

THE FORWARD

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

ST. Paul's EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEWARK, OHIO SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

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



Cell phone: 586.864.4004

Cell phone: 360-689-9784

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

Web Site: www.stpaulselca.org

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

A Change of Season

I hope by the time you read this we will have received enough rain to break the drought of the last two months. Looking out over the trees in our back yard, I can see that some of them have had enough and are giving up for the season, beginning to drop their leaves in a flash of color. Though I doubt we are yet done with hot weather, it is enough to start me thinking about fall. Fall has always been my favorite season. It brings cooler, dryer weather, golden sunshine, and all the smells and sounds of nature giving up the ghost for the seeming death of Winter.

We like fall as a season, if not so much as a season of life. We rage against age and fight to keep up the illusion of youth. We take our aching joints, sagging skin, and fleeing memories as a personal affront to our dignity, and approach death with a morbid resignation if not outright horror.

Yet all around us, the parable of the seasons reminds us that death is not a dead end, but rather one more curve in the mystery of life. We know the trees that wither and fade will return in the spring; we know the sun fading in the southern sky will rise again in a blaze of glory come Spring; so why is it so difficult to see this resurrection pattern in our own lives? We do not end, but rather return to the vast, pure, eternal pool of life forever springing from God's creative Word. Like the trees outside my window, death is just our way of saying we've had enough for now, that it is time to rest for a season before waking to discover a new and glorious season of life in the warmth of God's regenerative glory. We can spend our final season scrabbling in the dirt and digging graves, or like the rest of nature, go out with a burst of color and a joyful witness to the new life that is surely just around the corner. God bless you all! Pastor Martin

Please keep the following people in your prayers:
Robin Hill, Robin Schweizer, Sheryl Dunn, Avery &
Chelsey Stalnakar, Cheryl Seabright.



Ongoing: Jim Landis, Starr Cummings, Jana Simpson

(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. October's book is The Woman With the Cure by Lynn Cullen.
- **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 October 9th at 10:00 a.m.** in Danford Hall.
- **Church Council will meet September 30th 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 October 9th .

Notes to the Church and Congregation:

CHOIRS RESUME: Adult & bell choirs will resume Wednesday, September 4, with our children's choir resuming September 15th after worship and then continuing the first and third Sundays of the month. All children are welcome for the children's choir. For information about the adult and bell choirs, please contact Dustin Hill (740) 258-4335; for the Children's choir, please contact Juli Rauch (740) 405-8833.

ST. PAUL'S IS TURNING 140! I know, it doesn't look a day older than 137. Anyway, to mark this anniversary, we're collecting any history you might have, in two particular forms: 1) Photos from St. Paul's or church events 2) Your own video memories.

On the second one, I'd suggest an informal sit-down by you, a friend or family member, and a cellphone camera to chat about your experiences at St. Paul's. No more than a few minutes, and no specific list of topics. This could include experiences with youth programs, choir, Sunday School, Confirmation class, Luther League, congregation circles, Camp Luther, Christmas pageants, etc. Not a school-like review of important dates since the Reformation, but what was most memorable for you, or even what your parents or grandparents' stories of St. Paul's were like. If you're not a technology person, let me know, and I'd be glad to record for you.

The official anniversary will be coming up on October 13. I'll plan to organize the photos and videos to share on the TV by the coffee area and on the St. Paul's Facebook page as well. If you have any questions, want to pass something along, or want to be involved with the anniversary planning in other ways, please contact me at mandyjerry@aol.com or 360-689-9784. Thanks, Jerry Young

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 Oct.9th.**

Unapproved St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church Congregation Council Minutes for August 26, 2024

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

Jerry Young opened the meeting with prayer.

Motion to approve the July minutes was made by Jerry D and seconded by Mary B. Motion passed.

Picnic recap: HOT! Not as well attended 30 of congregation and 8-10 community members. Plenty of side dishes were donated, which was very heartening. It went well and great job to everyone who donated food and pitched in to help.

Reminder that the Four Church Farm is September 15th. Plates, drinks and meats are provided and those coming are asked to bring a dish to share. If the weather is inclement, the event will be held at St. John's. A map will be in upcoming bulletins. 140th Anniversary Celebration October 13th. Asking for short (1 minute) videos from congregation members about their history with St. Paul's. Other suggestions are welcomed. Picnic will be held indoors or outdoors depending on weather. We will make sure to invite the Rauch's, Jim Williams & Margaret Marx. Kerrill will email histories to Pastor and Jerry Y.

Pastor's Report: – a pretty slow month. Library refresh complete. Fiddling with a/c in office. Once the humidity issue is fixed he is planning on an office refresh to remove mildewy smell and unnecessary stuff. Hopes to start a new catechism class in the fall. Motion to approve report made by Mary B seconded by John G & passed.

Treasurer's Report: Income exceeded budgeted amount. Deficit stands at \$37,464.04 – 56% of projected amount. All reports balance. Two adjusting entries made to move

expenses to appropriate accounts. Non-audit audit completed by Sally Finck with no findings. Discussion regarding deficit in Altar Flowers Fund of \$2300. Motion made to begin using silk flowers January 2025. If members want to donate real flowers in 2025, they can have arrangement provided by a florist. Greta will reach out to The Climbing Rose and terminate our agreement effective January 1, 2025. Greta B made motion, Jerry D seconded. Motion passed.

Motion to approve treasurer's report by Mary B seconded by Sally F. Motion passed.

Rental Property: Committee met with Larry from Encore Management on Aug 13th. Will be meeting again to finalize decision regarding management company Sept 11th.

Discussion ensued regarding pros and cons of management firm. While the council did lean in favor of a management company, it was returned to rental property committee for a decision.

Property Committee: Need to replace the toilet between Weisgerber Lounge and Library. Working on getting roof pictures to show congregation. Sally suggested a pledge card for roof funds. Discussion about repairing church sign next to the roundabout. Greta will reach out to get quote on repair and Jim will send Pastor contactor contact information.

Congregation Care: All shut-ins visited.

Other Business:

- *Rumpke will charge \$33.75 per month for four trash carts – 105, 107 and two for the church instead of \$85 per month for the 2 yard container we currently have. Half the cost would then be rental expense. Pastor moved, Jerry D seconded to change to the four trash carts. Motion approved. Jim Rengert with contact our rep and make the change.*
- *Emily Blegvad-Monroe will be taking pictures for the church directory on Sunday September 22, 29 and Saturday September 28th. Probably in the chapel.*
- *Fred Freytag asked for someone to take the lead on the Mecklenburg 2025 Visit Committee. Kerrill volunteered and will ask Fred to prepare a note for the bulletin regarding reassembling a committee.*
- *Sunday School for kids will start in October. Sally will reach out to Juli to coordinate youth choir with Sunday school.*

Meeting adjourned with prayer. Next Meeting Sept 30th. Respectfully submitted, Kerrill Foster

October Anniversaries

3 - Bob & Michele Brooker (36)

4 - Jerry Young & Mandy John (27)

5 - Don & Stephanie Strobe III (11)

6 - Carl & Teresa Beamer (40)

16 – Kala & Kevin Watkins (3)

19- Pete & Kathy Plante (11)

21 - Matt & Jill Mumaw (24)

23 - John & Belinda Seabright (25)

October Birthdays

1 -Ann Fuller	Sarah Swisher	24 - Kerrill Foster
2 -Bob Swisher	11 - Gabrielle Pastorius	Patricia Justice
Vicci Walters	13 - Marty Altmaier (82)	Linda Kerr
5 -Wanda Cooperider (86)	Christine Robbins	Brenda O'Keefe
6 -Lauren Grangaard	14 - Tyler Thacher	Harry Wolfe (82)
Dale Faller	Rachel Steiner	25 – Miriam Truex
7 -Ruth Graham	15 - Eleanor Crews	26 - Suzanne Wittman
8 -Michelle Billy	17 - David Bowen	28 - Jason Bragg
9 -Gail Grangaard	Shaun O=Keefe	Chris Truex
Jeri Kennard	Bill Robbins	30 – Ruth Gehring
Jennifer Rebecca	19 - Samuel Leber	Vickie Zigan
Ricciardo	20 - Mary Harble	31 - Susan Woolard
10 –William Gehring	Michael Smith	
Debbie Anctil	21 - Paul Harble	
Roger Dupler		

Sunday Volunteers for October 2024

Position	Oct 6	Oct 13	Oct 20	Oct 27
Cantor	Ruth Gehring	Julie Hippen	Juli Rauch	Dustin Hill
Lector	Mark Finck	Ainsley Laidlaw-Smith	Aurora Brown	Karliegh Stotts
Com. Assistant	Greta Blegvad	Addison Laidlaw-Smith	Carol Mumaw	Melady Brown
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 8/4/2024		Year to Date	Attendance
Current	\$ 3,291.00	\$111,946.22	Sat. 4 p.m. 14
Benevolence	<u>295.00</u>	<u>3,649.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>44</u>
Total	\$3,586.00	\$ 115,595.22	Total 58

Received 8/11/2024		Year to Date	Attendance
Current	\$ 2,475.00	\$114,421.22	Sat. 4 p.m. 10
Benevolence	<u>35.00</u>	<u>3,684.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>40</u>
Total	\$2,510.00	\$ 118,105.22	Total 50

Received 8/18/2024		Year to Date	Attendance
Current	\$ 2,252.00	\$116,673.22	Sat. 4 p.m. 10
Benevolence	<u>15.00</u>	<u>3,699.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>58</u>
Total	\$2,267.00	\$ 120,372.22	Total 68

Received 8/25/2024		Year to Date	Attendance
Current	\$ 926.50	\$117,599.72	Sat. 4 p.m. 10
Benevolence	<u>15.00</u>	<u>3,714.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>46</u>
Total	\$941.50	\$ 121,313.72	Total 56

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

***Thrive! Campaign \$25,737 Donated \$3,251 Paid in 2024
\$4,283 outstanding ,pledges***

Income for Operations as of August 31, 2024	\$ 123,915.40
Total Operating Expenses as of July 31, 2024	<u>-171,378.90</u>
<u>Deficit</u>	<u>(\$ 47,463.50)</u>

THE FORWARD September 17, 2024

St. Pauls Ev. Lutheran Church

67 North Fifth Street

Newark, OH 43055-5031

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization

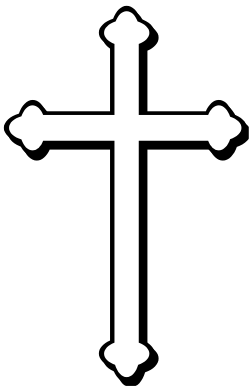
U.S. POSTAGE PAID

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.”*