

The Epistle

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

February 2025



Gathered to Go . . . to study God's Word, Worship together; and to walk with Christ by loving, serving and nurturing all God's people where ever they are and whatever their circumstances.

From Pastor Lori

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Dear Siblings in Christ,

It's February, the month of Valentines and heart-shaped boxes of candy. So, what else is a pastor to write about in her newsletter article but love?!

One of the best descriptions of love in the Bible is the passage I quoted above. They are familiar to many people because they are often read at weddings. However, the love described in this passage isn't just for married couples. It's the kind of love God calls us to show each other, our community and the world.

I have experienced this kind of love from the members of this congregation. The patience, kindness and support you have shown me since my diagnosis of breast cancer has provided me with encouragement, strength and hope. Your loving words and acts of kindness are the best kind of Valentine I could receive because they reflect the love God has for us in Jesus Christ. Thank you for showering me with this love.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Lori

A Quote from Martin Luther

"Whatever your heart clings to and confides in, that is really your God, your functional savior."

Church Council News

Stewardship and Giving, Year End Update

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

In His service,
Brian Foster

Milly's Pantry

The **Five Core Values** which have been identified by St. Paul's Council and the congregation are: Worship, Generosity, Service, Connectivity, and Hospitality. The goal which has been set for **SERVICE** has two parts. The first is the "Volunteer Want Ads" space found each month in the Epistle. This spot highlights volunteer opportunities that we might not be aware of in the community and ones we might wish to participate in. The second part of the goal is to help us as a congregation learn more about the organizations which receive our hunger offering in a given month. This goal will be met by inviting a member from the organization to share information with us during Sunday announcements and also by having a short article in the Epistle explaining about the organization.

During **February, Milly's Pantry**, a local non-profit organization will be the recipient of our local hunger offering. Milly's Pantry is located on Penn Yan's Main Street and was named in honor of Milly Bloomquist who fought tirelessly for Yates County's children. Milly's goal was to make sure every child was supported nutritionally and academically, giving each the opportunity to achieve. Milly truly believed that "no child should be left behind". Milly's Pantry, through the work of many volunteers, has continued with Milly's original goals by establishing and supporting the Weekend Back Pack Program, a Summer Food Program and the School Supply Program for the children of Yates County.

Denise Taylor will join us for worship on February 9 to share more information about Milly's Pantry and how our hunger offering helps support the goals and mission of this organization.

Social Ministry

Paul's Place

Paul's Place reminder that there are two sign-up sheets. One is for the Coffee Hour and the second one is for lunch (if two people want to share in providing the meal that is helpful too).

Hunger Offering for February

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me in.

Matthew 25:35

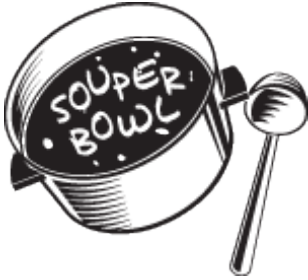
Each month we collect an offering to help feed hungry people and help hurting communities in our county and around the world. Sixty percent of the offering is used to combat world hunger. Forty percent is given to local organizations to help them “feed” people either physically, emotionally or spiritually. This month, the local part of our hunger offering will be given to **Milly's Pantry**



Your offering can be placed in the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary or mailed directly to church. Remember to designate the amount you want to give on the hunger line of your envelope or write “Hunger Offering” on the memo line of your check.

Thank you for helping to care for our neighbors near and far!

Souper Bowl



On Super Bowl Sunday we will have our “Souper Bowl Sunday”. We will collect hearty soup for the Sharing Shed and The Living Well. Chunky soup and Progresso soups are ideas. We will vote for our favorite Super Bowl team with cans of soup. Vote for the AFC team with a can of BEEF soup. Vote for the NFC team with a can of CHICKEN soup. Let’s see if our soups match the actual game. Even if not, it is for a good cause. If you have questions see Amy or Jewel. Thank you for your support.

Sharing Shed February 2025

Our Core Values of Generosity, Connectivity, and Serving are at work as you help to stock The Sharing Shed shelves, whether it be with products that you bring in or with monetary donations. Thank you to those who each month buy the things we need and fill the shelves in the community room. Thank you to those who weekly keep The Shed shelves full! Thank you all for your willingness to help care for our neighbors!

During the month of February, we would like to ask for kid-friendly canned pasta! These cans of Chef-Boy-R-Dee products seem to go quickly. All flavors are liked. The kids will be on February break so the extras will come in handy. Other things that seem to go quickly are individual packages of cookies, fruit snacks, and crackers.

February is Valentine's month as well. It is fun to put crayons, coloring books, pencils, and small items in The Shed to surprise the children as a special treat. Hats and gloves are always welcome. Thank you for your love, care, and support!



Lutheran World Relief Quilts

Our quilters have been busy, so we have used up a lot of sheets for quilt backs. If you have extra gently used sheets, bring them to church for us to use.

We would love to have more people to help us. Come and join us on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 9:00 am. We usually finish by 10:15 am. Most people can tie knots and that's what we need: knot tiers. For any questions, please contact Karen Malte at 607-371-3156.

Worship

February News from the Pews

Sunday February 2

Jeremiah 1:4-10

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Luke 4:21-30

Hymn of the Day: Although I Speak with Angel's Tongues ELW 644

Theme: Revealing the Glory of God

Sunday February 9

Isaiah 6:1-8

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Luke 5:1-11

Hymn of the Day: The Son of God, Our Christ ELW: 584

Theme: We are all God to reveal God's glory.

Sunday February 16

Jeremiah 17:5-10

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Luke 6:17-26

Hymn of the Day: O God, My Faithful God ELW 806

Theme: God offers power to heal us all.

Sunday February 23

Genesis 45:3-11

1 Corinthians 15:35-38; 42-50

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Luke 6:27-38

Hymn of the Day: All Creatures Worship God Most High ELW 835

Theme: Mercy! Mercy! Mercy! The gift of life giving-Spirit!

During the month of February, we continue the season of Epiphany. We hope you have noticed the Epiphany Star which replaced the Christmas wreath hanging over the altar. February 23 is the last Sunday of Epiphany and on March 2 we will celebrate Transfiguration Sunday and prepare for the Lenten season!

For the remainder of February and the Epiphany season we will begin our worship service with the Thanksgiving for Baptism. What a beautiful reminder that we are Children of God, blessed by his love to live out a life of discipleship. We continue to use the new hymn, Come and See for our Gospel Acclamation. How beautiful all our voices sound, coming together to praise and thank God for his life-giving Word. Thank you all for your willingness to learn a new hymn!

Thank you to all who have filled out the Favorite Hymn sheet. The Worship and Music team will look at your favorites and incorporate them into our worship services as the year progresses. We as a team appreciate your input into all worship services! Remember the word "liturgy" means work of the people!

What's Your Favorite Hymn?

Hymns comfort. Hymns educate. But most importantly, hymns praise God and reinforce His Word. Our hymnal is full of beautiful hymns that were written by faithful believers. Some of them go back as far as the 3rd Century. Others are by people who are still alive.

The hymns used during worship are chosen to reinforce the readings and preaching for each Sunday. Occasionally, there will be hymns that might be unfamiliar to you. That is how we learn the hymns of the church.

In order to make sure there is a good mix of hymns that might be unfamiliar as well as hymns that are familiar, we would like your input. Fill out the form on the welcome table in the narthex. The Worship and Music Committee will commit to including them throughout the year as they apply to the readings and preaching for the day or as a communion hymn.

Worship Leadership

	2/2	2/9	2/16	2/23
Assisting Ministers	Brian Foster	Dorothy Oswald	Whitney Booth	Elaine Gleason
Ushers (2)	Terry and Sallie Jensen	Terry and Sallie Jensen	Terry and Sallie Jensen	Terry and Sallie Jensen
Greeters	Dan Malte	Michael Schultz	Dan Malte	
Readers	Adrienne Foster	John Dubbs	Adrienne Foster	Becky Vaughn
Altar Guild	Ann Kirch		Ann Kirch	
Sound Board	Charlene Nielsen	Les Wood	Charlene Nielsen	Les Wood
Computer	Various Volunteers	Various Volunteers	Various Volunteers	Various Volunteers
Counters	Adrienne Foster and Ingrid Michael	Dave Nielsen and Clem Nielsen	Adrienne Foster and Ingrid Michael	Dan Malte and Clem Nielsen

Congregational Care

Parish Life Sign-up

The Parish Life Committee has a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, across from the office, for hosting a fellowship time after the church service. Individuals or a group can host. It can be coffee and cookies, just cookies, or whatever you would like! Any parish life committee member would gladly assist. We value the time we can converse with others in our church!

Winter Weather Updates

When the weather is questionable or if a weather warning has been issued by the National Weather Service/Sherriff's Department, please check your email to see if in person worship has been cancelled and to access the Zoom link. If you do not have an email address, you will receive a telephone call to inform you of the closure.



“Shower” Each Other with Messages of Love



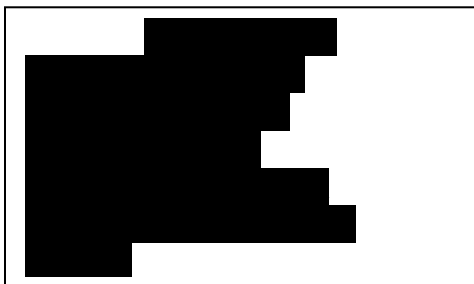
Each month, we will “shower” someone from St. Paul’s with messages of love. Please take a moment to send the person/s listed below a note of encouragement. May God use our communications to remind the recipient of God’s faithful presence and love.



Memorials

<u>Don Shaw</u>	<u>Charles</u>	<u>Christopher</u>	<u>Bev Chidsey</u>	<u>Elsie Bailey</u>	<u>Ken Bailey</u>
<u>Gale and</u>	<u>Christensen</u>	<u>Jensen</u>	<u>Gale and</u>	<u>Laura Shaw</u>	<u>Laura Shaw</u>
<u>Alan Jensen</u>	<u>Gale and</u>	<u>Gale and</u>	<u>Alan Jensen</u>		
<u>Linda Shaw</u>	<u>Alan Jensen</u>	<u>Alan Jensen</u>			
<u>Laura Shaw</u>					

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



Reminders

Prayer Requests in Public Places

Prayer is an important part of our faith. It is one of the ways we support each other during times of illness, crisis and grief. This is a faithful and powerful practice. Our intentions are often in the best place. However, some people prefer to keep their situation private. If you would like to include someone on the prayer list in the bulletin, during worship or through an email, please ask for their permission to make it public. Thank you.

Office Hours for the Month of February

Please check the weekly announcements for the office hours!

Key Policy Update

The key code will be changed February 3rd. Jennifer sent out an email to those who the change would apply to. Please let her know if you think you should have received this email, but did not. Thank you.

Community Events

Community Prayer Service

The next Community Prayer Service will be on Tuesday, February 4th at 12:15 pm with a service on *Celebrating God's Love*.

AARP Taxaide

Once again this tax season, AARP Taxaide volunteers will prepare and file tax returns in the Fellowship Hall. The program will run from Feb 3 to Apr 15 on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays. Our hours will be 9 am to 4 pm on those days. You will notice strange cars in parking lot and different folks wandering in and out of our office. Taxaide gives thanks for use of St Paul's facilities; we do our best to stay out of the way and deconflict with other church groups.

If you wish to have a tax return done, please contact **Yates County Office for the Aging at 315.279.4321**. Leave a voice message, and the clerk will call back and schedule an appointment with you.

Any questions, please see Les Wood at St Paul's. Note: Les cannot schedule appointments.

Thank You Notes

Thank you to my St Paul's family for the generous end of the year gift. It was greatly appreciated. *Cathy Booth*

I am overwhelmed and grateful for the generosity you showed me through my staff Christmas gift and while I recovered from surgery. Your cards, prayers, meals and willingness to provide meals are both appreciated and cherished. I feel blessed to be serving such a caring and generous congregation. *Pastor Lori*

Thank you everyone for the wonderful Christmas gifts. My family and I truly appreciate it. *Jennifer Gross*

Matthew  **Ministries** CINCINNATI

14 JAN 2025

Thank you for thinking of Matthew 25: Ministries and supporting our work with those in need.

By donating clean, empty plastic pill bottles, you are helping care for those in need and helping the environment by keeping plastic out of the landfill. Please note that as of 03/01/2023 we are requesting only clean, capped bottles that have been prepared for shipment.

Thank you for your support of this program, and thank you for caring for people in need worldwide.



Jodi Archer
Director of Programs & Community Relations

4527-123435

Matthew 25: Ministries | 11060 Kemmard Road | Blue Ash, OH 45004

Dear St. Paul's Members,

On behalf of Milly's Pantry and the children and families of Yates County, I would like to thank you the October 2024 donation of \$729 in support of our mission and programming. Your gift will help provide supplemental weekend food and school supplies for the youth of Yates County.

We value your thoughtfulness and are grateful for the funds received to help maintain our programming and carry on Milly Bloomquist's legacy of charitable work.

From all of us at Milly's Panty and the children we serve, thank you for supporting our mission and fostering hope within our community.

In gratitude,



Janet H. Barrett
President
Milly's Panty Board of Directors
Milly's Pantry, Inc.

Thank you for your continued support.

1-16-25

Dear Church Members,

Thank you all so much for taking the time to help with bell ringing again.

We had a very successful Campaign and were able to provide many Christmas gifts to 657 Yates County children!

With Much Appreciation,

Sue Falvey

**Families across Yates County
will have special memories
to cherish
because of your generous gift
to the
Yates Christmas Program.**

Thank you.

To our friends at:
St. Paul Lutheran Church;

Thank you for thinking of
our family at Christmas, all
the gifts and food basket
were greatly loved and appreciated
by everyone. There went above and
beyond for our family

Thank you from
the Bottom of
our hearts again

The
McIntyre
Family

God Bless You
All!