



New Trustees were elected

Many thanks to those who were willing to have their names placed in nomination for a position as a Trustee. We appreciate your willingness to serve.

Thank you, also, to Sue Schad whose term as a Trustee will conclude on December 31, 2022.

The two new Trustees who were elected at the November 13th Congregational Gathering are Doug Barchick and Adam Wagner.

Commissioning Service date set

On Sunday, January 29th, at our 10:30 am service, our congregation will commission our Trustees and M.A.T. (Ministry Area Team) Leaders for 2023 and we invite you to be present.

On that Sunday, we will pray for them and send them out to minister and work, asking for God's blessing and the Holy Spirit's wisdom and power. This service offers an opportunity to show our encouragement and support.



"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

—Mahatma Gandhi

Six-week study begins soon!



Want to begin the new year with a new study that delves deep into the Bible?

Our January Bible Study is an African Bible Study — Sacred Reading. It's a six-week study, beginning Wednesday, January 11th and ending

just before Lent.

This Bible Study is a structured, meditative approach to learning about our Christian faith from scripture. It encourages self-reflection as well as listening to others. The only materials needed are your Bible and an open heart and mind to hear His message.

A morning and an evening session will be offered. The Bible Study is open to all interested. Sign-up will be in the Gathering Space.

Fresh starts

I suppose when we wake on January 1 the world will look the same. But there is a reminder of the Resurrection at the start of each new year, each new decade. That's why I also like sunrises, Mondays and new seasons. God seems to be saying, "With me you can always start afresh."



—Ada Lum

Health Matters

Paul Doerfler, Pastor

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." (GAL 2:20)

Having just celebrated Christ's birth this past month and with 2023 now upon us—few of us would be surprised to hear the words "Now the work begins." The dawning of each year is a new beginning for us. A fresh start. Yet, we know the days ahead will still bring times in which we are faced with some of our old challenges and, likely, some new obstacles to come.

As Christ-followers, while we may have a tough assignment ahead, at the same time we also have a resource to accomplish what needs to be done that is literally out of this world. It is our Lord Jesus Christ and His Spirit.

So, as your New Year unfolds, the best encouragement I can offer is for you to do your utmost to invite Jesus/His Spirit into your life more and more. Even daily. Make every key decision, tackle every obstacle, seek every bit of wisdom and insight on your life issues with Christ at your center. Invite Jesus in more and more and turn your challenges and struggles into Kairos moments. Make them God moments in which He comes alongside you, guides, and empowers you to do your very best in Jesus' name; in His Spirit's power, and for His glory.

I think I get into the most trouble in life when my choices are me-centered -- when inviting Jesus into my life circumstances ends up being a secondary or, sometimes, even an afterthought. Perhaps you can identify?

Thank You, Father, for Your indwelling Holy Spirit Who was sent to lead and guide me and all believers through this earthly life, and Who lives in me. Teach me to listen to His voice and recognize His promptings. I pray that, more and more, Your will, not mine be done until I can say with Paul, "the life that I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me." In Jesus' name, AMEN.



HAVE A BLESSED NEW YEAR WITH JESUS AT YOUR CENTER!

News from the business office

Contributions to St. Paul's that are intended to be included on the contribution statements for 2022, must be received in the Business Office by 10:00 am on Tuesday, December 27.

As I write this, I hope the 2023 envelopes will be available in the Gathering Space. They were ordered back in September, but as of today (12/12/22) they are not here yet. Please note that there are no envelopes for those members who have chosen to contribute electronically. Over the last several years I have noticed that many of you have chosen to not use contribution envelopes, so in order to keep costs down, I have only ordered envelopes for those members and friends of St. Paul's that use them. They will be arranged on a table in the Gathering Space in alphabetical order. If you do not see envelopes with your name on them, and want them, let me know because I have a few extra boxes.

Anyone who chooses not to use envelopes but would like to have a contribution statement at the end of the year, please use the envelopes in the pews, BUT be sure to put your name on the outside of the envelope. The only way I can keep track of contributions, is to know who they are from.

If you have any other questions please contact me at 419 893-0205 X 205 or e-mail me at canaumann@stpaulslive.org. I am in the office every Monday and Tuesday morning.



Welcome to our new members

We're thrilled to welcome to St. Paul's, by Letter of Transfer from St. Luke's Lutheran Church, in Temperance, Michigan, John and Linda Leichty.

The Leichtys live at 4262 Waterbend Drive E., in Maumee.

Hopefully, you'll have a chance to greet them soon, if you haven't already.



We give thanks



A special thanks to Jesus' angels who did such a beautiful job decorating the Gathering Space and the Sanctuary to look so festive and homey for Christmas.

It was appreciated by all of us.

God bless you!



Men meet for breakfast and Bible Study

The Men's Breakfast Club Group meets every other Saturday morning, from 8:00 - 9:30 am. Our next meetings are scheduled for January 7 and 21, and February 4 . Aaron leads our group. We meet in the Gathering Space. Donuts and coffee are provided. Please bring your Bible. We look forward to seeing you. We are currently studying James.



January Message from Aaron

“Repentance”

I’ve been thinking a lot about repentance recently. To repent literally means to turn from something, and turn toward God. What is that if not a choice. To repent is to choose. At the family youth group, I’d been teaching through 1 Peter, and 1 Peter 2 opens in a rather strange way. “Therefore, put away all malice, slander, hypocrisy, and envy...” Peter starts with the assumption that that’s who the readers are.

Who WE are. I can recognize in my own life how true that is, that I can be hypocritical, envious, slander others, bear malicious intent. What strikes me isn’t that. What strikes me is the call to put it away. Those things are so difficult to change. Maybe even impossible. Yet notice what Peter says, put it away. You can change. Those things he lists have a way of corrupting us, of molding us. And yet Peter’s message for us is that Jesus enables us to change.

For me, that’s really good news, that I can change. That you can too. Maybe you gossip a lot, maybe you lie, maybe you’re addicted, maybe you’re a hypocrite. Because of Jesus the message is the same though. You can change. That may be who you were, but it doesn’t have to be who you become, it doesn’t have to be who you stay. When Jesus was born in that manger, everything changed, and we can too. Those things that seem like they have such a powerful grip on your life, they don’t have to have the final say. They don’t have to define you.

You can receive something so much better in Christ.



Year-End Reports are due soon

Staff, 2022 Trustees, and 2022 M.A.T. Leaders are reminded that the deadline for having your Year-End Report for the 2022 program year turned in to Becky, in the church office, is by the end of the day on Sunday, February 5. Please make a note of the deadline and begin working on them soon.

Free refills

God’s kingdom is like free refills at a restaurant. Wait – what?!

Jesus used common, everyday items to explain the kingdom of God; we can too! The kingdom is like free refills. Still thirsty after one soda or coffee? Get another – no charge. In fact, the kingdom of God is better than free refills because you don’t even have to pay for the first glass.

It’s like having a parent buy you a favorite meal when you’re young. You sit back and savor it without the price crossing your mind. That’s okay, because the generous giver loves you and wants to be with you.

Sure, that’s simplistic, but so are Jesus’ parables. Overanalyze them and they may fall apart. But ponder the single point each makes, maybe get a chuckle and an a-ha! out of it, and that parable has done its job. So grab another free refill – of your beverage and of God’s love!

—Heidi Mann



Winter coat & blanket collection for Salem

We all open our closet and have to determine which coat, hat, gloves, or scarf to wear. Can you imagine not having the luxury of having a coat or a warm blanket? From now through February, please go through your closets and donate gently-used or new coats and, while you’re at it, blankets, too. Blankets of all sizes are also desperately needed. There will be a bin near the coat racks for your donations. Blessings to all of you, in advance. The Outreach M.A.T. thanks you.



January Prayer Focus: The New Year

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” (2 COR 5:17)

Ask ...
Seek ...
Knock ...



Dear God,

Thank you that you make all things new. Thank you for all that you've allowed into our lives this past year, the good along with the hard things, which have reminded us how much we need you every single day.

We pray for your Spirit to lead us each step of this New Year. We ask that you will guide our decisions and turn our hearts to deeply desire you above all else. We ask for help to pursue you first, above every dream and desire you’ve put within our hearts.

To you be glory and honor in the New Year and forever. Amen.

News from the Outreach M.A.T.

"Showing God's Love Through You"

OUR MISSION:
Providing local outreach opportunities for individuals by caring for the needs of others.

Outreach M.A.T. Co-Directors: Sue Schad (419-893-2330), Teri Henry, Carol Doerfler, Beth Heisey with the St. Paul's church family.

Check out the slides, weekly bulletin, weekly email, and the monthly *Communicator* for news on ministries that are happening at St. Paul's and how you can help!

You CAN make a difference!

Outreach MAT Ministry Assistance Extension Number

The voicemail extension for all Outreach Board ministry assistance is extension 220. Call the church number (419-893-0205) then dial 220. The Outreach MAT schedules food pantry appointments as well as providing monetary assistance with rent, utilities, and other needs.

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### Looking ahead to January —

- NEW YEAR'S DAY 2023!

### Continues from Column 1



The Outreach MAT members would like to take this opportunity to thank St.

Paul's for the generous and faithful support this year of our ministries for the community. We, together as a church family, have made a HUGE difference for families, individuals and children with all the ministries we have done!

### Prayer Corner

Many of you have noticed the special area in the back corner of the sanctuary where there are pull-out folding doors, chairs, and a small fountain. Our Prayer Corner is reserved for folks in need of prayer or who wish to have a quiet, private area for individual prayer before or after each worship service. There is also the Chapel downstairs down the hallway to the Youth Room on the right.

### Thanksgiving Holiday Baskets

The turkey has been eaten and shared by our families. The picking up, sorting, and delivering is done. We could not have done this massive ministry without the help of our wonderful volunteers who made "the organized chaos" so much fun to do. We would like to thank Meijers, Maumee and Dollar Tree, Reynolds Road for the food items as well as the personal care items included in the baskets. We would also like to thank George Brenner and Russ Leggett for picking up the Dollar Tree supplies, and for our helpers, Kara, Ella, and Elora Valare, Brenda Williams, Gayle

### Continues from Column 2

Lohrbach, Jim Brown, Sue Schad, Helen Gilbert, Patti Vermillion and Cari Baney, Jim Herold, Lyndsi Wagner, Ron Weaver, Joy Hodak, Jack Hammon, Steve and Linda Scott, Nate Smith, Dave Grieger, Pam Walker, Denise Wolfe, Carol Doerfler, and Boy Scout Troop #103 and their leaders, Jeff Ward, Chris Jones, and Brad Reynolds for all their help!!

### Angel Tree

Thank you to all St. Paul's Angel Tree angels! We had 78 children's tags on each tree for a total of 156 tags! **ALMOST EVERY SINGLE TAG WAS TAKEN!!** The members of the Outreach MAT thank you for your generosity and kind hearts and especially to our last minute shoppers and wrappers for their flexibility and smiles. We are so grateful to you for your support of this ministry!

### Aldi's Plastic, Handled Bags

Because of restricted supply from Aldi's, Outreach MAT's collection of plastic, handled bags used to pack the Holiday Baskets is dwindling. We could use your help! If you shop at Aldi's, please consider purchasing a dozen bags for our use when we do the Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Baskets. We need about 250 - 300 bags. The bags are white, plastic, and have white handles and are \$0.13 each. Thank you, in advance, for your generosity, if you can help us! Give the bags to any Outreach MAT member or put in their church mailbox.



(Continues on Page 7...)

**News from the  
Outreach M.A.T.  
Continued from Page 6**

**Ronald McDonald House  
pull tab ministry**

The Outreach MAT is asking you to save pull tabs from aluminum cans including soup and vegetable cans and pet food cans to support the mission of Ronald McDonald House Charities. RMHC recycles the tabs to supplement the food budget that provides meals to families during their stay, at no cost to them. There is a container in the Gathering Space as well as in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to learn more about RMHC and/or other volunteer opportunities, please contact Carol Doerfler at [doerflers@toast2.net](mailto:doerflers@toast2.net).

**Halos of Hope** (chemo caps)

Many thanks to the ladies who are knitting and crocheting chemo caps. This ministry uses volunteers to knit or crochet caps for individuals who are undergoing treatment for cancer. If you knit or crochet and would like to use your gift to help others, please contact Sue Schad. Our chemo caps go to The Toledo Clinic Cancer Center, St. Luke's Cancer Center, UTMC Dana Cancer Center, Mercy Cancer Center, and the Victory Center.

**Baby University  
(a Mosaic ministry)**

Baby University ministers to families in Toledo's Old South End. They are collecting children's books — especially board books (hard cover). Research proves that reading to children from birth (or even before birth) every day for the first five years prepares them for success when they start formal schooling. Parents are their children's first and most important teach-

**Continued from Column 1**

ers. We, as a congregation, can help them achieve their mission by providing them with books. There will be a collection container in the Gathering Space for the books. Thank you for helping this important, but vulnerable, part of our population!

**God's Blessing Box (outside parking lot food pantry)**

An offshoot of our God's Storehouse is God's Blessing Box which is our 24/7 outdoor non-perishable food items pantry. Stocked weekly from God's Storehouse, the Blessing Box offers an opportunity for struggling community members to find food or personal items they need for their homes. With the "take what you need" or "leave what you can" philosophy, this outdoor food pantry has seen a lot of business. If you would like to donate to this pantry, leave NON-PERISHABLE items (canned goods, boxed dinners, etc) in the red box near the Gibbs Street parking lot entrance. Thank you for donating to this ministry!

**God's Storehouse  
(St. Paul's food pantry)**

God's Storehouse, our food pantry, is St. Paul Lutheran's "hand up" for families in the area who are struggling to make ends meet in these difficult times.



**God's Storehouse January shopping list:**

dill pickles, canned chicken, canned pasta (like beefaroni), maple syrup, strawberry jelly, mandarin oranges, canned pineapple, Pop Tarts, Hamburger Helper, Tuna Helper, chocolate or vanilla frosting, canned tuna, crackers, ranch or French salad dressing, kid-friendly cereal (like Fruit Loops or Coco Puffs), pasta or rice side dishes, Bisquick, any flavor of Jiffy mix, mayonnaise, mustard, pickle relish, canned beets, waxed beans or peas

If you are shopping and think of it, buy two and donate one to God's Storehouse. We thank you, in advance, for your generosity! Please place your donations in the wooden bins back by the coat racks in the Gathering Space/narthex.

The Outreach MAT would like to thank the anonymous St. Paul's members who are continually contributing items, monetary gifts, or time for our ministries. We are so honored to be the "visible" face of St. Paul's for the local families we help, but we would like to express our gratitude to all of you who are always helping out without any kind of recognition.



*The King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of those brothers and sisters of mine, you did for Me." (Matthew 25:40)*

## Heartfelt condolences sent

... to Karen & John Findling and family (in memory of Karen's beloved father, John Schwabel).

... to Rob & Sue Harden, Matt and Liz (in memory of Rob's beloved father, Phil Harden).

... to Beth & Brian Lohmann and family (in memory of Beth's beloved father, Madison Bell Wiley).

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## M.A.T. Spotlight

*"Is this MAT your Cup of Tea?"*



**Would you enjoy any of the following?**

- Visiting the hospitalized and shut-ins to provide them with communion?
- Serving families in their time of need at funeral luncheons?
- Praying for families who are requesting prayer?

Did you answer "yes" to any of these?  
Then the **LAY MINISTRY MAT** is your "Cup of Tea!"

Please reach out to Karen Scribner (419-460-7059) or Ruth Houghton (419-276-8422) and tell them you saw this in the bulletin and that you'd like to help when the need arises!

**Committees make plans - M.A.T.s (Ministry Area Teams) take action!!**

\*\*If this list wasn't your "cup of tea", no worries!  
We have many other areas that will fit your interest.

Stop by the counter at the back of the church right by the nursery where you'll see all of our "Cups of Tea." Grab a paper interest survey to fill out and drop in the offering plate at the entrance of the Sanctuary so we can get you connected!

Or access the interest survey on the St. Paul's app or on our website at <https://www.stpaulslive.com/volunteer>

## Special gifts received

A special memorial contribution to St. Paul's has been given in memory of MARGARET GEORGE by: Natalie Naumann, Richard & Joyce Wheeler, Nancy Wilkinson

A special memorial contribution to St. Paul's has been given in memory of JOHN SCHWABEL by: Lynn & Joyce Olman

A special honor contribution to St. Paul's has been given in honor of St. Paul's Office Volunteers at Christmas by Becky Guth.

A special honor contribution to St. Paul's has been given in honor of St. Paul's friends at Christmas by Becky Guth.

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## Altar flower dates available

All five Sundays in January (the 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th) are available on the Altar Flower calendar. If you are interested in placing flowers on the altar on any of those dates, please call Becky in the church office (419-893-0205). As a reminder, the cost is \$20.00.

## The first step

Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step.

—Martin Luther King Jr.

★

## Bible Quiz

How old was Abram when he followed God's call to leave Haran and travel to a new land?

- A. 25
- B. 50
- C. 75
- D. 100



Answer: C  
(See Genesis 12:4.)



## Your old glasses can give new life

Millions in developing nations lack access to basic eye care services. The Lions Club has recognized the urgent need for corrective lenses and continues to lend their support.

If you have old eye glasses that you are no longer using, please bring them to the church, drop them off in the basket on the counter by the Outreach Board and we will recycle them through the Lion's Club. Questions? Contact Gary Langenderfer.

## Ladies' Lunch and Dinner Bunch news

Ladies of all ages are invited to meet on Thursday, January 19th, at 11:30 am OR at 6:00 pm at Chowder's, in Waterville, on Rt. 24, to enjoy good food and good company together. Bring a friend! Contact Sue Schad with any questions.

Let's DO LUNCH



## Saturday Stitchin' news

Join us for a Saturday morning of knitting, crocheting, cross stitching, or fleece blanket making on Saturday, January 7.

Want to learn how to knit or crochet? Bring an H crochet hook or size 8 or 9 knitting needles and 4-ply worsted yarn with you.

Come at 9:30 am to the Gathering Space and stay until 12 noon to learn or to sit and work on a continuing project. Not working on a project? Come and just chat with friends and enjoy the conversation and a snack or two. Bring a snack to share, if you wish.

Enjoy some time doing something you love with good friends.



## How many sandwiches?!

Each month, the PB&J Crew meet (part of the Outreach M.A.T.) demonstrating that there are so many ways to volunteer. The Crew makes over 170 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for Salem Church.

This month, the Crew delivered over 100 hats, 100 gloves and 30 Winter coats for children and adults, filling an entire SUV!



Let's get to work!

The Lord has blessed each and every one of us with special gifts and HE wants us to aid our fellow man.

Blessings from the  
PB&J Crew

# TASTY CREATIONS

Make this yummy treat to remember what happened on each day of Creation.

## What you need:

- 6 large pretzel rods
- Candy melts (white, chocolate and blue)
- Green sprinkles
- White or star-shaped sprinkles
- Fish crackers
- Animal crackers
- Adult help



## What you do:

1. With help, melt the three colors of candy melts in separate dishes. Microwave for 30 seconds at a time, stirring until soft.
2. Decorate one pretzel for each day of Creation:
  - Dip half in white and half in chocolate to show light and darkness.
  - Dip half in white and half in blue to show separation of the atmosphere.
  - Dip half in chocolate, add green sprinkles and dip half in blue to show land, plants and water.
  - Dip in chocolate and add white or star sprinkles to show the stars.
  - Dip in blue and add fish crackers to show sea life.
  - Dip in chocolate and add animal crackers to show land animals.
3. Share the Creation story – and the snack – with a friend!



# Ordering the days

God spoke and created all that exists. He separated and ordered his creation. What did God say about all he made?

*Directions: Write the correct day of creation next to each clue. Then fill in the circled letters in order below to complete Genesis 1:31, NIV.*

|              |               |              |               |              |              |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>FIRST</b> | <b>SECOND</b> | <b>THIRD</b> | <b>FOURTH</b> | <b>FIFTH</b> | <b>SIXTH</b> |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|

- |                                                              |                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| God made wild animals and livestock.                         | <input type="text"/> |
| God said, "Let there be light."                              | <input type="text"/> |
| God gathered the waters under the sky into one place.        | <input type="text"/> |
| God made a vault to separate the waters and called it "sky." | <input type="text"/> |
| God created plants and trees.                                | <input type="text"/> |
| God separated the light from the darkness.                   | <input type="text"/> |
| God made the water teem with living creatures.               | <input type="text"/> |
| God made the sun and moon.                                   | <input type="text"/> |
| God made birds fly above the earth.                          | <input type="text"/> |
| God made stars.                                              | <input type="text"/> |
| God created mankind in his own image.                        | <input type="text"/> |

God \_aw all tha\_ he \_ad ma\_e, an\_ \_t was ve\_y g\_od.

GENESIS 1:31, NIV

Answer: sixth, first, third, second, third, first, fifth, fourth, fourth, sixth; God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.

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Facebook: [facebook.com/Stpaulslive](https://facebook.com/Stpaulslive)  
Instagram: [St\\_pauls\\_live](https://instagram.com/St_pauls_live)

In the event of an emergency and it's after hours, you may reach Pastor Paul at 419-382-5747.

Office Hours:  
Mon-Fri: 8:00 am-noon & 1:00-4:30 pm

**Pastoral Staff:**

Rev. Paul S. Doerfler

**Sunday Schedule:**

8:30 am Traditional Service (drive-in & in-Sanctuary)  
10:30 am Modern Service (drive-in & in-Sanctuary)

Everyone is welcome!

**Trustees:**

Doug Barchick  
Gary Yunker  
Adam Wagner  
Scott Valare

**COMMUNICATOR DEADLINE**

As a reminder, the deadline for the Communicator is the 15th of the month at 8:00 am. IF the 15th is on a weekend, the deadline is the following Monday at 8:00 am.

Submissions for repeated printing must be earmarked with the specific publication dates.

Editor reserves the right to edit for content and space. Thank you so much for meeting the deadline!

**Make a note!**

In the case of inclement weather on Sunday morning or at any other time when church activities are being held, please refer to the following policy:



- Lucas County **Level 3** snow emergency: all worship and all non-worship activities are cancelled.
- Lucas County **Level 2** snow emergency: all non-worship activities are cancelled. Worship will be conducted as scheduled unless the pastor deems otherwise. Media announcements will be made.
- Lucas County **Level 1** snow emergency: Worship will be conducted as scheduled. Non-worship activities will be held unless cancelled by the event leader. If cancelled, attempts will be made to notify all participants.

(When media announcements are made, we will always be listed as "St. Paul's Lutheran, Maumee".)

**IF YOU DO NOT FEEL SAFE OUT IN THE WEATHER, PLEASE STAY HOME.**



"He's today's greeter."

## Who We Are

We believe that God is willing and able to do more than we can ask, think or imagine. We believe that He has positioned us to fulfill our calling to reach out into Maumee, Toledo, and the nations with His love.

We are a Bible-based, caring church family that desires to grow in Christian faith. As a congregation, our most earnest desire, programming and efforts are focused toward reaching out to the world with the great news of salvation found in Jesus Christ. And we would like to reach out to you too.

If you do not have a church home, and if you are searching for a warm, welcoming place to learn, grow, and invest your time and talents, please consider worshipping with us.

## Mission & Vision

### ST. PAUL'S MISSION:

In response to Christ's great commission to share the Gospel with the whole world, St. Paul's Lutheran Church is called to make disciples by connecting the unconnected to Jesus Christ and together growing in full devotion to Him.

### ST. PAUL'S VISION:

Do L.I.F.E: Love. Inspire. Forgive. Encourage. L.I.F.E: The building blocks of authentic, Christ-centered community.

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