

# ST. PAUL'S

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

### The Communicator

MAUMEE, OHIO

November 2025

Page 1

### Rebecca Circle, Grace & Giggles (Mom Group), Family Fun, Ekklesia

**REBECCA CIRCLE** will meet Thursday, November 13th at 10:00 am in the large conference room.

**NOVEMBER FAMILY NIGHT** In recognition of All Saints please join us in the East yard for a bonfire hotdogs, yard games, and other fall activities on Saturday, November 1st from 5:30-7:30 pm.

**FAMILY MOVIE NIGHTS** The Youth Group is hosting two family movie nights, screening a different Christmas movie each of the nights Sunday, December 7th and Sunday December 14th in the Sanctuary at 6:00 pm.



### Happy Hearts

Please join us for our monthly senior luncheon, Happy Hearts, on Thursday, November 13th at noon in the Fellowship Hall for performance by the Maumee Select Choir. Lunch will be a Holiday themed potluck. Fellowship will provide Rotisserie Chickens. Please sign-up to bring your favorite Thanksgiving or Christmas side, salad, or dessert to share with the group and the kids in the choir.

### Children's Gathering



Mark your calendars! The Children's Ministry MAT is planning a gathering for our kids from

Kindergarten – 5th grade on Sunday, November 23rd, from 11:45 am – 1:15 pm. Lunch will be provided

followed by a Thanksgiving craft and lesson. You are welcome to drop your children off or to stay and participate.

Please let Kacie Walenczak or Sue Harden know if your child(ren) will be able to attend so they can purchase the proper amount of food and supplies. You can also email us at [snrinc@outlook.com](mailto:snrinc@outlook.com).

Please see us with any questions you might have. Looking forward to seeing you there!

### Fourth Quarter Gathering

Mark your calendars for the congregational Gathering to be held on Sunday, November 23rd, at 11:45 am.

Copies of the proposed budget for 2026 will be available in the Gathering space on Sunday's November 9th and November 16th. Feel free to pick up a copy at that time to look over before the Gathering.

Every year, there is an election of two Trustees at the 4th Quarter Gathering. Watch the Sunday Messenger for the names of the nominated candidates presented by this year's Nominating Committee.



## From Pastor David

### Looking ahead

We are planning some new or renewed priorities for next year. We are considering nearly a dozen such things. Of course, it is not likely we can do all of them. It would be helpful to know what the congregation views as the priorities. If you have time, please send me a list of your top 5 of the list below. You could even cut this article out and write out your own top 5. Your help is much appreciated!

Missions Trip – foreign or US

Prayer Meeting – occasional or regular

Cross-generation mentoring – assigned supportive relationships

Spiritual gift inventory – what are our member's natural skills

Replace Church 360 – church management software

Retreats – marriage, men's and youth in addition to the women's efforts

Improved communications strategy – how can we do better?

Create nursing space for moms – we want young families, we need good space for them

Sermon Alternatives – breaking up the normal pattern

Celebration Sundays

Mother's panel

Youth Sunday

Special Music – choirs, solos, duets, etc.

Increased Missions focus – see what is God doing outside our 4 walls.

Of course, we trust it is the voice of God that will guide our final choices. Please pray for all of us to sense His direction.



## Looking Back at 2025

The vision David presented to the congregation last year included creating more fellowship opportunities, expanding building use, creating more worship and prayer opportunities, and expanding our outreach.

The Men's and Family Ministries were created to address some gaps in fellowship opportunities. Both groups are doing well in creating these opportunities.

The Men's Bible Study and Prayer group meets the first and third Saturday at 8:00 am and was expanded into the Men's Ministry earlier this year. Every second Tuesday night they serve dinner and help pass out groceries at Mosaic Ministries. They have also been instrumental in helping the youth group facilitating a trip to Michigan for a hayride and in supporting the Family Ministry and their Family Fun nights and Family Fun Day during the Maumee Street Fair as well.

Family Ministry— started with the moms group Grace and Giggles while we had some meetings and organized play dates there just was not enough regular attendance. Family nights have been really successful with between 40 and 65 people attending so far, they have also morphed more into family friendly fellowship opportunities not just for families but for grandparents, friends, and people who just enjoy going to or helping with family friendly gatherings, which is why we have combined the Family MAT with the Fellowship MAT since there is so much overlap.

In mid October a need for more women's fellowship was brought to our attention so we are starting a Women's Bible Study and Fellowship group open to all women starting Thursday, November 13th at 6:30 pm. Childcare will be provided

Expanding Building use we decided to table the Memory Care unit for a while as it required extensive renovations to the building when we already have costly structural repairs to the wall to consider. Lifewise Academy had asked us if they could use our building but they are also considering other local churches as well.

Creating more worship and prayer opportunities—We have continued with our Ekklesia services after taking a break for the summer. During the presidential election we opened the building for the day for people to come in and pray or have someone pray with them. Increasing Ekklesia service numbers was also a goal with this and we have added childcare to this service in hopes of including more people who may not have been able to attend previously.

We are hoping to create more opportunities where we open the church during the day for people to pray. During our Hot Topics sermon series we facilitated discussion groups for people to come together and discussed difficult subjects which was also successful. If you have ideas on how we can bring people together in more meaningful ways facilitating prayer or worship please let David or Ben know. A visit to Brooklyn Tabernacle was also on listed as a goal to create more prayer and worship opportunities but we were unable to go to one of those services. Increase use of the Bless App was another opportunity for prayer in our local communities and neighborhood expanding our reach and a way increase evangelism and fellowship with neighbors but did not get as much use as we had hoped for.

LET  
gratitude  
FOR THE PAST  
INSPIRE US  
WITH trust  
FOR THE FUTURE.

—Françoise Fénelon

er

to



## From Pastor Ben

# Thanksgiving

My favorite holiday of the year has historically been Thanksgiving, and it isn't just because the Lions always play on Thanksgiving. It isn't even because of the food. I am not much of a fan of Turkey, and I really am not a fan of Pumpkin pie.

I have found that Thanksgiving is one of the most straightforward holidays of the year. It is a day we gather, we eat, and we give thanks. And giving thanks is one of the most needed spiritual disciplines around.

Think about how often complaining and comparison are the rote responses. We can always want more, or find an area that needs improvement. This dangerous game is seen even more with how Christmas is shifted from being about celebrating Jesus into a day all about decorations and consumerism.

Gratitude rewires our brains. It is one of the Fruits of the Spirit. Gratitude demonstrates a healthy heart. Gratitude requires humility.

So, as Christians, let us have a wonderful Thanksgiving this year, but let's practice giving thanks year around. Let people around you know that you appreciate them. Be the example of gratitude and humility for the next generation to follow.

And if you do not know of something to be thankful for, take time to pray about this. We serve a good God who is rich in love and abounding in mercy. He can give you a true heart of thanksgiving.



## YOUTH GROUP NEWS

**Sunday, November 2nd** Burning Questions Part 2

**Sunday, November 9th** Jesus Meets The Need

**Sunday, November 16th** Jesus Meets The Need

**Sunday, November 23rd** Thankfulness and Gratitude

**Sunday, November 30th** No Youth Group

**Sunday, December 7th** Youth Group Hosting Family Movie Night and selling nickel and dime concessions

**Sunday, December 14th** Youth Group Hosting Family Movie Night and selling nickel and dime concessions.

**More Youth Group updates to come in the December Communicator!**

### Available Altar Flower Dates

Swesey Florist in Maumee, has closed their doors, so our new florist is Emery's Flowers the new price is \$25. There are still altar flower dates this month.



### Women's Bible Study and Fellowship

Open to women of all ages. Come as you are. Potluck style dinner, please bring a dish to share if you are able. Childcare provided in the nursery.

Our first meeting is Thursday, November 13th at 6:30 pm. Future schedule will be decided at the first meeting. Please sign-up in the Gathering Space.



### December Movie Night Needs

If you feel led to help in some way with the youth group in December, please consider donating movie theater concessions such as candy, fruit snacks, juice boxes, pop corn to pop in the pop-corn machine, hotdogs, and hotdog buns. Contact the office or Ben about donating concessions or volunteering to help.



### Men's Ministry Tool Box Project

Tim the Tool Man is looking to collect your old and unused tools. We will be collecting tools during the first three weeks in November, 1 - 22. Pliers, Straight Blade Screw Drivers, Phillip Screw Drivers, Small or Large Crescent Wrenches, Small Tape measures 6' or 12', Hammers, Finishing Nails (Small Amount), Miscellaneous Bag of Screws, etc. There will be a table in the Gathering Space with bins for the tools to be collected. These tools will be put in tool boxes for distribution to families in need of this support



**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), Beth Heisey, Carol Doerfler & Linda Scott with the St. Paul's church family.

## News from the Outreach M.A.T.

**"Showing God's Love Through You"**

Check out the slides, weekly bulletin, weekly email, our church's Facebook page, 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.

### **Looking ahead:**

- Angel Tree Sunday, Nov. 23 – Sunday, Dec. 14th
- Thanksgiving Holiday Food Baskets (Sat, Nov. 22nd)
- Christmas Holiday Food Baskets (Sat, Dec 20th)
- Christmas Cookie Extravaganza (Sun, Dec. 21st)

### **Continues from Column 1**

**Thanksgiving Holiday Baskets** (Saturday, Nov. 22nd) The Outreach MAT will be getting the food, sorting it, and arranging the food baskets for Thanksgiving on Saturday, November 22nd from 8:00 am – 11:00 am. The families will come for their food baskets on that Saturday, and we will send them home with Thanksgiving dinner and lots of prayers and hugs.

Could we use your help? Yes!! We need people to pick up food from Maumee Meijers at 7:30 am, people to unload and sort the food and personal items into baskets at 8:15, people to deliver the baskets to families without transportation at 9:15, and also individuals from 9:30 to 11:00 to carry out baskets to the families' cars.

If you have a willingness to make a difference for some families during this holiday season, contact an Outreach MAT member to volunteer or just show up for that Saturday.

**Angel Tree** (Sunday, Nov., 23 through Sunday, Dec., 14)

Calling all angels! The date for this year's Angel Tree is from Sunday, November 23rd through Sunday, December 14th. Each year we select families who have children under the age of 14. Their names are given to us by Maumee Schools, St. Paul's members and pastors, and the Salvation Army. Each chosen child makes a gift wish list. That list from each child is placed on individual gift tags and are positioned on the Outreach MAT Angel Trees. (Each child receives two gifts as there is a tag for each child on each tree. The gift list is different for each tag.)

### **Continues from Column 2**

St. Paul's members sign out each gift tag they take (Sign out pink tags on pink sheet and green tags on green sheets) and select items from the wish list to wrap and return to church with the gift tag attached to the gift/gifts. The gifts are given to the children when the parents pick up their Christmas Holiday Food Baskets. For many of these families, this is the only Christmas that they have. Be looking for the Angel Trees in the Gathering Space on Sunday, November 23rd.

### **Christmas Jars**

Heading into fall and the beginning of the holiday seasons, the question is:

**HOW IS YOUR CHRISTMAS JAR DOING?**

Have you been filling it weekly with your change? Is the jar getting heavier and heavier as the change nears the top? Have you been watching for a family who could use a boost or gift to help them over some challenges in their lives? If you need help choosing a family, contact Sue Schad and we can connect you.

### **Christmas Cookie Extravaganza**

On Sunday, December 21st, we are again celebrating the joy of the season with our Christmas Cookie Extravaganza. Because St. Paul's has such extraordinary cooks and bakers, we are asking you to share a favorite cookie or bar with the congregation by making and bringing in two dozen on that Sunday.





**Continues from Column 3**

The wonderfully delicious tables of goodies will be shared at both services with our church family. Last year we had everything from lemon bars to iced sugar cookies, from brownies to old fashioned “family secret” bars, from puppy chow to cultural specialties. Join in this wonderful time together with church family, enjoying the goodies.

**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.

**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.

**Continues from Column 4**

**Baby University** Baby University ministers to families in Toledo’s Old South End. They are collecting children’s books especially board books. As a congregation, we can help them achieve their mission by providing them with books. There will be a collection container in the Gathering Space for books. Thank you for helping this important, but vulnerable part of our population.

**Halos of Hope**

Many thanks to the ladies who are knitting and crocheting chemo caps for this ministry. We have made over 3,600 caps since this ministry started! We are making a difference!



The ministry uses volunteers to knit caps for individuals under going cancer treatment. If you knit or crochet and would like to use your gift to help others, please contact Sue Schad for more information about this exciting opportunity to make a difference.

**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.

**Continues from Column 5****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****November Shopping List:**

Paper towels, toilet paper, Kleenex, Pop Tarts, small canned chicken, dill pickles, Spam, snacks like cheese and crackers, cookies, etc, canned pasta (like beefaroni), Rotel tomatoes, strawberry jelly, mandarin oranges, mustard, mayonnaise, any kind of Jiffy mix, crackers, relish, waxed beans, beets, crushed or chunk pineapple, boxed mashed potatoes, Hamburger, chocolate or vanilla frosting, brownie mix

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!

**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.”**

**(Mathew 25:40)**



## M.A.T. Spotlight



### YOUTH MINISTRY

*“Encountering the Love of God in a powerful way.”*

St. Paul's Youth Ministry is for students from 6th - 12th grades. We aim to connect the students with the love of Jesus and then provide them with ways to share that love with those around them.

#### Do You Have A Heart To Connect With Kids?

Would you like to help with Youth Groups on Wednesday nights?

Need more information on Catechism Classes or First communion Classes?

Do you have kids or grandkids, or other family members who are in Jr. High or High School who you'd like to see involved?

Are you able to help supervise or transport to & from meeting or other youth outreach functions?

Did you say **YES** to any of the above? Do you feel nudged by the Lord? If so, please complete & drop it off in the offering plate by the Sanctuary doors and the Youth MAT Leaders, or Pastor Ben Murray, will reach out to you.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



## Thanks Received

Dear St. Paul's Family,

Thank you so much for the outpouring of love and support we received upon the birth of our baby, Ruby Adelaide. The meal train and other generous gifts we received from our church family was such a blessing to our family. We are so thankful for all of you!

♥ Bill & Renee Boyer & family



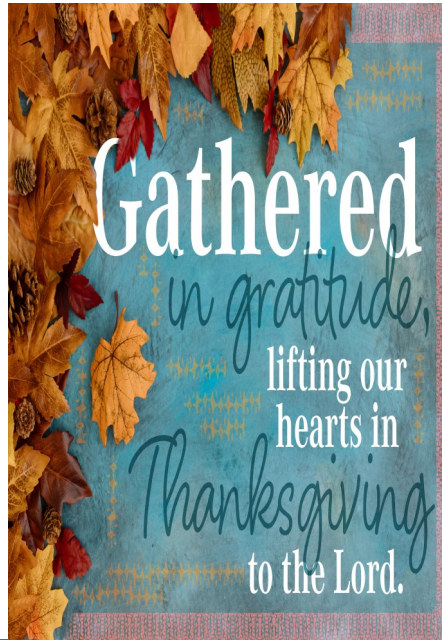
## Thanks From The Youth Group

On behalf of the members of the Youth Group, I would like to thank many members of St. Paul's Church for volunteering their time and talents this summer.

Without them there would not have been a Youth Group for June, July and August this year. Pastor David Kaiser stepped up and filled in for Aaron Williams. Jim Brown addressed several maintenance issues in the Youth Group room, making the room much more appealing to hold the meetings! Kacie Walenczak, Beth Condon, Beth Monroe, Beth Heisey and Cari Olman took turns helping P. David in running the meetings, organizing events & activities and providing meals for the Youth Group. Husbands Chris Walenczak, Justin Olman and Zack Heisey helped to run events and activities as well. I was overwhelmed by how they all generously gave so much of themselves for these youth! THANK YOU!!!

## Family Ministry

Thank you to everyone that attended Family Night in October and to everyone that helped with clean-up. Family Nights would not be possible without our wonderful volunteers!



## Office Hours

- ◇ Mon—Wed: 8:00 am—2:00 pm
- ◇ Thurs—Fri: 8:00 am—12:00 pm

As always we can be reached by email at Hubi (hhsmith@stpaulslive.org) & Sue smhardn@stpaulslive.org). If you have information for the "Messenger" or the "Communicator" please send it to officeinfo@stpaulslive.org.

David is trying to meet with each St. Paul's member. Please let him know if you wish to schedule coffee or lunch. If there is an emergency outside of our office hours, please call Pastor David at 419-270-2582.

Pastor Ben is also trying to meet with members of St. Paul's please let him know if you would like to meet. He has a Michigan number so if you get a message from a Michigan number it may be him 269-224-0936.

## Men's Bible Study and Prayer Group has planned meetings

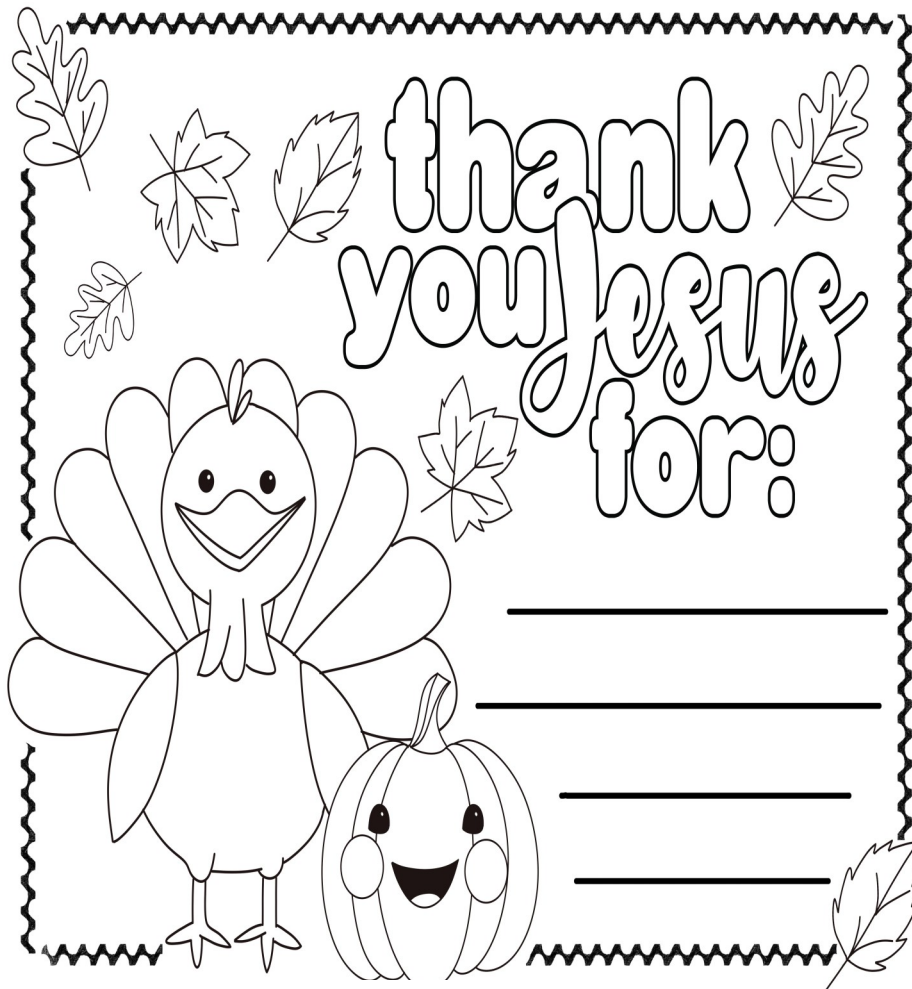

The Paul's Lutheran Church Men's Bible Study and Prayer Group.

Exploring God's word together allows our men's group to learn and grow with one another, to be challenged and encourage one another to live for something larger than ourselves.

We meet every first and third Saturday at 8:00 am.

Please bring your Bible. We will look forward to having you join us.







## Thankful garland

Celebrate the season of gratitude by creating a colorful Thankful decoration.


**What you need:**

- Construction paper in a variety of fall colors
- Pencil, marker, or crayons
- Yarn, ribbon, or raffia
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- Spray bottle filled with water
- Real leaves (Optional)
- Wooden or plastic beads, cereal with holes (Cheerios, Froot Loops, etc.), or any dried pasta with a hole (Optional)



**What you do:**

1. Draw or trace leaf shapes onto construction paper.
2. Lay the paper flat and spray with water until the paper is completely wet.
3. Crumple the wet paper into balls.
4. Open the paper and let the sheets dry flat.
5. When dry, cut out each leaf.
6. On each leaf, write the name of one person or thing you're thankful for.
7. Punch a hole in each leaf.
8. Lace the leaves, beads, cereal, and pasta onto the yarn, ribbon, or raffia.
9. Tie the ends and hang your garland.



**Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.**

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)

**The Communicator**  
is published monthly by

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church**  
112 E. Wayne Street  
Maumee, Ohio 43537

**Ph: 419-893-0205**

**Web Site:** [www.stpaulslive.com](http://www.stpaulslive.com)  
**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  
David at **419-270-2582**.

Office Hours:  
Mon—Wed: 8:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Thurs—Fri: 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

---

***Pastoral Staff:***

David N. Kaiser  
[dnkaiser@stpaulslive.org](mailto:dnkaiser@stpaulslive.org)

Ben A. Murray  
[bamurray@stpaulslive.org](mailto:bamurray@stpaulslive.org)

---

***Sunday Schedule:***

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

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

**Everyone is welcome!**

---

***Trustees:***

Gary Yunker—President  
Linda Scott—Vice President  
Timothy Callahan—Treasurer  
Marcia Culling—Secretary

---

**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! **Email Hubi at [officeinfo@stpaulslive.org](mailto:officeinfo@stpaulslive.org)** with submissions.



**Enter into his gates with thanksgiving,  
and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto  
him, and bless his name.**

**Psalm 100:4, KJV**

**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.

**Give us a call**

Please call the church office (419-893-0205) if you or a family member are (or are scheduled to be) hospitalized, have recently moved to an assisted living facility or nursing home, become a shut-in, desire home communion or would appreciate a home visit due to health problems.

Hospitals and care facilities no longer provide us with this information and it's important so that our pastor, prayer groups, and congregation are able to provide the necessary spiritual support when and where it is needed. Please help us minister to you and your loved ones.



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.

Prepared Especially For:

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage  
PAID  
Maumee, OH  
Permit No. 74

St. Paul’s Lutheran Church  
112 E. Wayne Street  
Maumee, Ohio 43537  
Address Service Requested