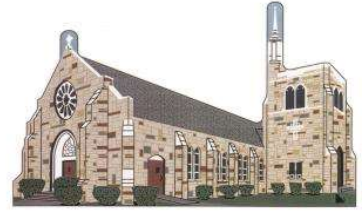


THE FORWARD

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
ST. Paul's EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
NEWARK, OHIO JUNE 17, 2025

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

Life Goes On

Ever since Adam and Eve bit the apple and belly-flopped out of the Garden of Eden, we human beings have been scratching our heads and trying to make sense of this world.

The carrot dangled in front of the apple, so to speak, was the promise of *knowledge*. “God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened,” saith the serpent, “and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” Well, now we know, and we’ve been fretting about it ever since.

Anxiety and depression seem to be the new pandemic (amongst the other worthy candidates waiting in the wings). Of course, we have lots of reasons to be anxious and depressed. Aside from our national political writhing, we’ve been smitten by an ever-growing list of self-inflicted catastrophes, the latest being rising sea levels, massive wildfires, and an especially frisky strain of measles. It is a wonder to me that God leaves us alone with a box of matches, let alone the rest of creation.

For me, nature has always been a good tonic for anxiety. The breeze blows, the bugs chirrup, and suddenly my worries don’t seem quite so worrisome. Jesus also appreciated nature as a tonic for worry. “*Look at the birds ... Look at the flowers. God takes care of them. God will take care of you too.*” Nature seems blissfully unconcerned with our concerns. The sun comes up and the leaves contentedly get about their business of photosynthesizing; the rain falls and my dandelions sing a song of praise. I don’t think they spare a single thought for who’s in the White House or whether Facebook is collecting my data, or much of

anything else except the “knowledge” that God is good and gives them what they need.

Surrounded by the voice of nature, I remember that life goes on. *Life goes on.* Today will not make or break creation. I am neither the apogee nor the nadir of world history. This day is, and I am, just the latest punctuation in this God’s unfolding tale of loving restoration. It is a beautiful story with a real whizz-bang ending. And we will all be there to read the last lines that will finally make sense of this scrambled hash we experience as history.

“Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” (Matt 6:34)

Amen. Pastor Martin

Please keep the following people in your prayers Immediate: *The family of Mary Lou Heatwole, Soren Osborne, Lauren Everingham, Amelia Hill*

Ongoing: *Bill Mason, Cheryl Seabright, Kristin Gehring*

(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 WHENS 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.**

- **Friday Night Game Nights** –We are back to the third Friday of the month the next meetings will be June 20th and July 18th at 7 p.m. in Weisgerber Lounge! Interested? Bring your favorite snack 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. The book we will begin in June is *The Violin Conspiracy* by Brendon Slocumb.
- **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 July 9th at 10:00 a.m. in Danford Hall.
- **Church Council** will meet July 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 July 9th.
- **Crafts & Sewing Group** usually meets the first Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. in Danford Hall. **They will next meet on July 12th due to the July 4th holiday.** Please contact Connie Baker, 740-334-8961 if you have any questions.

Notes to the Church and Congregation:

CONGREGATION VOTE - There will be an affirming congregation vote regarding the replacement of the church sign on the weekend of July 5th and 6th. The church sign has been out of service since the roundabout construction began. Funds were secured from the city to cover the repair or replacement of the current sign prior to the roundabout construction. We have found a company that can install a modern lighted sign within the current stone structure. Total cost will be \$8,452, which is well under the total funds we have set aside for this project. The sign is anticipated to be completed by the end of the summer.

COMMUNITY PICNIC - Our first community picnic will be held, Sunday, June 22nd right after the 10 o'clock service. Look for signup sheets in the breezeway

at church. The next picnic will be held July 27th. In case of inclement weather, we will move the fun indoors to Danford Hall! Look forward to seeing you there!

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK the Forward ladies that planned my surprise 90th birthday celebration. The lovely reception after church service that included my entire family along with my church family and friends will be a memory I will cherish for the rest of my life! Thank you all so much! *Shirley Campbell*

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. ***Any shelf-stable items are needed...Please no clothing items.*** 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 July 9th.**

July Birthdays

1 - Doug Fulton	Tammi Trites	20 - Charlie
Grace Pastorius	14 - Alice Beamer-Burney	Laidlaw-Smith
2 - Julie DeBacco	Seamus Jordan	22 - Steve Wiersma
Wilma Keller	17 - Pastor Martin	24 - Paul Fuller
Ernestine Yontz (99)	Gehring	27 - William Enderle
3 - Thomas Mullady	18 - Addison	28 - Kathy Jordan
5 - Amanda Smith	Laidlaw-Smith	Lou Thomas
6 - Matt Rauch	Bryan Vincent	29 - Jenna Chorpenning
8 - Rochelle Paul	19 - Chelsey Dupler	30 - Christine
9 - Nikki McDaniel	20 - Carl Beamer	Godenschwager
Dick Oberholtzer (92)		John Grangaard

July Anniversaries

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------------------|----|---|
| 1 | - Dick & Anne Daly (47) | 14 | - John & Kathy Jordan (52) |
| | Ron & Cindy Flowers (38) | 17 | - Shannon & Jennifer Rebecca Ricciardo (26) |
| 3 | - Jeff & Sandy Chorpenning (32) | 22 | - Milton & Carmella Holman (30) |
| 7 | - Matt & Chris Godenschwager (33) | 23 | - Paul & Connie Baker (59) |
| | Ronald & Sheila Cline (18) | 24 | - Dick & Marie Oberhotzer (70) |
| 8 | - Andy & Lauren Grangaard (19) | 29 | - Vincent & Betsy Kleinknecht (36) |
| 10 | - Shaun & Andrea O'Keefe (12) | | |

Sunday Volunteers for July 2025

	July 6	July 13	July 20	July 27 Community Picnic
Cantor	Juli Rauch	Kerrill Foster	Julie Hippen	Ruth Gehring
Lector	Anne Daly	Addison Laidlaw-Smith	Sadie Smith	Gerry Billy
Com. Assistant	Carol Mumaw	Ainsley Laidlaw-Smith	Greta Blegvad	Mary Billy
Usher	Fred Freytag, Charles Cooperider, Steve Wiersma	Charlie Laidlaw-Smith, Charles Cooperider	Greg Everingham, John Grangaard	Jerry Young, Charles Cooperider
Counters	Fred & Lindsay Freytag, Sally Finck	Kerrill Foster	Sally Finck, Greg & Kim Everingham	Geoff Kaercher & Don Miller

FINANCIAL REPORT

Received 5/4/2025		Year to Date	Attendance	
Current	\$ 3,059.00	\$66,691.47	Sat. 4 p.m.	12
Benevolence	<u>345.00</u>	<u>1,554.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m.	<u>45</u>
Total	\$3,404.00	\$ 68,245.47	Total	57

Received 5/11/2025		Year to Date	Attendance	
Current	\$ 2,845.00	\$69,536.47	Sat. 4 p.m.	10
Benevolence	<u>15.00</u>	<u>1,569.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m.	<u>63</u>
Total	\$2,860.00	\$ 71,105.47	Total	73

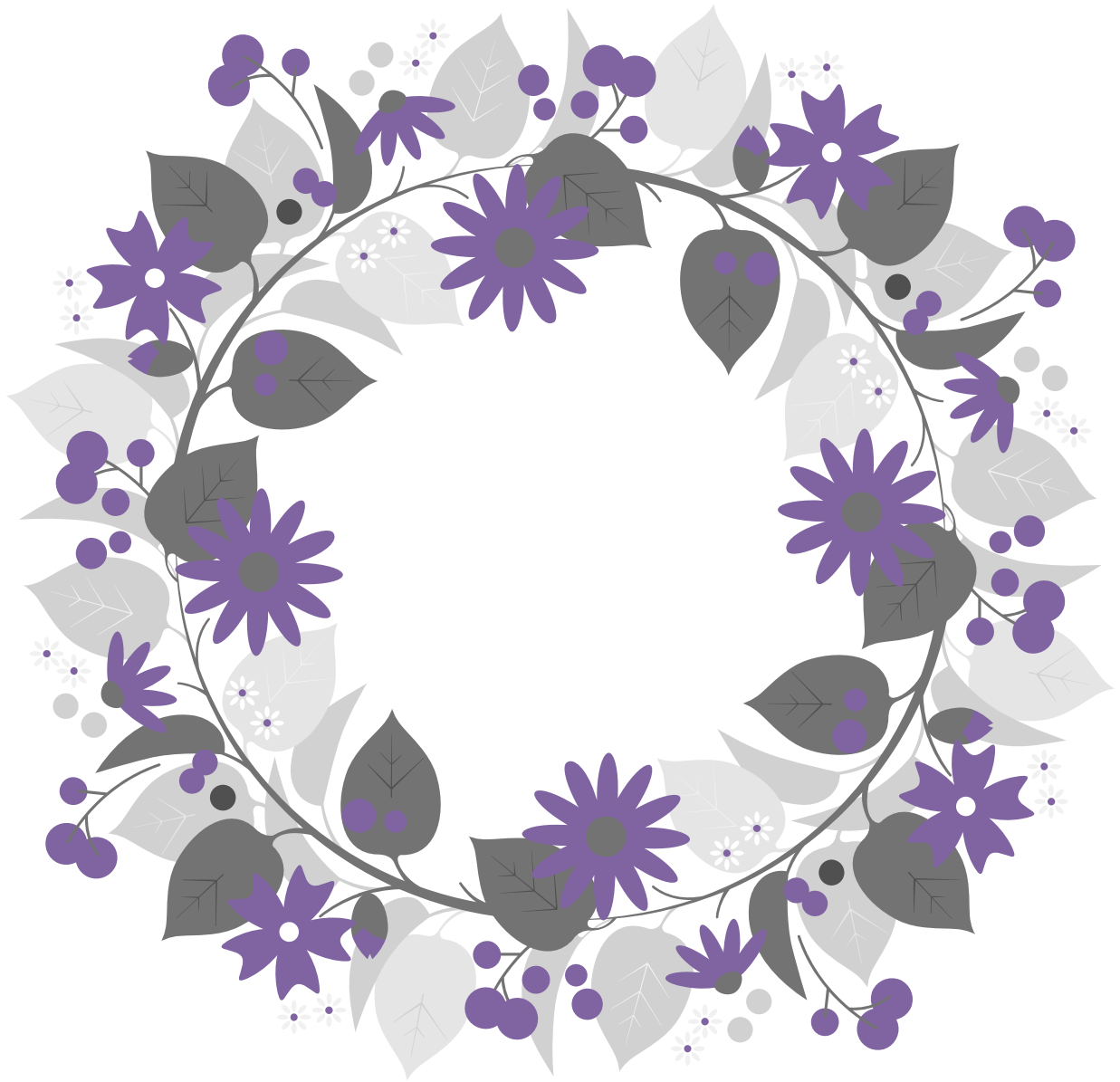
Received 5/18/2025		Year to Date	Attendance	
Current	\$ 3,841.00	\$73,377.47	Sat. 4 p.m.	12
Benevolence	<u>15.00</u>	<u>1,584.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m.	<u>49</u>
Total	\$3,856.00	\$ 74,961.47	Total	61

Received 5/25/2025		Year to Date	Attendance	
Current	\$ 1,893.00	\$75,270.47	Sat. 4 p.m.	10
Benevolence	<u>260.00</u>	<u>1,844.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m.	<u>63</u>
Total	\$2,153.00	\$ 77,114.47	Total	73

*Thank you Thrivent Choice Members for donating to St. Paul's! Donations were made to the Memorial Fund in memory of **Terry Nelson** by Robert & Joanne Teuscher, and Jeannette Scott.*

Year to date operational revenue as of May 31, 2025	\$79,631.25
Year to date operational expenses as of May 31, 2025	<u>114,721.52</u>
Deficit	(\$35,090.27)

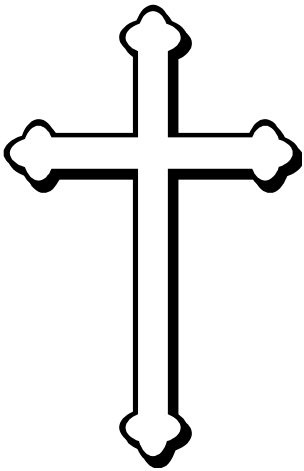
Happy Summer!



THE FORWARD June 17, 2025
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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