



St. Paul's CHRISTMAS 2024 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 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



**HIS
GOSPEL
IS PEACE**

ST. PAUL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH & PRESCHOOL
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2024

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.



AS WE GATHER this Fourth Sunday of Advent, may our God lift your eyes to see Jesus only, to focus on His love and grace, which surpass all our fears. May His gentle hand guide you through this season and beyond, giving you courage, hope, and peace for the days to come.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP Heavenly Father, as I worship work in my heart a strong and active faith. Replace my fears with Your peace. Reassure me of Your loving certain promise that You are *with* me and *for* me. In the Name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, I pray. Amen.

2025 Wall Calendars are available for free on the information counter in the narthex.

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.

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.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Services

Tuesday December 24th @ 4PM* & 7PM

****Handbell Choir Preservice Mini-Concert @ 3:45PM***

There's No Better Time! Did you know that most people say they would try church ***if only they were invited?*** Did you know that **people are more receptive to an invitation to church at *Christmastime*, than any other time of the year?** There's no better time to invite a friend, co-worker, relative, neighbor, or someone you talk to at the bank, hair salon, or gym to join you at St Paul for Christmas!

- **Printed Christmas Invitations** are available today for you to take and share with others as you invite them to St. Paul. You will find them on the Information counter in the narthex.
- **e-Invite your family & friends** to meet you at St. Paul to celebrate Christmas together. Email the link to St. Paul's web site to all your contacts (www.stpaulamherst.com) to invite them! It's quick and easy.

Christmas Tree for Preschool The preschool is looking for donations! If you are interested, please take an ornament with an item the preschool wants on their Christmas List! Please keep the ornament as a thank you from us!

A Christmas tree will be in the narthex through Christmas for new hats, scarves, & mittens. Items will be donated to "Warm Hands, Warm Hearts." This is a joint project between the Willing Workers and our preschool.

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!

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.

Altar Guild will be decorating the Altar area for Christmas with poinsettias. Cost is \$8.50 per plant. Your support is greatly appreciated. Deadline to order is TODAY December 22nd, 2024. Please return both portions of this form. Flowers may be taken after the 7 pm Christmas Eve Service. Order form in this bulletin.

NEW

SUNDAY SERVICE TIME

Second Sunday Service

Moves from 10 AM to 11:00 AM

Beginning Sunday January 5, 2025

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.

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! This Bible Study will NOT meet Tuesday December 24th & Tuesday December 31st.

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."

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.



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

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| Week 1 - Deep Hurt | Week 8 - Financial and Legal Issues |
| Week 2 - Road to Recovery | Week 9 - Conflict |
| Week 3 - Anger | Week 10 - Forgiveness |
| Week 4 - Grief and Depression | Week 11 - Your Former Spouse |
| Week 5 - Loneliness | Week 12 - Single Living |
| Week 6 - Fears and Anxiety | Week 13 - Brighter Days |
| Week 7 - Family and Friends | |

REGISTER: www.DivorceCare.org/findagroup
Questions: (Email) DivorceCare@stpaulamherst.com

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

- Pray for Ruth Williams who is in Kingston assisted living and is weak.
- Pray for the family of Tina Argenti as they grieve her death last week.

- Pray for Ron Muska as he recovers from extensive back surgery.
- Praise God for the good outcomes Geri Deidrick has received in her battle against colon cancer, and pray that she recovers strongly from surgery.
- 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 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 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 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: Eli Pacheco, Matt Eibon, Ken Hubbard, Jennifer Gregg.

This Week For The Lord	Looking Ahead One Week
12/22 Worship 8:30 AM Holy Communion / Kids Church 10 AM 12/24 Christmas Eve Services 4 PM & 7 PM 12/25 No Service Christmas Day 12/24-12/26 Church Office Closed	12/29 Holy Communion 8:30 AM & 10 AM 12/31 Noon Year’s Eve Kid Event 10:30 AM 12/31-1/1 No Service New Year’s Eve or New Year’s Day

Serving in God’s House:

Pastor	Rev. Paul Werner
Organist	James Feddeck
Elders	John Kirschner (E) Bob Steindl (L)
Acolyte	Steve Warnock (E)
Readers	Jan Beko-Nathan (E) Bryan Draga (L)
Greeters	Karen Vilagi (E) Tina Muska (L)
Altar Guild	Karie Coffman
Sound	Mike Warnock, David Staylon (E) Tina Muska (L)
Head Usher	Ron Fisher
Ushers	Harold Gibson, Jeff Krupp, Steve Warnock (E) Laurie Beran, Deby Lasko (L)

