



St. Paul's

Evangelical Lutheran

127 Cherry Rd. NE, Massillon, OH 44646

330 832-7409

July 2026 Newsletter

The Bridge

Connecting Church with Home



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The Promise at the Harbor

Dear Friends in Christ,

As our nation begins celebrating the 250th anniversary of its founding, many Americans are reflecting on the ideals that have shaped our country. We remember the courage of those who sought liberty, the sacrifices made to preserve freedom, and the ongoing work of building a more perfect union.

One of the most recognizable symbols of those ideals stands in New York Harbor: the Statue of Liberty. For generations, immigrants arriving by ship caught their first glimpse of America through Lady Liberty's welcoming presence. At the base of that statue are the famous words penned by Emma Lazarus:

*"Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"*

Whether our ancestors arrived on these shores centuries ago or only recently, those words have become part of the American story. They remind us that this nation has long aspired to be a place of refuge, opportunity, and hope.

As Christians, however, our commitment to welcome extends even deeper than our national heritage. Throughout Scripture, God repeatedly calls His people to care for the stranger, the foreigner, the widow, and the orphan. In Leviticus, God commands, "The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the stranger as yourself" (Leviticus 19:34). Jesus Himself identifies with the outsider when He says, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Matthew 25:35).

These passages do not ask us to ignore the complexities of immigration, public policy, or national security. They do, however, remind us that every person is created in God's image and worthy of dignity, compassion, and respect.

As we celebrate our nation's 250th birthday, perhaps we can give thanks both for the freedoms we enjoy and for the values we continue to pursue. Liberty is more than a monument in a harbor. It is a calling to see our neighbors as God sees them, to extend grace where others might build walls, and to keep a light burning for those who are searching for hope.

May we be a people who not only admire the lamp beside the golden door, but who also carry Christ's light into our community—welcoming, serving, and loving all whom God places in our path.

Blessings,

Pastor Mark Kreemer



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

Fireworks on the West Lawn: July 3rd @ dusk

Church Picnic: August 2nd

Annual Congregational Meeting: August 16th

Weekly events

Sunday: Worship 10:00 am

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

Thursday: Summer Read, 10am beginning July 9th

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)

Summer Read & Conversation Opportunity

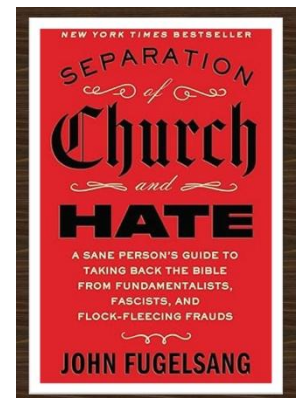
Starting July 9th

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.



I'm frequently asked when I'm in the office.

My office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9am – 1pm.

Office

Email: officeadmin@stpaulsmassillon.org

Office phone: 330.832.7409

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/>



Impact Massillon 2026

St. Paul's Makes an Impact!

It was a beautiful day to make an impact on 9th Street. A big shout out to those who volunteered their time and hard work. Special thanks to a special group of nice young men, the Massillon Football





Thank You Mazzocca Family!

HOME SUMMER WORKSHOPS SEASONAL SERVICES FALL WINTER HOUSEPLANTS ABOUT US

MAZZOCCA'S GREENHOUSE
 FAMILY OWNED | LOCALLY GROWN | EMPLOYEE POWERED

EXTENDED SUMMER HOURS 7 DAYS A WEEK!
 MONDAY - SATURDAY: 9AM - 7PM
 SUNDAY: 10AM - 5PM

Here at Mazzocca's, we're not a garden center -- we're your local, family-owned retail growing greenhouse. We focus on one thing, and we do it exceptionally well: plants.

• Annuals • Perennials • Hanging Baskets • Combination Pots • Vegetables • Herbs

You won't find aisles of décor or extra add-ons here. Instead, you'll find the best selection of fresh, healthy, homegrown plants -- grown right here in our greenhouses.

<https://www.mazzoccasgreenhouse.com/>

Thank You!

Thank you to the Mazzocca Family from Mazzocca's Greenhouse, for donating annual and perennial flowers for our church grounds again this year.

Blessings to you and your beautiful business!

www.mazzoccasgreenhouse.com

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.



Church Council Highlights

Report from June 9th, 2026

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

Impact Massillon will be held on June 13 with Scott Larsen and John Stanko coordinating for St. Paul's.

Pastor Mark informed us that Bishop Barbins was reelected at the recent synod assembly.

The new heating and cooling system installation in the Parish Hall has begun. We are hoping for completion before the end of June.

Jim Johnson reported on some serious outside building repairs that will need timely consideration. There are issues with stonework, mortar cracks, as well as roofing. A shaft repair is needed in the air handler. Sanctuary air conditioning units were also addressed.

The church picnic will be held on August 2 and promises to be a good time for everyone. Mark your calendars!!!!

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on August 16, so I hope you will all plan on attending. There will be several important issues to be discussed including the organ repair

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Myers

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.

Financial Note

St Paul's received a donation of shares of stock. This generous donation was received without paperwork.

If the donor would like this donation to be included in their year-end giving statement, please contact Dan Farrar or Tracie Schmolz.



Income and Expense Summary			
Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Month Ending May, 2026			
	May		YTD
Income	\$ 20,751	Income	\$155,807
Endowment Withdrawal	\$ 2,083	Endowment Withdrawal	\$141,717
Expenses	\$ 26,865	Expenses	\$327,645
Surplus or (Deficit)	\$ (4,030)	Surplus or (Deficit)	\$ (30,121)

Cemetery Lots for Sale

Church council authorized the sale of our cemetery lots at Rose Hill Memorial Gardens.

Rose Hill is charging \$1,250, plus a \$125 title change fee for these lots.

St Paul's is offering them for \$1,000 plus a \$125 title change fee.

See Kathryn Myers or Dan Farrar if interested.



Church Picnic
Aug. 2nd
Following Worship

Church Picnic – August 2nd – Following Worship

We will be grilling hamburgers and hot dogs with an ice cream bar as a special treat.

Please bring a covered dish. If your last name starts with

A-F – bring a side dish

G-N – bring a dessert

O-Z – bring a salad or appetizer

We will have special music from Ellie playing the steel drum.

After you have plenty to eat, join us outside. There will be games on the lawn including a corn hole tournament with prizes. *Note: The Fellowship Committee will be in the kitchen to accept food before church.*

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.

Deadline will still be the 21st of each month.



Friendship Circle

Report from Kim Oberlin:

The ladies had a great time this past month. Joyce and Carol were our hostesses, who prepared a yummy dinner and dessert. LaShell led our Bible study..... ask her about the taffy pull!!

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.

Welfare and Social Action Committee

Report by Barb Palmer

On June 11, Welfare and Social Committee members David Stoner, Kim Oberlin, La Shell Williamson, Judy Fichter, Lynda Klein, along with Mike and Lisa Skelly, and Julia Englehart held an ice cream social and played games with the residents at The Inn at University Village.



So much fun!! About 30 residents attended. We had lots of ice cream and toppings and played several games with solo cups (no, not beer pong!). The Activities Director said there were residents playing games that never get involved. Our group was enthusiastic and made sure that everyone was included. I'm not sure who enjoyed themselves more; the residents or us. The residents and staff were very grateful that we came to hang out with them.

We plan on repeating this at another nursing home in August. Let me know if you would like to join in the fun.

A big, heartfelt thank you for those that helped make this happen!

June Community Meal Report

Report by Kim Oberlin:

We started the summer with a crock pot meal of ham, greens, and potatoes. It was accompanied by a side of applesauce and zucchini muffins. The muffin recipe



came from our own Phyllis Staver. She asked several of our church members to help with baking and they were delicious!!

A special thanks to our Kitchen Angels for making desserts and Patty Long for the punch!

We served 78 appreciative people.

Thank you to everyone who helps to make this a success. 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

June Clothing Closet Report

We were busy again this month with shoppers asking for summer weight clothing and shoes. We had many requests for shorts.

Puzzles, games, and home goods are always appreciated. We had donations from garage sales and the shoppers are so fond of housewares and gadgets that the owners no longer want. If you know of friends or relatives having garage sales, please ask them to consider giving items not sold to our St Paul's. Clothes Closet.

The summer has returned the sweltering temperatures to the closet. Donated fans would be very appreciated by the workers and shoppers.

Thank you for your generosity. You make so many folks happy with the great variety of items you so lovingly share.

Feel free to contact us for information about our ministry,

Carol Stoner, Tracie Schmolt or Cindy Lash

The St. Paul's Steelband Is in Full Swing

Are you needing some island vibes this summer?

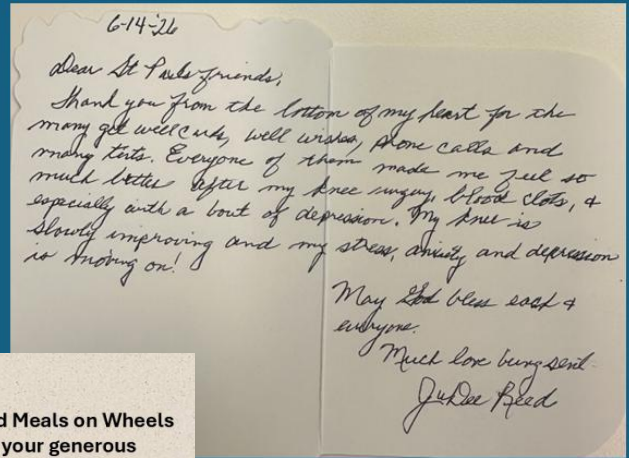
Come join the St. Paul's Steelband as we learn about the music and culture of Trinidad!

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!



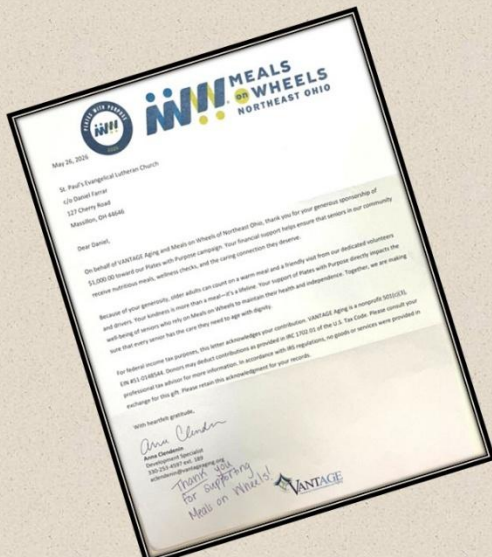
Thank You St. Paul's Family!



Dear Daniel,

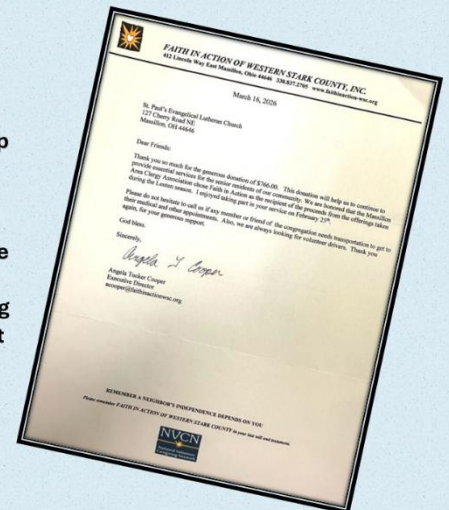
On behalf of VANTAGE Aging and Meals on Wheels of Northeast Ohio, thank you for your generous sponsorship of \$1,000 toward our Plates with a Purpose campaign. Your financial support helps ensure that seniors in our community receive nutritious meals, wellness checks, and the caring connection they deserve.

Because of your generosity, older adults can count on a warm meal and a friendly visit from our dedicated volunteers and drivers. Your kindness is more than a meal – it's a lifeline. Your support of Plates with a Purpose directly impacts the well-being of seniors who rely on Meals on Wheels to maintain their health and independence. Together, we are making sure that every senior has the care they need to age with dignity.



Dear Friends:

Thank you so much for the generous donation of \$766. This donation will help us to continue to provide essential services for the senior residents of our community. We are honored that the Massillon Area Clergy Association chose Faith in Action as the recipient of the proceeds from the offerings taken during the Lenten season. I enjoyed taking part in your service on February 25th.



Dear St. Pauls Family,
 Thank you for the scholarship award, as this help out a lot for what I want to accomplish at Kent State. I am grate for your support. This scholarship will help reduce some of the financial stress that comes with college expenses. Because of your kindness, I will be able to focus more on my education and future goals. Thank you again for investing in my future.
 Sincerely, Matthew Blaine



2026-2027 Cathedral Concert Series Preview

2026



October 17, 4:00 pm

The Canton Symphony Orchestra
Woodwind Quintet



September 20, 4:00 pm

9/11
Commemorative Community Chorus

2027



November 1, 4:00 pm

Andrew Swords
"The Romance of the Violin"

Cathedral Concert Series Preview



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 FREWILL OFFERING IS GRACIOUSLY RECEIVED.

Prayer List Update

Lynn Williamson, Cindy Lash, Bob & Marlene Rupp, Judee Reed, Paul Staver, Richard Green, Abbie Deuble, Linda Wentling, Eric & Rick Theiss, Maggie Paul, Amy Williams, Steve Kress, Judy Hall, Kenneth & Jean Dexter, Anna Langenfeld, Karen Daily, Denise Korn, Jan Hawley, Bob Fox, Jim Weber, family & friends of Fred Schuster.

July Birthdays

Favorite hymns and verses:

Jackie Pritchett, July 22:

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—”
(*Ephesians 2:8*)

Jul 5--Robert Lewis

Jul 13--Brady Rupp

Jul 24--Harry Morgan

Jul 5--Diana Burns

Jul 13--Larissa Haring

Jul 24--Ricky Richards

Jul 5--Donna Viles

Jul 13--Mary Ann Poling

Jul 29--Caroline Deerwester

Jul 9--Marie Stoner

Jul 16--Anna Langenfeld

Jul 30--Jan Geuy

Jul 10--David Allman

Jul 17--Daniel Bennett

Jul 30--Robert Englehart

Jul 22--Jackie 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!

July Wedding Anniversaries

Congratulations!



Scott & Debra Hannum, Jul 1

Patricia & Bob Long, Jul 8

James & Barbara Starrett, Jul 10

Jonathon & Amy Stuck, Jul 12

Paul & Susan White, Jul 13

Brady & Morgan Rupp, Jul 13

Michael & Wendy Reiman, Jul 16

Paul & Linda Mutchler, Jul 18

Joseph & M.E. Hepler, Jul 19

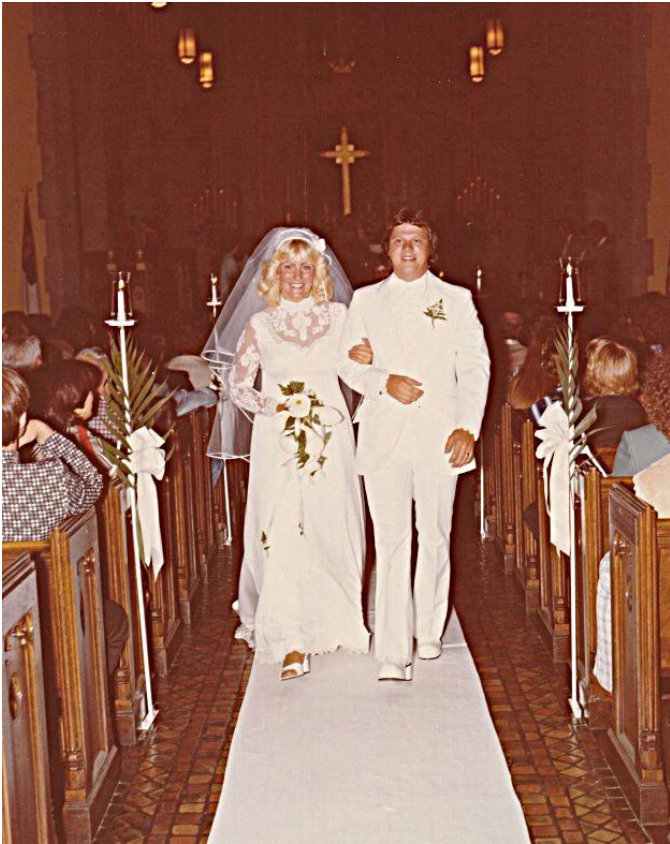
David & Amy Burkett, Jul 22

David & Bronwyn Dourm, Jul 25

Jim & Debra Stevens, Jul 26

Jason & Abbie Deuble, Jul 29

Larry & Marie Stoner, Jul 31



Jim & Barb Starrett

Jim & Barb Starrett are celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

They were married at St. Paul's by Pastor Maurice White on July 10th, 1976.

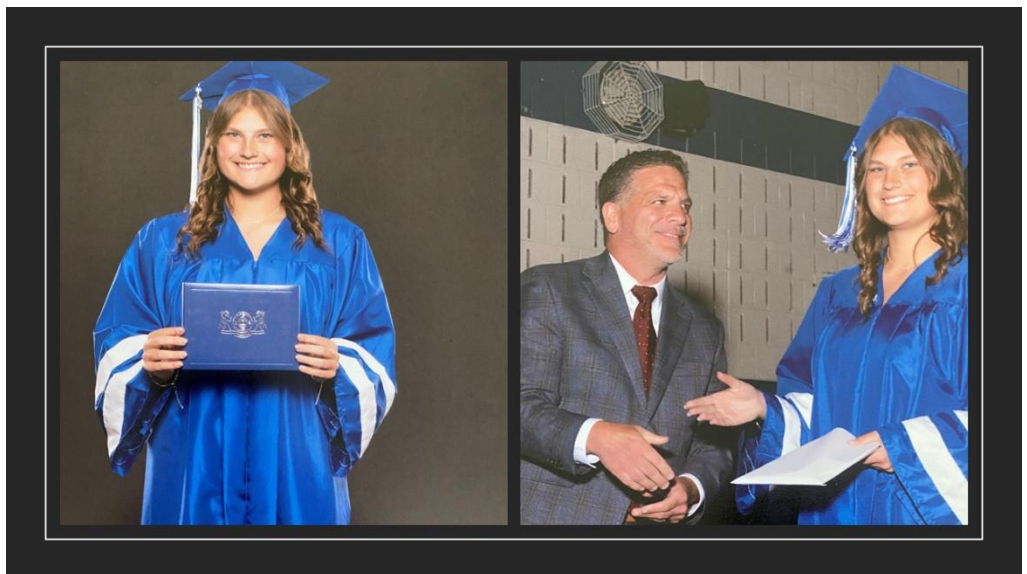
Youth News

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

Congratulations to Hailey Carano!

Hailey recently graduated from Tuslaw High School where she was active in sports. She is eager to venture into the workplace and has her eyes set on the field of real-estate.

Please keep Hailey in your prayers as she begins this next awesome adventure.



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	Shane Jackson	Dennis Morgan
Rob Pritchett , vice-president	Jim Johnson	Barb Palmer
Dan Farrar , treasurer	Lynda Klein	Sue Reid
Jackie Pritchett , secretary	Scott Larson	Brady Rupp
		David Stoner

Committee Members

Note: Committee Members will be updated after the July Council meeting

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

PROPERTY

MANAGEMENT

[Jim Johnson, Chair](#)

Joe Hepler
John Liebermann
Dennis Morgan
Paul Mutchler
John Stanko

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

PARRISH FELLOWSHIP

[Sue Reid, Chair](#)

Sue Ambrosic
Gary Collard
Becky Johnson
Loren Veigel

SCHOLARSHIP

[Lynda Klein, Chair](#)

Amy Burkett
John Liebermann
Lisa Skelly

MISSION ENDOWMENT

[Craig Maurer, Chair](#)

Sue Ambrosic
Karl Kalk
Lynda Klein
Phyllis Staver

YOUTH AND PARISH EDUCATION

[Jackie Pritchett, Chair](#)

Scott Larson
Deidra Monastra
Sue Reid

Serving During the Month of July

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

ASSISTING MINISTER

Contact [Karl Kalk](#)

7/5--Dave Stoner

7/12--Karl Kalk

7/19--Veronica Kreemer

7/26--Sue Reid

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

Contact [Kathryn Myers](#)

7/5--Scott Larson & Kathryn Myers

7/12--Jackie Pritchett & David Stoner

7/19--Shane Jackson & Barb Palmer

7/26--Lynda Klein & David Stoner

GREETERS

Contact [Karl Kalk](#)

7/5--Rob Pritchett

7/12--Craig Maurer

7/19--Marilyn Norton

7/26--Rev. Lynn & La Shell
Williamson

SACRISTAN

Contact [Kathryn Myers](#)

Patty Long

LAY LECTOR

Contact [Karl Kalk](#)

Kathryn Myers

USHERS

Contact [Dick Longworth](#)

Jack & Marilyn Norton

Karl Kalk

Craig Maurer

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.



- 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.*