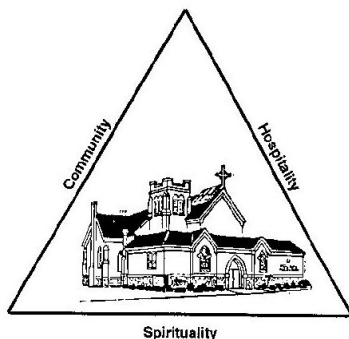


# St. Paul's Epistle

St. Paul's United  
 Methodist Church  
 105 E. Main St.  
 Elida, OH 45807  
 419-339-3801  
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**Inside this issue:**

Upcoming Events	2-3
Personnel Report	4
Hymn History	5
Faith in Action	6
Daily Bible Readings	7
Crafty Creatures	8
Advent	9
Children's Play	10
Christmas Eve	11
The People of St. Paul's	12
January Calendar	13
Recipes	14
Kidz Komer	15
Living Our Faith	16



Happy New Year!

2024 is in the books and what a year it has been! We have, unfortunately, lost some old friends, but we have gained some new ones, and I think the future is looking a little brighter. We have some new faces in leadership positions, and I believe God is beginning to stir the water here at St. Paul's. Like anything in life, it is not all good news, as we are searching for a new treasurer/treasurers in 2025. Our treasurer of 12 years, Margie Best, is stepping away. I want to encourage you to be in prayer, and ask questions, if you feel God is nudging you in this direction. I have been praying about this and will begin to have conversations with people I believe God may be putting on my heart to possibly do this job. But don't wait because you may have the solution that is best for St. Paul's.

I want to take a personal moment to thank everyone for the wonderful gifts I have received in 2024. Both during Pastor Appreciation Month and during the Christmas Holiday. Your thoughtfulness and generosity are overwhelming, to say the least, and the love you have shown us is beyond words, but again, Thank You all!

January is once again *Women of Faith* month here at St. Paul's. I will be preaching about Biblical Women of Faith, and the contributions they have made to God's story for us. We will look at, The Mother of Humankind, Eve; The Mother of a Nation, Sarah; a Foreigner, whose lineage leads to kings, Ruth; and The Mother of Jesus, Mary. I hope you will join us as we look deeper into their stories and the influence they had on God's story for us all.

Finally, this month, I want to talk to you about the fact that we will be looking at our Safe Sanctuary Policy at Elida St. Paul's to update our policy and make sure our children, youth, and vulnerable adults are as safe as they can be, while at church events. Are you the parent of a child? Are you passionate about children's safety? Do you know a vulnerable adult and know what they need to be safe? Then we need you, to be a part of a short-term team. We will gather to update our policy to ensure that we are as safe as possible when dealing with people who can not always speak for themselves. Contact me or the church office to be a member of this short-term team, who will keep us on the straight and narrow, protecting those who are most vulnerable.

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Paul*



**Thought for the Month:**

We must be willing to let go of the life we have planned, so as to have the life that is waiting for us.

—Joseph Campbell



**January 5  
Coins for Communion  
will benefit  
Heartbeat of Lima**




**New Year's blessing**  
The eighth day of Christmas,  
the eighth day of Creation,  
the Next New Day,  
New Year's Day.  
May every day be a new year's day for you:  
a chance to forgive and be forgiven,  
to start again.  
May you take courage to begin anew. ...  
As you let go of the year past,  
may you ... in your free fall find yourself held  
by an eternal love that has come ages to be with you,  
and will carry you all the way to the end. ...  
Every day may you trust your belovedness,  
your freedom from having to prove yourself,  
and receive the grace that is given to you.  
  
May this year be a year of grace and hope.  
—Steve Garnaas-Holmes, unfoldinglight.net

## *Upcoming Events for St. Paul's*



**Deadline: the 22nd  
of each month**

### **Christian Symbol**



**NOAH'S ARK**  
The image of an ark, or boat — often shown with pairs of animals — recalls the story of Noah and the “Great Flood” in Genesis. The floodwaters represent God’s judgment on sin, while the ark reminds us of his gracious power to save and redeem. In this account, Christians see a foreshadowing of our baptism into Christ: “And baptism, which [God’s rescue of Noah and his family] prefigured, now saves you ... (1 Peter 3:21, NRSV)

<b>St. Paul's Epistle</b>	
is published by St. Paul's United Methodist Church	
Subscription Rate: NONE	
Secretary:	Gail Fessler
Pianist:	Lois Cook
Choir Director	Casey Rife
Custodian:	Dave Decker

**January 12**  
**Baptism of the Lord Sunday**

The celebration of the Baptism of the Lord, observed on the first Sunday after Epiphany each year, serves three principal functions in the Christian year:

The first, to relieve the Feast of Epiphany (January 6) from what had become too many observances at once.

The second, is to allow Epiphany to become reconnected to the Christmas Seasons.

The third, is to begin the season of Ordinary Time after Epiphany and give that season a distinctive focus.



**Food Pantry Sunday**  
**January 19**

**Complete meal boxes:  
Pizza mixes w/ everything in  
package, spaghetti meals, etc...**

**Donations taken to  
Five Loaves Food Pantry  
at The Church at Allentown**



**January 20**  
**Martin Luther King Jr. Day**



## *Upcoming Events for St. Paul's*

### "Dyeing" With Christ

The Greek word *baptizo*, which means to immerse, became associated with the dyeing trade. When a cloth is immersed in dye, the union leads to an altered condition. The cloth's previous color no longer exists; it has a permanent new identity.

*Baptizo*, which has no English equivalent, is a spot-on description of what happens in the sacrament of baptism. When we're merged with Christ through water and the Word, we leave behind our original sinful condition. Through that union, Jesus gives us a new identity in him — so "we too may live a new life" (Romans 6:4, NIV).

Bible scholar James Montgomery Boice offered another great example of *baptizo* from, of all places, a 200 B.C. pickle recipe. Nicander, a Greek poet and physician, explained that a vegetable must first be "dipped" (*bapto*) into boiling water and then "baptized" (*baptizo*) in a vinegar solution. "Both verbs concern the immersing of vegetables in a solution, but the first is temporary," Boice writes. "The second, the act of baptizing the vegetable, produces a permanent change."

In the New Testament, *baptizo* "more often refers to our union and identification with Christ than to our water baptism," according to Boice. "Christ is saying that mere intellectual assent is not enough. There must be a union with him, a real change, like the vegetable to the pickle!" And like the cloth to the dye.

# Personnel Report 2025

**ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL / FINANCE**

Administrative Council Chair:	Corinne Piper (27)
Administrative Council Secretary:	Austin Clark (27)
Finance Chair:	Art Holman
Financial Secretary:	Tahler Sdao
Treasurer:	Margie Best
PPR/Nominations:	Deb Hurd (26)
Trustees:	Alex McAdams (27)
Missions:	Tim Piper (26)
Nurture:	Jan Wyant & Virginia Hollar
Christian/Higher Education:	Jan Wyant
Lay Leader:	Dan Best
Lay Member to Annual Conf.:	Linda Craft
Member-at-large:	Norm Grigsby
Pastor:	Paul Scannell

**PPR /NOMINATIONS**

Chairperson:	Deb Hurd (26)
Lay Leader:	Dan Best
Annual Conf. Rep.	Linda Craft
Pastor :	Paul Scannell
Virginia Hollar (25)	
Janna Thompson (25)	
Susan Nartker (27)	

**TREASURER**

Margie Best

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY**

Tahler Sdao

**WORSHIP TEAM**

Pastor:	Paul Scannell
Choir Director:	Casey Rife
Musician:	Lois Cook
Altar Guild:	Vicki McAdams
Liturgical Arts:	Vicki McAdams
Communion Stewards:	Steve & Tracy Sdao
Head Usher:	Larry Moser

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Chairperson:	Alex McAdams (27)
Pastor:	Paul Scannell
Lois Cook (25)	Jamie Wyant (25)
Vicki McAdams (26)	Larry Moser (26)
Ron Steiner (27)	

**MISSIONS**

Chairperson:	Tim Piper (26)
Pastor:	Paul Scannell
Secretary:	Corinne Piper (26)
Jamie Wyant (25)	Norm Grigsby (27)
Sharla Murphy (27)	

**CHRISTIAN / HIGHER EDUCATION**

Chairperson:	Jan Wyant
Pastor:	Paul Scannell
Pre-School:	Shirley Moser
Early Elementary:	Marla Scannell
Corinne Piper	Barb Schade
Slone Whetstone	

**TECH TEAM**

<b><u>VISUALS:</u></b>	<b><u>FACEBOOK LIVE:</u></b>	<b><u>SOUND:</u></b>
Tim Piper	Scott Fessler	Ross Harmon
Benjamin Rife		Alex McAdams
Jamie Wyant		Jamie Wyant

**NURTURE**

Co-Chairperson:	Jan Wyant
Co-Chairperson:	Virginia Hollar
Pastor:	Paul Scannell

**OFFERING COUNTERS**

Finance Chair:	Art Holman
Dan Best	Gene Craft
Scott Fessler	Jamie Wyant

Thank You!

**Thank you to everyone serving on Committees.  
Your time, talents, and dedication to keeping  
St. Paul's running smoothly is greatly appreciated!**



# Hymn History

## O God, Our Help in Ages past

"Then Sings My Soul" Book 1, By Robert J. Morgan

1719

*Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting, to everlasting, You are God. Psalm 90:1-2*

Another hymn in Isaac Watts' 1719 *Psalms of David Imitated* is based on Psalm 90, and is perhaps Watts' most bracing hymn. It was played on the radio by the BBC as soon as World War II was declared, and was later sung at the funeral service of Winston Churchill. Some of the original verses have fallen into disuse, but as you read them, think of the ailing hymnist, sitting at the desk in his room on the Abney estate, pouring over Psalm 90 and penning these words:

*Our God, our help in ages past, / Our hope for years to come, /  
Our shelter from the stormy blast, / and our eternal home.*

*Under the shadow of Thy throne / Thy saints have dwelt secure; /  
Sufficient is Thine arm alone, / And our defense is sure,*

*Before the hills in order stood, / Or earth received her frame, /  
From everlasting thou art God, / To endless years the same.*

*Thy Word commands our flesh to dust, / "Return, ye sons of men:" /  
All nations rose from earth at first, / And turn to earth again.*

*A thousand ages in thy sight / Are like an evening gone; /  
Short as the watch that ends the night / Before the rising sun.*

*The busy tribes of flesh and blood, / With all their lives and cares, /  
Are carried downwards by the flood, / And lost in following years.*

*Time, like never rolling stream, / Bears all its sons away; /  
They fly, forgotten, as a dream / Dies at the opening day.*

*Like flowery fields the nations stand / Pleased with the morning light; /  
The flowers beneath the mowers hand / Lie withering ere 'tis night,*

*Our God, our help in ages past, / Our hope for years to come, /  
Be Thou our guard while trouble last, / And our eternal home.*

P.S. We also have great Christmas carol from this 1719 collection. As Watts studied Psalm 98, especially verses 4-9, he worded them this way: *Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King!*



# Faith In Action

<b>Worship Attendance:</b>	
December 1, 2024	71
December 8, 2024	79
December 15, 2024	81
December 22, 2024	93
December 24, 2024 <i>Christmas Eve</i>	58
December 29, 2024	69

**Financial Giving**  
 Weekly Need for  
 Unified Ministry Budget  
**\$4,187.00**



<b>Unified Ministry Giving:</b>		<b>Other:</b>
December 1, 2024	\$3,088.00	\$155.00
December 8, 2024	\$7,857.87	\$215.00
December 15, 2024	\$13,372.65	\$1,240.00
December 22, 2024	\$2,913.77	\$845.00
December 29, 2024	\$1,628.24	\$1,691.00

<b>Sunday School Attendance</b>	
December 1, 2024	14
December 8, 2024	19
December 15, 2024	18
December 22, 2024	13
December 29, 2024	11

<b>Hospitality Cart</b>	
January 5, 2024	OPEN
January 12, 2024	Harmon Family
January 19, 2024	OPEN
January 26, 2024	OPEN

<b>Flower Calendar</b>	
January 5, 2025	Greg & Barb Schade
January 12, 2025	Paul & Marla Scannell
January 19, 2025	OPEN
January 26, 2025	Ross & Jessie Harmon

**2025 Altar Flowers**

If you would like to signup for Altar flowers for 2025 you may contact the church office at 419-339-3801, e-mail, [officeesp@gmail.com](mailto:officeesp@gmail.com).

Please specify if the flowers are in honor of, or in memory of someone, or a special occasion.

The cost for Altar flowers is \$30.00 plus tax, through the Flower Loft in Elida.

# Daily Bible Readings

**Wednesday 1/1**  
Psalm 98, 99, Isaiah 66:1-23  
Revelation 3:14-22, John 9:1-38

**Thursday 1/2**  
Psalm 104, Isaiah 61:1-9  
Galatians 3:23-29, 4:4-7

**Friday 1/3**  
Psalm 68, 72  
Genesis 28:10-22  
Hebrews 11:13-22, John 10:7-17

**Saturday 1/4**  
Psalm 85, 87, 89:1-29  
Exodus 3:1-12  
Hebrews 11:23-31, John 14:6-14

**Sunday 1/5**  
Psalm 2, 110, Joshua 1:1-9  
Hebrews 11:32-12:2  
John 15:1-16

**Monday 1/6**  
Psalm 46, 96, 97, 100  
Isiah 52:7-10  
Revelation 21:22-27  
Matthew 12:14-21

**Tuesday 1/7**  
Psalm 103, 114, 115  
Isaiah 52:3-6  
Revelation 2:1-7, John 2:1-11

**Wednesday 1/8**  
Psalm 112, 113, 117, 118  
Isaiah 59:15-21  
Revelation 2:8-17, John 4:46-54

**Thursday 1/9**  
Psalm 121, 122, 123, 131, 132  
Isaiah 63:1-5  
Revelation 2:18-29, John 5:1-15

**Friday 1/10**  
Psalm 138, 139, 147  
Isaiah 65:1-9  
Revelation 3:1-6, John 6:1-14

**Saturday 1/11**  
Psalm 91, 92, 148, 150  
Isaiah 65:13-16  
Revelation 3:7-13, John 6:15-27

**Sunday 1/12**  
Psalm 111, 112, 113, 146, 147  
Isaiah 40:1-11  
Hebrews 1:1-12, John 1:1-34

**Monday 1/13**  
Psalm 1, 2, 3, 4, 7  
Isaiah 40:12-23  
Ephesians 1:1-14, Mark 1:1-13

**Tuesday 1/14**  
Psalm 5, 6, 10, 11  
Isaiah 40:25-31  
Ephesians 1:15-23, Mark 1:14-28

**Wednesday 1/15**  
Psalm 12, 13, 14, 119:1-24  
Isaiah 41:1-16  
Ephesians 2:1-10, Mark 1:29-45

**Thursday 1/16**  
Psalm 18, Isaiah 41:17-29  
Ephesians 2:11-22, Mark 2:1-12

**Friday 1/17**  
Psalm 16, 17, 22, Isaiah 42:1-17  
Ephesians 3:1-13, Mark 2:13-22

**Saturday 1/18**  
Psalm 20, 21, 110, 116, 117  
Isaiah 43:1-13  
Ephesians 3:14-21, Mark 2:23-3:6

**Sunday 1/19**  
Psalm 114, 115, 148, 149, 150  
Isaiah 43:14-44:5  
Hebrews 6:17-7:10, John 4:27-42

**Monday 1/20**  
Psalm 9, 15, 25, Isaiah 44:6-23  
Ephesians 4:1-16, Mark 3:7-19

**Tuesday 1/21**  
Psalm 26, 28, 36, 39  
Isaiah 44:9-20  
Ephesians 4:17-32, Mark 3:19-35

**Wednesday 1/22**  
Psalm 38, 119:25-48  
Isaiah 44:24-45:7  
Ephesians 5:15-33  
Mark 4:21-34

**Thursday 1/23**  
Psalm 37, Isaiah 45:5-17  
Ephesians 5:15-33, Mark 4:21-34

**Friday 1/24**  
Psalm 31, 35, Isaiah 45:18-25  
Ephesians 6:1-9, Mark 4:35-41

**Saturday 1/25**  
Psalm 30, 32, 42, 43  
Isaiah 46:1-13  
Ephesians 6:10-24, Mark 5:1-20

**Sunday 1/26**  
Psalm 63, 98, 103, Isaiah 47:1-15  
Hebrews 10:19-31, John 5:2-18

**Monday 1/27**  
Psalm 41, 44, 52, Isaiah 48:1-11  
Galatians 1:1-17, Mark 5:21-43

**Tuesday 1/28**  
Psalm 45, 47, 48, Isaiah 48:12-21  
Galatians 1:18-2:10, Mark 6:1-13

**Wednesday 1/29**  
Psalm 49, 119:49-72  
Isaiah 49:1-12  
Galatians 2:11-21, Mark 6:13-29

**Thursday 1/30**  
Psalm 50, 118, Isaiah 49:13-23  
Galatians 3:1-14, Mark 6:47-56

**Friday 1/31**  
Psalm 40, 51, 54, Isaiah 50:1-11  
Galatians 3:25-22, Mark 6:47-56

O Lord, let my  
New Year's resolution  
be to   
follow you  
**more closely**  
and to  
**trust in your**  
loving guidance.

# Crafty Creatures

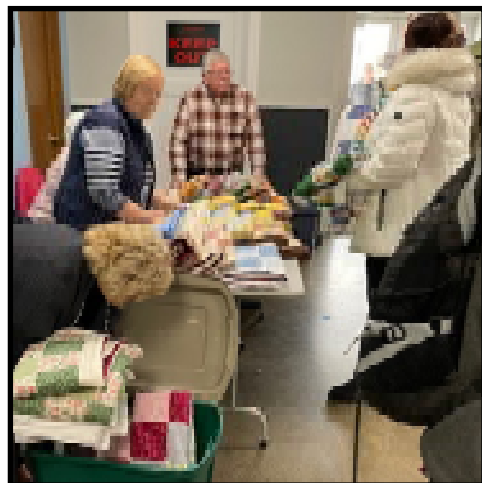
On behalf of the members of the Crafty Creatures small group, we would like to thank our church family and friends for your huge support of our candy sale. After deducting expenses and adding donations, we have cleared a total profit of **\$1,160.11**. **Thank you all for your continued support!** This allows us to continue our mission of showing God's love by providing prayer shawls and quilts to those in need of comfort and support.



Crafty Creatures packaging the homemade candies



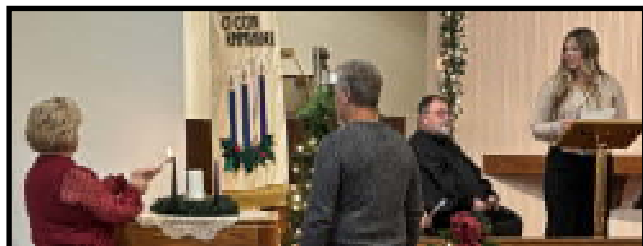
Sunday, November 24, Quilts were blessed, then taken to Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen in Lima, on November 27. The clients of Our Daily Bread were able to choose a quilt. A total of 117 were given out.





# Advent

**1st Sunday of Advent**  
The Sdao Family  
Steve, Tracy & Tahler Sdao



**2nd Sunday of Advent**  
The Clark Family  
Austin, Lauren, Calloway, and Cavanaugh



**3rd Sunday of Advent**  
The Rife Family  
Benjamin and Casey  
Jackson, Ashton, Hudson



**4th Sunday of Advent**  
Deb Hurd & Jamie and Jan Wyant



**December 15**  
Special Music: Lena Whetstone,  
Piano solo "What Child Is This?"  
- arr. H. Acheson



**Thank You!!**  
Pianist: Lois Cook  
Choir Director:  
Casey Rife  
December Liturgist:  
Deb Hurd



# Children's Play

December 22  
 "The Birth of Jesus" by Felicia Mollohan  
 Narrators: Lena Whetstone & Jackson Rife  
 Choir Director: Casey Rife  
 Piano Accompaniment: Lois Cook  
 Preschool Teacher; Shirley Moser  
 Early Elementary Teachers;  
 Marla Scannell, Slone Whetstone,  
 Corinne Piper, Barb Schade.



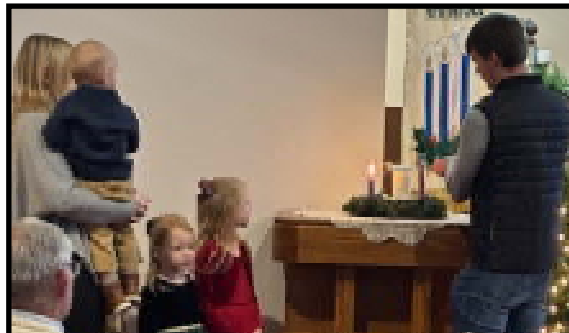


# Christmas Eve

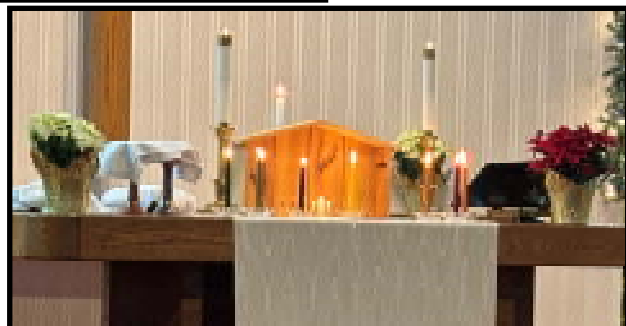
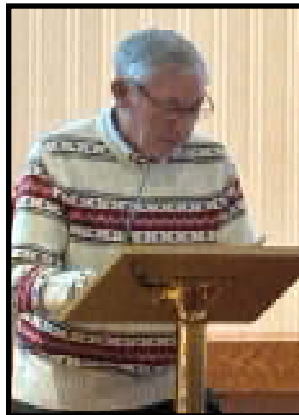
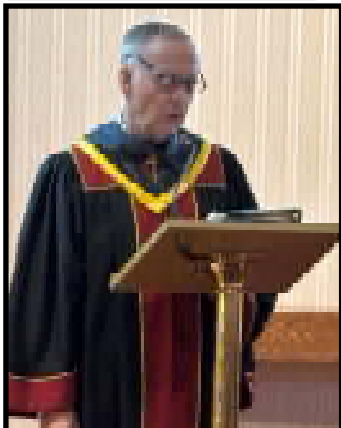
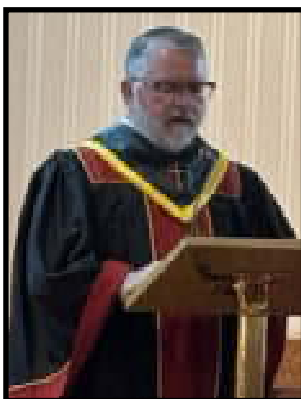
The sanctuary was beautifully decorated by Myrna Metzger and the McAdams Family.



**Christ Candle:**  
The McAdams Family; Alex, Stacy, Rylan, Merah, Baylor



**Scripture Readers:**  
Deb Hurd, Jamie Wyant, Cody Scannell, Pastor Paul, Dan Best, Art Holman, Linda Craft



# The People of St. Paul's

*With Deepest  
Sympathy*

Our sympathy to Tim and Sue Theodore family on the passing of Tim's mother, Eleanor Theodore, on December 29. A memorial service was held in Eastern Ohio.  
Cards may be sent to 3472 Providence Circle, Lima, Ohio 45801

Thank you for your generous gift to help those who are facing a time of need. Thank you for your commitment to this ministry and for your help to care for those in need.  
God Bless,  
Chuck Furguson,  
Executive Director, Lima Rescue Mission

**God In Church Or Nature? Yes.**  
Church isn't designed to be an alternative to the real world. Worship is a time and space apart from the world in order for us to find our way out into the world. Worship isn't a man-made place distinct from the beauty of the natural world; at its best, church is a place where we realize God's glory in the world we find ourselves in. ... Do I find God in a church? or out in nature? Yes. ... In church I hope to sharpen my senses so I can discover the house of God everywhere.  
—James C. Howell,  
*Everywhere Is Jerusalem*



## Remember in Prayer

- Recovering from Surgery or in the Hospital  
Shirley Adams  
Gary Hurd  
Myrna Metzger
- Those in Need of Healing, Support, Strength & Encouragement  
Shirley Adams  
Gary Hurd  
Myrna Metzger
- In the Military & Missions  
Nathan Stewart

## Thank You

Thank you so much for your generous donation of \$66.05. 100 % of your support goes to helping homeless children and families rebuild their lives and regain independence.  
Thank You!

**Our Biblical Purpose Statement:**  
*Elida St. Paul's United Methodist Church exists as God's people embracing His grace through humble service to all.*

**St. Paul's Vision Statement:**  
*Is for the Elida community to be led to Christ through words and deeds enabling youth to have purpose, families to be nurtured and supported, and senior citizens to feel valued.*



**Meetings**

January 7, 2025  
**Trustees Mtg.. 7:00 PM.**

January 8, 2025  
**Worship Mtg..1:00 PM**

**NO PPR Mtg.**

**No Ad Council/Finance**

January 21, 2025  
**Missions ...7:00 PM**

**Sundays**  
**Hospitality...9:30 AM**  
**Worship...10:00 AM**

**Wednesdays**  
**Choir...7:00PM**

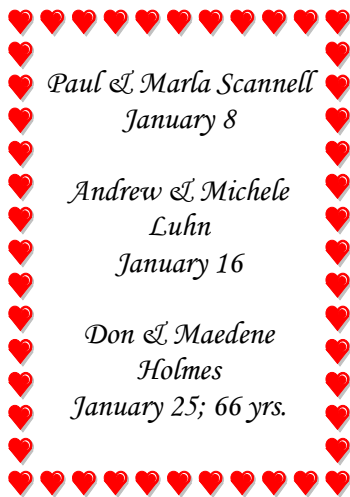
# JANUARY

## 2025

**Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat**

			<b>1</b> Tim Piper Ron Stewart	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Dakota DeRose Becky Ellinger	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> Shara Bowsher Calloway Clark Lois Cook	<b>6</b> Adia Slemmons	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Cindy Guess Larry Moser Barry Smith	<b>9</b> Larkin Wyant	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Nate Craft
<b>12</b> Jaime Chambers	<b>13</b> Brain Nartker	<b>14</b> Roger Henderson	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Steve Sdao	<b>17</b> Norm Grigsby	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> Jessie Harmon	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Adrianna Ellinger Shirley Shoup	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Joanne Bragg	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> Ginger Fox	<b>27</b> Jacalyn Henderson	<b>28</b> Kayla Vermillion	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Wanda Strayer Zack White	<b>31</b> Austin Clark Linda Kristoff Ted Sodders Judy Strayer	

*Anniversaries*


*Paul & Marla Scannell*  
*January 8*

*Andrew & Michele Luhn*  
*January 16*

*Don & Maedene Holmes*  
*January 25; 66 yrs.*



# Featured Recipes from St. Paul's Cooks

## Garlic Ranch Potatoes

*By Tracy Sdao*

Ingredients		Instructions
3 lbs.	Red potatoes, washed & quartered	Serves 6-8 people Spray crockpot with cooking spray. Place all ingredients in crockpot. Cook on high for 3-4 hrs. Stir a few times to coat potatoes.
2 Tbl.	Salted Butter, melted	
2 Tbl.	Olive oil	
1 oz.	Ranch seasoning	
1 Tbl.	Garlic, minced	
To taste	Kosher salt & pepper	



## Chicken Frito Dip

*By Deb Hurd*

Ingredients		Instructions
1- 12.5 oz. can	White Chunk Chicken	Drain chicken, and put in medium bowl and shred. Add rest and stir until mixed. Store in covered bowl in refrigerator over night. Best if made a day ahead. Serve with Frito Scoops.
1- 8oz.	Sour Cream	
1- 8 oz. carton	Pimento Cheese	
1 pkg.	Hidden Valley Ranch dressing mix	
splash	Hot sauce	



# KIDZ KORNER

## A HUGE CATCH



Make a catch of fish to show what happens when Jesus calls his first disciples.


**What you need:**

- Cardboard egg carton
- Acrylic paint
- Paintbrush
- Darning needle
- Fishing twine
- Scissors
- Googly eyes or buttons
- Glue

**What you do:**

1. From the egg carton, cut out the 12 cups. From the lid, cut out two fish tails.
2. On a protected surface, turn the cups upside down. Paint the outside of each cup and both sides of the tails. Let dry.
3. Thread the needle with an arm's length of twine. Tie a knot at the end.
4. Thread the needle through the end of the tail. Tie another knot an inch from the tail.
5. Thread the needle through one upside-down cup. Pull the twine through until the cup rests on the knot.
6. Continue tying knots an inch above each cup and threading on another cup until you've strung six cups. Tie a knot above the last cup and leave a long string to hang the fish. (You can make two fish with each egg carton.)
7. Add googly eyes or buttons to the last cup to make a face.

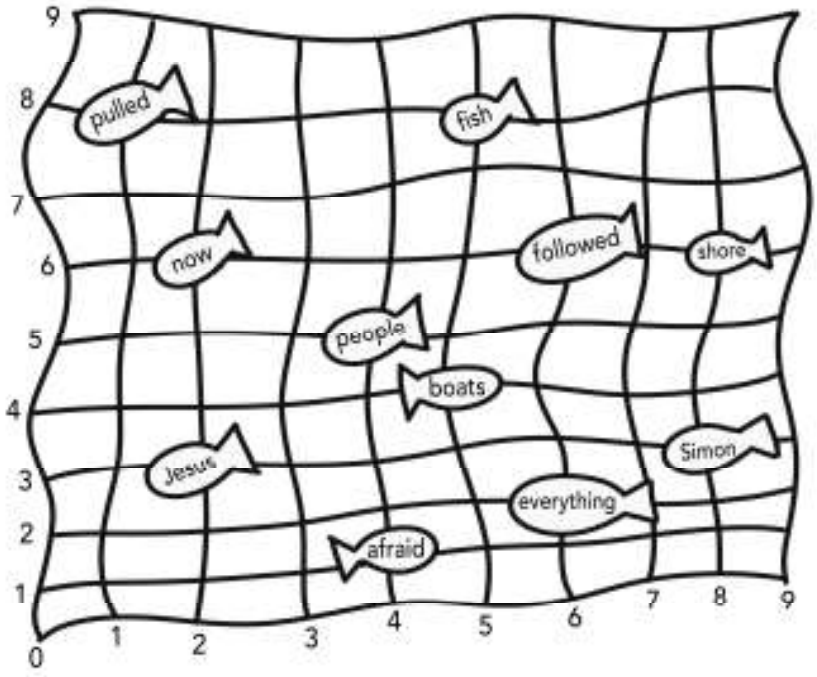
## PUZZLE



### FISHING DIRECTIONS

When fishermen obeyed Jesus and let down their nets, they caught so many fish that their boats began to sink! Simon Peter fell at Jesus' knees. What happened next?

*Directions: Use the coordinate clues to locate the correct words and complete Luke 5:10-11 (NIV) below. The first number in each clue pair goes across, and the second number goes up.*



Then Jesus said to \_\_\_\_\_, "Don't be \_\_\_\_\_; from \_\_\_\_\_ on you will \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_." So they \_\_\_\_\_ their \_\_\_\_\_ up on \_\_\_\_\_, left \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ him.

Luke 5:10-11, NIV

Answers: Jesus, Simon, afraid, now, fish, people, pulled, boats, shore, followed, everything, followed

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## Living Our Faith

### When Life Gets Out Of Control *by Heidi Hyland Mann*

In September 2024, a North Dakota teen's car malfunctioned, becoming unstoppable and reaching 113 miles per hour. For 40 minutes, 18-year-old Sam navigated a bridge into Minnesota, intersections with train tracks and highways, small towns and — almost — the road's dead end.

But after Sam called his mom and 911, multiple first responders gathered. Police drove near him, staying on the phone and calmly asking about the accelerator, emergency brake and remaining gas. Ambulance crews were ready. The highway patrol laid speed sticks to puncture the tires (it didn't work) and cleared intersections ahead of the runaway vehicle. All the while, Sam's mom prayed. Finally, an officer sped ahead so Sam could run into his squad car, bringing his own to a halt.

Not making light of what could have turned tragic, sometimes our lives get out of control too. We speed through work, school, relationships, parenting — trying to accomplish, achieve and gain faster than others. We cram as much in each day as possible, seemingly unable to slow down. The harried pace can endanger our physical, mental and spiritual health.

Often, we're "saved" only as people who care come alongside us to help. Perhaps family members express concern, professionals suggest remedies, loved ones pray for us. Finally, when all we can do is crash into the loving care of God, we come to rest. It may take time to recover emotionally, to dare get back "behind the wheel," to trust life to carry us at a safe speed again. But thanks be to God for placing support systems around us when we need them most.