

THE FORWARD

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

ST. Paul's EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEWARK, OHIO JULY 16, 2024

Church Phone: 740-345-6115 Web Site: <www.stpaulselca.org>



Cell phone: 586.864.4004

Pastor: Martin P. Gehring

Office Hours: M T W 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. or by appointment

Congregation Council President: Jerry Young

Office Secretary: Jodie Nickles

Church Phone: 740-345-6115

Mon-Fri 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Web Site: www.stpaulselca.org

A Move to the Right

Over the last decade, the world has taken a lurch to the political right. Italy, Greece, Finland, France, The Netherlands, and Spain, to name a few, along with the European Parliament, have all shifted to the right and away from more centrist policies. The main issue driving this shift is population migration due to global insecurity, and the perceived loss of national identity due to this increased migration. In the United States as well, right leaning leaders have seized on immigration concerns and a perceived loss of identity as a white/Christian nation to whip up support and challenge our traditionally more centrist government. A rhetoric of anger and fear is being used to demonize foreigners (rapists and murderers) and minorities (entitled subsidy leeches) while calling True Americans back to some imagined past glory when everything was better.

St. Paul's is a community based not on politics, but on faith. Once a week we leave behind the heated national rhetoric to center ourselves around the words of Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus did not erect barriers to keep foreigners out but recognized them also as part of his one flock. He never blamed others for the world's problems, but suggested each begin by repenting their own failures. He did not speak in anger except to those who tried to use God as a reason to exclude others, and he never once looked backwards to some imagined past glory for answers, but consistently looked forward to the new and brighter future God was preparing for all of us.

In the weeks to come, as campaign rhetoric becomes yet more strident and shrill, I will be asking myself, is this candidate appealing to my hatred and fear, or do I hear an echo in their words of Christ's reassurance to those

who came after him, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. ... Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid” (John 14:27).
God bless you all! Pastor Martin

Please keep the following people in your prayers: Margaret Marx, Cheryl Seabright, Kelly O’Keefe, Dick Daly, Bonnie Foster

Ongoing: (none at this time)

(In order to keep our worship prayer list current, prayer requests will be included in Sunday worship for three weeks, after which they will be printed in the bulletin as an “ongoing” request. After six weeks, names will be removed unless a request is made to renew them.)



If you need an address for anyone or wish to add someone to the list, please call the office.

THE WHEN’S AND THE WHERE’S – let the office know if something needs to be added to the list below!

**PASTOR’S OFFICE HOURS - Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday
9 a.m. to 2 p.m. or by appointment.**

- **Sunday School** for all after church. See Ruth Graham , Sally Finck (ssfinck@yahoo.com) or Thelma Trainor (ttrainor@roadrunner.com) for details.
- **Friday Night Game Nights** –meets on the 3rd Friday night of the month at 7 p.m. in Weisgerber Lounge! Interested? Bring your favorite game and come join the fun!
- **The Land of Legend Fly Fisherman** meet in Danford Hall on the second, third and fourth Mondays of each month at 7 p.m.
- **ST. PAUL’S BOOK CLUB** meets the third Monday evening of each month at 7 p.m. in Weisgerber Lounge. August’s book is *Canary Girls* by Jennifer Chiaverini. September is *The Sound of Glass* by Karen White.

- **AA** meets every Saturday morning at 11 a.m. in Danford Hall and on Tuesdays and Fridays at noon.
- **NA** meets on Friday evenings at 7 p.m. in Danford Hall.
- **Friday Fellowship Bible Study** meets every Friday morning at 10 a.m. in Weisgerber Lounge.
- **Ruth Circle meets next on August 14th at 10:00 a.m.** in Danford Hall.
- **Church Council will meet July 29th at 7 p.m.**
- **Matthew's Kitchen** meets on the 2nd Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.
- **Grief Group** meets on the 2nd Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. They meet next on August 14th.

Notes to the Church and Congregation:

HAPPY BIRTHDAY?? Yes, we're coming up on a big one. This October will be St. Paul's 140th anniversary. If you'd like to share your ideas for how we commemorate this event, or if you'd like to be involved in planning, please talk to one of the council members.

COALITION OF CARE: How do they work with St. Paul's? How are they different from other social service organizations? We'll have a brief presentation from their director immediately prior to the service on Sunday, July 28.

AT LONG LAST (sorry it took so long) The St. Patrick's sock and underwear collection for the YES (Youth Engaged in Service) club was a big success. We collected 240 pairs of socks and 95 pairs of underwear. Thank you to everyone who donated!

NEIGHBORHOOD PICNIC: First, thanks to all of you who participated or volunteered for the picnic we hosted on June 23. It was a great event and a nice way to get to know some of the people in our neighborhood. After hearing much positive feedback, Council voted to host another picnic on **Sunday, July 28, from 12-2pm**. Hamburgers, hot dogs, and ice cream will be provided. Offers of side dishes, desserts, cornhole, etc., are appreciated. Once again, Pastor Martin has promised us the weather will cooperate. For more details or to assist, please see the signup sheets in the coffee area or the back of the sanctuary or talk to Jerry Young.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES The summer is rushing by and we can already find sales on school supplies. This is the best time to pick up donations for the LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF SCHOOL KIT PROJECT. We hope to prepare at least 90 kits and will greatly appreciate your contributions of the following items for each bag: 4 – **70 sheet** spiral notebooks, 1 pencil sharpener, 1 pair **blunt** safety scissors, 5 **un**sharpened pencils, 5 blue or black ball point pens, 1 box of **24** crayons, and 1- 2 1/2 in. eraser (the pink kind). The bags are to contain exactly these items. Please donate by 18 August. A box placed in the entry area of the education building to receive your donations will have an updated list of what is still needed. Monetary donations are also most welcome. Thank You! **** A member has already donated enough rulers so that we do not need more. ** Please do not donate backpacks. We purchase nylon string backpacks in quantity because we have no way of knowing the age of the recipients.**

ST. PAUL'S NOW HAS ONLINE GIVING on our website www.stpaulselca.org Here's how: 1) Go to the church website 2) Click on the green button "My Offering" – Online Giving; 3) This takes you to the page where you can fill out your contact info and click on the Donate button; 4) Fill out your credit card info and follow the prompts to submit. You will receive an email confirmation. Your contribution can be from \$10 to \$500 in one transaction. It's that easy!

FOOD PANTRY NEWS! The food pantry collection barrel is currently located at the back of the church. ***The needs for this month are foods children can prepare on their own and jelly. Please no clothing items.*** As always, all donations are welcome. If you wish to give a monetary donation, mark your offering envelope designated to the "Food Pantry".

Unapproved June 24, 2024 Council Minutes

Congregation Council Minutes June 24, 2024

Present: Pastor Martin, Kerrill Foster, Mary Billy, Sally Finck, John Grangaard, Jim Rengert, Sadie Smith, Jerry Young

Excused: Greta Blegvad, Jerry Depalmo

Yesterday's cookout after the service was talked about. All agreed it was a good time of fellowship and were pleased to note that seven people from the community participated. Additional cookouts are planned for July 28, August 25, and September

22. A celebration of the founding of our congregation on October 14, 1884, is planned for October 13.

Sally moved to accept the minutes of the April meeting; Mary seconded. Motion approved.

The work of gathering member information for a directory is nearly complete. Next, we will be taking photos of members to go in the directory.

Kerrill Foster gave the Treasurer's Report for April and May. Mary moved to accept; John seconded. Motion approved. Kerrill is continuing to explore options for online giving, looking into costs and feasibility.

The Property Committee Report was given. Jim moved to accept; Mary seconded. Motion approved.

Pastor Martin presented his report.

Jerry Y. read the Congregational Care Committee Report. Pastor Martin moved to accept; John seconded. Motion approved.

Jim provided the Rental Property Report. There is a great need for additional members on the committee to help conduct walk-throughs, make arrangements for maintenance, update leases, etc. Not for "handyman" activities. Sadie moved to accept; Mary seconded. Motion approved.

The lack of information on the sign at the corner was brought up. The wood part of the sign still needs to be rebuilt before anything can be put up.

The next council meeting will be July 29th at 7 P.M.

The meeting closed with prayer. Respectfully submitted, Sadie Smith

August Anniversaries

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2 - Kevin & Faith Settles (27) | 19 - Richard & Diana Koch (46) |
| 4 - John & Libby Warnock (51) | 20 - Geoff & Jaye Kaercher (36) |
| 6 - Charlie & Hydi Laidlaw-Smith (30) | 21 - Rick & Tanya Myers (48) |
| 7 - Jim & Jackie Casto (54) | 22 - Bill & Christine Robbins (26) |
| 10 - Doug & Cheryl Fulton (49) | 25 - Marty & Dee Altmaier (51) |
| 14 - Mark & Sally Finck (29) | Tim & Brenda O'Keefe (40) |
| Gregg & Elanna Simpkins (14) | 26 - Troy & Dixie Dunlap (46) |
| 17 - Dave & Gloria Metzger (45) | 31 - Michael & Cynthia Petrella (28) |

August Birthdays

1 - Linda Wildman	11 - Logan Bragg	Jacob Poston
2 - Ashley Baker	Aiden Carpenter	21 - Ashton Hall
Cayden Leang	Evan Hodges	Jodie Jones
Megan Swisher	12 - Cynthia Flowers	22 - Melissa Molden
3 - Sheila Cline	13 - Laura McDaniel	23- Hannah Watkins
Wayne Marx	Kiera Miller	Karleigh Stotts
4 - Rose Godenschwager	Ron Wheeler	25 - Jackie Sainsbury
Levi Holloway	Linda Woolard	26 - Jacob Thorpe
5 - Mary Lou	14 - Jordan Harble	27 - Jackie Casto
Heatwole (91)	Maggie Harble	29 - Dan Campbell
Lynn Hostetter	Katie Miller	30 - Jana Hovland
Cheryl Trainor	16 - Amy Anderson	Jack Metcalf (88)
6 - Susan Wagenheim	17 - Suzanne McElfresh	Tim O'Keefe
8 - Sadie Smith	18 - Linda Slebodnik	31 - Alexandrina Wolf
9 - Ellie Crane	Carol Wheeler (92)	
Richard Pound	19 - Linda Smart (82)	
Gayla Richmond	20 - Ann Altmaier	
10 - Wanda Barrett	Maggie Fuller	

Sunday Volunteers for August 2024

Position	August 4	August 11	August 18	August 25
Cantor	Ruth Gehring	?	Juli Rauch	?
Lector	Gerry Billy	Addison Laidlaw-Smith	Betsy Kleinknecht	Aurora Brown
Com. Assistant	Mary Billy	Ainsley Laidlaw-Smith	Greta Blegvad	Shirley Campbell
Usher	Fred Freytag, Charles Cooperider, Steve Wiersma	Charlie Laidlaw-Smith, Charles Cooperider	Greg Everingham, John Grangaard	Don Miller, Jerry Young, Charles Cooperider
Counters	Fred & Lindsay Freytag, Sally Finck	Julie Lamp, Kerrill Foster	Sally Finck, Greg & Kim Everingham	Geoff Kaercher & Don Miller

FINANCIAL REPORT

Received 6/2/2024		Year to Date	Attendance
Current	\$ 4,085.00	\$85,451.00	Sat. 4 p.m. 15
Benevolence	<u>285.00</u>	<u>2,442.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>?</u>
Total	\$4,370.00	\$ 87,893.00	Total ?

Received 6/9/2024		Year to Date	Attendance
Current	\$ 1,175.22	\$86,626.22	Sat. 4 p.m. 10
Benevolence	<u>15.00</u>	<u>2,457.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>43</u>
Total	\$1,190.22	\$ 89,083.22	Total 53

Received 6/16/2024		Year to Date	Attendance
Current	\$ 2,844.00	\$89,470.22	Sat. 4 p.m. 11
Benevolence	<u>15.00</u>	<u>2,472.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>56</u>
Total	\$2,859.00	\$ 91,942.22	Total 67

Received 6/23/2024		Year to Date	Attendance
Current	\$ 1,185.00	\$90,655.22	Sat. 4 p.m. 14
Benevolence	<u>15.00</u>	<u>2,487.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>46</u>
Total	\$1,200.00	\$ 93,142.22	Total 60

Received 6/30/2024		Year to Date	Attendance
Current	\$ 2,218.00	\$92,873.22	Sat. 4 p.m. 10
Benevolence	<u>200.00</u>	<u>2,687.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>55</u>
Total	\$2,418.00	\$ 95,560.22	Total 65

Thank you, Thrivent Choice members, for your donations to St. Paul's!

Thrive! Campaign \$24,510* Pledged \$2,384 Paid in 2024
\$25,760 paid in total. \$5,100 outstanding ,pledges

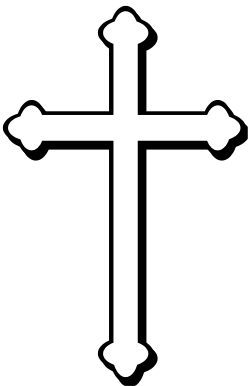
** Total Thrive! Campaign Pledge amount has been adjusted for people who have left, altered their pledge amount or who have passed away. Total paid includes those who paid without a pledge.*

Income for Operations as of June 30, 2024	\$ 97,045.76
Total Operating Expenses as of June 30, 2024	<u>-131,661.01</u>
Deficit	(\$ 34,615.25)

THE FORWARD July 16, 2024
St. Pauls Ev. Lutheran Church
67 North Fifth Street
Newark, OH 43055-5031

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**SUNDAY
SCHEDULE**
Traditional Worship
10 a.m.



**SATURDAY
WORSHIP**
4 p.m. year-round

*“The Mission of St. Paul’s
Evangelical Lutheran
Church is to **SHARE**, at all
times and with all people,
the Good News of **GOD’S
GRACE**, through
CHRIST JESUS.”*

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