

Graceful Living

Monthly Newsletter of St. Paul Lutheran Church and Preschool

March 2026



115 Central Drive, Amherst, Ohio 44001
(440) 988-4157 www.stpaulamherst.com



PALM SUNDAY

SUNDAY MARCH 29, 2026 @ 9:30 AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026, 7:00 PM

GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP

FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2026

12 NOON & 7:00 PM

EASTER SUNDAY CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2026 @ 9:30 AM



St. Paul's Easter Party & Egg Hunt!

Saturday, March 28, 2026 10:00 AM – 12:00 NOON

Egg hunts, crafts, cookie decorating, children's Easter message, balloons, and Easter bunny! Grab all your friends and come have a great time! Egg hunts about every 20-25 minutes. Come and join us for a basketful of fun!

Church members: We will need candy donations and eggs filled with candy. Today you can pick up a bag (or several bags) of empty plastic eggs, fill each with *pre-wrapped* candy. Bring your filled eggs back to St. Paul by Sunday, March 22nd.

Please **Sign-Up to Serve** to Make the Easter Party **Egg-septional !**

Sign-Up to Serve at Information Counter Today!

Setting up Friday Night
Running the Eggs Hunts
Running the Crafts
Taking Down Afterwards
Cookie Baking
Cookie Decorating
Handing Out Prizes
Registration table
Greeter Guests
Running Games
Coffee Makers
Dressing like a Bunny

We do not need prizes this year.



**The Real – and Simple – Reason
our church can grow again!**

Dear friends in Christ,

A recent study asked “What *causes* someone to start attending church?” The answer is plain old-fashioned common sense! The unchurched start attending because they want to grow spiritually and because someone invited them. It’s the combination of spiritual and personal connections.

Unchurched people start attending regularly because of some spiritual hunger or curiosity or spiritual need for meaning or for God’s forgiveness. AND the spiritual prompt is coupled with the personal prompt. ***The unchurched start attending regularly because someone invited them*** (22%) and a spouse wants them to go (17%).

It’s not good music or charismatic preaching that draws the unchurched. Those factors tend to cause people who are already Christians to change churches. That’s what non-denominational mega-churches do. God’s Kingdom doesn’t grow from transfer growth. There won’t be more people in heaven and fewer in hell when Christians who already believe in Jesus change churches.

What the unchurched need is guidance by the Holy Spirit ***and a personal invitation***. While the former is only a work of God, the latter is easily accomplished by any size church in any location in the United States. **YOU** can do this! You can be instrumental in someone being in heaven forevermore! It’s as simple as a personal invitation.

People who already attend a church are the ones who tend to care more about worship style, programming, and denominational preferences than the unchurched. ***The top reason church people attend a particular church is because someone invited them.***

So, PRAY for God to touch the heart of your neighbor or relative or friend. Pray that God work in them a desire for God’s truth and God’s forgiving grace. AND ***invite them to come with you.*** Offer to pick them up and drive. Offer to sit with them and explain what to expect in the church service. Introduce your guest to others after the church service. Maybe treat your guest to a restaurant where you can discuss what you both heard and you can answer questions.

Why not this Easter? A personal invitation is the most impactful way to motivate someone to start attending church. Invite. You may be the reason someone’s eternity is changed!

See you on Sunday, *Pastor Paul*



Worship

WITH US ONLINE

WORSHIP WITH US @ ST. PAUL'S ON-LINE -- St. Paul's 9:30 AM worship services are live-streamed on Sunday mornings. Go to the church website (www.stpaulamherst.com) and click on the Live-Stream banner on the home page. Recordings of the worship services remain on-line after the livestream for viewing anytime.

OTHER WORSHIP OPTIONS AT HOME



This weekly broadcast over regular TV is from our own denomination, the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. You'll find it now on YouTube, so you can watch and worship anytime. Just search YouTube for "Worship Anew."

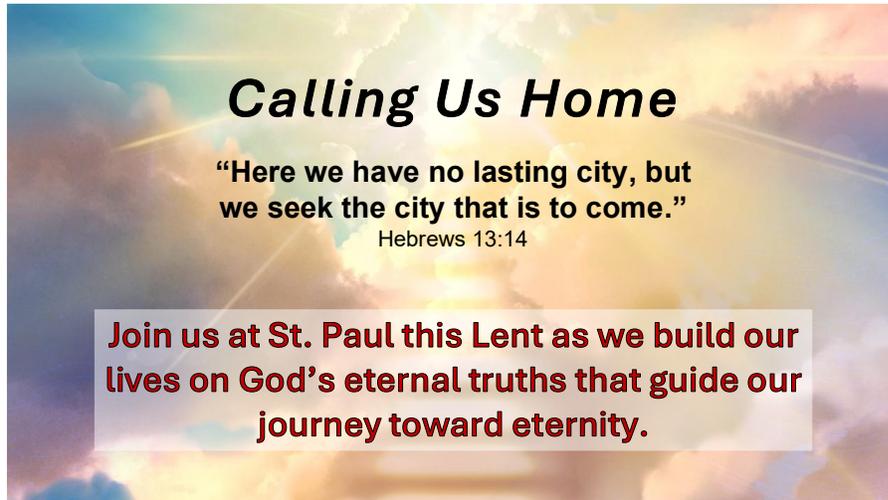


TIME OF GRACE

IT ALL STARTS NOW

Time of Grace now on TBN Inspire!

Saturdays at 2:30 p.m. ET and Sundays at 9:30 a.m. ET. You can also find the program at timeofgrace.org, on demand on the Time of Grace TV program playlist on YouTube, or on the TBN+ app.



The theme for our Lent worship services this year is *“Calling Us Home.”* In both Sunday morning worship and Wednesday midweek services we will delve into the Bible book of 1 Peter and learn truths that are both challenging and comforting for this journey we are on, the journey to our true home in heaven.

Join us!

Wednesday Evening Lent Services at St. Paul

Wednesday March 11th @ 7 PM

Wednesday March 18th @ 7 PM

Wednesday March 25th @ 7 PM



Each Wednesday night in Lent join us for supper before the worship service from 5:45 - 6:45 pm. Suppers are simple and easy and for a free-will offering. All are welcome.

Help Serve Lent Fellowship Suppers

Helpers Needed Weds March 11 & 25 4:30 – 6 PM

No Cooking Needed ... Just help.

NON-ALCOHOLIC COMMUNION WINE AVAILABLE – Those who come forward to receive Holy Communion will find lighter colored non-alcoholic wine in the center of each individual cup tray. Traditional Communion wine is darker red in color, in the majority of cups in the tray. Please choose the option that best fits your needs.



Easter Flowers
to Beautify St. Paul

ORDER YOURS AT INFORMATION COUNTER

Several varieties of flowers are available for order. Stop at the Information Counter in the narthex to place an order today. You will take your flowers home after our Easter Celebration worship service.



Women's Bible Study Group - Tuesday Nights @ 7 PM

Women are always invited to the women's group that meets in the church parsonage every Tuesday night. You'll make wonderful friends, grow in faith, and engage in caring lively discussion about living everyday as a Christian and woman.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study @ 10 AM

You'll meet some friends, find encouragement, enjoy home-baked cookies, and grow in faith. We're following the story of the people of Israel after leaving slavery in Egypt on their way to the Promised Land. We wonder whether they will keep God central in their lives as they go through the wilderness. That's the same thing we all wonder about our lives today. We meet in the upper level. You don't have to be a Bible scholar. Everyone is welcome!

Brotherhood, Bibles, & Brew Hey guys, the next BBB meeting will be on Thursday, March 12, 2026, at 6:30 PM at the Paper Moon Vineyard and Winery located at 2008 State Rd. Vermilion. All men interested in a lively Christian conversation is welcome. Bring a friend.



St. Paul's Prayer Group meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 1:00 PM. All who are interested in praying are welcome to join us. The next prayer session will be on March 12th at 1:00 PM. We will meet in the conference room on the 2nd floor. If you have any questions, please contact Stephen Warnock at 216-233-7572, or at warnock5353@ gmail.com or in person. Please come and join us



St. Paul Seniors Fellowship -- Join us for lunch together on Monday, March 16th at 12NOON at *THE NEST* restaurant in Vermilion, 3701 Liberty Ave. Enjoy making new friends and catching up with old friends ... and *invite* a friend along with you! Sign up on the Information Counter in the narthex / lobby.



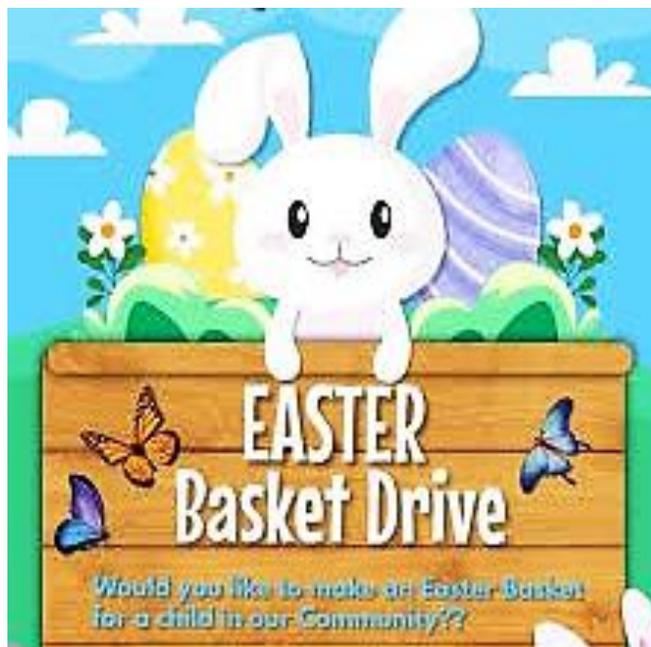
Welcome your new neighbor to the neighborhood. Let St. Paul help you out! You can win a beautiful Spring-themed gift basket that says "welcome to the neighborhood" and deliver it personally to your new neighbor. All you have to do to give a basket to your new neighbor is fill out the form by the gift basket in the narthex and stuff it in the box. In March the gift basket will be given to a family from the community who attends St. Paul's Easter Party and Egg Hunt.



FOOD GATHERING – Sundays March 1st & April 5th. Second Harvest Food Bank helps families all over metro-Cleveland get the nutritious food they need. You can bring non-perishable groceries the 1ST Sunday of the month. Place them in the receptacle just inside the main church doors.



It's time to enjoy a cup of java and a pastry if you so choose with your fellowmen. It is a chance to bring a friend, missing church member, or shut even to come have some fellowship. We will meet at the Comando Coffee House at 254 Park Ave. in downtown Amherst. The coffee hour will be on Thursday, March 26, 2026 from 9:00 to 10:00 AM. Hope to see you there.



Would You Give an Easter Basket to a Kid in need? At the Information Counter in the Lobby today is a basket of plastic Easter Eggs. Inside each is the name and age of child from a family in need, and a number. Write your name by the appropriate number on the clipboard next to the basket, and drop the empty egg in the collection basket. Take the slip with you to shop and create an Easter basket. Bring your basket to St. Paul by Sunday, March 29th **with the slip of paper with name of the child and number attached to the basket.**



Sick Child Needs Our Help - Milo is the 4-year-old son of Matt Hambleton (Lowe's store manager) and on January 4, 2026, he was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia. The next year of Milo's life will entail long hospital stays, intensive chemotherapy and a marrow transplant. Mom has quit her job, and Matt is taking a long absence from work so they can be with their child during this difficult time. We of St. Paul Lutheran Church can assist them by taken on the following ministry: 1) Spread the news of this dreadful event to everyone you know, 2) Ask everyone to pray for the family during this spiritually and physically difficult time, and 3) Go to <https://GoFundMe.com> Search for Milo Hamilton and make a donation to help cover the medical and living expenses for the family as their income will be significantly reduced over the next year.



St. Paul Lutheran Church is **Blessed by God's grace
to bless families
to live in grace.**

This statement describes the essence of who we are and why we are here!

Friday, March 13th 5:30 – 8pm



**We're inviting All our Congregation – young & old -
to come and have a fun night with the kids and families.
Parents can drop the kids off or stay and have family
fun together.**

@ St. Paul Lutheran Church

*Cast all your anxiety on Him
because He cares for you.*
1 Peter 5:7



Time flies when you are having fun and February was SO MUCH FUN! We had lots of visitors this month. One of our parents is a Veterinarian and she brought her dog in to do a “check-up.” She even brought each of the students a stethoscope so they could give the dog a check-up too! We had our Valentine’s Day parties. Parents came in and volunteered to help us create crafts and fill our treat bags with lots of sweet treats! Dr. Scott Iliff, DDS, came in to talk to us about keeping our teeth healthy! His visits are always so much fun! We also had a naturalist from Lorain County Metro Parks come to talk about all things birds! Kids even got to rotate through centers to explore how different birds eat! We had a lot of fun! Our Night Out With Our Special Guy (Dad’s night with preschoolers) was a huge success. Kids and their guys had a blast with our wild animals theme! Thank you to Eric and Sandy Long for helping out and sharing their fun games with us! We appreciate it! Our Suzin L Fundraiser is coming to an end. Thank you so much for all who ordered. Delivery day is March 25th. Registration is open and we continue to grow our classes for the upcoming school year. The MWF class is almost full with a few spots left. T/Th is a little over half full. It is hard to believe we are coming

up on our last few months of the school year. We are looking forward to spring activities and warmer weather!



St. Paul Buildings and Facility Committee Wants YOUR Input

The Buildings and Facility Committee wants YOUR input about making our church building more welcoming for all people and more functional for all events and groups. They ask us all to join in a short survey in the narthex following worship services. Committee members will ask a small number of questions to hear what you believe is important.



Our Savior's Life in Stained Glass

A Series of Six Stained Glass Windows

Complimenting the "Christ Praying in Gethsemane" window Above the Altar,

**Funded by Grateful Donors In Memory of Loved Ones
Upon St. Paul's 150th Anniversary**

Providing needed Energy-Efficient windows.

Funds Donated for 4 of 6 Windows.

Artist is Making Birth of Christ window

Since its beginning in September 2025, members of St. Paul have enthusiastically embraced this program and have been donating generously for the stained glass windows. Funds have been received for 4 of the 6 windows and the first window is under construction. We are eager to see the first done, installed, and dedicated to God's glory. The projected date is by June 2026.

You still have the opportunity to participate in beautifying St. Paul's worship sanctuary. If you wish to give a memorial in memory of a loved one there is still time as we gather donations for the 2 remaining windows. Donations may be given in any amount, by individuals, or groups, for example, "from the Johnson family." Donors may remember their loved one with an inscription of a loved-one's name on our wall plaque

entitled, “Life of our Savior Stained Glass Windows have been Given in Memory of”

Your gifts may be given to “St. Paul Lutheran Church” and please add the note “for stained glass windows project.” We will then contact you to discuss if your gift is in memory of a loved one and whom you would like memorialized. You may give via check, or through the church web site you may give by credit card or EFT.

The windows will enhance worship and serve the congregation for generations to come.

2024 Christmas Offering Designated for New Cause

Every Christmas the people of St. Paul give a special offering gift in thanks to God for giving us the best gift, His Son Jesus, our Savior. The gifts given in December 2024 were collected for the purpose of refurbishing the sanctuary pews. Approximately \$13,500 was donated to this cause by St. Paul people. The funds have not been spent because the project is much more costly than the amount collected.

At a recent Voters’ Assembly meeting the question was raised whether that Christmas Offering money could be designated for a different cause – for stained glass windows.

The Board of Directors has searched the congregation’s governing documents and finds no stipulation prohibiting the congregation from using the funds for a cause different than the one for which the funds were collected. In their February 2026 meeting, the Board of Directors decided to give individuals who do not want their donation to the 2024 Christmas Offering to be re-directed to the stained glass window project an opportunity to opt out.

If you contributed to the 2024 Christmas Offering which was gathered for the purpose of refurbishing pews, and you do not want your donation money re-directed to replace the sanctuary windows with stained glass, then please call or send an email to the church office (440/988-4157 office@stpaulamherst.com). In your request please state your name, the amount of your donation, and whether you want that amount returned to you or designated for a different cause in the church’s ministry. Please make your request before Easter, April 5th, 2026.

What Is a Living Christian Faith?

Is being a Christian MORE than attending a Church Service?

Being a Christian shows in your Commitments and Action. These are the “fruits” or results in the life of a person who fully follows Jesus Christ. It takes discipline, prayer, and love for Christ to constantly through life keep growing in these habits.

7 Doors of Spiritual Growth

In response to God’s grace to me in Jesus Christ, I commit to on-going growth in all the disciplines of the Christian faith, which include:

- ◆ **Witness** to Christ in all I say and do,
- ◆ **Worship** Christ with my life daily and with my fellow Christians weekly,
- ◆ **Connect** with others in my congregation as well as in a small group,
- ◆ **Pray** regularly for others, especially the lost, as well as for myself,

- ◆ **Study** the Bible on my own as well as with my fellow Christians,
- ◆ **Serve** God and others inside as well as outside the church, and
- ◆ **Give** a percentage of my financial resources to extend the cause of Christ, making a tenth (tithe) as my minimum goal.



Christians Attacked in Nigeria

Last year alone, Nigerian Christians saw 7,000 brothers and sisters lose their lives at the hands of the Islamist terror group Boko Haram.

And 12 million more have been displaced since the group's reign began.

FORGETTABLE FACT

The plastic bit on a shoelace is called an "aglet".

POTENT QUOTES

"It is the most counterintuitive aspect of Christianity, that we are declared right with God not once we begin to get our act together but once we collapse into honest acknowledgment that we never will."
~ Dane C. Ortlund

PARTING SHOT



Sunday Morning Worship Service
9:30 AM

Holy Communion 1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays of Month

Kids' Church in Worship Services Sept-May

Worship Livestream: YouTube channel "St Paul Amherst Ohio"

Food Offering for Second Harvest 1st Sunday of every month

Church Office Mon – Thurs 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM (440) 988-4157

Preschool Mon. - Fri. 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (440) 988-5427



115 Central Drive, Amherst, Ohio 44001

Sunday Worship Services: 9:30 AM

In-Person or Live Stream @ www.stpaulamherst.com

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

E-Mail: churchoffice@stpaulamherst.com Church Website: stpaulamherst.com

Rev. Paul G. Werner, Pastor - Office: (440)988-4157 Cell: (586)201-3302

Judy Bloom – Church Office Administrator

Don Hammond – Director of Communications

Tracie Heuring – Director of Preschool

Owen Reyda – Director of Music Ministries

Mike Warnock – Director of Worship Technology

St. Paul Calendar ~ March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Food Collection 9:30 Holy Communion Kids Church 10:45 G.I.F.T. Bible Study 2 Divorce Care	2	3 10 Seasoned Saints Bible Study 6:30 Women's Bible Study 7 New Life With God	4 5:45 Supper 7 Lenten Service	5	6	7
8 9:30 Worship Kids Church 10:45 G.I.F.T. Bible Study 2 Divorce Care	9	10 6:30 Women's Bible Study 7 New Life With God	11 5:45 Supper 7 Lenten Service	12 1 Prayer Group 6:30 Men's BBB @ Paper Moon Vermilion	13 5:30 Kids & Family Cabin Fever Game Night	14
15 9:30 Holy Communion Kids Church 10:45 G.I.F.T. Bible Study 2 Divorce Care	16 12 Seniors' Fellowship Lunch @ The Nest, Vermilion	17 10 Seasoned Saints Bible Study 6:30 Women's Bible Study 7 New Life With God	18 5:45 Supper 7 Lenten Service	19	20	21
22 9:30 Worship Kids Church 10:45 G.I.F.T. Bible Study 2 Divorce Care	23	24 10 Seasoned Saints Bible Study 2 Board of Directors 6:30 Women's Bible Study 7 New Life With God	25 5:45 Supper 7 Lenten Service	26 9 Men's Coffee @ Commando Coffee, Amherst	27	28 10 Easter Party
29 PALM SUNDAY 9:30 Holy Communion Kids Church 10:45 G.I.F.T. Bible Study 2 Divorce Care	30	30				

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3/5 Sandra Binggeli	3/17 Pat Rein & Alan Trottier	3/23 Al Gallo
Tabitha Reffner	3/18 Rauri Dever	3/29 Cheryl Kirschner
3/8 John Hamilton	3/21 Kayla Sekerak	3/31 Josh Gallo
3/10 Anita LaBella	Michael Sekerak	

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

Service	Elders	Readers	Greeters	Altar Guild	Ushers	Sound
3/1 9:30 AM	Bob Steindl	Bob Steindl	Cindy Klein	Donna Kemmerle	John Cartmell Danny Kemery	Mike Warnock
3/4 7:00 PM		Bryan Draga	Lynn Jiovanazzo Debbie Gibson	Donna Kemmerle	Bryan Draga Clyde Strader	Mike Warnock
3/8 9:30 AM		Christine Krupp	Danny & Cyndi Kemery	Karie Coffman	Jeff Krupp Steve Warnock Don Wilms	Mike Warnock
3/11 7:00 PM		Sandy Long	Eric & Sandy Long	Karie Coffman	Dan Streza	Mike Warnock
3/15 9:30 AM	Jeff Krupp	Bryan Draga	Mike & Debbie Smith	Lynn Jiovanazzo Judy Strabuck	Bryan Draga Clyde Strader	Mike Warnock
3/18 7:00 PM		Don Hammond	Judy Starbuck Diane Lamoreaux	Lynn Jiovanazzo Judy Strabuck	John Cartmell Danny Kemery	Mike Warnock
3/22 9:30 AM		Jan Beko-Nathan	Karen Vilagi Judy Bloom	Debbie Smith	Dan Streza	Mike Warnock
3/25 7:00 PM		Sue Werner	Karen Anderson Clyde Strader	Debbie Smith	Jeff Krupp Steve Warnock Don Wilms	Mike Warnock
3/29 9:30 AM	Bob Steindl	Bob Steindl	Jeff & Sandy Binggeli	Wanda Aschenbach Mary Ellen Bennett	Bryan Draga Clyde Strader	Mike Warnock