

# **Hilltop News**

## **St. Paul Lutheran Church**

**July/August 2025**



**St. Paul Lutheran Church**  
**P O. Box 157, Sulphur Springs, Oh 44881**  
**Church Office 419-562-5858**  
**Pastors Brodie and Andrea Taphorn**

### July Birthdays

7/01 Lennon Brown  
7/03 Grant Geiger  
7/04 Nadene Heckleman  
7/07 David Pfleiderer  
7/08 Peggy Gearhart  
7/09 Petra Leonhardt  
7/10 Dennis Siefert  
7/12 Harley Jenks  
7/14 Ruth Knappenberger  
7/14 Larry Leonhardt  
7/14 Penelope Clements  
7/16 Sara Bartinikas  
7/17 Abby Gendron  
7/17 Kylie Rittenour  
7/18 Brady Joy Brown  
7/19 Fiona Klak  
7/22 James Larabee  
7/22 David Halsey  
7/22 Carlie Geiger  
7/23 Angie Hall  
7/22 Samantha Auck  
7/25 Neely Young  
7/25 Liz Palmer  
7/26 Stephanie Powell  
7/26 Richard Ulmer  
7/26 Christiana Newcome  
7/27 Judy Brause  
7/28 Jace Feichtner

### July Anniversaries

7/01 Richard & Joyce Schanzenbach  
7/01 Ryan & Jolene Armstrong  
7/04 Jim & Susie Leonhardt  
7/06 Sam & Cindy Hopkins  
7/07 George & Kathy Sheets  
7/09 Rod & Raie Leonhardt  
7/09 Ev & Nancy Maxfield  
7/09 Eric & Sarah Gilbert  
7/10 Ramon & Joyce Durigg  
7/13 Doug & Linda Heydinger  
7/13 Brian & Rhonda Evak  
7/19 Ron & Roxanne Shipman  
7/22 Dave & Sharon Shealy  
7/26 David & Kathy Halsey  
7/27 Dennis & Kathy Seifert  
7/28 Jim & Sandy Erwin  
7/31 John & Janis Grau

### August Birthdays

8/02 Jackie LaRue  
8/02 Jacob Kocher  
8/03 Blain Cole  
8/04 Mark Ebbeskotte  
8/05 Sandra Ulmer  
8/05 Sandra Armstrong  
8/08 Darren Bush  
8/08 Matthew Hall  
8/10 Kendra Geiger  
8/11 Anna Karl  
8/11 Alex Karl  
8/11 Aurora Donnersbach  
8/15 Carter Scott  
8/18 Megan Blum  
8/20 Roger Leonhardt  
8/20 Rod Leonhardt  
8/20 Michelle Scott  
8/20 Bayleigh Armstrong  
8/22 Kathy Halsey  
8/24 Phyllis Hinamon  
8/25 Daniel Shealy  
8/25 Shannon Teynor  
8/26 Patricia Nickleson  
8/26 Matt Stuckman  
8/27 Anna Reffey  
8/27 Hanna Brennamen  
8/28 Gage Billings  
8/29 Aileen Plamann  
8/29 Garrett Billings

### August Anniversaries

8/05 Dwight & Carol Leonhardt  
8/06 Darrin & Bobbi Feichtner  
8/10 Mat & Marcia Newcome  
8.24 Michael & Leslie Gall  
8/24 Michael & Angela Shipman  
8/24 Nate & Nicole Brown  
8/25 Tim & Jackie LaRue  
8/26 Steve & Carla Seif  
8/27 Mark & Cheryl Shilling  
8/29 Steve & Lynn Kocher  
8/29 Brodie & Andrea Taphorn

People So Dearly Loved by God,

*“So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life - your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life - and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him.” Romans 12:1, The Message*

Here we are already well into summer already! In this season, there are rich opportunities for us to be in our community, caring for our neighbors. By the time you are reading this letter, we will have had our Sulphur Springs Community Outreach Picnic. You may travel this summer, whether near or far. I am looking forward to traveling together for worship on August 17<sup>th</sup> when we have our Outdoor Worship Service. In all these things, everywhere we go, we take Jesus with us. More pointedly than that, God guides our steps from beginning to end. He never leaves us or forsakes us. *As you go... Jesus goes too.*

Summer marks for us the beginning of the season of Pentecost. Our church calendar marks the seasons in a way that is otherwise strange to the rest of the world, but I find grounding to daily life. The church calendar revolves around, and is centered by, the life, death and resurrection of Christ. His life centers ours. His life propels ours. Our life is always hidden in His. This church season takes us all the way through November. In some traditions, this season is called Ordinary Time. I appreciate this title, because much of our Christian life is lived out during ordinary days and ordinary moments. Our lives are lived daily—we wake, dress, eat, work, play, prepare, decompress, sleep, repeat—what’s ordinary is the mundane. Then occasionally, light breaks through—we see a prayer answered, we witness a heart change, the Word comes alive, delight is had, a relationship mends, and fruit is born through hardship.

As you go, Jesus goes too! And so does His news of love and grace! May you have the eyes to see the ordinary moments before you as opportunities to experience the extraordinary grace and mercy of Jesus Christ, *for you!* May this mercy and grace spill out of you and into the lives of your neighbors, your loved ones, your co-workers, and friends. Because, as you go... Jesus goes too!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Andrea

Helen Lyons would like to thank Pastor Andrea for coming to visit and John Britton for bringing her communion. She also enjoyed the cards from the Sunday School children.

Thank you to the congregation for all the thoughts and prayers since my surgery. We appreciated our visit from John and Linda and the meal from the God Squad. We are so blessed to have such a loving and caring church family.

David Robertson.

St. Paul Helping Hands,

Thank you for the breakfast honoring our confirmands and new members! Thank you for the gift card. St. Paul and our community are blessed by the ministry and service you graciously give!

John Britton

Dear Church Members,

On behalf of all the members of the Filling Homes community, let me express our heartfelt gratitude for your incredible generosity and support. Thank you for all you do to support our mission. We are blessed!

Jean Cohrs,

Director of Mission Advancement, Filling Homes Foundation

Dear St. Paul Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your prayers and gift of \$760.00. Your financial contribution helps as World Mission Prayer League global works share the gospel with those least able to have heard or benefited from its transforming power.

Didi & Serafina Support Fund

On behalf of The Salvation Army, thank you for your important and generous giving in 2024 in the amount of \$2,651.45 to support our mission in the Bucyrus area.

Your ongoing support in 2025 makes it possible for us to provide compassion and support for those in need. Together, we will positively impact those who come to our doors for help and hope. You are a significant partner in helping fulfill our mission now and in the future and we appreciate you.

Thank you for your contributions and support to The Salvation Army

Sincerely, Julie Budden, Divisional Director of Development

Dear Friends

Thank you for your recent gift of \$580.00 to Luther Home of Mercy. Your support allows us to help individuals set and achieve goals, have fun and interact with others. We are grateful for your support of our ministries. It's an honor for us to use your gifts to serve individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities!

Thank you for faithfully supporting our vital mission!

Sincerely,

Megan O'Brien Vice President

St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Minutes

April 18, 2025

John Britton called the meeting to order. Members present were Tom Bush, Doug Ebbeskotte, Mark Ebbeskotte, Dan Feichtner, Jim Crabaugh, Jim Luidhardt, Mike Geiger, and Jeff Karl. Pastors Andrea and Brodie Taphorn and Susie Sutherland was also present. Devotions were given by Pastor Andrea.

Secretary's Report: Mike Geiger motioned to approve, and Dan Feichtner seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Susie shared that the checking account balance was \$82,207.82 on March 31, 2025, with all bills current. Mark Ebbeskotte motioned to approve, and Jeff Karl seconded. Discussion held on money movement for the coming HVAC bill. Motion passed.

Elder's Report: Discussed how well the congregation is engaged.

Deacon's Report: Doug shared that, for March, \$15,904 was given to current with \$50,312.11 in total across all giving accounts. Average attendance was 106 with 78 communed. Wed Lent attendance averaged 57 with 67 communed Ash Wednesday.

Trustee's Report: Dan Feichtner shared about quotes received for fences to hide the outside mini-split AC HVAC units. Much discussion held. John said he'd talk to the insurance company about what they recommend. John also shared that property insurance rose from \$8900 to \$11,575 a year for the church and house. Dan shared about work that needs done on the parsonage this summer. Jim Luidhardt shared that pastor's chair needs fixed, outlets were repaired, and that he is getting someone to repair or replace two exit signs. He shared that Jim Crabaugh will get mulch for the church (brown recyclable). Jim Crabaugh shared that he sprayed the grounds for weeds. Council thanked Jim for his time and the spray that was donated.

Pastor's Report: Pastors shared about visitations, pastoral care, upcoming dates, and church phone update. No need to get new phone service. Pastor Brodie shared about his acceptance as chaplain into the naval reserve and upcoming timing for that training.

Motion to approve all reports was made by Mike Geiger and seconded by Mark Ebbeskotte. Motion passed.

Old Business: None that wasn't already covered.

New Business: Pastor Pentti Maki will serve as supply pastor when needed. Bucyrus water is coming to Sulphur. Discussion held on getting it installed into the parsonage. There is no hookup fee. Mike Geiger to talk to a contractor to get a quote to install the line into the house. Dan motioned and Jim Luidhardt seconded to put water into the parsonage. Motion passed. Jim Crabaugh mentioned that the west parking lot needs attention. Council thanks Ben and Sam for helping get the safety signs on the road programmed.

The next council meeting will be May 18<sup>th</sup>. With no further business, the meeting closed with the Lord's prayer.

Jeff Karl  
Secretary

St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Minutes

May 18, 2025

John Britton called the meeting to order. Members present were Tom Bush, Doug Ebbeskotte, Mark Ebbeskotte, Dan Feichtner, Jim Crabaugh, Mike Geiger, Mike Grube, and Jeff Karl. Pastors Andrea and Brodie Taphorn and Susie Sutherland were also present. Devotions were given by Doug Ebbeskotte.

Secretary's Report: Mark Ebbeskotte motioned to approve, and Tom Bush seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Susie shared that the checking account balance was \$51,143.36 on April 30, 2025, with all bills current. Mike Geiger motioned, and Doug Ebbeskotte seconded to have Susie work with Jim Luidhardt put \$37,000 from the special projects fund into a CD. Motion passed. Doug Ebbeskotte motioned to approve report, and Dan Feichtner seconded. Motion passed.

Elder's Report: Discussed how nice the attendance in church has been. Grateful for the growth in numbers.

Deacon's Report: Doug shared that, for April, \$13,184.10 was given to current with \$109,217.13 in total across all giving accounts for 2025. Average Sunday attendance was 117 (with 162 total on Easter Sunday) with an average Lent attendance of 54 (four services). Average communed was 97 (Easter had 135 total).

Trustee's Report: Jim Crabaugh shared about mulching the front of the church and spraying the grounds for weeds. He shared about repairs made to the church lawn mower for the parsonage. Jim also shared about the downspouts that need investigated for clogs and the water that was leaking in the south side after some heavy rains.

Dan Feichtner is still gathering information for fences to hide the outside mini-split AC HVAC units. More Discussion held. Dan also shared about windows at the parsonage that will need changed.

**John also shared that property insurance rose from \$8900 to \$11,575 a year for the church and house.**

Pastor's Report: Pastors shared pastor's update. Pastor Andrea has been elected to a two-year term on the Executive Council for the North Central Ohio Mission District. The Ohio Region is planning for an Ohio Youth Camp offering for all NALC churches in Ohio for summer of 2026. Provided a copy of the NALC Constitution with proposed changes being considered. Annual meeting to vote will be in Aug and the Pastors will be in attendance. Pastor Brodie shared an update on his Naval reserve commitment and time availability to the church. Pastors asked about pew cards so they can hand them out to folks, especially if they need a pastor or church home. Asked about getting pew pads printed to help folks connect to the pastors.

Motion to approve all reports was made by Mike Geiger and seconded by Mike Grube. Motion passed.

Old Business: John has been gathering estimates on what will be needed to get city water into the parsonage. Once ready, work will proceed to get city water into the parsonage. He also provided an update on Church Mutual insurance and the increase in cost.

New Business: Church picnic in Aug will be led by Melissa Shade. John shared NALC guidelines for funeral expenses paid by the families. John shared about revising funeral fees for Janitor to \$75 plus an additional \$50 if cleanup after meals is needed, organist \$100, and Pastor \$200 (per NALC guidelines). Doug Ebbeskotte motioned, Dan seconded, and motion passed. John also shared a request to accept Sandy Erwin into the congregation via transfer. Doug motioned, Tom seconded, and motion passed.

The next council meeting will be **Sunday, July 9<sup>th</sup>**. With no further business, the meeting closed with the Lord's prayer.

Jeff Karl  
Secretary

## St. Paul Lutheran Church, Women of the Church Board

The Women's executive board members met on Apr. 28, 2025 at 6:30pm at the church. All members were present, and Pastor Andrea.

Amber called the meeting to order and opened with devotions and prayer. Laura passed out the secretary's report from the previous meeting to review. Motion by Janelle to accept the report and Jen seconded. Motion passed.

Helen reported that the women of church have a balance of \$3949.40 in our account as of today. Ash Wednesday offering was \$953 and was given to Women of Church. Council voted to give the balance of the kitchen fund, \$195 to Women of Church.

No one has signed up for altar flowers for May 4. Janelle motioned for Women of Church Board to purchase flowers on May 4 and June seconded. Motion Passed. Pastor Andrea said she could deliver both flower arrangements to shut-ins when she does visiting.

The Women of the Church board prepared and served one of the Lenton meals and had many nice comments. The Taphorn's welcome went well and they are enjoying the gift cards.

We decided on giving donations from the Thank Offering boxes as follows:

\$500 to missionary that church supports

\$350 to Voice of Hope

\$250 to Crawford County Chargers

We discussed having an Acts of Kindness Day. We will have more information to come.

Thank Offering Sunday will be on Nov. 23 and Women's Christmas Party will be Dec. 3.

There will be a combined fellowship hour after church on June 8 to honor the graduates and to celebrate the Taphorn's installation. We will serve cake, ice cream, mints, pretzels, and punch.

Thank you notes were received from Jennifer Geiger and from the memorial committee for donation given in memory of Carrie.

The next meeting will be held on June 30.

The meeting closed with prayer followed by The Lord's Prayer.

Laura Ackerman

Secretary

Remember our Shut in and Homebound Members

**Carlisle Place**

John Barnhart  
1721 Whetstone St. Apt 116  
Bucyrus, Oh 44820      Birthday June 5

**Carlisle Place**

Chris Shealy  
1721 Whetstone St.  
Bucyrus, Oh 44820      Birthday January 25

**Carlisle Place**

Geneva Cleland  
1721 Whetstone St.  
Bucyrus, Oh 44820      Birthday December 15

**Westbrook Assisted Living**

Helen Lyons  
101 Westbrook Room 149  
Upper Sandusky, Oh 43351      Birthday May 27

**At Home**

Mary Ann McCallister  
P O Box 27  
Bucyrus, Oh 44881      Birthday November 4

**Committees for July:**

Altar: Kathy and George Sheets  
Greeter: Roxanne Shipman  
Visiting: Deb Feichtner and Linda Pfeleiderer  
Food: Deb Feichtner and Linda Pfeleiderer

**Committees for August**

Altar: Deb and Dan Feichtner  
Greeter: Marilyn Long and Roxanne Shipman  
Visiting:  
Food: Jennifer Rinehart and Margaret Brinkman

On June 7, June 7 Pastors Brodie and Andrea Taphorn were installed as Pastors of St. Paul Lutheran Church. The service was conducted by Pastor Kathy Pennington. God Squad served the dinner following the service. After worship on Sunday, June 8 Women of the Church served refreshments for the installation and also in honor of the graduates.

Confirmation was held on May 18 for three St. Paul youth: Carter Rittenour son of Steven and Jill Rittenour, Brooke and Ryan Schieber children of Josh and Erica Schieber.

St. Paul had two high school graduates this year. Dawson Lykens graduated from Wynford and Bergan Leonhardt graduated from Col. Crawford. College Graduates were: Lydia Ackerman from OSU in December, Wade Hopkins from University of Findlay and Mogan Young from Kent State University. Congratulations!!

# July 2025

## Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																								
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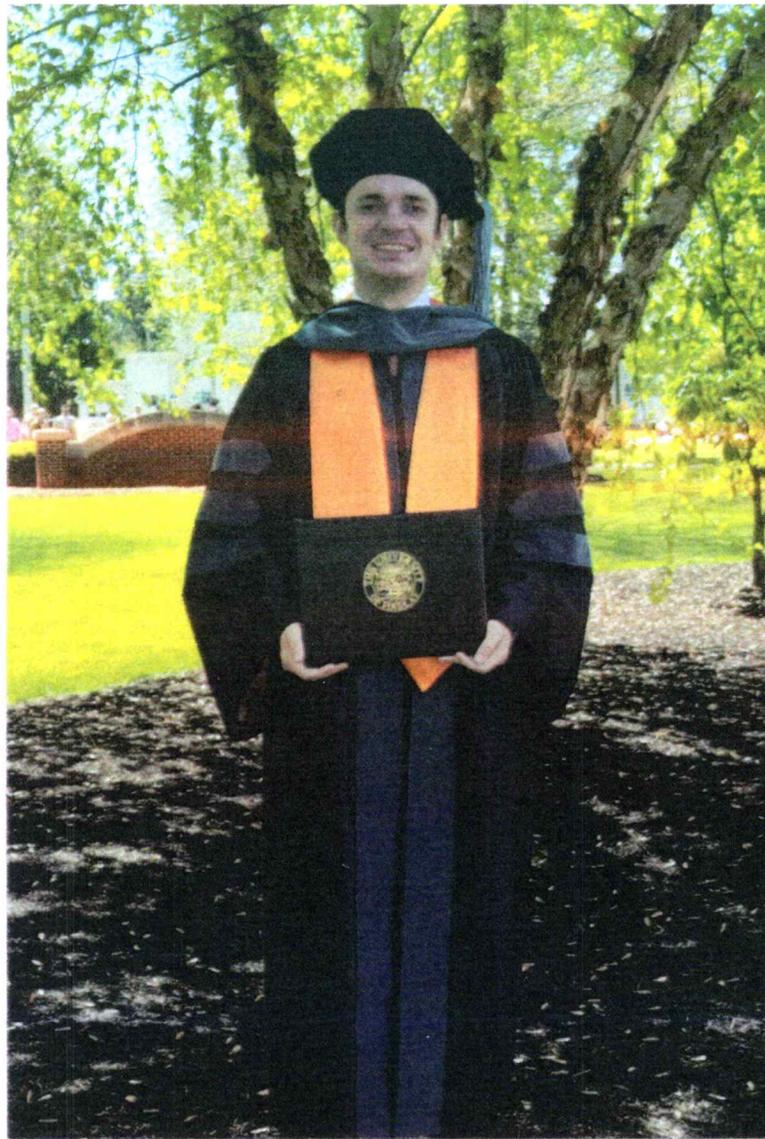
# August 2025

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Lydia Ackerman graduated this past December from The Ohio State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Primary Education (PK-5). This fall, Lydia will begin teaching 4<sup>th</sup> grade at Buckeye Central.





Wade Hopkins graduated from the University of Findlay on May10, 2025 with a Doctorate in Occupational Therapy. After successfully completing his Certification Exam in Occupational Therapy for the state of Ohio, he will be working at Flower Hospital in the Lymphedema Clinic located in Sylvania, Ohio.

Dawson Craig Lykens  
Wynford High School Class of 2025

Dawson graduated Magna Cum Laude from Wynford High School on May 17th, 2025. During his junior and senior years at Wynford, Dawson was able to complete several college classes, which allowed him to have his freshman year of college already completed while still earning his high school credits. During his time at Wynford, he was very active in both Marching band and bowling. He was a five year member of the Wynford High School marching band, performed four years in the Wynford High School concert band, and two years in the Wynford High School pep band. He was a three year member of the Wynford boys Varsity bowling team and completed his freshman bowling season with the boys J.V. Team. Throughout the years, Dawson has also participated in football, basketball, baseball, soccer, cub scouts, and 4-H. Dawson was a member of the Kilbourne Klovvers 4-H club, holding various offices during his time with the club, and earning many awards for his 4-H projects. He will be attending Ohio Northern University in Ada, Ohio this fall and majoring in business administration, while possibly pursuing a double major in finance or accounting. While at ONU he will continue his bowling career at the college level competing with the ONU men's bowling team. He would like to thank everyone for their love and support throughout the years.



Morgan Young recently graduated from Kent State University with a bachelors degree in Human Development and Family Science. She accepted a job at Summit County Children Services and is excited to serve children and families in her community!

**July/August 2025**

<b>Church Staff</b>	<b>Congregational Council</b>
Andrea & Brodie Taphorn..... Pastors	John Britton
David Halsey.....Lay Assistant	Mark Ebbeskotte
Joyce Schanzenbach.....Secretary	Tom Bush
Kathy Sheets..... Organist	Mike Grube
Karen Schimpf.....Assistant Organist	Jeff Karl
Susie Sutherland.....Bookkeeper	Jim Crabaugh
Roxanne Shipman. .... Choir	Jim Luidhardt
Cindy Hopkins.....Bell Choir	Doug Ebbeskotte
Jill Rittenour.....Sunday School Superintendent	Mike Geiger
.....President, Women of Church	Dan Feichtner
Amber Robertson.... Youth Advisor	
	<b>Congregational Officers</b>
Vacation Bible School Jennifer Rinehart	President .....John Britton
God Squad.....Mark Schanzenbach	Secretary .....Jeff Karl
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**Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.      Worship, 10:00 a.m.**  
**Communion First Sunday Of The Month**