

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church Newark, Ohio

Annual Report

FOR THE YEAR 2023

Between the winter and the spring,
To add to our joy and sport,
Comes a pause in the year's occupation,
That's known as the "annual report."

It's the bane of our existence
With its detail of every sort,
This involved, inquisitive query,
This loquacious annual report.

Yet the facts can be clearly stated,
Without shame and with no retort,
We've again known God's blessing,
It's all spelled out in the annual report!

**Annual Report meeting in conjunction with services
January 27/28, 2024**

PASTOR'S REPORT

Any year seems like a great year after the challenges of COVID, with the attending remote worship, learning. We are back together and slowly growing back into the fullness off an in-person, physical, standing-right-next-to-ya' community.

The longer I am with this community, the more thankful I am to be a part of it. St Paul's is a gracious, caring, and accepting congregation, genuinely touched by God's Spirit. I see new faces in worship, not because of advertising, but because of the simple one-on-one sharing of the faith. Like the disciple Nathaniel, you have said to your neighbors and coworkers, "Come and see.," and they have! And once here, they have encountered God in our midst.

We are slowly offering more education opportunities (although we are always looking for more people willing to share their knowledge/passion/joy with others!). We have seen to the upkeep and viability of our building and parking facilities, and this year I hope to help the congregation focus in on expressing itself in mission. There are many opportunities, especially in our downtown area, for us to act on Christ's call to love and support our neighbors, and I have no doubt that we will do so.

Thanks to our WELCA ladies, we continue the work of renovating our first floor gathering and education spaces, making them more inviting and hospitable, both for ourselves and for the wider community. We hope to start on the library soon!

We are blessed to have such wonderful volunteer leaders! My thanks to all of you who have exercised the spiritual gift of leadership, often without waiting for someone to even ask! God is not yet through with us. I look forward to discovering together what challenges and blessings this new year will bring!

God bless you all!

Pastor Martin

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Happy New Year.

As we move from the Christmas season into Epiphany and Lent, we also start a new year for the congregation and the council. I am glad to welcome Greta Blegvad, Jerry DePalmo, and Jim Rengert onto the council and also wish to thank Greg Everingham, Jean Hovland, and Gene Lamp for their service.

In 2023, St. Paul's most significant undertaking was the paving of the parking

lot, for which we also received financial support from the school that uses a portion of the property during the week. The finished product looks great.

For smaller capital projects, like the upcoming replacement of broken stones on the front steps or minor roof repairs, the congregation approved the council moving ahead with such work up to a maximum \$5,000 cost without a separate vote. This change will help to expedite minor repairs without noticing and calling a full congregational meeting.

As discussed in the Forward, we are looking for your input on priority setting for the coming year. We do many things well... worship, music, congregational and pastoral care, fellowship, and a host of service projects from sock and mitten trees to shoe drives, food drives to funeral luncheons, Lutheran World Relief to neighborhood cleanups. At the church services on January 27 and 28, we will be asking for your ideas on a 2-question survey to engage your creativity, find out where the interest and energy are, and chart a course for 2024.

In the meantime, I share my prayers with you for a happy and healthy new year.

Jerry Young, Council President

CONGREGATION CARE COMMITTEE:

Members of the Congregational Care Committee visited shut-ins monthly during the year, some by phone visits, and others in person visits as we were able to. The Word in Season devotionals were distributed to each shut-in friend quarterly. Greeting cards were sent out to each shut-in friend for holidays, birthdays, etc.

Respectfully submitted, Gail Grangaard and Debbie Anctil, co-chairmen.

FOOD PANTRY COMMITTEE

. This year we collected and donated 325 pounds of food and \$105. Donations are always welcome! Thanks to Geoff for all the deliveries he made!

Kim Everingham, Linda Kinser, and Geoff Kaercher, Food Pantry Committee

FOUR CHURCH FARM REPORT

I'd like to begin by saying the Four Church Farm meeting is the 3rd Tuesday of the Month except December and February when we don't hold a meeting. Anyone from the four churches are welcome to come to our meetings. During the cold months we meet at Christ Lutheran Church. The rest of the year we meet at the

Four Church Farm at 6:00 p.m. We are always looking for help with the upkeep of the farm, so anyone who would like to help at the farm, just let us know. St. John's are scheduled to mow the 1st Wednesday of the month, St. Paul's the 2nd Wednesday, Christ Lutheran the 3rd Wednesday and on the 4th Wednesday, we take turns and when there's a 5th Wednesday, we use it for a Work day in addition to mowing, if there's something different that needs taken care of.

The officers were voted to remain the same for the year as the previous year. President: Dan Fischer, Vice President: Jim Rengert, Treasurer: Chaplain Bill Rauch, Secretary: Mark Finck. Our checkbook balance for the Farm as of January 1, 2023 is \$11,845.56. We also purchased a zero-turn mower for the Farm this year from Buckeye Valley Equipment for \$8079.00 it is a 23.5 hp and 60" cut, which was a good deal, since it was on sale from \$10,099.00. We still have one of the older riders which we use to help out, as some of us are still getting used to the zero-turn, which is a lot different than a regular rider. We had some water pipe that needed repaired and Chuck Hiles and some of his friends, Darrell Burden, Darrell Manifold, and George Powers met out there to replace the broken lines. Many thanks to the guys for their help, it's great when God provides at times when we get caught up with how we are going to go about fixing our problems and boom he blesses us again. Dan and Chuck tore out and replaced the deck by the women's restroom, it was in bad shape and we couldn't get the door opened. We also cleaned up the trail from some fallen trees. One of our picnic tables was falling apart so we got rid of it and repaired another and also brought one of the wooden ones out from the shelter to replace the one that was destroyed.

We did have our Four Church Farm Picnic in September, we didn't have a huge turnout but the ones that were there enjoyed a nice day of fellowship and eating which we Lutherans do enjoy. Many thanks to everyone who helped with the setup and food preparation. Weather providing our next meeting will be January 16, 2024, at Christ Lutheran Church, Heath, Ohio

The officers, Dan, Jim, Bill and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who help at the farm. Chuck Hiles, Clyde Cox, John Warnock, Bill Anderson, Hank Fitzgerald. Here's to the Blessings of a Happy New Year to all our churches and to everyone.

- Mark Finck, Secretary, Four Church Farm

GRIEF GROUP

The Grief Support Group meets at 1:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month. We are a small group and we discuss a variety of topics. If you are grieving, come join us.

Submitted by Jean Hovland.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE:

Members: John Jordan; Tim Utterback; Greta Blegvad; Charlie Laidlaw-Smith; Diane Ganz.

After a great deal of research and planning, the church parking lot was repaved in August. Licking County Schools agreed to pay a portion of the cost, since Phoenix School uses the lot on school days. Moving forward we are charging a yearly rental to be better prepared for future maintenance. In preparation for the paving, the basketball posts and chain link fence surrounding a portion of the lot were removed by Gene Lamp with some help from committee members.

Greta reports that the 5 Ring security cameras placed around the buildings are working well.

The steps outside the door leading to the sacristy had deteriorated. John removed the old and made a form for new steps of concrete (surplus concrete provided by the street construction crew). He also installed a gutter on the awning to avoid erosion of the new steps and refurbished the railing.

Tim added a couple coats of finish to the exterior sanctuary doors to prevent weathering and Charlie and Diane did maintenance on all of the HVAC units in the church building. Charlie and John repaired several toilets and Charlie replaced washers in the dripping utility sink. (We are preparing a list of routine work that needs to be done occasionally to guide future volunteers.)

We have contracted with a stone mason to replace the eroded stones at the main church entrance, to repair cracks and mortar on the exterior stone walls of the buildings, and to secure some of the stone caps on end gables. This work should be completed in the coming year.

With the construction of the roundabout we were concerned that our sign structure would have to be removed and rebuilt. This was not the case and there will be further repairs to the interior and exterior of the sign in warmer weather.

In December it was noticed that water was leaking through the sacristy's copper roof. When the repairs around the tower were done in 2022 we were told

that the copper roof would not last much longer. Durable Slate is making repairs, but we will need to plan for replacing this roof in the next few years.

We are very thankful for the ongoing volunteer work done by Gene Lamp and Tammy & Hank Trites to maintain our lawn and plantings, making St. Paul's attractive and inviting. Our sextons, the Fallers, have continued to be conscientious in their work and in reporting problems as they arise.

Because costs have increased greatly in recent years, we asked Council to increase the amount we could pay without congregational approval from \$2,500 to \$5,000. This was approved in the recent congregational vote.

Respectfully submitted, Diane Ganz

RENTAL PROPERTY COMMITTEE:

All six rental properties are currently rented except for one pre-eviction rental.

During the past year, our current insurance company no longer insured rental properties which we now have American Modern for our rental properties. Due to increased taxes and insurance over the last four years, we were forced to increase the current rent per unit \$50.00 per month totaling \$3600.00 per year.

Our average rent per unit on six units is \$814.33 per month which includes one Metro Housing payment. As we make needed repairs, this amount will need to be increased.

We were able to negotiate a new monthly payment with our trash pickup saving us approximately \$675.00 per year.

During the year, we replaced one furnace and made necessary floor repairs and painting to another property.

-- Jim Rengert, Rental Property Manager

TREASURER'S REPORT January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023

| Account Name | Receipts | Disbursements | Ending Balance |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| General Operating Fund | \$194,453.01 | \$244,090.27 | \$58,711.35 |
| Altar Flowers & Candles | 2309.00 | 3,234.78 | -1,980.34 |
| Christian Education | 1,602.16 | 0.00 | 4,097.52 |
| Youth Ministry | 926.27 | 0.00 | 22,223.51 |
| Mecklenburg Fund | 0.00 | 0.00 | 5,000.00 |
| Benevolence | 5,181.00 | 5,181.00 | 0.00 |
| Thrive! Campaign | 10,318.00 | 10,318.00 | 0.00 |
| Pastor's Discretionary Fund | 1,587.16 | 58.52 | 5,907.68 |
| Memorial Fund | 3,635.00 | 0.00 | 4,460.00 |
| Seminarian Fund | 0.00 | 2,556.73 | -4,908.77 |
| Matthew's Kitchen Fund Balance | 100.00 | 0.00 | 287.89 |
| Community Outreach | 5,639.42 | 5,639.42 | 57.92 |
| Choir Fund | 350.00 | 875.00 | 3,209.92 |
| Rental Property | 54,577.00 | 51,458.75 | 28,492.45 |
| Newark City Sign Replacement | 0.00 | 0.00 | 11,387.00 |
| Parking Lot Paving Fund | 65,823.00 | 65,823.00 | 0.00 |
| Matthew's Kitchen | 100.00+ | 40.00 | 347.89 |
| Mary A. Ponser Bequest* | 6526.91 | 39,298.00 | 49,898.26 |
| Thrivent Choice Dollars Fund | 1871.00 | 0.00 | 26,903.94 |
| New Bell/Ringers Fund | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1,150.00 |
| Lucas Bible Fund | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2,330.70 |
| Bob and Ruth Watson Fund* | 0.00 | 0.00 | 69,379.16 |
| Lobby Renovation Fund | 0.00 | 488.11 | 0.00 |
| Margaret Ann Dupler Fund* | 0.00 | 4,228.22 | 56,219.84 |
| Robert Wright Fund | 0.00 | 1,665.00 | 58,335.00 |
| Total | \$354,898.93 | \$434,954.80 | \$401,510.92 |

*At the time of this report, no information on 4th quarter mutual fund gain/loss was available. +\$100 receipt is a 2022 audit adjustment.

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| 2023 Benevolence Paid to Synod | \$5,181.00 |
| Checking Account Balance – January 1, 2023 | \$ 243,304.63 |
| Checking Account Balance – December 31, 2023 | \$207,712.91 |

Investments - Certificates of Deposits and Savings as of December 31, 2023

| <u>Interest only</u> endowments: | Principle | Interest Designation |
|---|------------------|---|
| Davis Fund-Edward Jones | \$178,679.98* | 75% Current Expenses 25% Discretionary |
| Weiss Fund PNB Mutual Funds | 85,638.85* | 33% Youth Ministries 67% Youth Education |
| Lambert Fund PNB Mutual Funds | 23,186.33* | 100 % Current Expenses |

| Principle & Interest Designated Funds: | Amount |
|---|--------------------|
| Savings: Heartland Bank - money market | \$69,312.50 |
| includes Lucas Bible Fund | +2,330.70 |
| Weiss Interest | +4,010.00 |
| Total | \$75,653.20 |

| Designated Funds | Amount | Designation |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|--|
| Edward Jones Danford Fund | \$19,155.94* | Interest for Seminarian |
| \$11,403.00 Principal | | (\$7,752.94 <i>accumulated interest</i>) |
| Edward Jones Ponser Fund | 49,898.26* | 74% Major Property Exp 26% Undesignated |
| Edward Jones Youth Gathering Fund | 21,060.37 * | 100% Youth Gathering Exp |

| Undesignated Funds | Amount |
|---|---------------|
| Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA | 22,597.97* |
| <i>*does not include December interest.</i> | |
| Bob & Ruth Watson Thrivent Fund | 69,379.16* |

**At the time of this report, no information on 4th quarter mutual fund gain/loss was available.*

– Report Submitted by Financial Secretary, Kerrill Foster 01/8/2023

WOMEN of the ELCA: *Co-Chairs, Diane Ganz & Kerrill Foster, secretary, Shirley Campbell, Treasurer – Debbie Anctil*

We collected mittens and hats again for the Salvation Army this year, collecting over 200 items and socks and underwear in March for the YES Club. Marti Kolb continues to spearhead those projects. Ruth Circle continues to meet on the **2nd Wednesday** of the month at **9:30 a.m.** After a 2-year absence, the Rummage Sale in April was a great success. A meeting will be held in the near future to discuss plans for 2024's sale. Please join us if you can help. Our thanks again to Florence Knerr for sending out

birthday cards. We collected enough school supplies to make over 100 school kits for Lutheran World Relief. Diane Ganz and Gail Grangaard led this project. Thanks to Gail and John Grangaard for delivering them to the collection site!

– Kerrill Foster, & Diane Ganz, St. Paul's WELCA

VARIOUS BENEVOLENT PROJECTS of the congregation:

1. The Licking County Coalition of Care, The coalition attempts to help people in need through monetary and other assistance to help with rent and utility payments, prescription costs, and other very basic human needs. At St. Paul's we support this ministry through a special offering received on the first weekend of each month. In 2023 a total of **\$2,690.00** was donated by the members of St. Paul's and given to the Coalition of Care for distribution.

2. The Licking County Food Pantry The food pantry is also one of the services we support. Imperishable food items and staples are brought in to the church and then taken to the main pantry for distribution. We also collect money-off coupons for the pantry to distribute. In 2023 we donated \$105.00 to the pantry.

ORGANIZATIONS THAT WE REGULARLY HOST:

Narcotics Anonymous was added during 2006 as a group meeting on Friday evenings in Danford Hall at 7:00 p.m. to assist people trying to live free of narcotics. It operates on much the same formula as A.A. Meetings continue to be held in Danford Hall on Friday evenings at 7 p.m.

Alcoholics Anonymous In 2022, AA met in on Saturdays, Tuesdays and Fridays in either Danford Hall or Weisgerber Lounge.

The Land of Legend Fly Fishers, who meet on the second, third and fourth Mondays of each month to teach such skills as fly tying and rod building.

LOOK FOR THE FORWARD TO BE MAILED OUT ON FEBRUARY 20, 2024.

February Birthdays

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 - Christopher Logan | Paul Meyers | 16 - Clara Hinger |
| 2 - Denise Crews | 7 - Courtney Swisher | Connie Rutter |
| Ryan Green | 8 - Silas Engle-Abbott | 20 - Marti Kolb-Conner |
| Tiffany Myers | Emily Ossa | 22 - Nick Baker |
| 3 - Gene Crawmer | 10 - Carlos McElfresh | Thelma Trainor |
| Traci Dupler | 12 - Dick Daly | 23 - Arianna Hinger |
| Karen Jordan | Susan Enderle | Michael Mumaw |
| Katherine Plante | Daniel Fuller | Tanya Myers |
| 4 - Troy Triplett | 13 - Jeff Kinser | 26 - Kate (Daly) Jordan- |
| Tabatha Trost | 14 - Richard Barrett | Downs |
| 6 - Gerry Billy | 15 - Matt Godenschwager | 29 - Linda Kinser |
| Kaitlyn Carpenter | Starr Cummings | |

February Anniversaries

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 5 - Wayne & Margaret Marx (52) | 14 - Ron & Mary Howard (60) |
| 6 - David & Elviria Engle (50) | 22 - Chuck & Jane Lawrence (21) |
| 9 - Jayson & Megan Thorpe (16) | |

Sunday Volunteers for February 2024

| Position | Feb 4 | Feb 11 | Feb 18 | Feb 25 |
|---------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Cantor | Ruth Gehring | Tim Jordan | Juli Rauch | Dustin Hill |
| Lector | Ann Daly | Addison Laidlaw-Smith | Gerry Billy | Kathy Jordan |
| Com. Assistant | Sadie Smith | Diana Koch | Mary Billy | Mandy John |
| 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 | Fred & Lindsay Freytag, Don Miller |

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 ages 9 a.m. see Ruth Graham for details.***
- ***Tuesday Lessons*** – A discussion led by Pastor Martin of the lessons to be read for the coming weekend. Starts at 5:30 p.m. in Weisgerber Lounge.
- ***Friday Night Game Nights*** –meets on the 3rd Friday nights at 7 p.m. in Weisgerber Lounge! Interested? Bring a 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. For January our selection will be *The Choice* by Edith Eger (nonfiction).
- ***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 February 14th at 10:00 a.m.*** in Danford Hall.
- ***Church Council will meet January 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 February 14th.

THE ANNUAL REPORT January 16, 2024
St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
67 North Fifth Street (at Locust)
Newark, OH 43055

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