

THE FORWARD

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

ST. Paul's EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEWARK, OHIO OCTOBER 15, 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

Words are Powerful

Words are powerful. They are how we communicate about the world around us. We use words to direct attention and describe people and things, and how we use them says as much about us as about the world we are describing.

Words create our reality. In The Beginning, God uses words to bring our world into being, and we continue to use words to sustain and interact with that world. Created in the image of God, we too have the ability to create with words. We can use words to ennoble our souls and foster dignity, compassion, sympathy, and courage; we can use words to inspire a world in which we work in harmony and peace with our God and fellow creatures.

However, we can also use the divine gift of language to corrupt creation and confound the truth. Words can be used to create doubt, fear, and suspicion, to demonize others and cloud the truth. Lies spoken loudly and often enough begin to create their own alternate reality. We can speak lies just as eloquently as the truth, and when we do, creation suffers – *we* suffer. When we speak the truth, we are empowered to think clearly and act courageously. When we speak lies, we sink into confusion and name-calling. So how can we know the difference?

First, make the effort to check the truth for yourself, and demand enough specificity so that it *can* be checked.

Second, ask yourself whether you are being asked to believe anything more than what you already want to believe. A lie gains traction precisely because we *want* to believe it.

Third, ask yourself whether you are being encouraged to look within and critique your own beliefs or simply blame others. The truth always challenges us for the simple reason that *it is the truth* and does not bend or compromise for the sake of our comfort or ideology.

Words are a divine gift uniting us to our creator and to each other. When

words are used to divide and create suspicion, it dishonors this gift and the one who gave it to us. As such we have a moral imperative to speak the truth and expect it in return both in our private and public discourses.

God bless you all! Pastor Martin

Please keep the following people in your prayers: Julie Lamp, Gene Triplett, Vicki Jones, Charles John, and Jim Landis



Ongoing: Starr Cummings, Robin Hill, Robin Schweizer, Sheryl Dunn, Avery & Chelsey Stalnaker, Cheryl Seabright

(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.)

Our condolences to Jackie Sainsbury and her family on the death of her brother-in-law, Jay VanOster.

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. November's book is *The Bookshop at Water's Edge* by Patty Callahan Henry.
- **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 October 28th 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 November 13th.

Notes to the Church and Congregation:

FINALLY ! St. Bartholomew Church, Wittenburg, Mecklenburg, Germany visitation. 14 members of our German partner church, St. Bartholomew, will be arriving August 1, 2025 and departing August 10. We are forming a committee to plan for this visit. Please contact Kerrill Foster k2rs2ls@gmail.com or Fred Freytag freytag115@yahoo.com if you are interested in helping. In addition to the planning committee we will also need 7 or 8 host families for our visitors to provide lodging, breakfast and transportation to the church for daily activities. We encourage all members of our congregation to help make our visitors feel welcome by participating in activities and possibly providing transportation. Activities may include visits to Newark sites, Berlin OH, Hocking Hills, Chillicothe, Columbus, and New Philadelphia. Working together as a congregation should make this an exciting and rewarding experience for all. Our preliminary meeting will be held on Sunday November 10th right after church. Please make plans to attend.

DIRECTORY PICTURES: Will be taken before and after church on November 2nd, 3rd, 9th & 10th. Since we are taking the pictures and preparing the directory ourselves, there will be no sales pitch. 😊 If you cannot make either



weekend, please let Greta Blegvad, Jerry Young or the Pastor know and other arrangement can be made.



2025 CALENDARS are available from Jean Hovland for \$7 each. Please contact Jean if you are interested in a calendar. We need to order at least 25 to cover expenses.



HURRICANE HELENE RECOVERY: Lutheran Disaster Response is on the ground, beginning to serve communities that have been devastated by Hurricane Helene. 100% of donations designated as "Hurricane Relief" will go to communities that have been heavily impacted by these storms. To donate, scan the QR Code, place your check in the offering plate, or drop it off at the church office (marked "Hurricane Relief") and we will forward it on your behalf.

COME JOIN THE CHOIRS! Adult & bell choirs rehearse on Wednesdays – 7:30 for the choir and 6:30 p.m. for the bells. Children's choirs rehearse after worship 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. ***The children's choir will NOT be meeting October 20th.***



THE ROOF FUND IS MAKING PROGRESS! To date, over \$3,200 has been collected towards our goal of \$25,000 to make the needed repairs to the sacristy roof. The Property Committee reports that the repairs should be underway soon.

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.

FOOD PANTRY NEWS! The food pantry collection barrel is currently located across from the office. ***The needs for this month are Stove Top Stuffing, sugar, flour, cooking oil, salt & pepper. 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 September 30, 2024

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

Jerry Y. opened the meeting with a prayer.

The Property Committee report was shared. Mary moved to accept; Pastor seconded. Motion approved. The committee has been having difficulty finding a contractor willing to come and renovate the main restrooms in the Education Building since it is a relatively small job. Jim knows some men who may be available and will let Diane Ganz know about them.

The leather bellows for the organ which control the swell (volume) are deteriorating with age and are no longer adequate. Estimated cost to replace is \$14,500. Jerry Y. knows a former organ builder and will consult him for advice and/or help with the situation.

Jerry Y. shared the Congregational Care report.

Jim gave the Rental Property Committee report. They are working with Encore Real Estate Services to finalize a contract. Encore will take over managing St. Paul’s rental properties once the contract is approved. John moved to accept the Congregational Care and the Rental Property reports; seconded by Mary. Motion approved.

Jim moved to accept the minutes of the August Council Meeting; seconded by Jerry D. Motion approved.

Kerrill Foster gave the Treasurer’s Report for June. Mary moved to accept; Sally seconded. Motion approved.

Pastor Martin presented his report. Sally moved to accept his report; John seconded. Motion approved.

Plans were discussed for the 140th Anniversary Celebration on October 13. The next council meeting will be October 28th, at 7 P.M.

The meeting closed with prayer. Respectfully submitted, Sadie Smith

Sunday Volunteers for November 2024

Position	Nov 3	Nov 10	Nov 17	Nov 24
Cantor	Ruth Gehring	Julie Hippen	Juli Rauch	Dustin Hill
Lector	Dick Daly	Addison Laidlaw-Smith	Anne Daly	Kathy Jordan
Com. Assistant	Greta Blegvad	Ainsley Laidlaw-Smith	Carol Mumaw	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	Geoff Kaercher & Don Miller

November Anniversaries

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 5 - Jeff & Kathy Kinser (41) | 22- Gary & Vicci Walters (55) |
| 15- Terry & Karen Nelson (50) | 26- Clarence & Connie Rutter (36) |
| 17- Juli Rauch & Jordan Fantini (5) | |

November Birthdays

- | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 - Peg Hupp (94) | 15- Kelly Green | 23- Laura Pastorius |
| 4 - Saron Leang | Austin Morrow | 25- Dee Altmaier |
| 6 - Dinah Fraley | 16- Phyllis Brotherton | Karen Nelson |
| Carol McDaniel (85) | Tracy Graham | 26- Owen Beamer |
| 7- Mia Morris | 17- Christina Hall | Kim Lust |
| 12- Cindra Coad | 19- Christy Hoskinson | B.J. Stamper |
| 13- Kayleigh Logan | David Truex | 27- Autumn Seabright |
| 14- Diana Koch | 20- Max Stamper | 28- Trisha Holtz |
| Andrew Swisher | 21- Matt Kaercher | 30- Ginny Faller |
| Julie Lamp | 22- Julie Ingram | |

FINANCIAL REPORT

Received 9/1/2024		Year to Date	Attendance	
Current	\$ 7,135.00	\$124,734.72	Sat. 4 p.m.	9
Benevolence	<u>310.00</u>	<u>4,024.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m.	<u>53</u>
Total	\$7,445.00	\$ 128,758.72	Total	62

Received 9/8/2024		Year to Date	Attendance	
Current	\$ 2,170.00	\$126,904.72	Sat. 4 p.m.	9
Benevolence	<u>29.00</u>	<u>4,053.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m.	<u>48</u>
Total	\$2,199.00	\$ 130,959.72	Total	57

Received 9/15/2024		Year to Date	Attendance	
Current	\$ 2,314.00	\$129,218.72	Sat. 4 p.m.	9
Benevolence	<u>15.00</u>	<u>4,068.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m.	<u>40</u>
Total	\$2,267.00	\$ 133,286.72	Total	49

Received 9/22/2024		Year to Date	Attendance	
Current	\$ 1,374.00	\$130,592.72	Sat. 4 p.m.	11
Benevolence	<u>5.00</u>	<u>4,073.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m.	<u>42</u>
Total	\$1,379.00	\$ 134,665.72	Total	53

Received 9/29/2024		Year to Date	Attendance	
Current	\$ 5,394.47	\$135,987.19	Sat. 4 p.m.	10
Benevolence	<u>35.00</u>	<u>4,108.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m.	<u>45</u>
Total	\$5,429.47	\$ 140,095.19	Total	55

*A donation was made to the Choir Fund by Miriam & Dave Truex in memory of Miriam's parents, **Robert & Dorothy Pflueger.***

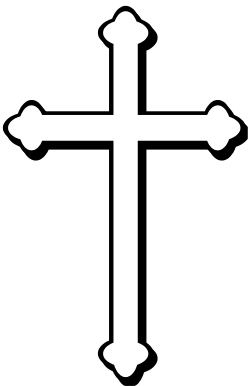
Thrive! Campaign \$25,760 Pledged \$4,795 Paid in 2024
\$2,889 outstanding pledges

Income for Operations as of September 30, 2024	\$142,891.30
Total Operating Expenses as of September 30, 2024	<u>-189,628.77</u>
Deficit	(\$ 46,737.47)

THE FORWARD October 15, 2024
St. Paul' s 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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