



September 2026



## A Heartfelt Welcome

We are excited to welcome our new pastor and his family to St. Paul's. Pastor John C. Bumgardner hails from Parkersburg, West Virginia. He received his B.A. from Concordia University Ann Arbor in 2006 and his Masters of Divinity from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne in 2011. He is currently close to completing his Doctor of Ministry degree.

Before accepting the call from St. Paul's, Pastor Bumgardner served for the three years at Redeemer Lutheran, Columbus, GA. Prior to that he served two congregations in Red Lake Falls & Plummer, MI and 4 congregations in Neshkoro, WI. Pastor Bumgardner has been trained and experienced in Conflict Resolution, Crisis Resolution, Evangelism, and Police/Fire Chaplaincy.

He and wife Rebecca were married in 2009 and have had legal custody of their niece Lynnea for 11 years. Rebecca is a rostered Deaconess and has also been a preschool teacher—she will be serving as a teacher's assistance this year at St. Paul's Preschool.



## LCMS Stewardship

### *Stewardship in the First Commandment*

*Originally published in September 2023*

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The greatest gift that Martin Luther gave to us was his Small Catechism. The word “enchiridion” is part of the original title of this work. This is the Greek word for “handbook.” The Small Catechism is a handbook of the Bible. All the basic knowledge that a Christian needs to understand the faith and live a godly life has been taken from the Bible and distilled into this beautiful little book of Christian piety.

Luther starts with the Ten Commandments.

The First Commandment:

You shall have no other gods.

*What does this mean?* We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things. (SC I)

We have a God above us. He is the Lord God and we are not. He is Almighty and in control. He is righteous and good. And therefore, we

**STEWARDSHIP IN THE FIRST COMMANDMENT** continued

should fear Him.

This God is also our heavenly Father. He wants us to be saved. He does not want us to suffer His just wrath. He has provided salvation for us in His Son, Jesus Christ. And therefore, we should love Him.

Our heavenly Father will never leave us nor forsake us. He has promised as much — and the Bible shows us that He always keeps His promises. So, we should trust Him.

In the Large Catechism, Luther explains how money and possessions form one of the greatest temptations against the First Commandment:

This I must unfold somewhat more plainly, that it may be understood and perceived by ordinary examples of the contrary. Many a one thinks that he has God and everything in abundance when he has money and possessions; he trusts in them and boasts of them with such firmness and assurance as to care for no one. Lo, such a man also has a god, Mammon by name, i.e., money and possessions, on which he sets all his heart, and which is also the most common idol on earth. He who has money and possessions feels secure, and is joyful and undismayed as though he were sitting in the midst of Paradise. On the other hand, he who has none doubts and is despondent, as though he knew of no God. For very few are to be found who are of good cheer, and who neither mourn nor complain if they have not Mammon. This [care and desire for money] sticks and clings to our nature, even to the grave. (LC I 5–9)

These words of Dr. Luther should call us to repentance; sometimes, we live and act like we don't have a Father in heaven. We seek our comfort and peace outside of His gracious promises. But we do have a Father in heaven. He does love us. All His promises are true. And the Lord will surely provide. If that is our belief, then our outward lives will reflect this belief in our acts of generosity and mercy. We will see money and possessions not as gods but rather as tools for doing God's work.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry. (2026, September). LCMS National Mission – Bulletin Blurbs and Newsletter Articles – September 2026.  
<https://resources.lcms.org/worship-planning/national-mission-bulletin-blurbs-and-newsletter-articles-september-2026/>



# You Are Not Pond Scum: The Importance of the Genesis Account

By: [Christopher Gieschen](#)



“Life.” The word is so common — from cereal to expressions like “get a life,” from terms like “pro-life” to biology, the science of life. We talk a lot about various aspects of “life” as Christians. But we can sometimes forget that this last one — the science of life — is hugely important for a Lutheran’s view of self and of faith.

The origin of life is the most profound puzzle for any secular biologist. Perhaps the current Bio textbook still teaches that there are two main terms dealing with the origin of life. The first is “biogenesis,” which means that life comes only from pre-existing life. This fact is obvious to anyone. The second is “abiogenesis,” which is the idea that life came from non-life. In other words, it created itself.

## Looking for a cause

Before we get any further, it should be noted that most biologists shun the idea that there was any kind of “guiding intelligence” that created life, much less God back in Genesis. This is mainly due to the fact that most secular biologists have materialism as their philosophy or worldview. To be fair, it is true that we no longer need Zeus to explain lightning — we know about the cumulonimbus clouds that make lightning occur.

But it is exactly that philosophy which paints them into a corner when it comes to the origin of life. If you are a teen, go to your Bio textbook (parents/grandparents: Ask to see your family member’s book!) and look up the cell diagram. Note the many parts. If you study the parts in detail, you will see that many texts will liken the cell to a factory or small city.

One part of this factory is my most favorite: the walking motor proteins. Please take the time to watch some videos on this wondrous work of God. These proteins are responsible, depending on the type, for several jobs. Some move organelles or vacuoles around the cell. Others move items like mRNA strands to the ribosomes, and then there are ones that pull the chromatids apart during anaphase of mitosis.

Now find the diagram showing how we “explain” how the first cell came to be. Usually, the first part shows random atoms, then an arrow. Next are molecules, another arrow, and finally macromolecules like proteins, lipids, etc. The next part will show a “blobular” circle with some nucleic acids inside, then the requisite arrow, followed by infoldings occurring. Another arrow, and the in next “cell” those infoldings have somehow becoming the endoplasmic reticulum and the nuclear membrane. After another arrow, two different types of bacteria are ingested (but miraculously not digested!) to end up as the mitochondria and chloroplasts in modern cells.

**YOU ARE NOT POND SCUM: THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GENESIS ACCOUNT** *continued*

Pause to consider what you are looking at. Do these two diagrams actually show *how* these events occurred? No. This is why I called those arrows “magic arrows” when I taught abiogenesis. We are to assume that these parts just changed all by themselves into the next parts. Most evolutionists decry Biblical Creationists for using God to solve problems like this. But they have the god Nature doing the magic. What’s the difference?

Origin-of-life researchers are spending lots of money trying to make abiogenesis happen. While I am not against research into challenging questions, it is important to note that many of the experiments being done in this area are somewhat suspect. Getting into this is outside the scope of this article, but I would encourage you to look into this research, and Creationist responses, on your own.

When I taught this section to my students, I taught them evolution from a Creation apologetics format. In other words, I used my biblical worldview to shape the instruction of my students. Here I must stop the nay-sayers who say that I was not teaching evolution correctly or even teaching science at all.

I taught them there really are two types of evolution. There is “Evolution Right” and “Evolution Wrong.” Evolution Right is basically speciation and plants and animals reproducing after their kind, just like we see and as Genesis clearly teaches. Evolution Wrong is abiogenesis and mutations making pond scum into people.

### Why does it matter?

It is here that I can leave the idea that you are the product of Evolution Wrong and instead move on to how important it is that you know, and never forget the fact, that you are a distinct creation of God’s hand. This fact greatly influences how you see yourself and those around you and, most importantly, will guard against you losing your faith in Jesus. Statistic researchers like the Barna Institute have warned that more than 50% of Christian teens give up their saving faith after graduating from public high schools and/or universities.

Why does this happen? Think about it. If your teacher/professor can convince you that Genesis is bogus and actually a Bronze Age myth, then why do you need Jesus? Sin’s origin is in Genesis. The idea that you are not just an animal is rooted in Genesis. So, if there is no such thing as sin, then the need of a Savior goes into the trash bin of archaic ideas. Besides, all Christianity really does is stop you from having fun, right?

Allow me to paint a picture of life’s and humanity’s origin as Genesis tells it. Were you to watch the DVD of the Creation days, you would see various items coming into existence after God speaks. You would never see an item’s process of being formed. So, on day three, you’d see the ground and trees! — fully grown with leaves or needles and reproductive organs present. There was no need for millions of years. When God speaks, nature listens!

You and I are different. Go read Genesis 2. Note that God does not say, “Let there be people.” He gets His fingernails dirty by making Adam from the ground. More importantly, He breathes into Adam the soul which makes us vastly different from the animal realm. Then He makes Eve from Adam’s rib. This has huge implications for how we view sex. God says that the two shall become one flesh (Gen. 2:24). Why?

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**YOU ARE NOT POND SCUM: THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GENESIS ACCOUNT** *continued*

Because Eve came from Adam's rib, and so the unity is recreated again. Not only is sex now viewed as sacred and part of God's plan, but random sex before marriage is against what God had in mind. Besides, sex creates babies and every baby deserves a mom and a dad. It is time we see that with great gifts comes great responsibility. No other animal has that special restriction to its reproduction. Can you see now why believing Evolution Wrong will mess up one's life in many ways?

Further, this flawed worldview distorts your view of yourself. If all you really are is mutated pond scum, then what value is there to your life? Read Ecclesiastes. Solomon clearly sees that outside of God, there is no purpose to one's life. You live, you die, end of story. Who cares?

BUT! If you are a child of the King, things look a lot different. And get this: God is not just Father, but He is Abba, Father. See Romans 8:15 and Galatians 4:6. In English, we would translate "Abba" as something like "daddy." God is not some distant entity who cares nothing for you. God is not some mystical force with whom we wish to achieve oneness. He is Daddy! This is not meant to diminish the honor or respect that He is fully due. Abba reveals an intimate relationship that is only found between a loving father and his child.

I now give you a homework assignment, much like I did as a teacher. Go to reliable Creationist websites and spend some time learning the truth about Evolution Wrong and why Genesis is truth. Learn the art of biblical apologetics. Practice with others dealing with skeptics and atheists. After all, if you play sports, isn't scrimmaging a crucial part of practice? Why practice? So you can win? Well, not when it comes to discussing Jesus and Genesis with the unbeliever. It is so that you can effectively sow seeds (Matt. 13, Mark 4, Luke 6).

Perhaps you won't be the first person that skeptic talks to. Maybe you will water what has been sown. Might you be the weeder of the garden? With the Spirit's help and your preparation, more will come to knowledge of and saving faith in Jesus.

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*Cover image: "The Creation of Eve" by Heinrich Aldegrever, 1540.*

## About The Author

**Christopher Gieschen** is a retired teacher who spent his whole career teaching biology and earth science at Concordia Lutheran High School in Fort Wayne, Ind. He has a master's degree in Science Education from Indiana University and is the author of "Is Evolution Compatible with Christianity?" (Wipf & Stock, 2019).

Gieschen, Christopher., (2026, April 10). You Are Not Pond Scum: The Importance of the Genesis Account. *The Lutheran Witness-Articles*, <https://witness.lcms.org/2026/you-are-not-pond-scum-the-importance-of-the-genesis-account/>

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**LUTHERANS**  
**FOR LIFE**

## *Life Quotes for September*

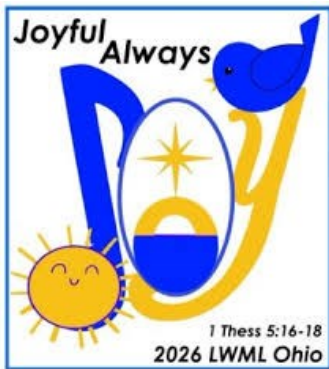
**September 6** “However imperfect, every day comes as opportunity and privilege. They usually require patience and persistence, of course, and not a little bit of shared sweat and tears. But they turn out the sweeter for it. ‘When she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world’ (John 16:21). ‘Take heart; I have overcome the world’ (John 16:33)!” *Rev. Michael Salemink, former Executive Director of Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](https://lutheransforlife.org)*

**September 13** “Again, our worth is never determined by what we do. God has given us value by creating, redeeming, and calling us as His own. Still, we can be comforted knowing that even as we age and reach the point where we can no longer be active, God not only watches over us and cares for us, He accomplishes great and wonderful things through us. May the Lord of life grant us the faith and the strength to bear the crosses of aging in such a way that others are led to see the love of Christ manifest in us!” *Rev. Dr. Aric Fenske, Executive Director of Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](https://lutheransforlife.org)*

**September 20** “I firmly believe that the sanctity of human life is the most important issue of our day and that by means of informing and educating the public, as well as by applying Christian love and compassion to those directly affected by the trauma of abortion, physician-assisted suicide, and euthanasia, the pro-life position will prevail, and our nation will again uphold the dignity and sanctity of human life.” *Rev. Paul Clark, Lutherans For Life of Michigan – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](https://lutheransforlife.org)*

**September 27** “Grief is not a sign of weak faith; it is the natural response to love and loss. But for those in Christ, grief is always shaped by hope. We do not mourn as those who have no future, no promise, no Savior (1 Thessalonians 4:13). We mourn with the certainty that our loved ones in the faith are with the Lord and that we will see them again.” *Rev. M.L. Smith, Director of International Missions of Lutheran Church–Canada (LCC) – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](https://lutheransforlife.org)*

# Announcements



## Ohio District LWML 2026-2028 Grants

How exciting it is to support the mission work of the LWML Ohio District. Our Mission Goal for the coming biennium is \$122,700. The listing below shows the various missions we will be supporting.

Since the beginning of this biennium, St. Paul's members have given \$809.27 (April-July) toward this mission goal. Please continue to support the work of our district by prayerfully feeding your LWML mite boxes.

### Grants for 2026-2028

|                                       |                                                                                                |                  |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1                                     | The Ohio District LCMS Seminarian Students Attending Concordia Seminaries                      | \$15,000         |
| 2                                     | Support for Youth Ministry in the LCMS Ohio District, Ohio District LCMS                       | \$10,000         |
| 3a                                    | The Ohio District LCMS Church Worker Students Attending Concordia Universities                 | \$15,000         |
| 3b                                    | HOPE for Suicide Awareness, Intervention, and Postvention, Lutherans for Life all of Ohio      | \$7,500          |
| 5                                     | CTSFW Food Coop to Purchase Food for Seminary Students, Concordia, Fort Wayne, IN              | \$10,000         |
| 6a                                    | Appalachian Lutheran League, St. Paul Lutheran, Parkersburg, WV                                | \$5,000          |
| 6b                                    | Guided by Grace: Life Coaching & Housing for Single Mothers, Cincinnati                        | \$11,200         |
| 8                                     | Gospel Access for Aging Adults, Worship Anew, Fort Wayne, IN                                   | \$7,500          |
| 9                                     | A Chance in a Christian School, LSEM Partnership at St. Paul Westlake                          | \$7,500          |
| 10a                                   | Witnessing to the Ethiopian: Lutheran Books for Ohio Immigrants & Mission Field, LHF           | \$5,000          |
| 10b                                   | Reaching Forward: Sharing Christ's Love with All Abilities, Bethesda Luth. Disability Ministry | \$2,500          |
| 12                                    | Feet on the Ground, MOST Ministries, Ann Arbor, MI                                             | \$6,000          |
| 13                                    | Where Charity and Love Prevail – Food Bank, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO                  | \$2,500          |
| 14a                                   | Strengthening Somali Church Plant: Gospel Outreach, Word, Sacrament, Whitehall                 | \$10,000         |
| 14b                                   | POBLO Support Costs of a New Missionary Couple for Christian Outreach in Dublin                | \$5,000          |
| 16                                    | Care Packages & Cards of Hope: Nurturing Whole-Person Care, Phil's Friends, Wheaton, IL        | \$3,000          |
| Total Mission Grant Budget (Outreach) |                                                                                                | <b>\$122,700</b> |

**Note:** Grants ranked 3,6,10 and 14 were ties

**Total Budget for 2026-2028 is \$186,800**

The need for professional church workers in the LCMS is great. During the month of September, please pray for the students who attend our seminaries and universities. Your mite dollars support them through grants #1,3a, 5 and 13 by helping to meet expenses (such as books, tuition etc.) and providing food through the seminaries' food banks. By helping with these basics you are supporting God's call for workers in the harvest fields.



## ***LWML Northeast Zone Fall Retreat***

### **“Smile Across the Miles”**

This the theme of the 33<sup>rd</sup> LWML Northeast Zone Retreat. All ladies are invited to join us at Jordan Creek Metropark, Concord. Check the Friendship Circle board for the retreat poster and information. Registration blanks for this fun-filled, Christ-centered event are located on the Friendship Circle table. Cost is \$25.00/person which includes breakfast, snack and a light lunch. Registration and payment deadline is September 19<sup>th</sup>. For further information go to the Northeast Zone > Upcoming Events page at <https://www.lwml ohio.org/>

For the LWML Northeast Zone Fall Retreat, items will be gathered for the MKC Basic Needs Bank. **Please consider purchasing full-sized toiletries from the list of most needed items below to support to support out neighbors.**

- Children’s 3-in-1 Shampoo/Conditioner/Body Wash
- Men’s 3-in-1 Shampoo/Conditioner/Body Wash
- Women’s Shampoo
- Women’s Conditioner
- Children and Adult Toothbrushes
- Children and Adult Toothpaste
- Bar Soap

## ***Lutheran Women’s Quarterly***

The Fall 2026 edition of the Lutheran Women’s Quarterly has arrived. Copies can be found on the Friendship Circle table or the table by the mailboxes.



## **Rally Day Sunday School!!**

Welcome back to Sunday School students!

Come and Join us at St. Paul’s for the Sunday School kick-off!

Sunday School starts September 13th from 10:45am-11:45am.



## ST. PAUL'S 8TH ANNUAL TRUNK-OR-TREAT

Come and join us for the St. Paul's 8th Annual Trunk-or-Treat on October 31st from 2-4pm! This event is Family Friendly full of candy, some games, refreshments and tons of family/community fun! If you would like to participate this year in decorating your Trunk, you can register online at [SPLCPainesville.org on the News and Events page](https://www.splcpainesville.org/news-events), or take a registration form from the table by the mailboxes, return to Kelly Hines or the church office. You may also donate bags of candy or your time helping with setup! Looking forward to having all of your come and join in the fun with your kids, grandkids or neighbors!"

## Chili Cook-Off

St. Paul's 2nd Annual Chili Cook-off will be held on September 26th from 2-4pm. Register now for a chance to win Best Chili!! Judging begins at 2pm, this is a family friendly event and absolutely delicious!! See if you can beat the heat, outdoor event this time! \$5.00 at the door to judge and taste all the chili's, free to compete ([online or forms in the back of church](#)) <https://form.jotform.com/260353741163048>

! Drop off forms at the office /mailbox of Kelly Hines"

Register online no later that September 18th at [www.splcpainesville.org/events](http://www.splcpainesville.org/events). \$5.00 to taste and



## September Food Bank Items

Zion Food Pantry is requesting, spaghetti pasta, spaghetti sauce, and cereal. As always other items are appreciated. For those in need, the Food Bank is open on the last two Tuesdays of the September from 5:30—7:00pm. (September 22 & 29).



## August Meeting Minutes

### Reports

1. President's Report. (Terry Wakelee)
    - a. Pastor Bumgardner will begin leading worship services 8/16
    - b. Pastor installation will be 8/30 at 2pm
    - c. Installation for preschool staff will be 8/23
    - d. Facilities will be offered for rent to Pebble Creek for a meeting on 9/1
  2. Vice President's Report. (Ed Hines)
    - a. Carpet cleaning will be 8/10
  3. Treasurer's Report. (Russ Walton) – Reports provided
    - a. The equipment account increase is the cost of the new mower.
    - b. The details of the Kujala estate account was provided.
    - c. On the P&L, offerings decreased. The capital repairs account includes the carpet cleaning, pre-school water heater, computer, and refrigerator.
    - d. Overall, there is a positive net income.
  4. Education Report. (Ken Chaffe)
    - a. Rally Day will be Sunday, 9/13.
  5. Preschool Report. (Leigh Wojkowski)
    - a. 34 students are enrolled for the new school year
    - b. Rebecca Bumgardner will assist in the 3's class
    - c. Preschool cleaning day will be 8/24
    - d. Amy will set up the donation board
    - e. The preschool is looking to purchase laptops
    - f. Need to add DCY and NAEYC links on the website. Kelly will work with Amy to get them added
    - g. AD Pediatric pads expire this month. Dennis will look into getting replacements
  6. Elder's Report. (Dale Kerver)
  7. Stewardship Report. (Diane Wayner)
    - a. Planning a Turkey Bowl in November
    - b. "Give it up" fundraiser continues
  8. Financial Secretary's Report. (Jenn Drake)
    - a. Kristy McConnell took over for Tom as a head counter
  9. Outreach Report. (Kelly Hines)
    - a. Several upcoming events: Open House (8/8), Chili Cookoff (9/26), Trunk or Treat (10/31)
    - b. Committee will be stuffing backpacks for students with supplies and flyers for church events
    - c. Planning to offer Crochet for Christ again in the fall
    - d. Seeking a new provider for the website that offers more features
    - e. Dennis made a motion to proceed with Canva. 2nd by Jenn. Passed unanimously.
    - f. Considering a new event - car tutorial
  10. Building & Grounds Report. (Dennis Concoby)
    - a. A.C. repairs completed
    - b. Will be getting the church and parsonage HVAC reviewed
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**AUGUST MEETING MINUTES continued**

- c. Chain-link fence repaired at parsonage
- d. Annual fire inspection completed by Visual Armor and Painesville Fire Dept; no issues found
- 11. Contribution Secretary's Report. (Tom Cardina)
  - a. July offering exceeded previous years

**Old Business**

1. Potential candidate for the preschool treasurer (appointed) – pending
2. Replacement of church office computer – pending
3. Thrivent Choice dollars for preschool - pending
4. Research alternative method of setting up church credit card – Dennis will look at another bank
5. Congregation member gospel recording project - On hold
6. Recommendation to invest money in an account that will yield interest

**New Business**

1. Add a signer to the church account.
2. Jenn made a motion to add Thomas Cardina and Terry Wakelee as signers on St. Paul's bank account.  
2nd by Ed. Pass unanimously. (Tom abstained.)
3. Dennis will purchase a leaf blower for lawn maintenance.
4. Dennis motioned to purchase a Cricut machine kit not to exceed \$350 for church and preschool use.  
2nd by Kelly. Pass unanimously.

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 2, 2026 at 6:30pm



## From the Preschool

### *Falling In Love With God's Word*

It that time of year again! St. Paul's Preschool would appreciate your support. There will be a donation board at the entrance to the church on August 23rd. Please select a leaf, purchase the item, then return the item to the church. All purchased items can be left on the pew by the windows. This year we also have an AMAZON Wishlist. Simply copy this link <https://a.co/0eb2LsnT> or directly connect to the link sent by the church office and make your purchase. Items can be sent to your home or directly to the preschool. We thank you again for all your support!



## *Fall Fairs and Festivals*

### September

**Fridays** Car Cruise Friday Painesville, OH. Painesville's famous Car Cruise is every Friday on the Square. Stroll through vintage, muscle and unique vehicles lining beautiful Veterans' Park while enjoying music and snacks. See you every Friday starting May 16 through September 19, weather permitting.

**September 1-7** Stark County Fair Canton, OH

**September 2-7** Mahoning County Fair Canfield, OH

**September 3-7** Great Geauga County Fair Burton, OH

**September 4-7** Cleveland Oktoberfest I Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds Berea/Middleburg Heights, OH

**September 6** Hungarian Festival German Central Park, Parma, OH.

**September 11-12** Cleveland Oktoberfest II Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds Berea/Middleburg Heights

**September 12-13** Village Peddler Festival Lake Metroparks Farmpark, Kirtland, OH. Shop handmade accessories, decor, furniture, and more, from over 150 artists. Hours: Sat 12 10pm-5pm, Sun 10pm-5pm

**September 12-13** Ashtabula Crafters in the Park, Lake Shore Park, Ashtabula, OH, There will be over 130 handcrafted vendors selling a wide variety of items. Hours: 10am-5pm both days

**September 12-13** Yankee Peddler Festival Clay's Resort Jellystone Park, North Lawrence, OH. The festival will host an array of master artists and crafters selling their original works. Hours: 10:30am-5:30pm both days

**September 13** Chardon Harvest Handmade Market Chardon Square, Chardon, OH. Come explore about 75 creative booths featuring unique handmade goods, vintage finds and delicious food. Hours: 10am-4pm

**September 19-20** Yankee Peddler Festival Clay's Resort Jellystone Park, North Lawrence, OH. The festival will host an array of master artists and crafters selling their original works. Hours: 10:30am-5:30pm both days

**September 20** Ohio Bridal & Wedding Expo Huntington Convention Center of Cleveland - Hall A , Cleveland, OH, Hours: 1:00pm-5:00pm

**September 26-27** Geneva Grape Jamboree Downtown, Geneva, OH. There will be a traditional grape stomping contest, parade, street entertainment, unique exhibits, arts and crafts, grape culinary contest, amusement rides, and other activities for the whole family. Hours: Sat 10am-11pm, Sun 12pm-9pm

**September 26-27** Yankee Peddler Festival Clay's Resort Jellystone Park, North Lawrence, OH. The festival will host an array of master artists and crafters selling their original works. Hours: 10:30am-5:30pm both days

**September 27** Cleveland Bridal and Wedding Expo Huntington Convention Center of Cleveland - Hall A Cleveland, OH. Meet your areas most trusted wedding professionals who will be offering their top-notch services and products for your special day. The exhibits will include bridal showers, videography, wedding/event planners, catering, rehearsal dinners, decor and lighting, salons and spas, bridal accessories,

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**FALL FAIRS AND FESTIVALS** continued

bands and musicians, entertainment, limousines and transportation, destination weddings, bridal gowns, bakeries, catering, and more. There will be fashion shows, live music, giveaways, cash prizes, show specials, and much more. You will find everything needed to plan your dream wedding. Hours: 1pm-5pm

## October

**October 3** Madison Oktoberfest Bill Stanton Community Park Madison, OH. This 21-and-older rain-or-shine event features live music, food trucks, games, and seasonal drinks to benefit the Madison Joint Recreation District.

**October 3** Cleveland Pickle Fest Mall C, Cleveland OH. This one-of-a-kind event features dozens of vendors, food trucks, pickle-eating contests for youth and adults, live bands, and our new Cleveland Pickle Fest 5K. Thousands of pickle lovers will gather for a full day of flavor, entertainment, and community spirit, all while raising funds to support the volunteers and programs of Greater Cleveland Volunteers.

**October 4** Woollybear Festival Vermilion OH.

**October 10-11** Apple Butter Festival and Ox Roast Century Village Museum Burton, OH. For generations, the second weekend of October has meant one thing in Geauga County: the aroma of apples simmering over a wood fire. Our apple butter makers work the copper kettles from morning to evening — and they're always glad to hand you the paddle for a turn at the stirring. The Ox Roast is back, too. Pull up to a hot sandwich, grab a jar of fresh apple butter to take home, and let the kids loose on a weekend made for family.

**October 17-18** Christmas in the Woods Craft Show Festival Grounds, Columbiana, OH. The craft show will host about 200 country's best craftspeople including woodworkers, floral designers, tole painters, blacksmiths, potters, and basket weavers who will sell unique handmade crafts and one-of-kind holiday gifts. Also enjoy delicious foods such as some holiday favorites cooked in the old-fashioned way. Hours: 9am-5pm both days

**October 30-31** Lakewood Fall Art Market Screw Factory Lakewood, OH. There will be over 60 artists selling a variety of items, including pottery, leatherwork, perfumes, photography, paintings, sweet treats, coffee, and much more. Free admission. Hours: Fri 6pm-10pm, Sat 10am-6pm

## November

**November 7** Mentor Craft Fair Lake Catholic High School Mentor, OH. The craft fair will include over 150 vendor tables, bake sale, famous cheesy potatoes, kids corner, raffles and much more. Admission: \$3, \$2 senior citizens, children under 12 are free. Hours: 9am-3pm

**November 7** Rocky River Fall Art and Craft Show Rocky River Memorial Hall Rocky River, OH. Come get a jump start on your holiday shopping. It will host an assortment of artists and crafters selling their original handmade items. A full concessions stand will also be available on-site. Admission: \$3, children under 12 are free. Hours: 10am-4pm

For Additional Festivals, Fairs and Craft Shows please visit:

<https://ohiofestivals.net/ohio-festivals/cleveland-festivals/> or

<https://www.fairsandfestivals.net/states/OH>

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## September Birthdays

|                  |        |
|------------------|--------|
| Leigh Wojkowski  | Sep 1  |
| Emma Wilhelm     | Sep 3  |
| Kelly Hines      | Sep 3  |
| Eric Davis       | Sep 10 |
| Judy Ladany      | Sep 10 |
| Connor Greig     | Sep 14 |
| Peggy McDonnell  | Sep 17 |
| Jeff Troutman    | Sep 17 |
| Kristi McConnell | Sep 21 |
| Elizabeth West   | Sep 26 |



## September Anniversaries

|                           |                    |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Jerry and Judy Ladany     | 70 years on Sep 04 |
| Rich and Michelle Szoradi | 32 years on Sep 10 |
| Brian and Kathy Herder    | 32 years on Sep 10 |
| Don and Diane Wayner      | 43 years on Sep 17 |

## Altar Flowers



A great way to remember any occasion is with Altar Flowers. The Altar Flower Chart is located on the double doors at the back of the Sanctuary. Just sign up next to the appropriate weekend. Clearly print the occasion being remembered, who the flowers are for and who they're from. Altar flowers are \$40.00. Please place the monies in an envelope labeled "Altar Flowers" with the date of the weekend and put it in the collection plate.



## Those Who Serve: September 2026

### ELDERS:

9:30 A Sunday Aaron Lindrose

### COUNTERS:

Terry Wakelee, Peggy McDonnell

### LECTORS:

|          |        |        |                 |
|----------|--------|--------|-----------------|
| 09-06-26 | 9:30 A | Sunday | Dennis Concoby  |
| 09-13-26 | 9:30 A | Sunday | Jenn Drake      |
| 09-20-26 | 9:30 A | Sunday | Jack Lelle      |
| 09-27-26 | 9:30 A | Sunday | Craig McConnell |

### Greeters:

Diane Wayner

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## Scripture Readings for September

### September 6

Ezekiel 33:7-9  
Romans 13:1-10  
Matthew 18:1-20

### September 13

Genesis 50:15-21  
Romans 14:1-12  
Matthew 18:21-35

### September 20

Isaiah 55:6-9  
Philemon 1:12-14, 19-30  
Matthew 20:1-16

### September 27/28

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32  
Philemon 2:1-4 (5-13) 14-18  
Matthew 21:23-27 (28-32)





# September Word Search - School Life

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F | N | E | S | N | E | P | E | N | C | I | L | S | S |
| R | M | O | O | R | E | M | O | H | F | R | K | T | R |
| E | M | W | C | A | A | A | M | A | R | D | M | C | E |
| N | A | H | S | O | S | C | I | S | S | O | R | S | P |
| C | R | I | R | O | M | H | F | C | H | O | I | R | A |
| H | K | T | K | S | C | I | E | N | C | E | C | C | P |
| H | E | E | G | G | B | M | B | A | N | D | S | R | A |
| T | R | B | E | E | E | N | R | O | D | C | T | A | R |
| A | S | O | R | R | R | E | P | E | E | H | A | Y | B |
| M | L | A | A | M | T | U | O | O | S | A | B | O | E |
| O | R | R | S | A | M | M | L | N | K | I | L | N | G |
| O | R | D | E | N | N | L | E | E | K | R | E | S | L |
| S | P | O | R | T | S | S | P | E | R | S | T | B | A |
| N | O | T | E | B | O | O | K | N | B | O | O | K | S |

PENS  
GERMAN  
CHOIR  
HOMEROOM  
TABLET  
DESK  
CRAYONS  
SCIENCE  
ERASER  
BAND  
PAPER  
NOTEBOOK  
RULER  
WHITEBOARD  
DRAMA  
BOOKS  
MARKERS  
SCISSORS  
MATH  
CHAIRS  
SPORTS  
FRENCH  
PENCILS  
ALGEBRA

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/9860918/>

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St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church and Preschool  
250 Bowhall Road Painesville, OH 44077  
440-354-3000 | [www.splcpainesville.org](http://www.splcpainesville.org) | [office@splcpainesville.org](mailto:office@splcpainesville.org)

*"I was glad when they said to me 'Let us go to the house of the Lord'" Psalm 122:1*

#### Staff

John C. Bumgardner, Pastor  
Matt Chaffe, Organist  
Peggy McDonnell, Admin Assistant

#### Worship Services

Sunday 9:30 am

#### Sunday Bible Study

Adult 8:30 am & 10:45 am  
Children 10:45 am

#### St. Paul's Preschool

Amy Marizek, Director  
[preschool@splcpainesville.org](mailto:preschool@splcpainesville.org)  
[www.stpaulspainesville.com](http://www.stpaulspainesville.com)

Also Supporting



St. Paul's Preschool



A Great Place To Grow

# September 2026

| Sun                                                                                                                                                                           | Mon                                                                                                                                       | Tue                                                                                                                                             | Wed                                                                                                                | Thu                                                                                      | Fri                                                                                                              | Sat                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <div>  <b>COMMUNION SERVICE</b> </div>                                                       |                                                                                                                                           | <b>1</b><br><div> <b>WORSHIP SCHEDULE</b><br/> Sundays - 9:30am<br/> Sunday School - 10:45am<br/> Adult Bible Study—8:30am &amp; 10:45am </div> | <b>2</b><br><b>6:30 pm Council Meeting</b>                                                                         | <b>3</b><br>Preschool Orientation Day                                                    | <b>4</b>                                                                                                         | <b>5</b><br>National Day of Charity                                     |
| National Preparedness Month                                                                                                                                                   | National School Success Month                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                    |                                                                                          |                                                                                                                  |                                                                         |
| <b>6</b><br>                                                                                 | <b>7</b><br><br><b>LABOR DAY</b><br>Church Office Closed | <b>8</b><br>National Literacy Day<br>Star Trek Day                                                                                              | <b>9</b><br>First Day of School Pre-K & 4's<br><b>6:30 pm Elder's Meeting</b>                                      | <b>10</b><br>First Day of School<br>Suicide Prevention Day                               | <b>11</b><br><br>Patriots Day | <b>12</b>                                                               |
| <b>13</b><br><br><b>Sunday School KICKOFF</b><br>10:45 am Rally Sunday<br>Grandparents Day | <b>14</b>                                                                                                                                 | <b>15</b>                                                                                                                                       | <b>16</b><br><b>6:30 pm Elder's Meeting</b>                                                                        | <b>17</b><br>Constitution / Citizenship Day                                              | <b>18</b><br><div> September Newsletter Articles and Announcements Due </div>                                    | <b>19</b><br>Batman Day<br>Talk like a Pirate Day<br>Oktoberfest Starts |
| <b>20</b><br>                                                                              | <b>21</b><br>International Day of Peace                                                                                                   | <b>22</b><br>National. Voter Registration Day<br>World Rhino Day                                                                                | <b>23</b><br><br>Welcome Autumn | <b>24</b>                                                                                | <b>25</b><br>Nat'l. Comic Book Day<br>Nat'l. Daughter's Day<br>National. One Hit Wonder Day                      | <b>26</b><br><b>2:00 pm Chili Cook Off</b><br>National Pancake Day      |
| <b>27</b><br><br>Gold Star Mother's Day<br>National Chocolate Milk Day                     | <b>28</b><br>6:00 pm Preschool Board Meeting<br>National Son's                                                                            | <b>29</b><br>5:15 pm Pebble Creek Crossing COA Annual Meeting<br>National Coffee Day<br>World Heart Day                                         | <b>30</b><br>International Translation Day                                                                         | <div> Office Hours Monday-Friday 9:00am-12:00pm </div><br><b>Sep Birthstone Sapphire</b> | <div> Bulletin Announcements Due Wednesdays </div><br><b>Sep Flower Forget-me-not &amp; Aster</b>                |                                                                         |