ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Communicator

MAUMEE, OHIO

December 2025 Page 1

Rebecca Circle, Family Fun, and Happy Hearts

REBECCA CIRCLE will meet at Marie Scramblers for our Christmas lunch Thursday, December 4th at 11:30 am.

FAMILY MOVIE

NIGHTS The Youth Group is hosting two family movie nights and selling nickel



and dime concessions. Sunday, December 7th King of Kings (1hr and 43 min) and Sunday December 14th (Charlie Brown Christmas (25 min) and Veggie Tales: The Star of Christmas (50 min) in the Sanctuary at 6:00 pm. If you feel led to help Youth Group or Family Ministry in some way please consider donating concessions for the December Movie Nights.

CAROLING AND SOUP SUPPER

Please join us on Saturday, December 13th, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm, for an afternoon of Christmas Carols in the Sanctuary followed by a soup and bread supper in the Fellowship Hall.

HAPPY HEARTS Please join us for our monthly senior luncheon on Thursday, December 11th at noon for a friendly game of White Elephant. Please see rules for this year's game at the top of **page 5.** Lunch will be New Year's Eve Party themed. Please sign-up in the Gathering Space to bring your favorite Holiday Hors D'oeuvres or appetizers, dips, or desserts to share with the group.

Advent

Advent is the best time of the year to lean into the messiness and neediness of the world, and how Jesus is the only way, the only truth, and the only life that meets those needs. We Christians are called to, in our finitude, limitedness, and giftedness show how Jesus meets the felt needs and the unknown needs of every human. Advent is our time to examine the promises God



made throughout Scripture, and to see how Jesus is the fulfillment of those promises. That fulfillment brings blessings to his followers, and then we are meant to bring those blessings outward into the world to show how God meets their needs. Now, in Him, we are called to make disciples in the world. We are called to care for the least of these.

Let's Celebrate!



You are invited to a Birthday Party for Jesus! Join us in the St. Paul's Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, December 16th at 6:00 pm as we walk through Luke 2:1–18, learning about the birth of Christ through fun and games. Cake and snacks will be provided! Come celebrate the true reason for the season! To RSVP email Susan Harden snrinc@outlook.com

Christmas Eve Services

The 3:00 pm service is a family-friendly Communion Service and nursery is available for ages 0-4.

The 7:00 pm service is a family-friendly Communion Service with candle lighting and nursery is available for ages 0-4.

The 10:30 pm service is a Communion Service with candle lighting.



From Pastor David

Am I the only person who often wakes up with a random song playing in their head? Recently, the unbidden song on my mind was Sam Cooke's "A Change Is Gonna Come." It has been recorded by dozens of singers since he wrote it in 1963.

You might recall the opening lines:

I was born by the river In a little tent Oh, and just like the river, I've been runnin' Ever since

It's been a long, A long time coming But I know A change gonna come Oh yes it will

Sam grew up as a Pastor's kid in Chicago. He had some huge hits such as "Darling, You Send Me," "Cupid," "Chain Gang," and "Twistin' the Night Away." These were all pop culture hits with light themes. But, after he was denied a room at a deepsouth hotel because he was not white, he decided to write a more meaningful song.



The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases: his mercies never come to an end: they are new every morning: great is your faithfulness. Lamentations 3:22-23, ESV great is your taithfu

He was impressed with Bob Dylan's protest song, "Blowin In The Wind" and wanted to create something similar. So, he wrote "A Change Is Gonna Come."

His song includes some powerful words of pain:

Then I go to my brother And I say, "Brother, help me, please." But he winds up Knockin' me Back down on my knees

Cont. From Pastor David

In similar ways, the prophet Jeremiah wrote the book Lamentations in the aftermath of Jerusalem's destruction by Babylon (586 B.C.). The book is a series of five poetic laments expressing grief over the nation's suffering. It is some hard reading, but in the middle of it all, there is one passage that I especially love,

22 The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end;

23 they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

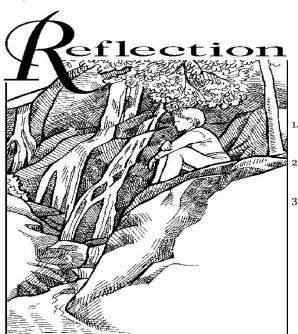
24 "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."

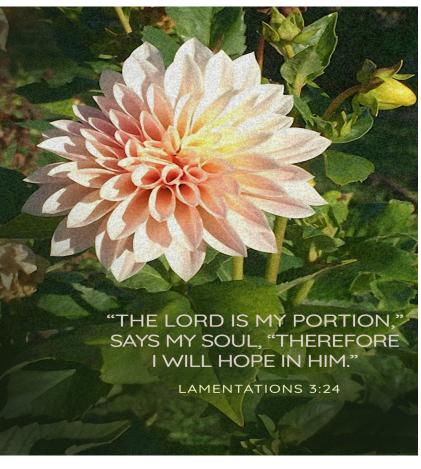
Cooke and Jeremiah both wrote their laments out of the pain they faced.

A lament is an opportunity to pour out our grief to God. He loves to take our sorrows and turn them into songs just like he transformed Jeremiah's suffering into Scripture. So, whatever pain you are facing today, you can confidently take it to the throne room of God and tell him about it. Because of His never-failing compassions, you can have confidence that He will use that pain in some way that is good for you.

Cooke was confident that the centuries of mistreatment his people had endured would one day

soon, come to an end. He was correct, although he would not live to see it. He died within a year of publishing the song. Yet, his work has remained influential for the 6 decades since his passing.





Reflection Questions

What does lament look like in your own life or community today?

How can honest sorrow lead to renewed faith?

Where do you see "change coming" in the light of God's promises?

From Pastor Ben

Change is hard. Even when we know that the change is good or necessary, it still challenges us. Routines and normalcy give us a sense of comfort, stability, and control. When my wife and I announced to our girls that we were going to move to Maumee, it was a huge change for all of us. One way we sought to help our girls adjust to the idea of the upcoming move was telling them that we would get a puppy when we move into a new house. So, in August—mere weeks after purchasing our new home, we went to the Toledo Humane society and adopted a cute little 4-month-old puppy named Goliath.

We have had Goliath for three months, and he has helped greatly with the girls adjusting to the changesnew neighborhood, new school, new friends, and a new church. But the inclusion of Goliath into the Murray household brought another level of change: taking care of this furry ball of boundless energy!

Goliath is overall a very affectionate and entertaining pet. Sure, he is likely to grow much larger than we were told he would be (They said he would be medium... but he was nearly 40 lbs. at 6 months old!), and he likes to think our girls are sheep to be herded, and he thinks our cat is a play toy--- overall, he's great. One of the hardest parts of taking care of him though is that he absolutely hates getting his nails trimmed.



It won't be a dire issue once he is old enough to go on more frequent and longer walks (maybe even jogging with me!), but for now he has these clicking and clacking nails...

Which would be ok, except when he is laying on our laps he will excitedly spasm with his legs and scratch our faces with his ever so scraggly claws!

When we try to clip his nails, it is a two-person endeavor where he seems to think we are trying to euthanize him. He fights it with every ounce of his gangly body! It has become so bad that any time the two of us are in a certain room of the house and we offer him a treat that he fleas to the other corner of the house and cowers like he is in a bomb shelter.

In the midst of watching him misuse his two brain cells, I was struck that I respond to God in the same way. Instead of recognizing where God is pruning my soul and refining my life, I view whatever change He is calling me to as a violent assault. The areas of my life where I have grown scraggly and unkept—where I lack discipline and consideration, not only does it keep me from thriving, it can irritate or even hurt those around me. Change might not be fun, but if I can see how my goofy little pup can benefit from change, then I should trust God to be an even better care taker for me.



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.

Sunday, December 21st Youth Group delivering cookies.

More Youth Group updates to come in the January Communicator!

Thank you from **Family Ministry**

Thank you to everyone who came to Family Night, donated wagons, and all the volunteers that made Family Night possible!



Available Altar

There are still Altar flower dates available for December. As a reminder the cost is \$25.



December Happy Hearts White Elephant Rules



Elephan† Please join us on Thursday, December 11th, at noon for our monthly Happy Hearts senior luncheon. Lunch will Lunch will be New Year's Eve Party themed. Please sign-up in the Gathering Space to bring your favorite Holiday Hors D'oeuvres or appetizers, dips, or desserts to share with the group.

December's luncheon will not have a guest speaker; instead, we will enjoy fellowship and a game of White Elephant.

Participation in the game is optional.

- · Each player brings one wrapped gift, which must be 2nd hand—If possible, nothing you bought new, but something nice that you don't need. This can include regifted items or things you no longer need or want that clutter vour home.
- · Players draw numbers to determine what order they will go in.
- · Players sit in a circle or line where they can see the gift pile.
- · The first player selects a gift from the pool and opens it.
- · The following players can choose to either pick an unwrapped gift from the pool or steal a previous player's gift. Anyone who gets their gift stolen in this way can do the same – choose a new gift from the pile or steal one from someone else.

Tool Ministry

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 within the St. Paul's Congregation and Mosaic Ministry Group. Our Men's Group greatly appreciates all your assistance with this upcoming project.



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 <u>CAN</u> 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, November 23 -Sunday, December 14th)
- Holly Jolly Christmas Shopping, Saturday, December 6th
- Christmas Holiday Food Baskets (Sat, December 20th)
- Christmas Cookie Extravaganza (Sunday, December 21st)
- Cookies for Shut-ins (Sunday, December 21st)

Continues from Column 1



The members of the Outreach MAT and God's Storehouse would like to thank St Paul's members for their generous donations of non-perishable food items. The last month has been challenging to keep God's Storehouse inside and the two Blessing Boxes outside filled for families who were effected by the SNAP benefits loss. We are grateful to such a caring and giving congregation!!

"Soles for Souls" (shoes for people)

We collected 75 pairs of shoes and boots in October. We are very thankful for your donations as we can now donate the shoes to I ndividuals who need warm and sturdy footwear for the winter.



<u>Little Library Box vs Blessing</u> <u>Boxes</u>

During the SNAP shut down the last few weeks, a notice was put in the media that our Little Library (on Wayne and Gibbs Streets) was becoming a food pantry. (misinformation) Just a reminder that we have two 24/7 food Blessing Boxes in the parking lot that are stocked with nonperishable food items by the Outreach MAT members. The Little Library is still only for donated books that can be taken by members of the community.

Continues from Column 2 <u>Holly Jolly Christmas Shopping</u> (Sat, Dec, 6th)

Need to do some last-minute Christmas shopping? All done, but have fun looking at Christmas stuff? Ladies, come with us for some fun and commercial therapy! We'll meet at the Valare's on Saturday, Dec. 6th for brunch at 10:00am and then venture forth to shop at different shops throughout the area. We'll return when there is either no room left for any more sacks or until we're broke. Be sure to join us in the fun! For more information, chat with Kara.

<u>Christmas Holiday Food Baskets</u> (Sat, Dec 20th)

The Outreach MAT will be getting the food, sorting it, and arranging the food baskets for Christmas on Saturday, December 20th from 8:00 am – 11:00 am. The families will come for their food baskets and Angel Tree gifts on that Saturday, and we will send them home with Christmas 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.



FOOD BASKETS

Continues from Column 3

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.) 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.

Continues from Column 4

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 cookers 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.

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.



Cookies for Shut-Ins

We have some St. Paul's members who are unable to come to church. Although they are a part of our congregation, they miss the face to face contact with their church family.

As part of our Christmas Cookie Extravaganza, we are baking extra cookies to deliver to them. Our extraordinary Youth Group with Pastor Ben have volunteered to personally visit our friends and bring them some Christmas cheer and goodies. We thank the Youth Group for their generous offer to drop by and chat with our home-bound church friends.

Continues from Column 5

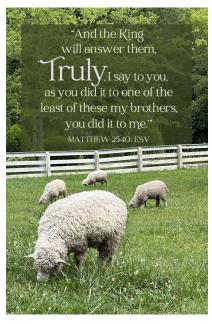
God's Storehouse (St. Paul's Food Pantry)

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 **December 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 Helper, 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 vou, in advance, for your generosity!





Women's Bible Study and Fellowship

The next Women's Bible Study and Fellowship meetings are Thursday, December 11th, Tuesday, December 23, and Thursday, January 8th. Dinner is potluck style bring something if you are able. Dinner starts at 6:00 pm. Study starts at 6:30 pm. Childcare provided in the nursery.

After January 8th we will meet every other week on Thursdays. Potluck style dinner starting at 6:00 pm bring something if you are able, but please join us even if you can't. Study starts at 6:30 pm. Childcare provided in the nursery.

Please see Beth Heisey, Brittany Murray, or Hubi Smith if you have questions.

Thanks Received

I want to thank my church family for your prayers and support that has been given to me as I recover from shoulder surgery. At the end of the Sunday Worship Service on Sunday October 4th I accepted the call to come forward to be prayed upon. As members laid their hands on my shoulder and prayed for me I truly felt God's healing touch in that moment. It will not be forgotten. The support given to me by the Men's Saturday Morning Bible Study Group is also very much appreciated. St. Paul's is fortunate to have this group of men ready to support others.

~Gary Langenderfer~

We have some new churches getting involved with volunteering and or financial support at Mosaic.

Thank you for supporting this growing ministry!

~David Kaiser~

Year-End News From The Business Office

Contributions to St. Paul's that are intended to be included on the contribution statements for 2025, must be received in the Business Office, by 9:00 am on Tuesday, December 30, 2025.

2026 Offering Envelopes have arrived and will be available in the Gathering Space beginning Sunday, December 7, 2025.

The envelopes are in alphabetical order by last name. Please note that there are no envelopes for those members who have chosen to contribute electronically. Over the last several years I have noticed that many of you have chosen not to use offering envelopes, so in order to keep costs down, I have cut down on the number of envelopes I order. If you do not see envelopes with your name attached and would like some, please contact me in the church office.



Many contributors will have the same envelope number as 2025, but there are many instances where new numbers were assigned. For this reason, you are asked to <u>NOT USE THE NEW ENVELOPES UNTIL 2026</u>.

If you have any questions in regards to an end-of-the-year contribution or if there are any changes to your name or address, please contact Cindy in the office at 419 893-0205 X205, or email canaumann@stpaulslive.org.

Peter Navarre

His name may or may not be familiar to you, but he played a part in an important event in American History. Peter Navarre was his name. He was a fur trader who offered his services as a scout to General Harrison during the War of 1812. He knew how to navigate his way through the wilderness and this made him a valuable asset to the army. In September 1813 he carried a message from Commodore Perry to General Harrison stating that if Perry were to engage the British he would need more men for his fleet. In response to this message General Harrison sent 70 Kentucky sharpshooters with Navarre back to Lake Erie along with a message to engage the enemy. Navarre guided these men to the coast and back to Perry where he would then deliver the message that would ultimately start the Battle of Lake Erie. Upon Perry's victory over the British, he wrote the now infamous message of "we have met the enemy and they are ours." Dulaney Forrest was given the job of delivering this message to General Harrison, and Forrest was most likely guided on his way by none other than Peter Navarre. The British recognized how valuable Navarre was to the Americans because of his ability to guide others through northwest Ohio, which may be why they put a \$1000 bounty on his head. The legend of Peter Navarre since the War of 1812 has grown to include some interesting yet likely untrue stories such as trekking through the Great Black Swamp during a stormy night. But what is certain is that he served his country well, and with courage.

"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze." -Isaiah 43:2



Office Hours

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

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

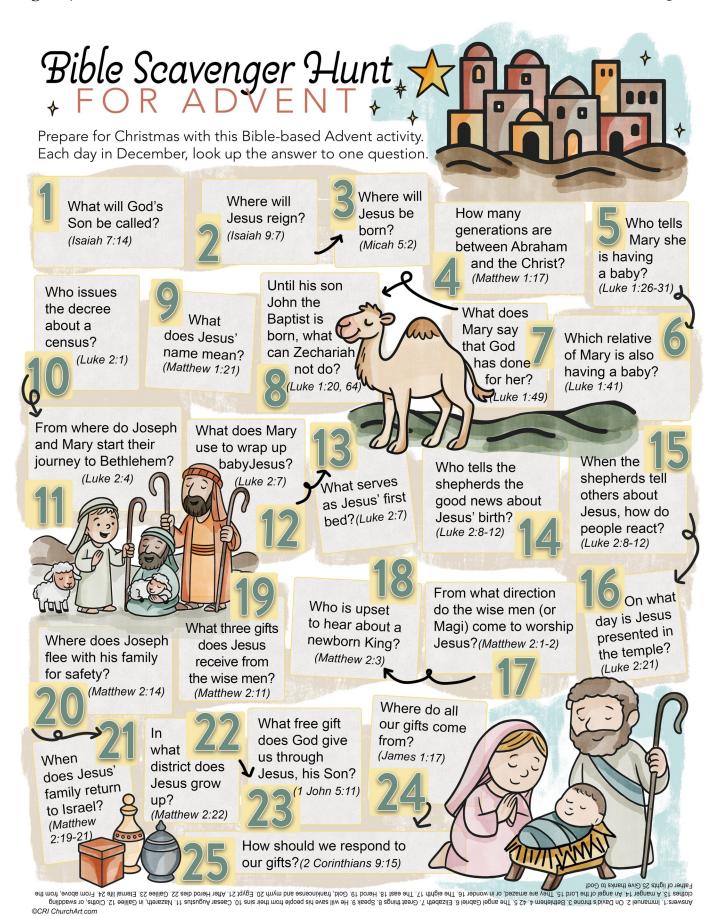
The St. Paul's Lutheran Church Men's Bible Study and Prayer Group.

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 in the Gathering Space.

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





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 Facebook: facebook.com/Stpaulslive Instagram: 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

> > Ben A. Murray bamrray@stpaulslive.org

Sunday Schedule:

8:30 am Traditional Service (drive-in & in-Sanctuary)
9:40 am to 10:15 am Sunday School
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 <u>Communicator</u> 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** with submissions.



As part of our Christmas Eve celebration, we will once again decorate the sanctuary with beautiful poinsettias. We ordered 26 plants this year. If you would like to purchase one of the poinsettias, please fill out this form and return it with your payment to the church office as soon as possible. First come, first served, until they're gone. The cost of each poinsettia is \$8. You can pick up your poinsettia after the 10:30 pm Christmas Eve service or following either morning service on December 28th. (Poinsettias not picked up will be set out for members to take.)

the	r morning service on December 28th. (Poinsettias not picked up be set out for members to take.)
	ORDER FORM—
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	Print name exactly as you wish it shown in bulletin.
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□I	n honor of
□I	n memory of
□I	n thanksgiving for
□I	n celebration of
	o the glory of God!

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: <u>L</u>ove. <u>Inspire</u>. <u>F</u>orgive. <u>E</u>ncourage. L.I.F.E: The building blocks of authentic, Christ-centered community.

Prepared Especially For:

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