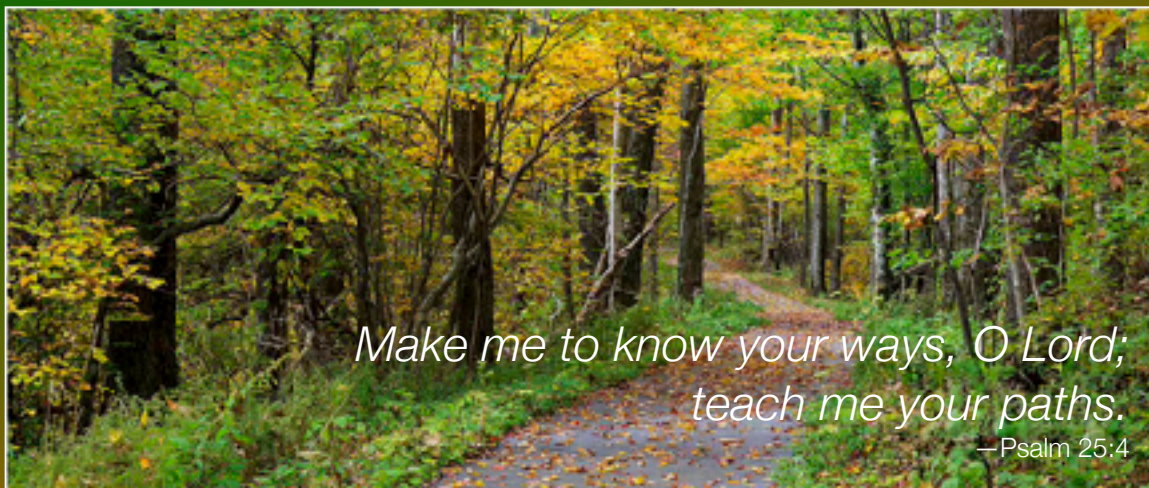


STPAULNOW

September 2026

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
336 W. Main St., Cardington, OH 43315
(419) 864-8369 • office@StPaulNow.org

StPaulNow.org



*Make me to know your ways, O Lord;
teach me your paths.*

—Psalm 25:4

From Pr. Steve

phone: (614) 530-1011; email: pastorsteve@stpaulnow.org

Children in worship

Some churches want young children in the worship service with their parents or other adult supervisor. It's where they get to see their mom and dad bowing their heads in prayer, lifting their voices in praise to God, giving their offerings, going to the table of the Lord, and so on. If you've been around children much at all, you know the power of what they see their parents doing.

Some churches believe what is done in worship is adult stuff children can't understand and therefore can't benefit from. Many of these offer special programs like children's church. I served one of those church's (for a very short time). Children under twelve years of age were basically not even allowed in 'the big church', as they called it. No, they wouldn't throw you out if you had a young child there, but an usher would make sure you understood that a nursery and children's church were offered in the basement.

Unfortunately, we have not had to talk much about these things here at St. Paul until recently. It wasn't unusual for us to go for many weeks without even seeing more than two or three human beings under the age of 50 in the building, or anywhere near it. Praise God, that is changing, and here is what I propose.

We have a nursery and will continue to keep it properly furnished and equipped so a parent can take their child there if they deem it necessary. We are searching for volunteers to staff the nursery to assist parents. However, I ask that parents try to keep their children in the service as much as possible, and even when using the nursery, to bring them back to the sanctuary to be with us at least for the closing portions of the service, and on communion Sundays, to come to the Lord's table together.

The close of our service will include a special blessing of children. I'll give you details in our next few worship services. Please understand, this is not a marketing ploy, nor am I trying to be cute. I truly feel the Lord has put this on my heart—to bless the children in his Name, just as Jesus did many times.

I'm also trying to reinvent my preaching to take less time and be a bit more child-friendly, but still lift up God's Word for us, as I have promised always to do, and God requires. Bear with me, please, this isn't easy for an old guy.

Worship Services are streamed live Sundays at 10:00 AM; videos are posted at stpaulnow.org and on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulnow) Sunday afternoon.

New pictorial directory photos this month

Dear members and friends of St. Paul:

Reminder: Each Sunday this month pictures will be taken of those who wish to be included in the photo directory. If you are unable to attend church, contact us, please.

Please check your currently listed information for accuracy. Corrections, updates, phone numbers, etc., may be sent to us using the church email (office@stpaulnow.org) or the following:

Charlene Pace - charpace12@yahoo.com

Sharon Walker - swalker3346@outlook.com

Women's Bible Study begins on Wednesday, September 9, 10:00 AM, with a ten week study on *Meeting the Spirit*. Any questions, please contact Donna Bathke at (402) 720-6694.



Men's Bible Study begins Tuesday, September 1, at 6:30 PM, and will continue the first and third Tuesdays of each month. We begin with a series of sessions on the book of Revelation. Any questions, contact Tom Bathke (402) 372-7620.



Cardington Food Pantry

Needs for September: Salad dressing, cereal, pancake mix. **Always needed:** meals in a can, soup, white and brown sugar, salt/pepper.

September Birthdays

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Ben Holsinger | 13 Vicky Goodman | 28 Avery Baer |
| Doug Smith | 15 Jase Thiel | Clara McClenathan |
| 3 Charles Burch | 16 Mary Kay Disterdick | Gus Peyton |
| 6 Diane Goodman | 17 Jeffrey Radel | |
| 8 Faith Cruz | 20 Brooke Carey | |
| 9 Rhett Simpson | Carli Cruz | |
| 10 Floyd Morris | 21 Simone Walters | |
| Joseph Thiel | 22 Zachary Martin | |

Let us know if we missed anyone.

August Council meeting

Regular meeting, August 11, 6:30 PM

Present: Howard Radel (Chairman), Sondra Carey (Secretary), Marie Christiano (Treasurer); Thomas Bathke, Steve Kirk, Terri Roberts.

Excused: Mark Niendam, Pr. Steve Dennis

Council took the following actions:

- Approved the minutes of the July meeting.
- Approved the Treasurer's report for July.
- Received the pastor's written report for July as Pr. Steve was absent.
- Received report on installation of outdoor security cameras—two done, one to go.
- Set a Work Day at church for Sep 19, 9:00 AM
- Received report on anticipated installation of new boilers—all parts have been ordered; expect installation to begin soon.

Treasurer's Report for July 2026

FUNDS	BALANCE 7/1/2026	INCOME JULY	EXPENSES JULY	BALANCE 7/31/2026
General Fund	\$ 8,740.03	\$ 7,065.14	\$ 10,852.85	\$ 4,952.32
Committed Funds				
Benevolence Fund	\$ 3,515.41	\$ 50.00	\$ 211.60	\$ 3,353.81
Richard Renz Fund	\$ 4,257.85	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 4,257.85
Funeral Fund	\$ 698.39	\$ 100.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 798.39
Christian Education Fund	\$ 489.13	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 489.13
Memorial Fund	\$ 10,790.80	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 10,790.80
Building Fund	\$ 16,125.00	\$ 4,345.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 20,470.00
Total Committed Funds	\$ 35,876.58	\$ 4,495.00	\$ 211.60	\$ 40,159.98
Total Funds (Gen. + Committed)	\$ 44,616.61	\$ 11,560.14	\$ 11,064.45	\$ 45,112.30

Benevolence expense: Community VBS dinner provided by St. Paul

September Worship Service Assignments

Communion setup: Marie Christiano Assisting Server: Derek Goodman

Accompanists	Acolytes	Lectors	Prayer Leaders	Ushers
6 Kathy Hill	TBA	6 Toni Binkley	6 Sondra Carey	6 Jeff Radel, Tom Bathke
13 Emilee McCabe		13 Zach Martin	13 Dave Radiger	13 Jay Burns, Dave Radiger
20 Emilee McCabe		20 Marie Christiano	20 Marlene Radel	20 Warren Cargill, Howard Radel
27 Emilee McCabe		27 Dave Radiger	27 Dave Radiger	27 Jeff Radel, Charlie Seitz

Ready for winter

Our new boilers are installed and ready to battle the cold. The job was completed Wednesday, August 26. Cost for the project was \$21,722. Members and friends of the church can help defray the expense by making special contributions to St. Paul Lutheran Church, designated for the Building Fund.



The new boilers feature stainless steel fire tube heat exchangers, and have a 95% efficiency rating. They also communicate with one another and alternate the heating load to increase their useful service life.

Our contractor was B&B Mechanical, LLC of Marion.

Choir ministry resumes September 13

*I will praise the name of God with a song;
I will magnify him with thanksgiving.
This will please the Lord . . .
When the humble see it they will be glad;
you who seek God, let your hearts revive.*
—Psalm 69:30-32

If you read these verses (30-32) in their entirety, you will see that praise and thanksgiving set to music are the most acceptable sacrifice we can make to God in our worship. It pleases the Lord because he knows it is good for us. It is something we need to do to be well grounded spiritually to the God who made us and loves us. And the grounding strengthens us both as individuals and as a faith community.

These same themes are picked up in the New Testament. For example, St. Paul tells us to address one another "in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Eph 5:19-20).

We've called our choir, Choir du Jour, because it is made up of people who are available to sing on a given Sunday. We want a little more intentionality in this ministry, but we want to keep some of our 'du jour-ness' too, so we're keeping rehearsal time prior to Sunday services rather than at another time during the week.

Emilee and Pr. Steve have been talking this summer about how to improve this ministry. By the time this newsletter reaches most of the congregation, we will have met with the current singers to begin hearing their ideas and get ready to start singing again on September 13.

This is a work in progress. Want to be part of it? Join us on the 13th at 9:30 AM in the sanctuary.

25 Years, 9-11

The north tower was hit first and was burning, so many of us were already glued to our TV screens when a second plane flew into the south tower. In 'real time' they call it, but it didn't seem real at all.

There are some images in our minds that we should forget, but can't. Then there are images we must never forget.

This is surely one of them.

