



JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2026

St. Paul Lutheran Church, NALC- 156 Poplar St. S.W. Bolivar, Ohio 44612

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From the Pastor...

LOOKING FORWARD

As another year comes to an end, it is often the practice to make resolutions for the New Year. Many times, of course, these resolutions are not satisfied, but the truth remains that we make them because of an inherent optimism that exists within us. We are creatures of hope that look forward to better times ahead. The New Year gives us the opportunity to assess our situations and ascertain the means to personal progress and hopefully spiritual growth.

Social scientists and psychologists alike agree that without hope there is no reason to look forward albeit another day awaits us. As believers, our hope is in the risen Lord who comes to this world each day. After just celebrating the birth of Jesus, we look forward to the ways in which He brought hope to a fallen world. His inspirational words and miraculous deeds demonstrate very clearly the significance of His life.

The hope of the world depends upon the joy of Easter and Christ risen from the dead. St. Paul tells us that if Christ is not raised then our faith is in vain. I would respectfully add that our hope is also in vain. There is nothing to look forward to if life does end at the grave. We whole heartedly believe that it does not so there is good reason to look forward.

Optimism rooted in the resurrection of Jesus, gives life to the world and enlivens the faithful to share that good news with others which is the goal of evangelism. As this New Year begins, I ask you to cherish and value the faith given to you by the Holy Spirit each day to bring purpose and meaning to our existence. We look forward because we know and hold firmly in the notion that God is present and guiding our lives by the truths revealed in the Scriptures. Regardless of what happens in the coming year, God is with us and will bring all things to fulfillment in accordance with His will.

With that pleasant thought in mind, I hope that you are looking forward to God's grace with each day that you live. I close with best wishes for the New Year as well as a continued growth in the life of the spirit which unites us with the God who looks forward to sharing love and mercy with the world.

SOLI DEL GLORIA!



<u>1/4</u> Epiphany Sunday after Christmas	<u>1/11</u> Baptism of Our Lord	<u>1/18</u> Second Sunday after the Epiphany	<u>1/25</u> Third Sunday after the Epiphany
<u>Isaiah 60:1-6</u>	<u>Isaiah 42:1-9</u>	<u>Isaiah 49:1-7</u>	<u>Isaiah 9:1-4</u>
<u>Psalm 72:1-15</u>	<u>Psalm 29</u>	<u>Psalm 40:1-11</u>	<u>Psalm 27:1-14</u>
<u>Ephesians 3:1-12</u>	<u>Romans 6:1-11</u>	<u>1 Corinthians 1:1-9</u>	<u>1 Corinthians 1:10-18</u>
<u>Matthew 2:1-12</u>	<u>Matthew 3:12-17</u>	<u>John 1:29-42</u>	<u>Matthew 4:12-25</u>

BIRTHDAYS



<i>Grace Shine</i>	<u>1/8</u>	<i>Pam Ward</i>	<u>1/23</u>
<i>Colton Reeves</i>	<u>1/10</u>	<i>Ashley Beitzel</i>	<u>1/23</u>
<i>Rachael Ritter</i>	<u>1/17</u>		
<i>Tom Huggins</i>	<u>1/19</u>		
<i>Trey Parker</i>	<u>1/21</u>		
<i>Toby Seifert</i>	<u>1/21</u>		

Ministers for Worship

January 4, 2026

Assistant	8:00	Charlann Young	10:30	Marcia Howenstine
Lector	8:00	Dave Zastawny	10:30	Gabriel Woods
Ushers & Greeters	8:00	John & Sandy Bolitho	10:30	Aaron & Meghan Woods
Screen	8:00	Steve Maurer	10:30	Zac Pirillo

January 11, 2026

Assistant	8:00	Sandy Ritter	10:30	Kim Pohovey
Lector	8:00	Olivia Howell	10:30	Donna Menyes
Ushers & Greeters	8:00	Dave & Charlann Young	10:30	Tom & Tammy Huggins
Screen	8:00	Terri Howell	10:30	Doug Dix

January 18, 2026

Assistant	8:00	Wanda Baltzly	10:30	Terry Tegtmeier
Lector	8:00	Mary Ann Miller	10:30	Richard Dudash
Ushers & Greeters	8:00	Byron & Marianne Lautenschleger	10:30	Randy & Cheryl Simers
Screen	8:00	Olivia Howell	10:30	Dee Garrison

January 25, 2026

Assistant	8:00	Steve Maurer	10:30	Randy Simers
Lector	8:00	Sandy Ritter	10:30	Cheryl Simers
Ushers & Greeters	8:00	John & Sandy Bolitho	10:30	Dee Garrison
Screen	8:00	Terri Howell	10:30	Zac Pirillo



Shut-ins: Please see a list of our shut-ins below; they would enjoy hearing from you by visit or card. – Walter Tidenberg – Meadow Winds Health Care Center 300 23rd Street NE Massillon, OH 44646 Room 407 - Pam Ward (Room 128) – Hennis Care Center 300 Yant St. Bolivar OH 44612) - - 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, 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 Compairson Meeting 1/19/2026 Total Giving January Thru December 2025

2022	2023	2024	2025
\$153,805	\$146,55	\$160,911	\$288,292
Average Monthly Attendance for Month of November			
52	55	55	55



Council News: The newly elected members of council are Olivia Howell, Randy Simers and Mary Ann Miller. Thanks to Doug Dix, Sandy Ritter and Jordan Beitzel for their service on council.

Thanks to Richard Dudash who has served as church treasurer for many years. Beth Pirillo will take that position now

Ann Shetler sends her regards from Florida where she is residing with her son. Please continue to pray for her daughter.

Blessing Bags- Items to be collected here, and assembled on January 18.

The list includes: Warm socks, hygiene kits (toothbrush/paste, wipes, deodorant), non-perishable snacks (granola bars, beef jerky, crackers), water, and seasonal items (gloves/hats in winter, sunscreen in summer), ChapStick, first-aid, and local resource info, A written note of encouragement, bible verse or devotional will be included in each bag. Dave Zastawny has applied for an Action Team Grant of \$250 to purchase some of the above-mentioned items.

JANUARY 2026 PRAYER FOCUS

And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His likeness with ever increasing glory

2 Corinthians 3:18

How have I grown in God's grace over the past year?

Is this something that can be measured?

Bishop J. C. Ryle puts it this way:

"When I speak of growth in grace, I mean an increase in degree, size, strength, vigor and power of the graces that the spirit plants in our hearts. When I speak of a person growing in grace, I mean simply this – that his sense of sin is becoming deeper, his faith is stronger, his hope brighter and his love more extensive. He feels more of the power of godliness in his heart. He manifests more of it in his life."

Is this sense of sin deeper than it was last year?

Is your hope brighter?

Do you sense more of the power of godliness in your life?

We can be transformed into His likeness. Change is possible, and a new and improved you is within reach in this new year.

This is how it happens. Behold the Lord's glory and you will grow in grace.

Let's pray

Lord Jesus, I behold You today in all Your majesty and splendor. Your excellence and Your purity. Transform me into the person you want me to be as I grow in Your grace. Lord of beginnings, I am ready to have You do something new in my life this year. Thank You for leading me, I am ready to follow. Amen



On New Year's Day

On New Year's Day a year ago,
I kicked a rock and broke my toe.
Then February came around;
I slipped on ice and smacked the ground.

In March I tripped and skinned my knee.
In April, met an angry bee.
In May a baseball hit my hip.
In June I bit my lower lip.

I banged my elbow in July.
When August came, I poked my eye.
September, I fell out of bed.
October's when I hurt my head.

November, had a nasty fall.
December, crashed into a wall.
So, you can truly not believe
how glad I am it's New Year's Eve.



Though, this year, I was so annoyed,
at least I know what to avoid
beginning January first.
Goodbye, last year. You were the worst.

— Kenn Nesbitt



Book Club: The next Book Club selection will be "A.D. 33" by Ted Dekker. This is historical novel by an author who has written numerous other novels about the sequel to another book, "A.D. 30".

Maviah is the main character, a Bedouin woman with a history of tragedy, illegitimacy, slavery, royalty, and many others. She threatens the powers of rulers, who want to crush her world. Along the way she meets a man named Yeshua, which eventually changes everything.

Bookreporter.com states: "Maviah's story of heartbreak and loss, faith and belief, will captivate readers from the first page of A.D.33 to the very last."

Contact Terry Tegtmeier if you would like a copy at \$7.00. we will be discussing at the end of January, either the 20th or the 27th of January.



JANUARY 2026



<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
				<u>1/1</u>	<u>1/2</u>	<u>1/3</u>
				Happy New Years 2026		
1/4	1/5	1/6	1/7	1/8	1/9	1/10
Worship & Communion 8 &10:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Take down Christmas Decorations	Yoga 9-10 a.m. Men & Women's Meeting 7:00 p.m.			Worship Meeting 10:00 a.m.		Property 9:00 a.m.
1/11	1/12	1/13	1/14	1/15	116	1/17
Worship & Communion 8 &10:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m. (Pam W. reserved Fellowship Hall)	Yoga 9-10 a.m. Lions Club 6:30 pm		Evangelism Meeting 9:30 a.m. Choir Practice 7:00	Bible Study 10:15 a.m. COMMUNITY MEAL 11:30 – 1:00 P.M.		
1/18	1/19	1/20	1/21	1/22	1/23	1/24
Worship & Communion 9:30 a.m. Packing Blessing Bags & Luncheon to follow	Yoga 9-10 a.m. Ashley B. Youth Group Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.					
1/25	1/26	1/27	1/28	1/29	1/30	1/31
Worship & Communion 8 &10:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m.	Yoga 9-10 am. Lions Club 6:30 pm		Choir Practice 7:00			

Month to Month Giving

Month to Date Giving Through December 2024– Amount \$ 22,273.00

Month to Date Giving Through December 2025– Amount \$15,358.00