

November, 2023

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Congregation voted on Call Committee's selection

After it's positive vote, the Call Committee, headed by Beth Heisey, recommended to the Trustees and the congregation to extend a Call to Pastor Jason Pankau to become our next Pastor.

Jason brings a multi-faceted background of leadership and wisdom to people and organizations with whom he works. God currently uses him as a life coach and consultant to executives, mentor to pastors and Christian leaders, and is a sought-after speaker, creator of Christian training seminars, and best-selling author. Jason is a former two-sport All-American athlete, serving as captain of the Brown University football team and national qualifier in the discus. In 2014, he was commissioned to lead the LUKE project which focused on revitalizing five congregations in the city of Chicago. In 2017, his family moved to the inner city of Chicago to plant Chicago Hope Church, a multi-cultural, disciple-making community on the Near West Side of Chicago. This is where they expanded their family and took in students and people from the community in need. This ministry is called the Hope House for Christian N.U.R.T.U.R.E.. Jason is married and has four children.



Those who were present for worship on August 27th heard Pastor Pankau preach as the Call Committee invited him and his wife, Jennifer, to St. Paul's for a visit.

A specially-called meeting of the congregation was held on Sunday, October 15th, to affirm the Call Committee's selection (or not) and we are happy to report that the congregation voted to do just that. (Final tally: Yes—102; No—8.)

As we wait on Pastor Pankau's response, the Trustees continue to be actively involved with Pastor Jason regarding his Call to be with us.



Fourth Quarterly Gathering planned

Mark your calendars for the Congregational Gathering to be held on Sunday, November 12th, at 11:45 am.

Copies of the proposed budget for 2024 will be available in the Gathering Space on Sundays, October 29th and November 5th. 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.



**It's time
to "fall
back"**

It's that time of year again when we get back the hour we lost in the Spring.

Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 5th, at 2:00 am. Remember to set your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday night, November 4th.



*"On Thanksgiving Day we
acknowledge our dependence."*

—William Jennings Bryan

Health Matters

Paul Doerfler, Pastor

“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.” COL 3:12-14

This is a time of year we tend to celebrate the fullness of gratitude we each have to God. Especially on pondering all of our blessings. Even as we think of them ever so briefly, it leads to a spirit of thanksgiving for many of us. Which in turn for many—increases our giving even more to others, and to God’s Church and ministries, in deep appreciation.

For the faithful Jesus disciple, it’s easy to become deeply moved, even tearful over how *awesome* our God is and how *generous* He has been to us all. The Scripture above reminds God’s Holy People to show our world what a Biblical, life-living Jesus-attitude *looks* like. It’s full of His kind of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience and forgiveness. A kind of life-living attitude we are asked to carry, which culminates in one thing. True love as Jesus lived it, and as God proclaims it, throughout His Word.

Seeds of faith have been planted in most every one of us. But, the free choice God grants us upfront, leaves it up to us to see to it that our faith-seeds receive the *nourishment* and *tending* they need, in order to further flourish. Or, not.

Chuck Swindoll wrote some words many years ago that I believe also have a lot to say about the significance of where you and I presently are, within the *choosing* and *acting upon* our present attitudes. I pray that your overall attitude, your life-outlook, be a blessing to you and those that touch your life. Both now and ahead. In a spirit of thanksgiving and with deep gratitude, even joy in your celebration of your provision, and the greatest blessing of them all—Jesus Christ. So, wisely *choose* your attitude leading to loving actions, all your days ahead.

ATTITUDE

Charles Swindoll

The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life.

Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company... a church... a home.

The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past... we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude... I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you... we are in charge of our attitudes.



PROVERBS 17:22, NRSV

Check out our sermon topics for November

We start out the month with our annual "All Saints Sunday" observance. On this Sunday we will be remembering those who we have lost this past year.

The next week, we will look at the "Lord of All". We will be examining the biblical, theological, and practical understanding of the lordship of Jesus. Jesus is not just a means to heaven or a good teacher, but Lord of all the universe. Our walk with Jesus is not segregated to a personal spiritual feeling, rather it influences every aspect of our life and the ethic we live out each day.

The Sunday before Thanksgiving we will "Give Thanks To God Our Father". We will look at Jesus' words on materialism and worry. This message reminds us that we must be thankful for God's good gifts despite our circumstances.

Finally, we will end the month on Christ the King Sunday with "Glory to Glory". We will be examining the biblical truth of God's surpassing glory in the new covenant in contrast to the old covenant. Through understanding Paul's imagery, we can see the reality of God's glory in Jesus and the challenge to change old habits that hinder what God is doing.



Have dinner with your St. Paul's family

Join your St. Paul's family on Black Friday, November 24th, at 5:00 pm, for our Church Family Thanksgiving Dinner in the Fellowship Hall.

The turkey, coffee, iced tea, and lemonade will be provided. Come alone or bring your family or friends. Enjoy being together with good food and your church family.



A sign-up sheet will be in the Gathering Space in late October to bring a side dish or dessert to share.

The rummage sale was a success

Our Parking Lot Rummage Sale on September 30th was a success! We had a huge community turnout and a lot of positive feedback from them.

The church raised \$601.25 to go towards the General Fund and it was lucrative for many of our participants, too! A special thank you to Dick and Joyce Wheeler for their very generous donation and to Sue Schad for the delicious lunch she provided us. What a wonderful day it was. Can't wait until next year! Start cleaning out those closets!!

Men's Bible Study and Breakfast Club has planned November 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 November 11th and 25th. Our Men's group is being led by Aaron. Coffee

and Donuts are provided. Please bring your Bible.

We're planning a gathering of God's children

The Children's Ministry MAT is planning it's next gathering for Sunday, November 12, from 12:00 - 2:00 pm. Mark your calendars!

A lunch will be provided followed by a thankfulness craft and games.

Parents are welcome to drop their children off or to stay and participate. Please have your children wear shoes they can run in.

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.

Thank you!



A hymn of praise

The familiar hymn often called "The Doxology" or "The Common Doxology" was written by Thomas Ken in 1674 as the concluding verse of a morning hymn, "Awake, My Soul, and With the Sun," and an evening hymn, "Glory to Thee, My God, This Night." The lyrics are appropriate for any time of giving or thanksgiving. Consider using this hymn as your Thanksgiving dinner prayer:



PRAISE
AND
THANKSGIVING

*Praise God from whom
all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.*

Some church bodies have altered the words to "The Doxology" slightly, but the overall sentiment — praising the Triune God — remains the same. How profound to know that when we sing it, we join Christians around the world and across hundreds of years!

Church directory photos taken

Thank you to everyone who had their photo taken on October 15th (or who updated an old photo by having a new one taken) for our church directory. Special thanks to Elizabeth Harden for taking the directory photos.

NOTE: If you couldn't be here on the 15th to have your photo taken but you have a family photo that you like that is in jpeg format, you can always submit that for use in the directory by emailing it to smharden@stpaulslive.org.

Special thanks expressed

Thank you to Kelly Olson and Beth Monroe for making the sanctuary, Gathering Space and entrance to the church so beautiful! The added decorative touches make our church home seem so cozy and warm.

The generosity cycle

God makes us rich in every way so we can be generous on every occasion, which will result in thanksgiving to God. ... God doesn't bless us to provide for our own needs; he blesses us so we can be generous.

—Rick Warren
(based on 2 Corinthians 9:11)

Thanksgiving humor

Need to lighten the mood at your holiday dinner table? Share some laughter with these Thanksgiving-themed jokes.

Why did the turkey decline dessert?

Because it was stuffed.

Why did the turkey cross the road twice?

To prove he wasn't a chicken.

What smells the best at Thanksgiving dinner?

Your nose.

Why didn't the chef season the turkey?

There wasn't enough thyme.

Why did the turkey leave the band?

People were fighting over the drumsticks.



Prayers of thanks

The Bible's close connection between prayer and praise caused 19th-century preacher J.C. Ryle to proclaim, "I dare not call that true prayer in which thankfulness has no part." He points, for example, to Paul's words in Philippians 4:6 ("By prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God") and Colossians 4:2 ("Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful"), both NIV.

Whenever we speak to God, Ryle adds, thoughts of his mercy and the hope of heaven should be at the forefront of our minds. "Surely," he writes, "we should never open our lips in prayer without blessing God for that free grace by which we live, and for that lovingkindness which endures forever."



Honoring our veterans

Veterans Day has its roots in what was called Armistice Day, when a peace agreement ended World War I on November 11, 1918. President Wilson proclaimed that Armistice Day was to be marked with solemn pride in heroism and with gratitude for victory as well as the "opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice."

In 1954, the remembrance was renamed Veterans Day to honor all U.S. military personnel. It's a reminder to pray for and honor all who serve and sacrifice, to support and assist their families, and to pray that God will bring peace on earth.

November Prayer Focus: Gratitude

"Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Ephesians 5:19-20)

Ask ...
Seek ...
Knock ...



Holy God,

You are great and you are good! Deepen our devotion and heighten our gratitude so that our actions in word and deed reflect the depth of your mercy and grace. Fill our memories with reminders of your faithfulness and love so that our focus during November will be unending gratitude.

As the doxology reminds us, may we "praise God from whom all blessings flow".

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 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.

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### ***Looking ahead to the fall --***

- Thanksgiving Holiday Food Baskets—Saturday, Nov. 18th
- Christmas Holiday Food Baskets—Saturday, Dec. 16th
- Angel Tree—Sunday, Nov. 19—Sunday, Dec. 10

### **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.

#### **"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 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 demand 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 November, you can "stock the store" by donating canned pasta (ravioli, lasagna, spaghetti, etc.). 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!!

### **Continues from Column 2**

#### **Thanksgiving Holiday Baskets (Sat., Nov. 18)**

The Outreach MAT will be getting the food, sorting it, and arranging the food baskets for Thanksgiving on Saturday, November 18, 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 Meijer at 7:30 am, people to unload the food 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 the food 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**

Calling all angels! The dates for this year's Angel Tree are from Sunday, November 19 through Sunday, December 10. 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, Mosaic Ministries, 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

(Continues on Page 7...)

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

positioned on the Outreach MAT Angel Trees. (Each child receives two gifts as there is a tag for each child on each tree.)

St. Paul's members take the gift tags and select items from the wish list to wrap and return to church. 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 19.

### 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 with a family that the change jar can go to.

### Prayer Shawls Ministry (last call)

If you are now working on a prayer shawl, please continue and turn it in to Pastor Paul's office 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!

### Continued from Column 1

### 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 DIFFERENCE! This ministry that uses volunteers to knit or crochet caps for individuals who are undergoing treatment for cancer. 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.

### Baby University (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.

### 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 in 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 November shopping list:

Mustard, catsup, mayonnaise, dill pickles, canned pasta (like beefaroni), Spam, canned spinach, canned waxed beans, angel food cake, Knorr pasta sides or rice sides, 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, 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! Please place your donations in the wooden bins back by the coat racks in the Gathering Space/narthex.

(Continues on Page 8, Column 1...)



### News From the Outreach MAT (Continued from Page 7, Column 2)

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)*

## M.A.T. Spotlight

*"Is this MAT your Cup of Tea?"*



- Do you enjoy planning social events?
- Are you a good hostess who enjoys helping with all the details of an event?

***Here are some events we currently do that we'd love help and support with!***

- Movie Night
- Picnic
- Pinterest Night
- Fall Fest
- Easter Egg Hunt

If this sounds good to you, then the **FELLOWSHIP MAT** is your "Cup of Tea!"

Please reach out to Kara Valare (419-467-1406) or Jessica Ball (419-944-1059) and tell them you saw this in the *Communicator* 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

Three Sundays in November (the 12th, 19th and 26th) 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.

## Special gift received

A special memorial contribution to St. Paul's has been given by: Linda Frastaci and family in memory of husband and father, RONALD FRASTACI.

## 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.



*"Give thanks for unknown blessings already on their way."*

—Native American saying



## Bible Quiz

Fill in the blank: "Rejoice always, pray continually, give \_\_\_\_\_ in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

- A. alms
- B. praise
- C. thanks
- D. offerings



Answer: C  
(See 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NIV.)

## 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, November 16th, at 11:30 am OR at 6:00 pm at Shawn's restaurant, on Heatherdowns near Key Street, 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, November 4th.

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.



## Church office closed for Thanksgiving

The church office will be closed on Thursday, November 23, and Friday, November 24, for the Thanksgiving holiday.

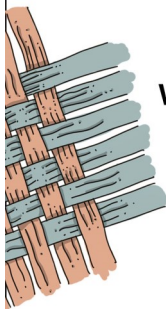
The office will reopen at 8:00 am on Monday, November 27.

Our Staff is thankful for all of you and wishes you and your family a happy, safe, and blessed Thanksgiving holiday.





Handicrafts can spark appreciation for simple items. Weave this basket as a gift.



#### What you need:

- Paper plate
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Yarn (different colors)

#### What you do:

1. In the center of the plate, trace something round. Draw 9 lines (evenly spaced) from the circle to the plate's edge.
2. Cut along each line, stopping at the center circle. Trim more of the plate off so the cuts make a gradual V shape.
3. Fold the plate's sides upward to form basket sides. Keep these upright as you weave a bowl-shaped basket.
4. Begin weaving a length of yarn at the circle's base. Hold the end of the yarn in place as you spread the length over and under each side of the plate.
5. Switch colors to make a pattern. Keep the yarn tight as you weave up the sides.
6. To finish, bend down any remaining paper. Leave a tail of yarn and tuck it under a woven portion. Share your craft with a friend!

# PUZZLE



## THANKS-FILLED GIVING

The virtues of gratefulness and generosity are connected. When we're truly thankful for all God provides, we want to sow generous seeds in other people's lives. What will be the harvest?

*Directions: Solve the clues associated with each picture. Then write the words in the correct spaces to complete 2 Corinthians 9:10-11, NIV.*

This becomes a plant \_\_\_\_\_



Willing to give \_\_\_\_\_

The result of planting seeds \_\_\_\_\_



The act of gratitude \_\_\_\_\_

Food made from wheat \_\_\_\_\_



Now he who supplies \_\_\_\_\_ to the sower and \_\_\_\_\_ for food will also



supply and increase your store of \_\_\_\_\_ and will enlarge the \_\_\_\_\_



of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be

\_\_\_\_\_ on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result



in \_\_\_\_\_ to God. 2 Corinthians 9:10-11, NIV



Answers: seed, bread, harvest, generous, thanksgiving

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**Instagram:** [St\\_pauls\\_live](https://www.instagram.com/St_pauls_live)

**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

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### **Pastoral Staff:**

Rev. Paul S. Doerfler

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### **Sunday Schedule:**

8:30 am Traditional Service (drive-in &  
in-Sanctuary)  
10:30 am Modern Service (drive-in &  
in-Sanctuary)

**Everyone is welcome!**

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### **Trustees:**

President—Doug Barchick  
Vice President/Secretary—Scott Valare  
Treasurer—Gary Yunker

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### **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!

## **Take time to recharge**

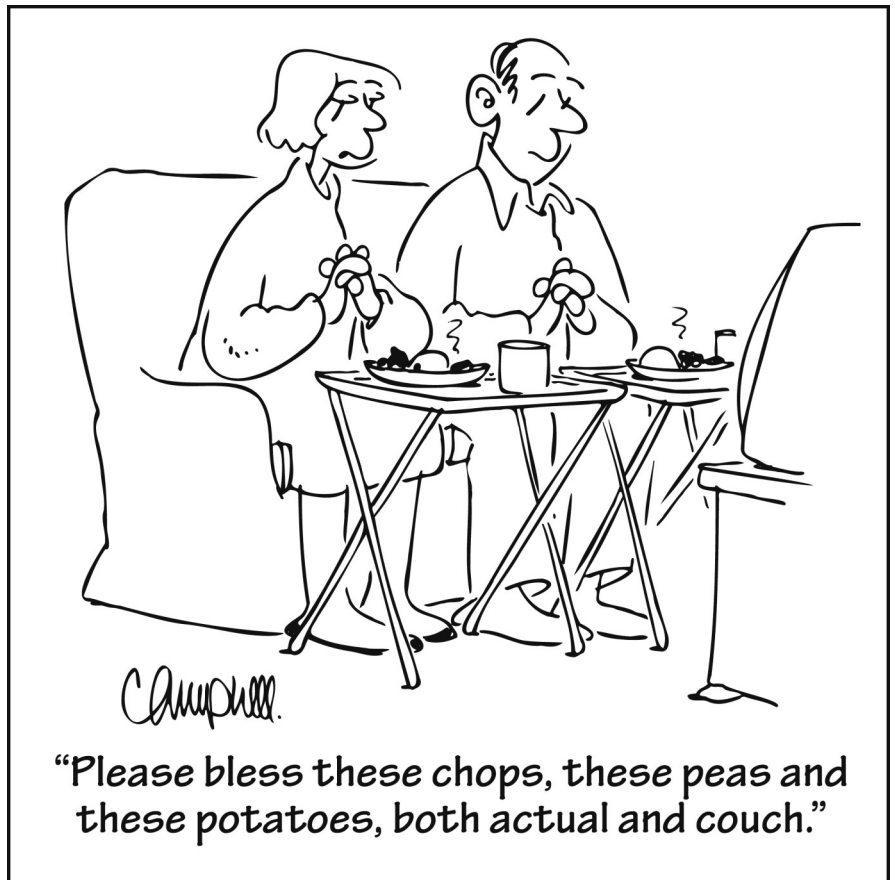
"Then Jesus said, 'Let's go off by ourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile.' He said this because there were so many people coming and going that Jesus and his apostles didn't even have time to eat" (Mark 6:31, NLT). Can you relate? Especially during the holidays, we're "coming and going" so much that we often run out of steam.

As an introvert, I learned an important lesson while navigating a busy graduation season for my son. I was happy to host a celebration for family and friends, but about 20 minutes into the party, fatigue clouded my spirit. My social battery was empty and desperately needed charging.

I sought out my cousin — who "gets" me — and admitted I needed a break. He kindly replied, "Then go into another room and just be. We've got things covered." I was heard and assured that it was okay to press pause. Even Jesus and his disciples sought privacy and rest.

In what ways do you need a break today? Even if you're an extrovert, how can you care for your whole self during the holiday rush? Pay attention and give yourself permission to proactively recharge your battery.

—Janna Firestone



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. For-give. Encourage. L.I.F.E: The building blocks of authentic, Christ-centered community.

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