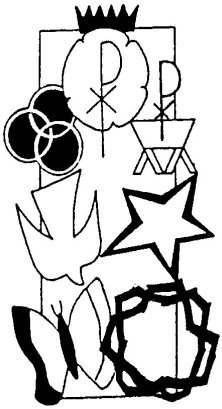


May 1, 2026

St. Paul Messenger

Volume 28, Issue 5

St. Paul Lutheran Church



FROM THE
PASTOR

Jesus had gathered with His disciples and promised that He would send the Holy Spirit. “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you” (John 14:26). Jesus calls the Holy Spirit “the Helper.” Jesus explains that the Spirit “will teach you all things.” We can call the Holy Spirit our “teacher.”

Jesus was also called “Teacher.” Jesus taught about the creation of God. Jesus taught about the kingdom of God. It is the work of the Holy Spirit to teach one topic: who Jesus was and what Jesus has done. The Holy Spirit teaches about the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Without the Holy Spirit, it would be impossible to know about Jesus. Martin Luther explained, “I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel.”

The Holy Spirit first came to us in our Baptism and gave us the gift of faith. The Holy Spirit continues to be our teacher and helper. He helps us to believe, and then He helps us live and share our faith in Jesus.

At times, we may think that we know a lot about a subject or a topic. Sometimes we think we already know a lot about Jesus. No matter how long we have been Christians, how many sermons we have heard, the Holy Spirit still has many things to teach us. May we always be eager students.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, we confess that by ourselves we cannot understand You and Your saving work for us. Thank You for the work of the Spirit who has come as our teacher. In Jesus' name. Amen.

A Servant for Jesus,
Pastor Kramer

ST. PAUL SHUT-INS

We keep in our prayers the following:

DELORES ATKINSON—Lutheran Home

1036 S. Perry St.#207,
Napoleon, OH 43545

Birthday: **October 13**

MARCILLE KATON— Lakes of Monclova

6935 Monclova Rd. Room 222
Maumee, OH 43537

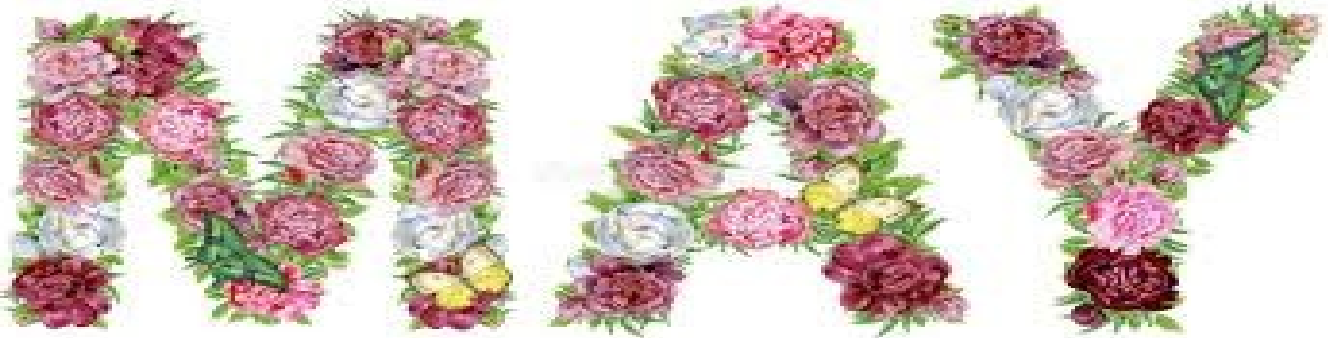
Birthday: **December 19**

VIVIAN OBERHAUS — Her Home

R219 Co. Rd. 8
Napoleon, OH 43545

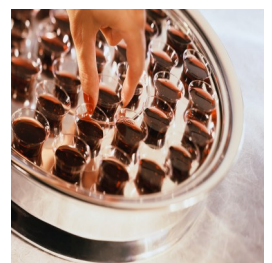
Birthday: **September 21**

Remember our shut-ins with a note, card or a visit when appropriate.



**Preparing Communion for May is:
Carol Carpenter**

**Providing Flowers:
Carol Carpenter**



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS SCHEDULE

May 2026

<u>Date</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Deacon</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
May 3	Bill Zeiter	Mike Mann	Carl Gault John Engler
May 10	Bill Zeiter	Erv Sonnenberg	Seth Izor Tom Kern
May 17	Bill Zeiter	Tom Mohler	Mike Mann Lee Sonnenberg
May 24	Bill Zeiter	Brian Baker	Ray Carpenter Carl Gault
May 31	Bill Zeiter	Mike Mann	John Engler Seth Izor

May Greeters Selected

The Board of Evangelism has selected the greeters for May. Greeters are requested to greet for Sunday morning worship service. Greeters are asked to be on hand by 9:30 a.m. If there are handouts for that day, they will be labeled as such. Greeters should welcome all who come to worship, and request visitors to sign the Registration -Book. If a person is unable to greet, please call Dan Seedorf at 567-694-4934, and he will see that a greeter is in place. A big **“Thank You!”** goes out to all who help to make our worshipers feel more welcome.

May Greeters are:

May 3:	The James Murdock Family
May 10:	The Ray Carpenter Family
May 17:	The Harold Smith Family
May 24:	The Lee Sonnenberg Family
May 31:	The Shelby Gibson Family

Stewardship February/March



<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Communion</u>	<u>Offerings</u>	
March 29	51	51	\$2,270.00	
Maundy Thursday April 2	28	27	\$590.00	
Good Friday April 3	38		\$345.00	
Easter April 5	97	88	\$2,010.00	
April 12	51		\$1,400.00	
April 19	57	53	\$2,001.00	
	TOTAL	AVERAGE	COMMUNION AVERAGE	TOTAL OFFERING
	322	53.7	54.8	\$8,616.00

Special Offerings

Lutheran Hour; Basement Rent; Windows; Easter Breakfast;
Parsonage Rent; Chicken BBQ;



A Joyful Easter Celebration

The Music Department of St. Paul Lutheran Church is working on some wonderful opportunities to share our talent for the enhancement of our Divine Worship Services.

The Handbell Choir shared their lovely tunes on Maundy Thursday and Easter, as well. They'll take a break for the summer.

The Senior Vocal Choir sang for our Easter Celebration Service Sunday, April 5th and Sunday, April 19th. They, too, will be taking a summer break.

The clarinet duet helped us worship on Good Friday. We will hear from them again on Pentecost Sunday. They practice Saturday mornings at 8:30.

We praise God for richly blessing our congregation with the many musicians to offer their talents for His praise. If you are interested in any of the groups, join us as we begin rehearsing or talk to Dan Seedorf or John Swearingen, Jr.

Message from the Board of Evangelism

We understand that people would like to receive the Newsletter via email. But did you know that you can also get the Newsletter on our website www.saintpaulc.org. While you are there you can look at all the upcoming events.

And if you would prefer to read it online, please let the office know, to save on postage.

You can also find us on Facebook, along with our preschool

Church Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/saintpaulclutheranlibertycenteroh>

Preschool Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/st.paulclutheranpreschoollibertycenter>

FROM THE BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

Follow Him in Generosity

Our Savior calls us to follow Him in generosity. “For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you” (John 13:15). We cannot give our lives for the salvation of the world, of course. Praise God, that job is already done! But with hearts full of thanksgiving for what Jesus has given us, we can follow His example of generous giving. And Jesus’ generosity is not merely an example. Our Lord also commands us to act according to our gifts: “The one who contributes, [let him give] in generosity” (Rom. 12:8).

So, when we bring offerings to the Lord, we should strive to heed His command and follow the pattern He has established for us. Jesus did not give us leftovers. He gave His best. We should not give leftovers, either, but the first and best of what He has given us. Jesus did not give as an afterthought — He gave according to the plan of salvation God established from the foundation of the world. So, when it comes to our own offerings, we should make a thoughtful plan to give generously, in proportion to the way He has blessed us. Like the Macedonian Christians, who gave according to their ability, and even beyond their ability (2 Cor. 8:3), we should honor the Lord by giving a generous portion of the income that God provides us.

We should also give freely, just as Jesus gave freely for us. There is no compulsion involved in our works of love and our offerings to the Lord. We do not give grudgingly, but willingly and cheerfully, each “as he has decided in his heart,” as the Lord says (2 Cor. 9:7). There is no New Testament ceremonial law involved here. Rather, we are free to give as generously as our Savior has given for us!

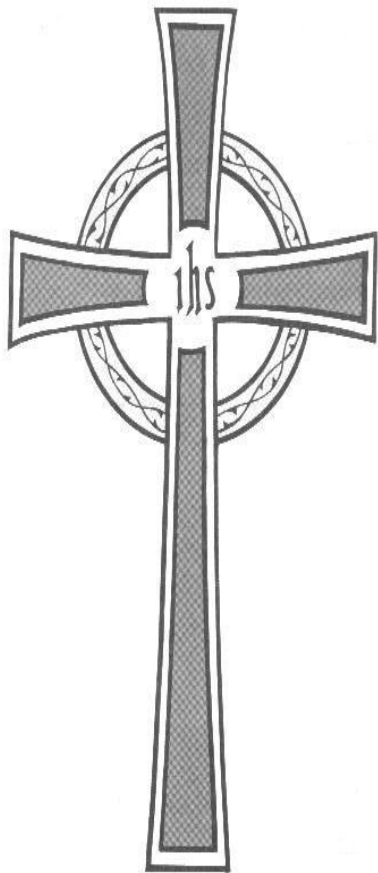
In the same way, our Lord teaches us to give generously out of our love for Him and for our neighbor. Jesus shows us that genuine love is always love “in deed” (1 John 3:18). It is love that sees our neighbor in need and gives generously to help him. It is love that hears the Word of the Lord and does what it says. If we truly love, we give generously. If we give without love, our giving is not truly following Jesus.

Finally, we follow Jesus in generosity when we support His Gospel ministry and other works of mercy. The people of Israel gave generously to construct and support the operation of the tabernacle, for that was the place where the Lord received the Old Testament sacrifices, through which He bestowed the forgiveness of sins on His people. So, they gave abundantly, so abundantly that they had to be told to stop giving! (Ex. 36:5–6). In the same way, we should bring generous offerings to support the Lord’s work. We support our congregations in the preaching of His Word, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, which bestow His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation, and we take care of those who are poor and needy.

Our Savior calls us to follow His example in generous giving. Let us then, with thankful hearts, rededicate ourselves to following Him in generosity.

*St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church &
St. Paul Lutheran Pre-school
8074 County Road T
Liberty Center, OH 43532
Phone: (419) 533-3041*

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



The St. Paul Messenger



Pastor Charles Kramer
Phone: 567-277-1339
Email: pastor@saintpaulc.org

St. Paul Lutheran Church
8074 County Road T
Liberty Center, Ohio 43532

Church & Pre-School Office
419-533-3041

E-mail Addresses:
office@saintpaulc.org
preschool@saintpaulc.org

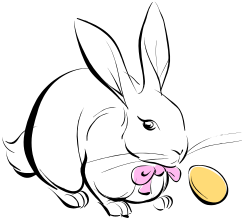
Website:
www.saintpaulc.org

Divine Service
10:00 a.m. 1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays
& Festival Sundays

**Matins & Morning Prayer,
Service of Prayer & Preaching**
10:00 a.m. 2nd & 4th Sundays

Adult Bible Study & Sunday School
9:00 a.m. Every Sunday

WE WISH TO THANK THE FOLLOWING VOLUNTEERS FOR HELPING US TO ASSEMBLE THIS NEWSLETTER:
MARILYN SONNENBERG, LORETTA SEEDORF, DAN SEEDORF, KAREN BERGSTEDT



Easter Garden 2026



Geri & Jim Murdock – Lilies

In Thanksgiving of: Our Family & Grandchildren

In Loving Memory of: Our Parents

Karen Bergstedt – Tulips

In Thanksgiving of: Family

In Loving Memory of: Ken, Louis & Rosella Bergstedt; Kenneth, Louise & Jim Trowbridge

Ken & Deb Glanz – 2 Lillies

In Thanksgiving of: Our Risen Savior, Our Family

In Loving Memory of: Our Daughter Michelle, Our Parents, loved ones that have gone before

Ervin & Trudie Sonnenberg – 2 Tulips

In Thanksgiving of: Friends & Family

In Loving Memory of: Bettie & Ervin Myers, Mildred & Harold Sonnenberg

Paul & Linda Bergstedt -2 Tulips, 2 Hyacinth

In Thanksgiving of: Jesus Christ, Our Children, Grandchildren, and Great Grandchildren

In Loving Memory of: Louis & Rosella Bergstedt, Laverne & Marjorie Lero and Grandparents.

Tom & Patsy Mohler – 2 Tulips

In Thanksgiving of: Our family

In Loving Memory of: Adrian & Edna Mohler and Pat & Vivalyn Mann

Bill & Cathy Glanz - Tulips

In Thanksgiving of: St. Paul Lutheran Church

In Loving Memory of: All Christians that have gone before us.

Carol Carpenter - Assorted Mums, Azaela Plant

In Thanksgiving of: Family & Friends

In Loving Memory of: Randall & Josephine Carpenter, Carltn & Gertrude Kurtz

Marilyn Sonnenberg – Easter Lily

In Loving Memory of: Mr. & Mrs. Harold Sonnenberg

Bruce Sonnenberg – 2 Purple Hyacinth; 1 Red Tulip

In Thanksgiving of: Family

In Loving Memory of: Ervin & Bettie Myers; Harold & Mildred Sonnenberg