

Hilltop News

St. Paul Lutheran Church

November/December

2025



St. Paul Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 157
Sulphur Springs, OH 44881
Church Office: 419-562-5858
Pastors Brodie & Andrea Taphorn

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever." Psalm 107:1

People so Dearly Loved by God,

It's hard to believe we're already in the final months of the year, but here we are! I am writing with a feeling of joyful anticipation for the months to come. We will celebrate so much together in November and December, with All Saints Day, Christ the King Sunday, Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas. This is a time of year where we gather in gratitude, reflect on the blessings we have received, and look forward to the hope that comes from the Light of the World, Jesus! As we journey through this season, may we find comfort in community, strength in faith, and joy in the promise of God's enduring love that saves us, grounds us, holds us, and sustains us all.

It's also a time for joyful giving. For the first three weeks of November, we will be collecting ten-ounce cans of cut green beans to donate to the Backpack Program, which provides weekend meals to students who might otherwise go hungry. Our goal is 500 cans! Your generosity will help ensure that children in our community have nourishing meals over the weekend- a simple act that makes a profound difference. This is just one of the many ways you can give to our community during this season!

Most of all, this is a time of year to hear with relief the good news of the gospel. God has come to us! His love knows no bounds. The God of the universe put on skin and moved into the neighborhood! *"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."* (Luke 2:11) God has come to claim you and name you. He's come to rescue you and forgive you. He is the light that shines in the darkness... and the darkness has not overcome it. There is no greater news to celebrate than Jesus, the hope of the world! Thanks be to God! May God's love and light fill your hearts this season.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Andrea

November Birthdays

11/02 Jim Leonhardt
11/02 Joy Britton
11/02 Kim Addison
11/03 Dave Shealy
11/04 Chris Krahling
11/04 Mary Ann McCallister
11/04 Janelle Grube
11/04 Raie Leonhardt
11/06 Adam Widman
11/08 Amelia Gendron
11/08 Jim McKeehen
11/09 Mark Shilling
11/09 Doug Heydinger
11/10 Troy Jenks
11/10 Kimberly Leonhardt
11/12 Kael Scott
11/12 Michele Breyley
11/13 Caleb Newcome
11/13 Jim Luidhardt
11/14 Suzanne Green
11/14 Mike Schimpf
11/14 Victoria Donnersbach
11/15 Tyson Sutherland
11/15 Kyle Ulmer
11/18 Sharon Shealy
11/19 Janet Richards
11/19 Seth Reffey
11/19 Kasey Teynor
11/21 Gene Crabaugh
11/22 Lindsay Mosley
11/22 Brantley Britton
11/26 Jordan Rosales
11/28 Clifford Beck 111
11/29 Cindy Hopkins
11/29 Rhiley Leonhardt
11/30 Rebecca Morrison
11/30 Krista Carson
11/30 Kayla Kline
11/30 Dawson Lykens
11/30 Aubrey Feichtner

November Anniversaries

11/14 Tom & Pam Vann
11/17 Dan & Deb Feichtner
11/17 Alan & Neely Young
11/27 Jeff & Deb Karl

December Birthdays

12/01 Jameson Rosales
12/02 Craig Brause
12/04 Betty Vance
12/04 Christene Johnson
12/07 Tom Vann
12/08 Chi Lykens
12/08 Gary Crabaugh
12/09 Tom Kibler
12/11 Susan Gaeta
12/11 Dwight Leonhardt
12/15 Geneva Cleland
12/15 Laura Ackerman
12/17 Dave Robertson
12/18 Brodie Taphorn
12/18 Andrea Taphorn
12/20 Lynn Noe
12/20 Joey Jenks
12/21 Andrew Geiger
12/21 Robert Leonhardt
12/22 Roxanne Shipman
12/22 Kathleen Seifert
12/24 Tom Bush
12/24 Albert Green
12/27 Michael Shipman
12/29 Lydia Ackerman
12/31 Marilyn Long
12/31 Dylan Scott
12/31 Daniel Scott
12/31 Quintin Beck

December Anniversaries

12/05 Carl & Jennifer Rinehart
12/20 Jim & Peggy Gearhart

St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Minutes

August 10, 2025

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

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

Treasurer's Report: Susie shared that the checking account balance was \$31,853.07 on July 31, 2025, with all bills current. Susie noted that some still give to special projects. Confirmed that pastor's workman's comp is paid for year. It was noted the interest off the CD is going into the checking. John paid summer fill propane to Schilling @\$1.559/gal for both parsonage and church (contract is \$1.699/gal). Water service into the parsonage was \$2558.27.

Doug Ebbeskotte motioned to approve report, and Dan Feichtner seconded. Motion passed.

Elder's Report: Looking at preparing next ballot for those whose council terms are coming to an end.

Deacon's Report: In July, \$12,427.10 was given to current funds, with a year-to-date total of \$163,030.41 across all accounts. Average Sunday attendance was 95 (80 communed).

Trustee's Report: Discussed potential trip hazard by the altar and if it needs attention. Discussed vestibule door seal and if it needs weather sealed. Shared update on project to improve west parking and landscaping by the mini splits. Set trap at parsonage and sprayed for bees. Discussed looking at the siding, windows, and driveway for potential projects. Thank you to Kenny Geiger for helping trim the parsonage bushes.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Brodie shared that he is providing pulpit fill to area churches and is looking for full time work. Pastor Andrea is the full-time pastor at St. Paul's. It was noted that the pastors now have Tri-care health insurance thru the Navy. An update was provided from the NALC gathering Aug 6-8 in Pittsburgh, PA.

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

Old Business: Motion to direct pay water bill made by Mark Ebbeskotte and seconded by Jim Luidhardt. Motion passed. Motion to donate \$250 to daily bread made by Mike Geiger and seconded by Jim Luidhardt. Motion passed.

New Business: No new business discussed.

The next council meeting will be **Sunday, Sept. 14** after worship. With no further business, the meeting closed with the Lord's prayer.

Jeff Karl
Secretary

St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Minutes
September 14, 2025

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

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

Treasurer's Report: Susie shared that the checking account balance was \$34,624.68 on August 31, 2025, with all bills current. Still waiting for a water bill to come in for the parsonage. Church to reimburse Pastor Andrea for their medical insurance.

Mark Ebbeskotte motioned to approve report, and Dan Feichtner seconded. Motion passed.

Elder's Report: Nothing to report.

Deacon's Report: In August, \$12,412.00 was given to current funds, with a year-to-date total of \$179,302.49 across all accounts. Average Sunday attendance was 98.6 (86 communed).

Trustee's Report: Water leak fixed at parsonage. Had issue with hot water heater. Reset seems to be helping. Edged sidewalks. Need to check screens to see if any need fixed to keep bats out.

Pastor's Report: Discussed updates to church website, reading names on All Saints Day, having a church calendar for planning events, permanent meeting room in the church for use by council and other church organizations, youth group leadership recruitment, bible study offerings for the year, Christmas Eve Service time, NALC Constitutional amendments vote now needs to go to congregations for approval, Pastor Andrea's upcoming vacation, and the LCMC Annual gathering in Oct.

Motion to approve all reports was made by Jim Luidhardt and seconded by Mark Ebbeskotte. Motion passed.

Old Business: NALC Bishop Dan Selbo will visit St. Paul on Saturday, November 1st at 6:30pm.

New Business: Aumiller Park shelter is reserved for August 23rd, 2026. United in Harmony scheduled for St. Paul on June 28, 2026. Discussed issues with church phone service and potential options. More research is needed. Interior paint and plaster repair in the church west vestibule and other areas. Research needed to find a contractor. Over 70 Dinner set for October 26. Working with the caterer on the menu. Discussed updating the church directory and seeing if anyone would like to lead that project. Motion to give to give \$1000 to NALC Disaster Relief made by Mike Geiger and seconded by Jim Luidhardt. Motion passed.

The next council meeting will be **Sunday, Oct. 12** after worship. With no further business, the meeting closed with the Lord's prayer.

Jeff Karl
Secretary

St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Minutes

October 12, 2025

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

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

Treasurer's Report: Susie shared that the checking account balance was \$27,771.80 on September 30, 2025, with all bills current. Still waiting for a water bill to come in for the parsonage. Mike Geiger motioned to approve report, and Mark Ebbeskotte seconded. Motion passed.

Elder's Report: Nothing to report.

Deacon's Report: In September, \$12,204.10 was given to current funds, with a year-to-date total of \$196,254.75 across all accounts. Average Sunday attendance was 104 with 98 communed.

Trustee's Report: Several areas in the church need patched and painted. Planning to get quotes for council review.

Pastor's Report: Funeral for Pastor Brodie's dad will be on Oct. 25. Both Brodie and Andrea will be gone from Nov. 6-9.

Motion to approve all reports was made by Mark Ebbeskotte and seconded by Tom Bush. Motion passed.

Old Business: 1) Church Mutual Insurance - any changes due by Oct. 21, premium due in Nov. Looked at quote from Ohio Mutual to compare. Will renew with Church Mutual. 2) Following up on the Sept 28 meeting, discussed alternative phone service options to replace current land line. Doug Ebbeskotte motioned to approve bringing in Vonage to replace the current land line, adding cell cards to elevator and security system. Mike Geiger seconded. Motion passed.

New Business: 1) Determined service times for Thanksgiving Eve (7pm) and Christmas Eve (6pm). Motion was made by Mike Geiger to give Thanksgiving donations to Bucyrus Backpack program and Christmas donations to Salvation Army. Seconded by Tom Bush. Motion passed. 2) Decided that the deadline to submit bids for church jobs is Dec 1. 3) Church CD matures in Oct. Looking at options for renewing both. 4) Per prior agreement, church will be reimbursing Pastors Andrea & Brodie for 10 months of Andrea's phone and their tv expense. Cost is estimated to be less than budgeted. 5) Per agreement when the Taphorn's were called to St. Paul, church will make an additional pension contribution for 2025. This is half the money saved from lower health insurance costs. (Approx \$2761). 6) Discussed whether to secure the church when folks are on premises. 7) Received membership transfer request from Dwight, Patricia, and Jacquelyn Lust. Motion to approve was made by Mike Geiger and seconded by Tom Bush. Motion passed. Also, the Sunday after council meeting, council members received a membership transfer request from Dana Blankenship. Motion to approve was made by Mark Ebbeskotte and seconded by Tom Bush. Motion passed.

The next council meeting will be **Sunday, Nov. 16** after worship. 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 Sept. 22, 2025 at 6:30pm at the church. Six members were present.

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

Helen reported that the women of church have a balance of \$3308.40 in our account as of today with several bills to pay. Motion was made by June to accept the report and Janelle seconded. Motion passed.

Discussed cleaning out the sewing closet. God Squad asked about storage space.

A fellowship hour will be held on Sept. 28 after church. There is a signup sheet for the remainder of the year.

The women's group is planning a fall festival which will be held at the parsonage on Oct. 19. We will have hot dogs, smores, drinks and everyone will be asked to bring a snack to share.

Nov. 23 will be Thank offering Sunday. Will ask for women of the congregation to bake pies for a fellowship hour after church that day. June is working on the Thank offering envelopes. We decided the money from the Thank offering envelopes will be given to Father's Heart Healing Center, which is a soup kitchen in Bucyrus on Woodlawn Avenue that serves meals 4 evenings each week.

Starting Nov. 2, we will be collecting 10 oz cans of cut green beans which will be donated to the backpack program. We will collect for 3 weeks. A collection box will be set up at the church. The goal for our church is to collect 500 cans of green beans.

Women's Christmas party will be held on Dec. 3. Discussed various activities.

It was decided that we will not do the Samaritans Purse shoe boxes this year.

The church is planning an organizational meeting in November and asked for a representative from the women's group to attend.

Janelle shared that she and some other teachers are taking a group of students from Mansfield Christian on a mission trip in March 2026. June's granddaughter is one of the students going. We will be collecting old suitcases for this trip.

The next meeting will be held on Nov. 17 at 6pm and Jen will have devotions.

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

Laura Ackerman, Secretary

There has been some interest in a new photo church directory. Our last one was 2016. If you would be interested in leading or helping with a new directory contact Jim Luidhardt or John Britton or any council member.

We welcome Dwight, Patty and Jackie Lust to St. Paul. They transferred from Martin Luther Church.

Also we welcome Dana Blankenship. She is transferring from St. Paul Lutheran, Bucyrus.

On Saturday, November 1st Bishop Dan Selbo will be visiting St. Paul at 6:30. There will be a Dessert Reception with his presentation and Question & Answer time. All are invited to attend to meet the Bishop of our NALC District.

All Saints Day is Sunday, November 2. We will be remembering members who have passed away last year. Also names of loved ones from families will be read and remembered during the service.

Beginning November 2 Women of the Church will be collecting 10 oz. cans of green beans. They will be given to the Backpack program. A collection box will be set up at the church. The goal is to collect 500 cans of green beans.

November 23 will be Thank offering Sunday. Thank Offering envelopes will be given to Father's Healing Heart Center. Women of the Church will be having a fellowship hour after worship.

The Women's Christmas party will be held December 3. Watch the bulletin for more details.

December 4 God Squad will be having a combined meeting with all organizations and anyone who would like to attend. The calendar for next year will be reviewed.

Thanksgiving Eve is November 26 with worship at 7 PM. Offering will be given to the Bucyrus Backpack Program.

Christmas Eve Service with communion will be at 6 PM. Offering will be given to The Salvation Army.

Remember our Shut in and Homebound Members

Trustwell Living Carlisle Place

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

Trustwell Living Carlisle Place

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

Trustwell Living Carlisle Place

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

Trustwell Living Carlisle Place

Walter Schimpf Birthday March 16
1721 Whetstone St. Room 111
Bucyrus Oh 44820

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

Wyandot County Skilled Nursing and Rehab Center

Florice Leonhardt Birthday April 25
Wyandot Cuntly Skilled Nursing and Rehab Center
7830 St. Rt. 199
Upper Sandusky, Oh 43351

Committees for November

Altar: Joy Britton
Greeter: Phyllis Hinamon
Visiting:
Food: Bev Robertson, Phyllis Hinamon

Committees for December

Altar: Amber Robertson
Greeter: Joyce Schanzenbach
Visiting:
Food:

We extend our sympathy to Jim & Helen Luidhardt on the death of Helen's mother, Maxine Keller. She passed away September 11. Also to Steve and Judy Brause on the death of their sister, Sharon. She passed away September 10.
To Pastor Brodie and Andrea on the death of Brodie's dad, John. He passed away October 6.

Walter Schimpf is now residing at Trustwell Living Carlisle Place in Bucyrus.

Florice Leonhardt is residing at Wyandot County Skilled Nursing and Rehab Center, 7830 St. Rt. 199 Upper Sandusky, Oh 43351

November 2025

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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November/December 2025

Church Staff

Andrea & Brodie Taphorn..... Pastors
 David Halsey.....Lay Assistant
 Joyce Schanzenbach.....Secretary
 Kathy Sheets.....Organist
 Karen Schimpf.....Assistant Organist
 Susie Sutherland.....Bookkeeper
 Roxanne Shipman.....Choir
 Cindy Hopkins.....Bell Choir
 Jill Rittenour.....Sunday School Superintendent
President, Women of Church
 Amber Robertson.... Youth Advisor
 God Squad.....Mark Schanzenbach
 Eric Kocher.....Custodian
 Church Telephone: (419) 562-5858
 Parsonage Phone: (419) 562-5262
 E-MAIL:stpaul Lutheran@embarqmail.com
 Web Page: www.stpaulsulphur.com

Congregational Council

John Britton	Jim Crabaugh
Mark Ebbeskotte	Jim Luidhardt
Tom Bush	Doug Ebbeskotte
Mike Grube	Mike Geiger
Jeff Karl	Dan Feichtner

Congregational Officers

President	John Britton
Secretary	Jeff Karl
Treasurer	Jim Luidhardt
Assistant Treasurer.....	Mike Grube

"Hilltop News" is published by the community of faith
 at St. Paul Lutheran Church,
 4707 Ridgeton Rd., Sulphur Springs, OH 44881
Sunday School, 9:00 a.m. Worship, 10:00 a.m.
Communion First Sunday Of The Month