

THE FORWARD

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
ST. Paul's EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
NEWARK, OHIO AUGUST 18, 2026



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

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Web Site: www.stpaulselca.org

A Life-Long Journey

Two days ago (as of this writing) we celebrated the ordination of Tim Jordan to the ministry of word and sacrament. It marked a major milestone on a long and arduous journey of discernment that began ... well, at the beginning. *"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb,"* says the psalmist and, indeed, Tim was born with a curiosity and tenacity that would not let him simply hear God's word – he *wrestled* with it. He was blessed with parents who took their baptismal promise seriously, bringing him to God's house, exposing him to God's word, and living as if it all made a difference. In addition, Tim was surrounded by congregation members who taught and mentored him, who challenged him to let that Word guide his thoughts and actions. Like his parents, Tim learned to live *as if it made a difference*. But that wasn't enough. The Holy Spirit continued to discomfort his dreams and plans until finally he wondered if he might be being called into ministry – and this is when his journey of discernment began in earnest.

Under the guidance of the larger church Tim had first to wrestle with his own sense of calling and disentangle it from ego and unreal expectations. Next he had to ask his fellow congregation members if they too thought he was being called into ministry, together with synod and denominational partners in the process. Having received their affirmation, he undertook a four-year Master of Divinity degree during which he was challenged mentally and spiritually, not to mention financially. Professors and clergy supervisors poked and prodded him, pointing out weaknesses and areas for growth. Finally, after one more strenuous evaluation, ELCA and synod representatives gave him their blessing – not to be ordained, but to *seek* ordination, because just as a shepherd cannot exist without a flock, so a minister cannot exist without a congregation. So it was not until St. John Lutheran in Franklin Furnace *also* recognized the Holy Spirit's gifts in him, and called him

to enter into ministry with them, that we finally stood last Saturday as a *community* in Christ to affirm and celebrate Tim's ordination. As I said, it has been a long and arduous journey.

But it is far from over. Now Tim sets off on another journey with new companions and new challenges. We will keep Tim in our prayers, giving thanks for the ways in which we have helped to prepare him for this new role, and asking God's blessing as Tim continues to discern where the Spirit is leading him, and those he now serves, next.

God bless you all!

Pastor Martin

Please keep the following people in your prayers

Ongoing: Cheryl Seabright (*Judy's daughter*)

(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

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

- **Friday Night Game Nights** – In August we will meet on the 21st and in September on the first and third Fridays 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** usually meets the third Monday evening of each month at 7 p.m. in Weisgerber Lounge. In July we will meet on the 27th. In August we will meet on the 17th. The book we will begin in August is "*The Venice Sketchbook*" by Rhys Bowen.
- **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 September 9th at 10:00 a.m.** in Danford Hall.
- **Church Council will meet August 24th 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 September 9th.

Notes to the Church and Congregation:

A BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED WITH THE RECEPTION FOR TIM JORDAN I cannot begin to express my appreciation for everyone who helped with the reception by donating water, decorating tables, shopping, preparing, serving and especially those who helped with the clean-up! It was great to be able to send Tim off in style. Thanks again! *Kerrill Foster*

WE ALSO WOULD LIKE TO ADD A THANK-YOU to Kerrill's for all the people who took part in the service of ordination as well as those who helped to prepare, serve and clean-up from the meal. And thank you to those who attended the service! The church was filled with love and joy! We love you all!
John, Kathy and Tim Jordan

EVERYONE IS WELCOME to experience the fellowship we offer by joining us in the lobby of the educational building each week.

ST. PAUL'S REPAIR AND RENOVATION. After receiving estimates from three contractors for all of the work needed, the property committee has voted to engage Durable Restoration for the work. They previously replaced our sacristy roof and the flashing around the tower, solving a long-term leakage problem, and we have faith in their abilities. The estimates from all three (including Precision Slate and S.A.W. Construction) were very similar.

The job will include repairing cracks in the stonework, replacing mortar as needed, anchoring the facing stones to the structure where necessary, and resetting stones that have become loose on the east and west ends of the sanctuary. Some of the lintels at the top of flat-topped windows will need to be refinished or replaced. They will also replace the existing copper gutters on the

sanctuary with new, custom-made copper gutters. The sanctuary roof will have matching slates installed as needed.

After speaking with Council, we also decided to replace the existing stone steps at the main entrance to the sanctuary with poured concrete, rather than just replace broken stones. This is added to the estimate. The total for this project will be approximately \$155,000. As stated before, it makes most sense to do the stone, gutter, and roof work at one time to avoid additional expense for lifts and scaffolding. We would like to move forward with this as soon as possible before prices become even higher.

There will be meetings after church on August 22nd & 23rd to discuss the repairs and a congregation vote on August 29th & 30th.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF SCHOOL KITS

The summer is rushing by and we'll soon find sales on school supplies. This is the best time to purchase donations for the Lutheran World Relief school kits. We hope to prepare at least 100 kits and will greatly appreciate your contributions of the following items: 70 sheet spiral notebooks (375 needed), 50 pencil sharpeners, 220 blue or black ballpoint pens (not the gel type). Please bring your donations by August 16th. A box will be placed in the front of the walkway to the education building to receive your donations and will have an updated list of what is needed. Monetary donations are also most welcome. Just mark on your offering envelopes "school supplies." Thank you!

******We have enough pencils, crayons, scissors, rulers and erasers left from last year's donations. **Please do not donate backpacks.** We purchase nylon string backpacks in quantity because we have no way of knowing the age of the recipients.*

COMMUNITY PICNIC - Our next community picnic will be held August 30th Look for sign up sheets in the breezeway at church. The next picnic will be September 27th. In case of inclement weather, we will move the food indoors to Danford Hall! Look forward to seeing you there!

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!

FOOD PANTRY NEWS! The food pantry collection barrel is currently located across from the office. The kids are home from school, so easy to prepare items and ***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".

September Anniversaries

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2- Chuck & Donna King (26) | 9- John & Loretta McCollum (54) |
| Steve & Christine Wiersma (54) | 17- Matt Rauch & Julie Datko (21) |
| 4- Thomas & Erin (Daly) Zinn (16) | 24- Harry & Tandra Simon (32) |
| 5- Paul & Sharon Harble (67) | 27- Gail & Sharon Grigsby (59) |
| 6- Jens & Greta Blegvad (38) | |
| 7- Don & Rosemary Grube (63) | |

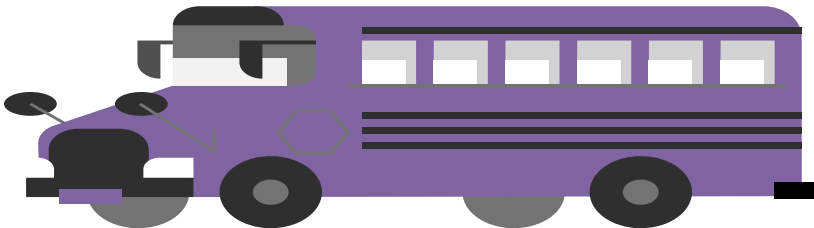
September Birthdays

- | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 2- Ryan Wiersma | Vicki Owen | 22- Jane Lawrence |
| 4 - Gail Grigsby | 15- Mitzi Findo | Susan Shannon(85) |
| 8 - John F. Jordan | Patricia Fuller | Jennifer Swisher |
| 9 - Beth Hodges | 16- Gavin Bragg | 23- Joyln Carpenter |
| Ryleigh Jones | 18- Jonathan Casto | 24- P. J. Billy |
| Becky Kolb | David Engle | Penny Coleman |
| Briana Simon | Sharon Grigsby | 26- Gary Walters |
| Joyce Woolard | William Hall | Jerry Young |
| 11- Beth Ossa | James Harble | 27- Mark Eastman |
| 12 -Mathew Seabright | 19- Sarah Davis | Jim Kolb |
| Ben Stamper | Lynn Heatwole | Carol Mumaw |
| Brielyn Olivia | 20- Heidi Bragg | 28- Marilyn Doll |
| Robinson | Mark Finck | 30- Erik Ganz |
| 14- Connie Baker | Michelle Miller | Tyler Triplett |

Sunday Volunteers for August 2026

	September 6	September 13	September 20	September 27 Community Picnic
Cantor	Ruth Gehring	Julie Rauch	Dustin Hill	Julie Hippen
Lector	Betsy Kleinknecht	Cheryl Trainor	Anne Daly	Shirley Campbell
Com. Assistant	Carol Mumaw	Beth Warner	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

Back to School!



FINANCIAL REPORT

Received 7/5/2026		Year to Date	Attendance	
Current	\$ 2,282.00	\$100,402.60	Sat. 4 p.m.	11
Benevolence	<u>105.00</u>	<u>3,497.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m.	<u>38</u>
Total	\$2,387.00	\$ 103,899.60	Total	49

Received 7/12/2026		Year to Date	Attendance	
Current	\$ 967.00	\$101,369.60	Sat. 4 p.m.	11
Benevolence	<u>15.00</u>	<u>3,512.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m.	<u>37</u>
Total	\$982.00	\$ 104,881.60	Total	48

Received 7/19/2026		Year to Date	Attendance	
Current	\$ 8,687.00	\$110,056.60	Sat. 4 p.m.	12
Benevolence	<u>25.00</u>	<u>3,537.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m.	<u>41</u>
Total	\$8,712.00	\$ 113,593.60	Total	53

Received 7/26/2026		Year to Date	Attendance	
Current	\$ 1,637.00	\$111,693.60	Sat. 4 p.m.	12
Benevolence	<u>290.00</u>	<u>3,827.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m.	<u>49</u>
Total	\$1,927.00	\$ 115,520.60	Total	61

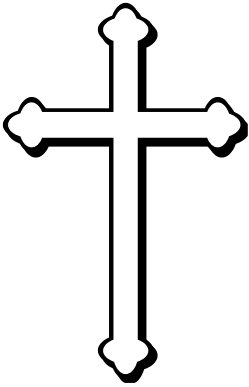
Thank you Thrivent Choice Members for donating to St. Paul's!

Year to date operational revenue as of July 31, 2026	\$118,499.13
Year to date operational expenses as of July 31, 2026	<u>154,118.64</u>
Deficit	(\$35,619.21)

THE FORWARD August 18, 2026
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."*

Non-Profit Organization
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