

# **St. Paul Lutheran Church & Preschool Newsletter**

**January 2020**

115 Central Drive, Amherst, Ohio 44001-1601  
Church/Office: 440-988-4157 Fax: 440-988-5436  
E-Mail: churchoffice@stpaulamherst.com

Rev. Paul G. Werner, Pastor - Office: (440)988-4157 Cell: (586)201-3302  
Kendis Bender, Dir. Of Christian Education - Home: 967-1792  
Beth Naro, Preschool Director – Preschool Phone: 988-5427  
115 Central Drive, Amherst, Ohio 44001  
Website:stpaulamherst.com

## **FROM PASTOR PAUL**

### **Welcome 2020**

Back in 1875, I would imagine life was simpler but much harder. Amherst, Ohio was just a small farming village along the railroad. It was back then that a few settlers began St. Paul Lutheran Church to serve the spiritual needs of families.

Fast forward to this New Year 2020. St. Paul is still here to serve the spiritual needs of families in this community. The community has changed dramatically. Heavy industry like the steel mill, car plants, and ship building have all come and gone. Now, new subdivisions are popping up on what was long-time farm land. "Big-box" stores are meeting the needs of families who desire to commute to work for a big city salary, while enjoying the quaintness of small town life.

This past year, 2019, St. Paul adopted a Vision that matches this new reality in our community and in our changing world. The congregation's new focus is on bringing Jesus to families through outreaching ministries to homes in our community. Congratulations are due to you, the people of St. Paul, for making significant strides in this new direction!

Last year's Easter Party for children, Summer J.A.M., Family Fall Fest were well attended outreach events. In December the "Parents' Afternoon Out" was done excellently! And the children's Christmas program, "Improv at the Stable" was the most candid, meaningful, and welcoming Christmas presentation yet. While worship attendance has been steady, offerings have grown in 2019, small group participants are being blessed, and the congregation committed to supporting the Director of Christian Education staff position full-time. God is indeed at work in this congregation!

Now what? This month of January we will begin a "Kids' Church" ministry during the second service on Sunday mornings, which will be at a new time, 10:00 AM. With God's blessing, children and families will be strengthened by this ministry as kids will leave the main service with Mom or Dad to praise God and learn on an age-appropriate level. At the same time, adults will be able to worship on their level. We plan some other changes to the new worship experience such as coffee in the narthex before, and the opportunity for the sermon to become a dialog through texting questions and comments to pastor. This worship service will grow and change over time as we are able.

The Winter and Spring emphasis will be on "Empowering God's Mission" through strengthening our prayer life, and equipping you, God's Baptized and gifted people, into His ministry.

Nine new teams are available for you to participate in the ministry God is doing here. (See the article on a later page in this newsletter about these new teams.) Nine teams are a lot for a church our size to grow into. Yet, with God's blessing, we will take steps in this direction. For those of you have been part of St. Paul for more than 12 years, think of these teams as the former "Boards" of lay leaders the church selected each year. In conjunction with these new teams, we will initiate a new annual planning process so that in January we begin the planning process for September '20 thru June '21 ministries.

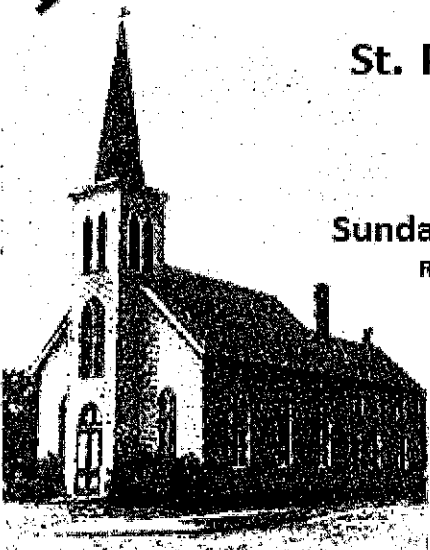
St. Paul's governing documents – the Constitution and By-Laws – have been updated and approved. This year we will begin the process of living according to this changed way of "doing church." A part of this will be new policies written by the Board of Directors so that the church operates more smoothly and less impulsively by responding to crises or emotion.

Finally, please mark in your calendars and plan to participate in St. Paul's 145<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, February 9, 2020. Former Pastor, Rev. Gary Bernath, will be our guest preacher at one joint worship service at 10am. A dinner will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

May yours be a joyous New Year, filled with God's abundant grace and guidance.

***Pastor Paul Werner***

**Thank You** *Sue and I would like to express our thanks to all the people of St. Paul as you supported us with gifts of food and Christmas cookies following Sue's knee replacement surgery, and for Christmas. Thanks for your kindness! Pastor Paul & Sue*



**145 YEARS OF GOD'S BLESSING**

**St. Paul Lutheran Church**  
Amherst, Ohio

**Celebration Service**  
**Sunday, February 9, 2020, 10:00 AM**  
Rev. Gary Bernath, Guest Preacher  
Banquet Following Worship

Proclaiming God's Grace to  
Amherst since 1875

**St. Paul Lutheran Church**  
**where living Grace[d] & Families Cross**

That catchphrase sums up the emphasis of this congregation. What does it mean?

- We will live God's grace in our words and actions.
- We can't give out what we don't have in us. We commit to living "graced" – that is, we will be receivers of God's love to us in Jesus in worship, Bible studies, Holy Communion, and Baptism.
- We will share God's loving grace with all people, especially focusing on the needs of family life.

**Sunday Worship Time Changes**

**KIDS worship**  
**Sundays @ 10 AM**

**BEGINNING SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2020**

Starting the first Sunday in January, St. Paul's Sunday morning schedule will change.

The 8:30 AM traditional style worship service will remain the same. The 11:00 AM more contemporary style worship service will have a new time, beginning at 10 o'clock on Sundays.

The reason for the change in worship time is in response to St. Paul's ministry vision to reach families with children. Families have responded favorably to the 10 AM worship time. Over time we will create a more family-friendly worship experience at our 10 AM service.

Starting in January, Sunday School will become "Kids Worship." Children will join their families in the worship for the beginning of the worship service. Before the sermon, kids will be invited to go to follow the adult leader to the upper level where Kids Worship will happen. There, children will have fun and active songs, Bible lessons, and crafts. Parents will go pick up their children when the main service is ended.

This means that Sunday School will no longer be offered at St. Paul as it had been for many years. This change will also mean that an Adult Bible Study at 9:45 am cannot be led by Pastor. Instead a member will lead the Adult Bible Class.





**“This Time Around” ( YOU’VE GOT A SECOND CHANCE )**  
**New Series of Sunday Sermons coming after Christmas**

Every year we promise to change. This time around the calendar what will be different for you? Join us as this time around we will ask God for the strength to Recognize the Lies, Take Responsibility, Refuse to Rationalize, and Forgive the Wrongdoers.

**Plug In to the Vision**  
Find your place in God’s Plan for our  
Future



**To make the Vision Dream into Reality, we are inviting you to find a place to Plug In and Serve.** Here are 9 teams where willing servants are needed. You will find fulfillment, and friendship working side by side with others in the big plan God has for our church. Sign up in the narthex on the large easel.

- 1. PRAYER TEAM** – This team strengthens the practical ways we pray for the lost, and pray for God to protect and bless the Vision.
- 2. SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY TEAM** - This team plans and fosters small group Bible studies so that St. Paul people are fully equipped by God’s Word for undertaking the Vision.
- 3. INTERIOR DESIGN TEAM** – This team freshens interior building spaces for a warmer, friendlier atmosphere.
- 4. SUNDAY FRIENDSHIP HOUR TEAM** – This team makes arrangements for coffee and refreshments to be served every Sunday morning between worship services to encourage relationship building.
- 5. KIDS’ CHURCH TEAM**– This team builds the children’s worship experience on Sundays @ 10AM to be a weekly event that kids *want* to be at (and bring their parents along).
- 6. COMMUNITY FOOD OUTREACH TEAM** – This team goes out into the community to bless people by serving food. They can partner with schools for Schools’ Out celebrations, be at athletic fields, appear at Amherst’s Walking On Wednesday summer events, or holiday events like July 4<sup>th</sup>, This could be a men’s BBQ/smoker team, or a trailer with everything needed to serve food (tables, grills, coolers, easy-ups, etc).
- 7. PARENT SEMINAR SERIES TEAM** – This team annually hosts a speaker seminar series that helps families deal with critical concerns, such as preventing suicide, protecting kids from bullying, etc. This team could partner with schools’ concerns, and offer events and materials throughout the community.
- 8. NET EVENTS TEAM** – This team coordinates large outreach events which take place at St. Paul’s campus. Events include: Easter Party, Summer J.A.M., Family Fall Fest, etc. The goal is that St. Paul host a minimum of 6 per year.
- 9. COMMUNICATIONS TEAM** – This team oversees all advertising and communications of events/ ministries, including printed fliers, banners, web site, and social media.

**Volunteers needed on Saturday, January 4<sup>th</sup> at 10 am** to help take down and store the Christmas decorations.

### **Christmas Offering Postponed Due to Annual Budget**

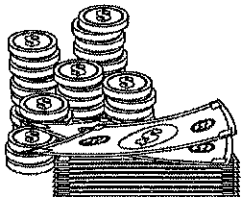
Christmas 2018 St. Paul held a year-end offering, "Gift Fit for a King." Due to the uncertainty with the 2020 annual operations budget, the Christmas offering was postponed. Look for a special thank offering to take place soon in 2020 in connection with the 145<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Easter. This is a special opportunity to give a special gift above and beyond regular gifts for specific non-budget ministry.



### **NEW STUDY SERIES**

**A Man Named Martin** You're invited to come and discover a 15th-century religious reformer from Germany who broke ranks with the Catholic Church. This Bible study is the first of a three-part series devoted to Martin Luther -- a monk whose Spirit-inspired grasp of God's justification of sinners through faith in the Savior has changed the course of human history.

**Tuesday mornings @ 10AM in upper level. All welcome.**



**Everybody would like to strike it rich.** From the gold fevers of the mid-1800s to today's sophisticated investors of Wall Street, from the tulip investors in Holland in 1637 to Carlo Ponzi in the 1920s to real estate speculators in 2006, people have dreamt and grasped and cheated and prayed for wealth.

Not Agur, son of Jakeh, author of the marvelous 30th chapter of Proverbs. In fact, he prayed to God to keep him not only from poverty (understandable) *but also from becoming wealthy*. Seriously! **"I ask of you, Lord . . . give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, 'Who is the LORD?' Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God"** (Proverbs 30:7-9).

Wise words. Agur realized that desperate people sometimes throw away their morals to survive. He feared that kind of desperation. But he was also insightful enough to know that money has a terribly corrupting power that is potentially just as destructive of your morals. In practical terms, he was inviting God to send some investment and business setbacks periodically so that he would not accumulate so much money that it would go to his head. He wanted both to love God and need God.

What is your personal financial level right now? Are you struggling and broke? risking idolatry with significant financial resources? Or like a spiritual Goldilocks, right in the Agur sweet spot?

Whatever your financial position, remember that wealth is from God, and to be used to strengthen our relationship with God. That's why God asks us to give financially to Him. He doesn't need your money. He owns everything anyway. He does want your heart. And every time you give a tithe, (10% of income) to Him, your heart deals with the question of Who you trust. Trust God first. That's what we learn from Agur.



## Preschool Update

December is always a busy month in preschool! We spent our month learning about the upcoming birth of Jesus through stories and play. We made several crafts that helped us work on cutting, coloring, and gluing. We ended the month with a Christmas party, complete with pajamas and a visit from Santa!

Many thanks to everyone who helped us make our Christmas Program a success!! The families enjoyed the cookies, and it is always nice to have church members present at our preschool events. I would also like to thank Sue Bungard, who came to all three classes in November to teach our students the sign language to *Silent Night!*

Registration for the 2020-2021 school year will begin in January. If you are interested in registering a child, please contact me at [bnaro831@gmail.com](mailto:bnaro831@gmail.com) for more information!

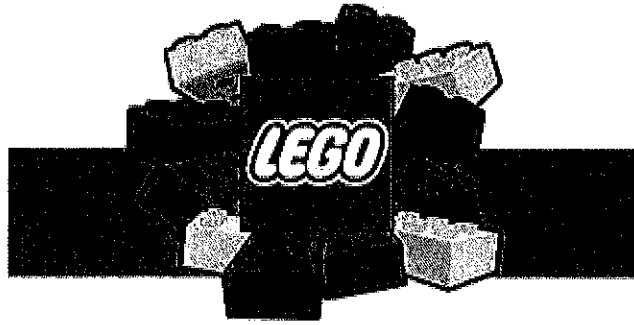
Thank you for your continued support of our program! If you ever have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me!

Blessings,  
Beth Naro  
Preschool Director  
[preschool@stpaulamherst.com](mailto:preschool@stpaulamherst.com)



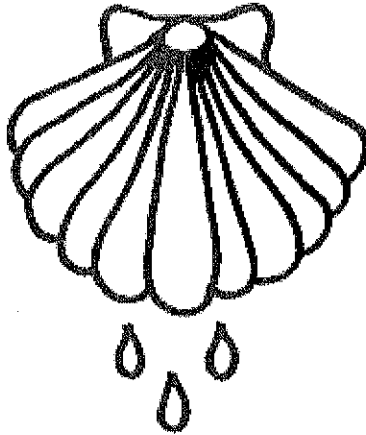
### H3 Schedule

- 1/1 New Year's
- 1/5 Sermon Summary Due
- 1/8 FBC Lesson #12 The Gospels
- 1/15 FBC Lesson 4 ACTS
- 1/22 FBC Lesson #14 Romans
- 1/29 FBC Lesson #8 Ephesians



## **Lego Competition!!**

More details coming soon!!



We welcome new member Ayden Anthony Bungard, son of Mark & Brooke Bungard, baptized here at St. Paul on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019.



We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Leona Eshelman who was called to her eternal rest on December 17, 2019. A Christian burial was held on December 20, 2019 at Crown Hill Cemetery in Amherst.

## SOUL FOOD

To many people, money is like a shoe. If the amount they have is too small, it pinches and irritates. But if it is too large, it causes them to stumble and fall.

“Give me neither poverty nor riches,  
but give me only my daily bread.  
Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you  
and say, 'Who is the LORD ?'  
Or I may become poor and steal,  
and so dishonor the name of my God.” Proverbs 30:8-9

“The worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things  
come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.” ~ Jesus (Mark 4:19)

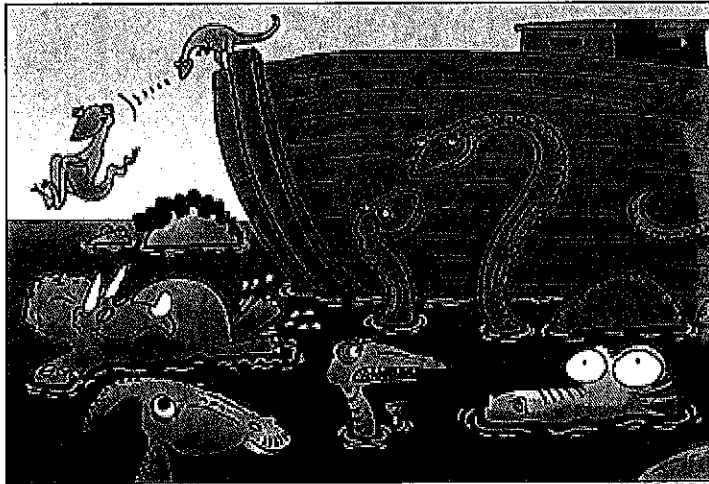
## QUOTABLE QUOTE

Never miss a good chance to shut-up. ~ Will Rogers

## PARTING SHOT

Why dinosaurs are **REALLY** extinct.

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



Thanks to J.R. Lucas (See Genesis 6-8)

08-19-2013

YOU DROPPED THE LADDER BEFORE YOU  
CALLED FOR A DINOSAUR SWIM PARTY,  
RIGHT?



## SERVANTS DURING THE WORSHIP OF GOD'S FAMILY FOR JANUARY 2020

Service	Elders	Readers	Acolytes	Greeters	Altar Guild	Ushers	Sound Room
1/5 8:30 AM	Harold Gibson Jeff Phan	Marty Offineer	Jacob Schneider	Ron & Cindy Klein	Edna Klenz Wanda Aschenbach	John Kirschner John Cartmell Ron Klein	Bruce McGlothlin
10:00 AM		Josh Gallo	Nathan Draga	Karen Anderson		Dean Koch Dave Timbs	Cheryl Street
1/12 8:30 AM		Jeff Phan	Gwen Krupp	Tony & Lynn Jiovanazzo	Donna Kemmerle Diane Coffman	Dan Streza Chuck Draga Danny Kemmerly Bob Kemmerle	Priscilla Harden
10:00 AM	Ron Fisher John Schick	Laurie Beran	Ashton Draga	Diane Coffman		Laurie Beran Deby Lasko	Darren Conley
1/19 8:30 AM	Harold Gibson Jeff Phan	Jack Green	Jacob Schneider	Judy Starbuck	Ann Conley Linda Hargreaves	John Kirschner John Cartmell Ron Klein	Laura Kreger
10:00 AM		Cheryl Street	Ruari Dever	Ted & Sally Krause		Josh Gallo	Bruce McGlothlin
1/26 8:30 AM		Christine Krupp	Shane Hargreaves	Nancy Beran Ruth Williams	Karie Coffman	Harold Gibson Jeff Krupp Jeff Phan Steve	Bruce McGlothlin
10:00 AM	Ron Fisher John Schick	Beth Albrecht	Katie Steindl	Emma Sekerak		Dean Koch Dave Timbs	Bruce McGlothlin

### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1/1	Sandy Sekerak	1/8	Albert Fath V	John Schick	Ava McLaughlin
1/3	Yevina Pippert	1/9	Brandon & Bryan Melley	Chuck Draga	Roger Aschenbach
1/4	Oliver Koch	1/10	Dave Timbs	1/14 Kristopher Aschenbach	Jacob Green
1/6	Jeffrey Trottier II	1/11	Dorothy Barckert	1/16 Judy Bloom	Jason Fisher
1/7	Juliet Belden	1/13	Kenneth Moore	1/20 Darren Conley	Alexei Given
	Jessie Paterchak,		Olivia Hargreaves	1/21 Jack Green	Timothy Krieg
	Brandon Grussell,		Robert Draga	1/23 David Staylon	Bob Steindl
	Robert Ziehm		Andrew Offineer	1/23 James Anderson	James Ody

**St. Paul Events & Bible Reading Calendar January 2020**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Church Office Closed	2	3	4 10 Take down Christmas decorations
<b>5 Food Collection</b> 8:30 Holy Communion 10 Worship/Kids Worship	6	7 10 Seasoned Saints 7 Elders 7 Women's Ministry 7 NA	8 7 H3	9 6:15 Hand Bells 7:30 Choir	10	11
12 8:30 Worship 10 Holy Communion/ Kids Worship	13	14 10 Seasoned Saints 7 Women's Ministry 7 NA	15 7 H3	16 6:15 Hand Bells 7:30 Choir	17	18
19 8:30 Holy Communion 10 Worship/Kids Worship	20	21 10 Seasoned Saints 6:30 BOD Meeting 7 Women's Ministry 7 NA	22 7 H3	23 6:15 Hand Bells 7:30 Choir	24	25
26 8:30 Worship 10 Holy Communion/ Kids Worship	27	28 10 Seasoned Saints 7 Women's Ministry 7 NA	29 7 H3	30 6:15 Hand Bells 7:30 Choir	31	