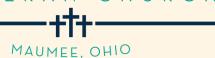
ST. PAUL'S

LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Communicator



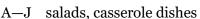
September, 2023 Page 1

Unified Service & Potluck planned

Join us on Sunday, September 10th, at 10:00 am, for the chance to worship together at the Unified Church service. (Only one service will be held that Sunday.)

After the service, at 11:45 am, come downstairs to the Fellowship Hall to enjoy the delicious potluck being provided by all the wonderful cooks at St. Paul's. <u>Grilled chicken and brats, buns, condiments, lemonade, iced tea, and water will be provided.</u>

A sign-up sheet is in the Gathering Space for the dish you are bringing. You can bring your dish downstairs to the kitchen before the church service begins. If your last name begins with:



K-R desserts

S—Z fruit dishes, veggie side dishes



Enjoy a time of fellowship and food with your church family. You'll leave with a big smile and a happy stomach!

Parking spaces are now for rent



Our Parking Lot Rummage Sale is Saturday, September 30th, from 9:00 am—4:00 pm. We are now renting out parking lot spaces and tables for you to display your items. Spaces are \$10/each. You may also rent tables for \$5/each. (Cash only, please.) We have a limited number

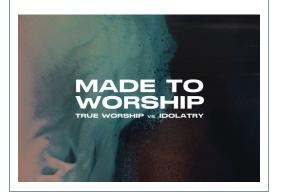
of tables available, so early reservations are recommended. To reserve your space/table, please come to the church office Mondays—Thursdays, from 8:30 am—12:00 noon. The last day to reserve a space is Wednesday, September 27th. This is a great way to help the church while selling some of your unwanted items!

Women's Weekend Retreat is planned

Ladies, join us at a Maumee Bay State Park cabin for a Retreat from Friday, September 15th to Sunday, September 17th. (Please note that this is a two-night stay-over.) This retreat's theme is: "Discipleship: Becoming a Titus 2 Woman". There is a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Space with the details and cost of the retreat. Please let Sue Schad (419) 893-2330, Kara Valare, or Carol Doerfler know if you have any questions.

New Sermon Series coming soon

Our Summer Sermon Series finishes up on September 3rd and our next Sermon Series, "Made To Worship: True Worship vs. Idolatry", is being planned. This four-week series examines how humans are hardwired to worship. We should worship God, but often we worship idols. This series examines our desire to worship God, while also considering how we fall into idol worship. See you in church!



Health MattersPaul Doerfler, Pastor

"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you." EX 20:12

Below is part of an article reprinted from the Alzheimer's Foundation's magazine, entitled *Alzheimer's Today*. It is *freely* re-printable. I think it's a very important topic for each of us to ponder, as the majority of us will eventually face a time when as adult-children, our roles with a parent(s) will reverse. We don't often hear how to biblically handle that scenario. While this speaks of **driving privileges**, there is good advice offered here that will cover other areas too:

"Having the *difficult driving* conversation with a loved-one can be reminiscent of the last time you had a tooth pulled. Asking your mother or father to consider retiring from what has probably been a long and successful driving career has the potential of being a very emotional and uncomfortable conversation... (Here are)... some valuable tips on how to have the difficult driving conversation."

"For some families, having discussions with the older driver about driving restrictions or driving cessation will come almost naturally and with minimal challenges. With other families, having these discussions will immediately be met with opposition, bitterness, animosity, and sometimes even anger. Sadly, the driving issue has, in extreme cases, driven a divisive and permanent spike between family members..."

"Marching forward with a very specific plan, *rooted* in <u>empathy</u>, <u>tact</u> and <u>compassion</u>, can help ensure (a parent's) *smooth* transition from the driver's seat, to the passenger seat, with minimal deterioration to (their) independence. **Have confidence in your approach. Remember... amateurs built the Ark, experts built the Titanic!"**

"An ancient Chinese proverb reminds us that the best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago, the secondbest time is now. Start these driving conversations with your loved-one today, regardless of where they are on the safe-driving continuum. Don't wait until (your parent) is involved in an accident, gets lost, or receives a talking to from the police..."

"Older drivers are often better historians than visionaries. How many times have we heard the argument, "I've been driving for 65 years, and this is my first accident ever, so what's the big deal?" This potential response from your loved-one offers yet another reason to start the conversation before there is a

triggering event."



"...consider (using) a more holistic approach. In addition to other family members being involved, consider involving the family doctor, a favorite nurse, a respected member of (the parent's) place of worship, or even the family attorney. Remember too, the value that...of a close friend or neighbor of your parent's can bring to the discussions..."

"Your conversations need to be based on (a parent's) driving skills, not on (their) age. It is critically important that family members remove

their emotions, opinions and speculation from the driving conversation. Provide your loved-one with specific examples of driving concerns..."

(Continues on Page 3, column 1...)

Health Matters (Continued from Pg. 2)

"The key to a successful retirement from driving is directly equivalent to the family's ability to find and implement practical and realistic transportation alternatives. In other words, have your transportation "Plan B" in place before you ever start talking to mom about a driving retirement."

Remember that your goal is to mom/dad and keep community safe while simultaneously helping her/him to maintain her pride, dignity and independence...Remember too, God relates to us in terms of a community. He guides, disciplines, sustains, nurtures, and spiritually grows us, rebuking us as needed while still loving us all, unconditionally. "As adults, we need not necessarily have to do everything our parents, regardless of ages request of us. But the honor in any and all refusals must be sustained to our best abilities with Him as part of our answer."

So do the <u>right</u> hard things...but don't do them alone. Garner all the support of your brothers and sisters in Christ who can offer help; and ask for more aid when needed, if only for a periodic two-hour break. Also, take full advantage of all the additional resources God provides you. Then live long in the "land" the Lord has given us. For this challenging time, too, will pass.



Look up—and out

The Church on earth is a crosseyed church, with one eye on God in his heavenly benediction, and one eye on the needy world of men.

-David Head

Men's Bible Study and Breakfast Club has planned September meetings



The St. Paul's Lutheran Church Men's Bible Study Group and Breakfast Club meets on Saturday mornings, from 8:00 – 9:30 am in the Gathering Space.

Our next scheduled meetings are September 2nd, September 16th, and September 30th.

Our Men's group is being led by Aaron. Coffee and Donuts are provided. Please bring your Bible. We are currently studying Habakkuk. "A place where everyone is welcome."

Rebecca Circle returns

Members of the Rebecca Circle are reminded that their monthly Circle Meetings return on September 14th.

We'll gather for Bible study and fellowship in the large Conference Room on the second Thursday of each month, from 10:30 am—1:00 pm. Women of all ages are invited.

A Summer Fair parking lot fundraiser recap



Despite the oppressive heat and humidity, our Summer Fair Parking Lot fundraiser was a success!

Many thanks to our hearty volunteers who managed big smiles and lots of great communication with the fairgoers who chose to park in our lot. Our gratitude goes to Kara, Scott, Elaina, Emelia, Elora, and Ella Valare, Dave Grieger, Lyndsi Wagner, Sue Schad, and Helen

Gilbert for saying "yes" and helping to raise funds for our ongoing ministries. THANKS!



"I'm a little pencil in the hand of a writing God, who is sending a love letter to the world."

-Mother Teresa

September Message from Aaron

Fruit

Perhaps this isn't the most appropriate article for me to write, given my position as a "professional" Christian. Yet it's something I'm finding more and more true for all who would call themselves Christians: We can get so caught up in the numbers of a thing can't we? As though that were the greatest gauge of health. Before I go any further, allow me an apology: If I have failed you and your family in my capacity as Youth Director, you have my sincerest apologies.

There is perhaps no one more aware of my failures than me, so I extend my heartfelt apologies, and sincerest promises to improve, to do better. Now, something I am becoming more and more



convinced of is this: Faithfulness is the responsibility of every Christian, fruitfulness however, is the sole responsibility of God. You and I, much as we wish we could, we cannot make things grow. We are like the farmers James mentions in the closing chapter of his Epistle. We are throwing seeds in the dust, praying for rain, waiting for God to bring it.

Let this be my encouragement to you: Wherever you are in life, whatever you're doing, God sees it. Not a moment of it is wasted, and if you continue to be faithful wherever He has placed you, you can leave the fruit up to Him. He will grow it as He deems best. And He intends far better for you than you do.



Instruments of connection

Following Jesus involves much more than attending worship, as Pastor Stan Purdum points out in a sermon titled "The Hug":

"The spiritual life, in addition to some outwardly religious and inwardly devotional acts, also includes such mundane activities as sending thank-you notes for gifts received, returning phone calls, greeting fellow worshipers Sunday after Sunday, surprising our spouse with a spontaneous act of appreciation, helping out at funeral dinners, seeking common ground during disagreements, listening to our children, working at not being a grouch, visiting friends and relatives and, perhaps, even sending an electronic hug. All those things are instruments of connection. The spiritual aspect is the intentionality behind them."

Notes of thanks received



"We would like to thank our St. Paul's family for all the cards, notes, gifts, and prayers that you have sent on our behalf.

"We use our prayer shawl and always feel peaceful with it wrapped around us.

"We are very apprecia-

tive of all the love sent our way. May our Lord bless each and every one of you!"

~ George & Jane Hochmuth

"Our gratitude to the many volunteers who have been sharing their God-given gifts with our church family at St. Paul's by doing the 'behind the scenes' things that make our church home so welcoming, warm, and cozy. While your service may not be noticed by others, God sees everything you do for others and smiles."

It only takes a spark

Love is the spark that kindles the fire of compassion. Compassion is the fire that flames the candle of service. Service is the candle that ignites the torch of hope. Hope is the torch that lights the beacon of faith. Faith is the beacon that reflects the power of God. God is the power that creates the miracle of love.

-William Arthur Ward

Heartfelt condolences sent

... to Linda Frastaci and family (in memory of her beloved husband, Ronald).



Special gift received

A special memorial contribution to St. Paul's has been given in memory of WESLEY LEPPER by Nathaniel Smith.



"Prayer is an acknowledgment that our need of God's help is not partial but total."

—Alistair Begg, Made for His Pleasure

September Prayer Focus: Families

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."

~1 Corinthians 13:4-7



Heavenly Father

We come as your children to praise You for families – for natural families, adopted families and church families. Each is a blessing from You. Thank You for the love and nourishment we've received — and have been blessed to give. We confess our need for Your daily forgiveness and guidance in our families. Please grant harmony in our homes and help us always show respect and love for one another.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

News from the Outreach M.A.T.

"Showing God's Love Through You"

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.

Check out the slides, weekly bulletin, weekly email, 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.

<u>LOOKING AHEAD TO THE</u> <u>FALL —</u>

 Women's Retreat—Friday, September 15th—Sunday, September 17th.

Continues from Column 1

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.

Maumee Schools—School Supplies Collection

We finished our collection of school supplies for the students of the Maumee Schools. Your generosity enabled us to donate 65 bags of school supplies which is almost three classes of students. Thank you, St. Paul's members, for helping out the kids!

Back Pack Collection

We collected 25 back packs to give to the Maumee Schools to pass out during the "Kick Start" times at each of the schools. Thank you for your generosity for the kids of struggling families so they can begin their school year supplied like their peers.

"Stock the Store" (God's Storehouse and outside Blessing Box)

Want to make a difference for struggling folks in our local area? Want to do something that can be done when you do your grocery shopping? The Outreach MAT has an opportunity for you! Both of our food storehouses have seen an increase of use by families who are having a hard time with the lack of food in these times of rising costs. God's Storehouse offers

Continues from Column 2

an inside "store" for families as well as The Blessing Box which is our outdoor 24/7 "store".

Every month, we will ask for donations of a particular item to "stock the store". These items are ones that are in de-



mand by our families. You can help us out by purchasing that item while you are shopping and donating it at church in a special box labeled "Stock the Store". For September, you can "stock the store" by donating the small cans of canned chicken or canned tuna (in water).

So, watch each month in the Gathering Space for the item you can donate to help Outreach MAT "stock the store". Thank you for your support!!

Prayer Shawls Ministry

If you are now working on a prayer shawl, please continue and turn it in to Pastor Paul's office before the end of September as we bring this ministry to a close OR turn in what you have finished and someone will finish it for you so we can give it to someone who needs it. Thank you for your support of this ministry!

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

(Continues on Page 7...)

News from the Outreach M.A.T. Continued from Page 6

in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to learn more about RMHC and/or other volunteer opportunities, please contact Carol Doerfler at doerflers@toast2.net.

<u>Baby University</u> (a Mosaic ministry)

Baby University ministers to families in Toledo's Old South End. They are collecting children's books especially board books (hard cover). Research proves that reading to children

from birth (or even before birth) every day



for the first five years prepares them for success when they start formal schooling. Parents are their children's first and most important teachers.

We, as a congregation, can help them achieve their mission by providing them with books. There is a collection container in the Gathering Space to place the books. Thank you for helping this important, but vulnerable part of our population.

Halos of Hope (chemo caps)

Many thanks to the ladies who are knitting and crocheting chemo caps for this ministry. We have made over 3,300 CAPS since this ministry started! We are making a DIFFER-ENCE! This ministry that uses volunteers to knit or crochet caps for individuals who are undergoing treatment for cancer. If you knit or crochet and

Continued from Column 1

would like to use your gift to help others, please contact Sue Schad for more information about this exciting opportunity to make a difference.

Aldi's Plastic Handled Bags

Because of restricted supply from Aldi's, Outreach MAT's collection of plastic, handled bags used to pack the Holiday Baskets is dwindling. We could use your help! If you shop at Aldi's, please consider purchasing a dozen bags for our use when we do the Food Baskets. We need about 250-300 bags. The bags have white handles and are \$0.13 each. Thank you, in advance for our generosity, if you can help us!! Put the bags on the wooden bins near the coat hang-up areas or give to one of the Outreach MAT members.



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 September shopping list:

Canned pasta (like beefaroni), Spam, canned spinach, canned waxed beans, angel food cake, Knorr pasta sides or rice sides, dill pickles, canned chicken, relish, canned tuna (in water), "kid-friendly" cereals, diced tomatoes, mandarin oranges, any kind of Jiffy mix, crushed or chunk pineapple, boxed mashed potatoes (like au gratin), Pop Tarts, snack crackers, cookies, pudding or jello cups, single-serving chips or pretzels, raisins, toilet paper, paper towels, shampoo, body wash, chocolate or vanilla frosting, instant chocolate pudding, red jello.

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! <u>Please place your donations in the wooden bins back by the coat racks in the Gathering Space/narthex.</u>

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.



The King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for Me." (Matthew 25:40)

The beauty of learning



There is divine beauty in learning. ... To learn means to accept the postulate that life did not begin at my birth. Others have been here before me, and I walk in their footsteps.

The books I have read were composed by generations of fathers and sons, mothers and daughters, teachers and disciples. I am the sum total of their experiences, their quests. And so are you.

-Elie Wiesel

M.A.T. Spotlight

"Is this MAT your Cup of Tea?"



- Do you enjoy working with children?
- Making crafts with the kids or for their events?
- Lending a hand with Sunday School / Children's church?
- Helping out with special events like Vacation Bible School, Christmas and Easter programs?

Did you answer yes to any of these? Then the **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY MAT** (kids o - 5th grade) is your "Cup of Tea!"

Please reach out to Susan Harden (419-385-9727) or Kacie Walenczak (517-648-0280) and tell them you saw this in the newsletter and that you'd like to help when the need arises!

Committees make plans - M.A.T.'s (Ministry Area Teams) take action!!

**If this list wasn't your "cup of tea", no worries! We have many other areas that will fit your interest.

Stop by the counter at the back of the church right by the nursery where you'll see all of our "Cups of Tea." Grab a paper interest survey to fill out and drop in the offering plate at the entrance of the Sanctuary so we can get you connected!

Or access the interest survey on the St. Paul's app or on our website at https://www.stpaulslive.com/volunteer

Altar flower dates available

All four Sundays in September (the 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th) are still open on the Altar Flower calendar. If you are interested in placing flowers on the altar on any of those Sundays, please call Becky in the church office (419-893-0205).

As a reminder, the cost is \$20.00.

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 best minister to you and your loved ones.



Keeping the Sabbath

Oh, what a blessing is Sunday, interposed between the waves of worldly business like the divine path of the Israelites through Jordan! There is nothing in which I would advise you to be more strictly conscientious than in keeping the Sabbath day holy. I can truly declare that to me the Sabbath has been invaluable.

-William Wilberforce

Bible Quiz

After Elijah was taken up to heaven, his newly commissioned successor, Elisha, performed two miracles. The first was making a poisonous stream's water safe to drink. What did Elisha toss into the water that made it wholesome?

A. a stick B. a new bowl C. bread D. salt



Answer: D (See 2 Kings 2:19-22.)

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.

Ladies' Lunch and Dinner Bunch news

Ladies of all ages are invited to meet on Thursday, September 21st, at 11:30 am OR at 6:00 pm at Sidelines restaurant on Holland Drive, in Maumee (next to Gordon's Foods), to enjoy good conversation, good food and good company together. Bring a friend! Contact Sue Schad with any questions.



Saturday Stitchin' news

Join us for a Saturday morning of knitting, crocheting, cross stitching, or fleece blanket making on Saturday, September 2nd.

Want to learn how to knit or crochet? Bring an H crochet hook or size 8 or 9 knitting needles and 4-ply worsted yarn with you. Come at 9:30 am to the Gathering Space and stay until 12 noon to learn or to sit and work on a continuing project. Not working on a project? Come and just chat with friends and enjoy the conversation and a snack or two. Bring a snack to share, if you wish.

Enjoy some time doing something you love with good friends.



Who, me? Yes, you!

The Bible is filled with people who don't feel up to the challenge of serving God, speaking for God or leading his people. But God always knows what he's doing. Pastor Haviland Houston issues this challenge: "When you are hesitant to act, or feel a failure of nerve coming on, when courage lags, or even if laziness and the 'I don't care' blues get you down, may the words of Mordecai to Esther burn in your hearts and minds: 'And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?'" (See Esther 4:14.)

Max Lucado offers a similar reminder in *You Were Made for This Moment*. "God always has his person," he writes, also citing the book of Esther. "When we feel as though everything is falling apart, God is working in our midst, causing everything to fall into place. He is the King of quiet providence, and he invites you and me to partner with him in his work."

Lucado continues: "[God] has a Joseph for every famine and a David for every Goliath. When his people need rescuing, God calls a Rahab into service. When a baby Moses needs a mama, God prompts an Egyptian princess to have compassion. He always has his person. He had someone in the story of Esther. And in your story he has you."

Children's Ministry News



We would like to thank all of our wonderful volunteers that helped us with Vacation Bible School this year. We would also like to thank all who donated as well! The kids had a wonderful time in their Babylon Adventure.

As part of our VBS, we encouraged the children to look for God sightings — looking for God in every area of our lives and the world around us. We also encouraged the congregation to write down some of their God sightings.

Here are some of the God sightings that were written down: lilies, double rainbow, friends, God watching over us, a pretty sunset, mom, horses, garden blooming, birth of a baby. We want to encourage all of you to be looking out for God sightings. How can you see God in your everyday lives?





The Communicator is published monthly by

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In the event of an emergency and it's after hours, you may reach Pastor Paul at 419-382-5747.

Office Hours: Mon-Fri: 8:00 am–noon & 1:00-4:30 pm

Pastoral Staff:

Rev. Paul S. Doerfler

Sunday Schedule:

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

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

Everyone is welcome!

Trustees:

President—Adam Wagner Vice President—Doug Barchick Treasurer—Gary Yunker Secretary—Scott Valare

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!

Slow but steady



There is progress in a Christian's life when he may not seem to be going ahead — like a canal boat in a lock, when it stands still but is rising all the time.

-D.L. Moody





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.

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