THE SPIRIT OF ST. PAUL'S

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

WINTER 2024

Written by Pastor Pete Bowmer

In this great nation we are living through the transition from one administration to another. The new administration has made promises that will, if implemented, bring about more changes to our society than has been seen in generations. At St Paul's we are also experiencing a transition. The congregation is in the process of discovering where God is leading the community and discerning what type of pastor may be best suited to shepherd the congregation into the future. Pete Bowmer will continue as your pastor during this time.

Transitions are uncertain. We don't know what they will bring. Transitions can produce anxiety. But folks, let's be real. When Jesus walked this earth 2,000 years ago, he was not living in a perfect world. His country was ruled by a foreign, oppressive regime. Many people lived in poverty. Good health and longevity was privileges given only to a handful of rich people. And yet.... And yet the Son of God ushered in a new Kingdom. A kingdom, not like our administrations. A new kingdom where love is the central tenet. Love God, love neighbor. It is this love that our world seeks.

In a recent sermon I said a Saint, like a stained glass window, is someone who let the light shine through. As we enter this uncertain time of transition, be real like Jesus. Be a saint. Let God's light shine through you. Be God's love in this world. There is nothing more certain than God's love for all people in Jesus. That love will bind all people together, even during the most uncertain times of transition. Blessed to be blessing, bringing health, healing and wholeness.

Be God's love in this world. There is nothing more certain than God's love for all people in Jesus.



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COMMUNITY HEART CAFÉ

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays 10 AM - 11 AM in the Social Room

Written by Pastor Pete

Community Heart Cafe is thriving! We are providing over 800 people with meals and services each month! Dotty is our faithful cook. She has been ill recently and Pastor Pete has stepped in as 'chef'! Dotty is supported by Pam, Eva, Kenny, Johnnie Mae, Cora, Donna and Maggie. From time to time, Bob, Judy and Tim also assist by picking up supplies from Foodbank. Donna, Judy, Freda, Diane and anonymous others often contribute donated food and

Meals Served:

SEPT - 749

OCT - 811

NOV - 524 (by 11/21)

supplies. The 'Women of Toledo' recently donated a very generous Mexican Feast!

We are also supported by Katina from the 'Christian Legal Collaborative' who supplies much needed legal counsel free of charge.

Come along and visit, enjoy one of our meals, a prayer and fellowship. We would love to see you soon! Pastor Pete and Eva (Co-Program Directors)







Johnnie Mae & Cora at the dessert table

MIDDLE: Kenny washing dishes

RIGHT: Pam serving meals

LEFT: Two of our café guests

MIDDLE: Our café guest receiving ameal

RIGHT: Donna with one of our café guests





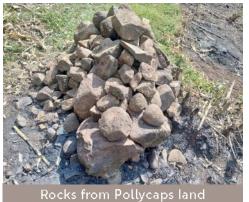


If interested in donating or volunteering, email pastor,pete@stpaulstoledo.org

PLENTY 4 ALL

Written by Jack SoRelle

We have launched our most recent project in Ndhiwa, Kenya where Pollycap Ogalo has purchased 2 beehives along with training and the appropriate materials for beekeeping. Honey bees pollinate 80% of all flowering plants, including more than 130 types of fruits and vegetables. Over the last 15 years colonies of bees have been disappearing across the world for unknown reasons it has been named "colony collapse disorder". The success of our project will be appreciated immediately locally in Kenya but will benefit all of us globally. When funding is secured we will start beekeeping projects in Lumuriti and Emulama.



After the recent flooding that destroyed Pollycap's







lowland crops we have been creating a plan to redirect, channel and absorb floodwaters by using materials immediately available to us. Pollycap's land is full of rocks that can be used to build walls and capture basins that will help with water management and reduce the loss of topsoil.

backward while moving some of the rocks and injured the lumbar region of his spine and had to be hospitalized. After a successful surgery and hospital stay he is now home with his loving family where

he can continue his recovery. He is in physical therapy and will be using a walker until he can walk independently. Once the surgery and hospitalization bills were paid we were able to get the Land Deed title for his land back as it was being held as collateral. We thank the Lord for making this possible and are grateful for healing Pollycap from these serious injuries.



LEFT: Pollycap with his family

RIGHT: Pollycap recovering after surgery

Please make donations payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church and include "Plenty4 All" in the memo line.

To learn more please visit: www.facebook.com/Plenty4All/

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Written by Randy Hutchinson

As we near the end of 2024, the staff and council of St. Paul's wish to sincerely thank all those who have given generously this year to support our ongoing missions. Your gifts to St. Paul's are a tremendous act of faith and gratitude. Unlike those TV preachers who tell people to send in their "seed" and God will reward them with financial abundance, your gifts to St. Paul's are given without expectation of any reward other than the satisfaction and fulfillment of knowing you are helping to spread the gospel through good works. That is what true charitable giving looks like.

What kind of good works are you supporting?

- The Community Heart Café which feeds the hungry 3 times every week in a safe and welcoming
 environment, and helps the underserved become more independent and gain a sense of self
 worth.
- The Heart Gallery Ministry which provides so many opportunities for fellowship, entertainment and spiritual education.
- The MakerSpace, Christian Legal Collaborative, Build a Bed, Youth learning opportunities, winter hat ministry, Plenty 4 All, and a host of other activities that uplift and encourage others.
- Our Sunday morning worship where Pastor Pete constantly reminds us of God's love for us all.

Our celebration of the 100th anniversary of the parish house this year reminds us of the long history of service to the community St. Paul's has provided. There is still time to donate to this fundraising drive which will help us maintain and update the parish house, providing activities and opportunities for engagement with the greater Toledo community. Your donation allows others to create meaningful memories as our community has enjoyed the last 100 years.

The leadership of St. Paul's continues to seek out new and creative ways to finance the missions of this historic and cherished ministry. We are moving forward aggressively with our 501c3 charitable arm called the Community Heart of Toledo which will allow access to more grant opportunities. Still, the core of our financial future will be the support of congregation members, friends, and the many who have been touched in some way by St. Paul's during their lifetime.

A few ways to financially support St. Paul's

- Sign up for St, Paul's Kroger Community rewards (Organization # AS561) www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards
- · Memorial, honorarium or altar flower donations
- Include a bequest to St, Paul's in your estate planning
- Purchase donuts

You can feel a tremendous sense of satisfaction and fulfillment knowing that your generous support will allow St. Paul's to continue to uplift the most vulnerable in our society, to encourage and support the suffering, to give hope, and spread the gospel.

Blessed to be a blessing is not just a tag line at St. Paul's, but rather a way of life that compels us to show the love of God and put our faith into action. We are thankful for the saints who supported this ministry for over a century. Help us keep the legacy alive for the next century and beyond and continue the culture of Christian charity that St. Paul's Lutheran Church is known for.

Again, we thank you for you past support and pray you will continue to support our ministries as we move forward into a new era of ministry at St. Paul's – the church with a heart in the heart of Toledo. With God's blessing and your help, we will not only continue to survive, but to thrive and grow as workers in God's kingdom here on earth.

PASTOR'S PERSONAL UPDATE

Written by Pastor Pete

Dear Friends at St Paul's,

This last year has been an amazing time for me and my family. Our four daughters have moved out of our home, but not our hearts, to start their new lives. Elouera now teaches in California whilst also completing her Masters of Education, and lives with her boyfriend Trent (who is a professional baseball coach). Tenayah has moved to Chicago and recently married her sweetheart, Robbie. Tenayah and Robbie are both artists and she is also beginning an internship associated with her MBA. Xanthe and Brian were married in June and now live in Findlay with their small family of dogs and cats. Xanthe heads the online marketing division at a local Ford dealership. Keeley, our youngest, completed her degree and moved to New York City to become the assistant store manager at



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Elouera, Tenayah, Xanthe & Keeley

Abercrombie and Fitch. She has a lovely boyfriend, Lee. Madonna and I hope to travel in the coming years to spend time with them all.

Unfortunately at this time Madonna's father is experiencing deteriorating health. We will be traveling to Australia in December to spend some quality time with them. We are organizing for our daughters to also fly over and visit with their only surviving grandparents. Please keep our family in your prayers; we certainly appreciate your prayers and your generous kindness. We will be back in time for Christmas and hope to see as many of you as possible at our Christmas Eve service!

Rest assured I will be with you, serving you as your pastor, for the foreseeable future, during St. Paul's time of transition.



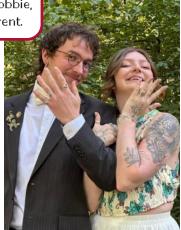


CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Keeley & Madonna, Pete & Madonna, Pete walking Xanthe down the aisle, Tenayah & Robbie, Xanthe & Brian, the pups, Elouera & Trent.









SUNDAY READINGS

DECEMBER 1

Jeremiah 33;14-16 Psalm 25;1-10 1 Thessalonians 3;9-13 Luke 21;25-36

DECEMBER 8

Malachi 3:1-4 Luke 1:68-79 Philippians 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6

DECEMBER 15

Zephaniah 3:14-20 Isaiah 12:2-6 Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-18

DECEMBER 22

Micah 5:2-5a Luke 1:46b-55 Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

DECEMBER 29

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 Psalm 148 Colossians 3:12-17 Luke 2:41-52

JANUARY 5

Jeremiah 31;7-14 Psalm 147;12-20 Ephesians 1;3-14 John 1;[1-9] 10-18

JANUARY 12

Isaiah 43:1-7 Psalm 29

JANUARY 12 (cont'd)

Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

JANUARY 19

Isaiah 62:1-5 Psalm 36:5-10 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 John 2:1-11

JANUARY 26

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a Luke 4:14-21

FEBRUARY 2

Malachi 3:1-4 Psalm 84 Hebrews 2:14-18 Luke 2:22-40

FEBRUARY 9

Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-13] Psalm 138 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Luke 5:1-11

FEBRUARY 16

Jeremiah 17:5-10 Psalm 1 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 Luke 6:17-26

FEBRUARY 23

Genesis 45:3-11, 15 Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 Luke 6:27-38

Did you know?

In 1940 Christmas services were begun at the former Pramount theater in downtown Toledo (now a large parking lot). Attendance on Easter Sunday in 1941 was 4,501.

100TH ANNIVERSARY



COOKBOOK & FUNDRAISER

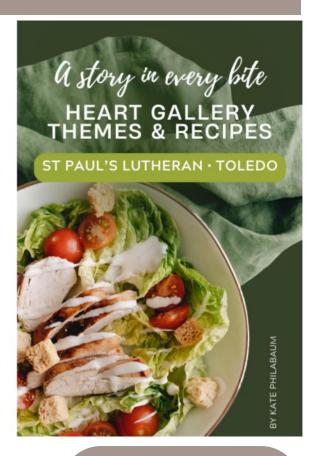
HeART Gallery Cookbooks are available for \$20. Someone on your Christmas list will really enjoy reading twelve months of stories from Lunch & Learn events with recipes. All proceeds from the cookbooks go to the 100th Anniversary Fundraiser.

To date we have raised \$623 from the cookbooks and a total of \$5313.60 donated toward the fundraiser.

Thank you for your generosity!

ESTATE PLANNING

To ensure St. Paul's can continue to share the good news of Jesus into future generations please consider including a bequest to St. Paul's Lutheran Church Toledo in your estate planning. Thank you for your generosity! PRE-ORDER COOKBOOK \$20 proceeds to anniversary fundraiser



PICK A DATE to donate

100TH ANNIVERSARY PARISH HALL FUNDRAISER

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	ANY 🜟 AMOUNT		e QR 📑 de to 📆 onate 💯	

CHOOSE DATE(S) WITH SPECIAL MEANING. WE WILL PUBLICIZE & HONOR WITH YOU.

DONATIONS WILL FUND FUTURE MINISTRIES & PARISH HALL IMPROVEMENTS. GOAL \$40K

WAYS TO DONATE

Cash

By check - hand deliver or mail to the church office and include Anniversary Fundraiser in the memo

Scan the QR code to the left and donate through PayPal

Regardless of which method you use, include your name, phone, date and special meaning with your donation.

Thank you for your support!

\$40K

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

ADVENT GATHERINGS - LED BY PASTOR MICHAEL POOLE

WEDNESDAYS IN DECEMBER 6-7:40 PM (12/4, 12/12 & 12/18)

A soup and salad dinner will be provided, Pastor Michael Poole will share an advent message and guide conversations focused on the future of St. Pauls. We will discuss what we think God is calling us to do and work together to determine steps that can be taken to move forward in that direction.

The transition team plans to use the information gathered from the advent gatherings to establish next steps and will meet again sometime in late January.



A candlelight celebration of the birth of Jesus with lessons, carols, communion and prayer.

All are welcome!

Pete Bowmer, pastor Kate Philabaum, organ Alex Munson, violin







HEART GALLERY EVENTS

LUNCH & LEARN

CAROLS OF THE NATIVI-TEA

THURS DEC 19 • 11AM MUSIC PROGRAM SANCTUARY

12PM · LUNCH BUFFET VIEW CRECHES DECORATED TREES



Nativi-Tea is our most popular Lunch & Learn event. We limit attendance to 140 and are close to that number already. A music program begins at 11:00 AM in the sanctuary with carol singing and stories about the nativities. A tea buffet lunch follows and guests view the nativities.

We appreciate ANY help with this event - particularly dishwashers and greeters around the building. (It's a lot of lost visitors without extra help!)

LUNCH & LEARN

One of the most successful activities at HeART Gallery is our monthly Lunch & Learn, held the third Thursday on the month during the school year. With a wide variety of speakers and topics, we provide a themed lunch, graciously welcome guests to St Paul's, and offer tours of the building. We have grown from 16 participants to a steady 70 each month, so it takes many hands to prepare, serve, greet and assist our guests and speakers.

Please see Kate if you are able to volunteer in any capacity. We have a great time and have become a community of "listeners and prayers" for those who attend.

AN AFTERNOON WITH JANE AUSTEN

The year 2025 marks the 250th anniversary of Jane Austen's birth. Carrie Bebris, author of the award-winning Mr. & Mrs. Darcy Mystery series inspired by Austen, will describe

Austen's path to publication in a when period women were discouraged from writing professionally and novels were considered lowbrow entertainment, She will also share how she recreates Regency England in her own novels through historical research that has taken her from Austen's own humble cottage to great manor houses, smuggling caves, holds of 18th-century the warships, Following lunch, guests are invited to the Parlor to learn a Regency card game Whist,



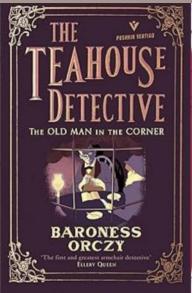


IN THE PARLOR



HEART GALLERY EVENTS





RADIO STYLE MYSTRERY

Fans of Sherlock Holmes and British crime fiction, will enjoy a radio-style who- dun-it by the author of "The Scarlet Pimpernel". A nameless, eccentric old man, sitting in the corner of a cozy London tea shop, uses pure deduction to solve a series of baffling crimes. -- from cases of deadly blackmail, to daring thefts and brilliant deceptions. Lunch and decor will reflect the references in the London tea house

OUR PARTNERS IN ACTION

Stop by our "partnership table" when visiting the Nativity Festival! Working together with other like-minded nonprofits has provided many benefits to our outreach ministries. Not only does it expand opportunities for grants, we also benefit from additional volunteers and resources. Learn about these partners and how we mutually benefit from working together. Donations are always appreciated!

Community Cafe - free brunch M, W, F, donations of coffee, baked goods, volunteers

Let's Build - bed building for underserved children, new twin sheet sets, pillows

Women of Toledo - supporting women of color; learning from our diversity

Service Learning Camps - 3-4 day youth summer day camp

Kool Kat Science - STEM building youth & adults; donate cardboard, household tools

Christians Legal Collaborative - reduced legal services

St Lucas Kid and Adult Thrift Store - gently used adult & children's clothing

Glenwood Lutheran - community LEGO Club; used LEGOS or DUPLOS

Lutheran Social Services - addiction counseling, food pantry

OH Guidestone - expressive arts program for recovering addicts

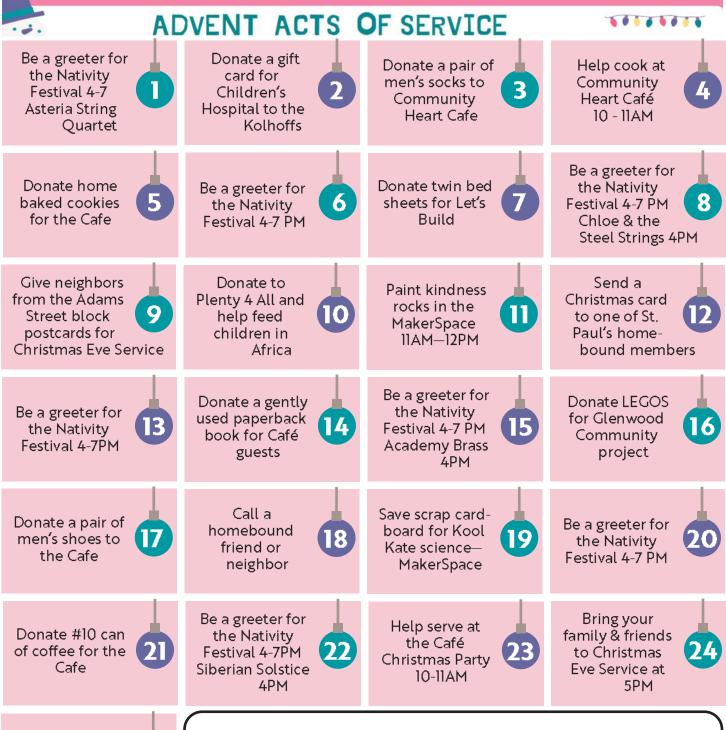
Friends of the Creche - donation of nativities from around the world for display

Network of Christians in Visual Arts - supporting Christian artists



ADVENT ACTS OF SERVICE

the committee of the committee of



Wish everyone a Merry Christmas! To RSVP or get more information about Gallery, Nativity Festival events or concerts, reach out to Kate Philabaum, kate@stpaulstoledo.org.

NATIVITY FESTIVAL



NATIVITY FESTIVAL

300+ creches • 50+ themed trees • kids activities

December 1 - 22

Fridays & Sundays 4-7pm

Dec 1	Asteria String Quartet	4pm
Dec 8	Chloe & The Steel Strings	4pm
Dec 15	Academy Brass & Organ	4pm
Dec 22	Siberian Solstice	4pm

St. Paul's Lutheran Church 428 N Erie • Toledo www.stpaulstoledo.org

free parking · handicap accessible · admission free · donations appreciated

NATIVITY FESTIVAL December 1 - 22

Every Friday & Sunday 4-7pm

Don't miss our biggest outreach event of the year! We've added beautiful themed trees to our collection, staged around Pattye and Bill Nicolls nativities from Africa. Other new additions to the Nativity Festival include a "Taste of Bethlehem" in the MakerSpace with kids activities and the return of our artist-in-residence on Friday nights with wine and dessert bar.

The Social Room remains a place for conversation, cookies and hot chocolate and will include a Partnership Table, calling attention to the community work we are doing with other local non-profits: Let's Build, Women of Toledo, Service Learning Camps to name a few.

Local musicians will usher in the holidays with four candlelit concerts on Sundays in December beginning at 4pm.

Concerts are free and open to the public, but donations are appreciated. Doors open at 3pm on Sundays to view the 300+ nativities from around the world, staged among 50 themed trees. Concerts begin at 4pm with reception following.

Sunday, Dec 1 - Asteria String Quartet will perform familiar carols and songs of the season. Multi media slides illustrate the surprising history behind the carols.

Sunday Dec 8 - Chloe and the Steel Strings, a Cosmic Americana band, will perform holiday favorites and original melodic tunes built around twin singer vocalists Chloe and Anna.

Sunday Dec 15 - Academy Brass Quintet, a perennial favorite, will perform Baroque classics with a carol sing-a-long.

Sunday Dec 22 - Siberian Solstice, a seven piece band will perform Trans-Siberian inspired pieces, for an electrifying evening of holiday rock music, complete with lighting effects, lasers and fog.

BE A VOLUNTEER!

See the ADVENT ACTS OF SERVICE sign up sheet in the Narthex.

Joy To The World! "Let our light shine before others so that they may see our good works and give glory to our Heavenly Father".

GATHERINGS

LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch will resume following our Holiday break. We will meet again on Jan 12 and Feb 9th. The restaurants will be determined later. We hope you can join us for these outings. Watch your email and church bulletins. Hope to see you then!

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Lunch Bunch Outings!

- December On break
- January TBD
- February TBD

Reservations are needed. You may call or text Cindy Rockwell (419-270-9137) or Wayne Ludwig (419-509-5387) or email to cynthiar@bex.net.

TRANSITION UPDATE

Pastor Michael Poole from Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Dublin, OH is the SYNOD appointed facilitator working with us during the transition as we prepare for Pastor Petés retirement. There have been a few meetings the last few months with the goal of determining our needs. The most recent meeting on November 17th included a brief conversation with the congregation outlining the projected timeline as unknown based on current availability. Pastor Michael Poole will explore the congregation's needs during the Wednesday Advent gatherings. If you are able to attend, your input would be very appreciated to ensure our community is an active part of the transition process.

PEGGY'S 90TH PARTY!

Thank you to everyone who celebrated such a special birthday with Peggy. She had a wonderful time and felt very loved!



TEDDY BEAR DONATIONS

Judy and Dan Kolhoff from St. Paul's help collect \$10-\$20 Teddy bears, money donations and/or prayers for the children in Toledo Hospital for the holidays. The donations offer children security during this very hard time. There are many readings in the Bible where Jesus talks about his little children so we are moved by Jesus to help! All teddy bears and donations are accepted until 12/10.

CELEBRATE WITH US

WELCOME!

We are committed to you, the and the world community, around us. We believe God's love embraces all persons equally, no matter their age, ethnicity, race, abilities, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, citizen status, political leanings, religious expression, or any other boundaries the world uses to decide who is worthy and who is not. We are striving to be open and inclusive. We commit to loving YOU and caring for YOU by showing YOU the love of Jesus that we have received freely from God,

ANNIVERSARIES

DECEMBER

Jan & Larry Montrie Amanda & Tyler Nye

JANUARY

Jack & Judi Dauer

FEBRUARY

Robert & Victoria Holmes

meanings & additional photos.



回探波音源 Scan the QR code to view the full article Awakening" symbol

MEMORIALS (8/22 - 11/21)

In Memory of Gary Paulsen

Carol Knutson

In Memory of Fran Wilson

Bob Storer

In Memory of Luther Samson

Bequest from Luther's Estate

Thank you all for your generosity!

BIRTHDAYS

DECEMBER

Mikenzie Dayton Toby Vick Cookie Schult Cheri Deal Ron Vogelpohl Donna Zbinden Elouera Bowmer

JANUARY

Bob Druckemiller Larry Montrie Jack SoRelle Jack Dauer Jaden Tovar—Gilbert Dave Price

FEBRUARY

Madonna Bowmer Diane McCue Don Rydman Jeanne Sonnenberg Sandy Lazenby Makayla Tovar Michelene SoRelle Lee Slusher Robert Holmes

If there is anything you would like to share in the SPRING edition of the Spirit (March, April, May) please send the info to office@stpaulstoledo.org or call 419-243-4214.

Submissions must be received by 2/14.

Directions & Parking

428 N Erie St
View larger map

Adams St. Paul's

Adams St. Paul's

Parking Downtown

If visiting MON - SAT 7AM - 4PM request a parking validation code from the office to use the Kwik Park lot beside the church.

Paid on street parking is also available.

Wheelchair accessible entrances are available through the red main Sanctuary entrance off Erie (the far right door with small ramp) and from the parking lot entrance. If entering through the parking lot entrance, go through the Social Room.

The church with a heart in the heart of downtown Toledo.

Contact Us

St. Paul's Lutheran Church 428 N. Erie St Toledo, OH 43604 419-243-4214

office@stpaulstoledo.org

www.stpaulstoledo.org

Office Hours Monday - Friday 9AM - 3PM

Worship

Sundays 10:15AM led by Pastor Peter Bow<u>mer</u>

Watch ServicesSt. Paul's Facebook Page

Facebook Pages
St Paul's Lutheran Church
HeART Gallery & Studios

