

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

3:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Family Fall Festival



Everyone is Invited!

GAMES •
CRAFTS

PETTING ZOO

PRIZES •
FUN & FOOD

FREE PONY RIDES

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

115 Central Dr, Amherst, OH 44001

SO WHAT'S — THE — DIFFERENCE?



**ISLAM • JUDAISM • HINDUISM • JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES
CATHOLICISM • NON-DENOMINATIONAL • MORMONISM**

Exploring other Faiths to discover what makes Biblical Lutheran Christianity
Unique, Precious, and *Needed* in this community.

ST. PAUL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH & PRESCHOOL
SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2026

Welcome to St. Paul!

We're glad you're here! Whether this is your first visit or you're a St. Paul veteran, we hope you sense our "welcome mat" is out and you'll consider joining us again soon any Sunday at 9:30AM right here. Please fill out a white "Communication Card" found in front of you in the pew rack, and place it in the offering plate later. And about the offering ... don't feel obligated to participate in giving because we – and God – are really glad you are here as our guest!

Ushers are standing by to assist you in locating a seat, directing you to restrooms, coat racks, and to our nursery.

Nursery is available for children ages 3 and under. An usher will be happy to direct you to our Nursery where parents may care for infants, and rambunctious toddlers will find a place to be ... themselves.

Worshippers who wish to receive Holy Communion are encouraged to thoroughly read the announcement in this bulletin explaining what Communion reception is all about.

IN TODAY'S WORSHIP God's Word, the Bible, reminds us that it is very important that you know what you believe, are committed to faith in your heart, and live a life that demonstrates your faith. ***"Always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect"*** 1 Peter 3:15 Today we will discover the differences in belief between the Lutheran and Catholic Churches so that we can better understand and share what we believe is true.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP Heavenly Father, I thank You for coming to me in the simple water of Holy Baptism to wash my sin away and claim me as Your beloved child. May the Holy Spirit work in my heart through today's worship that I grow in faith. Amen.



In Today's Worship service **Charlotte Eleanor Mitchell** and **James Dean Gatchell** are both Baptized and given forgiveness and eternal life as a free gift of God's grace through the water combined with God's Word. Charlotte is the infant daughter of Grace Card and Cole Mitchell and her sponsors are Jillian Card & Jacob Burdick. James is the 2 year-old son of Austin and Christina Gatchell and his sponsors are Anthony Berrios Jr. & Meghan Berrios. Welcome into the family of God, Charlotte and James!

Kids' Church will resume Sunday, September 13th, during the worship service. Children ages 4 thru 5th grade are welcome to leave during the sermon in the main worship service. They will see a video-based Bible lesson, sing songs, maybe do a craft, and return to mom or dad, grandma or grandpa in the worship service.

What About the Roman Catholic Faith is a short document to read more about the Roman Catholic's faith. It is available for free on the table at the entrance to the worship sanctuary.

Emails Gone Missing? We've become aware that some of our church emails — including the monthly newsletter — may be going to the **Spam/Junk** folder instead of your inbox. Please take a moment to check those folders so you don't miss any updates, events, or announcements. If you need help adjusting your email settings, Don Hammond is happy to assist.

This Week For The Lord	Looking Ahead One Week
8/23 Worship 9:30 AM Town Hall Meeting 10:45 AM Divorce Care 2 PM	8/30 Holy Communion 9:30 AM G.I.F.T. Bible Study 10:45 AM Divorce Care 2 PM
8/24 Preschool Parent Mtg 6 PM	8/31 Preschool Orientation M-W-F 10 AM
8/25 Seasoned Saints 10 AM Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM	9/1 Preschool Orientation T-TH 10 AM Seasoned Saints 10 AM
8/27 Preschool Meet the Teacher 1 PM - 7 PM	Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM
8/28 Preschool Meet the Teacher 9 AM - 1PM	9/2 First Day of Preschool M-W-F 9 AM
8/29 Greet Card Making 1 PM	9/3 First Day of Preschool T-TH 9 AM

Serving in God's House:

Pastor	Rev. Paul Werner
Reader	Bryan Draga
Greeters	Cindy Klein
Altar Guild	Fran Draga, Debbie Smith
Sound	Mike Warnock, Tina Muska
Head Usher	Ron Fisher
Ushers	Bryan Draga, Clyde Strader

St. Paul Lutheran Church & Preschool

115 Central Drive, Amherst, Ohio 44001

Church/Office: 440-988-4157 Fax: 440-988-5436

Sunday Worship Services: 9:30 AM

In-Person or Live Stream @ www.stpaulamherst.com

E-Mail: churchoffice@stpaulamherst.com Church Website: stpaulamherst.com

Rev. Paul G. Werner, Pastor - Office: (440)988-4157 Cell: (586)201-3302

Judy Bloom – Church Office Administrator

Don Hammond – Director of Communications

Tracie Heuring –Director of Preschool

Owen Reyda – Director of Music Ministries

Mike Warnock – Director of Worship Technology

SO WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

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This summer at St. Paul we're exploring other Faiths, and discovering what makes Lutheran Christianity Unique, Precious, and *Needed* in this community.

Join us for each sermon at St. Paul, Sundays @ 9:30 AM.

Sun. Aug. 16 Jehovah's Witnesses.

Sun. Aug. 23 Catholicism

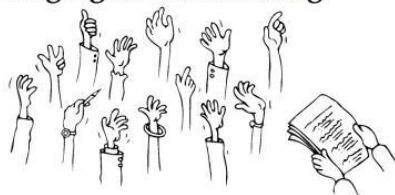
Sun. Aug. 30: Reformed Christian (Including Mega-Church)

Sun. Sept. 6: Mormonism

ST. PAUL TOWN HALL MEETING TODAY

following the worship service at 10:45 am in St. Paul Worship Sanctuary. This is a special meeting to communicate to the congregation the data that maps trends in our congregation, what it indicates, and the prospect of entering a two-year intensive Strategic Growth Process. We invite your prayerful concern and attendance.

Special Congregational Meeting



DivorceCare is a safe place where caring people come alongside you as you find healing from one of life's most difficult experiences — the pain of separation or divorce. At this 13-week program, you'll find helpful counsel to manage the emotional turmoil and practical tools for decision-making.

Who: People experiencing divorce or separation

When: Sundays, August 16 — November 8. 2:00pm – 4:00pm

Where: St. Paul Lutheran Church

Cost: \$20 Includes workbook. (scholarships are available)

Topics We Cover in DivorceCare

Week 1 – Deep Hurt

Week 2 – Road to Recovery

Week 3 – Anger

Week 4 – Grief and Depression

Week 5 – Loneliness

Week 6 – Fears and Anxiety

Week 7 – Family and Friends

Week 8 – Financial and Legal Issues

Week 9 – Conflict

Week 10 – Forgiveness

Week 11 – Your Former Spouse

Week 12 – Single Living

Week 13 – Brighter Days

REGISTER: www.DivorceCare.org/groups/256717

Questions: (Email) DivorceCare@stpaulamherst.com

ARK Encounter & Creation Museum trip, October 20 -22, 2026 - Yes, the trip is still "ON." You can still join the group and come along with St. Paul to see the life-size replica of Noah's Ark and the Creation Museum. The trip is **October 20 -22, 2026**. The trip includes top-quality motorcoach transportation, 2 night's lodging at Hampton Inn, breakfasts & dinners, tickets to the Ark Encounter and Creation Museum, luggage handling, meal gratuities and taxes, and a Riverboat cruise with dinner and entertainment. Cost is \$629 per person (based on double occupancy hotel room; single occupancy +\$170.). Deposit of \$25. is due asap, payable by check to "St. Paul Lutheran Church" and memo: ARK. Detailed information is available, so please **pick up a flier on this trip today on the Information Counter in the narthex. Balance due on September 1, 2026** For information and reservations contact Wanda Aschenbach (440/935-3863).

LIFE OF OUR SAVIOR IN STAINED GLASS – The first window is in! It pictures Christ's birth in Bethlehem's manger. The artist is currently working on windows capturing Jesus' Baptism, His ministry, and His crucifixion. Memorial gifts are still welcome towards the creation of the windows picturing Jesus' Easter resurrection, and His Ascension to heaven. You are invited to give a lasting gift to God, beautify our worship sanctuary, and memorialize a loved one who has gone ahead to heaven. An information brochure is at the Information Counter detailing this project to replace the worn-out side windows in the sanctuary with beautiful stained glass that tells the story of our salvation. Please pick up a brochure if you haven't seen one.

PLUG IN TO A BIBLE STUDY GROUP



GROW IN FAITH TOGETHER – Join us next Sunday, August 30, as we see God's grace and power growing His young Church in the Bible Book of Acts. **UPPER LEVEL**, 10:45 AM to 11:45AM • Bible Study • Discussion • Fellowship This Bible Study will NOT meet Sunday August 23rd due to the Town Hall session at the same time in the worship sanctuary.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study - Join us as we see how God led Joshua in the exciting Bible book of Joshua, and learn how God leads us today. You will gain faith and courage for living as we see people long ago trust God for the impossible and discover God always works to rescue His people. You'll meet some friends, find encouragement, and grow in faith. We meet in the upper level. You don't have to be a Bible scholar. Everyone is welcome! On Tuesday September 1st this Bible Study begins one hour later at 11:00am.

Women's Bible Study Group – Will resume on Tuesday, August 25th @ 6:30 PM in St. Paul's parsonage, next door. You'll make wonderful friends, grow in faith, and engage in caring lively discussion about living everyday as a Christian and woman.

New Church Ministry Podcast — Volunteers Needed

St. Paul is launching an exciting new ministry: a church podcast designed to share faith stories, ministry updates, interviews, teaching moments, and conversations that help us grow together as a community. We are inviting anyone interested to take part in this new effort. **We're looking for volunteers to help with planning, organizing, recording, interviewing, hosting, and behind-the-scenes support.** No experience is required — just a willingness to learn and be part of something new. Our goal is to release the first episode in early fall of 2026, and we would love to have you involved from the beginning. If you're curious, creative, or simply want to help, please let us know by signing up on the volunteer list in the Narthex. Your voice and your gifts can make this ministry come alive.

A FOUR WEEK TEACHING SERIES BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 20 AT ST. PAUL



Join us Sundays @ 9:30AM, starting September 20th as we explore the multifaceted nature of prayer. Move beyond a one-size-fits-all approach to prayer and discover the full toolkit God has given us to communicate with Him. This series will stretch and strengthen your prayer life, not out of obligation, but out of the growing conviction that talking to God is the most powerful thing any of us can do.

Take your Next Step!



Investigate a life of faith in Jesus.

NEW LIFE WITH GOD is a seminar which offers adults a great foundation for faith and living. This is for adults who want to find out more about our beliefs before committing to getting involved in St. Paul. This is a great seminar for couples who have different Church backgrounds to find out the differences between Lutherans and other church groups. *New Life With God* is also a great seminar for anyone to gain a renewed Faith foundation if you haven't investigated our beliefs since being a young man or woman getting confirmed. There's no obligation to St. Paul by participating in *New Life With God*, however, the door to church membership is open to anyone who completes this seminar. There is no memorization, no cost — just come, ask questions, and let's discuss faith and life. There are eight sessions. Pastor Paul is leading the discussions. Join Us!

Wednesday evenings
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM
Starts September 23, 2026

Confirmation Ministry Program - St. Paul's Confirmation program is for students in their 7th, 8th or 9th grade years. Confirmation is a time of growing in faith and learning about what we believe in order to get ready for Communion. Parents or Grandparents who have a young person in the family or a neighbor friend, reach out to Pastor Paul and he can share how the program works, give you materials, and get you growing! Talk to him today, or by email: pastor@stpaulamherst.com

Greeting Card Making! Tap into your artistic skills you didn't know you had in you. Learn to stamp, cut, and paste to make beautiful greeting cards on **Saturday, August 29th @ 1:00 pm at St. Paul.** We always make some for the shut-ins of the congregation. Please join us. We have a lot of fun! No experience necessary. Just a heart for serving.

Looking for some ideas and help for creating a Noah's Ark look alike for the September outreach event. Contact Sue Werner if you can help at 517-304-4611.

We are looking for donations of about 80 empty, clear, rinsed out, non-rippled drink bottles to be used for a craft for the September 26th event. We do need the lids. If you have any questions contact Sue Werner 517-304-4611.

What About the Roman Catholic Faith is a short document to read more about the Roman Catholic's faith. It is available for free on the table at the entrance to the worship sanctuary.



“The Lord is Near to all who Call on HIM.” *Psalm 148:18*

Prayer Requests this Week

Praise God for the **Baptisms of Charlotte Eleanor Mitchell** and **James Dean Gatchell**, children whom God has made His through His Word and the water of baptism.

Please pray for **Mike McHugh** as he recovers from a procedure which surgically removed skin cancer spots; pray for **Sheryl Gregg** as she goes through radiation and chemotherapy for her cancer; **Emma Jenkins** that the treatment for her liver cancer is effective; **Edna Klenz** as she has stomach cancer; **Barb Deja** who is being treated for cancer; **Kyle** who is depressed, lonely, and suffering from bi-polar, that God’s love lifts him up; **Billy**, brother of Melissa Warnock who has an infection in his foot causing lots of pain and that the doctors can come up with a cure, **Sandra Yepko**; **Donna Napolitano**, sister of Diane Lamoreaux who is recovering from heart surgery; **Jerry Camera**, a relative of Sally Krause, with bladder cancer; **Jeanne Camera**, a niece of Sally Krause, who has cancer; **Nancy Dau**, in treatment for cancer; **Cindy Saegert** who has cancer, **Zack**, a friend of Cyndi Kemery, who has cancer; **Tracy**, who has cancer and is receiving radiation; **Jim Williams** who has cancer; **Lorie**, Cyndi Kemery’s cousin, who has non-Hodgkins Lymphoma; **Paxton** Roby with cancer; pray for **Wendy** who has severe health problems.

Pray for those who have on-going chronic illnesses or are home-bound: **Janice Ingersol**, **Ruth Murdy**, **Jack & Marilyn Green**, **Phyllis Darakis**, **John Harden**, **Joanie Fahrney**, **Ron Klein**, and **John Schick**.

Pray for those celebrating birthdays: **Sherry Fisher**, **Ann Conley**, **Debbie Heller**.