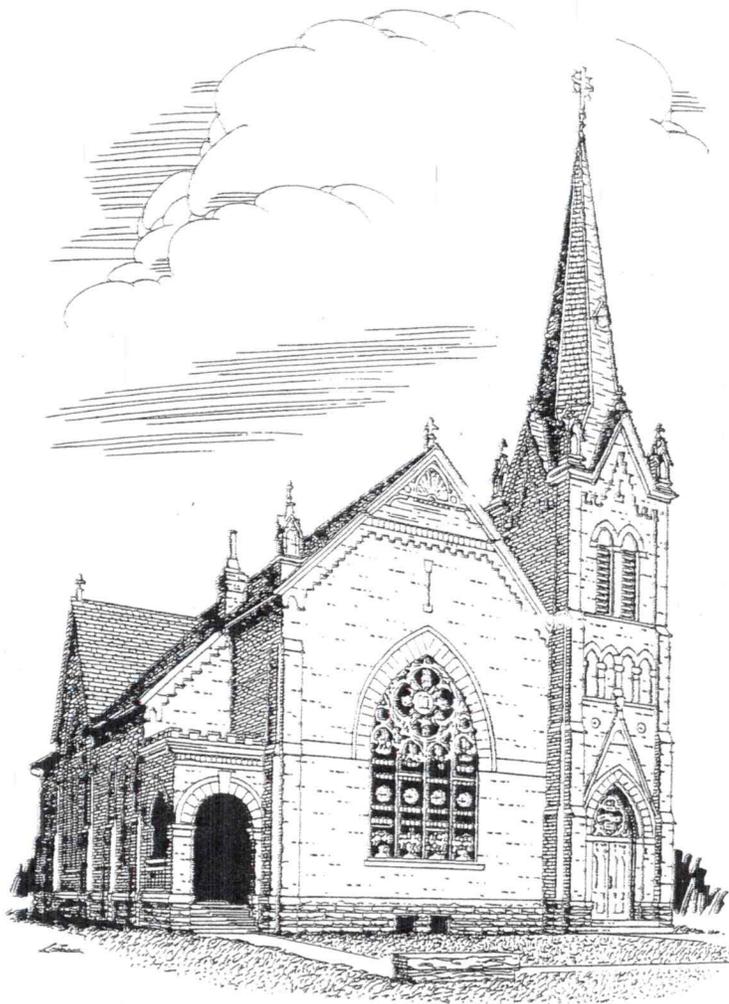


**Hilltop News**  
**St. Paul Lutheran Church**  
**September/October 2025**



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

*"You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance." Ps. 65:11*

People so Dearly Loved by God,

Can you believe that summer is fading, and fall will soon be upon us? Schools are back in session. And football season is here! A delight for Brodie, and I'm sure many of you as well. Fall has always been one of my favorite times of the year. We spent years of our lives where we could see corn fields from our kitchen windows and watch the work of the harvest happening in front of us. Now we have a hay field to watch out our kitchen window! Fall has always signified in my heart, a time of abundance, of celebration, of sharing in the store house of gifts that have been gleaned from fields and orchards. The work done all year that almost looks like it will do nothing, now, in this season, is shown for its worth. God uses the soil, along with sunshine and seeds and rain to produce abundant fruit. And it is a miracle that happens every year. Of course, I'm not a farmer. But together, as the family of God, we have a harvest to celebrate together. We have a harvest of fruit in the gospel at St. Paul Lutheran. 187 years of it! And Jesus is so faithful. So unbelievably faithful. So, take heart. His store house of grace never has a bad year. It's always overflowing.

We can usually see God's faithfulness in hindsight, and being new here, it is awesome to be pulled into the family and hear the stories from all the years of God's faithfulness here. It is a store house of grace. Full to the brim and overflowing. And I have not tired yet in hearing the great stories of God's faithfulness to so many people at St. Paul. And I don't imagine I ever will. When families gather, it is so good to share in the faithfulness of God throughout our history together. As we do this, I also invite you to join in the continued present work of God today in and amongst us. God does His miracle work in such unassuming ways. In the present, His work can almost be missed because it can feel unimportant. But God births miracles in us through the small routines of regular worship and instruction. When our children come up to hear the Children's sermon and fold their hands in prayer. I wish you could see their faces. It's like watching a miracle in front of you.

At the end of the day, anyone who plants fields must trust that soil, seed, sun and rain birth a miracle. And we too look to quite unremarkable things to create transformation in us: things like Sunday morning worship and Sunday School, things like bread and wine at the communion table, things like the waters of baptism and the hearing of God's promise for you! We gather and God does His planting work in our hearts. And His Word does not fail. He plants in us news that is different than every other message planted in us all week. He speaks to our stony hearts, full of weeds of anxiety and thorny distractions. He says to us anew: You are not alone. You are a child of God in the family of God. You are forgiven and free because of Jesus. Remarkably, He creates in us hearts of faith that produce abundantly for our neighbor.

Praise God for He is still a God doing miracles today!

Pastor Andrea

## September Birthdays

9/02 Mike Geiger  
9/02 Wyatt Geiger  
9/03 Linda Heydinger  
9/05 Mat Newcome  
9/05 James Noe  
9/06 Darcy Green  
9/07 Madison Rinehart  
9/09 Morgan Shipman  
9/09 Silas Taphorn  
9/12 Ryan Armstrong  
9/12 Joyce Durigg  
9/12 Betty Jo Billings  
9/15 Madison Britt  
9/15 Sophia Beck  
9/15 Helen Luidhardt  
9/18 Cieara Pfeifer  
9/18 Brian Evak  
9/19 Kristy Noe  
9/19 Charles Brinkman  
9/19 Joyce Bloomfield  
9/19 Teresa Bush  
9/20 Margaret Brinkman  
9/20 Janet Harer  
9/21 Amber Robertson  
9/21 Alexis (Evak) Custenborder  
9/22 Emma Kocher  
9/22 Marcia Newcome  
9/23 Catherine Miller  
9/23 Linda Peppard  
9/23 Timothy LaRue  
9/25 Audrey Risner  
9/25 Sandy Erwin  
9/26 Henry Powell  
9/27 Chelsea Mosley  
9/28 Karis Rittenour  
9/29 Amy Glover  
9/29 Kristine Widman  
9/30 Cheyenne Johnson

## September Anniversaries

9/01 Timothy & Catherine Miller  
9/01 Steven & Jill Rittenour  
9/02 Tom & Kristine Widman  
9/02 Joe & Shelbie Neptune  
9/08 Tom & Teresa Bush  
9/14 Todd & Kelly Cole  
9/21 Bob & Tonya Geiger  
9/29 Larry & Audrey Risner

## October Birthdays

10/02 Kaitlyn Geiger  
10/02 Ramon Durigg  
10/04 Karen Schimpf  
10/05 Jenny Leonhardt  
10/05 Lucy Brennamen  
10/05 Nora Brennamen  
10/06 Shelbie Neptunre  
10/06 Gwendolyn Ehrman  
10/06 Shayne Kleinhoffer  
10/07 Braxton Cole  
10/08 Sam Hopkins  
10/09 Lynn Kocher  
10/10 Jennifer McCutchen  
10/10 Jeff Karl  
10/12 Mike Hall  
10/12 Kathy Edwards  
10/14 Browyn Leonhardt  
10/19 Shepard Plamann  
10/20 Joyce Schanzenbach  
10/21 Julie Rosales  
10/24 Abby Taphorn  
10/26 Kate Britton  
10/26 April Larabee  
10/31 Kelly Cole

## October Anniversaries

10/01 Rhiley & Danielle Leonhardt  
10/03 Todd & Betty Jo Billings  
10/04 Jim & Melissa Shade  
10/08 Shawn & Susan Auck  
10/18 Rex & Aileen Plamann  
10/19 John & Joy Britton  
10/21 Mike & Angie Hall  
10/22 Ron & Phyllis Hinamon  
10/29 Lito & Julie Rosales

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

The Women's executive board members met on June 30, 2025 at 6:30pm at the church. Five members were present.

Amber called the meeting to order and Jen 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 Jen seconded. Motion passed.

Helen reported that the women of church have a balance of \$3359.90 in our account as of today with several bills to pay.

2024 Thank offering money was donated to: missionary that the church supports, Voice of Hope, and Crawford County Chargers.

A combined fellowship hour was held on June 8 to honor the high school and college graduates and to celebrate the Taphorn's installation.

Discussed ideas for an Acts of Kindness Day to be held on Oct 19. More details to come.

Thank Offering Sunday will be held on Nov. 23. Discussed how women could participate in the service. Thank Offering envelopes will be passed out soon. Will check with backpack program about another canned food drive.

The Christmas Party will be held Wednesday Dec. 3 and those attending should bring an appetizer to share.

Decided to have a fellowship hour the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month starting in September. Will post a sign up sheet for various groups to be in charge. Women's Board will be in charge for September.

Also, we will need some new members for next year's board.

A thank you note from Lydia Ackerman was read.

The next meeting will be held on Sept. 22 at 6:30.

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

Laura Ackerman

Secretary

St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Minutes

July 9, 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, Jim Luidhardt, John Britton and Jeff Karl. Pastor Andrea and Susie Sutherland were also present. Devotions were given by Mike Geiger.

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

Treasurer's Report: Susie shared that the checking account balance was \$44,091.50 on June 30, 2025, with all bills current. Dan Feichtner motioned to pay Pastors Brodie and Andrea's workman's comp, and Tom Bush seconded. Motion passed. Dan Feichtner motioned to contract 5000 gallons propane for the church (provider TBD) and 1000 gallons thru Schilling for the parsonage, Mark Ebbeskotte seconded. Motion passed. Discussed electric bills since the new A/C went in. Also discussed the cost of the light across the road and potentially cancelling that service from the utility company. Jim Luidhardt motioned to approve report, and Doug Ebbeskotte seconded. Motion passed.

Elder's Report: Nothing to report.

Deacon's Report: In May, \$13,352.15 was given to current funds, with a year-to-date total of \$129,048.71 across all accounts; in June, \$12,877.10 was given, totaling \$146,607.51 YTD. Average Sunday attendance was 110 (103 communed) in May and 93 (78 communed) in June.

Trustee's Report: Discussed options for putting stone on the west parking lot as well as around the new mini-split units. Mike G to spray the grass with Roundup around the church.

Pastor's Report: Pastors provided updates. Pentti and Jane Maki requested a transfer to St. Paul's. Brodie is updating the website with Sam Hopkins and will be at drill weekends July 12-13 and Aug 2-3. Pastor Andrea reported on the NALC National Gathering.

Motion to approve all reports was made by Jim Luidhardt and seconded by Dan Feichtner. Motion passed.

Old Business: John outlined steps to bring city water to the parsonage. Church insurance covers \$4,460,202 for the church (actual value: \$2,406,386), \$669,030 for contents (actual: \$360,957), and \$346,220 for the parsonage (actual: \$186,079). Switching to actual value coverage could save about \$4,357 per year. John and Dan to look at more options from other insurance companies.

New Business: Elevator passed annual inspection. Julia Evak is the recipient of the Robert and Ruby Schimpf scholarship this year. Recognition is scheduled for Sunday. Discussions held on donating to Our Daily Bread. Discussed the potential need for potential safety and security training classes for church leaders.

The next council meeting will be **Sunday, Aug. 10** after worship. With no further business, the meeting closed with the Lord's prayer.

Jeff Karl  
Secretary

Remember our Shut in and Homebound Members

**Carlisle Place**

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

**Westbrook Assisted Living**

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

**Carlisle Place**

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

**At Home**

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

**Carlisle Place**

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

**Committees for September**

Altar: Jennifer Rinehart and Cindy Hopkins  
Greeter: Deb Feichtner  
Visiting:  
Food:

**Committees for October**

Altar: Michele Breyley  
Greeter: Jennifer Rinehart and Cindy Hopkins  
Visiting:  
Food: Helen Luidhardt and Marilyn Long

Congratulations to Jerod & Tori Furr on the birth of their daughter, Willow Mae. She was born June 25, 2025. Ron & Roxanne Shipman are the great grandparents. She was baptized July 20, 2025.

Kayla Dorsey Stuckert, great granddaughter of Dick & Betty Vance was baptized August 21, 2025 after worship.

We extend our sympathy to: Janelle Grube on the death of her mother in June 2025  
Joyce Bloomfield on the death of her sister, Sally Hall. She passed away June 23, 2025.  
Cindy Markley on the death of her brother, Ron Wells. He passed away July 14, 2025  
Carl Reinhart on the death of his sister Renae on July 26, 2025.

Bishop Dan Selbo will be visiting St. Paul on Saturday, November 1 at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome to come. Watch your bulletin for more information.

Over 70's Dinner will be held on October 26 immediately after worship. Watch the bulletin for more information.

The Robert & Ruby Schimpf scholarship was given to Julia Evak.

God Squad will be having Luther Uncorked at Pete's in New Washington on September 11. It will begin at 6:30. Join us for an evening of food, fellowship and discussion. All are welcome.

God Squad will be having their annual Pancake Breakfast on September 13. This year it will be held at the church.

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
Thank you for your generous gift to the Chatfield Community Food Pantry Your steadfast support of this ministry is much appreciated. God Bless you,  
The Food Pantry Team

St. Paul Lutheran Church,  
Thank you for your gift of \$1,055.00 . Your support helps as World Mission Prayer League global workers share the gospel .  
Didi & Serafina Panzo, Support Fund.

St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Thank you for your donation of \$472.71 to the Father's Heart Healing Center.

Dear Church Members,  
On behalf of the members of the Filling Homes community, let me express our heartfelt gratitude for your incredible generosity and support.  
We are beyond grateful for your continued support and kind gift of \$640.00. Such a blessing for our organization!  
Warmest regards in Christ,  
Carol Slight, Vice President.

Dear Valued Friends,  
On behalf of everyone at Genacross Lutheran Services, we want to express our sincere gratitude for your recent donation of \$515.00 for our General Fund. Your support means the world to us and impacts the lives of our Genacross family. With your help we have been able to serve over 1700 residents patients and clients with 372 staff.  
With sincere thanks,  
Michael A George, CFRE

Dear Friends,  
Thank you for your partnership in the ministry of Luther Home of Mercy and your recent gift of \$545.00. Your generosity impacts lives, provides opportunities for achieving goals and also allows those we serve to have fun!  
Thank you for your ongoing support.  
Sincerely,  
Megan O'Brien, Vice President  
Melissa Gregg, Director of Mission Advancement

# September 2025

## Monthly Planner

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**September/October 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:stpaulslutheran@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**