

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church Newark, Ohio

Annual Report

FOR THE YEAR 2022

Between the winter and the spring,
To add to our joy and sport,
Comes a pause in the year's occupation,
That's known as the "annual report."

It's the bane of our existence
With its detail of every sort,
This involved, inquisitive query,
This loquacious annual report.

Yet the facts can be clearly stated,
Without shame and with no retort,
We've again known God's blessing,
It's all spelled out in the annual report!

**Annual Report meeting in conjunction with services
January 28/29, 2023**

PASTOR'S REPORT

2022 has been a great year! We have successfully transitioned to a new pastorate, a process made possible by the patience, hospitality, flexibility, and overall health of the congregation. Ruth and I consider ourselves richly blessed to have been called to such a caring and welcoming congregation with such rich possibilities for ministry together. We are blessed with an industrious and wise council providing effective leadership as well as numerous non-elected leaders who have worked tirelessly on behalf of this congregation. I am personally thankful for their leadership as it has enabled me to spend more time getting to know the congregation and the community, an essential part of any new pastor's job!

So, what might 2023 hold in store for us?

Hospitality: Our congregation doesn't really have a good space for public hospitality. The gathering area where we serve coffee on Sunday mornings is dull and cold. Without great expense, I think we can greatly improve this area with brighter light fixtures, a new rug, and updated furniture. We could also add a gas or electric fireplace as a focal centerpiece and to provide instant heat when needed. In addition, we could build shelves and move our library out to this space to make it more accessible. I believe we can create a bright, warm, and inviting space for both congregation events and outside visitors!

Education: We continue to seek out new educational opportunities. In addition to our existing educational opportunities, we now offer a multi-generational catechism program for members seeking a deeper understanding of their faith, as well as a Sunday morning class on various topics (for which Ruth Graham is tirelessly seeking new students!). Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous are once again meeting in our building, to which we have recently added the Land of Legend Fly Fishers, who meet regularly to teach such skills as fly tying and rod building. We also look forward to restarting the Breakfast Club soon.

Worship: One of St. Paul's existing strengths is our rich and beautiful worship. In this new year I hope to start a Worship Arts group to visually enhance that worship. Terri Beamer and Fred Freytag continue to offer tireless support behind the scenes as our sacristans. It is one of my continuing goals to involve as many people as possible in our worship experience.

Leadership: A large portion of our council is rotating off this year, making room for an exciting new wave of leaders. I look forward to working with them! It says much about the health of our congregation that not one person approached declined the invitation to serve!

Staff: We are blessed to have such skilled worship music staff as Dustin and Tim supporting our worship. Jodie and Kerrill continue to do excellent administrative work, and we now have new cleaning staff (Welcome Genny and Dale Faller!) providing a

much-improved level of cleanliness in our building!

Property: This year we did some roof repairs and finally (fingers crossed!) eliminated the leaks in the sanctuary and organ pipe room. We also replaced both water heaters and did some plumbing work in the basement and furnace room. Yay us! This year, however, we will be exploring options for repairing the parking lot. More details to come!

Congregation Care: The tireless work of our Congregation Care Committee, along with my own visits and calls, ensures that no one in our community is overlooked or forgotten. Perhaps this year we can work to improve our video production for the sake of those who cannot be with us in person.

Community Care: The community of Newark continues to suffer from high rates of poverty, homelessness, and drug use. How might we, as a very visible center of Christianity in the heart of the city, work to ease this suffering? This too will be a constant question before us in the coming year.

In summary: I am thankful for our past year together, and excited to see what 2023 will bring! God bless you all!

Pastor Martin

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

The 2022 year has been considerably closer to what we think of as “normal” for St. Paul’s after our experiences with the COVID-19 Pandemic over 2020 and 2021. In addition to maintaining our services, we’ve seen a return to many of those fellowship activities that makes us a wonderful and comforting community. Both catechism and Sunday school have resumed. Our Faith & Fellowship, book club, Quilt & Faith, and game night groups have resumed or begun plans to meet. A children’s choir is again practicing in addition to our adult and bell choirs. A number of our members have taken advantage of opportunities to engage in programming with other downtown Newark churches and the other Lutheran churches in Licking County. Coffee is again available before and after the Sunday service.

But there are senses that this is a new normal, which is to say we at St. Paul’s are a living, dynamic congregation that continues to adapt as we strive to live faithfully in the here and now as God calls us to do.

A major high for our congregation in the last year was your response to the Thrive! Campaign that we held this fall. I refer you to campaign chairperson Sadie Smith’s report for full details of this success, but you blew past our initial \$7500 goal to pledge \$36,343, what the synod campaign manager has called a record. A special thank you goes not just to Sadie, but our other Thrive! committee members: Jean Hovland, Kathy & John Jordan, and Richard Koch.

Repairs to the roof of the sanctuary were also completed this year, resolving the problems we were having with leaks. The property committee deserves a special thank you for their efforts in coordinating those repairs: Greta Blegvad, Diane Ganz, John Jordan, Charlie Laidlaw-Smith, and Tim Utterback.

St. Paul's experienced turnover in most of our staff during 2020, so our priorities in 2021 included filling those positions. This year we have been blessed by these wonderfully talented and generous individuals on our staff. Still, we are ending this year with new sextons in Dale and Genny Faller. Thank you's go to Greta Blegvad, Charlie Laidlaw-Smith, and Pr. Martin for overseeing this personnel transition.

As our congregation continues to look to the future, I would encourage us to remember the asset mapping workshop that Pr. Martin led us in back in May. That day's participants found that we had particular interest in finding new and creative uses for our Locust St. green space, the education building, and our music program.

On a more personal note, I want to thank the congregation for your prayers, love, and support as I've transitioned this year into being St. Paul's seminarian. Part of this support has been financial, but all the more important have been your interest in my studies and your willingness to allow me to help preach and lead worship. You have affirmed my call over and over again.

The turnover among members of the church council from 2022 to 2023 has been considerable, but I am excited to see where St. Paul's will go next. To those of you who are going off, thank you! To those of you continuing or beginning new terms, thank you! May God grant you and all of us wisdom, courage, and grace as you lead us forward!

CONGREGATION CARE COMMITTEE:

Members of the Congregational Care Committee visited shut-ins monthly during the year, some by phone visits, and others in person visits as we were able to. The Word in Season devotionals were distributed to each shut-in friend quarterly. Greeting cards were sent out to each shut-in friend for holidays, birthdays, etc.

Respectfully submitted, Gail Grangaard and Debbie Anctil, co-chairmen.

EVANGELISM A committee has not met for quite a while. We are all part of evangelism, living and spreading The Good News in all we say and do. Let the office know if you are interested in being a part of an Evangelism committee to discuss idea!

Thanks! -- Ruth Graham

FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP: Let's have a planning meeting get-together for January on the 18th at 1 p.m. in Danford Hall. Bring your ideas or contact us!

Paul & Connie Baker, Chairpersons

FOOD PANTRY COMMITTEE

We would like to thank everyone that has donated food and money for the Food Pantry Network. The total number of pounds collected since September is 307 and monetary gifts totaling \$105.00. We would like to give special thanks to Geoff Kaercher for all the deliveries he made.

Kim Everingham, Linda Kinser, and Geoff Kaercher, Food Pantry Committee

FOUR CHURCH FARM REPORT

I'd like to begin by saying the Four Church Farm meeting is the 3rd Tuesday of the Month except December and February when we don't hold a meeting. Anyone from the four churches are welcome to come to our meetings. During the cold months we meet at Christ Lutheran Church. The rest of the year we meet at the Four Church Farm at 6:00 p.m. We are always looking for help with the upkeep of the farm, so anyone who would like to help at the farm, just let us know. St. John's are scheduled to mow the 1st Wednesday of the month, St. Paul's the 2nd Wednesday, Christ Lutheran the 3rd Wednesday and on the 4th Wednesday, we take turns and when there's a 5th Wednesday, we use it for a Work day in addition to mowing, if there's something different that needs taken care of.

We finally got a plaque to Commemorate the tree we had planted in 2017 to celebrate 500 years Reformation Day, with all four churches listed on it. This was taken care of by Vice President Jim Rengert. Pastor Chris Adams was in charge of the Easter Service at the Farm this year. The officers were voted to remain the same for the year as the previous year. President: Dan Fischer, Vice President: Jim Rengert, Treasurer: Chaplain Bill Rauch, Secretary: Mark Finck

We power-washed the pews this year and then also treated them to protect them for the coming years. We also put up a new flagpole this year as the other one was getting old and was very hard to take down. The new flagpole is very durable and also has a light on the top of it to keep a light on the flags. Last year we had new roofing put on the buildings and so this year Chuck Hiles and his wife painted the building that needed some paint. After no picnics for awhile because of the Pandemic, on September 18th this year we had our picnic, there were around 50 people who showed up, and we are hoping it will be even more successful in the coming year. We are also hoping to get a Zero-turn mower this year to help us out as the mowers we have are getting worn out.

The officers, Dan, Jim, Bill and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who help at the farm. Chuck Hiles, Clyde Cox, John Warnock, Bill Anderson, Hank Fitzgerald. Here's to the Blessings of a Happy New Year to all our churches and to everyone.

- Mark Finck, Secretary, Four Church Farm

GRIEF GROUP

The Grief Support group has been meeting on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 1:30 PM. In Danford Hall. There are approximately 6 of us attending. We discuss a topic of interest at each meeting. There is no obligation to contribute and what is said is confidential to the group. We would love to have anyone interested join us.

Submitted by Jean Hovland.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE:

Committee members: John Jordan, Charlie Laidlaw-Smith, Tim Utterback, Greta Blegvad, Diane Ganz

Another eventful year began with a water leak in a basement bathroom, fortunately discovered by the Gehrings, but not before we had amassed a \$2,000 water bill. Subsequently John installed shut-off valves to all lines leading to basement outlets. Until needed there is no longer running water in the basement. Following this the water department inspector approved the work and we were able to get ‘forgiveness’ for the abnormal charges. In addition, John has hung labels on all shut-off valves so that anyone can identify where they lead.

The following week the water heater for the sanctuary began to leak. Charlie purchased a replacement and he and Pastor Martin installed it, saving another plumber service call. Charlie also replaced a disposal in a kitchen sink.

Weekley Electric replaced the security light on the west side of the building with an 80 Watt LED flood light with photo sensor to better light the alley and surrounding area and to save electricity.

Diane recovered 25+ chair seats in Danford Hall with a heavy duty woven vinyl fabric (donated by the producer) and will continue the job.

With 11 volunteers we decluttered the basement storeroom in March ‘donating’ usable items to the rummage sale and recycling when appropriate. In October we also cleared unused and defunct items from our garage behind the duplex, recycling whenever possible. On another note, John has moved Christmas decorations from the organ bellows room to the east basement ladies restroom to allow better access for the organ tuners.

Greta heads the committee to replace our outdoor sign. After discussion and consultation with suppliers, it was decided to wait until the round-about work is completed to make decisions about a new sign and its placement.

Leakage around the bell tower’s connection to the sanctuary has been an ongoing problem. Charlie dealt with Robert Stokes and then Durable Slate Co. to try to correct this problem as well as to replace missing slates. As of October the work was completed at a cost of \$19,800. So far we feel that the leakage problems have been solved.

Tim has refinished all of the exterior sanctuary doors and applied multiple coats of marine finish to protect them.

In November the church engaged Genny and Dale Faller as sextons. They are

working a combined 15 hours/week and have so far proved very satisfactory.

Greta and Charlie have researched, purchased, and installed 5 motion-activated Ring security cameras throughout the first floor of our facility. They are monitored by them, the pastor, and via an Alexa Echo device on the secretary's desk..

Our parking lot on Locust St. is in need to attention. Charlie and Diane have met with the Superintendent of Licking Co. Schools (because Phoenix School uses the lot for parking during school days) to ask that they help to cover the cost of repair/resurfacing. They currently take care of snow removal.

We continue to be extremely grateful for the volunteer work of Gene Lamp for mowing lawns and clearing walkways and of Hank and Tammy Trites for maintaining landscaping and planting seasonal flowers. Please let them know how much their efforts are appreciated.

Respectfully submitted, Diane Ganz

RENTAL PROPERTY COMMITTEE:

We are happy to report we were able to retain all of our renters during the past year. We also continued the preseason service contract on the furnace, air conditioner and hot water tank for all the properties.

During the year we replaced two hot water tanks and an air conditioner as well as a new gas line in one of the properties.

Items to consider for next year include a new furnace in one property and replacing sidewalk at another.

During the past year, the Lease Agreement was simplified, reworded and put into action.

Issues for discussion are during the last four years, property insurance and taxes have increased \$25.00 per month on each of the six properties. This will be addressed.

We are currently evaluating the monthly price and service of trash disposal companies.

We have tried to keep the lines of communication open with each renter regarding any issues that may arise.

-- Jim Rengert, Rental Property Manager

THRIVE! EQUIPPING A VIBRANT CHURCH TOGETHER

During September and October our congregation participated in Southern Ohio Synod's Thrive! capital campaign, which has five goals:

1. Equipping lay leaders
2. Raising up leaders for smaller congregations
3. Strengthening rostered ministers
4. Launching new congregations and reaching new people

5. Enhancing worship practice

St. Paul's campaign was led by a five-person committee--Jean Hovland, John Jordan, Kathy Jordan, Richard Koch, and Sadie Smith. The committee met with Pr. Larry Donner from the synod in August for training and launched the campaign in September. Materials for the campaign were provided by the synod. Paper, envelopes, and postage were paid for with a Thrivent grant.

Jean Hovland introduced the campaign on the first Saturday/Sunday. On following weekends, Tim Jordan, Hydi Laidlaw-Smith, and Pastor Martin shared why they were excited to be part of the campaign.

By Commitment Saturday/Sunday on October 8th and 9th, council members and three other families had made advance pledges that totaled almost double the original goal of \$7500! Congregation members filled out their pledge forms and placed them in the offering plates. Letters and pledge forms were sent to those households who were not present on the 8th and 9th requesting their support.

Victory Saturday/Sunday was celebrated October 22nd and 23rd with refreshments after both services.

As of December 1st, our congregation has pledged to give a total of \$36,343 during the next three years! \$11,778 of that amount has already been given and forwarded to the synod.

Many thanks to all who pledged to this exciting ministry!

Respectfully submitted, Sadie Smith, committee member

TREASURER'S REPORT January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022

Account Name	Receipts	Disbursements	Ending Balance
General Operating Fund	\$175,718.81	\$231,008.19	\$108,539.08
Altar Flowers & Candles	1,900.00	2,634.00	-1,054.56
Christian Education	1,271.64	363.75	2,495.36
Youth Ministry	357.45	79.94	21,297.24
Mecklenburg Fund	0.00	0.00	5,000.00
Benevolence	5,431.50	5,431.50	0.00
Thrive! Campaign	11,778.00	11,778.00	0.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	941.31	12.00	4,382.04
Memorial Fund	2,075.00	7548.69	825.00
McDaniel Education Fund	770.00	770.00	0.00
Seminarian Fund	65.00	2,417.04	-2352.04
Matthew's Kitchen Fund Balance	100.00	0.00	287.89
Community Outreach	6,494.00	6,494.00	57.92

Choir Fund	160.00	350.00	3,734.92
Rental Property	55,682.00	55,836.54	25,374.20
Newark City Sign Replacement	1,665.00	0.00	11,387.00
Bell Tower Roof Fund	1,560.00	1,560.00	0.00
Mary A. Ponser Bequest*	1,560.00+	23,650.41	98,357.24
Thrivent Choice Dollars Fund	758.00	0.00	25,032.94
New Bell/Ringers Fund	0.00	0.00	1,150.00
Lucas Bible Fund	0.00	0.00	2,330.70
Bob and Ruth Watson Fund*	0.00	0.00	67,358.41
Lobby Renovation Fund	0.00	0.00	488.11
Margaret Ann Dupler Fund*	0.00	10,128.28	46,191.91
Robert Wright Fund	0.00	1,665.00	58,335.00
Total	\$268,287.71	\$361,727.34	\$479,218.36

*At the time of this report, no information on 4th quarter mutual fund gain/loss was available. +\$1,560 is a deposit in transit

2022 Benevolence Paid to Synod	\$5,431.50
Checking Account Balance – January 1, 2022	\$ 257,887.26
Checking Account Balance – December 31, 2022	\$243,304.63

Investments - Certificates of Deposits and Savings as of December 31, 2022

<u>Interest only</u> endowments:	Principle	Interest Designation
Davis Fund-Edward Jones	\$160,039.00*	75% Current Expenses 25% Discretionary
Weiss Fund PNB Mutual Funds	81,032.02*	33% Youth Ministries 67% Youth Education
Lambert Fund PNB Mutual Funds	21,938.77*	100 % Current Expenses

Principle & Interest Designated Funds:	Amount
Savings: Heartland Bank - money market	\$69,304.98
includes Lucas Bible Fund	+ <u>2,330.70</u>
Weiss Interest	+ <u>4,010.00</u>
Total	\$75,945.68

Designated Funds	Amount	Designation
Edward Jones Danford Fund	\$16,862.56*	Interest for Seminarian (\$5,459.56 accumulated interest)
Edward Jones Ponser Fund	96,797.24*	74% Major Property Exp 26% Undesignated
Edward Jones Youth Gathering Fund	19,818.74 *	100% Youth Gathering Exp

Undesignated Funds

Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA 22,485.51*

**does not include December interest.*

Bob & Ruth Watson Thrivent Fund 67,358.41*

**At the time of this report, no information on 4th quarter mutual fund gain/loss was available.*

– Report Submitted by Financial Secretary, Kerrill Foster 01/8/2022

WOMEN of the ELCA: *Co-Chairs, Diane Ganz & Kerrill Foster, secretary, Shirley Campbell, Treasurer – Debbie Anctil*

We collected mittens and hats again for the Salvation Army this year, collecting over 200 items and socks and underwear in March for the YES Club. Marti Kolb continues to spearhead those projects. Ruth Circle continues to meet on the **2nd Wednesday** of the month at **9:30 a.m.** After a 2-year absence, the Rummage Sale in April was a great success. A meeting will be held in the near future to discuss plans for 2023's sale. Please join us if you can help. Our thanks again to Florence Knerr for sending out birthday cards. In addition, we supplied several thanksgiving food boxes this year. We collected enough school supplies to make 100 school kits for Lutheran World Relief. Diane Ganz and Gail Grangaard led this project. Thanks to Gail and John Grangaard for delivering them to the collection site!

– Kerrill Foster, & Diane Ganz, St. Paul's WELCA

YOUTH

I would like to say Thank You to all of you that bought Calendars. We were able to sell all 25 Calendars and I hope you are all enjoying them. We profited around \$75.00 for the Youth Fund.

Thanks, Jean Hovland

VARIOUS BENEVOLENT PROJECTS of the congregation:

1. The Licking County Coalition of Care, The coalition attempts to help people in need through monetary and other assistance to help with rent and utility payments, prescription costs, and other very basic human needs. At St. Paul's we support this ministry through a special offering received on the first weekend of each month. In 2022 a total of **\$3,838.00** was donated by the members of St. Paul's and given to the Coalition of Care for distribution.

2. The Licking County Food Pantry The food pantry is also one of the services we support. Imperishable food items and staples are brought in to the church and then taken to the main pantry for distribution. We also collect money-off coupons for the pantry to distribute.

ORGANIZATIONS THAT WE REGULARLY HOST:

Narcotics Anonymous was added during 2006 as a group meeting on Friday evenings in Danford Hall at 7:00 p.m. to assist people trying to live free of narcotics. It operates on much the same formula as A.A. Meetings continue to be held in Danford Hall on Friday evenings at 7 p.m.

Alcoholics Anonymous In 2022, AA met in on Saturdays, Tuesdays and Fridays in either Danford Hall or Weisgerber Lounge.

The Land of Legend Fly Fishers, who meet on the second, third and fourth Mondays of each month to teach such skills as fly tying and rod building.

LOOK FOR THE FORWARD TO BE MAILED OUT ON FEBRUARY 21, 2023. PLEASE CHECK THE DECEMBER FORWARD FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES AND VOLUNTEERS.

THE ANNUAL REPORT January 17, 2023
St. Paul' s Evangelical Lutheran Church
67 North Fifth Street (at Locust)
Newark, OH 43055

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