

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 30, 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 Do all religions lead to the same place but have different paths to God? Christians proclaim that we are saved by God’s grace given to us through Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection, and this grace is offered to all through faith in Him. Today we look at a wide variety of Christian Church “brands” to see what separates and what unites us, and how Lutheran Bible-based Christianity is unique. God’s Word, the Bible, reminds us, ***“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***

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP God who created the world, Jesus the Son given for the world, Holy Spirit ever present in the world, be with us in our worship that we may know the fullness of the Holy One. As God lives in Triune community, so may we live in communion with God and each other. Amen.

Lutheran? Reformed? There is an article available today for free on the table at the entrance to the worship sanctuary.



Our greatest help is the Lord God Himself, who eagerly invites us to pray to Him. Today, sealed bags containing several prayer cards are in the narthex / lobby for you. Pick up a bag, take it home, and pray for each person whose name you receive daily throughout the coming month of September.

Food Collection Next Sunday, September 6th -- Your gifts of non-perishable food go to Second Harvest and to families in Lorain County.

This Week For The Lord	Looking Ahead One Week
8/30 Holy Communion 9:30 AM G.I.F.T. Bible Study 10:45 AM Divorce Care 2 PM 8/31 Preschool Orientation M-W-F 10 AM 9/1 Preschool Orientation T-TH 10 AM Seasoned Saints 11 AM Women’s Bible Study 6:30 PM Non-profit Meeting 6:30 PM 9/2 First Day of Preschool M-W-F 9 AM 9/3 First Day of Preschool T-TH 9 AM	9/6 Food Collection Holy Communion 9:30 AM No Divorce Care 9/7 Labor Day - Church Office Closed 9/8 Seasoned Saints 10 AM Women’s Bible Study 6:30 PM 9/10 Men’s BBB 6:30 PM

Serving in God’s House:

Pastor	Rev. Paul Werner
Elder	Jeff Krupp
Organist	Owen Reyda
Reader	Sue Werner
Greeters	Lynn Jiovanazzo, Debbie Gibson
Altar Guild	Wanda Aschenbach, Maryellen Bennett
Sound	Mike Warnock
Head Usher	Ron Fisher
Ushers	John Kirschner, John Cartmell, Danny Kemery

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 Huring –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

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.

My Devotions for Families with Children is a very practical, easy-to-use resources to help share faith in Christ at home. My Devotions is designed for families with elementary school aged children. Families simply include these resources in their daily routine, like during breakfast before school, during supper time together when distractions are turned off for a few minutes, or at bedtime. My Devotions are free. **September - November editions** are available free on the resource wall in the lower narthex/lobby.

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. Here you'll find helpful counsel to manage the emotional turmoil and practical tools for decision-making. You may join the group today, here at St. Paul, 2pm – 4pm, upstairs.

Payment is Due Now -- 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 this 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

Tuesday Morning Bible Study - On Tuesday September 1st this Bible Study begins one hour later at 11:00am. 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!

Women's Bible Study Group @ 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.

BROTHERHOOD, BIBLE & BREW The next BBB meeting will be on September 10, 2026, at 6:30 PM at The Ghost Tree Brewing Co. located at 300 Church St. in Amherst. Please note this is a different location than last month. All men interested in a lively Christian conversation is welcome. Bring a friend.

PRAYER GROUP The Prayer Group normally meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 1:00 PM. This month only will be the 4th Thursday. All who are interested in praying are welcome to join us. The next prayer session will be on September 24th at 1:00 PM. We will meet in the conference room on the 2nd floor. If you have any questions, please contact Stephen Warnock at 216-233-7572, or at warnock5353@ gmail.com or in person. Please come join us.

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

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.

Help Others Find Us: The Power of Your Google Review

We want to share an important opportunity to help our church grow and welcome new faces, especially younger people looking for a place to belong. Good reviews on Google make it easier for those searching for a church to learn about us and feel confident in visiting. Your positive feedback can be a guiding light for someone beginning their faith journey.

We invite you to leave a review for our church—it's quick and easy! Just scan the QR code and share your thoughts. If you need any assistance, Don Hammond is happy to help you through the process. Thank you for supporting our church and helping others find their way!



Why a Podcast Matters: Reaching Out and Inviting In

Did you know that a church podcast is one of the best ways to reach people beyond our current membership? Podcasts allow us to share our church's message with those who may not be able to attend in person, and they're especially appealing to younger generations who often discover and connect with churches online. By offering audio and video content, we can welcome new faces and keep our community vibrant and growing.

We're looking for additional volunteers to help bring our podcast to life! Whether you're interested in planning and organizing, working behind the scenes, or assisting with the audio and video aspects, your help will make a difference. If you're willing to join the team, please sign up using the form in the narthex. Thank you for helping us share our story and invite others into our church family!

St. Paul Preschool Amazon Wishlist We are so grateful for all the ways all of you have helped make our classroom a success! We feel so blessed to have been given items from our wish list last year and it helped us so much! If you would like to help our classroom this year, here is the link to our Amazon Wishlist. Thank you so very much!



BIBLE DONATION REQUEST Our preschool is looking to gift our new students with Children’s Bibles to help our students grow in God’s word. If you’d be willing to donate \$11, we would be so grateful for your generosity. Please make checks payable to **St. Paul Lutheran Preschool** put in an envelope mark **preschool** and put in the preschool or Judy Bloom’s mailbox in the narthex.

Your gift will help nurture the faith of our youngest learners and place God’s love into little hands and hearts. Thank you for supporting our preschool ministry and keeping our children in your prayers!

Preschool Calendar Fundraiser
The preschool will be putting together a calendar for a fundraiser for the month of October. Each day they will be giving away a gift to the winner of the day worth \$25 - \$50. How we can help? Donate gift cards or cash. If you own a business and can donate a gift card or merch. Any questions contact the preschool director Tracie Heuring at 440-988-5427. Gifts can be given directly to the Tracie or to Judy Bloom in the church office.

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.
Please pray for **Chris and Brian Starbuck** upon the death of Chris’ mother, Mae. Pray that God comfort all who grieve and fill their hearts with the love of Christ.
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: **Ron Muska, Cyndi Kemery, Pastor Paul Werner, Diane Spencer, Mason Mlinarik, Joyce Trottier.**



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

Prayer Requests this Week

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