



# JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2025

St. Paul Lutheran Church, NALC- 156 Poplar St. S.W. Bolivar, Ohio 44612  
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**From the Pastor...**

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## **The Year 2025**

As the New Year begins, it is often a time for nostalgic thoughts about the past as well as dreams and hopes for the future. It is truly a unique experience to close one year and begin another. With the passage of time our perspectives change. With all the events of 2024, there were certainly some good and some not so good. In a way, every year is the same in that regard and yet different in other aspects; namely the manner in which good and bad manifest themselves.

I submit for your consideration a reflection on the passage of time. Every day, of course, is composed of 24 hours. The events that occur each day, however, are different from any other day. The details change and life goes on. Unfortunately, many times we fail to recognize the special experiences each day provides because of the repetitious nature of the world in which we live. Our human nature resists change and so we attempt to control time by scheduling events on regular basis. This is what we do.

Someone once said that if you want God to laugh tell him your plans for tomorrow. We tend to dismiss these things and say so what. Consider how your life would be so much different if you adapted your outlook to see the unique opportunities that each day offers. Every day is the beginning of the rest of your life. God is always inviting us to the surprises that a hope-filled outlook will bring. Our God is not boring but we tend to make our notion of God just that.

Looking ahead to the New Year, we do not know what will happen but we can be assured that regardless of the circumstances, God is already there. We rely and depend upon the steadfast and constant love of God. Our faith is in His power to save and renew the earth each day.

When it comes to resolutions for 2025, I suggest that we all consider that God is good all the time and all the time God is good as a mantra going forward. Our sinful human nature will continue to fail us but we are saved only the grace of God given to us through the Savior born in Bethlehem on the first Christmas.

I hope and pray for you and your families that the grace of God will always be a source of strength in the New Year and you will desire even more to praise the Lord for His mercy endures forever and His love is everlasting. May the New Year give you renewed hope in the Lord and the many blessings that He will bestow upon you.

**SOLI DEO GLORIA!**

## MINISTERS FOR DECEMBER 2025

DATE	TIME	ASSISTANTS	DATE	TIME	LECTORS
1/5	8:00 am	Steve Maurer	1/5	8:00 am	Dave Zastawny
	10:30 am	Kim Pohovey		10:30 am	Kim Pohovey
1/12	8:00 am	Charlann Young	1/12	8:00 am	Byron Lautenschleger
	10:30 am	Randy Simers		10:30 am	Cheryl Simers
1/19	8:00 am	Jim Ward	1/19	10:30 am	Jen Ward
	10:30 am	Terry Tegtmeier			Richard Dudash
1/26	8:00 am	Steve Maurer	1/26	8:00 am	Olivia Howell
	10:30 am	Marcia Howenstine		10:30 am	Gabriel Woods
<b>USHERS &amp; GREETERS</b>			<b>SCREEN</b>		
1/5	8:00 am	Jim & Jen Ward	1/5	8:00 am	Jen Ward
	10:30 am	Ann Shetler		10:30 am	Sophie Ranta
1/12	8:00 am	Byron & Maryann Lautenschleger	1/12	8:00 am	Olivia Howell
	10:30 am	Dee Garrison		10:30 am	Doug Dix
1/19	9:30 am	Dave & Charlann Young	1/19	9:30 am	Terri Howell
		Randy & Cheryl Simers			Dee Garrison
1/26	8:00 am	John & Sandy Bolitho	1/26	8:00 am	Pam Ward
	10:30 am	Aaron & Meghan Woods		10:30 am	Ted Howenstine
<b>Altar Guild</b>			<b>Community Meals</b>		
		<b>Brenda Tegtmeier</b>			<b>Kathy Pozzuto</b>

### Readings

<u>1/5</u> Second Sunday of Christmas	<u>1/12</u> Baptism of Our Lord	<u>1/19</u> Second Sunday After Epiphany	<u>1/26</u> Third Sunday After Epiphany
<u>1 Kings 3:1-3, 11-15</u>	<u>Isaiah 60: 1-6</u>	<u>Isaiah 62:1-5</u>	<u>Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10</u>
<u>Psalm 119:97-104</u>	<u>Psalm 72:1-15</u>	<u>Psalm 128</u>	<u>Psalm 19:1-14</u>
<u>Ephesians 1:3-14</u>	<u>Ephesians 3:1-12</u>	<u>1 Corinthians 12:1-11</u>	<u>1 Corinthians 12:12-31</u>
<u>Luke 2:40-52</u>	<u>Matthew 2:1-12</u>	<u>John 2:1-11</u>	<u>Luke 4:16-30</u>

### Stewardship Report

2021	2022	2023	2024
\$257,122	\$217,095	\$213,022	\$239,084

**Offering Envelopes: The 2025 offering envelopes are available in the church narthex.**

**CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES!!**



No January Anniversaries

Grace Shine	1/8	Trey Parker	1/21
David Bogue	1/9	Toby Seifert	1/21
Colton Reeves	1/10	Pam Ward	1/23
Shawn Gettan	1/11	Ashley Beitzel	1/23
Rachael Ritter	1/17	Megan Gettan	1/24
Tom Huggins	1/19		

**SICK AND SHUT-IN LIST**

**Shut-ins:** Please see a list of our shut-ins below; they would enjoy hearing from you by visit or card. **Jerry Hoskinson**, 1970 North Orchard Rd. NE Bolivar, OH 44612 - **John Kienzle** – Hennis Care Center, Bolivar, OH. (Room 206) **Dorothy Garan** –1204 N. Crater Ave. Dover, OH 44622 - **Betty Menapace** – Park Village – 1511 Crater Ave. Room 19 A, Dover OH 44622 and **Alyce Snyder** at Assisted Living at Brewster Park 360 Wabash Avenue (Jefferson Lodge/Inn Bldg.-(Room 608) Brewster OH 44613 **Carol Hoskinson** – The Gables 3660 Greentree Ave. SW Canton, Ohio 44706 (Room 311)



**Prayer Chain - This week remember in your prayers –Adam Clugston, Darin Wentz,** Pam Ward, Suzanne Kuntzman, Mary Sanders, Irene Ward, Hunter Renicker, Rita Morrin, Pat Mizer, Netta Strand, Fred Lecce, Patti Rimer, Jacob Walker, Nancy Mahoney, Bill Nelson, Brenda Schreffler, Lissa Johns, Kay Locker, Brock McNutt, David Shetler, James Baltzly, Margret Cox, Pam Miller, Jeff Elliott, Lucie Dillon, Jeff Siegenthaler, Dave Mason, Josh Aubihl, Dominic Manuel, Joanne Simers, Jessica Ditous, Hannah Dragomir, Bob Leffler, Devlin Crist, Gary Smerglia, Lyn Christenson, Lauren Seifert, **Servicemen & Women-** Seth Hershberger, Abraham Marlowe, Kyle Grieving, Cearra Taylor, Don Scholz, Rob Vitous, Camren Taylor, Trent Garver, Andrea Gibson, Andy Jones, Jordan Ritter, William Robishaw



**Book Club:** The next book club we will be reading is “The Surprising Rebirth of Belief in God,” by Justin Brierly. Brierly does not promise that Christianity will suddenly return to its prior place in Britain and America, but he does identify some of the problems that the New Atheism is developing with morality, value, meaning, and personal identity. This book documents some of the discussions that are currently ongoing and will help with how we can interact with our non-Christian friends, family, and culture. Contact Terry Tegtmeier for a \$10 copy. Next scheduled meeting is **7:00 pm, Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>.**

**Rebekah's Sisters, Sonshine Ladies Group**: The Rebekah's Sisters, Sonshine Ladies met in November to discuss the giving budget to end out the year. The Friends of the Homeless food supply remains the focus, and the ladies will check in regularly for the needs of the house pantry. When needed we will restock the shelves.

Each evening a meal is served to the residents of the shelter. These meals are donated by local churches, individuals, and restaurants. There is a monthly calendar to provide a meal(s) and currently there are 6-8 days each month that do not get signed up. Many thanks to Brenda, Cheryl, and Linda who cook meals every month all year long. The evening meal feeds 60-70 friends, not only the residents, but also for families in the community with food insecurities.

When no one signs up, the house volunteers prepare the meal with food from the pantry. When a family in need shows up hungry and has no ride to the Dover food pantry, the shelter provides food from the pantry. All breakfast and lunches for residents come from the pantry.

Our group has been working with Nicole Hershberger (Huggins) who has kept us up to date on the needs of the shelter, its residents, and families who are out on their own. She is truly a blessing to her clients and to us. Through Nicole we heard of a single mother with 6mo and 16yr old children who were behind on all utilities. The ladies pitched in with all their hearts and were able to pay the water, electricity, and gas bills through January 2025.

Another family with a 10mo, 5yr, and 8yr olds were in urgent need of cold weather clothing. Brenda picked up five outfits each for the older children and the infant was able to get help from Birthright.

As we prepare for the season of giving, let's be reminded of His love for us, His sacrifice on the cross for us, and how He lives through us every day. ***If you are interested in giving:***

The Rebekah's Sisters, Sonshine Ladies of  
St Paul Lutheran Church  
Spread Some Sonshine  
Please see: Pam Ward or Beth Pirillo

Birthright  
Please see: Cheryl Simers

**Friends of the Homeless of Tuscarawas  
County** - 211 East High Ave, New Philadelphia

Jim's Place provides free clothing to  
anyone in need. Clothing Drop off boxes  
located at: 228 West High Ave New  
Philadelphia



## **PRAYER FOCUS FOR JANUARY 2025**

A new year is a good time to refresh and affirm our faith.  
*The following is from Luther's explanation of the Apostles' Creed.*

**The First Article:** Creation: **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

What does this mean? *I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them... All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.*

**The Second Article:** Redemption: **And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord...**

What does this mean: *I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity; and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own, and live under Him in his kingdom and serve in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.*

**The Third Article:** Sanctification: **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.**

What does this mean: *I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith...This is most certainly true.*

*This month, sometime during each day, repeat the Apostles Creed. Each Article begins with "what does this mean?" and ends with "This is most certainly true." This is to teach not just doctrine, but FAITH.*



## The Chosen

**January 25, 2025** Doors open at 3:30 Shows start at 4:00

Ohio Star Theatre – 1387 Old State Route 39 Sugarcreek, Ohio

Sponsored by New Pointe Small Group - Enjoy Free Refreshments!

This is a Drama is about the life of Jesus Christ and the “Chosen” who followed Him.

To date, 4 seasons have been created.

**Show Time:** 4:00 Season 1:4 “**The Rock on Which it is Built** (49 minutes)

5:15 Season 1:7 “**Invitations**” (38 minutes)

6:00 Season 3:2 “**Two by Two**” (71 minutes)

This event is free and tickets can be obtained by contacting the church office,

**Community Meal:** St Paul Lutheran - Bible Study 10:15 a.m. Community Meal 11:30 – 1:00 p.m. Thursday, January 2 and Thursday, January 16.

**Annual Reports: All committees please have your annual reports for 2024 E-mailed to the church office by January 19 2025.**

**The Rebekah's Sisters-Sonshine Ladies** met in December; Pastor Mike attended to inform us on Friends of the Homeless news. The board has made the decision to provide evening meals to nonresidents on Saturday and Sunday only. Monday through Friday evening meals for those who do not live at the shelter, will be offered at the Red Door, First United Methodist, and St Joe's Catholic churches. Until plenty of notice is given, no one is being turned away. The shelter is still providing meals to those who ring the bell.

There are several days each month in which meals are not provided by charitable organizations so the shelter is offering dinner on those days. The pantry is currently well stocked.

At the time of our meeting there were 30 residents which included 5 children, ages 4mo-11yr. Nicole Hershberger provided us with specific clothing needs for the children, Brenda and Cheryl were able to pick up everything on the list along with toys, gift wrapped and delivered for Christmas morning. The ladies also picked up a Christmas dinner of ham, sides, rolls and dessert.

The family who we helped with utilities in November was also given gift cards so that Mom could shop for her children's gifts.

We would like to thank everyone who has donated to our Spread Some Sonshine fund! A special thanks to the St Paul council who also contributed to our group.

Praise the Lord! - Beth Pirillo



# JANUARY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1/1	1/2	1/3	1/4
			HAPPY NEW YEAR!	Bible Study 10:15 a.m. COMMUNITY MEAL 11:30 – 1:00 P.M.		
<b>1/5</b>	<b>1/6</b>	<b>1/7</b>	<b>1/8</b>	<b>1/9</b>	<b>1/10</b>	<b>1/11</b>
Worship & Communion 8 & 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m.	Yoga 9-10 a.m.	Men & Women's Meeting 7:00 p.m.	Evangelism Meeting 9:30 a.m. Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.	Worship Meeting 10:00 a.m.		Property 9:00 a.m.
<b>1/12</b>	<b>1/13</b>	<b>1/14</b>	<b>1/15</b>	<b>1/16</b>	<b>1/17</b>	<b>1/18</b>
Worship & Communion 8 & 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m.	Yoga 9-10 a.m. Lions Club 6:30 p.m.			Bible Study 10:15 a.m. COMMUNITY MEAL 11:30 – 1:00 P.M.		
<b>1/19</b>	<b>1/20</b>	<b>1/21</b>	<b>1/22</b>	<b>1/23</b>	<b>1/24</b>	<b>1/25</b>
Worship & Communion 8 & 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m.	Yoga 9-10 a.m. Council 7:00 p.m.	Men & Women's Meeting 7:00 p.m.	Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.			The Chosen Series – Ohio Star Theater
<b>1/26</b>	<b>1/27</b>	<b>1/28</b>	<b>1/29</b>	<b>1/30</b>	<b>1/31</b>	
Worship & Communion 8 & 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m.	Yoga 9-10:00 a.m. Lions Club 6:30 p.m.	Book Club 7:00 p.m.				

## Month To Date Giving

Month to Date Giving Through December - Amount 2024 **\$22,272.81**

Month to Date Giving Through December - Amount 2023 **\$ 19,204.98**