

THE FORWARD

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
NEWARK, OHIO MARCH 15, 2022



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: Tim Jordan
Office Secretary: Jodie Nickles
Church Phone: 740-345-6115

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Web Site: www.stpaulselca.org

Re-Lent-ing Lent is once more upon us with its somber colors and minor keys and talk of sin and repentance. Not terribly popular attributes in a society that emphasizes positive thinking, self-confidence, and personal achievement. More than once I have heard people express the opinion that life is hard enough without being dragged through the muck (or more appropriately, ashes). We come to church to be lifted up, not dragged down!

Fair enough. But in a society where depression, anxiety, and loneliness are at record levels, it seems to me that the church is not dragging us down. We manage to do that all by ourselves. All the church does is name it.

Lent, unlike any other season, turns us toward the part of us we would rather ignore. It is the part of us that like Adam and Eve, refuses all limits and then blames another for the consequences. It is the part of us like Cain, that howls with outrage at the unfairness of life, and then turns that rage against our brother. It is the part of us like Solomon, that prays for wisdom but then settles for wealth. It is the part of us that longs for heaven but runs from God.

We have little appetite for repentance, but much to repent for. The Biblical stories of great ambitions and even greater downfalls are not the distant failings of others. They are ours. They have been preserved and passed down through the generations because they continue to describe who we are and how we live – or fail to live. We continue to turn to violence when we can't get what we want (see "Ukraine"). We continue to blame others when our own failings are too painful to admit (see "Congress"). We continue to turn a blind eye to ways our insatiable appetites and desires ravish the environment and impoverish the soul (see "Climate Change"). Worst of all,

we continue to despair of our ability to do anything more about it than shout at each other (see “Twitter Troll”).

No less than our cautionary forebears, we need God to intervene and save us from ourselves. We still need Jesus to suffer and die for us – and he does. For wherever there is sin, there will be the cross; wherever there is suffering, there will be healing. Wherever there is death, there will be resurrection.

And wherever there is Lent, there *will* be Easter. *Pastor Martin*

Please keep the following people in your prayers: *Debbie Stamper, Betty Gehring, Dave Ritchie, Bill Wittman, Linda Smart, Richard Buse, Lee Sidle, Laura Triplett, Joe McDaniel.*



Those with long-term ongoing concerns: Mary Beamer (now in hospice care), Tambra Simon, Pastor Martin Waack, Milton & Carmella Holman, Ernie Cooperider, Peg Hupp, Starr Cummings, Pamela Graham, Jena Olien-Harris, Logan Johnson, Marshall Rosene, Pastor Betsy, Ruth Swinehart, Ginny Baker, Betty Neighbarger, Wilma Keller, Terry Nelson, Margaret Marx, Rose Godenschwager, Terrie Baker, Alice Smith. ***If you need an address for anyone or wish to add someone to the list, please call the office.***



UPCOMING WEDNESDAY EVENINGS IN LENT

St. Paul's will hold in-person Wednesday evening services of Evening Prayer. These services will take place on the next five Wednesday evenings of March 16th, 23rd, 30th, and April 6th. These services will begin at 7 p.m. *Due to COVID restrictions and limitations, we will not be having potluck suppers prior to the Wednesday services. Choir will rehearse after the service.*

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

Beginning on Easter Sunday, we will observe communion at the altar rail. If you can be a communion assistant, please let us know!

Sunday Volunteers for April 2022

Position	April 3rd	April 10th Palm Sunday	April 17th Easter	April 24th
Cantor	Juli Rauch	Tim Jordan	Ruth Gehring	Kerrill Foster
Lector	Mark Finck	Addison Laidlaw-Smith	Gerry Billy	Shirley Campbell
Communion Assistants	_____	_____	Greta & Jens Blegvad	Can you Help?
Usher	Charles Cooperider	Charlie-Laidlaw Smith	Greg Everingham, John Grangaard	Don Miller, Dan Fischer
Counters	Fred & Lindsay Freytag, Sally Finck	Julie Lamp, Richard & Diana Koch	Sally Finck, Greg & Kim Everingham	Kerrill Foster, Don Miller

April Birthdays

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 - Thomas Zinn | 11 - Deborah Hall | 20 - Rita Ricketts |
| 2 - Tim Jordan | Richard Larson | 21 - Fred Freytag |
| Ann Mullady | Stephanie Strobe | Shepard Grubb |
| 3 - Jim Williams | 12 - Doug Berg | Robin Stamper |
| 4 - Pastor Bill Rauch | 13 - Donna King | 22 - Jennifer Casto |
| 5 - Erik Larson | 14 - Sheila Carpenter | Joey Stamper |
| Dick Shiels | Becca Godenschwager | 23 - Sharon Baumer |
| Debbie Stamper | Alex Triplett | Matthew Mumaw |
| 6 - Mark Anctil | Madison Wittman | 24 - Lois Lovelady (97) |
| Jasmine Swisher | 15 - Samuel Mumaw | 26 - Ron Crist |
| 7 - Mary Lou | 17 - Andrew DeBacco | 27 - Josh Peterson |
| Saylor (84) | Jadin Mumaw | Mackenzie Swisher |
| 8 - Jessica Freytag | Nic Trainor | 28 - Quilyta Fuller |
| Sarah O'Keefe | Jocelyn Wilson | Matthias Young |
| 10 - Michele Brooker | 18 - Ethan McDaniel | |

April Anniversaries

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 3 - Brian & Michelle Miller (17) | 7 - Fred & Lindsay Freytag (43) |
| Thomas & Ann Mullady (41) | 13 - Charles & Lisa Hill (20) |
| 4 - Mark & Debbie Anctil (25) | 25 - John F. & Lindsay Jordan (13) |

Notes to the Church and Congregation:

MASKS AWAY! Due to a drop in infection rates, and in line with the newest CDC guidelines, masks will no longer be required in worship or church group activities. We ask that masks continue to be worn by those who are unvaccinated, and encourage it for those who are immune compromised, or otherwise at increased risk of infection. Let's hope infection rates remain low so we can remain unmasked! We will continue to follow CDC guidance.

CATECHISM INSTRUCTION: If you or someone you know is interested in receiving catechism instruction, please plan on attending a brief organizational meeting March 20 following worship.

ASSET MAPPING: Pastor Martin will lead an "Asset Mapping" event April 24, following worship in which we will explore the various assets we have for mission and how they might be utilized for new ministries. Lunch will be provided.

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!

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 Thelma Trainor or Jean Hovland.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR RESUMING: If you have a child, grandchild, young neighbor or friend who is interested in singing, we will be restarting our children's choir in March. Please contact Juli Rauch for more information -- jrauch248@gmail.com or (740) 405-8833.

ST. PATRICK'S SOCK BOX: We are once again collecting socks of all kinds for the YES Club. Socks of all shapes and sizes are needed. Look for the sock box at the back of the church through March 20th.

OPERATION FEED The Food Pantry Network is in need of the following products, although any non-perishable food items are welcome. Monetary donations are especially helpful as the Network can purchase \$11 of food for every \$1 donated. Just mark on the outside of your offering envelope any donation to the pantry and we will send it along.

RISEN BREAD FOR EASTER Beginning with Easter Sunday, April 17th we will be using risen bread for communion. If you are interested in making some bread (it can be made ahead and we'll freeze it) Please contact Terri Beamer or the church office.

SPRING RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE

St. Paul's will sponsor a rummage and bake sale on Friday, April 22 from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. and Saturday, April 23 from 9:00 A.M. to Noon. We will have a sign-up sheet 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 setting up or boxing left-overs.



For the first time we also hope to have an 'Antique and Collectables' room for Items of greater value. These items would be valued and priced individually.

The committee has voted that the proceeds from this event would be divided between the Funeral Luncheon Fund and the Lobby Renovation Fund. Please consider volunteering for this event which helps congregation members find new homes for items they no longer need as well as benefiting the community.

Items may be dropped off at the church during office hours starting on Monday, April 18th. (No TV's or monitors that are not flat screen, computers, printers, cellphones, or soiled items will be accepted.) If it is not possible to drop items off, you may phone Diane Ganz (740-344-9141) to make other arrangements.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Received 2/6/2022

Current \$ 2,225.00
Benevolence 120.00
Total \$2,345.00

Year to Date

\$24697.00
690.00
\$ 25,387.00

Attendance

Sat. 4 p.m. 9
Sun. 9:30 a.m. 39
Total 48

Received 2/13/2022

Current \$ 5,730.00
Benevolence 437.00
Total \$6,167.00

Year to Date

\$30,427.00
1,127.00
\$ 31,554.00

Attendance

Sat. 4 p.m. 15
Sun. 9:30 a.m. 38
Total 53

Received 2/20/2022

Current \$ 1,600.00
Benevolence 5.00
Total \$1,605.00

Year to Date

\$32,027.00
1,132.00
\$ 33,159.00

Attendance

Sat. 4 p.m. 15
Sun. 9:30 a.m. 43
Total 58

Received 2/27/2022

Current \$ 1,266.00
Benevolence 30.00
Total \$1,296.00

Year to Date

\$33,293.00
1,164.00
\$ 34,457.00

Attendance

Sat. 4 p.m. 21
Sun. 9:30 a.m. 41
Total 62

Total Income for Operations as of February 28, 2022

Total Operating Expenses as of February 28, 2022

Balance

\$34,526.89

- 39,174.28

\$ (4,647.39)

UPCOMING SERVICE DATES AND TIMES

Wednesday Evening Prayer: March 9th – April 6th 7 p.m.

Maundy Thursday: April 14th 7 p.m.

Good Friday: April 15th 7 p.m.

Sunrise Service at the Four Church Farm - TBA

Easter Saturday 4 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m.



THE WHEN'S AND THE WHERE'S – If your group is starting up again, please let us know so we can get your information on the church calendar!

- **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 Fridays at noon.
- **Friday Fellowship Bible Study** meets every Friday morning at 10 a.m. in Weisgerber Lounge.
- **Ruth Circle** meets next on April 20th at 10:00 to 1 p.m. in Danford Hall to set up for the rummage sale.
- **Church Council** will meet Monday March 28th at 7 p.m.



Time to Order Easter Lilies for the Easter Sunday Service!

Order Form: On Easter Sunday the altar will be surrounded by a wonderful array of Easter Lilies. This year the lilies 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: _____

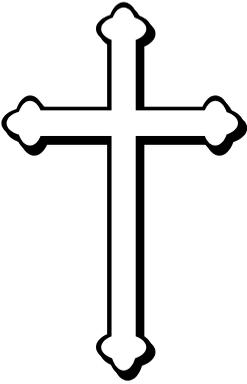
- I will pick up my plant (anytime between April 17th after service & April 24th).
- I will give this plant to be taken to our ill and homebound members.
- I volunteer to take plant(s) to our ill and homebound members.

THE FORWARD March 15, 2022
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."*