



WONDERFULLY MADE
A Jungle Adventure Celebrating God's Amazing Creation!

Jungle Bob
(Junglebob.tv)

1 Hour Live Animal Show at 2pm!
Games, Activities, Snacks & Prizes!

**Saturday, August 1,
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM**
St Paul Lutheran Church
115 Central Dr
Amherst, OH 44053

Everyone welcome! Join us for a fun-filled afternoon discovering how wonderfully God made us and His creation!



Perspective:

There are reasons to be frustrated with the USA, but as we approach our 250th, it's worth noting that very few (less than 1%?) of everyone who has ever lived have enjoyed freedom of speech, freedom of religion or the ability to elect their leaders.



LIBERTY IS A GIFT AND A CALLING

Reflections on the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence

Dear People of St. Paul,

As our nation marks the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, we as Christians give thanks to God for the blessings of liberty. At the same time we realize there are responsibilities that accompany those blessings.

The Declaration of Independence captures the essence of the values on which our country is founded. It boldly affirms that all people "are created equal" and "are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights." While the Declaration is not Scripture, it agrees with God's Word that human dignity comes from God, our Creator, rather than from government. These statements in the Declaration of Independence also agree with the Biblical truth that every person is made in the image of God. Human worth is not earned, granted by rulers, or determined by status some inherit by birth. It is a gift from God.

Lutherans distinguish between God's two kingdoms. God rules His Church through the Gospel, creating faith and granting forgiveness in Christ. This is the kingdom of the right, that is, the work God wants done above all else. Because people are sinful we do sinful, violent, selfish things that upset the peace. The resulting chaos can stop the news of Jesus' redeeming work from being spread. To enable there to be peace in our world, God also rules the civil realm through earthly authorities to preserve order, punish evil, and promote justice. God even commands that we give thanks for our nation and pray for those who serve in public office, not because governments are perfect, but because God works through them for the good of people He loves and wants saved.

No nation is without sin. The history of the United States includes remarkable achievements, along with embarrassing evils and failures which call for honesty and repentance. As Christians, we don't deny either. Because our hope rests not in any earthly kingdom but in the kingdom of Christ, we are free to celebrate what is good, confess what is wrong, and work to build a better future for the welfare of our neighbors.

True freedom is more than political independence. True freedom is being set free from the powers of sin, death, and the devil. Christ alone has set us free through His cross and resurrection. As St. Paul writes, "**For freedom Christ has set us free**" Galatians 5:1. This freedom is not for the purpose of serving ourselves but liberty to serve God and our neighbor in love.

On this 250th anniversary of our nation, let's thank God for the freedoms we enjoy, pray for wisdom and peace in our nation, honor those who serve the common good, and remember that our highest citizenship is in heaven. May God continue to bless our country with justice, mercy, and peace, and may He keep His Church faithful to proclaiming the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ until He comes again.

In Christ's service and yours,

Pastor Paul



Summer J.A.M. 2026 is coming on Saturday, August 1st! St. Paul's BIG summer event for kids is "**Wonderfully Made**" and includes **Jungle Bob** and his live animal show at 2pm, crafts, snacks, bounce house, games, and more! Kids need to know how special they are because they are created by God as precious in His sight and according to His plan! *"I praise You for I am fearfully and wonderfully made."* Psalm 139:14

VOLUNTEER SERVANTS WANTED for Summer J.A.M. 2026.

YOU can take part in sharing God's amazing love with kids this summer. Opportunities to serve are: **Registration** (2 persons) from 12:30pm -2pm; **Crafts** (make and animal mask – 2 persons, make binoculars – 2 persons, make cross bead necklace – 2 persons) from 1-2pm & 3-4pm; **Bounce House** from 1-2pm & 3-4pm (4 persons for safety and observers); **Snacks** (Popcorn – 2 persons, Snow Cones – 2 persons, Cotton Candy – 2 persons), from 1-2pm & 3-4pm. **SIGN UP** at the Information Counter in the narthex / lobby.



Kids' Church in Worship Services has ended for the season. Kids' Church will be back in September. In the summer months worship services will have a Children's message every Sunday.

WORSHIP WITH US @ ST. PAUL'S ON-LINE -- St. Paul's 9:30 AM worship services are 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.

OTHER WORSHIP OPTIONS AT HOME



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."



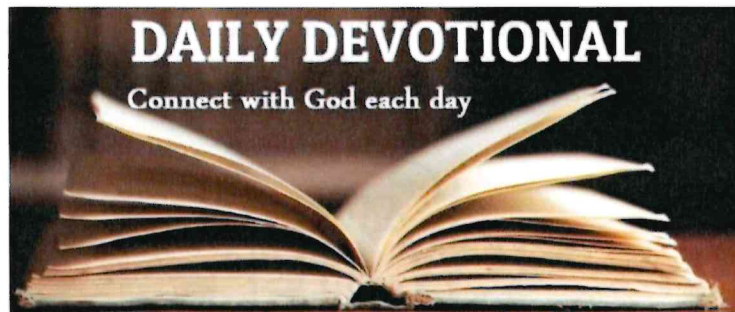
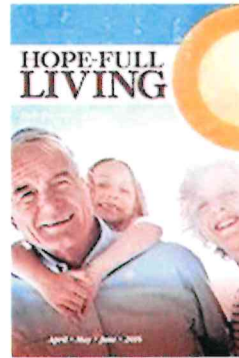
Time of Grace is a Lutheran broadcast from Appleton, Wisconsin. You can now watch where you want, when you want, how you want. Download the app to your phone. Or watch from Roku, Apple TV, or Fire TV. You can also go to YouTube and search "Time of Grace" to find their channel with so much content!

Connect with God Everyday!

DAILY DEVOTION GUIDES

Hope-Full Living

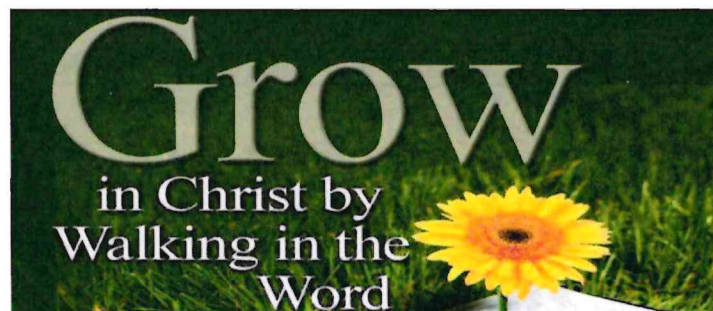
July - September issues
Available Today in Narthex
on Information Counter



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



Tuesday Morning "Seasoned Saints" Bible Study will resume on Tuesday, July 14th @ 10AM. You'll meet some friends, find encouragement, enjoy home-baked cookies, and grow in faith. We meet in the upper level. You don't have to be a Bible scholar. Everyone is welcome!

GROW IN FAITH TOGETHER - Come and see Jesus' life and ministry through the Bible Book of Luke. Grab a cup of coffee and join us upstairs Sundays at 10:45 AM. All are welcome! Bible Study Discussion Fellowship

Brotherhood, Bibles, & Brew Hey guys, the next BBB meeting will be on Thursday, July 9, 2026, at 6:30 PM at Ghost Tree Micro-brewery, 300 Church Street, Amherst. All men interested in a lively Christian conversation are welcome. Bring a friend.

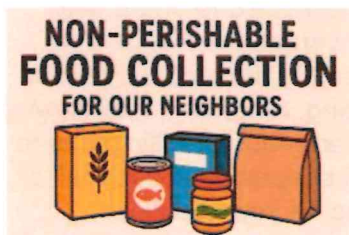
Men's Coffee Hour: The next men's coffee hour will be on July 16, 2026, at 10:00 AM at the Commando Coffee Co. located at 254 Park Ave in downtown Amherst. Make sure to bring someone with you... a shut-in, a neighbor, a missing church member, a friend, or a relative. All are welcome.



ARK Encounter & Creation Museum trip - St. Paul Fellowship Team Invites You to come along on a trip to 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 in a Cincinnati area hotel, breakfasts & dinners, and tickets to the Ark Encounter and Creation Museum, and a Riverboat cruise with dinner and entertainment. Cost is \$629 per person (based on double occupancy hotel room). 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.**



St. Paul's Prayer Group meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 1:00 PM. All who are interested in praying are welcome to join us. The next prayer session will be on July 9th 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 and join us.



FOOD GATHERING Sundays July 5th & August 2nd.

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



Seeing American monuments and museum artifacts can help you identify with national ideals and connect with history. They can also offer spaces for reflection on the nation's past, present, and future. Take a tour of a local museum or monument. Or just want to spend a quiet evening at home? No problem! Several National sites offer virtual tours! Choose one that seems the most interesting to you both and take a digital look around!

- Museum of the American Revolution: <https://museumvirtualltour.org/>
- Smithsonian National Museum of American History: https://americanhistory.si.edu/explore/exhibitions?search_api_fulltext=&field_exhibit_type%5B673%5D=673
- George Washington's Mount Vernon Home: <https://virtualltour.mountvernon.org/>
- The White House <https://www.whitehousehistory.org/tour-the-white-house-in-360-degrees>



Help Us Grow Our Presence in the Community We invite you to use the **QR code below** to go directly to our **Google Reviews** page. Leaving a review—short or long—helps others learn about St. Paul Lutheran Church and strengthens our outreach to the community. Your feedback also helps us continue improving how we welcome and serve others in Christ's name.



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.

Make an impact with Thrivent Choice®

Thrivent Choice® can make a meaningful difference for organizations like ours. If you're a Thrivent client with membership, don't forget to direct 2026 Choice Dollars® by Dec. 31, 2026. We'd be honored if you chose to support our church and or preschool. Your support helps strengthen our mission and the work we do every day. Learn more or direct Choice Dollars at thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice."

Meals on Wheels Delivery Drivers - The Amherst Office on Aging needs drivers to deliver meals to local residents. Drivers are needed for Wednesdays, and substitutes, and only one day a week from 10:30-12. You will get as much out of it as the recipients do! Contact Carrie or Kathy at Nordson Depot for more information! 440-988-2817

Stay Connected With St. Paul

Simple Ways to Access What You Need

We know technology can feel overwhelming, but connecting with St. Paul has never been easier. The QR codes below are simply **shortcuts** — when you point your phone's camera at a code, it takes you directly to what you need without typing or searching.

You can use these codes to:

- Visit our **new church website**
- Download the **St. Paul app**
- Access **online giving**
- Leave a **Google review** to help others find us

If you've never used a QR code before, don't worry. Just open your phone's camera, hold it over the code, and tap the link that appears. It's that simple — and we're happy to help if you'd like someone to walk you through it.

Staying connected should be easy, and we're here to make sure it is.



Web Site



APP



Google Review



On Line Giving

WALKIN' ON WEDNESDAY

AMHERST OHIO

SECOND WEDNESDAY IN JUNE, JULY & AUGUST

Join St. Paul's Team July 8th

We have fun giving gifts, sharing info, talking to local folks

Sign Up to Join In at Information Counter

FORGETTABLE FACT ABOUT THE U.S.A.

Over eight million slices of pizza are served in the USA every day.

POTENT QUOTES

“When I look at myself, I don’t see how I can be saved.
When I look at Christ, I don’t see how I can be lost.”

~ Martin Luther

CLOSING PRAYER

“Dear Jesus, help us to spread your fragrance everywhere we go. Flood our souls with your Spirit and life. Penetrate and possess our whole being so utterly that our lives may only be a radiance of yours. Shine through us and be so in us that every soul we come in contact with may feel your presence in our soul. Let them look up and see no longer us but only Jesus. Stay with us and then we shall begin to shine as you shine, so to shine as to be light to others. Amen.”

~ Mother Teresa (1910-1998)

PARTING SHOT

What breed of dog is the most patriotic?

... a Yankee Poodle



115 Central Drive, Amherst, Ohio 44001

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

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

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

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

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

**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**

St. Paul Calendar JULY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 Food Collection 9:30 Holy Communion	6	7	8	9 1 Prayer Group 6:30 Men's BBB @Ghost Tree	10	11
12 9:30 Worship	13	14 10 Seasoned Saints Bible Study	15	16 9 Men's Coffee @ Commando Coffee, Amherst	17	18 5:30 Baptism
19 9:30 Holy Communion 10:45 G.I.F.T. Bible Study	20	21 10 Seasoned Saints Bible Study 2 Board of Directors	22	23	24	25
26 9:30 Worship 10:45 G.I.F.T. Bible Study	27 4 Preschool Board	28 10 Seasoned Saints Bible Study	29	30	31	

July Birthdays

7/2	Mary Lou Gramer Janet Koehn	7/27 7/28	Laurie Beran Karie Coffman
7/4	Bethann Calabrese Molly McGlothlin		
7/7	Macie Wulfooop		
7/10	Rick Buttitta		
7/12	Alec Richardson		
7/16	Nathan Draga Fred Oberdick		
7/20	Lisa Gallo Sherry Timbs		
7/23	Kelly Coffman		

SERVANTS DURING THE WORSHIP OF GOD'S FAMILY FOR JULY 2026

Service	Elders	Readers	Greeters	Altar Guild	Ushers	Sound
7/5 9:30 AM	John Branbender	Sandy Long	Karen Vilagi Judy Bloom	Lynn Jiovanazzo Judy Starbuck	Bryan Draga Clyde Strader	Mike Warnock
7/12 9:30 AM		Jan Beko-Nathan	Mike & Debbie Smith	Fran Draga Debbie Smith	Dan Streza Chuck Draga Bob Kemmerle	Mike Warnock
7/19 9:30 AM	John Kirschner	Christine Krupp	Judy Starbuck Diane Spencer	Wanda Aschenbach Maryellen Bennett	Jeff Krupp Steve Warnock Don Wilms	Mike Warnock
7/26 9:30 AM		Bryan Draga	Karen Anderson	Karla Staylon Sue Werner	Bryan Draga Clyde Strader	Mike Warnock