



**St. Paul's**

**Evangelical Lutheran**

127 Cherry Rd. NE, Massillon, OH 44646

330 832-7409

**June 2026 Newsletter**

# The Bridge

**Connecting Church with Home**



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## The Green Season of Grace

Dear Friends in Christ,

The excitement of Easter morning and the fire of Pentecost now give way to the long green season of the Church Year. The paraments change to green, the pace of the church calendar slows, and we enter what is often called “Ordinary Time.” Yet there is nothing ordinary about the life God gives us.

Green is the color of growth. Seeds sprout, gardens flourish, and the world around us reminds us that God is always bringing forth new life. In much the same way, the Common Season invites us to grow quietly and steadily in faith.

The festival seasons tell the great events of salvation history: Christ is born, Christ is risen, the Spirit is poured out. But during these coming months, we focus on what it means to live as disciples day by day. We hear Jesus teach, heal, forgive, and call people to follow him. We are reminded that faith is not only found in mountaintop moments, but also in ordinary acts of love, worship, prayer, service, and kindness.

Most of life is lived in “ordinary time.” We go to work, care for family, worship together, visit neighbors, struggle, rejoice, and keep putting one foot in front of the other. The good news is that Christ meets us there. God does not wait only for the big spiritual moments. God walks with us through the everyday moments as well.

Perhaps that is the gift of this season: the reminder that spiritual growth is often slow and steady, like a tree planted by water or a field ripening over time. Faith grows through regular worship, scripture, prayer, and community. Little by little, the Spirit shapes us into the people God calls us to be.

So as we enter this green season together, may we not overlook the holiness of ordinary days. For in Christ, even common time becomes sacred time.

“Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him.” — Colossians 2:7

Prayer:

Gracious God, in the quiet rhythm of these ordinary days, help us grow in faith, hope, and love. Deepen our roots in Christ and teach us to see your presence in everyday life. Through worship, prayer, service, and fellowship, shape us into faithful disciples who bear the fruit of your Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessings,

Pastor Mark

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## 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.

**Church Website: [StPaulsMassillon.org](http://StPaulsMassillon.org)**

Scholarship Application/Renewal Deadline: June 1st

Directory Photo Due: June 12th

Impact Massillon: June 13th

### ***Weekly events***

Sunday: Worship 10:00 am

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

Wednesday: Steelband practice: 6:00- 6:45 pm

Thursday: Chair Yoga, 11:00 am

### ***Monthly events***

Worship and Music Committee (1st Tuesday of month)

Friendship Circle-in the Lounge (1st Thursday of the month)

Church Council (2nd Tuesday of month)

Community Meal and Clothes Closet (2nd Friday of month)

Finance Committee (3rd Tuesday of month)

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## Summer Read & Conversation Opportunity

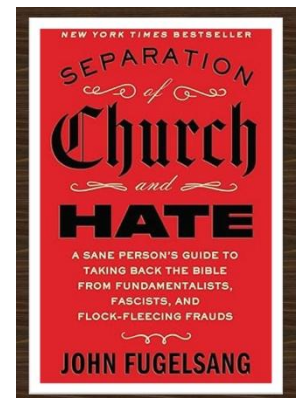
Starting in July

Thursday Mornings at 10 am

**What is a faithful Christian response to the times in which we live?**

Over the past several months, many people have asked an important question: What is a faithful Christian response to the times in which we live? Others have wondered how we can speak with family members, friends, neighbors, and fellow Christians who may see the world very differently than we do.

This summer, I invite those who are interested to read the book *The Separation of Church and Hate* together. The book explores the intersection of faith, politics, culture, and



Christian witness in today's world. It raises challenging questions about how followers of Jesus are called to live with both conviction and compassion.

This conversation will not be for everyone, and that is perfectly okay. The goal is not political agreement, nor is it to debate winners and losers. Rather, the hope is to create space for thoughtful reflection, respectful conversation, and faithful listening.

As Christians, we are called to "speak the truth in love" (Ephesians 4:15). That means we can hold differing opinions while still treating one another with dignity, grace, and respect. Our congregation will continue to be a place where questions may be asked honestly and where people are valued as brothers and sisters in Christ, even when perspectives differ.

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## 2026 Blood Drives

### 2026 Blood Drives 12-6 pm

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

Beginning June 7, the adult Sunday School class will take some time away from meeting and will reconvene with another series of lessons on September 6. God's blessings to you for a delightful summer.

--Patty Long



## 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](mailto: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.

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## Church Directory Photos

There's still time to submit your favorite selfie or family picture for the Church Directory.

Photos may be formal, casual, or anything in between. I can do some slight touch ups in the office if you need someone/something cropped out, the background altered, etc. If you previously submitted a photo, but have another you'd rather use for the directory, I can easily swap it out.

Please submit your photo to [officeadmin@StPaulsMassillon.org](mailto:officeadmin@StPaulsMassillon.org) by **June 12th**, with names and any additional instructions.



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## Impact Massillon

### Impact Massillon is June 13th!

Join us as we spruce up an area of Massillon. If you are able to help this year, please contact Scott Larson or John Stanko.



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## Fireworks

Join us July 3rd, on the West Lawn at dusk to watch Massillon's fireworks!

Bring your family, friends, neighbors, strangers, a lawn chair or blanket.

We will provide snacks and drinks.



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## Church Council Highlights

### *Report from May 12th, 2026*

Pastor Mark updated council on members who are ill, have had surgery, or are in nursing homes.

The Synod Assembly will be held at the beginning of June with Craig and Jennifer Maurer attending as St. Paul's representatives.

On August 15th, a Fun Fest will be held in Massillon. Area churches have an opportunity to have a table at this event.

Impact Massillon will be held on June 13th. Anyone interested in helping are to contact Scott Larson or John Stanko. Our church has participated in this worthy event the past few years and will continue to do so this year.

Property reported that the new heating and cooling system for the Parish Hall will begin installation within the next 2 weeks.

Discussion was held concerning the sale of various cemetery lots that the church owns. Dan Farrar will soon have details on this matter.

The congregational meeting will be held on May 17th. Everything is in order and all necessary matters have been approved by council.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Myers

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## **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.

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## Musical Blessings

We continue to be blessed with musicians during Worship at St. Paul's.



**Thomas Haake**

**Ethan & Jarrett Deuble**

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We had a very special Mother's Day Service.

Thomas Haake played violin for the prelude: Humoresque, Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904).

Ethan & Jarrett Deuble sang the anthem: Great Is Thy Faithfulness, arr. Lloyd Larson (b. 1954)

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### Send Bridge News to Church Office

Jackie Pritchett is The Bridge editor starting with the May, 2026 issue. Send all contributions to her at [officeadmin@stpaulsmassillon.org](mailto:officeadmin@stpaulsmassillon.org).

Deadline will still be the 21st of each month.



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## Friendship Circle

Report from Kim Oberlin:

May's Friendship Circle was a "Celebration of Life" dedicated to Brenda Brown. Brenda was a longtime member who was involved in many different activities of the church, thus, it only seemed appropriate to remember her.

Sue Ambrosic, her longtime friend, organized the get together. Sue provided some of Brenda's favorite foods, and some of her prized possessions for us to see. Sue even had two of Brenda's closest friends to reminisce about Brenda's life. The evening also included Pastor Mark sharing meditations and scriptures.

Thank you Sue, for remembering our friend.

We'd love to see more of our lady friends at our next get together. We meet on the first Thursday of each month at 6:00 pm, in the lounge, from April-December.

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## May Community Meal Report

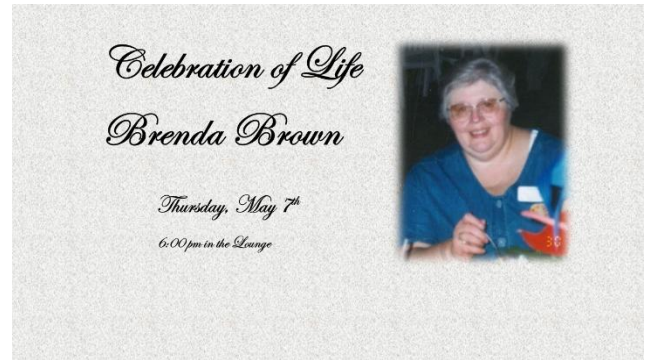
Report by Phyllis Staver:

Another Community Meal is in the books. Our loyal members, plus a new gal, served almost 100 people! This attendance tops or at least matches our holiday feasts at Thanksgiving and Christmas when turn-outs run high. Larry and Kim Oberlin prepared meatball subs served with artisan bread and sprinkled with mozzarella cheese; the side was baby carrots and a bag of chips. There is always dessert, the best part for some, and this time we had a wide variety of cookies. Many thanks to our volunteer bakers' donations. With the hearty main course we weren't asked to serve many seconds, but there were a few who must have been extra hungry.

A special thanks to Cheesecakes by Battle for bringing in a blueberry lemon cheesecake. They are located at 954 Lincoln Wy NW, Massillon, if you want to pay them a visit.

Pastor Mark and Veronica distributed almost all of the various soaps, i.e., hand, dish, laundry, etc. to each family who came. Those various household products are a big part of what we do to care for our community members.

As members of this caring congregation, please feel free to come the second Friday of each month from **4pm-6:30pm** to help set up and/or clean up. **The dinner is open from 4:30 – 6pm.** Please label any monetary donations, "Community Meals," to ensure the funds are in the right place.



## May Clothing Closet Report

Report by Phyllis Staver:

Shopping is so easy in the clothing closet. Our guests see something they like, it is bagged, and sent home free of charge. Our donations to the clothing closet are critical. Cindy Lash and her crew will tell you that there are months when the closet is nearly empty. It's a wonderful service of compassion provided by our members.

In addition to clothing, we are in need of small household items/appliances and men's shoes.

If you or anyone you know are planning a garage sale, we will happily relieve you of unsold items.

We have been, and continue to be, so blessed by your support.

We usually work in the closet on Saturday afternoons. In addition to sorting clothes, we can use volunteers to help keep our floors swept and mopped, shelves dusted, and a variety of cleaning needs.

We are open to the public the second Friday of each month, 3:30 to 6pm. Please feel free to join us and experience the great joy of helping those in need.

Thank you St. Paul's family for your generous support.

Feel free to contact us for information about our ministry.

Tracie Schmolt, Carol Stoner and Cindy Lash

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## The St. Paul's Steelband Is in Full Swing

Are you needing some island vibes this summer?

Come join the St. Paul's Steelband as we learn about the music and culture of Trinidad!

We meet on Wednesdays from 6-7pm in the education building. No music experience is required and those of all ages are welcome.

Nervous about your first rehearsal or just curious but can't come to class? See Eleanor before or after service to set up a free demo lesson!

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## Bell Choir Adds Beauty to Our Services

*Our Bell Choir rang beautifully during the May 17th Worship Service. We are so thankful to those who share their time and talent.*



## 2026-2027 Cathedral Concert Series Preview

*2026*



October 17, 4:00 pm

The Canton Symphony Orchestra  
Woodwind Quintet



September 6 or 20, 4:00 pm

9/11  
Commemorative Community Chorus

*Cathedral  
Concert Series  
Preview*

*2027*



November 1, 4:00 pm

Andrew Swords  
"The Romance of the Violin"



February 1, 4:00 pm

Ralph Holzhauser, organist



March 7, 4:00 pm  
The Cleveland Chamber Choir



May 16, 4:00 pm  
Canton Symphony Orchestra Chorus

We are excited to give you a preview of the 26-27 Cathedral Concert Series. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details.

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



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## **Prayer List Update**

Paul Staver, Richard Green, Abbie Deuble, Maggie Paul, Nancy Lint, Steve Kress, Judy Hall, Kenneth & Jean Dexter, Anna Langenfeld, Arthur Barrett, Karen Daily, Denise Korn, Eric Theiss, Wayne Miller, Jessie Shaffer, Chris Collard, Bob Fox, Rev. Bob Groenke, Jim Weber.

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## **June Birthdays**

### **Favorite hymns and verses:**

#### **Shane Jackson, June 10**

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." (John 13:34)

#### **David Stoner, June 25:**

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

Jun 2--Mark Waltz	Jun 18--Janice Leone
Jun 3--Lynette Farrar	Jun 18--M.E. Hepler
Jun 10--Shane Jackson	Jun 20--Brooke Duplain
Jun 11--Abby Haake	Jun 22--Ed Davila
Jun 12--Jeffrey Akey	Jun 22--Rachel Deerwester
Jun 12--Joseph Hepler	Jun 25--Emily Reiman
Jun 13--Morgan Rupp	Jun 25--David Stoner
Jun 17--Marissa Cole	Jun 26--Richard Evert
Jun 17--Brock Burkett	Jun 30--Rob Pritchett

***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!***

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## June Wedding Anniversaries



### Congratulations!

Thomas & Marcia Wright, Jun 5

Robert & Joyce Mitcheal, Jun 7

Rev. Lynn & LaShell Williamson, Jun 10

Craig & Jennifer Maurer, Jun 12

Grant & Lucinda Lash, Jun 14

Michael & Lisa Skelly, Jun 15

Daniel & Nancy Lint, Jun 22

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## Youth News

We have many youth and young adults that are very active in a variety of areas, and we want to spotlight them. If you know of someone you'd like to feature, please submit the information to the church office: [Officeadmin@stpaulsmassillon.org](mailto:Officeadmin@stpaulsmassillon.org)



### Congratulations to Sydney Johnson & family!

Sydney graduated on May 18th from Tuslaw High School. She plans to further her education at Bowling Green State University in the fall where she has been accepted into the honors music program.

Please keep Sydney and her family in your prayers as she begins this next awesome adventure.

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## 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.

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### Council Members

<a href="#">Kathryn Myers</a> , president	Dwight Butler	Dennis Morgan
<a href="#">Greg Klein</a> , vice-president	Gary Collard	Barb Palmer
<a href="#">Dan Farrar</a> , treasurer	Shane Jackson	Sue Reid
<a href="#">Jackie Pritchett</a> , secretary	Jim Johnson	Brady Rupp
	Lynda Klein	

### Committee Members

#### EVANGELISM

##### [Kathryn Myers, Chair](#)

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

#### WELFARE AND SOCIAL ACTION

##### [Barb Palmer, Chair](#)

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

#### FINANCE

##### [Dan Farrar, Chair](#)

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

#### PARRISH FELLOWSHIP

##### [Sue Reid, Chair](#)

Sue Ambrosic  
Gary Collard  
Becky Johnson  
Loren Veigel

#### SCHOLARSHIP

##### [Lynda Klein, Chair](#)

Amy Burkett  
John Liebermann  
Lisa Skelly

#### WORSHIP AND MUSIC

##### [Greg Klein, Chair](#)

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

#### MISSION ENDOWMENT

##### [Craig Maurer, Chair](#)

Sue Ambrosic  
Karl Kalk  
Lynda Klein  
Phyllis Staver

#### STAFF SUPPORT

##### [Greg Klein, Chair](#)

Jennifer Nelson Maurer  
Jackie Pritchett  
Elizabeth Schehl

#### PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

##### [Jim Johnson, Chair](#)

Joe Hepler  
John Liebermann  
Dennis Morgan  
Paul Mutchler  
John Stanko

#### YOUTH AND PARISH EDUCATION

##### [Jackie Pritchett, Chair](#)

Scott Larson  
Deidra Monastra  
Sue Reid

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## 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](#)

6/7--Sue Reid  
6/14--David Stoner  
6/21--Kathryn Myers  
6/28--Patty Long

### **COMMUNION ASSISTANTS**

Contact [Kathryn Myers](#)

6/7--Dwight Butler & Jim Johnson  
6/14--Jackie Pritchett & Gary Collard  
6/21--Shane Jackson & Barb Palmer  
6/28--Lynda Klein & Greg Klein

### **GREETERS**

Contact [Karl Kalk](#)

6/7--Judy Fichter  
6/14--Brady & Morgan Rupp  
6/21--Sue Ambrosic  
6/28--Gary Collard

### **SACRISTAN**

Contact [Kathryn Myers](#)

Sandi Bennett

### **LAY LECTOR**

Contact [Karl Kalk](#)

Marcia Wright

### **USHERS**

Contact [Dick Longworth](#)

Eric & Carla Myers

Shane Jackson

Mark Waltz

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## 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

**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.



The image shows the 'My Church' app logo, which features a white cross on a blue background with the text 'My Church' below it. To the right is a colorful graphic with the text 'get connected' in a purple speech bubble, surrounded by various colored circles and lines.

- 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

## 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 and visit our website.**

Cathedral Concerts Facebook Page

St. Paul's Facebook Page

StPaulsMassillon.org

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

**127 Cherry Rd. NE, Massillon, OH 44646**

**330 832-7409**

**Office Hours: T, W, F 9am-1pm**



ELCA

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