

# St. Paul Lutheran Church & Preschool Newsletter

February 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

## What a Potluck Supper Teaches Us About the Church



This month of February St. Paul celebrates 145 years of God's blessing. This milestone moves us to turn our thoughts to the Church, that is, to think about what this family of God's people is like. What did God have in mind in starting the Christian Church, and even our congregation here in Amherst? I think there is a lot we can learn from a good, old-fashioned church potluck.

A potluck supper is like a snapshot of the church. People from all different walks of life come together to be fed and to enjoy fellowship, and everyone brings their best specialty dish for the meal. Perhaps a secret family recipe for spicy meatballs or cheesy potatoes. And don't forget to save room on your plate for something from the dessert table . . . And there's always room for jello, (unless it's the kind with carrots suspended inside of it -no one has room for that). But I digress. My point is twofold: First, the members of the congregation bring their very best, not the leftovers from last Wednesday night's dinner. And second, each member brings something different. We crave variety, and we celebrate the uniqueness of each dish made lovingly and brought in by different members.

In some ways, a church potluck is a microcosm of the church itself. We all have different specialties, different gifts to offer. The Lord has blessed each of us with unique gifts that we have the joy of using to further His kingdom. We read about this in Romans 12:4-6: **"For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us."**

Obviously, God is speaking of things much loftier than crockpots of baked beans, and platters of fried chicken. But in the same way that members heading to a potluck are excited to share their best chip dip, we should be excited to share our gifts for the good of God's kingdom. Some of us can offer musical talents to contribute to the beautification of the church service itself. Some of us can lead small Bible study groups, or know how to work a soundboard. Some of us are good listeners and encouragers and can use those gifts to help a struggling family. Some of us have been blessed monetarily and can contribute finances to support ministry that shares Jesus' love. God wants our best because He's the one who gave us our best. He also

knows how much our giving can bless ourselves and others. We are blessed by each other as together we share our abilities, our love, and our resources. Together, we create an amazing menu that feeds ourselves and others!

The church potluck is really a very simple idea. It is one of those good ideas that has been passed on from one generation, to the next generation, to the next. Good food never goes out of style. The church, too, never goes out of style. It's really a simple idea: people of all walks of life, come together, to be fed by God's Word regularly. We all have to eat, no matter how busy our lives get. As we celebrate St. Paul's 145<sup>th</sup> anniversary this month, we are grateful for this gift that has been passed down to us by previous generations. And now, it's our turn. We have the privilege – and obligation – to pass down to the next generations the blessings of this wonderful, weekly feasting on God's Word of forgiveness and guidance.

As believers let's remain committed to come together to this table often, each bringing our best, and there we enjoy being fed and fellowship. Let's keep enjoying this Church "potluck" as long as we live on earth, until God invites us to that glorious potluck in heaven (where there is no carrot Jello allowed). Make sure you save your fork meal!

See you on Sunday,

**Pastor Paul Werner**



**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  
Dinner Following Worship

Proclaiming God's Grace to  
Amherst since 1875

February 9<sup>th</sup> there will be ONE worship service at 10:00am, followed by a dinner in the Fellowship Hall at 11:30am. The dinner will feature roast beef, baked chicken, and rigatoni with meat sauce. We ask you to bring a dish or drinks. We suggest a free-will donation of \$2 per person. Please plan to join us for this wonderful celebration of God's faithfulness!

## **The Story of Your Church**

### **A Brief History of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Amherst, Ohio**

In 1859 Pastor Henry Juengel began preaching in North Amherst (now the City of Amherst). Pastor Juengel was from St. Paul Lutheran Church in Liverpool, which is now Valley City. He served this

area until 1862. After some years, on February 7, 1875 a group of 21 men met and organized St. Paul Lutheran Church of North Amherst. Within one week, on February 14, 1875 they met with Pastor Carl Schmidt of St. John Lutheran Church in Elyria and arranged that he would come to Amherst every two weeks to hold worship services. The congregation first met in the Baptist church for a rental of \$1.50 per Sunday. That church building was on Milan street, just north of the existing city hall, and has been transformed into a residence.

In April 1875 the small congregation bought a Methodist church building for \$250, and moved it to a site they had purchased on the northwest corner of Franklin Avenue and West Street. The congregation called their first pastor, Rev. L. Dammann, to move to Amherst and they promised a salary of \$400 per year and a free home. The congregation gathered a special offering for the building of a parsonage and started to work, behind the church building. Before the home was finished and



occupied by the pastor, a fire broke out in the parsonage. The fire totally destroyed the parsonage and the church building. The parsonage, which hadn't been completed, was still uninsured, and the insurance company refused to pay for the loss of the church because the parsonage had been erect too close to the church. This was a big loss for the small congregation of rural families.

A building committee was elected and a new church was built. That building was added onto several times and it still stands today on the corner of Franklin Ave., and West Street. It is occupied by the Masonic Lodge.

Pastor Dammann, the first pastor, played the violin and led the singing, since there was no organ. St. Paul began a Lutheran elementary school, and Pastor Dammann also taught school four days a week. St. Paul's school opened in 1876 with 25 children, in the Old Town Hall, and later moved into the home of the pastor. A room was added to the church building and classes met there. School children had to do the janitorial work. The school would remain open for 41 years, closing in 1917.



Early worship services were entirely in the German language until Sunday evening English services were added in 1908. It would take another ten years until in 1918 an English service was offered on Sunday mornings along with the German service. Five more years later, in 1923, the first English hymnals were purchased. In the late 1930's German services were discontinued.

Before 1930, a building fund was established for the current church building. In the Depression, however, the fund was confiscated by government bank examiners

and applied to the church's loan at the bank. In 1938, a building fund was restarted, which led to the construction of the current building in 1953.

In 1983, a member wrote these very fitting words about the history of St. Paul: *"The real history of St. Paul Church has not been recorded here. The real history will first be known in heaven – lost sinners won for Christ, children and adults brought into Christ's Kingdom. The faith, the comfort, the hope, the inspiration, the prayers, the courage, the love that have come from the pastors and members of St. Paul are the real history of St. Paul Lutheran Church through God Himself who in Christ wrought these blessings through Word and Sacraments. And thus, God grant it, may St. Paul in the future, even as in the past, be a fountain-head from which flows the Pure Gospel of Jesus Christ for the salvation of the souls of men and to the Glory of the everlasting Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost."*



## Preschool Update

Registration has begun for the 2020-2021 school year! If you have a child you would like to enroll, or you know someone who does, please don't hesitate to contact me! Classes are filling up fast!

In January, we welcomed three new students to our program. We currently have 63 students enrolled across the three classes.

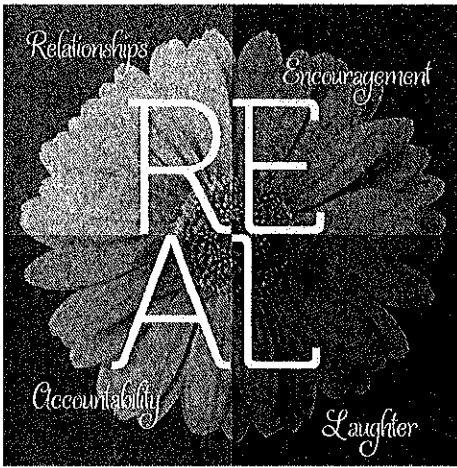
In February, we will celebrate Valentine's Day in the classroom. We will also welcome Dr. Scott Iliff, DDS, to the preschool to talk to us about dental health. February is National Dental Health Month.

Thanks to the Amherst Exempted Village School District, we will be receiving a Smart Board to use in the classroom! The board will likely not be installed until this summer, as it will require new electrical wiring. It will be available for church use as well. We also received a new kidney-shaped table from the school district.

Looking ahead, we will be having our Dads and Donuts event at the church on Saturday, March 7th. Moms and Muffins will be April 18th. We will also be hosting a Lutheran Synod Educators event at the church on Friday, March 13th.

A big THANK YOU to everyone who donated items and helped out at our Christmas program!! Thank you for your support of our program! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

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



## St. Paul Women's Ministry

Women's Small Group meets on Tuesday evenings from 7-8:30 PM. Any questions, please contact Kendis at [dce@stpaulamherst.com](mailto:dce@stpaulamherst.com).



The high school group at St. Paul is called The Next Step, because it the "next step" after confirmation! **Interested in getting more information – text Kendis Bender at 967-1792!**

The Next Step meets on Sunday afternoons – 12:15 (or whenever late service ends) until 2:30. Lunch will be provided! Parents are asked to help coordinate meals!

### Upcoming Dates:

**2/2 Soup Fundraiser**

**Superbowl Party – 6 PM Benders**

**2/14 Babysitting Fundraiser 5:30-9:30 PM**



### H3

2/2 Sermon Summary Due  
2/5 FBC Lesson #10 Philipians  
2/12 FBC Lesson #20 Office of the Keys  
2/19 FBC Lesson #Vocation  
2/26 Ash Wednesday Worship 7 PM

# Valentine's Babysitting Night

## at St. Paul Lutheran Church



**Friday, February 14, 2020**



Hosted by the Youth Group of St. Paul Lutheran Church

This is a fundraiser for the youth group to raise funds for a mission trip to Puerto Rico in July. There will be high school youth there to play games, make crafts and watch a movie with your children, while you enjoy a kid-free evening out. There will also be a church staff member, who is finger-printed and background checked, along with at least one teen who is certified in CPR and first aid. Your kids will have a great time in a safe environment!

**Date:** Friday, February 14, 2020



**Time:** 5:30pm — 9:30pm \*\* You can come any time between these hours. We will be serving pizza around 6:00pm and showing the movie Sing at 7:30pm. Feel free to bring your child's favorite blanket and a pillow for movie time. If your child has food allergies, please bring dinner and snacks for them.

**Who:** Your children, all ages welcome



**Place:** St. Paul Lutheran Church; 115 Central Dr.; Amherst, OH 44001

**Cost:** \$20 minimum donation suggested for the first child, \$35 for two or more children from the same immediate family

To register your kids, please use the Google form in the link below or email [dce@stpaulamherst.com](mailto:dce@stpaulamherst.com) with questions. Pre-registration is recommended, so we can plan volunteers and crafts. Walk-ins will only be accepted if we have enough high school helpers to handle the additional children.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdtMLo5EZRpF2Qdht\\_58XGzyzkXN2Hobq6c1Jf-xKI8j\\_fw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdtMLo5EZRpF2Qdht_58XGzyzkXN2Hobq6c1Jf-xKI8j_fw/viewform)

**PLEASE SHARE WITH FRIENDS, FAMILY, & NEIGHBORS**



We are looking for donations for Kids Church! We are looking for bean bag chairs, large throw pillows and a tablet or iPad to use for sign-in. Please contact Kendis if you have any of these available!

## Giving and sharing



By definition, giving is a sacrifice. It is taking something we value and presenting it to someone we value even more, expecting nothing in return. In Leviticus, God taught Old Testament believers to love him like that by insisting they make significant sacrifices. They burned up animals that took effort and expense to raise. They poured out wine that took time to ferment. When it was over, those things were gone.

We give when we help our neighbor dig her car out of a snowbank. That's a couple hours of our lives we will never get back. We accept no payment because she is our neighbor. Giving is love with no returns.

Sharing is loving with mutual benefits. There is an expected reward. We get satisfaction in what we have offered to others. God wanted Old Testament believers to share the Passover meal. Family and friends got together to enjoy food and drink. They expressed their faith in the Lamb of God whose blood set them free from slavery. The older folks told stories of their unique experiences as God's people. And younger folks discovered their heritage.

Today we give to God financially. We give because we value Him even more than the bills we can pay, the investments we can make, the things we can own with the money. God asks us to give because learning to value Him more than we value money and possessions is an important lesson we have to learn. This is an essential lesson in following Jesus. It's a lesson we need to learn over and over again. That's why we give to God regularly. Giving to Him is for our good, not His. He doesn't need our money. It is all His, after all – it always was, and always will be.

When we give, we give out of love. It's like shoveling snow for our neighbor. She's our neighbor after all. We do it because of our relationship with her. This means we never give to a church organization or to support the congregation's budget. We give to God. It's the relationship that makes our giving an act of love.

It's been a mild winter so far. Yet, be sure to get some snow shoveling in. Dig your neighbor's car out. Because giving is sacrifice and it is love. That's the best way for followers of Jesus to live, because that's the way He lived for us!



## Ash Wednesday February 26, 2020

**Ash Wednesday Worship** will offer ashes to be received on the forehead or hand as a symbol of sorrow for sin. Holy Communion will be celebrated. Worship starts at 7:00 PM.

### Wednesday Midweek Worship Services

begin on Ash Wednesday, February 26, 2020, @ 7:00 PM  
and continue every Wednesday evening until April 1<sup>st</sup> (no foolin!).

**Lent Fellowship Suppers** – before Wednesday worship begin on  
Ash Wednesday, February 26, 2020, @ 6:00 – 7:00 PM



### WEDNESDAY NIGHTS IN LENT ~ BEGINNING ASH WEDNESDAY



### *The Lord's Prayer and His Passion*

This Lent our special Wednesday night services will focus on the words of the Lord's Prayer and connections with the events of Jesus going to the cross that bring light to the words of the prayer. Since Lent is a time of learning, a teaching parable in drama form is included each Wednesday night service. May God bring you growth and encouragement as we gather for "The Lord's Prayer and His Passion."

## the Journey thru Lent

**Ash Wednesday February 26<sup>th</sup> to Easter Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>**

Lent is a season that leads up to Easter. The six weeks before Easter are a time when Christ-followers focus God the Father giving His Son, Jesus, on the cross for us. We discover again the rich meaning this event has for us, and we live changed by this act of extreme love. Just as Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness spiritually preparing to begin His work, struggling with the devil's temptations, choosing God's ways for His life, we do the same in Lent. It's 40 days (excluding Sundays), and a time of personal spiritual "house cleaning" for all of us.

## **Deliver Us: Jesus Sets Us Free!** LENT DEVOTION BOOKLETS

Each year the telling of Christ's Passion is a profound reminder of God's work on our behalf. In *Deliver Us: Jesus Sets Us Free*, we view the Savior's triumphal act of redemption in the light of Israel's exodus from captivity in Egypt. As Moses led Israel to the Promised Land, so has Jesus won victory for us through His life, death, and resurrection. In both events, God saves; through Jesus, God saves completely.

*Deliver Us: Jesus Sets Us Free* daily devotions are free, and will be available at St. Paul beginning Sunday February 9<sup>th</sup>. Daily devotions are a great way to grow closer to Jesus through the Church season of Lent. You may also subscribe to have these devotions emailed to you daily by going to: [www.lhm.org/lent/](http://www.lhm.org/lent/)



# “PRAYER: THE FIRST STEP IN REACHING OUR COMMUNITY”



6-week Small Group Bible Study for Everyone  
Beginning February 23  
thru the season of Lent

We are very excited about starting a new six-week Bible study called *Prayer: The First Step In Reaching Our Community*. We have discovered that wonderful relationships are formed when we gather together around God's Word, learn about God's grace in our lives, share our life-stories, care for and pray for one another, and engage in an outward-focused mission. It is a transformational experience when *everyone in the church* focuses on the same teaching from God at the same time.

**We ask everyone to plug into a Small Group Bible Study** for this 4<sup>th</sup> and final season in our 2-year renewal process, *Seasons of Discovery*. Small Group Bible Studies are a key part of “*Seasons of Discovery*.”

**What's this study about?** As Christians we want to have an impact on the people in our community. We desire to reach people with God's love. And we know that prayer is a great way to get started! These interactive studies use the Lord's Prayer as a guide to equip us to deepen our prayer life and to develop new ways to pray for our community.

In this study, we will discover common prayer blocks and how to overcome them, how to praise God through a unique pattern called a “prayer blitz,” how to develop honest communication with God through a letter, what it means to pray for our community in a prayer walk and much more. However, this study goes beyond learning *information* about prayer. It provides creative and stimulating activities that will help you take prayer from a mundane obligation to an enjoyable way of interacting with our Father who loves us. And in so doing, we will find new ways to reach our community with that love!



**Sign Up** for a small group will begin Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup> in the narthex (lobby).

**Participant Books** will be available starting Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup>.

**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.

## SMALL GIFTS that are a **BIG HELP!**

Here are some items you can donate that are a BIG help to the ministry of St. Paul:

1. Paper dinner plates and dessert plates
2. Plastic spoons, forks, and knives (white color please)
3. Disposable drink cups – 8 or 12 oz.
4. Maxwell House regular and decaf coffee
5. Boxed cereal bars – all varieties
6. Packages of cookies
7. Fabreeze air freshener – for restrooms
8. Gift cards for fast food restaurants (\$5.00) – for people who stop in the church office in need of a meal
9. Gift cards for gasoline (\$20) – for people in need of gas to get to work

Donations of food and tableware by be put in kitchen. Gift cards may be brought to church office or placed in offering plate.



We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Charles Barckert who was called to his eternal rest on January 11, 2020. A Christian burial was held on January 16, 2020 at Ridge Hill Memorial Park, Amherst Township.

### **SOUL FOOD**

**"When hope was dead within him, Abraham went on hoping in faith ... He relied on the word of God ...."** Romans 4:18

### **FORGETTABLE FACT**

A snail can sleep for three years.

### **POTENT QUOTABLE**

**"There is within every soul a thirst for happiness and meaning."  
- Thomas Aquinas**

### **PARTING SHOT**

**"There's two theories to arguin' with a woman. Neither one works."  
~ Will Rogers**

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b>
<b>2 Food Collection</b> 8:30 Holy Communion 10 Bible Study 10 Worship/Kids Church 11 Bible Study Reunion	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 10 Seasoned Saints 6:30 Altar Guild 7 Elders 7 Women's Ministry 7 NA	<b>5</b> 7 H3	<b>6</b> 7:30 Choir	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9 145th Celebration</b> 10 Holy Communion/ Kids Church 11:30 Luncheon	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 10 Seasoned Saints 7 Women's Ministry 7 NA	<b>12</b> 7 H3	<b>13</b> 7:30 Choir	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 8:30 Holy Communion 10 Bible Study 10 Worship/Kids Church	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 10 Seasoned Saints 6:30 BOD Meeting 7 Women's Ministry 7 NA	<b>19</b> 7 H3	<b>20</b> 6:15 Hand Bells 7 Autism Group 7:30 Choir	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 8:30 Worship 9:30 Voter's Meeting 10 Bible Study 10 Holy Communion/ Kids Church 11 Voter's Meeting	<b>24</b> AM Preschool Conferences	<b>25</b> 10 Seasoned Saints 1-8 Preschool Conferences 7 Women's Ministry 7 NA	<b>26</b> 7 Ash Wednesday	<b>27</b> 6:15 Hand Bells 7:30 Choir	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>

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

Service	Elders	Readers	Acolytes	Greeters	Altar Guild	Ushers	Sound Room
2/2 8:30 AM	Marty Offineer Jeff Krupp	Molly McGlothlin	Gwen Krupp	John & Brenda Cartmell	Lynn Giovanazzo Judy Starbuck	Dan Streza Chuck Draga Danny Kemery Bob Kemmerle	Bruce McGlothlin
10:00 AM		James Steindl	Makaya Thomas	Karen Anderson		Josh Gallo Billy Swanzner	Cheryl Street
2/9 10:00 AM	Bruce McGlothlin Steve Albrecht	Laurie Beran	Ashton Draga Nathan Draga	Diane Coffman	Fran Draga Debbie Smith	Dean Koch Dave Timbs	Priscilla Harden
2/16 8:30 AM	Marty Offineer Jeff Krupp	Jeff Phan	Jacob Schneider	Chuck & Fran Draga	Edna Klenz Wanda Aschenbach	John Kirschner John Cartmell	Laura Kregger
10:00 AM		Josh Gallo	Ruari Dever	Ted & Sally Krause		Josh Gallo Billy Swanzner	Bruce McGlothlin
2/23 8:30 AM	Bruce McGlothlin Steve Albrecht	Jack Green	Shane Hargreaves	Harold & Debbie Gibson	Donna Kemmerle Diane Coffman	Harold Gibson Jeff Krupp Jeff Phan Steve Warnock	Bruce McGlothlin
10:00 AM		Beth Albrecht	Katie Steindl	Emma Sekerak		Dean Koch Dave Timbs	Bruce McGlothlin
2/26 7 PM	Marty Offineer Jeff Krupp	Christine Krupp	Makaya Thomas		Ann Conley Linda Hargreaves	Laurie Beran Deby Lasko	Bruce McGlothlin

### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2/1 Lois Manes	2/8 Alex Bender	2/18 Lee Steindl
2/2 Janice Ingersoll	Phyllis Nabakowski	2/19 Alaina Becker
Stephen Warnock	2/9 Janine Trotter	2/20 Deborah Gibson
2/3 John Eibon	2/10 Scott Thompson	2/21 Scott Giovanazzo
2/4 Michelle Card	2/11 Nicole Zadzilka	2/22 Cindy Galant
Andrew Draga	2/12 John Bremke	2/23 John Kirschner III
2/5 Ruth Murdy	2/13 Andrew Krieg	2/23 Paul Keller
Jennifer Strader	2/15 Fran Draga	2/24 Todd Pippert
	2/16 Jeffrey Binggeli	2/27 Robert Gramer
	Edna Klenz	2/29 Beth McGinnis