

THE FORWARD

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

ST. Paul's EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEWARK, OHIO AUGUST 20, 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

It is the time of year. The ponderous wheel of the church calendar slowly revolves, presenting first Advent, then Christmas, then Epiphany, Lent, Easter ... and now we turn to a time of miracles. We have witnessed miraculous feedings, healings, manna and quail from heaven, and one can't help but feel a bit jealous. Where are *our* miracles? What can *we* point to and so announce to our incredulous world, "Here is our God!" Not unlike the disciples at the ascension, we gaze up to where Jesus was and continue to wait for something to happen, thinking, *Any time, God. We're ready.*

But then as now, the word comes back to us, "Why do you remain gazing up into heaven?" In our desire for such miracles as we saw in the past, we are likely to miss out on the miracles happening all around us here and now. While we remain looking to the skies, we are apt to trip over the miracles collecting around our feet. If we would but accept our place in the world as fertile ground for God's wonders, we would notice the seeds germinating and growing all around us. We would see the tenacity of nature adapting to a changing world. We would notice the equal human tenacity adapting to a changing nature. We would see the face of God in our children and their resolve to bring about a better world. We would see the hungry being fed by the miraculous compassion of those around them. We would see that we continue to live in a miraculous garden of Eden with everything we need for life, if we will just learn to see, respect, and live in balance with it.

We still live in a time of miracles and wonders. God gives us what we need. The future is not ours to know, but we have seen miracles in the past, and we continue to witness miracles in the present. I have no doubt that we

will continue to find miracles in the future – not up in heaven, but right here among us, tangled up with our own hands and feet, where they are most needed.

God bless you all! Pastor Martin

Please keep the following people in your prayers: Jana Simpson, Jim Landis, Starr Cummings



Ongoing: **Bonnie Foster, Cheryl Seabright, Margaret Marx**

(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.**

- **Congregation Meeting and Vote on Roof Repair Sept 7 & 8.**
- **Four Church Farm Picnic Sept 15th at farm. See signup sheet.**
- **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.

- **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 September 11th at 10:00 a.m.** in Danford Hall.
- **Church Council will meet August 26th 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 September 11th.

Notes to the Church and Congregation:

CONGREGATION VOTE TO REPAIR SACRISTY ROOF September 7 & 8

For a number of years, we had problems with water leaking around the area where the tower is attached to the nave of St. Paul's. It damaged the plaster in the arch and leaked into the pipes chamber. Finally in early 2022 we engaged Durable Slate to replace copper flashing and fabricate new drainage devices. The work has appeared to be very satisfactory. At the time this work was done, we were told that the copper sacristy roof was nearing the end of its useful life. In December 2023 water began leaking through the roof and into the sacristy. Durable Slate was contacted to diagnose the problem. Their representative did some caulking on areas where the copper roofing had developed holes and also fabricated a top for the vent stack to keep water from entering. At that time the property committee asked Durable Slate to prepare an estimate for replacing the copper roof with a steel standing seam roof.

It has now been about 2 ½ years since we were originally told that the copper roof was in poor shape. Before another winter the property committee and council would like to propose that:

St. Paul's congregation will engage the Durable Slate Company to remove the existing copper roof above the sacristy and replace it with a steel standing seam roof. The contract will include repair or replacing gutters, drains, slates, underlayment, etc. as needed in the area. The cost is not to exceed \$55,000.

The contract specifies that materials removed become the property of the contractor. The church will appropriate \$30,000 from savings and ask the congregation to donate the balance.

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.

NEIGHBORHOOD PICNIC: First, thanks to all of you who participated or volunteered for the picnic we hosted on July 28th. 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, the council voted to host another picnic on **Sunday, August 25th, from 11:30 -1 p.m.** 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. ***We especially need a few more side dishes.***

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 Sept 11th.**

Unapproved July 29, 2024 Council Minutes

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

Jerry Y. opened the meeting with a prayer.

Larry Walker from Encore Real Estate Services, a property management company, gave a presentation about their services.

Kerrill Foster gave the Treasurer's Report for June. Greta moved to accept; John seconded. Motion approved.

The property committee has recommended that the sacristy roof be replaced. Jim moved that council recommend the proposal to the congregation for a vote to approve the repair. Seconded by Jerry D. Motion approved.

Don Grube, Mike Campbell, and Jerry Depalmo have joined the rental property committee. The problem of unauthorized people dumping trash in the church's dumpster was discussed.

Yesterday's second community cookout after the service was discussed. Sixteen people from the community participated. Future cookouts will be 11:30 to 1:30 instead of 12 to 2. Additional cookouts are planned for August 25 and October 13. The cookout in October will also be a celebration of the founding of our congregation on October 14, 1884. The annual 4-Church Farm picnic will be September 15.

Pastor Martin presented his report. In the coming weeks, we will be taking pictures of congregation members on Sundays for the new directory.

Jim moved to accept the minutes of the June meeting; Sally seconded. Motion approved. The next council meeting will be August 26th at 7 P.M. The meeting closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Sadie Smith

September Anniversaries

- 2- Chuck & Donna King (24)
Steve & Christine Wiersma (52)
- 4- Thomas & Erin (Daly) Zinn (14)
- 5- Paul & Sharon Harble (65)
- 6- Jens & Greta Blegvad (36)

- 9- John & Loretta McCollum (52)
- 17- Matt Rauch & Julie Datko (19)
- 24- Harry & Tambra Simon (30)
- 27- Gail & Sharon Grigsby (57)

September Birthdays

2- Ryan Wiersma	16- Gavin Bragg	24- P. J. Billy
4 - Gail Grigsby	18- Jonathan Casto	Penny Coleman
8 - John F. Jordan	David Engle	26- Gary Walters
9 - Beth Hodges	Sharon Grigsby	Jerry Young
Ryleigh Jones	William Hall	27- Mark Eastman
Becky Kolb	James Harble	Jim Kolb
Briana Simon	19- Sarah Davis	Carol Mumaw
Joyce Woolard	Lynn Heatwole	Terry Nelson (88)
11- Beth Ossa	20- Heidi Bragg	28- Marilyn Doll
12 -Mathew Seabright	Mark Finck	30- Erik Ganz
Ben Stamper	Michelle Miller	Tyler Triplett
14- Connie Baker	22- Jane Lawrence	
Vicki Owen	Susan Shannon(83)	
15- Mitzi Findo	Jennifer Swisher	
Patricia Fuller	23- Joyln Carpenter	

Sunday Volunteers for September 2024

Position	Sept 1	Sept 8	Sept 15	Sept 22	Sept 29
Cantor	Ruth Gehring	Julie Hippen	Juli Rauch	Dustin Hill	Ruth Gehring
Lector	Mark Finck	Addison Laidlaw-Smith	Aurora Brown	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 7/7/2024		Year to Date	Attendance
Current	\$ 10,035.00	\$102,908.22	Sat. 4 p.m. 14
Benevolence	<u>610.00</u>	<u>3,297.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>40</u>
Total	\$10,645.00	\$ 106,205.22	Total 54

Received 7/14/2024		Year to Date	Attendance
Current	\$ 1,495.00	\$104,402.22	Sat. 4 p.m. 11
Benevolence	<u>5.00</u>	<u>3,302.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>53</u>
Total	\$1,500.00	\$ 107,704.22	Total 64

Received 7/21/2024		Year to Date	Attendance
Current	\$ 2,552.00	\$106,955.22	Sat. 4 p.m. 13
Benevolence	<u>37.00</u>	<u>3,339.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>46</u>
Total	\$2,589.00	\$ 110,294.22	Total 59

Received 7/28/2024		Year to Date	Attendance
Current	\$ 1,700.00	\$108,655.22	Sat. 4 p.m. 10
Benevolence	<u>15.00</u>	<u>3,354.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>53</u>
Total	\$1,715.00	\$ 112,009.22	Total 63

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

***Thrive! Campaign \$25,593* Pledged \$3,107 Paid in 2024
\$4,427 outstanding ,pledges***

** 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 July 31, 2024	\$ 114,300.68
Total Operating Expenses as of July 31, 2024	<u>-154,031.88</u>
<u>Deficit</u>	(\$ 39,731.20)

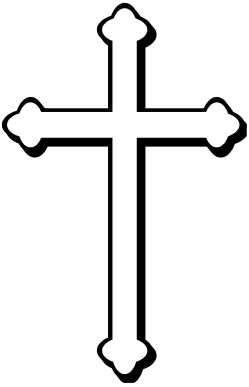
One last thing: The children's choir will resume on September 15th after the service and then will continue on the first and third Sundays of the month. All children are welcome.

THE FORWARD August 20, 2024
St. Pauls Ev. Lutheran Church
67 North Fifth Street
Newark, OH 43055-5031

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Newark, OH 43055
Permit Number 117

**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.”*