

# STPAULNOW

February 2025

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church  
336 W. Main St., Cardington, OH 43315  
(419) 864-8369 • office@StPaulNow.org

StPaulNow.org



*Arrrg—  
Shiver me timbers, Matey!*

from Pr. Steve

Pastor's phone: (614) 530-1011; email: [pastorsteve@stpaulnow.org](mailto:pastorsteve@stpaulnow.org)

## Ingredients of a Healthy Church

This past Sunday, January 26, I finished a four-part sermon series on Ingredients of a Healthy Church. Of course, on some of those Sundays we had the coldest weather of the season so far, and many of our people missed all or part of the series. If you were one of those, you can catch up on our website ([stpaulnow.org](http://stpaulnow.org)). Go to the menu at the top of the page and select 'Recent Sermons'—that will take you to a page where you'll find the January 26 sermon. **Please listen to it.** (Or, if you have time, listen to the whole series.) That final sermon summarizes the series. You'll hear about **four ingredients that I believe make a church healthy:** 1) deliberate baptismal commitment to the Kingdom of God; 2) Commitment to Jesus as Lord; 3) Spirit inspired service to God, one another, and our neighbors; 4) Love.

By **healthy**, I mean a church atmosphere, or culture, in which people can find God's love, learn and grow spiritually, and serve Christ and his church with a sense of peace and confidence, rather than getting all stressed out and worn out. To put it another way, a church with those four ingredients is a spiritually safe place for people to be.

St. Paul is a pretty healthy church as I see it, but there is always room for improvement. Also, it's a fact that today's healthy congregation can catch a virus next month, so it's important for us to take stock once in a while and make sure what we're cooking is good for us.

May the peace of God that passes all human understanding keep your hearts and minds in Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Pastor Steve and Norma will be on vacation for a couple weeks this month. Here is the February schedule of preachers.*

Feb 2 Pr. Steve  
Feb 9 Pr. Jack Moore  
Feb 16 Derek Goodman  
Feb 23 Pr. Steve

Worship Services streamed live (Sundays, 10:00 AM); videos are posted at [stpaulnow.org](http://stpaulnow.org) and on Facebook, later in the day.

## Heartbeat of Morrow County Mission Moment, February 16

A representative from Heartbeat of Morrow County will be in our service on Sunday, February 16 to give an update on their ministry. She will give a brief presentation during the service, then join us for refreshments and interaction, and will answer any questions our members and friends may have.

Heartbeat is a Christian organization dedicated to providing women alternatives to abortion by offering medical referrals and support services. St. Paul has supported Heartbeat's ministry for several years.

Some members of our congregation make regular use of the coin collection baby bottles available in the narthex at church. If you return filled bottles to the same place where the empty bottles are located we will deliver them.

Visit Heartbeat's website for information about their services, and how you can support them: [heartbeatofmorrowcounty.com](http://heartbeatofmorrowcounty.com).

Here are some current needs:

- New and gently used clothing and shoes, gently used furniture and equipment (no car seats or cribs please)
- 3T, 4T, 5T Boys & Girls Gently Used Pants
- New and Gently Used Boys & Girls Receiving Blankets
- 3T/4T Pull Ups
- New and Gently Used Bath Towels

**Items may be delivered to the Heartbeat office:**

Tuesdays: 1-3 PM & 6-8 PM; Thursdays: 1-3 PM  
712 Baker St., Mount Gilead, OH 43338

## Happy February Birthday

5 Caleb Rose	10 Irene Fryman	23 Derek Goodman
7 Jessica Potter	11 Jerry McDonald	26 Howard Radel
	Pam Linder	28 Jase Whittington
9 Steve Binkley	20 Margo McLaughlin	
	22 Kenneth Smith	

*Please let us know if we miss anyone.*

## January Council meeting

Regular meeting, January 14, 6:30 PM

Present: Thomas Bathke (Chairman), Howard Radel (Vice Chairman), Sondra Carey (Secretary), Terry Roberts (Treasurer), Pastor Steve Dennis, Mary Kay Disterdick, Steve Kirk, Terri Roberts.

Council took the following actions:

- Approved the December reports of the Treasurer and Secretary, and received the Pastor's report.
- Howard Radel reported that he and Jeff cut down two diseased apple trees at the parsonage, and that two more will be removed soon.
- Pastor reported that one of our members purchased a new computer and 4K monitor for the church office. They have now been installed.
- Treasurer reported that we used the Benevolence Fund to purchase an electric stove for a family in need. Mary Kay and Sondra handled the transaction.

## Treasurer's Report for December 2024

FUNDS	BALANCE 11/30/2024	INCOME December	EXPENSES December	BALANCE 12/31/2024
<b>General Fund</b>	<b>\$10,080.81</b>	<b>\$11,594.50</b>	<b>\$ 7,552.95</b>	<b>\$14,122.36</b>
<b>Committed Funds</b>				
Benevolence Fund <sup>1</sup>	\$4,499.58	\$ 380.00	\$ 618.50	<b>\$ 4,261.08</b>
Richard Renz Fund	\$ 3,173.46	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	<b>\$ 3,173.46</b>
Funeral Fund	\$ 1,026.95	\$ 250.00	\$ 122.73	<b>\$ 1,154.22</b>
Christian Education Fund <sup>2</sup>	\$ 294.26	\$ 100.00	\$ 15.00	<b>\$ 379.26</b>
Memorial Fund	\$ 8,179.31	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	<b>\$ 8,179.31</b>
Building Fund	\$ 9,056.50	\$ 920.00	\$ 0.00	<b>\$ 9,976.50</b>
<b>Total Committed Funds</b>	<b>\$26,230.06</b>	<b>\$ 1,650.00</b>	<b>\$ 756.23</b>	<b>\$27,123.83</b>
<b>Total Funds (General + Committed)</b>	<b>\$36,310.87</b>	<b>\$13,244.50</b>	<b>\$ 8,309.18</b>	<b>\$41,246.19</b>

<sup>1</sup> Benevolence: \$618.50, purchase of stove for family in need.

<sup>2</sup> Christian Education: \$15.00, HisKids.

## Community Youth Group for grades 6-12

on the third Sunday each month, 6:30 to 8:00 PM, at the Tomorrow Center gym. Meetings feature music, devotions, snacks, and games. This is a cooperative community ministry supported by Cardington Church of the Nazarene, Community Methodist Church, and our congregation. Encourage your young people to drop in and check it out.

**Next meeting: Sunday, February 16, 6:30 PM**

Tomorrow Center Gymnasium

3700 County Road 168, Cardington 43315

## Women's Bible Study

Now meeting on Wednesdays, 10:00 AM at the church and studying The Ten Commandments.

Join in, or call Donna Bathke ((402) 720-6694) or Marcy Niendam ((740) 815-3581) for more information.

## Cardington Food Pantry Needs

**February:** Pancake mix & syrup, biscuit mix

Featured donations for the months ahead:

**March:** Evaporated milk, sweet milk, powdered milk

**April:** Boxed scalloped potatoes, Hamburger Helper

All months: cereal, flour, meals in a can (e.g., spaghetti, beef stew), soup, white and brown sugar, salt/pepper.

Monetary donations can also be mailed to Cardington Food Pantry, P.O. Box 168, Cardington OH 43315.

*Dear Pastor Steve and Carolers,*

*Dick and I want to send you and the Christmas Carolers a BIG THANK YOU for the caroling you all did on Saturday before Christmas. You have no idea how much we enjoyed hearing the singing! It was so cold that day, but it didn't affect your singing. It was truly beautiful, and we especially want to thank everyone involved for taking the time to come out and sing.*

*One of the things that I miss most is not being physically present for the worship services. The online service is appreciated but nothing compares to being present for the service and hearing the voices of the choir in person.*

*We also enjoyed eating the delicious Christmas cookies you brought. Thanks for those too!*

*Please share my thanks to everyone involved in the caroling! THANK YOU!*

*Lois Brown*

*To my SPECIAL friends at St. Paul,*

*Many thanks to all the Carolers. You made the Christmas season so special and appropriate. The beautiful singing and the box of all those delicious cookies, candy, and pretzel sticks took care of my sweet tooth for days. What a great group you are, and I want you all to know how much you are appreciated. Thank you so much.*

*Clara McClenathan*

## Can you name these 'kids'?

(Answers are posted on a bulletin board in the church narthex. We'll have more later.)

