

THE FORWARD

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
NEWARK, OHIO AUGUST 16, 2022



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 Web Site: <www.stpaulselca.org>

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

All We Need is Love

I came into pastoral leadership at a challenging time. After decades of growth, the protestant church in America was just starting to come to grips with the fact that it was shrinking. The hand-wringing began in earnest, and we began throwing massive amounts of energy and resources at what we saw as our two main problems: how to get more people, and how to get more money. As I pass my 25-year anniversary of ordination, it seems a good time to look back and see how we've done. The truth is, for all our anxious efforts, the sky is still falling. Numbers continue to decline; budgets continue to shrink; worry continues to abound.

Why have we been so completely ineffective in solving these problems? There is probably more than one reason. It doesn't help that the church, and especially the more conservative denominations, continues to view political coercion as an effective means of mission. Experience has consistently shown, however, that when church and state try to inhabit the same space, both are damaged. Morality can only be modeled, never legislated.

So why have we been so ineffective? Because we have turned what should be a joy into a burden, an invitation into an obligation. When summarizing his teachings, Jesus reduced it all to one simple idea: love God, love each other, and do so with a prodigal abandon. Loving God does not require knowledge or training, just the will to draw nearer to God. Loving each other does not require business models, clever new approaches, advertising, or new technology, just the willingness to see each other as part of the same family, and to express our love in tangible ways. That's it. That's why we're here. That's all God wants of us.

We are not being asked to develop a program, memorize a gospel, post on Instagram, sign a petition, or open a storefront church. We are being asked to do one thing, and one thing only: to boldly bring the power of love to bear on those around us.

The Beatles were right: All we need is love.

Surely, this commandment that I am giving you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will go up and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?' Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will cross over and get it so that we may hear it and observe it?' No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart. (Deuteronomy 30:11-14)

Pastor Martin

Please keep the following people in your prayers: Amy Beth Dunkle, Mary Jane John, Webb Mills, Cheryl Seabright, Charles Cooperider, Terry Nelson, Mary Beamer, Helen Foster, Mark Anctil, The McDaniel family, Debbie Stamper, Linda Smart, Richard Buse, Lee Sidle.



Those with long-term ongoing concerns: 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. ***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 - 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 Tuesdays and Fridays at noon.
- **NA** meets 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 14th at 10:00 a.m.** in Danford Hall.
- **Church Council** will meet **Monday August 29th at 7 p.m.**
- **Matthew's Kitchen** meets the 2nd Monday at 6:30 p.m.
- **Grief Group** meets on the 2nd Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m.

Notes to the Church and Congregation:

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

Services Continue! Next outdoor services, weather permitting, will be August 21st and September 18th, outside on the green space behind the church. Remember to bring a lawn chair and come join us.

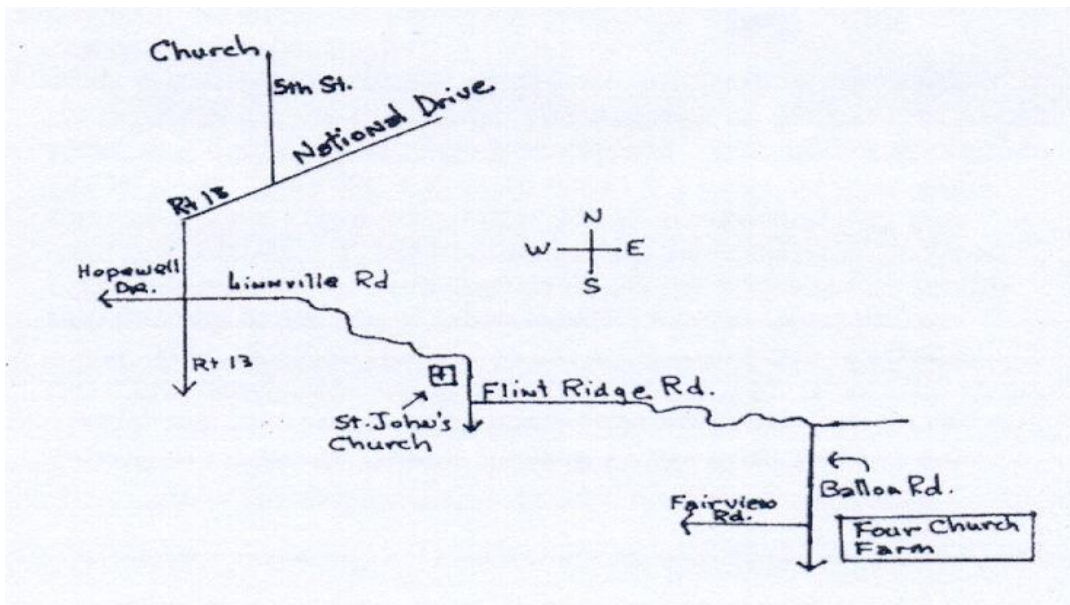
ATTENTION: Now is the time to catch the sales on back to school supplies. WELCA and children of the congregation will again be assembling school kits for Lutheran World Relief. We will place a box in the lobby area of the education building by mid-July to gratefully receive your contributions. It would be wonderful if we could fill at least 60 book bags. If you prefer, you may make a cash contribution and designate it for 'School Kits'.

Food Pantry Donation Wrangler Needed! We are in need of some folks who can monitor and deliver our food pantry donations to the Mid Ohio Food Pantry . The Pantry is located at 1035 Brice Rd. If you can help, please contact the church office. Thanks!

Sunday Volunteers Needed! If you are willing to lead the service music, usher or lector on Sunday mornings, please let Jodie, Kerrill or Dustin know. Thanks!

THREE CHURCH FARM PICNIC IS ON! This year's picnic will be Sunday, September 18th. Church service will be held @ 3:30 p.m. and the picnic will begin at 4:00 p.m. Please bring a dish to pass, and lawn chairs. All are welcome!!

Directions from St. Paul's Church to the Four Church Farm: The church faces on to Fifth Street. Go south on Fifth Street, until the street dead-ends into National Drive (Rt. 13). Turn right and follow National Drive (Rt. 13) to the south city limits of Newark, and turn left at the traffic signal where Linnville Road begins. (This intersection is at the bottom of the hill where Radio Station WCL T is located.) Drive east about 3.5 miles on Linnville Road, past St. John's Lutheran Church, to the intersection with Flint Ridge Road. Turn left and drive about 3.6 miles on Flint Ridge Road to the intersection with Ballou Road. Turn right and proceed up Ballou to the top of the hill. The entrance to the farm is directly across from the intersection with Fairview Road. It takes about 15 minutes from the center of Newark.



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.

September Anniversaries

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|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2- Chuck & Donna King (22) | 9- John & Loretta McCollum (50) |
| Steve & Christine Wiersma (50) | 17- Matt Rauch & Julie Datko (17) |
| 4- Thomas & Erin (Daly) Zinn (12) | 24- Harry & Tambra Simon (28) |
| 5- Paul & Sharon Harble (63) | 27- Gail & Sharon Grigsby (55) |
| 6- Jens & Greta Blegvad (34) | |

September Birthdays

Birthdays

- | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 2- Ryan Wiersma | 15- Mitzi Findo | Susan Shannon(81) |
| 4 - Gail Grigsby | Patricia Fuller | Jennifer Swisher |
| 8 - John F. Jordan | 16- Gavin Bragg | 23- Joyln Carpenter |
| 9 - Beth Hodges | 18- Jonathan Casto | 24- P. J. Billy |
| Ryleigh Jones | David Engle | Penny Coleman |
| Becky Kolb | Sharon Grigsby | 26- Gary Walters |
| Briana Simon | William Hall | Jerry Young |
| Joyce Woolard | James Harble | 27- Mark Eastman |
| 11- Beth Ossa | 19- Sarah Davis | Jim Kolb |
| 12 -Mathew Seabright | Lynn Heatwole | Carol Mumaw |
| Ben Stamper | 20- Heidi Bragg | Terry Nelson (86) |
| 14- Connie Baker | Mark Finck | 28- Marilyn Doll |
| Vicki Owen | Michelle Miller | 30- Erik Ganz |
| | 22- Jane Lawrence | Tyler Triplett |

FINANCIAL REPORT

Received 7/3/2022	Year to Date	Attendance
Current \$ 1,610.00	\$89,921.50	Sat. 4 p.m. 7
Benevolence <u>165.00</u>	<u>2,891.50</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>46</u>
Total \$1,775.00	\$ 92,813.00	Total 53

Received 7/10/2022	Year to Date	Attendance
Current \$ 3,017.00	\$92,938.50	Sat. 4 p.m. 9
Benevolence <u>143.00</u>	<u>3,034.50</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>42</u>
Total \$3,160.00	\$ 95,973.00	Total 51

Received 7/17/2022	Year to Date	Attendance
Current \$ 1,990.00	\$94,928.50	Sat. 4 p.m. 12
Benevolence <u>20.00</u>	<u>3,054.50</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>35</u>
Total \$2,010.00	\$ 97,983.00	Total 47

Received 7/24/2022	Year to Date	Attendance
Current \$ 2,191.00	\$97,119.50	Sat. 4 p.m. 8
Benevolence <u>20.00</u>	<u>3,074.50</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>40</u>
Total \$2,211.00	\$ 100,194.00	Total 48

Received 7/31/2022	Year to Date	Attendance
Current \$ 7,306.00	\$104,425.50	Sat. 4 p.m. 14
Benevolence <u>180.00</u>	<u>3,254.50</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>41</u>
Total \$7,486.00	\$107,680.00	Total 55

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

Income for Operations as of July 31, 2022	\$112,637.60
Total Operating Expenses as of July 31, 2022	<u>- 136,137.91</u>
<u>Balance</u>	\$ (23,500.31)

Sunday Volunteers for September 2022

Position	Sept 4	Sept 11	Sept 18	Sept 25
Cantor	Ruth Gehring	Dustin Hill	Tim Jordan	Kerrill Foster
Church Door Sec	Volunteer needed!	Mary Billy	Gail Grangaard	Sally Finck
Lector	Anne Daly	Ainsley Laidlaw-Smith	Kathy Jordan	Jerry Young
Com. Assistant	Greta Blegvad	Diana Koch	Shirley Campbell	Mandy John
Usher	Fred Freytag, Charles Cooperider, Steve Wiersma	Charlie-Laidlaw Smith, Charles Cooperider	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

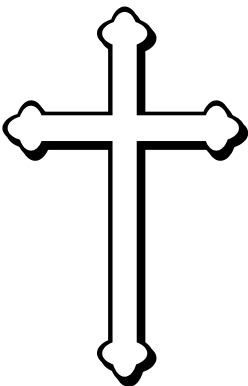


THE FORWARD August 16, 2022
St. Pauls Ev. Lutheran Church
67 North Fifth Street
Newark, OH 43055-5031

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."*