



115 Central Drive, Amherst, Ohio 44001
(440) 988-4157 www.stpaulamherst.com

Graceful Living

Monthly Newsletter of St. Paul Lutheran Church and Preschool
October 2026

**SPECIAL
VOTERS
MEETING**



**Sunday,
October 4th
10:45 AM**

Engage **Five-Two** in 2yr. Strategic Planning

- ❖ Reaching more people with the Gospel
- ❖ Creating clarity and unity
- ❖ Equipping members for everyday lives
- ❖ Preparing the church for future generations

COME, • Hear the vision. • Be part of the conversation.
• Help shape the future of our church.

A New Ministry of
Care for

**1,100 Kids
at Powers Elem.
School**

**in Need of
Clothing, Hygiene,
& Snacks**



You Can Help

**Donations
Needed:**

**Goldfish
Granola Bars
Fruit Snacks
Cheesy Crackers**

**Leave Gifts at Info. Counter
in Narthex**

**Sunday Morning
Worship
Service
9:30 AM**

**Holy Communion
1st, 3rd, & 5th
Sundays**

**Kids' Church in
Worship Services
May-Sept**

**Worship
Livestream:
YouTube channel
"St Paul Amherst
Ohio"**

**Food Offering for
Second Harvest
1st Sunday of
every month**

**Church Office
Mon – Thurs
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
(440) 988-4157**

**Preschool
Mon. - Fri.
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

**Preschool Phone
(440) 988-5427**

CREATE A DAILY PRAYER HABIT

Dear People of St. Paul,

Did you know prayer is mentioned more than 600 times in the Bible? Wow, that's a lot! It must be really important!

When you have faith in our true God of love, then you naturally turn to Him in prayer. A person cannot pray without faith in the God who hears and answers according to what He knows is best for you.

Prayer is the first step in any plan or work we might do together as a church. Our programs will amount to nothing without first seeking God's guidance and asking Him to work through us.

This month of October we are focusing on prayer in our Sunday morning sermons. Our theme, "All Kinds of Prayer" will teach us what God has to say about praying for people who don't trust Jesus to be brought to faith. We will also discuss praying for the faith of our own family members. There is no greater act of love than when we pray to God to bring a person we know to saving faith in Jesus.

Talking to God doesn't always feel easy, but if we want to know God more, then we need to know how to talk humbly and honestly with Him.

Here are three things that may encourage you as you draw near to God through prayer.

1. Keep it simple. God isn't concerned about how eloquent your words sound—He just wants to spend time with you. Some of the best conversations with God happen when you simply share what's on your mind and then give Him the space to respond. Try asking:

God, what should I do about ... ?

God, what do You think about ... ?

God, would You ... ?

God, why did this ... ?

2. Keep it real. God isn't going to get mad at you for being honest, so be authentic when you pray. Remember, nothing can separate you from God's love. So, if you're not sure what to say, tell God that. If you're frustrated about a situation, say so. He wants you to approach Him with confidence and boldness. Try saying:

I'm struggling with...

I need help with...

I don't understand why...

I'm frustrated because...

3. Keep showing up. Praying might feel awkward at first, but the more you do it, the easier it becomes. Make prayer a habit by having at least a 5 minute conversation with God every day. Here are some conversation starters:

I'm hoping for...

I'm thankful for...

I'm excited because...

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Philippians 4:6

See you on Sunday,

Pastor Paul



WORSHIP WITH US @ ST. PAUL'S ON-LINE --

St. Paul's 9:30 AM worship service is live-streamed on Sunday mornings. Go to the church website (www.stpaulamherst.com) and click on the Live-Stream banner on the home page.

Recordings of the worship services remain on-line after the livestream for viewing anytime.

Join our Pre-Service Prayer

We invite you to come a little earlier to worship on Sundays. At 9:10 AM we set aside a few minutes to pray together as one church family, gathering around the Baptismal Font in the worship sanctuary. You won't be put on the spot or left feeling uncomfortable, as one of our members will share a prepared prayer. We will pray for each worshipper, our guests, and those who worship from home. We ask God's Holy Spirit to use His Word to strengthen faith, give release in the forgiveness of sins, and fill people with hope. Join us Sundays at 9:10AM in St. Paul's worship sanctuary.



This weekly broadcast over regular TV is from our own denomination, the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. You'll find it now on YouTube, so you can watch and worship anytime. Just search YouTube for "Worship Anew."



TIME OF GRACE

IT ALL STARTS NOW

Time of Grace is a Lutheran broadcast from Appleton, Wisconsin. You can now watch where you want, when you want, how you want. Download the app to your phone. Or watch from Roku, Apple TV, or Fire TV. You can also go to YouTube and search "Time of Grace" to find their channel with so much content!

Kids Busy Bags Looking for a volunteer to once a month clean out and restock the kids busy bags in that are located in the back of the church. This is an important ministry, that can be done on your schedule, and it's "behind the scenes." Contact the Church Office to say, "Yes! I'll do that!"



Altar Flowers - Due to the rising cost of flowers and supplies, the contribution for altar flowers will be increasing to **\$35**, effective September 1, 2026. We appreciate your understanding and continued support. Altar flowers help beautify our worship space and may be offered in memory or honor of loved ones. Thank you for your generosity and participation. If you would like to reserve a date, please sign up using the Altar Flower schedule on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Commemoration of the Faithful Departed

Sunday, November 1st is ALL SAINTS DAY. We will remember those people we know who died in faith in Jesus as their Savior and they are now enjoying heaven. During the worship service we will read the names of members who have received their victory in heaven over the past year, ringing the bell for each brother or sister called home to heaven. Please make a special point of joining us for this annual event.



Nine Lessons & Carols is an Advent service, filled with beautiful sacred Advent and Christmas music. This is a wonderful way to quiet your heart and hear the story of God's love in sending His Son, as our Savior. Oberlin Music Conservatory students will sing and play instruments. The sanctuary of St. Paul will be set in candle lighting and Christmas décor. The Nine Lessons are Scripture readings that tell the story of our God's loving plan to save us, His people. The carols and anthems, by choir, instrumentalists, and some sung by congregation, each amplify the meaning of the Scripture readings. Join us & Invite a Friend!

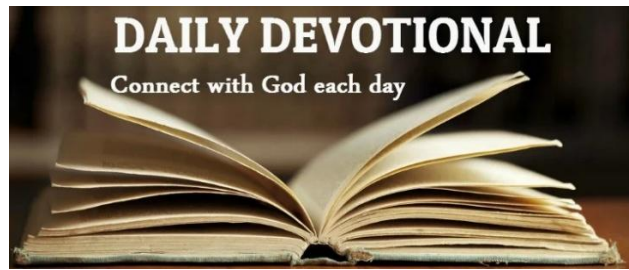


Sunday, November 22nd
@ 9:30am



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23 @ 7:00 PM

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24 @ 4:00 PM



There are several options for devotions emailed to you each day.

Check these out.

1. **Lutheran Hour Daily Devotions** are emailed to you conveniently and free. This option has a button you can click to HEAR each day's devotion – great for those with sight problems, or for listening in the car. Sign up at www.lhm.org/dailydevotions
2. **Grace Moments** daily devotions are very good, free, and emailed to your phone, tablet, or computer. Sign up at www.timeofgrace.org/moments

Connect with God Everyday!

FREE DAILY DEVOTION GUIDES

Hope-Full Living

is a daily devotion guide that St. Paul offers you free, to take home for private or family devotions. Hope-Full Living is published by Lutheran Ministries Media, and the TV program Worship Anew. Each daily devotion offers a fresh perspective from a senior Lutheran.

October - December issues

are free and available at St. Paul on the Information Counter in Narthex.



**Sunday, October 4th
@ 9:30am**

**V♥LUNTEER
APPRECIATION**

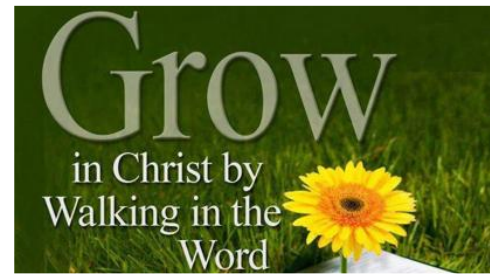
St. Paul Lutheran Church gives thanks for YOU — the faithful servants of the Lord who bless our congregation and community in countless ways.

No matter what you do for the Lord, it is important, God-pleasing, and an act that honors Him while sharing His love with others. We are grateful for every volunteer, every act of service, and every heart that contributes to the mission of Christ at St. Paul.

During our 9:30am worship service, we will celebrate all our volunteers, and we have a small gift prepared as a token of our appreciation.

THERE ARE MANY BENEFITS OF JOINING IN A BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Participating in a Bible study group offers substantial benefits to an individual's spiritual life, relationships, and participation in the mission of the church. Bible study is centered on God's Word and points participants to Jesus Christ and the Gospel. It is not merely an academic exercise or a discussion of personal opinions; it is an opportunity to hear, study, and apply the truth of Scripture within the fellowship of Christ's people.



Scripture also emphasizes the importance of returning to God's Word each day. Psalm 1:2 describes the blessed person as one whose "delight is in the law of the Lord," meditating on it "day and night." Daily engagement with Scripture helps believers remain rooted in God's truth and prepared to apply it in their lives. As 1 Peter 1:9 reminds us, through faith we are "receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls." Regularly reading and studying the Bible directs us back to the promises of the Gospel and strengthens us as we continue in faith.

1. A Bible study group provides you with an opportunity to share in learning the Word of God. Individual Bible reading is valuable, but group study allows participants to ask questions, consider different perspectives, and gain insight from the experience of other Christians. This learning is grounded in the Lutheran Confessions and in the central biblical teaching that people are justified by grace through faith in Christ. Participants can grow in their understanding of the biblical story, the work of Christ, and the ways God's promises shape daily life. Regular study may also help individuals recognize how Scripture speaks to family responsibilities, vocation, suffering, forgiveness, and service.

2. Bible study is the place where friendships are formed. People who attend regularly develop relationships marked by mutual care, prayer, and encouragement. This fellowship reflects the New Testament vision of believers gathering together, bearing one another's burdens, and building one another up in faith. For an individual who feels isolated or uncertain about finding a place in the congregation, a small group can offer a welcoming environment in which to be known and supported. Fellowship complements congregational life by creating opportunities for deeper conversation and personal connection.

3. Bible study gives you meaning and purpose in life through actively serving God. Bible study can help participants discover practical ways to serve their congregation and community. As individuals become more confident in their understanding of Scripture, they may be better prepared to invite others, welcome visitors, assist with ministry, or speak about the hope they have in Christ. In this sense, church growth is not simply a matter of increasing attendance. Faithful growth includes making disciples through the Word, strengthening existing members, and welcoming people into the life of the church.

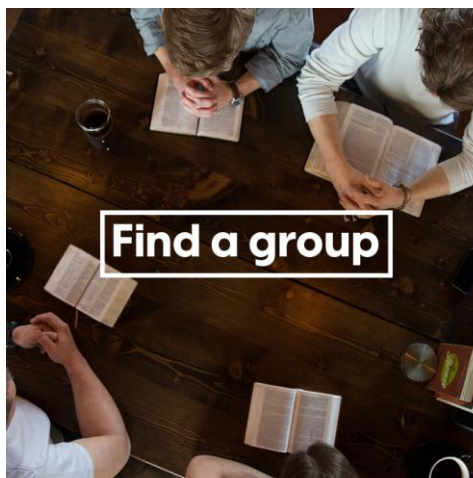
4. Bible study strengthens you for life's challenges. Meeting regularly encourages individuals to remain engaged with Scripture and prayer even during demanding seasons of life. The group becomes a setting where faith is nourished, questions can be addressed, and members can encourage one another to remain faithful. For these

reasons, attending a Bible study can benefit the whole person: it deepens biblical understanding, strengthens Christian fellowship, and equips individuals to participate more fully in the congregation's witness and service.

You are Invited! Everyone is welcome to join any of our Bible study groups. Come share in the learning of God's Word, enjoy meaningful Christian fellowship, and grow together in faith and service:

- Sundays at 10:45am
- Tuesdays at 10:00am
- Women's Bible Study on Tuesdays at 6:30pm

Whether you are new to Bible study, returning after some time away, or seeking deeper fellowship with other believers, we invite you to join us. There is a place for you in our community as we gather around God's Word and encourage one another in Christ.



GROW IN FAITH TOGETHER – JOIN US to discover God's grace and power growing His young Church in the Bible Book of Acts. You'll discover how God's Holy Spirit fills you with the joy of Jesus, and through you God grows His Church as people are brought to faith through hearing the Great News of Jesus. Grab a cup of coffee and join us upstairs Sundays at 10:45 AM. All welcome! • Bible Study • Discussion • Fellowship

Tuesday Morning Bible Study – You are invited to Tuesday morning Bible study as we focus on the Bible book of Judges, a powerful book filled with examples of God's deliverance through faithful followers, and the consequences of doing what is right

in our own eyes. 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! Join us Tuesdays at 10:00AM.

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. Our new series is "Don't Give the Enemy a Seat at Your Table."



Brotherhood, Bibles, & Brew The next BBB meeting will be on October 8, 2026, at 6:30 PM at The Ghost Tree Brewing Co. located at 300 Church St. in Amherst. All men interested in a lively Christian conversation is welcome. Bring a friend.

What Is a Living Christian Faith?

Is being a Christian MORE than attending a Church Service?

Being a Christian shows in your Commitments and Action. These are the “fruits” or results in the life of a person who fully follows Jesus Christ. It takes discipline, prayer, and love for Christ to constantly through life keep growing in these habits.

7 Doors of Spiritual Growth

In response to God’s grace to me in Jesus Christ, I commit to on-going growth in all the disciplines of the Christian faith, which include:

- ♦ **Witness** to Christ in all I say and do,
 - ♦ **Worship** Christ with my life daily and with my fellow Christians weekly,
 - ♦ **Connect** with others in my congregation as well as in a small group,
 - ♦ **Pray** regularly for others, especially the lost, as well as for myself,
 - ♦ **Study** the Bible on my own as well as with my fellow Christians,
 - ♦ **Serve** God and others inside as well as outside the church, and
 - ♦ **Give** a percentage of my financial resources to extend the cause of Christ, making a tenth (tithe) as my minimum goal.
-

FUNDING GOAL NEARS FULFILLMENT!

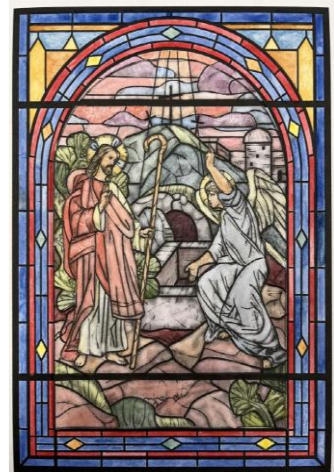
Our Savior’s Life in Stained Glass

A Series of Six Stained Glass Windows

Complimenting the “Christ Praying in Gethsemane”
window Above the Altar,

Funded by Grateful Donors In Memory of Loved Ones
Upon St. Paul’s 150th Anniversary

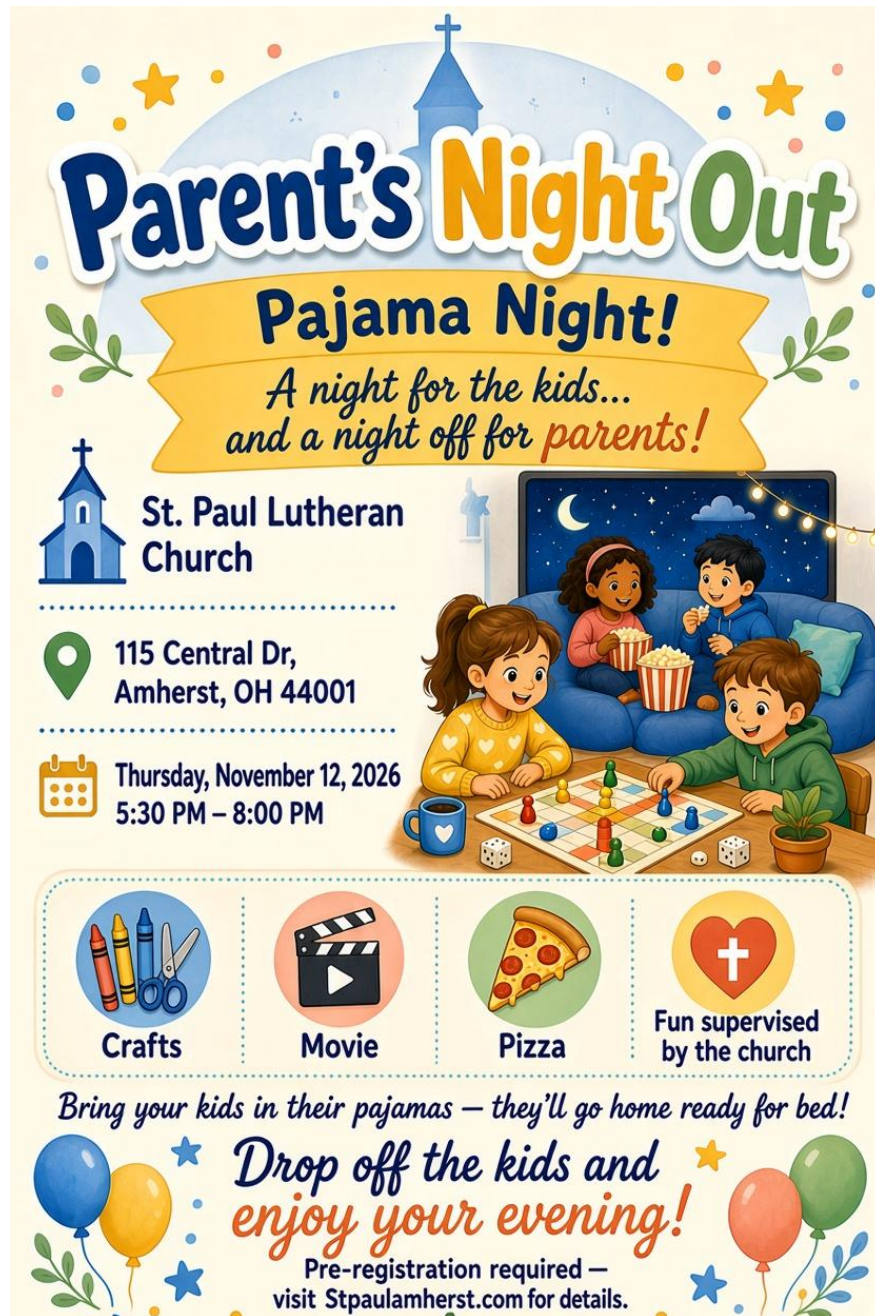
Providing needed Energy-Efficient windows.



Within just one year the people of St. Paul have contributed towards the stained glass windows with amazing God-inspired generosity! We are getting close to having received the funds for the sixth and final window, which will depict Christ’s Ascension into heaven.

You still have an opportunity to participate in beautifying St. Paul’s worship sanctuary. **MEMORIALS** may be given in memory of a loved one and are welcome, in any amount. Donors may remember their loved one with an inscription of a loved-one’s name on our wall plaque entitled, “Life of our Savior Stained Glass Windows have been Given in Memory of” Your gifts may be given to “St. Paul Lutheran Church” and please add the note “for stained glass windows project.”

The first window, picturing Christ’s birth in Bethlehem has been installed. It is beautiful. The artist is busy creating the windows depicting Jesus’ Baptism, His ministry of healing, Christ’s crucifixion, and His Easter resurrection victory.



Parent's Night Out
Pajama Night!
*A night for the kids...
 and a night off for **parents!***

 **St. Paul Lutheran Church**

 **115 Central Dr,
Amherst, OH 44001**

 **Thursday, November 12, 2026
5:30 PM – 8:00 PM**



 Crafts	 Movie	 Pizza	 Fun supervised by the church
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Bring your kids in their pajamas — they'll go home ready for bed!

**Drop off the kids and
 enjoy your evening!**

Pre-registration required —
 visit stpaulamherst.com for details.

Parents, Take the evening off and enjoy some well-deserved time for yourselves while your children have a fun-filled night at St. Paul! Join us on **November 12** for a special Parents' Night Out with a cozy pajama theme. Children are invited to come dressed in their favorite pajamas and enjoy an evening packed with crafts, pizza, and a movie with friends. We'll create, eat, relax, and have plenty of fun together in a safe and welcoming environment. By the end of the evening, the kids will be ready to head home and settle right into bed. It's the perfect opportunity for parents to enjoy dinner, run errands, or simply have a quiet evening together while the kids make special memories at St. Paul. **Registration is required.** Please visit stpaulamherst.com to find the registration form and reserve your child's spot.

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, November 7th @ 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.

NON-PERISHABLE FOOD GATHERING

Sundays October 4th & November 1st

Second Harvest Food Bank helps families all over metro-Cleveland get the nutritious food they need. You can bring non-perishable groceries the 1ST Sunday of the month. Place them in the receptacle just inside the main church doors.



ST. PAUL PRESCHOOL



Hello and Happy Fall! We could not have asked for a better start to our year! September has come and gone, and our preschoolers are settled in and having fun learning, making friends and experiencing all that preschool has to offer them! We are so proud of how well they are doing. So far, we have explored germs, owls and apples along with our letters, shapes, colors and using scissors. The preschool took a field trip to Burnham Orchards last Friday. There we got to pick out a pumpkin, learn how apples are picked and packed, took a hayride and of course picked some yummy apples! A great time was had by all. Next week, the fire department will visit both classes and teach us about fire safety. We will also have our paint days and get ready for our Halloween parties at the end of this month!

We had our first chapel of the year and sang our song "Made for This." We learned about Noah and the Ark. Students also were presented with Bibles donated from our generous church members. Thank you so very much. The children were so excited to take them home and show their families! What a beautiful gift!

Lastly, we would like to thank everyone for our October Calendar Raffle Success! Whether you donated a prize to fill the calendar or bought tickets, your support means everything! We were able to sell over 425 tickets! We look forward to awarding prizes each day this month. Winners will be shared on our Class Dojo, Preschool Facebook page as well as the church Facebook page! We are so excited! We are truly blessed!

An Unexpectedly Large Crowd Turned Out



An Amazing Blessing from God!

Saturday, September 26th was a beautiful Fall day with sunshine and warm temperatures. Our Family Fall Festival was attended by more people than any other single event in recent memory! Two hundred eighty three children, plus parents and grandparents came. We shared the story of God's love and, even though our supplies ran out, and cars had to park all over the church grounds, we did the best we could to serve and share God's love. We thank God for such an amazing day. And we learned important lessons for planning our next large outreach events!

Amherst Historical Society Events Looking for volunteers to man a tent and pass out information about the church and preschool.

- German Christmas on December 5th 4pm – 8pm at the Amherst Historical Society
- If you are able to help at any of these events please reach out to Eric or Sandy Long.
-



Annual Voters' Assembly Meeting

Sunday, November 15, 2026 @ 10:45 AM

The Church is the FAMILY of God. The Bible calls us "brothers and sisters in Christ." We relate to God in love and trust, and we love one another. Families also have work which must be done. St. Paul's November 15th Voters' Assembly is our church family gathering together to do the mission God has given us.

St. Paul's Voters will hear the report of our Building Remodel Committee which recommends a series of projects to renew the church building, and vote on whether to begin the first project which is padding the pews in the worship sanctuary. The Voters will also hear the report of our Community Care Non-Profit Committee and vote whether to move forward with establishing a separate non-profit organization which will carry out various ministries to care for people in the local community. St. Paul Voters will also elect several members to the Board of Directors, vote on a proposed church budget for 2027, and consider any items members bring forward from the floor. Join us for this meeting.

Nominations for Board of Directors - It's that time to ask members of our church family to service as leaders. The Board of Directors oversees the growth of the church and handles the business matters that must be dealt with. The Nominations Committee is inviting members to serve on this board. If you would like to nominate someone you think would be great in this role, please contact Pat Echko (patechko@gmail.com) or Pastor Werner (pastor@stpaulamherst.com). You may nominate yourself too.



A New Ministry of Care for

1,100 Kids

at Powers Elementary School in
Amherst

Providing Needed Clothing, Hygiene,
and Snacks

Last year St. Paul Voters tasked the Board of Directors to assemble a team to investigate starting a non-profit ministry to serve community needs. A team was assembled, and they asked throughout the community what are unmet needs. The clearest, most urgent need we found is at Powers Elementary School in Amherst. Their Student Care Closet had been administered by a social worker, but that position was eliminated due to budget cuts. The school asked for our help. There are 1,100 children, preschool to 3rd Grade! Many do not have the basic necessities to equip them to learn.

St. Paul has a new team of volunteers who are gathering snack foods for the kids and organizing the care closet. They are getting a sense of which clothing and hygiene items are most in demand and at what "flow rate." Soon, we know, the urgent needs will be winter coats, hats, and gloves for children. Soon our team will begin inviting the people of Amherst to partner with St. Paul in meeting this community need.

In November we will present the Voters' Assembly with the decision of whether or not to take this simple ministry a big step forward. We will ask the Voters whether or not St. Paul will establish a registered non-profit organization. The benefits of separating this ministry from the formal organization of St. Paul Lutheran Church are: • separate and clear financial records, • separate liability, • the ability to receive grant funding which a church as a religious organization is not eligible to receive. To keep this organization in partnership with St. Paul, we will need to write governing documents that specify St. Paul elect the majority of representatives on the non-profit organization's board.

Be Still
AND KNOW
THAT I AM GOD
-PSALM 46:10

Gifts given in memory of Don Lamoreaux were given to the Stained Glass Window Fund by Pat Rein, Barb Spieker, Rebecca Demich, Marilyn Hubbard, Pete & Bonnie Stiwald

+++++

Calling all of “Geri’s Friends.” As you all know undoubtedly know, sadly Geri Geidrick passed away a few months ago. While Geri is dearly missed by all who knew her, we do not want her ministries to also die. Geri was always thinking of ways to get more people involved in the church and one of those was to engage the ladies in the congregation in social activities she herself planned.

Recently some of those ladies (along with Pastor Paul) discussed a different version of what Geri had begun. In her name, we are interested in starting a group that will combine socialization with an outreach component. We decided to make tie blankets and/or prayer shawls for shut-ins. Material and yarn will be provided. If you are interested in knitting or crocheting the prayer shawls, please bring your own needles or hooks. **NO SKILL IS NECESSARY** if you are making the tie blankets.

We intend to meet quarterly, with our First meeting being Tuesday, October 6th, From 11:30am-2pm in the upper level education hall. If interested in joining us, please sign up in the narthex on the information counter so we will know how many to expect. Please bring your own sack lunch and will eat as we work. Should you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact Sandy Binggeli (440-759-2784).

Whether you have or haven’t participated before in these social activities, **ALL** are invited as Geri considered everyone in the congregation to be her friend.



Don’t forget to turn your clocks BACK 1 hour before going to bed on Saturday, October 31st (Halloween) so that you can make it the worship service on time on Sunday morning, November 1st.

FORGETTABLE FACT

Shakespeare invented the name “Jessica” in *The Merchant of Venice*.

POTENT QUOTES

“Jesus did not come into the world to make bad men good. He came into the world to make dead men live!” — Leonard Ravenhill

A PRAYER FOR OUR CHURCH

Lord Jesus, You welcomed us when we were far from You. Help us to welcome others with the same love and grace. Remove fear, pride, and indifference from our hearts. Fill us with compassion, humility, and a desire to share the Gospel. Make our church a place where every person feels seen and valued. Let our words and actions reflect the warmth of Christ’s love. Give us boldness to invite, wisdom to speak truth, and patience to walk with seekers. Use us to draw the lost into Your Kingdom. Lord, grow our church in faith, unity, and mission. May we be a lighthouse in our community, bringing glory to Your name. Amen.

—St. Paul’s Prayer Group, 2026

SOMETHING FOR YOUR HEART

Saturday, October 31st, is the anniversary of the day when Dr. Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses (or statements for debate) on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenburg, Germany in 1517. He posted them there because the following day, November 1st, All Saints Day, crowds of people would be coming to the church and would see his statements. At that time the Church told people that they were saved by paying to pray over bone fragments of dead saints, or by buying an indulgence (a certificate of forgiveness). Martin Luther encouraged people to trust the promises in the Bible only. The Bible proclaims all people are saved by what Jesus already accomplished completely in His death and resurrection. We receive this as a gift, by grace. This gift is given not because of what we do, but through trusting, by faith. "Scripture Alone." "Grace Alone." "Faith Alone" – those became the battle cry of the Reformation, which has impacted us at St. Paul, more than 500 years later.

PARTING SHOT

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?" The mother replied, 'Because white is the color of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life.' The child thought about this for a moment then said, "So why is the groom wearing black?"



115 Central Drive, Amherst, Ohio 44001

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Church Website: stpaulamherst.com

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

Naomi Bernstein - Director of Music Ministries

Judy Bloom - Church Office Administrator

Don Hammond - Director of Communications

Tracie Heuring - Director of Preschool

Mike Warnock - Director of Worship Technology