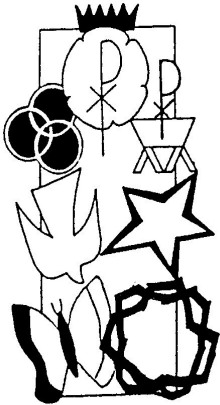


September 1, 2026

St. Paul Messenger

Volume 28, Issue 9

St. Paul Lutheran Church



FROM THE
PASTOR

James was one of the four fishermen called to be disciples. James and his brother, John, were the “sons of Zebedee” (Luke 5:10). Their father owned several fishing boats and had servants to help with the business. Most likely James and John were from a financially successful family. Part of the cost of their discipleship was leaving the family business to follow Jesus.

The mother of James and John wanted the best for her boys and wanted places of honor for them in Jesus’ kingdom with important positions. Jesus did not come for earthly positions and power. Jesus came to make it possible for us to be part of His eternal kingdom. In that kingdom of grace, everyone has equal glory.

While James did not have any earthly treasures as Jesus’ disciple, he did have some special experiences. James got to see Jesus perform miracles showing that He was the true Son of God. James, along with his brother, John, and fellow disciple Peter, got to have some special experiences with Jesus. James got to see that

Jesus was crucified and rose again from the dead. James knew Jesus was risen, and James was a messenger of that resurrection.

King Herod hated Jesus and hated the messengers who told about Jesus’ resurrection. James was the first disciple who was killed for preaching and teaching about Jesus.

Still today there are places in the world where Christians are put in prison, tortured and even killed for sharing that Jesus is the only Savior from sin.

PRAYER: *Jesus, our salvation cost You Your very life, and we give You thanks and praise for making complete payment for our sins. Give us the courage of James to be disciples who are willing to count the cost and risk everything, even our very lives, to be faithful followers 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**

LEVERN GERKEN – HOME

1201 County Road 05
Grand Rapids, OH 43522

Birthday: **October 2**

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

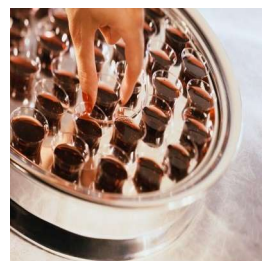


Preparing Communion for September is:

Pasty Mohler & Brenda Bartels

Providing Flowers:

Geri Murdock & Myrna Gibson



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS SCHEDULE

September 2026

<u>Date</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Deacon</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
Sept. 6	Scott Armey	Tom Mohler	Lee Sonnenberg Ray Carpenter
Sept. 13	Scott Armey	Brian Baker	Carl Gault John Engler
Sept. 20	Scotty Armey	Mike Mann	Seth Izor Tom Kern
Sept. 27	Scott Armey	Erv Sonnenberg	Tom Mohler Mike Mann

September Greeters Selected

The Board of Evangelism has selected the greeters for September. 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 419-265-2798, 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.

September Greeters are:

September 6:	The James Murdock Family
September 13:	Sign-Up Sunday
September 20:	The Tom Mohler Family
September 27:	The Bill Glanz Family

Stewardship July/ August



<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>		<u>Communion</u>	<u>Offerings</u>
July 26	52			\$1,155.00
Aug 2	42		40	\$1,530.00
Aug 9	61			\$2,200.00
Aug 16	50		50	\$1,565.00
Aug 23	52			\$2,045.00
	<u>Total:</u>	<u>Average:</u>	<u>Communion Average:</u>	<u>Total Offerings:</u>
	257	52	45	\$8,495.00



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/
saintpaullutheranlibertycenteroh](https://www.facebook.com/saintpaullutheranlibertycenteroh)

Preschool Facebook:

[https://www.facebook.com/ st.paullutheranpreschoollibertycenter](https://www.facebook.com/st.paullutheranpreschoollibertycenter)



Music Department Fall Planning

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

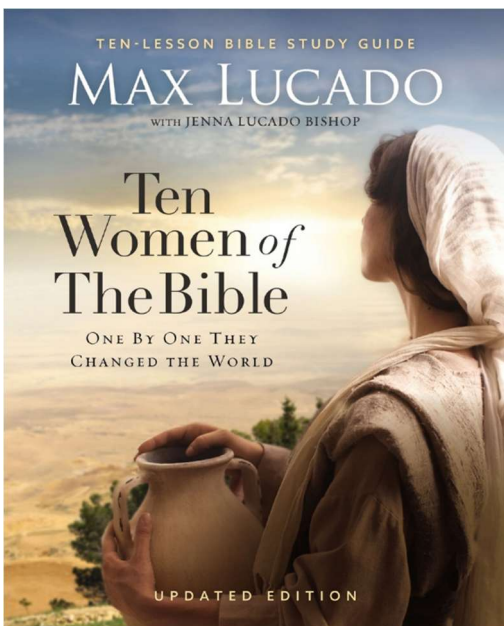
The Instrumental Ensemble will highlight LWML Service on Sunday, October 4, and our Reformation Observance on Sunday, October 25. Their rehearsals will be on Saturday mornings at 8:30 beginning September 19.

The Senior Choir will sing for All Saints Day, Sunday, November 1. Rehearsals will begin Sunday, October 4 at 8:30 a.m.

In the meantime, we are preparing for our Advent and Christmas services. Anyone interested in playing handbells, please talk to John Swearingen or Dan Seedorf.

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.

New Book in the Library



The book TEN WOMEN OF THE BIBLE has been added to our church library in the cart downstairs. The ten women came from a range of different backgrounds. Some we know only by clues as to their nationality left in Scripture. Some were queens and women of power and influence in their world. Others lived their lives on the fringes of society. The women include Esther, Mary, Abigail, Mary of Bethany, Mary Magdalene, and Saphira.

If you ever feel like a second-class citizen in this world and wonder how God could possibly use you to change lives, just look at the stories of these women in the Bible.

BG Concessions Starting Soon

The Concessions department at BGSU is going through revisions. As a result, we have come to the agreement to emphasize hockey and forego the football season. This enables us an extra month to prepare and time for BGSU to consider options for volunteer support.

The hockey schedule (arrival time is two hours before game time):

Date	Opponent	Game Time
Saturday, Oct 3	Michigan	6:07 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 16	Niagara	7:07 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 17	Niagara	6:07 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 6	Bemidji State U	7:07 p.m.
Sat. Nov. 7	Bemidji State U	6:07 p.m.
Friday, November 20	Augustana	7:07 p.m.
Saturday, November 21	Augustana	6:07 p.m.
Friday, November 27	Maryville	7:07 p.m.
Saturday, November 28	Maryville	6:07 p.m.
Friday, December 11	Ferris State	7:07 p.m.
Saturday, December 12	Ferris State	6:07 p.m.
Friday, January 1	Denver	7:07 p.m.
Saturday, January 2	Denver	6:07 p.m.
Friday, January 8	Lake Superior State U.	7:07 p.m.
Saturday, January 9	Lake Superior State U.	6:07 p.m.
Friday, January 22	Minnesota State	7:07 p.m.
Saturday, January 23	Minnesota State	6:07 p.m.
Friday, February 5	Northern Michigan	7:07 p.m.
Saturday, February 6	Northern Michigan	6:07 p.m.
Friday, February 19	Michigan Tech	7:07 p.m.
Saturday, February 20	Michigan Tech	6:07 p.m.
PLAYOFFS begin Friday, March 5		

Upcoming Events

ORGANIZING OUR HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS: Next year, our Congregation will be 95 years old. Many of the old pictures, bulletins, and yearbooks have to be organized. If you would be interested in helping organize our historical document, please contact Pastor Kramer. He will contact the interested individuals for details on how to organize our historical documents.

CHANGE IS COMING: September 13 will be sign-up Sunday for various volunteer opportunities at church.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL: On Sunday, September 13. Class will begin a video series on EXPLAINING ALL THE SCARY STUFF IN REVELATION. Join Reverend Ken Klaus, as he unravels the mysteries of the Bible's concluding book. Klaus examines the roots of the explosive and deadly conflict between Rome and the Church that led persecuted, imprisoned Christians to wonder if God had abandoned them. In this 4-part series you will learn basic rules to understand and interpret the difficult passages of Revelation. You will see how the distinctive writing style of apocalyptic literature, which gives the book dynamic power - comforted persecuted Christians.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY: On Tuesday, September 15 we will resume LifeLight Bible classes at 10am and 7pm. The study will be on the book of Exodus. Learn how God delivered Moses from destruction and raised him up to lead the Children of Israel to be freed from the slavery of the Egyptians.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Beginning on Sunday, September 13, we will have a Sunday school class for children on non-communion Sundays. Children will be excused for Sunday school during the singing of the sermon hymn.

LWML FALL RETREAT: St. John Lutheran Church St. Rt. 6 and 66 in Stryker, will be holding this year's LWML Retreat on Saturday, September 19. Please register by mail by September 5. \$15, Doors open at 8:30 am and the program starts at 9:00 am. Please see insert for more information.

FUNERAL PREARRANGMENT SEMINAR: On Wednesday, September 30 at 7pm Bruce Sonnenberg, a member of our congregation, will give a presentation on making funeral prearrangements. You will be under no obligation to buy anything. This meeting will answer many of your questions about planning for your funeral. Please see Pastor Kramer if you have any questions.

FROM THE BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship in the First Commandment

The greatest gift that Martin Luther gave to us was his Small Catechism. The word “enchiridion” is part of the original title of this work. This is the Greek word for “handbook.” The Small Catechism is a handbook of the Bible. All the basic knowledge that a Christian needs to understand the faith and live a godly life has been taken from the Bible and distilled into this beautiful little book of Christian piety.

Luther starts with the Ten Commandments.

The First Commandment:

You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things. (SC I)

We have a God above us. He is the Lord God and we are not. He is Almighty and in control. He is righteous and good. And therefore, we should fear Him.

This God is also our heavenly Father. He wants us to be saved. He does not want us to suffer His just wrath. He has provided salvation for us in His Son, Jesus Christ. And therefore, we should love Him.

Our heavenly Father will never leave us nor forsake us. He has promised as much — and the Bible shows us that He always keeps His promises. So, we should trust Him.

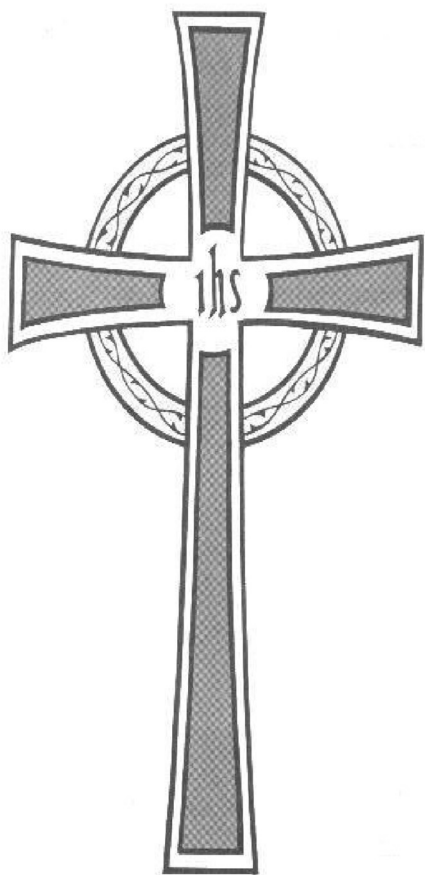
In the Large Catechism, Luther explains how money and possessions form one of the greatest temptations against the First Commandment:

This I must unfold somewhat more plainly, that it may be understood and perceived by ordinary examples of the contrary. Many a one thinks that he has God and everything in abundance when he has money and possessions; he trusts in them and boasts of them with such firmness and assurance as to care for no one. Lo, such a man also has a god, Mammon by name, i.e., money and possessions, on which he sets all his heart, and which is also the most common idol on earth. He who has money and possessions feels secure, and is joyful and undismayed as though he were sitting in the midst of Paradise. On the other hand, he who has none doubts and is despondent, as though he knew of no God. For very few are to be found who are of good cheer, and who neither mourn nor complain if they have not Mammon. This [care and desire for money] sticks and clings to our nature, even to the grave. (LC I 5–9)

These words of Dr. Luther should call us to repentance; sometimes, we live and act like we don't have a Father in heaven. We seek our comfort and peace outside of His gracious promises. But we do have a Father in heaven. He does love us. All His promises are true. And the Lord will surely provide. If that is our belief, then our outward lives will reflect this belief in our acts of generosity and mercy. We will see money and possessions not as gods but rather as tools for doing God's work.

St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church &
St. Paul Lutheran Preschool
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 & Preschool 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