



DivorceCare is a safe place where caring people come alongside you as you find healing from one of life's most difficult experiences — the pain of separation or divorce. At this 13-week program, you'll find helpful counsel to manage the emotional turmoil and practical tools for decision-making.

Who: People experiencing divorce or separation

When: Sundays, January 19—April 13 3:00pm – 5:00pm

Where: St. Paul Lutheran Church (parsonage), 133 Central Dr., Amherst

Cost: \$20 Includes workbook. (scholarships are available)

Topics We Cover in DivorceCare

Week 1 – *Deep Hurt*

Week 2 – *Road to Recovery*

Week 3 – *Anger*

Week 4 – *Grief and Depression*

Week 5 – *Loneliness*

Week 6 – *Fears and Anxiety*

Week 7 – *Family and Friends*

Week 8 – *Financial and Legal Issues*

Week 9 – *Conflict*

Week 10 – *Forgiveness*

Week 11 – *Your Former Spouse*

Week 12 – *Single Living*

Week 13 – *Brighter Days*

REGISTER: www.DivorceCare.org/groups/256717

Questions: (Email) DivorceCare@stpaulamherst.com

Take your Next Step!

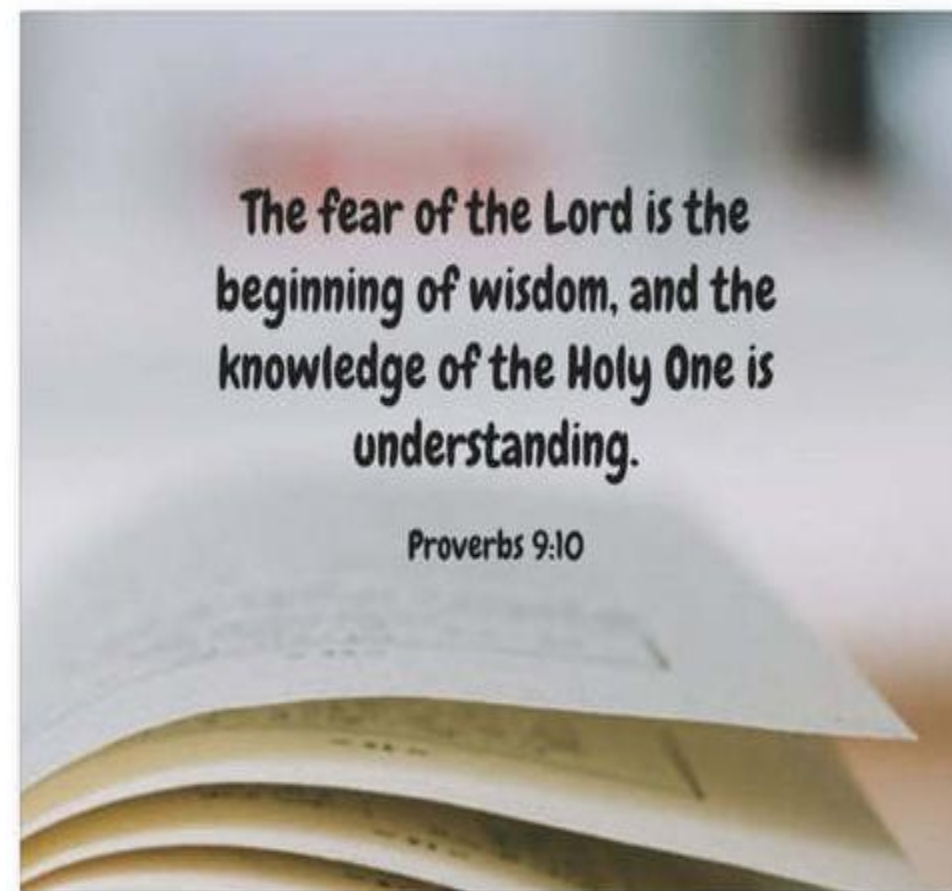


**newlife
with God**

Investigate a life of faith in Jesus.

NEW LIFE WITH GOD is a seminar which offers adults a great foundation for faith and living. This is for adults who want to find out more about our beliefs before committing to getting involved in St. Paul. This is a great seminar for couples who have different Church backgrounds to find out the differences between Lutherans and other church groups. *New Life With*

God is also a great seminar for anyone to gain a renewed Faith foundation if you haven't investigated our beliefs since being a young man or woman getting confirmed. There's no obligation to St. Paul by participating in *New Life With God*, however, the door to church membership is open to anyone who completes this seminar. There is no memorization, no cost – just come, ask questions, and let's discuss faith and life. There are eight sessions. Pastor Paul is leading the discussions. Join Us! **Wednesday mornings 9:30 AM to 11 AM, beginning Wednesday, January 29, 2025**



ST. PAUL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH & PRESCHOOL
SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2025

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.

In Today's Worship As we begin a New Year and make our plans for the coming months, we pray for God's wisdom to guide us. Wisdom enables us to fit the pieces together. God has made the wisdom to live skillfully available to all believers. We live a life that is very complex, full of pressures, burdens, and traps. No wonder Solomon wrote in Proverbs 3:13-14, *"Blessed is the [person] who finds wisdom, the [person] who gains understanding, for [wisdom] is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold."*

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP Heavenly Father, send Your Holy Spirit on us through the Means of Grace, so that confessing our sins, we rely not on ourselves but on Jesus Christ alone, and we grow up in all things into maturity in faith and witness. Through us may more sinners be brought into fellowship in Christ's Body, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



GROW IN FAITH TOGETHER

Sunday Mornings 9:45 AM to 10:45AM

• Bible Study • Discussion • Fellowship

You are invited to join in as we start today learning about Jesus' life and ministry through the Bible Book of Luke.

Today you will discover what was going on in the world that set the stage for Jesus' arrival.

PLEASE FILL-OUT A COMMUNICATION CARD which is found in the pew rack. So that we can send you an invitation to St. Paul's 150th Anniversary, we ask EVERY HOUSEHOLD to fill out a SEPARATE card, leaving your correct address in the notes section. Use one card per household. Please place your Communication Card in the offering plate as it is passed in today's worship service.

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.

This Week For The Lord	Looking Ahead One Week
1/12 Worship 8:30 AM Bible Study 9:45 AM Holy Communion / Kids Church 11 AM 1/14 Seasoned Saints 10 AM Women's Bible Study 7 PM	1/19 Holy Communion 8:30 AM Voter's Meeting 9:30 AM Bible Study 9:45 AM Worship / Kids Church 11 AM Divorce Care 3 PM 1/21 Seasoned Saints 10 AM Women's Bible Study 7 PM 1/23 Men's Coffee Hour 9 AM @ Sandstone Coffee Shop, Amherst Men's BBB @ Brew Kettle, Amherst 7 PM

Serving in God's House:

Pastor	Rev. Paul Werner
Elders	Chuck Draga (E) Bob Steindl (L)
Readers	Jan Beko-Nathan (E) Bob Steindl (L)
Acolytes	Gwen Krupp
Greeters	Lynn Jiovanazzo (E) Chuck & Fran Draga (L)
Altar Guild	Karie Coffman
Sound	Mike Warnock, Marilyn Hubbard (E) Judy Bloom (L)
Head Usher	Ron Fisher
Ushers	Jeff Krupp, Steve Warnock (E) Bryan Draga, Brad Draga, Charles Draga (L)

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

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.

Offering Envelopes for 2025 are in members’ mailboxes in the narthex. Please pick up your box and take it home to give your thank offerings regularly to Jesus. You may also go to St. Paul’s web site (www.stpaulamherst.com) and set up automatic electronic payments as a way to give to God regularly.

GROW IN YOUR FAITH EVERYDAY! *Portals of Prayer* daily devotion booklets are free and easy to use. January - March editions are in the Narthex (lobby). Take one for yourself, and one to pass along!

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 Resumes Tuesday January 7th. 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.”

MEN start your New Year with a cup of coffee, pastry and great conversations about what new year resolutions you have already given up on. Remember to bring a relative, friend, neighbor, work colleague or anyone else who might enjoy the camaraderie as it is open to all. Meet us at Sandstone Coffee Shop, 254 Park Ave, Amherst. Any questions, please contact Stephen Warnock at 216-233-7572.



Men’s “Brotherhood, Bibles, & Brew” Hey guys, join us to talk over a challenge men face following Christ, while sipping on “Lutheran Pop.” We meet at **The Brew Kettle**, 300 Church Street in Amherst. This month of January join us on **Thursday, January 23rd, at 7:00 PM**.

A New Neighbor on Judy Starbuck’s street is receiving a beautiful “welcome to the neighborhood” gift basket. You can do it too! (It’s a lot of fun to meet your neighbors ... and give them such a nice gift!) Just fill out a form by the gift basket in the narthex/lobby, put it in the box, and you could be blessing your new neighbor next month.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

1 Kings 3: 5,9-13

Wisdom is a greater gift than wealth, fame, security, or comfort.

⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I shall give you.”
⁹ Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?”
¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ And God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. ¹³ I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days.

THE SECOND READING

Scripture Mosaic on Wisdom

“For the Lord gives wisdom, and from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.” Proverbs 2:6
“All [our ability and success] also comes from the Lord Almighty, wonderful in counsel and magnificent in wisdom.” Isaiah 28:29
“Do not deceive yourselves. If any one of you thinks he is wise by the standards of this age, he should become a ‘fool’ so that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God’s sight. And it is written: ...’The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile.’ So then, no more boasting about men!” 1 Corinthians 3:18-21
“Do not forget My teaching, but keep My commands in your heart, for they will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity.” Proverbs 3:1-2
Wisdom’s “ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who embrace here; those who lay hold of her will be blessed.” Proverbs 3:17 & 18
“He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them His way.” Psalm 25:9
“If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, Who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.” James 1:5

THE GOSPEL READING

Luke 12:16-21

Jesus’ parable pictures worldly wisdom at the expense of Godly wisdom.

¹⁶ [Jesus] told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, ¹⁷ and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ ¹⁸ And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’” ²⁰ But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ ²¹ So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

Pre-School Open House – Soon it will be time to reserve space for your child, or grandchild in St. Paul’s Preschool for the 2025-2026 school year. Our Preschool will hold an Open House on Saturday, January 25, from 11AM to 1PM for families to drop in, tour the Preschool, ask questions, and get information for registration for next school year.



Free Seminar to Learn How to Design Your Estate to Make a Lasting Impact

Do You Want to leave a blessing for your children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren? Do you want them to have a Church where they can grow in Jesus’ love and truth?

As part of St. Paul’s 150th Anniversary, we have a wonderful seminar for you to discover ways to plan your estate. Join us on

Saturday, March 1, 2025, from 10AM – 12NOON. Dianna Raasch, of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) of St. Louis, MO will be with us to lead a panel discussion. You will hear from Rachel E. Lyons, Attorney Trust & Estate Law, Cleveland, OH, and Sean Caywood, Christian Financial Planner, Grafton, OH. You can ask your questions to our team of experts. Nothing will be sold. Watch for registration information so we can plan space here in St. Paul’s facilities.

St. Paul’s 150th Anniversary kicks off on Sunday, February 9th. The Ohio District President of our denomination, the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, Rev. Dr. Kevin Wilson will be with us as guest preacher.

Would You Share St. Paul Memories? A Display Cabinet is in the narthex to display old keepsakes from St. Paul’s past. If you have photos of events, or certificates from a baptism, confirmation, or marriage from years past, we’d like to display and share them with the congregation. Karen Saegert would love to talk with you, and you can reach her at: (440)965-9234, or ksaegert925@gmail.com

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

- Pray for Ruth Williams who has COVID and is in hospice care in Kingston.
- Pray for Lydia Rice’s 25 yr. old grandson, Justin Sanchez. He is in the hospital in Seattle, WA with a probable A.V.M. (arterial venous malformation) in the blood vessels in his brain. It is serious. Pray for his healing and also that he releases anxiety by trusting in Jesus.
- Pray for Joan Ackerman who is in a nursing home from a fall and fractured hip, and just found out she has cancer.
- Pray for Grant Harfield, who is in the hospital due to low oxygen exchange. Ask God

- that the doctors can find the cause, and that Grant, who is severely autistic, have peace.
- Praise God that surgery reattached John Hamilton’s retina in his eye, and pray for his delicate healing.
 - Pray for baby Gabriel, that he may grow stronger and start treatment at 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 Carl Saegert recovering from 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 Laurie, a friend of Sandy Long, who fell breaking a hip, elbow, and has a concussion.
 - Pray for Judy Starbuck’s close friend, Barb, who is hospitalized for a blood clot.
 - Pray for the continued healing of those recovering at home: Terri Gerber, Don Lamoreaux, John Schick, Ron Klein, Larry Cassidy.
 - Pray for Nancy Dau, as her cancer has returned for the 3rd time and she is starting treatment.
 - Pray for Devin Jarvis, a young wife and mother who has a type of cancer that has been very hard to treat.
 - Pray for Beth, friend of Judy Bloom, recovering from 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 Randy who has bladder and prostate cancer and is starting chemotherapy.
 - Pray for Chris (sister-in-law of Virginia Warnock).
 - 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: Rob Draga, Andrew Offineer, John Schick, Chuck Draga

