

# THE FORWARD

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF  
ST. Paul's EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
NEWARK, OHIO MAY 20, 2025

Church Phone: 740-345-6115 Web Site: <[www.stpaulselca.org](http://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](http://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

## East of Eden

April showers bring May flowers – a comforting continuity in disjointed times. Spring has erupted, with its sudden rush of leaf and song, and now is easing into summer. The groundhogs (or whistlepigs, a much more satisfying name) are again dining on fresh dandelions and sunning themselves perilously close to the roads. Bluejays and gold finches are shedding their depressed winter attire and spiffing up for the annual mating dance. The first hummingbird has made a fleeting appearance in our battered oak and the woodpeckers are tuning their drums. Each species has shaken off the cold and settled into its niche. They seem to do so without thought or fuss, thankful for their place in this world and in God's grace.

We seem to be the only ones struggling to know our place. Unsure of where and how we belong, we grasp and hold what we can get, buying and selling the earth in penny parcels as if it were not already occupied, as if it had no value apart from what we assign it. We are the only ones who refuse to accept any natural limits. We have killed off our predators; we have plowed our prairies, forcing them to grow food for us only; we cure our diseases and speak of the sanctity of life – meaning ours, of course.

Nature is patient with her wayward children, but not infinitely so. There are always consequences, which may be postponed but not avoided indefinitely. Eventually we will be firmly reminded that we are not alone, that we share this earth with others who in their own rustic voice pray for their share of earth, air, water, food. From the beginning, God created us in community. We shared Eden with our fellow creatures until we decided *all*

the fruit should be ours. Perhaps one day we will remember our place in God's created family, and having done so, share Eden once again.

God bless you all! Pastor Martin

**Please keep the following people in your prayers *Bill Mason, Soren Osborne, Kristin Gehring, Terry Nelson, Cheryl Seabright, Amelia Hill***

**Ongoing: *Mark Finck, Bill Rauch, Tom 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 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.**

- **Sunday School** for all after church. See Ruth Graham , Sally Finck ([ssfinck@yahoo.com](mailto:ssfinck@yahoo.com)) or Thelma Trainor ([ttrainor@roadrunner.com](mailto:ttrainor@roadrunner.com)) for details. Sunday school for children of all ages meets the second, fourth and fifth Sundays of the month. Children's choir meets the first and third Sundays.
- **Friday Night Game Nights** –We are back to the third Friday of the month the next meeting will be June 20<sup>th</sup> 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 May is Conclave by Robert Harris.
- **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 June 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.** in Danford Hall.
- **Church Council will meet June 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.**
- **Matthew's Kitchen** meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.
- **Grief Group** meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. They meet next on June 11<sup>th</sup>.
- **Crafts & Sewing Group** meets the first Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. in Danford Hall. They will next meet on June 7<sup>th</sup>. *Please contact Connie Baker, 740-334-8961 if you have any questions.*

### **Notes to the Church and Congregation:**

**CONGREGATION VOTE** A congregational vote to repair/replace the church sign will be held on the weekend of June 14/15. Prior to the construction of the roundabout, the City of Newark paid some \$9,000 to the church for the land and replacement of the current sign. With additional memorial funds from Russ Hovland, the sign fund stands at \$11,387. We are fortunate that we will be able to use the existing structure placing an electric digital sign in place of the current white board. Cost for the project will not exceed \$9,000 – funds we already have in place. Questions about the project? See Greta Blegvad or Diane Ganz.

### **SPRING RUMMAGE SALE RESULTS**

The Rummage sale made a total of **\$1,654.40!!!** The committee voted that the proceeds from this year's event will be donated to Lutheran World Relief's Disaster Fund. **Thank you to everyone who volunteered, baked or donated. A special thank you to the Licking County Fly Fisherman who set up and then took down all of the tables!**

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY SOCK BOX RESULTS** 285 pairs of socks and 210 pairs of underwear were donated and taken to the YES! Club. Thank you to Marti Kolb-

Conner and Kendell Stotts for undertaking this program on St. Paul's behalf!

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays at 1:30 in Danford Hall. If you would like more information, please contact Jean Hovland. The group **meets next on June 11<sup>th</sup>**.

### **CONGREGATION COUNCIL MINUTES MAY 5, 2025**

Present: Jerry Young, Jerry DePalmo, Julie Ingram, Jim Rengert, John Grangaard, Sally Finck, Kerrill Foster(non-voting) Martin Gehring. Excused: Greta Blegvad, Mary Billy  
Jerry Young opened with prayer.

Property Committee: completed work on paint and plastering repair in the main church and are very pleased with the work. They are working on a new parking lot contract with the school showing a \$500 increase per year for next three years. This reflects the additional use of the parking lot by intermural events and busses driving across the lot. Contract has been sent to the district.

Congregational Care: all shut-ins visited, Easter cards sent.

President report: none.

Last month's minutes were approved.

Financial Report: Income exceeded expenses as several annual contributions made. 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter investments are holding steady. May not be so lucky second quarter. Approved report - motion Jerry DePalmo, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jim Rengert.

Rental Property – waiting on \$20 rent increase to take effect. Roofing bids have been high in Jim's estimation.

WELCA - \$1,654.40 made at rummage sale. Proceeds to be sent to Lutheran Disaster Response. Big thank you to the Land of Legend Fly Fisherman for setting up and taking down all the tables, and to all the volunteers who worked, baked or donated. Leftovers were sent along to St. Vincent DePaul's.

Mecklenburg – a tentative schedule was shared with council. A complete sheet will be shared with the congregation closer to the event.

Pastor's report – Easter went well, good visit at home in Oak Park, keep Bill and Judy Rauch in our prayers.

Motion to approve all committee reports – Sally Finck, 2<sup>nd</sup> John Grangaard.

Motion passed.

First Community Picnic will be June 22<sup>nd</sup> after church. Sign up sheets will be placed out by beginning of June.

Next Meeting: Monday June 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Kerrill Foster, Secretary

### **June Birthdays**

2 - Judy Seabright	Jack Conner (94)	19 - Josiah Hamilton
Zachary Seabright	Sarah Freytag	Richard Price
3 - Shawna Campbell-	Lindsey Cochran	Vince Walters
Noyd	11 - Juli Rauch	20 - Cameron Kolb
Chuck Lawrence	12 - Ginger Bailey	21 - Tiffany Evans
5 - Tracey Harble	Doug Hartfield	22 - Gerald DePalmo (92)
Betsy Kleinknecht	Amberlynn Whiteside	Florence Knerr
6 - Cindy Street	13 - Cheryl Seabright	Betty Neighbarger (93)
7 - Marshall Rosene	Kala Simon Watkins	23 - Kathie Hayden
Elvira Engle	15 - Hank Trites	24 - Sheriena Fuller
8 - Chris Ingram	16 - Carey Hovland Mtui	26 - Gaven Billy
Charles Mays	17 - Mary Howard	Lindsay Jordan
9 - Daniel Grangaard	Abbey Swisher	27 - Jeffrey Wiersma
John Warnock	Kayla Swisher	29 - Julia Hodges
10 - Mary Billy	Reagan Swisher	30 - Cameron Leang

## June Anniversaries

4 - Brian & Joyce Woolard (37)

4 - Dick & Louise Shiels (53)

4- Gene & Julie Lamp (14)

12 - John & Georgeann Leber(26)

14 - Troy & Laura Triplett (44)

19 - Gerry & Mary Billy (49)

20 - Stephen & Denise Crews(44)

John & June Whiteside (38)

23 - Greg & Kim Everingham (52)

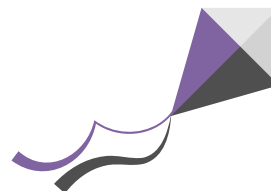
John & Gail Grangaard (52)

24 - David & Miriam Truex (45)

26 - William & Deborah Hall (41)

## Sunday Volunteers for June 2025

	June 1	June 8	June 15 Father's Day	June 22 Communit y Picnic	June 29
<b>Cantor</b>	Julie Rauch	Julie Hippen	Ruth Gehring	Juli Rauch	Kerrill Foster
<b>Lector</b>	Mark Finck	Ainsley Laidlaw- Smith	Kathy Jordan	Connie Baker	Diane Ganz
<b>Com. Assistant</b>	Carol Mumaw	Addison Laidlaw- Smith	Greta Blegvad	Sadie Smith	Mandy John
<b>Usher</b>	Fred Freytag, Charles Cooperider, Steve Wiersma	Charlie Laidlaw- Smith, Charles Cooperider	Greg Everingham, John Grangaard	Jerry Young, Charles Cooperider	Charles Cooperider, Florence Knerr
<b>Counters</b>	Fred & Lindsay Freytag, Sally Finck	Kerrill Foster	Sally Finck, Greg & Kim Everingham	Geoff Kaercher & Don Miller	Diane Ganz, Kerrill Foster



## FINANCIAL REPORT

Received 4/6/2025

Current       \$ 4,379.00  
Benevolence   140.00  
Total           \$4,519.00

Year to Date

\$56,544.21  
1,134.00  
\$ 57,678.21

Attendance

Sat. 4 p.m. 11  
Weds. 30  
Sun. 10 a.m. 61  
Total 102

Received 4/13/2025

Current       \$ 2,371.00  
Benevolence   15.00  
Total           \$2,386.00

Year to Date

\$58,915.21  
1,149.00  
\$ 60,064.21

Attendance

Sat. 4 p.m. 12  
Weds. 38  
Sun. 10 a.m. 73  
Total 123

Received 4/20/2025

Current       \$ 3,271.00  
Benevolence   35.00  
Total           \$3,306.00

Year to Date

\$62,186.21  
1,184.00  
\$ 63,370.21

Attendance

Maundy Thurs. 40  
Good Fri. 37  
Sun. 10 a.m. 77  
Total 154

Received 4/27/2025

Current       \$ 1,446.26  
Benevolence   25.00  
Total           \$1,471.26

Year to Date

\$63,632.47  
1,209.00  
\$ 64,841.47

Attendance

Sat. 4 p.m. 12  
Sun. 10 a.m. 41  
Total 53

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

**Year to date operational revenue as of April 30, 2025**

**\$67,964.82**

**Year to date operational expenses as of April 30, 2025**

**86,032.36**

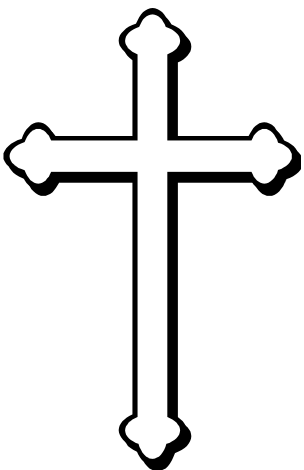
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**(\$18,337.54)**

**THE FORWARD May 20, 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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