

THE SPIRIT OF ST. PAUL'S

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUMMER 2025

Written by Pastor Pete Bowmer

The Roman Catholic world mourns the loss of Francis and celebrates Pope Pious XIV. Politics in the USA continues to polarize the people. Wars in various parts of the world are described as the Third World War in pieces. All these things invite us to ponder, 'Who are we? What do we stand for?' When Jesus began his ministry, he preached his first sermon. The Scripture he based that sermon on was the prophet Isaiah 61. This first sermon set the tone for his entire ministry. He told us what he stood for, *"The Spirit of the Lord God has taken control of me! The Lord has chosen and sent me to tell the oppressed the good news, to heal the brokenhearted, and to announce freedom for prisoners and captives"*. This, too, is the message we preach. And again it can be summed up in Jesus' words recorded in Mark 12... *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."* The second is this: *"Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these."*

God's allegiance is always with Humanity and Creation. **As Christians our first allegiance is always to our gracious God and the Kingdom God established through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.** Everything we think, profess and do is shaped by those core values as expressed in Scriptures quoted above. It is our Lutheran belief that God has established various agencies to ensure that all people (especially the ones mentioned in Jesus' first sermon) are well cared for. Those agencies we call Government, law enforcement, courts etc. These people work on behalf of God to ensure that all people are protected and cared for. As Christians we do not worship these agencies. These agencies are intended by God to implement the vision expressed by Jesus. They are meant to set us free to love our neighbor as ourselves. These agencies exist to serve God, not the other way around!

So my siblings in Jesus I ask **"What do you stand for? Who do you serve?"** We live in a world where it is imperative that we know what we believe and how to put those beliefs into actions and words. Jesus' love for, and inclusion of, all people eventually got him killed. **Love can be that threatening to those who seek power for their own benefit.** It's imperative we know what we stand for. Our lives and the lives of all people around us depend on us knowing what we stand for. For me, Micah 6:8 sums up what I stand for. *"Act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God"*. What do you stand for?



St. Paul's
Lutheran Church

The church with a heart in the heart of Toledo.



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COMMUNITY HEART CAFE

Written by Pete Bowmer

The Heart Café is about more than just the provision of food and drinks. It is about the pastoral care and prayer support that is being offered and the community that is being built. We include everyone and provide a safe place. A place of dignity and respect, care and community, prayer and hospitality. Personally, I think that is all good stuff. **The cafe is making a difference in downtown Toledo.** I am proud of our cafe and St Paul's can be proud of it!

ALL ARE WELCOME!

The café serves free community meals every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10AM - 11AM.



Pictured: Our café workers and volunteers serving the community and providing a safe, welcoming space for connection.

PLENTY 4 ALL

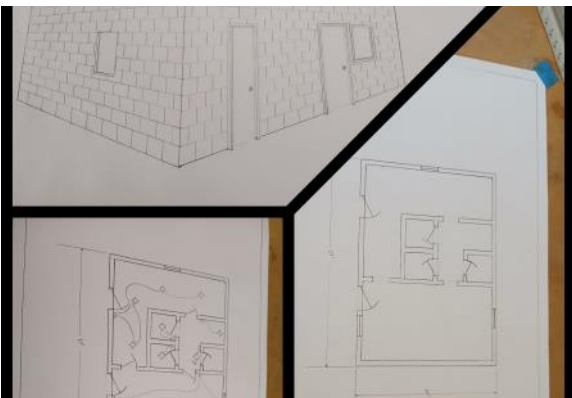
Written by Jack SoRelle

The Plenty4All Coops have all planted the seeds which were recently purchased and are seeing good progress. Jackline Miriti the Project Manager in Lumuruti was pleased to share photos of healthy good looking crops which they planted.

In Ndhiwa, Kenya Pollycap Ogalo, CEO of Plenty4All, is making good progress recovering from his back injury. He has been able to take a class on the use of the EcoFlow Delta 2 Max solar charger and 160 W solar panel which we just purchased. This solar electric system produces and stores enough power to operate almost any electronic equipment and tools. Pollycap and his family can now enjoy fans, cook rice, vegetables and fish using an electric rice cooker instead of an open fire. We will use it with electric tools to build the interior of the Guest and Training Center.



Crops in Lumuruti



Plenty4All Guest and Training Center sketches.

After drawing up sketches of the Plenty4All Guest and Training Center I asked a friend to look them over and offer suggestions for the electrical and plumbing systems as this is his profession. He advised me and drew the systems to scale. They were sent to Pollycap who provided them to the local contractor to ensure the building standards and regulations were met.

After the plans were approved, we have begun building and will soon have the first phase of construction completed. The foundation has been dug and then filled with rocks and concrete and the brick walls are going up now. Soon the roof will go on and the next phase of construction will be to raise funds for the rainwater collection and storage system. After that the interior construction can take place.



First phase of construction for the Plenty4All Guest and Training Center.

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

For additional information go to www.plenty4all.net or write us at plenty4allcbo@gmail.com

SUNDAY READINGS

JUNE 1

Acts 16:16-34
Psalm 97
Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21
John 17:20-26

JUNE 8

Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:14-17
John 14:8-17 [25-27]

JUNE 15

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31
Psalm 8
Romans 5:1-5
John 16:12-15

JUNE 22

Isaiah 65:1-9
Psalm 22:19-28
Galatians 3:23-29
Luke 8:26-39

JUNE 29

1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21
Psalm 16
Galatians 5:1, 13-25
Luke 9:51-62

JULY 6

Isaiah 66:10-14
Psalm 66:1-9
Galatians 6:1-6 [7-16]
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

JULY 13

Deuteronomy 30:9-14
Psalm 25:1-10
Colossians 1:1-14
Luke 10:25-37

JULY 20

Genesis 18:1-10a
Psalm 15
Colossians 1:15-28
Luke 10:38-42

JULY 27

Genesis 18:20-32
Psalm 138
Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19]
Luke 11:1-13

AUGUST 3

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23
Psalm 49:1-12
Colossians 3:1-11
Luke 12:13-21

AUGUST 10

Genesis 15:1-6
Psalm 33:12-22
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Luke 12:32-40

AUGUST 17

Jeremiah 23:23-29
Psalm 82
Hebrews 11:29-12:2
Luke 12:49-56

AUGUST 24

Isaiah 58:9b-14
Psalm 103:1-8
Hebrews 12:18-29
Luke 13:10-17

AUGUST 31

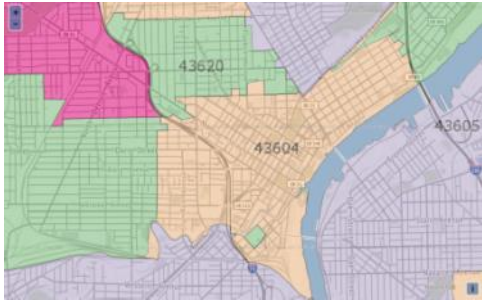
Proverbs 25:6-7a
Psalm 112
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
Luke 14:1, 7-14

Did you know?

Major remodeling begun in the Sanctuary in 1953. All the dark wood seats were removed and replaced by the present light oak variety. The entire room was repainted, stain glass windows replaced the clear glass ones and closed circuit tv was installed in the social room since the seats in the Sanctuary were usually filled for Sunday services.

SUMMER EVENTS

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW OUR NEIGHBORS?



The 43604 ZIP code represents the heart of downtown Toledo, Ohio, a region rich in history and culture currently undergoing revitalization. The Huron Street corridor from the Mud Hens stadium to Adams Street is scheduled for extensive renovations in the next three years, just outside our doorstep! In addition to key landmarks like Fifth Third Field, the Huntington Center, Imagination Station, and the Maumee riverfront, 43604 is also home to a diverse and dynamic residential population.

Approximately 6,500 live in the 43604 area, with housing ranging from high-rise apartments and converted lofts to the west of our building and subsidized housing developments to the east. It is a racially and ethnically diverse community with 77% of the population single between the ages of 25-50. We plan to further engage with our neighbors in this demographic by offering our building for an indoor garage sale (held May 8), more Party in The Parking lot events (June, July, August), and Friday night “Carols and Cocktails” events in December. We will also participate in a Pride Day booth on Saturday, August 16 and continue to provide water for the Susan G Komen Race on Sunday, Sept 28.



SERVICE LEARNING CAMPS



HeART Gallery will once again host Service Learning Camps for the ELCA. The summer program includes art and faith experiences designed for youth ages 11- 16. Groups participate in daily Bible study, a mural walk with guided discussion and reflection, and an “Art Outreach” project. Other activities include stocking the food bank, working in Toledo community gardens, and helping with local VBS programs. Evenings include a Mud Hens game, outdoor activities and a trip to

Cedar Point for the final day of camp.

We look forward to working with these students from several Midwest churches!



HEART GALLERY HIGHLIGHTS

LUNCH & LEARN

Our Lunch & Learn events this year have been a resounding success, with an engaging lineup of speakers and themed lunches that continue to bring our community together. Attendance numbers have steadily increased and we are thrilled to see such strong participation.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to our wonderful St Pauls volunteers whose enthusiasm and dedication made everything possible!

Becky Abitua, Pastor Pete Bowmer, Judi Dauer, Judy Kohlhoff, Freda Lang, Jeanne Lesniewicz, Wayne Ludwig, Pattye & Bill Nicolls & Donna Zbinden



TOP LEFT, CLOCKWISE: HeART Gallery transformed to blue for BGSU planetarium space program.

Our first community garage sale where vintage items sold quickly.

The Spring Arts Festival featured all-female art by Athena Arts Society members.

Ashley Huffman greets guests at our Jane Austen event

MakerSpace painting class with artist Molly Miller.

Tapestry, guitar and harp duo, from the Spring Arts Festival.

Art teachers display and honor their students best work in an exhibit managed by Judy Kohlhoff.



HEART GALLERY HIGHLIGHTS

NATIVITY FESTIVAL EXPANDS: EXPANDED VENUE, MORE GUESTS, AND FRESH FESTIVE FEATURES



The annual Nativity Festival is set to return this year with a series of exciting changes designed to welcome more guests and enhance the overall experience. The Arts Committee is discussing ways to accommodate growing crowds and an expanded program of concerts, carol performances, and innovative displays.

Previously most trees and creches were housed in HeART Gallery, but increasing attendance with Friday night artists and music onstage calls for the need to adjust space planning. In response, the Arts Committee is working on a plan to provide room for additional selected attractions and better crowd flow.

This year's musical offerings will include a broader lineup of local ensembles, and guest performers who will bring the spirit of the season to life through both traditional and contemporary carols. Friday evening concerts in the gallery will be led by several local musicians, and include a carol sing-a-long called "Carols and Cocktails", transforming the evening into a more immersive and musical experience for all ages. Mocktails, cocktails and appetizers will be served from 5:30 - 6:30pm during the sing-a-long. Another addition will be Nativi-Tea, which has been held with a max guest list of 120 and a long wait list. Two teas with identical programs will be held to further accommodate guests on Thursday Dec 11 and 18 beginning at 11am. The Nativit-Tea program "Daily Life in Bethlehem" was written by Kate Philabaum and includes a display of 7.5" Fontanini figures. She has been invited to present at the annual convention of Friends of the Creche, to be held in Cleveland, Dec 2-4.

One of the most anticipated changes is the introduction of new display formats in the Resource Room. In addition to the classic nativity scenes, the festival will feature light projections, and congregational art projects that tell the Christmas story in modern, engaging ways. We hope these enhancements will deepen the message of the Christmas story, while appealing to a wider audience.

"We're excited to make the festival more inclusive, more dynamic, and more memorable. It's not just about making the event bigger, it's about making it better and more meaningful for everyone who attends."

The Nativity Festival will run from December 5th through December 21st on Fridays and Sundays. Midweek tours will be available by appointment. Admission remains free, with donations welcome to support ministries of the Community Heart of Toledo. Nativity crafting, sorting and organizing has begun with weekly work days.

Contact kate@stpaulstoledo.org if you would like to participate in the fun!



HEART GALLERY EVENTS



“FROM CRAFT TABLE TO CULINARY TABLE: A POP-UP EXPERIENCE BLENDING ART AND APPETITE”

What happens when creativity spills off the canvas and onto the plate? A one-of-a-kind HeART Gallery event is answering that question—fusing the tactile charm of a craft project with the sensory delight of a pop-up chef-style restaurant.

Dubbed “**Craft and Crave**”, guests are invited into a multi-sensory world where hands-on artistry meets high-concept cuisine. Participants begin by engaging in a themed craft activity—perhaps hand-painting ceramic appetizer plates, creating nature - inspired watercolor art pieces, painting

desserts with chocolates, fruits and glazes, or dyeing fabric napkins.

Once the art is made, it’s time to eat. Our guest chefs are familiar with the pop-up-style dining experience. Some dishes will be made on-site as guests learn tips in assembling a summer menu. Reservations are limited to 18 for a more personal experience. “Art and food have always gone hand in hand,” says HeART Gallery Director Kate Philabaum, who dreamed up the concept while hospitalized with a severe elbow injury. “We wanted to create a night where people could connect—not just with beautiful food, but with their own creativity.”

Each event is centered around a theme, such as “Earth & Flame.” Guests will create natural-dyed fabric napkins using plant pigments, followed by a meal with some components cooked over an open flame. At each event, chefs will explain the origins of each dish and how it connects to the aesthetic of the craftwork. The July theme “Petals and Palates”, will ask guests to explore the delicate beauty of watercolor floral painting and savor a botanical-inspired menu. “Sea and Salt” is the August theme, where guests will sculpt small sea-inspired vessels before enjoying a seafood-forward tasting menu.

The evening encourages slowing down, talking, and appreciating the art of making—from clay to cuisine. Attendees leave with recipes, a piece of art they created, and a renewed appreciation for the creative process.

Reservations can be made to kate@stpaulstoledo.org. Cost is \$40 per person.

HEART GALLERY EVENTS



PARTY IN THE PARKING LOT

We love a good outdoor summer party in the parking lot! So this year we plan to host one-a-month!

Sunday, June 8 - mural painting event. A memorable day filled with color, creativity, and connection.

Sunday July 13 - build beds with Let's Build - all tools and materials provided to assemble beds for kids in need.

Sunday August 10 - glass blowing with Toledo Museum of Art. Come see the portable "Baby Dragon" and make a glass trinket.

All events are held 4pm-7pm in the KWIK Park parking lot, adjacent to the church. It's our opportunity to have the space come alive together with our neighbors to paint, build, enjoy great food, and listen to local music.

It's the perfect opportunity for us to meet, mingle, and celebrate the spirit of togetherness.

Please see Kate if you are able to help bring these beautiful events to life!



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!

CONNECT WITH US

EXPLORE THE NEW WEBSITE

After months of planning, we're excited to announce the launch of our brand-new website! This updated online home was built to help you and our guests connect, stay informed, and grow in faith more easily than ever. We've redesigned everything from the ground up with a modern, clean layout that's easy to navigate on any device—phone, tablet, or desktop. The site includes many more photos, bringing our church community to life. Explore recent events, community outreach, and Sunday services through vivid, updated images. Michael Grupp-Verbon of Viewpoint Productions has assisted in creating a "library" of photos from our events. Short videos will be coming soon! One new feature is Prayer Requests. Scroll down on the homepage where you can submit a prayer request anytime. You can choose to make it private to pastor only, or public where your needs will be uplifted in worship services.

We invite you to take a look around, explore the new features, and make yourself at home. Our goal is to create a space where you can connect, grow, and be encouraged—no matter where you are.

LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch has resumed! We hope you can join us for these outings. Watch your email and church bulletins for the restaurant of the month. Hope to see you then!

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Lunch Bunch Outings!

- June 8th - Jing Chuan
- July 13th - Location TBD
- August 10th - Location TBD

Reservations are needed to Cindy Rockwell (419-270-9137) or email cynthiar@bex.net.

OUR WEEKLY UPDATED PHONE GREETING

We're always looking for ways to keep you informed and connected—and now, Ashley is doing that through our weekly updated phone greeting! Whether you're calling to ask a question, check on service times, or just need the latest info, our new phone greeting is here to help.

Each week, the message will be updated to include:

- *Sunday service times*
- *Upcoming events and activities*
- *Special announcements*
- *A reminder about our updated website and prayer request options.*

This means that even if you miss a newsletter or social media post, you can always call in and hear what's happening in the life of our church—right from your phone.

CELEBRATE WITH US

WELCOME!

We are committed to you, the community, and the world 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

JUNE

Brooke & Donald Miller

JULY

None

AUGUST

Mary & Bill Aring

Judy & Dan Kolhoff

Cookie & John Schult

**Thank you all for your
generosity!**

Scan the QR code to view the



article featuring our
mural "Awakening"
symbol meanings &
additional photos.

BIRTHDAYS

JUNE

Kathy Schnapp

Oscar Abitua

Jim Motter

Wayne Ludwig

Vicky Holmes

Aniese Seed

Jill Calcamuggio

Bill Nicolls

JULY

Paula Hiett

Linda Price

Thomas Gilbert

Bonnie Sterling

Cindy Rockwell

AUGUST

Sandy Ludwig

Avery Rockwell

Joan Keeler

Becky Abitua

Austin Tovar

Isaac Dayton

MEMORIALS (2/26 - 5/19)

Marian Cowell

Julie McMahon, Barb Hillyer, The Adkin Family

Helen Deal

W. Randall Neff, Barb Hillyer, Peggy Bumcrots, Jean Kornowa,
Paula Hiett, Michael & Linda Ostertag, Jennifer Smith, Kirsta &
Luke Tull, Nola Bridnley, Shelley & Mike Irwin, Julie Paulsen,
Mike & Kathy Schnapp, Pauline Lacscio, Michelle Kotlarczyk,
Orala Elaine Sugg, Susan Merkel, Cheri Deal, Vicky & Rob
Holmes, Larry & Judy Fox, Rob & Jill Kohntop, Jim Caris, Wayne &
Sandy Ludwig, Larry & Jan Montrie

Dave Price

Barb Hillyer

Dick Hillyer

Terry & Jeanne Lesniewicz, Jim Blum, Peggy Bumcrots, Dan &
Sandy Lazenby, Vivian Welch, Larry & Jan Montrie

Eleanor Keck

Susan Jeffrey & David Keck

Eli Martin

Pattye & Bill Nicolls, Nancy Atkins

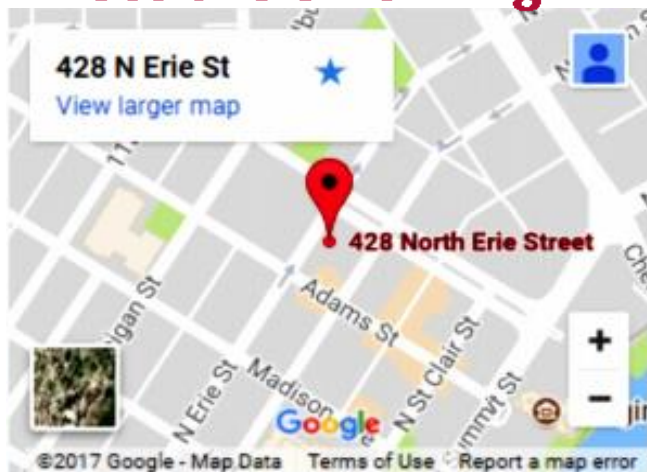
Bob Storer

Larry & Jan Montrie

Send AUTUMN (September,
October & November)
edition Spirit submissions to
office@stpaulstoledo.org

**Submissions must be
received by 8/16.**

Directions & Parking



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.

Donate to St. Paul's



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 Bowmer

Watch Services

[St. Paul's Facebook Page](#)

Facebook Pages

[St Paul's Lutheran Church](#)
[HeART Gallery & Studios](#)



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