myers, 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

- Alive in the Season of Resurrection
- Upcoming Events
- Holy Week Services
- 2026 Blood Drives
- Adult Sunday School Class
- Scholarship Committee Announcement
- Rescheduled Dinner Dance
- Women's Lenten Retreat
- Church Council Highlights
- Capital Campaign Report
- Church Directory Photos Deadline
- Send Bridge News to Church Office
- Forty Days of Giving
- Kitchen Angels' Report
- Friendship Circle to Start Back Up for Spring
- March Community Meal Report
- Clothes Closet Report for March
- The St. Paul's Steelband Is in Full Swing
- Bell Choir Adds Beauty to Our Services
- Dr. Abigail Haake Performed for March 15 Cathedral Concert
- Canton Symphony Orchestra Chorus to Perform on Sunday, May 3 at 2 pm
- Prayer List Update
- April Birthdays
- April Wedding Anniversaries
- Flowers for the Altar for 2026
- Council Members
- Committee Members
- Serving During the Month of April
- New Assisted Hearing Devices Available
- St. Paul's Phone App

Alive in the Season of Resurrection



Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Easter is not just a single Sunday—it is a season. For fifty days, the Church lingers in the light of the empty tomb, rejoicing in the victory of Christ over sin, death, and the grave. Too

often, however, we move too quickly past Easter, as if it were simply a moment rather than a way of life. But the truth of the resurrection is too big, too life-changing, to be contained in just one day.

The season of Easter invites us to live as resurrection people.

In the Gospels, the risen Jesus meets his followers in very ordinary places—along the road, behind locked doors, beside a breakfast fire. Again and again, he comes to people who are confused, grieving, or afraid. And each time, his presence changes everything. Fear gives way to peace. Doubt becomes faith. Despair is transformed into hope.

That same risen Christ meets us still.

He meets us in the ordinary rhythms of our lives—in our homes, in our work, in our conversations, and in our worship. He meets us in Word and Sacrament, reminding us that death does not have the final word. He meets us in moments of uncertainty and speaks peace: “Do not be afraid.”

To live in the season of Easter is to trust that resurrection is not just something that happened to Jesus long ago—it is something God is still doing now.

It means believing that new life can emerge even from places that feel lost or broken. It means holding onto hope when the world feels heavy. It means seeing with eyes of faith, recognizing that Christ is present even when we do not immediately see him.

The early disciples were not perfect in their faith. Thomas doubted. Peter faltered. The others hid behind locked doors. And yet, Christ came to them anyway. He does not wait for perfect faith—he brings it. He does not demand certainty—he offers himself.

That is good news for us.

Wherever you find yourself this season—whether filled with joy or carrying burdens—know that the risen Christ comes to you. He calls you by name. He breathes his peace into your life. And he sends you out to share that peace with others.

So during these days of Easter, take time to notice the signs of resurrection around you. A word of encouragement. An act of kindness. A moment of unexpected hope. These are glimpses of the new life Christ is bringing into the world.

Christ is risen—and because he lives, we live also.

Alleluia!

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 School after church service, 11:30 am

Wednesday: Snip-N-Stitch, 9:00 am

Wednesday: Steeldrum Band practice: 6:00- 6:45 pm

Wednesday: Chancel Choir practice, 7:00-8:30 pm

Thursday Chair Yoga following Bible Study, 11:00 am

Monthly events

Worship and Music Committee (1st Tuesday of month)
Church Council (2nd Tuesday of month)
Community Meal and Clothes Closet (2nd Friday of month)
Finance Committee (3rd Tuesday of month)
Friendship Circle: April 9, 6 pm in Lounge

Holy Week Services



The Camarada Brass Quintet will play for the Easter Service.

Palm Sunday, March 29, 10 am

Maundy Thursday, April 2, 7 pm

Good Friday, April 3, 7 pm

Easter Morning, April 5, 10 am

[Click here for more information on Holy Week](#)

2026 Blood Drives



2026 Blood Drives 12-6 pm

Monday, May 4, 2026

Monday, August 24, 2026

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

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

Adult Sunday School Class

After Sunday Worship: 11:30 am, second floor of Parish Hall

The Book of Ruth

"...Blessed be he by the LORD, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead." (Ruth 2:20)

During April we continue our study in the book of Ruth and notice the way God uses the kindness and care of others to show the Lord's character and reveal God's ultimate purpose of redemption through Jesus Christ. The faithfulness and compassion of these in the story inspire us to demonstrate the same. The class meets on the top floor of the Parish Hall at 11:30 each Sunday morning. An elevator is available for easy access.

Note: Due to the length of the service typical of Easter Sunday, there will be no class on April 5.

Scholarship Committee Announcement



It's time to apply for, or renew, scholarship applications for the **2026 fall semester**.

All renewal applications are sent via email to the recipients from the previous semester.

New applicants can request an application starting **April 1st, 2026** by emailing the church office

officeadmin@stpaulsmassillon.org for the application.

DEADLINE to be considered for the scholarship is **June 1st, 2026**. 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.

Rescheduled Dinner Dance



We will gather for dinner at **5:00 pm** followed by music with Chuck Richards. The cost per person is \$15 per person, which you can pay at the door.

We do need you to make a reservation. Sign up is in the lounge or call/email the church office:
330.832.7409

officeadmin@stpaulsmassillon.org

Menu for dinner:

Rolls
Mediterranean Salad
Chicken Cordon Blue or Chicken Skewers
Scalloped potatoes
Vegetable blend
Spring dessert
Punch, Red Wine, White Wine

Please let us know if you have special diet considerations.

Women's Lenten Retreat



On Saturday, March 7th, 27 women, including 7 from beyond the St. Paul's community, gathered for the annual Women's Lenten Retreat facilitated by La Shell Williamson and Patty Long. The theme was "God Our Help." It was a wonderful time of fellowship, Bible study, meaningful craft making, worship, and prayer. The overall response was very positive as the women were encouraged to daily place their trust in the Lord, whose steadfast love endures forever.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble.

(Psalm 46:1)

Church Council Highlights

Report from March 10, 2026

- The Nominating Committee will begin seeking nominees for Church Council this month. Please prayerfully consider serving if you are approached.
 - Please see the Capital Campaign report for items we will discuss at the May Congregational Meeting.
 - At the Special Congregational meeting on March 22, 2026, the Congregation approved the heating and cooling project.
-

Capital Campaign Report

With joy and gratitude, we continue to celebrate the completion of our new entrance and bathrooms. For the past nine months, these improvements have already been a blessing—offering a warm welcome and greater accessibility to all who enter. Thank you for the generosity and faith that made this possible.

Yet our work of caring for God's house continues.

As we look ahead, several significant needs have emerged:

Parish Hall Window Wells Repair – Estimated cost: \$169,000

Addressing these issues is essential to protect the integrity of the building and prevent further damage.

Completion of the Heating & Cooling Conversion (Parish Hall) – Estimated cost: \$150,000
Finishing this project will ensure a comfortable, efficient, and usable space for ministry year-round.

Organ Maintenance and Restoration – Estimated cost: \$100,000–\$200,000
Our organ plays a vital role in worship, and necessary maintenance will preserve its voice for future generations.

These are substantial projects, but they are also opportunities—opportunities to care for the spaces where ministry happens, where lives are touched, and where the Gospel is proclaimed.

Through your continued generosity, we can preserve and strengthen this place of welcome, safety, and worship. Together, we are ensuring that our church remains a living witness to God's grace for generations to come.

Thank you for your faithfulness and your partnership in this shared ministry.

Church Directory Photos Deadline

Thank you to all those who posed for a photo in February and March. The official last day for photos is March 29, Palm Sunday. If there are families that would like a photo on Easter Sunday as well, that will be the very last day.

If you don't have your photo taken in church, please submit a photo of yourself from this past year. You may email a digital copy, or you may drop off or mail a photo for us to scan.

The directory is an excellent resource for contacting fellow members and for new members to get to know the membership by putting names to faces.

Email: officeadmin@stpaulsmassillon.org



Cindy Lash and Sue Reid demonstrate how the photos will look with the narthex windows as the backdrop.

The photo directory will be available as a free digital copy. It will not be accessible on the website to ensure privacy. We don't want spammers (or scammers!) to get ahold of your emails, addresses, and phone numbers. We will ask as well that you not share your copy with others; we will be sending them out only upon request from the email that we have on file in our database.

However, we have decided to provide print color copies to all members who would like one. We will ask for a small donation to cover the printing costs. More info on that to come.

Send Bridge News to Church Office

Thank you to all the contributors over the past two years who have sent photos, articles, announcements, and Bible verses to me. Thank you also to those who let me take their photos so our newsletter could be filled with the beautiful images of the church in action.

Jackie Pritchett will be taking over as the new Bridge editor starting with the May issue. Send all contributions to her at officeadmin@stpaulsmassillon.org. Deadline will still be the 21st of each month.

With gratitude,
Carol Butler

Forty Days of Giving

THE NEED IS GREAT, BUT YOUR CONGREGATION'S LOVE IS GREATER.
Poverty is the biggest barrier to education, yet education is the most powerful tool in fighting poverty.

40 Days of Giving

GIRLS CAN'T WAIT! HELP US REACH 1,000 MORE GIRLS IN 2026.

In total, it costs about **\$348** to provide the opportunity for a vulnerable girl to stay in school for one academic year.
Your congregation's gift can make an immediate and lasting impact:

- \$10,440** educates a classroom of 30 girls in Sierra Leone for a year.
- \$3,480** helps 10 girls in Sierra Leone receive education for a year.
- \$1,044** provides 3 girls in Sierra Leone with an education.

St. Paul's would like to use our 40 Days of Giving to help educate girls in Sierra Leone. In total, it costs about \$348 to provide the opportunity for a vulnerable girl to stay in school for one academic year. St. Paul's gift will make an immediate and lasting impact. Let's see how many girls St. Paul's can educate this year through our 40 Days of Giving.

Kitchen Angels' Report



So, here are the numbers that our incredible Kitchen Angels racked up this year:

Report on baking:

- 295 dozen cookies Profit of \$2,790

- 100 pumpkin rolls: Profit of \$1,638
- 286 quarts of soup: Profit of \$2,740
Each of our members that are homebound (not in a nursing facility) will receive a quart of soup.
- Pepperoni rolls: Profit \$335
- Lenten soup quarts: Profit \$120
- **Total raised \$7, 623**

Disbursements so far:

- Dutch Craft Furniture in breeze way and entrance to church: \$2,616
- Glass top for serving table in lounge: \$270
- Make A Way: \$300
- Ohio Hospice: \$250
- Anneliese Daniels: \$250 for yarn for baby blankets that goes to the shelter for he
Pregnancy & Parenting Center
- New heater cover for entrance of the parish fellowship Hall: \$535
- Lutheran World relief: up to \$700 for educating girls globally
- the rest of the profit distributions were tabled until next month.

Again, we thank you for always supporting us! Happy Easter and God Bless you all.

--Sue Ambrosic and all of Gods Kitchen Angels

Friendship Circle to Start Back Up for Spring

Report from Kim Oberlin:

Spring is just around the corner, and so it's time for the ladies of Friendship Circle to come back together after this long winter! Our first meeting of the year will be on Thursday, April 9th at 6:00 in the lounge. Generally, our meetings are on the first Thursday of the month, but due to the first Thursday being Maundy Thursday, we will delay it for one week.

We'll have a light dinner and Bible study, and just time to relax and catch up with friends.

All ladies are welcome! Hope to see you there!!

March Community Meal Report



We had a great turnout for the March community meal: 95 people served!

We had open faced turkey sandwiches with gravy and mashed potatoes, corn and applesauce. Thanks to everyone who helped.

phone link: [Kim Oberlin](tel:)

email link: [Kim Oberlin](mailto:)

Clothes Closet Report for March



Recently, Tracie Schmolt presented one of the mats she crochets to our homeless volunteer, Samantha. She reports that it is awesome. Thanks for saving plastic bags for her project. If anyone has time to help, please see Tracie.

Report from the Clothes Closet Committee:

We continue to provide clothing, blankets, shoes and other items to folks in our community, all of this is possible thanks to the generosity of St Paul's congregation.

Trying to set a dollar value on our monthly provisions to those in need based on retail cost at stores such as Goodwill, we estimate our efforts at \$1,000 or more per month being provided to needy patrons. We are told we have the best Closet in the area. It is difficult to convey the happiness we provide not only in the Closet, but also with the parties and giveaways provided by us to the Community Meal patrons.

Thank you so much for continuing donations.

Please make a visit to us.

We will change from winter to summer clothing for the May Closet. We are in need of children's toys, adult and child puzzles, housewares, and as always clothing of all sizes.

Thanking you for your ongoing generous support,

Cindy Lash, Tracie Schmolt, and Carol Stoner

The St. Paul's Steelband Is in Full Swing



The St. Paul's Steelband had its first rehearsal on Sunday, March 1st. There is still room to join in. See Ellie Manes or show up at 6 pm on Wednesday evenings in the Sanctuary.

Bell Choir Adds Beauty to Our Services



Note from our music director / organist / pianist / choir director / bells director, Abby Haake:

Our bell choir shared two pieces in worship on March 15. We are an intergenerational ensemble, and no music trading is required. Let me know if you plan to join us, and come make a joyful noise!

Rehearsals April 29, May 6, May 13 at 6:00 PM to ring May 17 in worship.



Dr. Abigail Haake Performed for March 15 Cathedral Concert



Abby holds the post-concert bouquet presented by her son Thomas.

Dr. Haake executed classics and new music with precision, artistry, and virtuosic playing. She bookended the program with Nicolaus Bruhns (1665-1697) and Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750). In the middle were pieces by contemporary composers who were inspired by the classics, providing a continuation and bridge between old and new.

Each piece was a gift to the audience. We look forward to her next recital!



Abby greets her well-wishers after the concert.

Canton Symphony Orchestra Chorus to Perform on Sunday, May 3 at 2 pm



CANTON
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA
CHORUS

A Mother's Love

Canton Symphony
Orchestra Chorus
in Concert

May 3
2 PM

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
127 Cherry Rd. NE
Massillon, OH 44646

*No admission charge.
Donations greatly appreciated.*

Doug Beery
Director of Choruses



St. Paul members who are a part of the Chorus: Rev. Mark Kreemer, Veronica Kreemer, Carol Butler, Dwight Butler, Ellie Manes.

The Canton Symphony Orchestra Chorus will present several movements from Brahms' *A German Requiem*, from the Masterworks Concert on March 28. Brahms' Requiem was in part inspired by his deep devotion to his mother, who had died not long before this was written. The program will also have several other pieces inspired by mothers in honor of Mother's Day coming on May 10.

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



Prayer List Update

Bobbee DeGordon, JuDee Reed, Linda Wentling, Rick Theiss, Maggie Paul, Amy Williams, Nancy Lint, Steve Kress, Judy Hall, Kenneth & Jean Dexter, Anna Langenfeld, Arthur Barrett, Karen Daily, Troy, Carol, Lynnette, & Mark.

April Birthdays

Favorite hymns and verses:

Veronica Kreemer, April 3:

"He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God." (*Micah 6:8*)

Abbie Deuble, April 20:

"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." (*Psalms 118:24*)

Apr 1--Hailey Carano
Apr 2--Grace Deerwester
Apr 3--Veronica Kreemer
Apr 5--Evelyn Rupp
Apr 7--Anneliese Daniels
Apr 10--Robert William Stuck
Apr 14--Denelle Pritchett

Apr 15--Aaliyah Litman
Apr 17--Beth Hirschman
Apr 19--Larry Stoner
Apr 20--Daniel Lint
Apr 20--Abbie Deuble
Apr 21--Karen Okey
Apr 22--Marilyn Norton

Apr 23--Robin Cordes
Apr 24--Becky Johnson
Apr 24--Nancy Lint
Apr 25--James Hannum
Apr 27--Deidra Monastra
Apr 30--Junna Kobayashi
Apr 30--Jim Stevens

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!

April Wedding Anniversaries

Congratulations!

Daniel & Lynette Farrar, April 5th

Robert & Darlene Lewis, April 9th

Chris & Judy Hall, April 17th

Richard & Robin Cordes, April 26th



Dan and Lynette Farrar are celebrating their 40th anniversary.
They were married at St. Paul's on April 5, 1986.



Chris and Judy Hall celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary on April 17.

Flowers for the Altar for 2026

Contact [Carol Stoner](#) if you would like to be added to the schedule.

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

[Kathryn Myers](#), president
[Greg Klein](#), vice-president
[Dan Farrar](#), treasurer
[Jackie Pritchett](#), secretary

Dwight Butler
Gary Collard
Shane Jackson
Jim Johnson
Lynda Klein

Dennis Morgan
Barb Palmer
Sue Reid
Brady Rupp

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
Brady Rupp
Tracie Schmolt
John Stanko

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

[Greg Klein, Chair](#)
Carol Butler
Dwight Butler
Abigail Haake
Karl Kalk
Patty Long
Kathryn Myers
Kim Oberlin

STAFF SUPPORT

[Greg Klein, Chair](#)
Jennifer Nelson Maurer
Jackie Pritchett
Elizabeth Schehl

WELFARE AND SOCIAL ACTION

[Barb Palmer, Chair](#)

PARISH FELLOWSHIP

[Sue Reid, Chair](#)

MISSION ENDOWMENT

[Craig Maurer, Chair](#)

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

[Jim Johnson, Chair](#)

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

Sue Ambrosic
Gary Collard
Becky Johnson
Loren Veigel

Sue Ambrosic
Karl Kalk
Lynda Klein
Phyllis Staver

Joe Hepler
John Liebermann
Dennis Morgan
Paul Mutchler
John Stanko

SCHOLARSHIP

Lynda Klein, 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 April

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

ASSISTING MINISTER

Contact [Karl Kalk](#)

4/2--Maundy Thursday—Dave Stoner
4/5--Karl Kalk
4/12--Veronica Kreemer
4/19--Sue Reid
4/26--Scott Larson

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Contact [Kathryn Myers](#)

4/5--Lynda Klein & Greg Klein
4/12--Dennis Morgan & Kathryn Myers
4/19--Brady Rupp & Sue Reid
4/26--Dwight Butler & Jim Johnson

GREETERS

Contact [Karl Kalk](#)

4/5--Sue Ambrosic
4/12--Gary Collard
4/19--Rob Pritchett
4/26--Craig Maurer

SACRISTAN

Contact [Kathryn Myers](#)

Kathryn Myers

LAY LECTOR

Contact [Karl Kalk](#)

4/2, 4/5 Rev. Lynn Williamson
4/12, 4/19 Larry and Kim Oberlin

USHERS

Contact [Dick Longworth](#)

Greg and Linda Klein
Henry and Thomas Haake

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.

St. Paul's Phone App



- Go to your app store-Download
✓ **My Church by Pushpay**
- Open the app
✓ Search for St Paul's by typing
STPLC APP
- Click on the St Paul's logo

Choose My Church by Pushpay from the App Store.

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.



Designed with Beefree