

**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](mailto:ednaeklenz@gmail.com)); Bruce McGlothlin (bdmcglothlin@gmail.com 440/452-3488) or Pastor Paul (wernerpaul@sbcglobal.net 440-988-4157).



**St. Paul Lutheran Church & Preschool**

Sunday Worship Services: 8:30AM & 10AM

In-Person or Live Stream @ [www.stpaulamherst.com](http://www.stpaulamherst.com)

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

E-Mail: [churchoffice@stpaulamherst.com](mailto:churchoffice@stpaulamherst.com) Church Website: [stpaulamherst.com](http://stpaulamherst.com)

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

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



**St. Paul**

**Lutheran Church & Preschool**

115 Central Drive, Amherst, Ohio 44001  
[www.stpaulamherst.com](http://www.stpaulamherst.com) (440) 988-4157

Sunday, January 8, 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 celebrate the Baptism of Jesus and we recall... · That God uses ordinary water to come to us and bind us to Himself in love and forgiveness. · That God puts His mark on us to be His children, marked with the cross of Christ forever. · That God gives us the power for our struggles between the "old" and "new" self within us.

**PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP:** Heavenly Father, as I begin this new year remind me of my beginning to You through Holy Baptism. Thank you for making me Your dear child. Empower me with the Holy Spirit that I may worship You and live according to my calling in Jesus Christ. 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](http://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.

**THANK YOU** to everyone who volunteered to be a Christmas-decoration-taker-downer yesterday! .

**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 1<sup>st</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>.

**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 29<sup>th</sup>. 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 Wyatt who was born premature at 26 weeks and is in NICU.
- Pray for Lynn Jiovanazzo who will have knee replacement surgery tomorrow, Mon. Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Pray for Ron Klein who is at home and weak following a hospital stay..
- 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 Laura Stanley, Ron Muska’s sister, who was just diagnosed with lung cancer; 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 those celebrating birthdays this week: Albert Fath V, Brandon Melley, Bryan Melley, Dave Timbs, Dorothy Barckert, Kenneth Moore, Olivia Hargreaves, Robert Draga, Andrew Offineer, John Schick, Chuck Draga.

**BIBLE STUDY IN JANUARY CHRISTIANS IN A WOKE WORLD**

**A Call to Courage, Confession and Love** On Tuesday mornings @ 10 AM We examine the religious beliefs behind “woke” ideology. Pastor Paul is 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
<b>1/8</b> Worship 8:30 AM Holy Communion / Kids Church 10 AM <b>1/9</b> Preschool Board 4 PM in parsonage Board of Elders 6:30 PM <b>1/10</b> Seasoned Saints 10 AM Women’s Ministry 7 PM <b>1/12</b> Worship Technology & Media 5:30 PM Movie Night “Chosen” 7 PM	<b>1/15</b> Holy Communion 8:30 AM Worship / Kids Church 10 AM <b>1/17</b> Seasoned Saints 10 AM Board of Directors 6:30 PM Women’s Ministry 7 PM <b>1/19</b> Movie Night “Chosen” 7 PM

**Serving in God’s House:**

<b>Pastor</b>	Rev. Paul Werner
<b>Organist</b>	Oziah Wales
<b>Readers</b>	Jan Beko-Nathan (E) Laurie Beran (L)
<b>Greeters</b>	John & Brenda Cartmell (E) Karen Anderson (L)
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Fran Draga, Debbie Smith
<b>Head Usher</b>	Ron Fisher
<b>Ushers</b>	Harold Gibson (E) Laurie Beran, Deby Lasko (L)