

THE FORWARD

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

ST. Paul's EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEWARK, OHIO DECEMBER 17, 2024

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

Waiting for the World to Change

As if on cue, the moment the Macy's parade Santa ho-ho-hoed his way down 34th Street, it got cold and snowed, and we knew the Christmas shopping season had begun. Christmas is all about traditions. No sooner had we digested our Thanksgiving turkey (Halloween candy?) than the Christmas music loops started in stores. They play all the old favorites, a severely limited, tried and true playlist designed to make us think of family, Christmases past, and spending money.

More than any other time of year, we want things to stay the same. We want all our family members to be home for Christmas. We want to hang the same ornaments on the same tree, eat the same food, watch the same movies, dream the same Christmas dreams, and wake to the same bright, snow shrouded Christmas morning.

Amidst all this Christmas season sameness, it is easy to forget that what we are waiting for is *change*. We are waiting for the Messiah, who's coming promises to turn everything on its head. Jesus reminds us that the coming of the Messiah will mean the hungry will be filled and the rich will learn what it is to be hungry, the poor will be lifted up and those who oppress them will be ground down, the peacemakers will find their place in God's household while the violent and fear-mongers will find themselves out in the cold.

To expect the messiah is to expect a refiner's fire, the upending of business as usual, and the beginning of a new heaven and earth. Both Jesus and Saint Paul advise us to watch and stay ready lest that day catch us unaware. We need a change; we long for balance to be restored; we long for compassion to win out over judgement, for forgiveness to win out over

vengeance, for peace to win out over violence, and love to win out over all those forces that seek to divide, blame, and scatter God's people. The coming of the Messiah will bring in the change we so desperately need, so I say, let it come. I could do with a little less tradition and a little more change. God bless you all! Pastor Martin

Please keep the following people in your prayers
Immediate: Charles John, Claudia Essex, Tammy Moukus

Ongoing: Cheryl Seabright

Our condolences to the friends and family of Margaret "Peg" Hupp who died November 8th.



(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.**

SERVICES CHRISTMAS EVE: *Christmas Eve is Tuesday December 24th. There will be two services, one at 4 p.m. and the Christ Mass will begin at 10 p.m. Volunteers are needed for both services. Please see below. If you can help, please contact the church office or look for the signup sheet at the back of the church.*

The Christmas Eve Services December 24th Volunteers Needed!

4 p.m. Ushers (2) Lector (1) Communion Assistants (2) Bell Ringer (1)

10: 00 p.m. Ushers (4) Lector (2) Communion Assistants (2), Bell Ringer (1)
Light Luminaries (2) Greeters (2)

- ***Decorating the church for the Christ Mass*** will take place immediately following the church service Sunday December 22nd. Everyone is invited to participate!
- **Sunday School for all after church. See Ruth Graham, Sally Finck** (ssfinck@yahoo.com) or **Thelma Trainor** (ttrainor@roadrunner.com) for details.
- ***Friday Night Game Nights*** –meets on the 3rd Friday night of the month at 7 p.m. in Weisgerber Lounge! Interested? Bring your 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. January's book is *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus
- ***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 January 8th at 10:00 a.m.*** in Danford Hall.
- ***Church Council will meet January 13th 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 January 8th.

Notes to the Church and Congregation:

I would like to thank everyone for their thoughtfulness, cards and prayers for my brother Jim and our family. *Sally Finck*

COME JOIN THE CHOIRS! Adult & bell choirs rehearse on Wednesdays – 7:30 for the choir and 6:30 p.m. for the bells. Children’s choirs rehearse after worship the first and third Sundays of the month. All children are welcome for the children’s choir. For information about the adult and bell choirs, please contact Dustin Hill (740) 258-4335; for the Children’s choir, please contact Juli Rauch (740) 405-8833.

THE ROOF FUND AND THRIVE! CAMPAIGNS END DECEMBER 31ST!
Please have your donations/pledges into the church by that date. Thanks!

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. ***Stove Top Stuffing, cooking oil, salt & pepper, sugar, flour, jelly and dish soap ...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 2nd Wednesdays at 1:30 in Danford Hall. If you would like more information, please contact Jean Hovland. The group **meets next on January 8th.**

IS ANYONE INTERESTED in a time for sewing and chatting? Please contact Connie Baker, 740-334-8961, conbaker12@gmail.com.

2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES will be available soon – probably after the Christmas Eve services. There are several members of the congregation that have indicated that they no longer need the box of envelopes in which to make their offerings. If you would like to discontinue using the envelopes to make your offering, please let the office know. Thanks!

Unapproved St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church Congregation Council Minutes for December 2, 2024

Present: Pastor Martin, Kerrill Foster, Greta Blegvad, Jerry Depalmo, Sally Finck, John Grangaard, Jim Rengert, Sadie Smith, Jerry Young

Excused: Mary Billy

Jerry Y. opened the meeting with a prayer.

Congregational Meeting will be December 14 & 15. We will be voting on the 2025 budget and electing one woman for the church council.

Kerrill also gave the Treasurer's Report. Motion to accept: Jerry D.

Second: Pastor Martin. Motion approved.

Jim reported on progress with the rental management company. One of our renters will be moving out soon. No problem getting a new tenant is anticipated.

Jerry D. will be donating another house to St. Paul's. Motion to accept: Greta.

Second: John. Motion approved.

Pastor Martin presented his report. Motion to accept: John.

Second: Jerry D. Motion approved.

Jerry Y. passed along the report from the Congregational Care Committee and from the Property Committee. They will be removing the dead redbud tree soon.

Motion to accept: Jim. Second: Greta. Motion approved.

Sally moved to accept the minutes of the October meeting. Second: Pastor Martin. Motion approved.

Annual reports are due to Kerrill by January 10.

The next meeting will be January 13, 2025, at 7 P.M.

Closed with prayer by Pastor.

Respectfully submitted, Sadie Smith

January Birthdays

1 - Brin Fulton	Ian Jordan	19 - Ron Howard
Chuck King	Hydi Laidlaw-Smith	21 - Crystal Stamper
2 - Carmella Holman		Samantha Woolard
Jean Hovland (83)	12 - Larissa Fuller	22 - Kira Coad-Pope
Sofia Swisher-Morris	Lyric Wilson	Adam Hall
3 - David Graham	13 - Al Miller	23 - Johanna Hartfield
Christian Thatcher	14 - Harry Simon	Belinda Seabright
4 - Caroline King	15 - Rachel Freytag Cox	24 - Carol Sunkle (96)
5 - John A. Jordan	Bradley Pastorius	27 - Reece Dupler
	Olivia Pastorius	28 - Tim Grigsby
8 - Chance Settles	16 - Sam Irvin	Faith Settles
10 - Linda Crawmer	17 - April Frazee	31 - Diane Ganz
Ariel Hall	18 - Aidan Fraley	

January Anniversaries

1 - David & Marilyn Doll (55)	12 - Ken & Kelly Green (40)
Andrew & Courtney Swisher (11)	
	14 - Donald & Katie Miller (59)
2- Martin & Ruth Gehring (37)	
	18 - Corey & Brooke Love (22)

Sunday Volunteers for January 2025

Position	Jan 5	Jan 12	Jan 19	Jan 26
Cantor	Ruth Gehring	Julie Hippen	Juli Rauch	Dustin Hill
Lector	Aurora Brown	Ainsley Laidlaw-Smith	Mark Finck	Kerrill Foster
Com. Assistant	Melady Brown	Addison Laidlaw-Smith	Mandy John	Carol Mumaw
Usher	Fred Freytag, Charles Cooperider, Steve Wiersma	Charlie Laidlaw-Smith, Charles Cooperider	Greg Everingham, John Grangaard	Don Miller, Jerry Young, Charles Cooperider
Counters	Fred & Lindsay Freytag, Sally Finck	Julie Lamp, Kerrill Foster	Sally Finck, Greg & Kim Everingham	Kerrill Foster & Don Miller

FINANCIAL REPORT

Received 11/3/2024	Year to Date	Attendance
Current \$ 3,865.00	\$149,051.19	Sat. 4 p.m. 11
Benevolence <u>310.00</u>	<u>4,783.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>62</u>
Total \$4,175.00	\$ 153,834.19	Total 73

Received 11/10/2024	Year to Date	Attendance
Current \$ 2,059.00	\$151,110.19	Sat. 4 p.m. 13
Benevolence <u>31.00</u>	<u>4,814.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>53</u>
Total \$2,090.00	\$ 155,924.19	Total 66

Received 11/17/2024	Year to Date	Attendance
Current \$ 1,668.00	\$152,778.19	Sat. 4 p.m. 10
Benevolence <u>10.00</u>	<u>4,824.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>59</u>
Total \$1,678.00	\$ 157,602.19	Total 69

Received 11/24/2024	Year to Date	Attendance
Current \$ 5,371.00	\$158,149.19	Sat. 4 p.m. 11
Benevolence <u>300.00</u>	<u>5,124.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>72</u>
Total \$5,671.00	\$ 163,273.19	

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

Thrive Campaign Ends December 31, 2024! Total given to date: \$28,791
Total Pledged: \$25,760 Total pledges outstanding: \$1,549

2024 Sacristy Roof Repair	\$49,565.00
Monies from Ponser Fund	-30,000.00
Donations from the Congregation	<u>-5,960.00</u>
Balance	\$13,605.00

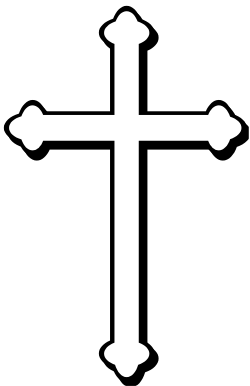
Year to date operational revenue as of November 30, 2024	\$168,268.75
Year to date operational expenses as of November 30, 2024	<u>227,700.60</u>
Deficit	(\$59,431.85)

THE FORWARD December 17, 2024
St. Paul' s 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."*