



Beginning in January the late service on Sunday mornings will move from 10AM to 11AM. The 8:30 AM worship service time will remain unchanged. The hour between will bring back a Bible Study for all, led by Pastor, from 9:45am to 10:45am. The Bible Study will meet upstairs in the education area.

Yes, it will take some changing of our personal habits on Sunday mornings, especially for our members and guests who regularly worship at 10am. We have made these kinds of changes before and we ask everyone to see the greater good for the congregation and the benefit of gathering together as one for an every week Bible study.

For our people who are regular attenders at 8:30 am on Sundays, you can now stay after worship for a Bible study to grow in faith and to get to know your brothers and sisters in Christ. For our people who regularly attend the 10am service now, you can now come 15 minutes earlier for the Bible study hour.

St. Paul Lutheran Church & Preschool

115 Central Drive, Amherst, Ohio 44001

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

Morgan Muresan - Preschool Director

Mike Warnock - Director of Worship Technology

Owen Reyda - Director of Music Ministries



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 encouraged to thoroughly read the announcement in this bulletin explaining what Communion reception is all about.



HAPPY NEW YEAR! Today we enter a new Church year as we begin the season of Advent. Beginning four weeks before Christmas, Advent allows us to prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. Advent is a time to hear and see what God's coming to us really means. It is a time to look honestly and deeply into ourselves.

IN TODAY'S WORSHIP: To be human is to understand what it is to be afraid. Fear begins at an early age when a small child is afraid of the dark, and continues throughout our lives. The season of Advent helps us long for a different reality – one ruled by peace rather than fear. The Son of God was born into our struggles, our despair, and our fear, not just to comfort us, but to bring an end to whatever terrifies us most. In the birth of our Savior, we are assured God loves us, forgives us, and gives life everlasting. We have nothing to fear! In Christ alone, fear is exchanged for peace.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP Heavenly Father, as I begin this season of Advent, work in my heart a strong and active faith. Replace my fears with Your peace. In the Name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, I pray. Amen.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS Free devotions for you to read and discuss at home are available in the Narthex today. Use them every day from the first Sunday of Advent, December 1st, until Christmas Day, December 25th.

Altar flowers given to the glory of God by: Bob & Donna Kemmerle in thanksgiving for God's many blessings.



Our greatest help is the Lord God Himself, who eagerly invites us to pray to Him. Today, sealed bags containing several prayer cards are in the narthex / lobby for you. Pick up a bag, take it home, and pray for each person whose name you receive daily throughout the coming month of December.

The Hospitality Committee are teaming up with Amherst Schools and Second Harvest to add some holiday cheer to needy families. We are adding to their food box a "cookie making bag". It will include a bag of cookie mix, cookie cutters, frosting, sprinkles a homemade card from St. Paul. Some members have already graciously applied for Thrivent Cards. If you would like to donate to this project the committee needs donations of money and sprinkles. If you would like to donate towards this project, put your donation in an envelope and mark if "cookie bag" place it in the offering plate. Any questions contact Karen Vilagi at 440-667-6903.

The Tuesday Evening Ladies Bible Study Group are looking for college student addresses. We would like to send a little gift to the college students for Christmas. If you are a parent or grandparent with someone in college, please send their college address to Judy Bloom at churchoffice@stpaulamherst.com

| This Week For The Lord | Looking Ahead One Week |
|--|--|
| 12/1 Food Collection Holy Communion 8:30 AM Worship / Kids Church 10 AM 12/3 Seasoned Saints 10 AM Women's Ministry 7 PM 12/5 Handbells 6 PM | 12/8 Worship 8:30 AM Holy Communion / Kids Church 10 AM 12/10 Seasoned Saints 10 AM Women's Ministry 7 PM 12/11 Preschool Christmas Program 6 PM 12/12 Handbells 6 PM |

Serving in God's House:

Pastor

Rev. Paul Werner

Organist

Owen Reyda

Elders

John Kirschner (E)

Acolyte

Steve Warnock (E)

Readers

Christine Krupp (E) Bob Steindl (L)

Greeters

Mike & Debbie Smith (E) Judy Bloom (L)

Altar Guild

Wanda Aschenbach, Karla Staylon

Sound

Mike Warnock, David Staylon (E)

Head Usher

Ron Fisher

Ushers

Harold Gibson, Jeff Krupp, Steve Warnock (E) Clyde Strader

2025 Church Schedules It’s that time of the year where we need to begin prepping for next year’s services. If anyone is interested in signing up to be a reader, usher, acolyte, greeter, altar guild member or help with running the slides during worship services please contact the church office at 440-988-4157.

2025 Flower Chart is now posted in the narthex on the bulletin board. Please note the price increase to \$30.00 per arrangement. If you have any questions, please call the church office at 440-988-4157.

Kids Noon Year’s Eve Party Tuesday, December 31st 10:30 am -1pm for kids 3-10. Please see the sign-up sheet in the narthex for more information. We also need volunteers for various stations. Volunteers may also sign up in the narthex.

Got Bubble Wrap? We are looking for donations of large bubble, bubble wrap for a kids New Years Eve Event here at St. Paul. Place bubble wrap in the narthex.

Get Refreshed mid-week with Tuesday Morning Bible Study - You are invited this week Tuesday @ 10AM. You’ll meet some friends, find encouragement, enjoy home-baked cookies, and grow in faith. Try it out this Tuesday. We meet in the upper level. You don’t have to be a Bible scholar. Everyone is welcome!

Women’s Bible Study Group - Tuesday Nights @ 7 PM
Women are always invited to the women’s group that meets in the church parsonage every Tuesday night. You’ll make wonderful friends, grow in faith, and engage in caring lively discussion about living everyday as a Christian and woman. We are just beginning a new discussion, “Meant for Good.”

Winter/Christmas Gift Basket ~ December’s themed gift basket for a new neighbor is in the lobby. Just fill out a form by the gift basket, put it in the box, and you could be blessing your new neighbor this month. It’s a great way to meet a new neighbor and invite them to church.

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

- Pray for Shirely Brumfield’s great-grandson, Gabriel, that he may be transferred to Nationwide Children’s Hospital where there is a special unit for his unique illness.
- Pray for Tim Ross, Sheryl Gregg’s brother in hospice care.
- Pray for Terri Gerber who is home from the hospital recovering from heart surgery.
- Pray for Brad Draga who is having severe back issues.
- Pray for Tom who has kidney stones and his wife, Ruth, who had a stroke.

- Pray for Judy Starbuck’s close friend, Barb, who is hospitalized for a blood clot.
- Pray for Edna Klenz who is home healing a fracture in her neck.
- Pray for Javier who has stage 4 kidney failure, that he can be cured and live.
- Pray for Don Lamoreaux at home recovering.
- Pray for John Schick to continue his recovery at home.
- Pray for Ron Klein’s to regain his strength.
- Pray for Ron Muska to get his surgery rescheduled to relieve his back pain and allow him to live an active, pain-free life.
- Pray for Larry Cassidy, brother-in-law of Sandy Long, so that he restores his strength.
- Pray for Nancy Dau, as her cancer has returned for the 3rd time and she is starting treatment.
- Pray for Carolyn who has cancer.
- Pray for Devin Jarvis, a young wife and mother who has a type of cancer that has been very hard to treat.
- Pray for Linda Little who has cancer.
- Pray for Beth, friend of Judy Bloom, breast cancer diagnosis with upcoming surgery.
- Pray for Keri who has pancreatic cancer and is experiencing complications from chemotherapy.
- Pray for Floyd who has cancer in his back and started chemotherapy.
- Pray for Brian Harcula as he has cancer.
- Pray for Lorie, Cyndi Kemery’s cousin, who has non-Hodgkins Lymphoma.
- Pray for Paxton Roby with 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: Ruth Williams, Charles Waryu, Don Lamoreaux, Don Gramer, Ruth Murdy, Jack & Marilyn Green, Dorothy Barckert, Dale Mack, Phyllis Darakis, John Harden, Andy Lasko, Betty Heck, Joanie Fahrney, Ron Klein.
- Pray for those celebrating birthdays this week: Therese Strader, Jonas Pacheco, Sally Krause, Tina Muska, John Bloom, Joseph Waryu.
- Pray for peace in the Middle East and in Ukraine. Pray that lives are spared and tensions lessen.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Every Christmas at St. Paul we give a special gift to God from our hearts filled with gratitude because He Gave the First and Best Christmas Gift ... **His SON**, Jesus Christ, our Savior! Our Christmas Offering is a Special gift, above and beyond our normal week-to-week offerings.

This year our Christmas Offering is dedicated to BIG project in preparation to celebrate St. Paul's 150th Anniversary throughout 2025. Your gifts will restore St. Paul's pews to their former beauty and upholster the seats and backs for a new level of comfort. This is a BIG project because our goal is much larger than past Christmas Offerings. Please remember your church's Christmas Offering in your charitable year-end giving. The Christmas Offering is limited to the month of December. Special 2024 Christmas Offering envelopes are available on the Information Counter in the narthex.

St. Paul Preschool



Wednesday evening,
December 11th
@ 6:00 pm

One Advent Midweek Worship Service

This December we have ONE Wednesday evening Advent service to help you prepare your heart for Jesus' birth. After the service we will have light refreshments in the narthex.

Wednesday Evening, December 18th @ 7 PM

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Services

Tuesday December 24th @ 4PM & 7PM

There will be **NO** worship services Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25, 2024.

There will be **NO** New Year's Day service on Wednesday, January 1, 2025.

“Breath of Heaven” Live Nativity Presentation

You have a special opportunity to share the story of God's love in sending His Son this Christmas with hundreds of people!

All of us people of St. Paul are asked to participate in the Live Nativity presentation held at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Vermilion. The presentation needs several important “cast” members.

The presentation is Saturday, December 14th, 4pm – 8pm; and Sunday, December 15th, 4pm-8pm. You can participate as a cast member one or both of the days of presentation.

1. **“The Angel of the Lord”** makes the announcement to the shepherds that the Savior of the world is born (a very important part!). Ideally, this is a woman teenage or older, who is able to climb several steps, crouch and stand up.
2. **“Shepherd”** – Shepherds talk with the other shepherds and with the crowd of visitors. Ideally men or boys. There are 3 shepherds needed for Saturday and 2 for Sunday presentations.
3. **“Kings”** – These are the wisemen who arrive with gifts. You don't have to speak. Two kings are needed for the presentation Sat. Dec. 14th.
4. **“Tax Collector”** – This is the guy who Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem to pay. One man is needed Saturday and Sunday.
5. **“Guide”** – You lead a small group of about 15 people through the City of Bethlehem to the manger, and read the Bible's story of Jesus' birth to them. You get to wear your own winter clothing, and stop back in the church building to warm up often. Two guides needed for Sat. Dec. 14th.
6. **“Build Shops”** The set up day is Saturday December 7 beginning at 9 am If you are able to help or have questions, please contact Danny Kemery for more details

YES! I want to serve God as a Cast member this Christmas! If you are led to accept one of the roles above, just let us know. We'll contact the coordinator, Kathy Swanser, share your name and number, to let her know. Just write it on your Communication Card today. Or Call the Church Office (440/988-4157). Or email the church office at churchoffice@stpaulamherst.com