

**Today we welcome** Marina Alshomali and her nephew Jhony, who are from Bethlehem in Israel. They will be sharing about their lives and work.

More than 70% of the Christian Community in the Holy Land depend upon tourism as their only source of income. For decades those Christians have been enduring many hardships as tourism in Bethlehem has plummeted and access to other sources of income has been sharply restricted due to the ongoing conflict, the wars, the 12 yard wall built around Bethlehem, the COVID-19 pandemic, and nowadays the catastrophic ongoing war. This made it very difficult for the Christian families to find their daily bread and forced them to immigrate and flee their homeland since they lost their source of income. The Christian population of the Holy Land was 30% in the last century, today it is less than 1%. If it continues like this, in few years we will find no Christians in the land of Christ, which could cause tragic consequences to our faith's holy sites.

In the church Narthex is a display of handmade olive wood religious articles from Bethlehem available for purchase. These carvings include religious crafts that could make a nice wedding, baptism, confirmation, Easter and Christmas gifts. The carvings are handmade by Christian families from Bethlehem who rely on this for their daily bread.

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

115 Central Drive, Amherst, Ohio 44001

[www.stpaulamherst.com](http://www.stpaulamherst.com) (440) 988-4157

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

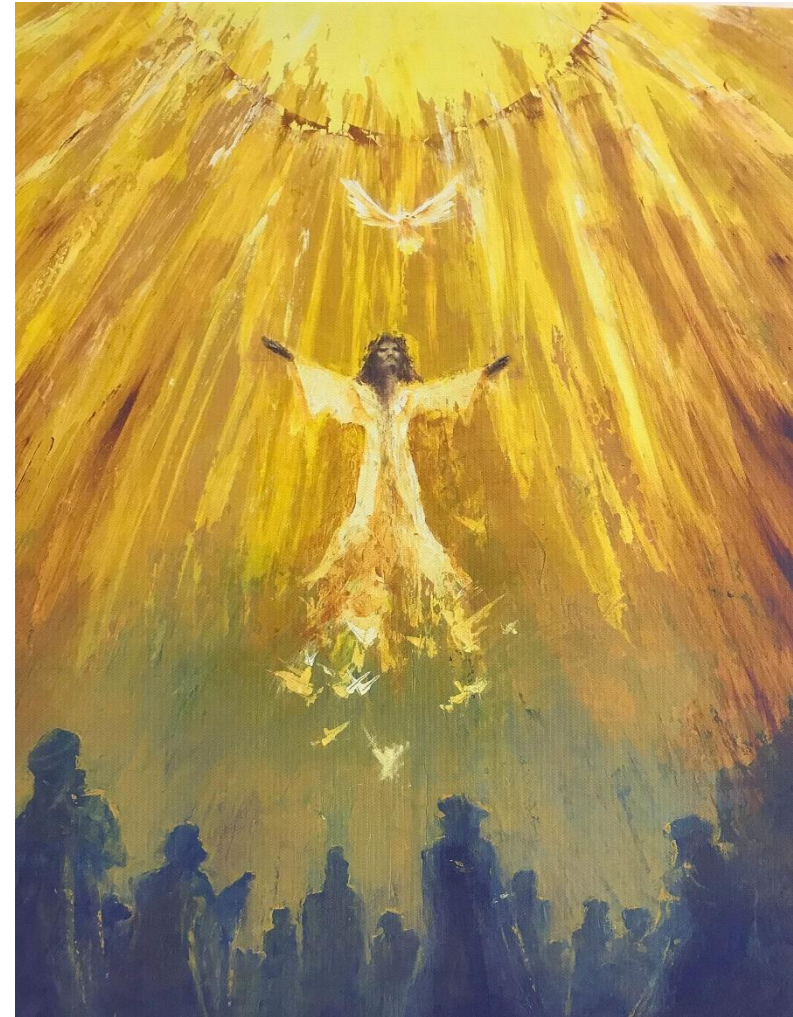
E-Mail: [churchoffice@stpaulamherst.com](mailto:churchoffice@stpaulamherst.com) Church Website: [stpaulamherst.com](http://stpaulamherst.com)

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

Mike Warnock - Director of Worship Technology

Owen Reyda - Director of Music Ministries

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



## ***Welcome to St. Paul!***

**We're glad you're here!** Whether this is your first visit or you're a St. Paul veteran, we hope you sense our "welcome mat" is out and you'll consider joining us again soon any Sunday at 8:30 AM and 10:00 AM, right here. Please fill out a white "Communication Card" found in front of you in the pew rack, and place it in the offering plate later. And about the offering ... don't feel obligated to participate in giving because we – and God – are really glad you are here as our guest!

**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.

**Worshippers who wish to receive Holy Communion** are encourage to thoroughly read the announcement in this bulletin explaining what Communion reception is all about.

**IN TODAY'S WORSHIP: KEEP YOUR HEAD UP!** Where is your focus? We easily focus on the day-to-day problems we have. Hard day on the job? Family life is falling apart? When we focus on what is happening now, we can feel afraid. Then we come to today, the Ascension, when Jesus left His disciples behind to go back to heaven where He fills the whole universe! Jesus reigns over the entire universe for the good of His people, the Church. Shift your focus; it is not about what is here. Put your focus on things above, where Jesus reigns for you.

**PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP:** Almighty God, I confidently believe that Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, has ascended into heaven. I pray that I also may ascend and continually keep my heart and mind fixed on Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Altar flowers given to the glory of God by** Eric & Sandy Long celebrating their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

**Be Sure to Join Us for Worship on Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>** ~ St. Paul will be honoring all women with gifts of a nice daily devotion book, a plant and a beautifully decorated cookie. Invite your family to come with you to a worship service at either 8:30 am or 10 am.

**It's a Joyful Privilege** to get to welcome a new neighbor with a very nice gift for them. This month Sandy Long gets that privilege and joy. She submitted the name of someone she knows who just moved into Amherst. You, too, can experience this joy of meeting and gifting a new neighbor. All you have to do is fill out the form by the gift basket in the narthex and stuff it in the box. Each basket is beautiful and filled with seasonal decorations, snack foods, community information, and an invitation to join us at St. Paul.

**Tuesday Morning Bible Study** - Join us as we learn about the origins of God's grace in the Bible book of Genesis. You don't have to be a Bible scholar, just come! Everyone is welcome! Tuesdays @ 10 AM.

**Fellowship Sunday 1 week ago** - Last Sunday was joyful as we worshipped together in one worship service and enjoyed brunch together afterwards. Thank you to everyone who came, and who brought food. The brunch was delicious, and thanks to Steve Warnock, John Kirschner, Jeff Binggeli, Bob Steindl, and Billy Swanzer who cooked. The next Fellowship Sunday is the last Sunday in July.

<b>This Week For The Lord</b>	<b>Looking Ahead One Week</b>
<b>5/5 Food Collection</b> Holy Communion 8:30 AM Worship / Kids Church 10 AM	<b>5/12</b> Worship 8:30 AM Holy Communion 10 AM
<b>5/7</b> Seasoned Saints 10 AM Altar Guild 6 PM Women's Ministry 7 PM	<b>5/14</b> Seasoned Saints 10 AM Women's Ministry 7 PM
<b>5/8</b> New Life With God 6:45 PM	<b>5/15</b> New Life With God 6:45 PM
<b>5/9</b> Brothers, Bibles, & Brews 7 PM @ ESP Brewery	<b>5/18</b> Piano Recital 9:30-12:30 Jennifer Belmont Students

### **Serving in God's House:**

<b>Pastor</b>	Rev. Paul Werner
<b>Organist</b>	Owen Reyda
<b>Pianist</b>	Owen Reyda
<b>Elder</b>	John Kirschner (E) John Brabander (L)
<b>Reader</b>	Christine Krupp (E) Sue Werner (L)
<b>Acolyte</b>	Steve Warnock (E)
<b>Greeters</b>	John & Brenda Cartmell (E) Ron & Tina Muska (L)
<b>Kids Church</b>	Sue Werner
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Fran Draga, Debbie Smith
<b>Sound</b>	Mike Warnock, Tina Muska (L)
<b>Head Usher</b>	Ron Fisher
<b>Ushers</b>	Harold Gibson, Jeff Krupp, Steve Warnock (E) Clyde Strader (L)

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

- Pray for God's blessings on Carole Naro as her immunotherapy to treat cancer has been stopped due to complications, leaving her feeling ill. Pray that God bless her and the doctors to find a new treatment for her.
- Pray for Jim Temple who has had lots of recent hospital stays and several medical issues going on.
- Pray for Audrey Neff, a 31 yr. old woman who had a stroke.
- Pray for Tim Ross, Sheryl Gregg's brother in hospice care.
- Please pray for healing in Edna Klenz's lungs.
- Please pray for Mike McHugh as his leukemia has returned.
- Pray for Gerri Deidrick whose chemotherapy is now complete. Pray that she recovers and that she is cancer-free.
- Pray for Keri who has pancreatic cancer and is experiencing complications from chemotherapy.
- Pray for 12 yr. Old Aubrey who has a tumor in her eye and is going through chemotherapy where she has lost her hair.
- Pray for Brian Harcula as he has cancer.
- Pray for Paxton Roby with cancer.
- Pat who has a brain tumor.
- Pray for Heather, a young mother of 3, who has cancer.
- Pray for Devin (mother of a preschool student) who has cancer.
- Pray for Chris (sister-in-law of Virginia Warnock).
- Pray for Randy who has bladder and prostate cancer and is starting chemotherapy.
- Pray for those who have on-going chronic illnesses or shut-in: Charles Waryu, Don Lamoreaux and Don Gramer, Ruth Murdy, Jack & Marilyn Green, Dorothy Barckert, Dale Mack, Phyllis Darakis, Will & Lydia Rice, John Harden, Andy Lasko.
- Pray for those celebrating birthdays this week: Colby Trottier, Brian Starbuck, Jamie Smith.
- Pray for God to guide and bless our search process for a new Preschool Director.