



## DECEMBER 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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### CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

There is no other time of the year that is more nostalgic than Christmas. Many of us have childhood memories of Christmas that we will cherish for a lifetime. In my younger days, Christmas vacation was something that I looked forward to every year. Decorating the tree as a child was a time to marvel at the many types of ornaments that adorned a live tree. My favorite part was playing with an electric train under the tree. I also recall the many times in which the train was derailed by my sister's pranks. I also remember the opportunity to stay up late and go to midnight Mass, albeit the nuns adamantly discouraged children from attending.

Christmas is identified with gift giving and I can remember special toys that I wanted as child and was fortunate enough to receive most of them. Gowing older, I discovered a much greater satisfaction in giving than receiving.

Of course, the greatest memory we all have as believers is the account of the birth of Jesus at Christmas. We yearn to hear that familiar story of the shepherds and the Magi. The beautiful Christmas carols bring joy and peace to a weary world each year. I enjoy hearing them long after Christmas is over.

As we age, we accumulate so many memories that it is impossible to understand our present situation without the influences that our past experiences have upon us. We are a product of our past. Yet, we can use those memories to create a better future. Fond memories from Christmas can provide the foundation for gratitude and the basis for a stronger faith in God.

I suggest that best memory we can have at Christmas is that God never stops thinking and caring about the world and its inhabitants. God gave the world the gift of Jesus who saves us and frees us from the power of sin and evil.

In closing, I ask you to add to your list of Christmas memories, a time of worship with others who share similar memories of the birth of Jesus. Please join us at St. Paul on Wednesday, December 24 at 7:00 pm for a Candlelight service.

SOLI DEO GLORIA!

## Ministers for Worship

**Date December 7, 2025**

Assistant	8:00	Wanda Baltzly	10:30	Kim Pohovey
Lector	8:00	Olivia Howell	10:30	Kim Pohovey
Ushers & Greeters	8:00	Dave & Charlann Young	10:30	Dee Garrison
Screen	8:00	Terri Howell	10:30	Zak Pirillo

**December 14, 2025**

Assistant	8:00	Steve Maurer	10:30	Marcia Howenstine
Lector	8:00	Mary Ann Miller	10:30	Richard Dudash
Ushers & Greeters	8:00	John & Sandy Bolitho	10:30	Randy Simers
Screen	8:00	Olivia Howell	10:30	Ted Howenstine

**December 21, 2025**

Assistant	9:30	Terry Tegtmeier		
Lector	9:30	Gabriel Woods		
Ushers & Greeters	9:30	Aaron & Meghan Woods		
Screen	9:30	Doug Dix		

**December 24, 2025**

Assistant	7:00	Randy Simers (Sandy Ritter)		-
Lector	7:00	Cheryl Simers		-
Ushers & Greeters	7:00	Tom & Tammy Huggins		-
Screen	7:00	Zac Pirillo		-

**December 28, 2025**

Assistant	9:30	Kim Pohovey		
Lector	9:30	Kim Pohovey		
Ushers & Greeters	9:30	Randy & Cheryl Simers		
Screen	9:30	Dee Garrison		

<u>12/7 Second Sunday of Advent</u>	<u>12/14 Third Sunday of Advent</u>	<u>12/21 Fourth Sunday of Advent</u>	<u>12/24 Nativity of Our Lord Christmas Eve</u>	<u>12/28 First Sunday After Christmas</u>
<u>Isaiah 2:1-5</u>	<u>Isaiah 35:1-10</u>	<u>Isaiah 7:10-17</u>	<u>Isaiah 7:10-14</u>	<u>Isaiah 63:7-14</u>
<u>Psalm 72:1-7</u>	<u>Psalm 146</u>	<u>Psalm 24</u>	<u>Psalm 110:1-4</u>	<u>Psalm 111</u>
<u>Romans 15:4-13</u>	<u>James 5:7-11</u>	<u>Romans 1:1-7</u>	<u>1 John 4:7-16</u>	<u>Galatians 4:4-7</u>
<u>Matthew 3:1-12</u>	<u>Matthew 1:2-15</u>	<u>Matthew 1:18-25</u>	<u>Matthew 1:18-25</u>	<u>Matthew 2:12-23</u>



<b>BIRTHDAYS</b>		<b>ANNIVERSARIES</b>	
<u>Mallory Matthews</u>	<u>12/5</u>	<u>Terry &amp; Brenda Tegtmeier</u>	<u>12/19</u>
<u>Holly Matthews</u>	<u>12/14</u>	<u>Charles &amp; Lauren Seifert</u>	<u>12/26</u>
<u>Hope Mizer</u>	<u>12/14</u>		
<u>Karrisa Reeves</u>	<u>12/21</u>		
<u>Larry Smerglia</u>	<u>12/23</u>		
<u>Byron Lautenschleger</u>	<u>12/27</u>		

**Shut-ins:** Please see a list of our shut-ins below; they would enjoy hearing from you by visit or card.

- Pam Ward (Room 128) – Hennis Care Center 300 Yant St. Bolivar OH 44612) - Pat Mizer (Room 215) the Inn at Northwood Village 5799 N Wooster Avenue Ext NW Dover, OH, 44622. - Jerry Hoskinson, 1970 North Orchard Rd. NE Bolivar, OH 44612 - - Betty Menapace (Room 19 A) – Park Village – 1511 Crater Ave., Dover OH 44622 and Alyce Snyder - (Room 608) at Assisted Living at Brewster Park 360 Wabash Avenue (Jefferson Lodge/Inn Bldg. Brewster OH 44613 Carol Hoskinson –(Room 311) The Gables 3660 Greentree Ave. SW Canton, Ohio 44706



**Prayer Chain** - This week remember in your prayers – **Wyatt Murray**, Tim King, David Roll, Allyson Sanders, James Baltzly, Jim Tucker, Zach & Raeann Todd, Donna Robishaw, Dan Chenoweth, Jennifer Melegari, Mary Sanders, Irene Ward, Netta Strand, Lissa Johns, Brock McNutt, David Shetler, Gary Smerglia, Lauren Seifert, **Servicemen & Women**- Seth Hershberger, Kyle Grieving, Cearra Taylor, Don Scholz, Rob Vitous, , Andrea Gibson, Andy Jones,

**Note: After 6 months names will be removed if no new information is given.**

## **RPT#6 November Council Meeting 4 Year Comparison Meeting 11/17/2025 Total Giving January Thru November 2025**

<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
<b>\$153,805</b>	<b>\$146,55</b>	<b>\$160,911</b>	<b>\$288,292</b>
<b>Average Monthly Attendance for Month of November</b>			
<b>53</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>55</b>

## Friends of the Homeless of Tuscarawas County Car Raffle

It's all cleaned up and ready to drive. 1992 Mercury Grand Marquis LS. Only 58,300 miles.



Raffle tickets are just \$10 each. Purchase tickets from a Friends of the Homeless volunteer or buy on-line at [www.fothtusc.org](http://www.fothtusc.org). Car will be awarded to the



raffle winner "as is." Drawing at Noon, December 15, 2025



**Christmas in Tanzania: Christmas in Tanzania: OnePlusGod Ministries:** The school supplies and goats have been covered by donations, so the need is now to fund a complete Christmas dinner for the 1100 residents of three villages. Each dinner costs \$5 and the goal is to fund 1100 meals. The church council has approved an expenditure of \$2,500 so there is still a need for other contributions to provide meals. Place all donations in the gold-papered box at the back of the church and make checks payable to OnePlusGod Ministries.



**Rebekah Sisters & Sonshine Ladies** are running a fill the basket campaign to fill 8 laundry baskets with supplies for the **Homeless Shelter**. We will set up a table in the narthex to collect items in laundry baskets for the Homeless Shelter. - *If you have questions, please contact Beth Pirillo*

### Rebekah's Sisters Sonshine Ladies



The Rebekah's Sisters Sonshine Ladies met in November; we were happy to meet at Hennis Care Centre with Pam and ten others in attendance. What a blessing it was to sit down, be noisy, be sisters, and work collectively. Always on our mind are the homeless, the dependent, the abused and the children affected by it all.

Thank you for supporting us and providing the resources to lift others up in hope and love. We especially appreciate your prayers for all the people suffering hardships and insecurities.

### November 2025 Giving

**Victoria's Place-Strasburg**, a home for women in recovery \$500.00

**Beneath the Shade-Dover**, transitional living for women \$500.00

**Christmas Celebration-Tanzania**, sponsorship of 2 goats for a village family \$190.00

**Friends of the Homeless-New Phila**, urgently needed pantry items \$500 and toys for the children \$100

**Friends of the Homeless- New Phila**, "Fill A Basket" campaign- laundry baskets and need list items \$250 (from Thrivent) - *To donate to RSSL please make checks payable to "Spread Some Sonshine"*

## DECEMBER 2025 PRAYER FOCUS

**Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.**

Luke 2:20

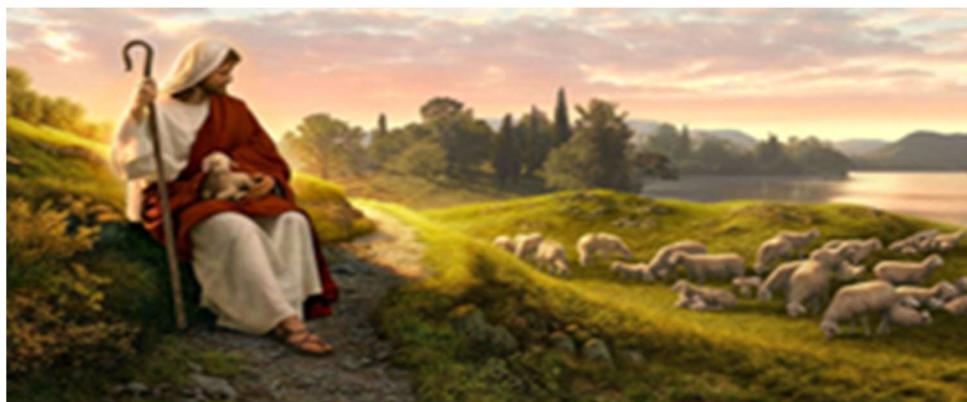
The word “shepherd” is found in the Bible 101 times. As the Messiah, Christ was meant to lead the Jewish people who were “like sheep with no shepherd” (Num 27:17; I Kings 22:17; 2 Chron 18:16). Shepherds had an important role in ancient times – they protected and guided their flocks which were a primary source of food and wool for their communities. Despite this, shepherds were looked down on by society.

In His wisdom and timing, instead of revealing Christ’s birth to the religious leaders in Isreal, God chose to reveal the birth of Christ to humble shepherds tending their sheep, who responded in awe and wonder at what they observed.

The Lord does not demand greatness to be His witness. If He can use shepherds to see, hear and proclaim the news of Christ’s birth, He can use you and me to share the true meaning of Christmas!

Don’t be hesitant to share what the birth of Christ means to you personally – it’s the greatest story ever told and the Messiah is the greatest gift you will ever receive!

Pray for an opportunity to share the good news of Christmas with somebody today!



# DECEMBER 2025

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
	<u>12/1</u>	<u>12/2</u>	<u>12/3</u>	<u>12/4</u>	<u>12/5</u>	<u>12/6</u>
	Yoga 9-10 a.m.	Men & Women's Meeting 7:00 p.m.		Bible Study 10:15 a.m. COMMUNITY MEAL 11:30 – 1:00 P.M.	Youth Group	
12/7	12/8	12/9	12/10	12/11	12/12	12/13
Worship & Communion 8 &10:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Second Sunday of Advent	Yoga 9-10 a.m. Lions Club 6:30 pm		Choir Practice 7:00 pm			Property 9:00 a.m.
12/14	12/15	12/16	12/17	12/18	12/19	12/20
Worship & Communion 8 &10:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Third Sunday of Advent	Yoga 9-10 a.m. Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.	Men & Women's Meeting 7:00 p.m.		Bible Study 10:15 a.m. COMMUNITY MEAL 11:30 – 1:00 P.M.		
12/21	12/22	12/23	12/24	12/25	12/26	12/27
Worship & Communion 9:30 a.m. Children's Program Congregational Meeting Fourth Sunday of Advent	Yoga 9-10 a.m. Lions Club 6:30 pm		Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m.	 MERRY CHRISTMAS!		
12/28	12/29	12/30	12/31	!		
Worship 9:30 a.m. No Communion & No Sunday School	Yoga 9-10 a.m.	Homeless Shelter Meal 5:00 p.m.				

## Month to Month Giving

**Month to Date Giving Through November 2025 – Amount \$ 8,427.00**

**Month to Date Giving Through November 2024– Amount \$12,665.00**