



MINISTRY PLAN FOR GROWTH
Opportunities to Serve God

Family Focus Team who will provide learning events and relationship-building events for families in our preschool and surrounding community. Pick up a Ministry Description teams to see if this team is what God would have you do. Check the resource wall in the lower narthex.

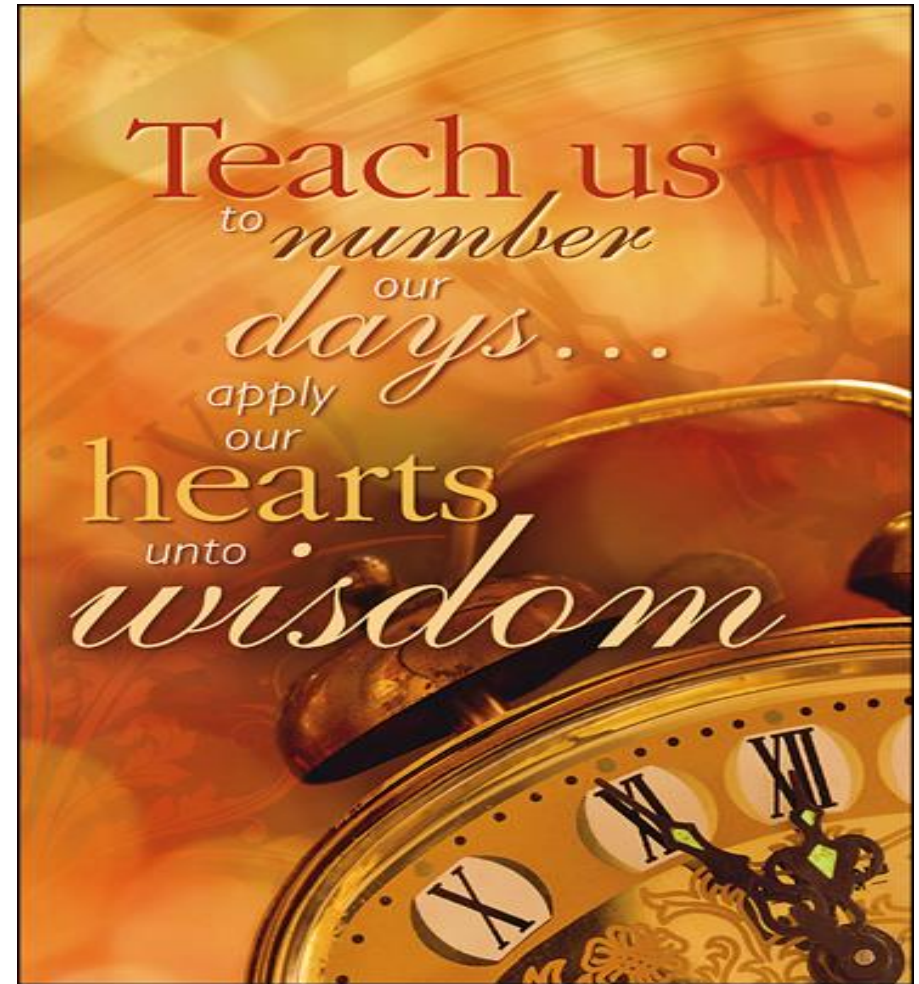
If you would like to participate in any team Just contact Dave Bender (dave.bender@oberlin.edu 440/315-9603), Edna Klenz (ednaeklenz@gmail.com); Bruce McGlothlin (bdmcglothlin@gmail.com 440/452-3488) or Pastor Paul (wernerpaul@sbcglobal.net 440-988-4157).

It's Not Too Late to Participate!

Our Christmas Offering 2022 is directed to complete making worship services, classes, and group gatherings accessible to all. This year's special offering is dedicated to a lift which will provide handicap accessibility to the upper level education and meeting rooms, and a ramp which will create handicap accessibility into the parsonage for Bible studies.

Special offering envelopes are available in the church narthex (lobby). Please participate in St. Paul's 2022 special Christmas Offering. Prayerfully consider a generous gift. This giving opportunity is limited to the month of December.

Let us allow ALL to "come let us adore Him."



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES IN JANUARY



Building Relationships in an Age when
Technology Fights Against it



St. Paul

Lutheran Church & Preschool

115 Central Drive, Amherst, Ohio 44001

www.stpaulamherst.com (440) 988-4157

Sunday, January 1, 2023

WELCOME! We're glad you're here!

Whether this is your first time at St. Paul, or you're a "regular," we hope you see that our welcome mat is out for you. If you're a guest with us for the first time, we hope you'll find today's experience helpful to you, and you are invited back any Sunday at 8:30 AM or 11:00 AM.

Ushers are standing by to assist you in locating a seat, directing you to restrooms, coat racks, and to our nursery.

Nursery is available for children ages 3 and under. An usher will be happy to direct you to our Nursery where parents may care for infants, and rambunctious toddlers will find a place to be ... themselves.

Kids' Activity Bags are filled with crayons and coloring booklets, and other quiet things to keep kids' attention. They are in the back of the worship center, or see an usher for these.

Worshippers who wish to receive Holy Communion are encouraged to thoroughly read the announcement on the following page regarding Communion reception.

IN TODAY'S WORSHIP we stand at the brink of a New Year 2023. May the New Year bring you gifts no money can buy:

- A patience that endures hardship;
- A courage that can face the unexpected;
- An insight that is spiritual;
- A love that touches god;
- A light that no darkness can dim!

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: At the dawning of a new year, precious Savior, I ask You to take full possession of my life, hold me by Your hand, and lead me from day to day, protecting me from all dangers of body and soul. Shield me from the temptations of sin and let not the worries and fears of the future rob me of the peace of mind which is mine through Your sacrifice on Calvary. Amen.

Please fill out a Communication Card in the pew, and pass it towards the center aisle anytime in the first half of the worship service. You may also use the yellow card in your pew to write down prayer requests for needs or praises. Ushers will gather them during the hymn prior to the sermon. This means you will no longer need to stop on the way into worship to complete one. Offerings will continue to be collected at the doors.

Ushers are standing by to assist you in locating a seat, directing you to restrooms, coat racks, and any other help you might need.

Portals of Prayer daily devotions are free booklets available in the lobby area at St. Paul. Issues for the months of January - March are available now. Pick one up today.

Offering Envelopes for 2023 are delayed this year due to a problem with the printer. Your box of offering envelopes for next year will be given to you as soon as we receive them here at St. Paul. Until they arrive, you may use extra offering envelopes from 2022, or use a plain envelope and write your name and envelope number on it. You may also give to God electronically by clicking on the "giving" tab at St. Paul's web site (www.stpaulamherst.com)

WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER in our worship services this morning firmly believing that Jesus' Words, "*This is My Body... This is My Blood*" mean what they say, namely that with the bread and wine of Holy Communion is really given Jesus' Body and Blood. Holy Communion is more than a "memorial," a remembrance, or a representation of Jesus. God's promise to us in the Bible is that Jesus is really present to forgive your sins and strengthen your faith. Furthermore, receiving Holy Communion is not a good work we perform and offer up to God to pay for our sin. Rather, Communion is Jesus coming down to you personally through the bread and wine to give and work in you His forgiveness won on the cross.

Since scripture instructs us to examine ourselves before receiving Holy Communion, please sincerely reflect on these questions before receiving Communion:

- Am I so sorry for my sins that I don't want to go back and repeat them?
- Do I believe that Jesus Christ is my personal Savior from sin because He gave His life on the cross for me? Am I depending on Him, and not my own goodness, as the way to Heaven?
- Do I believe that Jesus gives His Body and Blood and His gift of forgiveness in the eating and drinking of the bread and wine of Communion?
- Do I sincerely intend, with the help of God, not to return to a life of sin but to live for God and love others deeper?

If you sincerely agree with these beliefs, then you are welcome to receive communion in today's worship service. If you are uncertain, we ask you to simply talk with Pastor before or after today's worship service.

Food Collection Sunday, January 1st Your gifts of non-perishable food goes to Second Harvest and to families in Lorain County.

FREE COFFEE & DONUTS for every Christmas decorations taker-downers. Join us on Saturday, January 7th, 2023 at 9:30 am. You'll enjoy the friendship as we work together to get the task done.

The 2023 Flower Chart is now posted in the narthex. Cost remains the same as last year \$25 per arrangement. If you wish to have flowers on the Altar please choose a Sunday, put your name, phone number, & occasion you would like listed in the bulletin.

January Prayer Cards will be distributed on Sundays, January 1st & 8th.

MOVIE NIGHT Join Ron & Tina Muska to watch “The Chosen” TV Series on *Thursday Evenings at 7 PM* in the Youth Room. We will start watching season two on December 29th. The Chosen shows the life of Jesus through the eyes of the people that walked on earth with him –the disciples, Mary his mother, the Pharisees, the children, those he healed. What would that look like? Now you can experience it! All welcome! Come and binge Jesus!

Prayer Requests this Week: *“The Lord is Near to all who Call on HIM.”* Psalms 148:18

- Pray for the Shontz family at the loss of their two young sons in an auto accident last Saturday.
- Pray for Laurie Beran’s family as her cousin, Joe LaLonde, passed.
- Pray for Wyatt who was born premature at 26 weeks and is in NICU.
- Pray for Clyde Strader who is recovering from shoulder surgery.
- Pray for Lynne Christner who is recovering from surgery for a brain aneurysm.
- Pray for Ron Klein hospitalized with congestive heart failure.
- Pray that Shirley Brumfield’s infection in her eye responds quickly to the antibiotics and goes away for good.
- Pray that Galen’s Crohn’s disease would go into remission.
- Pray for God to give a Grandson victory in his battle with a drug problem.
- Pray that God blesses people who worship Him this Christmas and that the truth of Jesus’ birth as Savior would lead many people to faith in Christ.
- Pray for Norm Buckingham (friend of Deby & Andy Lasko) who was diagnosed with stage 4 brain cancer; Nelson Paquette (cousin of Laurie Beran) who was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer; Sarah Perkins who has lung cancer; Nancy Dau (sister of Anita Labella & Karen Saegert) who has lung cancer; Brian Holmes whose leukemia has returned; Summer (Katie Steindl’s godmother) in her long battle with cancer; Sherry (Kevin Starbuck’s mother-in-law); Chris (sister-in-law of Virginia Warnock); Pat Kidder and Pam Hundal, friends of Steve Warnock, who are battling cancer..
- Pray for those who have on-going chronic illnesses or shut-in: Danny Koch, Charles Waryu, Don Lamoreaux and Don Gramer, Ruth Murdy, Wade Hubbard, Jack & Marilyn Green, Dorothy Barckert, Phyllis Darakis, Will & Lydia Rice, John Harden, Andy Lasko.
- Pray for Gina Shuster, a good friend of Jill Jiovanazzo, who is serving a deployment with the Air Force. Pray for her safety and safe return home.
- Pray for those celebrating birthdays this week: Sandy Sekerak, Yeniva Pippert, Oliver Koch, Jeffrey Trottier II, Brandon Grusell, Juliet Liszeski, Jessie Beran, Robert Ziehm.

NEW BIBLE STUDY COMING IN JANUARY CHRISTIANS IN A WOKE WORLD
A Call to Courage, Confession and Love Begins Tuesday, January 3rd @ 10 AM
 In January, a new study will begin on the topic of examining the religious beliefs behind “woke” ideology. The Bible study is written by Lutheran pastor, Rev. Paul Dare, and is highly acclaimed, and includes discussions on Social Justice, the culture of Victimhood, Marxism, Equity, Systemic Oppression, Christian Courage, Faith, and Love. Pastor Paul will be the presenter. People of all ages, men and ladies, are invited to join the Bible Study and discussion. YOU are welcome to join in, and you will find it time well spent! You’ll develop friendships, along with grow stronger in your faith.

This Week For The Lord	Looking Ahead One Week
1/1 Holy Communion 10 AM	1/8 Worship 8:30 AM
1/2 Church Office Closed	Holy Communion / Kids Church 10 AM
1/3 Seasoned Saints 10 AM Women’s Ministry 7 PM	1/10 Seasoned Saints 10 AM Women’s Ministry 7 PM
1/5 Movie Night “Chosen” 7 PM	1/12 Movie Night “Chosen” 7 PM
1/7 Preschool Open House 10:30 AM – 12PM	

Serving in God’s House:

- Pastor** Rev. Paul Werner
- Elders** Bruce McGlothlin, Bob Steindl
- Readers** Sue Werner
- Greeters** Nancy Beran, Ruth Williams
- Altar Guild** Lynn Jiovanazzo, Judy Starbuck
- Head Usher** Ron Fisher
- Ushers** Dan Streza, Chuck Draga, Danny Kemery, Bob Kemmerle

St. Paul Lutheran Church & Preschool

Sunday Worship Services: 8:30AM & 10AM

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

Beth Naro, Preschool Director – Preschool Phone: (440)988-5427