

# THE FORWARD

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF  
ST. Paul's EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
NEWARK, OHIO MARCH 19, 2024



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](http://www.stpaulselca.org)

## Why Holy Week is Important

Why does religion exist? Because we *need*.

If we didn't need anything, if we were content all the time, we would have no need for religion. One thing would be as good as another; we would simply exist in a state of eternal okay-ness. But we are not okay. We sense that we are not living up to our potential. Worse, we are painfully aware of our *inability* to fulfill our potential. We are limited by weakness, isolation, ignorance, disease, and finally death. Death is our ultimate limit, a genetic deadline that gives us just so much time and no more. In the words of author Neil Gaiman, "Every hour wounds. The last one kills."

To be free from death means to be free to fulfill our potential, to have the possibility of becoming what we were meant to be, to return to the Edenic existence in which we lived *rightly* – in harmony with nature, ourselves, and our God. This is why Holy Week is so important. It represents our liberation from death into the fulness of life.

Christ and God are one. Therefore, Christ's abandonment, suffering, and death on the cross means that God has embraced abandonment, suffering, and death as well. *God reigns over suffering and death as well as joy and life*. In the presence of God, *all* things are redeemed, restored, and blessed. Christ on the cross means that even suffering and death are now blessed. And if death is blessed, what is there left for us to fear? As St. Paul wrote, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? ... For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Death can no longer separate us from God, and therefore from life. This is what I believe. This is why I choose to worship God. This is why Holy Week is important.

God bless you all! Pastor Martin

**Please keep the following people in your prayers** none at this time.

Ongoing: *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.**

- ***Sunday School for all after church. 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.
- ***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 **April 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.** in Danford Hall.
- **Church Council** will meet **March 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.**
- **Matthew's Kitchen** meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.
- **Grief Group** meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. They meet next on April 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **Notes to the Church and Congregation:**

**SPRING RUMMAGE SALE:** St. Paul's will host the annual rummage, antiques, collectables, and bake sale on **Friday, April 19 from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. and Saturday, April 20 from 9:00 A.M. to Noon.** Sign-up sheets are in the narthex or you may phone the church during office hours (between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. weekdays) to donate your time for a 3 hour block of sale time or for helping with setting up on Wednesday the 16<sup>th</sup> or Thursday the 17<sup>th</sup> or boxing left-overs immediately after the sale. You can also sign up to donate baked goods. Baked goods should be dropped off Thursday the 18<sup>th</sup>.

We will have an 'Antique and Collectables' room for Items of greater value. These items will be valued and priced individually. Items may be dropped off at the church during office hours starting on Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. If that is not possible you may phone Diane Ganz (740-344-9141) to make other arrangements. (No soiled items, or TV's that are not flat screen will be accepted.)

**SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH CHOIR:** Sally Finck and Thelma Trainor are have started a Sunday School class for our 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> graders! This means that on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays there will be choir after church in the chapel with Juli Rauch, and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays, there will be Sunday School in the nursery. Since we can now meet in person, Thelma will no longer be sending out the Sunday School Packets. For more information, contact Sally Finck (ssfinc@yahoo.com) or Thelma Trainor ([ttrainor@roadrunner.com](mailto:ttrainor@roadrunner.com)).

**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 jellies and soups. 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays at 1:30 in Danford Hall. If you would like more information, please contact Jean Hovland. The group **meets next on April 10<sup>th</sup>.**

### **Unapproved February 26, 2024 Council Minutes**

Present: Jerry Young Jerry DePalmo, Mary Billy, John Grangaard, Sally Fink, Jim Rengert, Pastor Martin. Excused: Greta Blegvad, Sadie Smith.

Invocation led by Jerry Young.

Old business: discussion of congregation responses to survey. Suggested - rummage sales, meals, or events. Many people checked all of the suggestions except for evangelism. It was suggested that we have a temple talk from a representative of Coalition of Care to explain what they do and it was also suggested that perhaps we consider four community events per calendar year.

January Secretary’s Report was accepted by Council – 1<sup>st</sup> Sally Finck, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mary Billy.

Reports were received from Congregational Care, Property and Rental Property.

Congregational Care – all shut-ins were visited either in person or by phone and greeting cards were sent.

Property - new stonework will be completed at the front of the church when the weather is warmer. They will make sure not to do the repairs during Holy Week.

Rental property: work continues at the Hudson Ave. property. It is anticipated

that a total of \$15,000 will be spent to rehab the property to get it ready for rental.

A motion was made by Mary Billy and seconded by Pastor Martin to accept reports as given. Motion passed.

The financial secretary reported that we nearly broke even in the month of January with an income of \$23,471.70 and expenses of \$23,477.18. Jerry DePalmo moved that the treasurer's report be accepted the motion carried.

Pastor's report: made some basic repairs around the church including repairing a water leak in the lady's restroom. Licking Memorial has asked if they could hold a yoga class here in the church on Monday and Friday mornings at 9:00 AM. Council gave permission for them to see if our space would work for them. Fred Freytag contacted the pastor about a 2025 visit from our Mecklenburg partners. They are thinking between August 1st and August 10th of 2025. Council asked pastor to tell Fred that those dates seemed fine. Pastor recommended we look at leasing a larger copier as our copy requirements have increased. Mary Billy made the motion Jerry DePalmo seconded and the motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned with prayer led by pastor.

Respectfully submitted Kerrill Foster substitute secretary.

### **April Birthdays**

- |                       |                       |                         |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 - Thomas Zinn       | 11 - Deborah Hall     | 18 - Ethan McDaniel     |
| 2 - Tim Jordan        | Richard Larson        | Oliver Jordan           |
| Ann Mullady           | Stephanie Strobe      | 20 - Rita Ricketts      |
| 3 - Jim Williams      | 12 - Doug Berg        | 21 - Fred Freytag       |
| 4 - Pastor Bill Rauch | 13 - Donna King       | Shepard Grubb (82)      |
| 5 - Erik Larson       | 14 - Sheila Carpenter | Robin Stamper           |
| Dick Shiels           | Becca Godenschwager   | 22 - Jennifer Casto     |
| Debbie Stamper        | Alex Triplett         | Joey Stamper            |
| 6 - Mark Anctil       | Madison Wittman       | 23 - Sharon Baumer      |
| Jasmine Swisher       | 15 - Samuel Mumaw     | Matthew Mumaw           |
| 8 - Jessica Freytag   | 17 - Andrew DeBacco   | 24 - Lois Lovelady (99) |
| Sarah O'Keefe         | Jadin Mumaw           | 26 - Ron Crist          |
| 10 - Michele Brooker  | Nic Trainor           | 27 - Josh Peterson      |
|                       | Jocelyn Wilson        | Mackenzie Swisher       |
|                       |                       | 28 - Quilyta Fuller     |

### April Anniversaries

- 3 - Brian & Michelle Miller (19)  
Thomas & Ann Mullady (43)
- 4 - Mark & Debbie Anctil (27)

- 7 - Fred & Lindsay Freytag (45)
- 13 - Charles & Lisa Hill (22)
- 25 - John F. & Lindsay Jordan(15)

### Sunday Volunteers for April 2024

Position	April 7	April 14	April 21	April 28
<b>Cantor</b>	Juli Rauch	Dustin Hill	Tim Jordan	Ruth Gehring
<b>Lector</b>	Gerry Billy	Addison Laidlaw-Smith	Anne Daly	Shirley Campbell
<b>Com. Assistant</b>	Mary Billy	Ainsley Laidlaw-Smith	Greta Blegvad	Sadie Smith
<b>Usher</b>	Fred Freytag, Charles Cooperider, Steve Wiersma	Charlie Laidlaw- Smith, Charles Cooperider	Greg Everingham, John Grangaard	Don Miller, Jerry Young, Charles Cooperider
<b>Counters</b>	Fred & Lindsay Freytag, Sally Finck	Julie Lamp, Kerrill Foster	Sally Finck, Greg & Kim Everingham	Geoff Kaercher & Don Miller

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Received 1/7/2024

Current \$ 3,640.00  
Benevolence 105.00  
Total \$3,745.00

Year to Date

\$3,640.00  
105.00  
\$ 3,745.00

Attendance

Sat. 4 p.m. 10  
Sun. 10 a.m. 38  
48

Received 1/14/2024

Current \$ 1,322.00  
Benevolence 30.00  
Total \$1,352.00

Year to Date

\$4,962.00  
135.00  
\$ 5,097.00

Attendance

Sat. 4 p.m. 10  
Sun. 10 a.m. 45  
Total 55

Received 1/21/2024

Current \$ 16,112.00  
Benevolence 515.00  
Total \$16,627.00

Year to Date

\$21,074.00  
650.00  
\$ 21,724.00

Attendance

Sat. 4 p.m. 8  
Sun. 10 a.m. 52  
Total 60

Received 1/28/2024	Year to Date	Attendance
Current      \$ 1,924.00	\$22,998.00	Sat. 4 p.m.    10
Benevolence <u>23.00</u>	<u>673.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>45</u>
Total            \$1,947.00	\$ 23,671.00	Total          55

Received 2/4/2024	Year to Date	Attendance
Current      \$ 6,100.00	\$29,098.00	Sat. 4 p.m.    12
Benevolence <u>280.00</u>	<u>953.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>64</u>
Total            \$6,380.00	\$ 30,051.00	Total          76

Received 2/11/2024	Year to Date	Attendance
Current      \$ 2,242.00	\$31,340.00	Sat. 4 p.m.    9
Benevolence <u>35.00</u>	<u>988.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>69</u>
Total            \$2,277.00	\$ 32,328.00	Total          78

Received 2/18/2024	Year to Date	Attendance
Current      \$ 1,707.00	\$33,047.00	Sat. 4 p.m.    11
Benevolence <u>5.00</u>	<u>993.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m.   57
Total            \$1,712.00	\$ 34,040.00	Ash Weds. <u>49</u>
		Total          117

Received 2/25/2024	Year to Date	Attendance
Current      \$ 3,099.00	\$36,146.00	Sat. 4 p.m.    11
Benevolence <u>25.00</u>	<u>1,018.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m.   55
Total            \$3,124.00	\$ 37,164.00	Weds. <u>31</u>
		Total          97

*Donations were made to the Memorial Fund in memory of **Gladys Schoffner** by Jackie Sainsbury, Judy Seabright, Linda Mai, Virginia Henry, Cheryl Henry and Mark & Sally Finck.*

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

**Thrive! Campaign \$29,175 Pledged      \$1,064 Paid in 2024**  
**\$23,190 paid in total.    \$5,805 outstanding pledges**

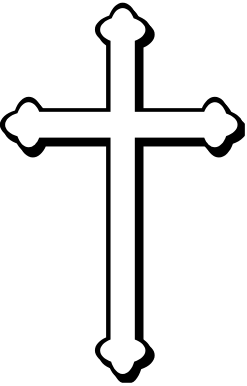
Income for Operations as of February 29, 2024	\$37,314.29
Total Operating Expenses as of February 29, 2024	<u>-42,741.23</u>
<b>Deficit</b>	<b>(\$ 5,426.94)</b>

THE FORWARD March 19, 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.**”*