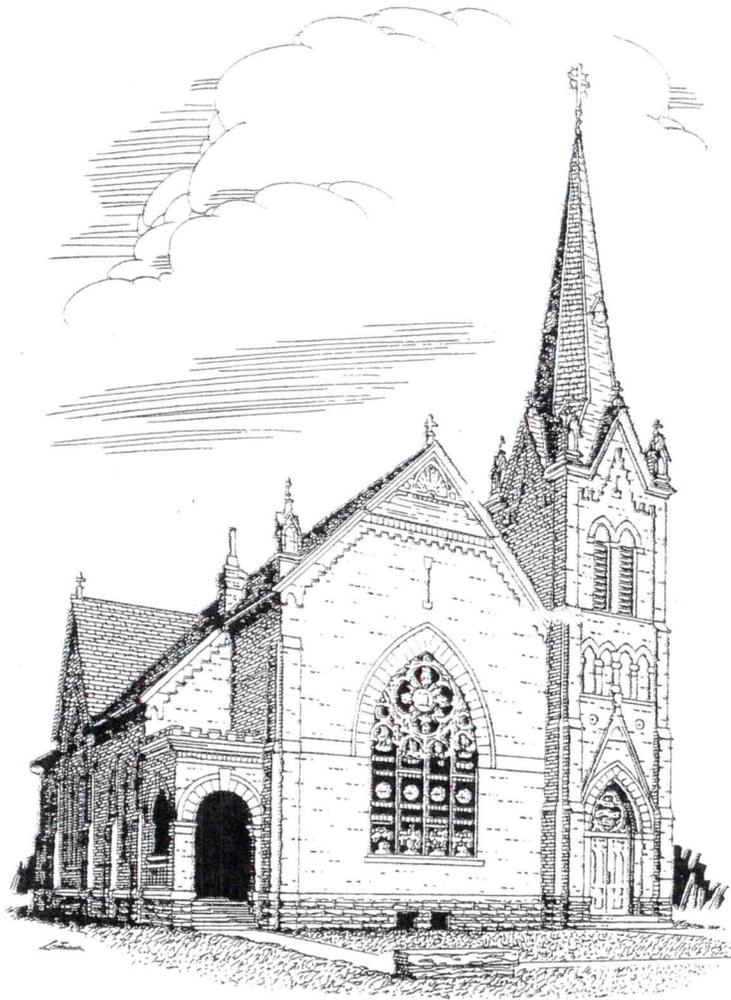


# Hilltop News

St. Paul Lutheran Church  
January/February 2026



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

*"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning. Great is your faithfulness." Lamentations 3:22-23*

People so dearly loved by God,

As we welcome 2026, many of us set out in the grand tradition of setting New Year's resolutions—goals that depend on our own willpower and determination. I enjoy this tradition, even though many are forgotten or abandoned by February. It humbles me to realize how quickly resolve can fade. But it doesn't deter me from enjoying the tradition anyway! In the process, I find gratitude wells up in me, because of the bedrock truth that our foundation for life is Christ. His faithfulness to us, His determination to give us mercy far outpaces our meager attempts at change.

Last year at this time, our St. Paul family was prayerfully voting on new pastors, seeking God's guidance for the future, praying for God's faithfulness to His church to remain. Brodie and I were doing the same from San Diego. Today, we begin this new year with joy and thanksgiving, celebrating the last ten months of ministry together with Brodie and myself as your pastors. What a testament to God's faithfulness! He has carried us through seasons of transition, growth, and new beginnings—not because of our own strength, but because of His steadfast love and grace. Scripture reminds us, "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning. Great is your faithfulness." (Lamentations 3:22-23). As a church family, let's enter 2026 not with anxiety over what we must accomplish, but with confidence in what God has already done and will continue to do. Let's encourage one another to rest in His faithfulness, to seek His guidance, and to celebrate the new mercies He provides each day.

This January may our greatest resolution be to trust more deeply in God's goodness, to walk in faith rather than fear, and to remember that our hope for the future is anchored not in ourselves, but in Him.

Happy New Year, St. Paul! May God's faithfulness carry us all through 2026!

Pastor Andrea

### January Birthdays

1/01 Darren Pfeifer  
1/01 Tina Seiler  
1/03 Dan Feichtner  
1/05 Richard Schanzenbach  
1/10 Steve Brause  
1/11 Savonna Perroud  
1/14 Irene Martin  
1/15 Becky Auck  
1/15 Karen Beck  
1/15 Mandalyn Heckelman  
1/15 Bob Seigel  
1/18 June Geiger  
1/19 Travis Leonhardt  
1/19 Steve Kocher  
1/20 Rochelle Leonhardt  
1/20 John Leonhardt  
1/20 Cindy Markley  
1/21 Ben Ackerman  
1/22 Marvin Kocher  
1/22 Cody Ulmer  
1/23 Darrin Feichtner  
1/24 Adalyn Gilbert  
1/24 Jacob Grau  
1/24 Becky Webber  
1/25 Christine Shealy  
1/27 Reegan Leonhardt  
1/27 Jane Maki  
1/28 Angie Booth  
1/30 Todd Reffey

### January Anniversaries

1/24 John & Linda Pfeiderer

### February Birthdays

2/01 Keith Britton  
2/01 Jim Gearhart  
2/02 Michael Grube  
2/03 Carolyn Taphorn  
2/04 Danielle Gaeta  
2/05 Jerad Seif  
2/05 Timothy Miller  
2/05 Kyle Jenks  
2/06 Dennis Cleland  
2/07 Nathan Bloomfield  
2/08 Jill Rittenour  
2/08 Allison Johnson  
2/09 Beth Peace  
2/09 Ryan Main, Jr.  
2/10 Ronald Hinamon  
2/12 Emery Plamann  
2/15 Tyler Rittenhour  
2/16 Vivian Sutherland  
2/17 Carl Rinehart  
2/18 Mark Schanzenbach  
2/19 Andrea O'Connor  
2/19 Shelly Kocher  
2/21 Stephnie Scott  
2/21 Abigail Karl  
2/23 Shawn Leonhardt  
2/24 Jason Geiger  
2/24 Adam Grau  
2/26 Jennifer Rinehart  
2/27 Terry Pfeiderer  
2/27 Brian Morrison  
2/28 Sarah Leonhardt

### February Anniversaries

2/05 Tom & Nan Kibler  
2/07 Richard & Janet Harer  
2/10 Aaron & Charlie Britt  
2/22 Charles & Margaret Brinkman  
2/23 Russell & Michele Breyley  
2/27 Eric & Shelly Kocher

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

The Women's executive board members met on Nov. 17, 2025 at 6pm at the church. Eight 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. Motion was made by Janelle to accept the report and June seconded. Motion passed.

There was no treasurer's report.

We discussed the fall festival held at the church on Oct. 19. Approximately 46 attended and we had a lot of positive comments.

Thank offering Sunday will be held on Sunday Nov. 23. We are collecting cans of green beans for the backpack program. Kathy Wells will share about the Backpack program during the service. The money received from the Thank offering envelopes will be donated to Father's Heart Healing Center. Special events for Sunday: June will offer a welcome and introduction, we have contacted 3 ladies to be readers for the service, a woman's chorus will provide special music, and we will have some of the younger girls carry up the Thank offering envelopes. The women are also hosting a coffee hour after church.

The Woman's Christmas party will be held on Wed. Dec. 3 at 6:30pm. Each woman is asked to bring an appetizer or dessert to share. The title for the evening will be That's a Wrap. We will be wrapping gifts that are being purchased by the congregation for a local family. We are to bring any extra wrapping paper and gift bags that we have, and Shelly will also purchase several new rolls of paper. During the program we will also have a short meeting and Janelle will lead the memorial service. We are still in need of several women to volunteer for officers for next year's board.

God Squad asked for a representative from the woman's board to attend an organizational meeting on Dec. 4 at 7pm to make plans for events next year.

Amber will also share about the duties chart and post for everyone to sign up for visiting, altar, greeters, and food for next year.

The next meeting will be held on Jan. 12 at 6pm.

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

We then went upstairs and decorated the sanctuary for Thank Offering Sunday.

Laura Ackerman  
Secretary

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

Treasurer's Books need to be turned in by January 18., 2026 for the auditing committee.

St. Paul Annual meeting will be held on February 1, 2026 for this year.. All reports must be in the Church office by January 18 to allow time for printing.

Christmas Decorations will be taken down immediately after worship on January 4. Those wishing can meet at Bakers for our annual pizza lunch.

God Squad will be having their Luther Uncorked gathering at Pete's Café in New Washington, on January 8th at 6 PM. Anyone is welcome to join them for dinner, fellowship and conversation.

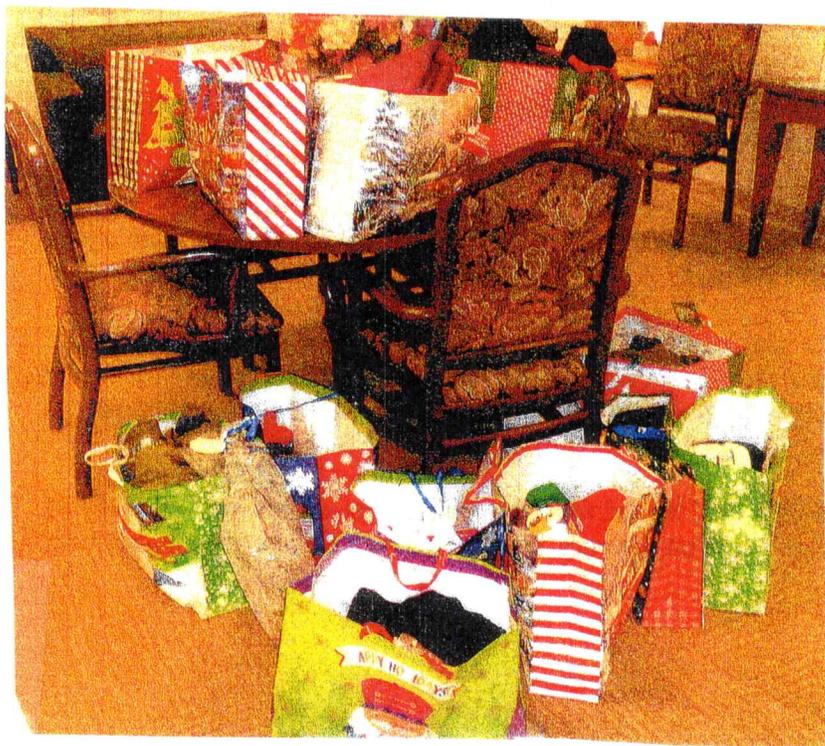
Everyone is welcome to join God Squad for their game night on January 29 at 4 PM. Pizza will be served. Their January meeting will be at 7 PM on January 29. The meeting are open to anyone wanting to attend.

Committees for January Altar: Dan & Deb Feichtner  
Greeter: Jim & Melissa Shade  
Food: June Geiger  
Visiting:

Committees for February Altar: Rich & Chris Krahlung  
Greeter: Eric & Shelly Kocher  
Food:  
Visiting:

Lent begins on February 18 with Ash Wednesday. Lenten Suppers will be held before the services each Week. Worship services will begin at 7. Offering on Ash Wednesday will be given to St. Paul Women of the Church. Maundy Thursday offering will be given to LifeWise. The remainder of the Lenten service Offering will be divided between American Cancer Society Road to Recovery, Salvation Army and BORN.

We welcome Tami Crum to our St. Paul Church Family. She is transferring from Good Hope Lutheran Bucyrus.



Christmas Gifts that were purchased by St. Paul. They were taken to Luther Home of Mercy. They were thankful and appreciated them. Thank you to all the shoppers who made this possible.

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 Council Minutes

November 16, 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, and Jeff Karl. Pastors Andrea and Brodie and Susie Sutherland were also present. Devotions were given by Dan Feichtner.

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 \$25,061.09 on October 31, 2025, with all bills current. Church Windows SW support needs updated. Discussed how to budget TV/phone/cable for parsonage. Dan Feichtner motioned to approve report, and Mark Ebbeskotte seconded. Motion passed.

Elder's Report: Getting nominees lined up for open council positions.

Deacon's Report: In October, \$12,183.00 was given to current funds, with a year-to-date total of \$211,604.03 across all accounts. Average Sunday attendance was 106 with 95 communed.

Trustee's Report: Jim Crabaugh pressure washed the sign out front. Discussed potential electrical changes for the new mini-split HVAC units and whether the units should be used to backup or supplement the boiler. Boiler needs annual maintenance setup. New pole light put up by church. Noted that the pole is wore out and needs replaced. Discussed a couple windows that have air leaks and need looked at.

Pastor's Report: Shared monthly update. LCMC ministry board meeting in MN is Feb 25-27.

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

Old Business: NALC constitutional amendments will need 50% church congregation vote at the annual meeting. Reviewed quotes for plaster repair and painting for next summer.

New Business: 1) Reviewed dates for upcoming events. 2) Fall cleanup date – 11/28 @8am. 3) Two donations made: a) \$500 from Pastor Brodie's dad's funeral to go to special projects. b) \$4000 anonymous donation (\$2000 towards special projects and \$2000 towards Gideons, Lifewise, Feed Crawford Co., Salvation Army, and Bucyrus Backpack. \$400 each.) 4) Decided to move \$2000 into flower CD from current to get a much better interest rate. Motion to approve was made by Dan Feichtner and seconded by Jim Luidhardt. Motion passed. 5) Discussed upcoming budget meeting. 6) God Squad meeting – Dec 4<sup>th</sup>. 7) Discussed the available adopt a Seminarian program. 8) NALC is asking churches to budget 5-7% to them. Discussed that church already gives generously to the NALC.

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

Jeff Karl  
Secretary

St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Minutes  
December 14, 2026

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

Secretary's Report: Dan moved Mike Grube second to accept minutes as printed. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Susie reported all bills current with a checking account balance of \$32,394.62. Mark moved Tom second to accept treasurer's report. Motion passed.

Elders Report: Mark mentioned the ballot still needs a few people.

Deacons Report: Doug reported giving for current \$15,202.60 with total for November of \$24,988.27. November 2 100 communed, 49 for Thanksgiving Eve. Average attendance per Sunday was 100.

Trustee Report: Dan and Bob Geiger checked bell tower, some louvers needed to be refastened in few places. Parsonage water heater needed new thermostats and elements. Some lights in fellowship hall have been converted to LED. Thanks Bob.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Andrea visited our shut-ins and communed. Discussion of maybe next Christmas Eve to bring back individual candle lighting for the last song of service. Pastor Brodie will be attending officer development training for the Navy March 29-May 1, 2026. Motion to approve the above reports moved by Tom second by Mike Geiger, motion passed. Council went over budget numbers.

Old Business: Waiting on another bid for plaster and paint repairs in church. We have 1 bid presently. Ron Zucker is doing snow removal again this year.

New Business: Jim L. moved Lenten Service be at 7:00 PM with the Ash Wednesday offering be given to Women of the Church, Maundy Thursday

offering given to LifeWise. The remainder of Lenten services will be divided between American Cancer Society Road to Recovery, Salvation Army and BORN. Second by Mark. Motion passed.

Mark moved to accept transfer of Tami Crum from Good Hope Lutheran to St. Paul, second by Tom. Motion passed.

Because of a date conflict Mike Geiger moved to have annual meeting Feb 1 second by Mike Grube. Motion passed.

Jan. 18, 2026 is the date for treasurer books to be turned in for auditing committee.

Next Council meeting Jan. 11, 2026. Pastor Andrea will have devotions.

No further business. Council closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Jim Luidhardt,  
Substitute Secretary

# January 2026

## Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																											
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# February 2026

## Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Congregational meeting after worship  Sunday School 9 AM Worship 10 AM	<b>2</b> Dartball at Galion Wesley Chapel 7:30 PM	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Sunday School 9 AM Worship 10 AM	<b>9</b> Dartball bye	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Sunday School 9 AM Worship 10 AM	<b>16</b> Dartball Home with Galion First Lutheran 7:30 PM	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Ash Wednesday service 7 PM  Lenten Meal	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Sunday School 9 AM Worship 10 AM	<b>23</b> Dartball at Holy Trinity #2 7:30 PM	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Lent Worship 7 PM  Lenten Meal	<b>26</b> God Squad 7 PM	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>

Jan 2026						
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**January/February 2026**

<b>Church Staff</b>	<b>Congregational Council</b>																		
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	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>John Britton</td> <td>Jim Crabaugh</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mark Ebbeskotte</td> <td>Jim Luidhardt</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tom Bush</td> <td>Doug Ebbeskotte</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mike Grube</td> <td>Mike Geiger</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jeff Karl</td> <td>Dan Feichtner</td> </tr> </table> <p align="center"><b>Congregational Officers</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>President . . . . .</td> <td>John Britton</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Secretary . . . . .</td> <td>Jeff Karl</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Treasurer . . . . .</td> <td>Jim Luidhardt</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Assistant Treasurer.....</td> <td>Mike Grube</td> </tr> </table>	John Britton	Jim Crabaugh	Mark Ebbeskotte	Jim Luidhardt	Tom Bush	Doug Ebbeskotte	Mike Grube	Mike Geiger	Jeff Karl	Dan Feichtner	President . . . . .	John Britton	Secretary . . . . .	Jeff Karl	Treasurer . . . . .	Jim Luidhardt	Assistant Treasurer.....	Mike Grube
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"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**