

THE FORWARD

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
ST. Paul's EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
NEWARK, OHIO MAY 21, 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

Easter Upset

“If the world is sane, then Jesus is mad as a hatter and the Last Supper is the Mad Tea Party. The world says, Mind your own business, and Jesus says, There is no such thing as your own business. The world says, Follow the wisest course and be a success, and Jesus says, Follow me and be crucified. The world says, Drive carefully—the life you save may be your own—and Jesus says, Whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. The world says, Law and order, and Jesus says, Love. The world says, Get and Jesus says, Give. In terms of the world's sanity, Jesus is crazy as a coot, and anybody who thinks he can follow him without being a little crazy too is laboring less under a cross than under a delusion.”

(Originally published in *The Faces of Jesus*)

As I have stated before, I am not above letting someone else do the talking if they can say it better than me, and writer/theologian Fredrich Buechner has ALWAYS been able to see and say it better than me. As we hurtle toward Pentecost and the end of the Easter season, it is a good time to reflect on what we have been through together.

The resurrection turned everything upside down. The dead we had tucked into their graves fell out again. The stone we had rolled and sealed unrolled and unsealed. The sentence of death pronounced in our best binding words has been overturned by a higher court. We are forced to admit that we don't know what in the world is going on. Those condemned to the deepest

pits of hell have bounced back up again and now, in a parody of Palm Sunday, enter into the New Jerusalem riding contented donkeys while just one person – the one who led them there – stands by waving an unwounded palm and singing “Blessed are you who come in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!”

Easter changes everything. If it hasn't changed us, then we still just don't get it. Jesus asks his followers to lead upside-down lives. It is contrary to common sense and everything else we thought we understood; everything except the Kingdom of God which is itself upside-down, undoing and reforming everything around and within us.

It is a strange new Easter world, and like Adam before us, we rise from the new creative clay with a comical look of befuddlement on our faces and think, *Well, this is interesting!*

God bless you all! Pastor Martin

Please keep the following people in your prayers: Margaret Marx, Sherri Montgomery, Wilma Keller, Jay Von Oster

Ongoing: Dee Altmaier, Leah Yost Patricia Shields, Sheri Montgomery

(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. June's book is ???
- **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 June 12th at 10:00 a.m. in Danford Hall.
- **Church Council** will meet June 24th 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 June 12th.

Notes to the Church and Congregation:

CHURCH COMMUNITY COOKOUT IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 23 IN THE GREEN SPACE. This is our first quarterly event aimed at giving to the local community. Help will be needed with planning, cooking and serving. If you are interested in helping, please reach out to Jerry Young, Kerrill Foster, or Pastor.

SHUT-INS – If you are in need of pastoral care, a friendly visit, or would like communion brought to your home, please contact the office and leave a message with Jodie between the hours of 10 and 2. Thanks!

EVERYONE IS WELCOME to experience the fellowship we offer by joining us in the lobby of the educational building each week. A sign up is available for those who can help provide goodies. Coffee donations are always appreciated.

FOOD PANTRY NEWS! The food pantry collection barrel is currently located across from the office. ***The needs for this month are foods children can prepare on their own. 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”.

ARE YOU GRIEVING THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE? – The Grief Group meets on the 2nd Wednesdays at 1:30 in Danford Hall. If you would like more information, please contact Jean Hovland. The group **meets next on June 12th.**

Unapproved April 29, 2024 Council Minutes

Congregation Council Minutes March 25, 2024

Present: Pastor Martin, Kerrill Foster, Jerry Depalmo, Jim Rengert, Sadie Smith, Jerry Young

Excused: Mary Billy, Greta Blegvad, Sally Finck, John Grangaard

Kerrill Foster gave the Treasurer’s Report. Jim moved to accept, Jerry D. seconded. Motion approved. Kerrill has been exploring options for online giving. She is planning to invest some funds in CD’s to earn interest.

Jim reported about the rental properties. The Hudson Avenue house has been leased after major renovations and cleaning. Thanks go to Jim, Diane Ganz, and Julie Hippen for all their hard work getting the house ready. An open house is planned for April 13 and 14, times to be announced. The new renters are moving in on the 15th.

Jerry D. has donated smart locks for all of the church’s rental properties.

Pastor Martin presented his report. He is planning to work on creating a picture directory. He will also be going through the office stuff to see what needs to stay and what can go and will be looking for things that can go in the rummage sale on April 19 & 20.

New light bulbs have been installed in the sanctuary. They were purchased with some of the money willed to St. Paul's by Gladys Schoffner.

A representative from the Coalition of Care will be at the next council meeting.

Volunteer opportunities for various needs at St. Paul's will be posted in the coming weeks.

The next meeting will be April 29, 2024, at 7 P.M.

The meeting closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Sadie Smith

June Birthdays

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2 - Judy Seabright | Lindsey Cochran | Vince Walters |
| Zachary Seabright | 11 - Juli Rauch | 20 - Cameron Kolb |
| 3 - Shawna Campbell-Noyd | 12 - Ginger Bailey | 21 - Tiffany Evans |
| Chuck Lawrence | Doug Hartfield | 22 - Gerald DePalmo (91) |
| 5 - Tracey Harble | Amberlynn | Florence Knerr |
| Betsy Kleinknecht | Whiteside | Betty Neighbarger (92) |
| 6 - Cindy Street | 13 - Cheryl Seabright | 23 - Kathie Hayden |
| 7 - Marshall Rosene | Kala Simon Watkins | 24 - Sheriena Fuller |
| Elvira Engle | 15 - Hank Trites | 26 - Gaven Billy |
| 8 - Chris Ingram | 16 - Carey Hovland Mtui | Lindsay Jordan |
| Charles Mays | 17 - Mary Howard | 27 - Jeffrey Wiersma |
| 9 - Daniel Grangaard | Abbey Swisher | 29 - Julia Hodges |
| John Warnock | Kayla Swisher | 30 - Cameron Leang |
| 10 - Mary Billy | Reagan Swisher | |
| Jack Conner (93) | 19 - Josiah Hamilton | |
| Sarah Freytag | Richard Price | |

June Anniversaries

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 4 - Brian & Joyce Woolard (36) | John & June Whiteside (37) |
| 4 - Dick & Louise Shiels (52) | 23 - Greg & Kim Everingham (51) |
| 4- Gene & Julie Lamp (13) | John & Gail Grangaard (51) |
| 12 - John & Georgeann Leber(25) | 24 - David & Miriam Truex (44) |
| 14 - Troy & Laura Triplett (43) | 26 - William & Deborah Hall (40) |
| 19 - Gerry & Mary Billy (48) | 27 - Harding & Diane Ganz (54) |
| 20 - Stephen & Denise Crews(43) | |

Sunday Volunteers for June 2024

Position	June 2	June 9	June 16	June 23	June 30
Cantor	Ruth Gehring	?	Juli Rauch	?	?
Lector	Greta Blegvad	Addison Laidlaw-Smith	Anne Daly	Gerry Billy	Diane Ganz
Com. Assistant	Greta Blegvad	Ainsley Laidlaw-Smith	Carol Mumaw	Mary Billy	Kerrill Foster
Usher	Fred Freytag, Charles Cooperider, Steve Wiersma	Charlie Laidlaw-Smith, Charles Cooperider	Greg Everingham, John Grangaard	Don Miller, Jerry Young, Charles Cooperider	Charles Cooperider, Florence Knerr,
Counters	Fred & Lindsay Freytag, Sally Finck	Julie Lamp, Kerrill Foster	Sally Finck, Greg & Kim Everingham	Geoff Kaercher & Don Miller	Diane Ganz, Kerrill Foster

FINANCIAL REPORT

Received 4/7/2024		Year to Date	Attendance
Current	\$ 3,185.00	\$56,988.00	Sat. 4 p.m. 14
Benevolence	<u>115.00</u>	<u>1,720.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>58</u>
Total	\$3,300.00	\$ 61,893.00	Total 72

Received 4/14/2024		Year to Date	Attendance
Current	\$ 2,205.00	\$62,378.00	Sat. 4 p.m. 12
Benevolence	<u>25.00</u>	<u>1,745.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>47</u>
Total	\$2,230.00	\$ 64,123.00	Total 59

Received 4/21/2024		Year to Date	Attendance
Current	\$ 1,471.00	\$63,849.00	Sat. 4 p.m. 12
Benevolence	<u>29.00</u>	<u>1,774.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>49</u>
Total	\$1,500.00	\$ 65,623.00	Total 61

Received 4/28/2024		Year to Date	Attendance
Current	\$ 1,968.00	\$65,817.00	Sat. 4 p.m. 13
Benevolence	<u>15.00</u>	<u>1,789.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>57</u>
Total	\$1,983.00	\$ 67,606.00	Total 70

*A donation was made to the Memorial Fund by Daniel Hyde in memory of **Denny & Ram Wheeler**. Thank you, Thrivent Choice members, for your donations to St. Paul's!*

Thrive! Campaign \$26,160* Pledged \$1,618 Paid in 2024
\$23,744 paid in total. \$2,416 outstanding pledges

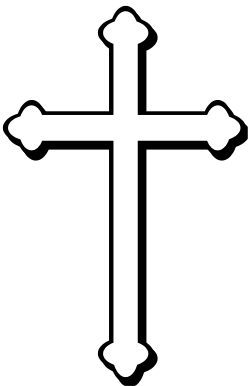
**The Total Thrive! Campaign Pledge amount has been adjusted for people who have left, altered their pledge amount or who have passed away.*

Income for Operations as of April 30, 2024	\$68,231.20
Total Operating Expenses as of April 30, 2024	<u>-88,387.17</u>
<u>Deficit</u>	(\$ 20,155.97)

THE FORWARD May 21, 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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