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Mon-Fri 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Web Site: www.stpaulselca.org

THE FORWARD

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
ST. Paul's EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEWARK, OHIO NOVEMBER 19, 2024

Church Phone: 740-345-6115 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

Now What?

Well, we did it; we survived another campaign cycle. The choices are made and now we move on. Some are disappointed or angry because their candidate, in whom they had invested their hopes for the future and their sense of identity as an American, was defeated. Others are elated because they won. But win or lose, we have made our choice and now must live with those choices. And *talk* about those choices, which no doubt we will over the holidays, perhaps to the detriment of family unity. Who will get the slap on the back? Who will get the slap upside the head? Who will get the silent treatment, and who will have their ear talked off?

No matter how we voted or how we feel about this or that issue, we now have to live with it – and with each other. We have chosen new leaders, but the underlying conflicts that rose to the surface during the campaign remain. We are a deeply divided nation and our new leaders will have to figure out how to lead not just their party, but the entire nation. At least I hope they will, because in the end it isn't about winning or losing; it is about leading, and it is hard to be a good leader when only half the people follow.

If we will claim to be a “Christian” nation, then it is my prayer that our leaders will fall back on those foundational principals that have defined Christianity since the beginning: hope, inclusion, compassion, grace, forgiveness, and self-sacrifice. These are what made Jesus the Good Shepherd and they are still the standard for a good leader today. And, by the way, are pretty helpful traits for the sheep as well.

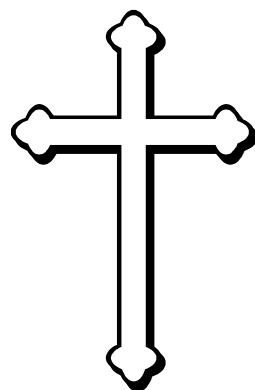
May God bless us as we start this new journey together, and may God bless our new leaders with *“the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the*

THE FORWARD November 19, 2024
St. Paul's 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.”*

spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.”

God bless you all! Pastor Martin

Immediate: The Family of Jim Landis, Jacque O'Farrell, Jim Rengert, Sheryl Dunn, Marti Kolb, Robin Hill, Julie Lamp, Vicki Jones, Cheryl Seabright

Ongoing: Gene Triplett, Charles John, Robin Schweizer

(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!

ON DECEMBER 14TH AND 15TH THERE WILL BE A CONGREGATION MEETING AFTER EACH SERVICE TO VOTE ON THE 2025 BUDGET AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL. PLEASE MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND!

**PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS - Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday
9 a.m. to 2 p.m. or by appointment.**

SERVICES CHRISTMAS EVE: *Christmas Eve is Tuesday December 24th. There will be two services, one at 4 p.m. and the Christ Mass will begin at 10 p.m. Volunteers are needed for both services. Please see below. If you can help, please contact the church office or look for the signup sheet at the back of the church.*

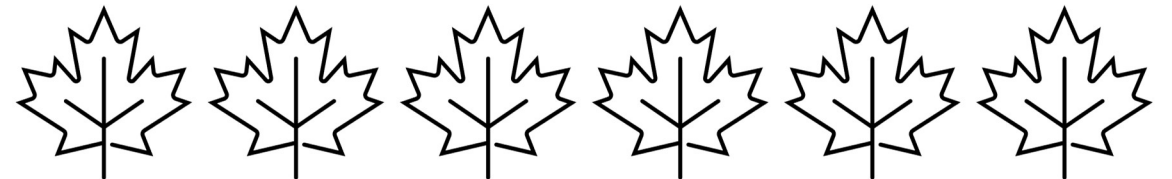
Sunday Volunteers for December 2024

Position	Dec 1	Dec 8	Dec 15	Dec 22	Dec 29
Cantor	Ruth Gehring	Julie Hippen	Juli Rauch	Dustin Hill	Ruth Gehring
Lector	Greta Blegvad	Connie Baker	Dick Daly	Jim Eastman	Diane Ganz
Com. Assistant	Carol Mumaw	Mary Billy	Anne Daly	Sadie Smith	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, Dan Fischer
Counters	Fred & Lindsay Freytag, Sally Finck	Julie Lamp, Kerrill Foster	Sally Finck, Greg & Kim Everingham	Geoff Kaercher & Don Miller	Diane Ganz, Kerrill Foster

The Christmas Eve Services December 24th Volunteers Needed!

Please see below. If you can help, please contact the church office or look for the sign up sheet at the back of the church.

4 p.m. Ushers (2) Lector (1) Communion Assistants (2) Bell Ringer (1)
10: 00 p.m. Ushers (4) Lector (2) Communion Assistants (2), Bell Ringer (1)
 Light Luminaries (2) Greeters (2)



FINANCIAL REPORT

Received 10/6/2024		Year to Date	Attendance	
Current	\$ 3,038.00	\$139,025.19	Sat. 4 p.m.	9
Benevolence	<u>220.00</u>	<u>4,328.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m.	<u>38</u>
Total	\$3,258.00	\$ 143,353.19	Total	47

Received 10/13/2024		Year to Date	Attendance	
Current	\$ 2,414.00	\$141,439.19	Sat. 4 p.m.	11
Benevolence	<u>35.00</u>	<u>4,363.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m.	<u>71</u>
Total	\$2,449.00	\$ 118,105.22	Total	82

Received 10/20/2024		Year to Date	Attendance	
Current	\$ 2,282.00	\$143,721.19	Sat. 4 p.m.	11
Benevolence	<u>95.00</u>	<u>4,458.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m.	<u>48</u>
Total	\$2,377.00	\$ 148,179.19	Total	59

Received 10/27/2024		Year to Date	Attendance	
Current	\$ 1,465.00	\$145,186.19	Sat. 4 p.m.	9
Benevolence	<u>15.00</u>	<u>4,473.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m.	<u>50</u>
Total	\$1,480.00	\$ 149,659.19	Total	59

Thank you Thrivent Choice Members for donating to St. Paul's!

Thrive Campaign Ends December 31, 2024! Total given to date: \$28,679

Total Pledged: \$25,760 Total pledges outstanding: \$1,661

2024 Sacristy Roof Repair	\$49,565.00
Monies from Ponser Fund	-30,000.00
Donations from the Congregation	<u>-5,750.00</u>
Balance	\$13,815.00

Year to date operational revenue as of October 31, 2024	\$154,686.59
Year to date operational expenses as of Oct 31, 2024	<u>210,372.99</u>
Deficit	<u>(\$55,686.40)</u>

The Christmas Eve Services December 24th Volunteers Needed!

4 p.m. Ushers (2) Lector (1) Communion Assistants (2) Bell Ringer (1)
10:00 p.m. Ushers (4) Lector (2) Communion Assistants (2), Bell Ringer (1)
 Light Luminaries (2) Greeters (2)

- **Decorating the church for the Christ Mass** will take place immediately following the church service Sunday December 22nd. Everyone is invited to participate!
- **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. **December'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 December 11 at 10:00 a.m.** in Danford Hall.
- **Church Council will meet November 25th 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 December 11th.
- **The Mecklenburg 2025 Committee will be meeting after the Sunday service on December 8th.**

Notes to the Church and Congregation:

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



THE MITTEN AND HAT TREE will be making its appearance soon! All donated hats and mittens will be sent to the Salvation Army for their Christmas drive. Let's fill that tree again this year! The tree will be up until after the service on December 15th. Thanks!

Nominees for the 2025 Congregation Council: The council has 9 members and members are elected on a rotating basis. For this election there are open places for men and for women. Please look for biographies in upcoming bulletins. If you are willing to serve, please contact Jerry Young.

SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS - This guided musical walking tour of Newark's downtown churches will take place on Thursday December 5th beginning at 6 p.m. Tickets are available for a suggested donation of \$5 and children under 12 are free. Gail Grangaard will have tickets, as well as the church office. St. Paul's Jubilate Ringers will be providing music at our stop. All proceeds from the walk benefit the Food Pantry. For more information, please contact Gail Grangaard, or go to the website: sightsandsoundsofchristmas.org.

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 ROOF FUND IS MAKING PROGRESS! And the roof is done. Total cost of the roof was \$49,565. As of November 6th we have raised \$5,750 towards the \$25,000 of the congregation's share. We will continue to collect toward the roofing fund through December 31, 2024.

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.

December Birthdays

1 - John Swisher	Harding Ganz (85)	20 -Layne Brotherton
2 - Isaac Beamer	13 - Teresa Beamer	21 -Levi Hoskinson
Karen Lane	Nathan Godenschwager	23 - Audrey Walther
4 - Emily Leber	Richard Koch	24 - Marlie Billy
6 - Bonnie Meyer	Tambra Simon	Ray Holtz
7 - Aimee Babb	Christopher Woolard	27 -Stevie Darner
Anne Mayfield	14 - Jens Blegvad	Tyler Harble
8 - Nancy Saylor	17 - Evelyn Heskett	28 -Vicky Crist
Ryan Settles	Libby Warnock	Sydney Enderle
10 - Ellen Larson	18 - Greta Blegvad	Diane Fadley
Johanna Wilson	Emily Larson	29 -Cheri Fischer
12 - Emily Blegvad-	19 - Maxx Billy	31 -Paul Baker
Monroe	Michelle Campbell	Heather Morrow
Ron Cline	Marcy Kaercher	Marie Oberholtzer (90)

December Anniversaries

16- Charles & Sue Mays (60)	23 - Cynthia & Robert Street (41)
20 - David & Ruth Graham (56)	30 -Richard & Patty Price (36)



Things to note about the 2025 Budget:

The pastor's salary reflects a 4%% increase as mandated by the synod. This has been apportioned between the base salary and housing allowance. Medical costs have increased slightly. The church provides continuing spousal health care, 12% pension, as well as disability and life insurance. The allowance amount has remained constant.

Staff Salaries - The church secretary shows an increase from \$11.75 to \$12 per hour. Organist increases to \$16,500 and the Choir director to \$9,000. Hourly increases have been budgeted for the sextons from \$15 per hour to \$15.50 per hour.

Church Facilities has been adjusted to \$41,500 to reflect increasing facility and insurance costs.

Please also note that I have not included a Mecklenburg budget as \$5000 was already approved in a prior year (2020 - plague time) for a visit, so while this will be an expense, monies for it have already been approved and set aside.

Income Based on the last few recent months, offerings were calculated at \$13,000 a month. Interest income not adjusted due to market volatility. Rental property return was left at \$20,000 to be conservative.

The expected deficit is \$ 79.958. In 2025 we will need to use savings to cover the deficit amount should it be as large as calculated. This was discussed when we prepared to call a full-time pastor, so the deficit is not unexpected, but cannot continue indefinitely.

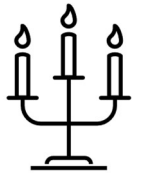
There will be a brief meeting after church on Sunday December 1st and Saturday December 7th for anyone who has questions regarding the 2025 budget.



FOOD PANTRY NEWS! The food pantry collection barrel is currently located across from the office. **Stove Top Stuffing, ...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 December 11th** .

THE COSHOCTON COMMUNITY CHOIR will present their winter concert "A Light Shining" Sunday, December 8, at 3 P.M. at River View High School. They will be accepting free-will



donations at the concert instead of selling tickets this year. Be aware that young children might find the concert over long. Also, it is recommended to bring a cushion or folded blanket to sit on as the hard wooden seats may be uncomfortable after a time. Ask Sadie Smith if you have any questions: 740-291-2999.

IS ANYONE INTERESTED in a time for sewing and chatting? Please contact Connie Baker, 740-334-8961, conbaker12@gmail.com.

2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES will be available soon – probably after the Christmas Eve services. There are several members of the congregation that have indicated that they no longer need the box of envelopes in which to make their offerings. If you would like to discontinue using the envelopes to make your offering, please let the office know. Thanks!

Unapproved St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church Congregation Council Minutes for October 28, 2024

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

Jerry Y. opened the meeting with a prayer.

Kerrill went over the 2025 budget proposed by the Budget Committee. Motion to accept: Greta. Second: Pastor. Motion approved.

Kerrill also gave the Treasurer's Report. Motion to accept: Jerry D. Second: Sadie. Motion approved.

Pastor Martin presented his report. Motion to accept: Greta. Second: John. Motion approved.

We will decorate for Christmas on Sunday, December 22nd, after the service.

Motion to accept minutes of September meeting: Mary. Second: Sally. Motion approved.

Pictures for the upcoming directory will be taken November 2 & 3 and 9 & 10.

On November 10, after the service, there will be a meeting of those who want to help with the visitors from Mecklenburg. They will be visiting August 1st through 10th next summer. The next council meeting will be November 25th, at 7 P.M.

Closed with prayer by Pastor.

Respectfully submitted, Sadie Smith

Members and Friends of St. Paul's,

At this time of year, it has been our custom here at St. Paul's to offer our congregation the opportunity to give a monetary Christmas gift to the members of our church staff including our Pastor, Choir Director, Organist, Secretary, Financial Secretary and Janitors. If you are interested in participating this year, please make your check out to St. Paul's Lutheran Church and mail it to the church office to the attention of the Treasurer. Please indicate how you wish for your gift to be distributed.

The gift will be presented at the Christmas Eve services. If you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail me at mandyjerry@aol.com.

Grace and peace to all of you in this season of waiting and reflection,
Jerry Young, Congregation Council President

Time to Order Poinsettias for the Christmas Eve Service!



Order Form: On Christmas Eve the altar will be surrounded by a wonderful array of poinsettia plants. This year the poinsettias cost \$10.00 each. To donate one or more plants, fill in the form below and place in the offering or send it to the church office.

Your name: _____

No. Of Plants _____

In memory of: _____

Or in honor of: _____

Or to the Glory of God _____

Poinsettias may be taken home after the 10 p.m. Christ Mass.

Proposed Budget for 2025 - This year's proposed budget is in bold, compared to 2024:

Expenses:	Approved 2024 Budget	2025 Proposed Budget
Pastoral Care	\$127,119	132,075
Support Staff	63,587	65,783
Care of the Facilities	36,500	41,500
Church Administration	8,900	9,900
Worship & Music	1,200	1,200
Outreach to Others	2,100	2,100
Teaching the Word	<u>4,700</u>	<u>4,700</u>
Budget Totals	\$ 244,106	\$257,258

Anticipated Income:

Estimate of Income	\$177,300.00
Anticipated Deficit	(\$79,958.00)
Operating Fund Balance October 31, 2024	\$19,261.00