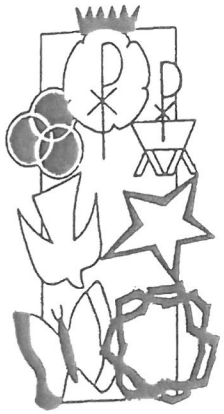
St. Paul Messenger

July 1, 2026

Volume 28, Issue 7

St. Paul Lutheran Church



FROM THE PASTOR

Jesus called disciples from different backgrounds and different places. Jesus chose common people to be His disciples. Peter was a fisherman when Jesus called him. Jesus said that Peter would no longer catch fish, but he would now follow Jesus to invite others to follow Him.

All of the disciples were sinful human beings. Peter's bold and brash personality sometimes got him into trouble. Peter almost drowned when he looked away from Jesus and saw a wave coming toward him. Peter fell asleep in the garden when Jesus asked him to stay awake and pray. Peter said he would never deny Jesus, and then he denied Jesus three times. When Jesus was on the cross, Peter was among the disciples who were hiding because they were afraid that they also might be arrested for following Jesus.

Peter also listened to Jesus and saw Jesus' miracles. Peter believed that Jesus was the Messiah that had been promised. Peter was one of three disciples who saw the glory of Jesus at His transfiguration. Peter was one of the disciples who saw that Jesus' tomb was empty. Jesus showed Peter and the other disciples that He was indeed alive.

Peter was chosen to be the spokesperson for the disciples when the Holy Spirit came on Pentecost. Peter followed Jesus' command to make disciples of all nations. Peter preached about Jesus in Jerusalem and other places. The Holy Spirit inspired Peter to write a letter to suffering Christians that is part of the Bible. Peter was a martyr -he was killed for being a disciple of Jesus and a proclaimer of Jesus' death and resurrection.

PRAYER: *Dear Jesus, thank You for the forgiveness given to denying Peter is also the forgiveness given to us. Thank you that the proof of the resurrection given to Peter is also given through Your Word to us. Give us the boldness of Peter to confess You as our Savior and to be Your disciples for life. Amen.*

A Servant for Jesus,
Pastor Kramer

ST. PAUL SHUT- INS

We keep in our prayers the following:

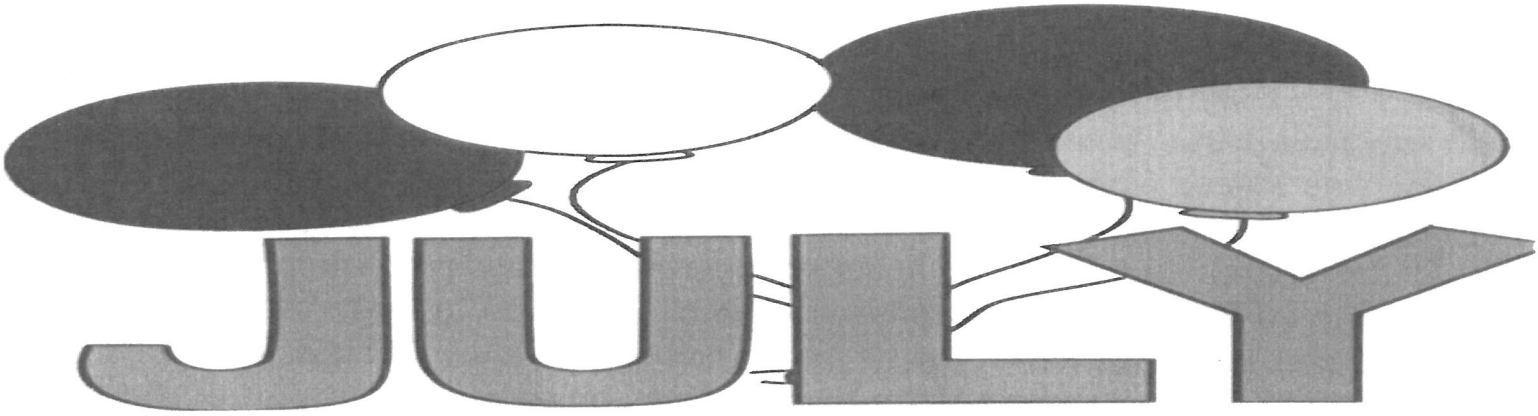
DELORES ATKINSON – LUTHERAN HOME
1036 S. Perry St. #207,
Napoleon, OH 43545

Birthday: **October 13**

MARCILLE KATON – LAKE OF MONCLOVA
6935 Monclova Rd. Room 222
Maumee, OH 43537

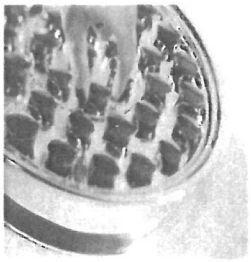
Birthday: **December 19**

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



Preparing Communion for July is:
Zeiter Family

Providing Flowers:
Zeiter Family



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS SCHEDULE

July 2026

Date	Elder	Deacon	Ushers
July 5	Howard Kessler	Erv Sonnenberg	Tom Mohler Mike Mann
July 12	Howard Kessler	Tom Mohler	Lee Sonnenberg Ray Carpenter
July 19	Howard Kessler	Brian Baker	Carl Gault John Engler
July 26	Howard Kessler	Mike Mann	Seth Izor Tom Kern

July Greeters Selected

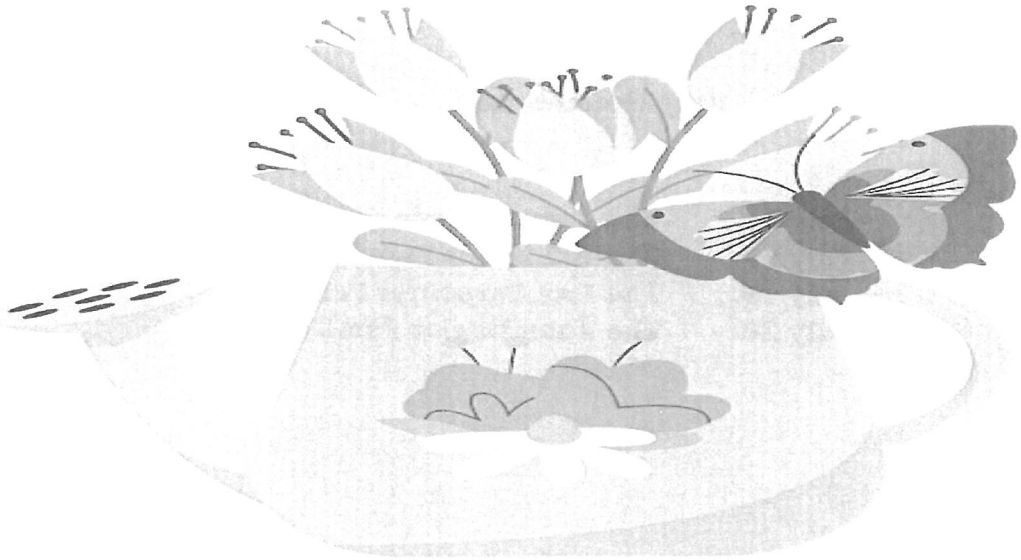
The Board of Evangelism has selected the greeters for July. Greeters are requested to greet for Sunday morning worship service. Greeters are asked to be on hand twenty minutes before service begins. If there are handouts for that day, they will be labeled as such. Greeters should welcome all who come 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.

July Greeters are:

July 5: **The James Murdock Family**
July 12: **The Bill Zeiter Family**
July 19: **The Ray Carpenter Family**
July 26: **The John Engler Family**

Stewardship May/June

Date	Attendance		Communion	Offerings
May 31	55		52	$1,131.75
June 7	44			$2,565.00
June 14	54		53	$1,980.00
June 21	62		57	$1,715.00
	Total:	Average:	Communion Average:	Total Offerings:
	215	54	54	**$7,482.75**



Message from the Board of Evangelism

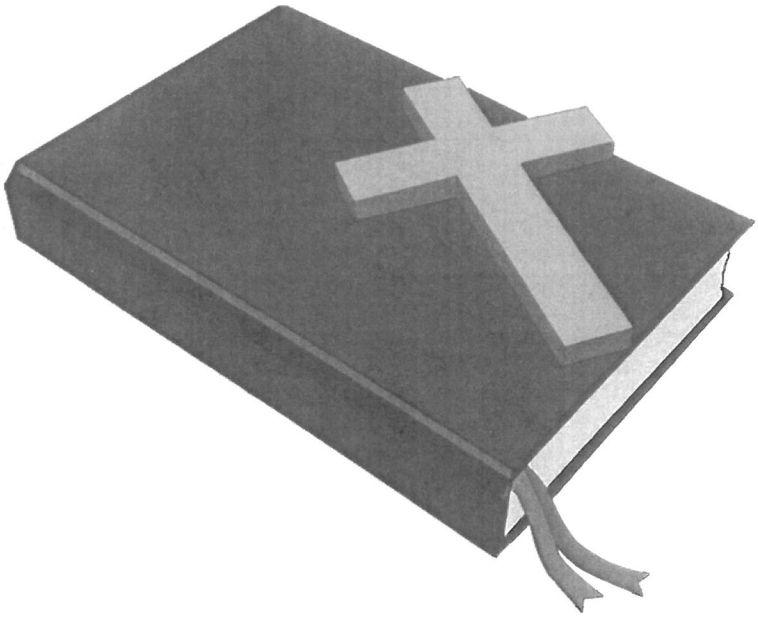
We understand that people would like to receive the Newsletter via email. But did you know that you can also get the Newsletter on our website www.saintpaullc.org. While you are there you can look at all the upcoming events.

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

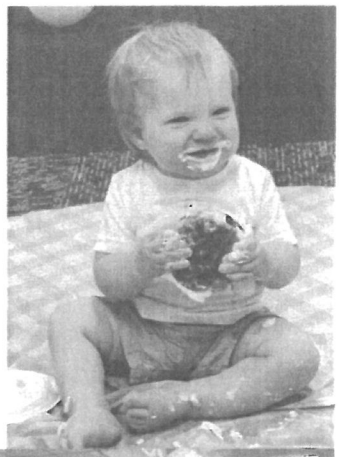
Church Facebook https://www.facebook.com/saintpaullutheranlibertycenteroh

Preschool Facebook https://www.facebook.com/st.paullutheranpreschoollibertycenter



May 2026

Greetings in Christ!



Josh has just finished his second year of seminary and with good marks. He enjoyed playing flag football and his team won the superbowl! We have about two weeks of break before he starts his Theological German summer course at the seminary. He is very excited to learn the German language as it will help him with his future studies.

Our son, Gideon, just turned one a couple weeks ago and we were able to have a little party for him to celebrate with friends and family. It was a lot of fun! He is walking like a pro and right now loves throwing anything and everything all over the place. He is still such a joy to our family and he never ceases to make us laugh.

Catherine is almost halfway through her pregnancy with an official due date of October 16th! She is still feeling good. Gideon always keeps her on her toes, running around after him and picking up after him.

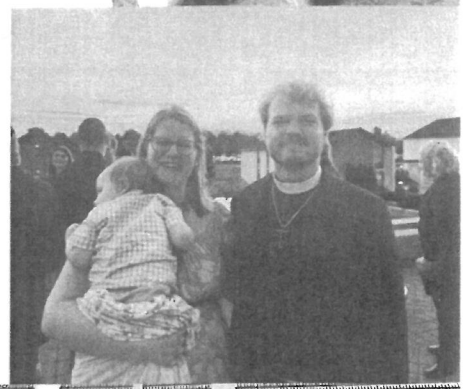
Last month, we received our vicarage placement to Trinity Lutheran Church in Hampton, Iowa. We are looking forward to moving in August! Josh is excited to meet his supervisor and we are excited to meet the congregation and to see our new home for the year! We also got to celebrate Catherine's brother graduating and receiving a call during the same week. He is also going to Iowa and we will be only four hours away- what a blessing!

Again, we simply cannot thank you all enough for your support of our family. Your prayers and financial gifts are very much appreciated and we thank God for you. Please keep us in your prayers as we move to Iowa and start our vicarage.

Thank you and God bless you,

Josh, Catherine, Gideon, and Baby Camp

7630 Cold Springs Blvd
Fort Wayne, IN 46825



FROM THE BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

Go … Sell All You Have?

"What must I do to inherit eternal life?" asked the rich young ruler. Jesus said, "You know the commandments." And he replied, "All these I have kept from my youth." And Jesus said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me" (Luke 18:18–22).

When we hear this story, this question comes to mind: is Jesus speaking to us also, or only to the rich young ruler? In other words, is Jesus telling us to sell all that we have and give it to the poor?

As good Lutherans, we answer, "No!" But why? Why should we not sell all that we have and distribute it to the poor? The simplest explanation is this: if we sold everything we have, our wife and our children would be neglected. In other words, to sell everything we have and give it to the poor would ignore, even abandon, those whom God has placed in our care. Our money, everything we have, is not to be used solely for the church. But that doesn't excuse us from using our money for the purpose God intends.

Everyone has three stations in life, three spheres in which we live and are to be of service to our neighbors. These stations are the church, the family and society. We are members of all three of these by birth. We are born into the church by water and the Word of God, and our duties to others in the church arise from our Baptism into the church. We are born into a family, and our duties to others stem from our birth into that family. Finally, we are born into society, which is simply a further extension of our birth into our family. The duties we have toward other members of society come from either our own birth or the birth of others into the same society.

All that we have and all that we are ought to be pressed into service for the church, the family and society. If we were to sell all we have and give only to one, the other two would be neglected, and we would falter in fulfilling our duties.

So, consider your life and all that you have in light of these three stations. You pay taxes to support and help those in society. You save for college for your children, and provide food, clothing and shelter for the members of your family.

But the station that is usually thought of last is the church. Since the needs of the family and society are more immediate, the church is often given what is left over. This is not how it should be. Rather, we are to give of our first fruits, from off the top, the best, even as Abel gave the best of his flock.

This requires forethought. It means that you sit down and make a plan of what you will give from the beginning. It means sticking to it even when it seems that there are other more immediate and pressing things.

And this is all the more necessary now as we enter into periods of time where giving is low due to high unemployment or where restrictions on meeting in church limit opportunities to give. If we love God and His gifts of forgiveness given through the Means of Grace, which we receive at church and only at church, then we will support it, just as we love our country and our family. For all that we have and all that we are is given to us by our gracious God. He spared no expense for us and our salvation. He gave up His Son to death so that our sins are forgiven, and we will live. What's more, He provides for all that we need for this body and life. And our lives in this world, among these three spheres of church, family and society are to mirror the generosity of the one who gave us life in all three at birth.

Don't let the church, your divine family, be an afterthought or even ignored. It is nurturing you, bringing you up in salvation through Word and Sacrament.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

St Paul Lutheran Church
Monthly Cash Flow by Account
May 2026

	.Income	200 - Elders	600 - Stewardship	700 - Trustees	Special Projects	TOTAL
Income						
BG Concessions In	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,689.88	2,689.88
Improvement Fund - In	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
Mission Door Offering - In	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	114.00	114.00
Offerings - EFT	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
Offerings - Envelope	8,930.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,930.00
Offerings - Plate	151.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	151.75
Parsonage Rent - In	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
Preschool Taxes - In	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,036.62	1,036.62
Seminarian Support	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	230.00	230.00
Thrivant Choice	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	25.00
Window Repair	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	600.00	600.00
Total Income	9,581.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,895.50	19,477.25
Expense						
01 Supplies - Office	0.00	75.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	75.18
02 Supplies - Custodial	0.00	25.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.81
11 Supplies - Worship	0.00	439.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	439.57
17 Supplies - Bookkeeping	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.61	0.00	8.61
30 Maintenance - Church	0.00	0.00	0.00	235.25	0.00	235.25
38 Maintenance - Lawn Mowing	0.00	0.00	0.00	150.00	0.00	150.00
40 Utilities - Electric	0.00	0.00	0.00	335.05	0.00	335.05
41 Utilities - Water & Sewage	0.00	0.00	0.00	234.13	0.00	234.13
42 Utilities - Gas	0.00	0.00	0.00	305.00	0.00	305.00
43 Utilities - Telephone	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	50.00
49 New Equipment - Office	0.00	0.00	0.00	265.26	0.00	265.26
50 Expenses - Postage	0.00	0.93	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.93
52 Expenses - Interest & Bank C	0.00	9.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.25
65 Expenses - Transportation	0.00	66.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	66.50
73 Conferences	0.00	668.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	668.20
75 Missions - Synodical Fair Sh	0.00	0.00	610.12	0.00	0.00	610.12
80 Salaries - Pastoral	0.00	2,891.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,891.92
82 Salaries - Secretarial	0.00	878.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	878.01
83 Salaries - Custodial	0.00	0.00	0.00	492.93	0.00	492.93
84 Salaries - Organist	0.00	296.43	0.00	0.00	0.00	296.43
86 Salaries - Treasurer	0.00	0.00	0.00	133.49	0.00	133.49
94 Taxes - Payroll FICA (Employ	0.00	370.70	0.00	119.48	0.00	490.18
95 Pension Plan	0.00	307.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	307.68
BG Concessions - Out	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,995.00	4,995.00
Mission Door Offering - Out	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	145.00	145.00
Parsonage Rent - Out	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	161.02	161.02
Preschool Taxes - Out	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	449.82	449.82
Seminarian Support - Out	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00	250.00
Window Repair - out	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,205.00	3,205.00
Total Expense	0.00	6,030.18	610.12	2,329.20	9,205.84	18,175.34

St. Paul Lutheran Church

2026 Special Projects Summary

	Balance April 30, 2026	Income May, 2026	Expenses May, 2026	Balance May 31, 2026
Accumulated Interest	$787.25	$0.00	$0.00	$787.25
Betty Bartels Mem. (12/21)	$120.00	$0.00	$0.00	$120.00
BG Concessions	$16,946.27	$10,000.00	$0.00	$26,946.27
Church Bell Fund	$2,740.77	$0.00	$0.00	$2,740.77
Church Lighting Fund	$321.75	$0.00	$0.00	$321.75
Easter Garden	$30.00	$0.00	$0.00	$30.00
Kenneth Bergstedt Mem. (11/22)	$191.00	$0.00	$0.00	$191.00
Music Fund	$127.72	$0.00	$0.00	$127.72
New Light Pole	$112.00	$0.00	$0.00	$112.00
Parsonage Rent	$8,996.99	$0.00	$0.00	$8,996.99
Parsonage Security Payment	$1,200.00	$0.00	$0.00	$1,200.00
Scholarship Fund	$1,231.93	$0.00	$0.00	$1,231.93
Thrivent Choice	$1,104.21	$0.00	$0.00	$1,104.21
Youth Funds	$1,732.91	$0.00	$0.00	$1,732.91
Projects - Savings	$35,642.80	$10,000.00	$0.00	$45,642.80
Projects - Checking				
BG Concessions	$13,700.30	$2,689.88	$14,995.00	$1,395.18
Budget Activity	$4,529.58	$9,581.75	$8,969.50	$5,141.83
Easter Breakfast	$664.00	$0.00	$0.00	$664.00
Herb Elling Mem. (2/26)	$140.00	$0.00	$0.00	$140.00
Improvement Fund	$4,739.00	$4,000.00	$0.00	$8,739.00
John Swearingen, Sr. Mem (3/25)	$640.00	$0.00	$0.00	$640.00
Linda Braucher Mem. (9/25)	$35.00	$0.00	$0.00	$35.00
Mission Door Offering	$145.00	$114.00	$145.00	$114.00
Parsonage Rent	$4,204.02	$1,200.00	$161.02	$5,243.00
Pre-School Taxes	$579.50	$1,036.62	$449.82	$1,166.30
Refund	$266.87	$0.00	$0.00	$266.87
Rent - Basement	$650.00	$0.00	$0.00	$650.00
Rita Kessler Mem. (2/24)	$60.00	$0.00	$0.00	$60.00
Seminarian Support	$20.00	$230.00	$250.00	$0.00
Thrivent Choice	$653.28	$25.00	$0.00	$678.28
Window Repair	$2,605.00	$600.00	$3,205.00	$0.00
Vivian Oberhaus Birthday (9/25)	$25.00	$0.00	$0.00	$25.00
Projects - Checking	$33,656.55	$19,477.25	$28,175.34	$24,958.46
Total Projects	$69,299.35	$29,477.25	$28,175.34	$70,601.26

Capital One 360	
Balance 5/1/26	$102.88
Interest	$0.02
Balance 5/31/2026	$102.90

Preschool Assistance	
Balance 5/1/2026	$2,621.86
Funds Added	$174.32
Balance 5/31/2026	$2,796.18

CD Info	May, 2026	
	CD Activity	Savings Account Activity
	$25,317.89	$35,642.80
Interest	$79.83	$0.00
	$25,397.72	$35,642.80

Parsonage Rent Report

	Date	Paid to:	Income	Expense	Balance
Balance Carried Over					$13,512.56
1	1/2/2026	City of Napoleon	$0.00	$112.34	$13,400.22
1	1/11/2026		$1,200.00		$14,600.22
1	1/15/2026	Ohio Gas		$145.37	$14,454.85
1	1/19/2026	Henry Co. Treasurer		$1,099.91	$13,354.94
1	1/30/2026	Budget Funds		$3,000.00	$10,354.94
1	2/2/2026	City of Napoleon		$103.98	$10,250.96
1	2/5/2026	Ohio Gas		$163.58	$10,087.38
1	2/8/2026		$1,200.00		$11,287.38
1	3/2/2026	City of Napoleon		$138.73	$11,148.65
1	3/7/2026	Ohio Gas		$150.82	$10,997.83
1	3/8/2026		$1,200.00		$12,197.83
1	4/1/2026	City of Napoleon		$97.06	$12,100.77
1	4/6/2026	Ohio Gas		$99.76	$12,001.01
1	4/12/2026		$1,200.00		$13,201.01
1	5/2/2026	City of Napoleon		$89.33	$13,111.68
1	5/2/2026	Ohio Gas		$71.69	$13,039.99
1	5/10/2026		$1,200.00		$14,239.99