

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church Newark, Ohio

Annual Report

FOR THE YEAR 2024

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 25/26, 2025**

PASTOR'S REPORT

St. Paul's continues to be a wonderful place to serve. I thank God for calling me to serve here!

St. Paul's is an involved and generous congregation. Every time a need is expressed, whether financial or mission based, congregation members have been quick to respond! This past year we have finally addressed the water leakage in the organ room and replaced the problematic roofing around the tower. In a facility of this age, I expect there will be more repair/maintenance jobs to be done in 2025.

Our summer community picnics, and the Life Line community health testing were well received. We will be hosting Life Line again in March and look forward to resuming our community picnics this summer!

We also continue to be blessed with excellent staff! Our organist Tim Utterback and choirmaster Dustin Hill provide an excellence in music not often found in a congregation our size! Jodie Nickles provides responsible and compassionate service in her role as church secretary. Despite health challenges, Dale and Genny Faller have consistently provided a clean and sanitary worship and service environment. Our bills get paid and our books balance thanks to our steely-eyed financial gurus, Kerrill Foster and Mark Finck.

Most importantly, St. Paul's continues to be a compassionate and accepting congregation. What growth we have experienced has been because visitors are immediately embraced into the community. A recent visitor emailed to commend our community for its friendliness. "I lost count of how many people greeted us, stating their names, and welcoming us without being overly pushy. It was very impressive!" Keep up the good work!

I very much look forward to the coming year and seeing what kind of good trouble we can get into together! Newark needs communities like ours. I feel privileged to be serving with you.

God bless you all!

Pastor Martin

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

2024 was an eventful year for St. Paul's, both literally and figuratively. Events this year included a series of neighborhood picnics to which we invited the surrounding community, as well as the celebration of our 140th anniversary. On a practical level, those events also included fixing the roof over the sacristy, and on a spiritual level, the continued worship, music, and congregational care provided by the pastor, staff, and many, many wonderful and dedicated volunteers.

As winter weather has set in, hat/mitten tree or food bank donations, and support for the warming shelter at Holy Trinity are especially timely.

For 2025, we look ahead to the visit from our sister congregation in Mecklenburg, as well as continuing to explore St. Paul's mission within the larger Newark community.

Thank you all, happy new year, and God bless you.

Jerry Young

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.

FOOD PANTRY COMMITTEE

In 2024 St Paul's contributed 515 pounds of food and \$100 to FPN of Licking County. Donations are always welcome!

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.

The election of Officers for the 2024 year are President: Dan Fischer, Vice President: Chuck Hiles, Treasurer: Chaplain Bill Rauch, Secretary: Mark Finck. We had an early Easter this year so we decided not to have the Easter Service at the Farm this year. We met at the Farm this year on April 11 to get it ready for the year. We had a broken line to the men's restroom and some of the men from St. John's got right on it and had it fixed by the time we were going to meet to fix it. Blessings to them for their help. Chuck worked on our Four Church Farm Sign, many thanks to Chuck for his help with that. Houser from St. John's led the work on cleanup of a fallen tree. Davis Tree Service came out and took down a large branch that had been hanging for quite a while in the big Pine tree and also trimmed the tree next to the restrooms as well as some other work.

The Four Church Farm Picnic was held on September 15, Our work crew met at 9:00 a.m. to set up for the Picnic and our President Dan Fischer picked up the Burgers. Brats, Hotdogs and drinks. A lot of the plates, napkins and such we had some left over from the previous year. Dan and Hank took care of the cooking of the meat. Everyone brought something to share and our Chapel Service was held at 3:30 p.m. and we ate soon after. We want to thank all that helped and came and had a good time with food and fellowship. We closed down the Farm on October 22 for the year. Weather providing our next meeting will be January 21, 2025, at Christ Lutheran Church, Heath, Ohio

The officers, Dan, Chuck, Bill and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who help at the farm. 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 meets at 1:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month. We are a small group and we discuss a variety of topics. If you are grieving, come join us.

Submitted by Jean Hovland.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE:

Members: John Jordan Don Miller Greta Blegvad, Charlie Laidlaw-Smith, Diane Ganz

The paving stones at the main entrance to the church had eroded. We contracted with a stone mason to replace them, which was done in March. The area was sprayed with a sealant to protect them and the older surfaces.

A number of the LED bulbs in the sanctuary chandeliers had burned out. Greta and Jens Blegvad replaced all of the bulbs with those emitting a softer light. The new bulbs were provided by the Gladys Schoffner estate.

The original copper sacristy roof had deteriorated and was leaking. With congregational support we contracted to have it replaced with a raised seam steel roof in the autumn. This work was completed.

Greta is working with a sign company to renovate our exterior sign. Since the street construction did not require its removal, we are keeping the stone structure but replacing the interior and lighting. Funds are designated for this work.

Tim O'Keefe has agreed to refurbish the main restrooms in the education building. This will be paid for with WELCA funds.

We may need to replace an office HVAC unit in the coming year and are looking into more effective lighting for the gathering area in the education building.

All of us have been involved in repairing and replacing fixtures, outlets, seals, etc. as needed. Special thanks goes to Gene Lamp for his dedication to maintaining the lawns, removing snow, and inspecting and clearing the roof of the education building. We very much appreciate Hank and Tammy Trites ongoing maintenance of the shrubbery and perennials around the church buildings and for the beautiful seasonal plantings they have put around the entrance. It is always attractive. Tim Utterback is generous in taking on special projects as needed. The Fallers, our sextons, have continued to be thorough and accommodating. We are thankful to have them on staff.

Respectfully submitted, Diane Ganz

ENTAL PROPERTY COMMITTEE:

All of the Church Rental Properties are currently rented. After a generous donation, we now have eight properties. As of February 1, 2025 , the committee hired Encore Real Estate Services to manage these properties. The gross income from these properties, before expenses, will be \$91,260 per year. We will still have control of the properties but it will allow the committee to be more efficient.

During the year and after an eviction in February, we completely renovated the property on Hudson Avenue making necessary repairs and improvements. We also replaced a furnace in the Woods Ave. property and a hot water tank in the Locust St. property. We continued our service contract with Dor Mar HVAC.

A special mention and thank you to our committee members; Dick Daly, Dan Fischer, Don Grube, Gerald DePalmo, Mike Campbell and Kerrill Foster.--
Jim Rengert, Rental Property Manager

TREASURER'S REPORT January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024

Account Name	Receipts	Disbursements	Ending Balance
General Operating Fund Balance	\$215,627.62	\$248,228.25	\$26,120.30
Altar Flowers and Candles Balance	\$1,899.00	\$3,450.42	\$(3,531.76)
Christian Education Fund Balance	\$1,995.11	\$-	\$6,092.63
Youth Ministry Fund Balance	\$987.93	\$-	\$23,211.44
Mecklenburg Visit Fund Balance	\$-	\$-	\$5,000.00
Benevolence Balance	\$5,624.00	\$5,624.00	\$-
Thrive! Campaign 2022-2024 Balance	\$7,506.00	\$7,506.00	\$-
Pastor's Discretionary Fund Balance	\$720.72	\$747.89	\$5,880.51
Memorial Fund - Unencumbered Balance	\$940.00	\$-	\$5,400.00
2024 Sacristy Roof Fund Balance	\$39,760.00	\$49,565.00	\$(9,805.00)
Seminarian Fund Balance	\$-	\$3,313.08	\$(8,221.85)
Community Outreach/Pass-Through	\$7,980.01	\$7,980.01	\$57.92
 Rental Property Balance	 \$62,283.50	 \$56,844.15	 \$33,931.80
Newark City Payment Balance	\$-	\$-	\$11,387.00
2023 Parking Lot Paving Balance	\$4,500.00	\$-	\$4,500.00
Choir Income Fund	\$1,155.00	\$980.00	\$3,384.92
Matthew's Kitchen Fund Balance	\$-	\$76.96	\$270.93
Mary A Ponser Bequest Balance	\$7,930.35	\$30,000.00	\$33,058.98*
Thrivent Choice Dollars Balance	\$432.00	\$912.04	\$26,423.90
Lucas Bible Fund Balance	\$(363.96)	\$-	\$1,966.74
New Bell Fund Balance	\$-	\$-	\$1,150.00
Bob & Ruth Watson Undesignated Fund Balance	\$-	\$-	\$71,460.53*
Schoffner Fund Undesignated Balance	\$31,436.84	\$-	\$31,436.84
Margaret Ann Dupler Bequest Fund Balance	\$9,779.79	\$-	\$71,821.82*
Dr. Robert Wright Undesignated Fund Balance	\$-	\$-	\$58,335.00
Land, building, designated & undesig asset	\$21,315.75	\$-	\$4,937,556.90
 Totals	 <u>\$421,509.66</u>	 <u>\$415,227.80</u>	 <u>\$5,336,889.55</u>

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

2024 Benevolence Paid to Synod \$5,181.00
 Checking Account Balance – January 1, 2024 \$243,304.63
 Checking Account Balance – December 31, 2024 \$198,093.63

**Investments - Certificates of Deposits and Savings
 as of December 31, 2024**

<u>Interest only</u> endowments:		Principle
Interest Designation		
Davis Fund-Edward Jones	\$222,350.96*	75% Current Expenses 25% Discretionary
Weiss Fund PNB Mutual Funds	96,693.31*	33% Youth Ministries 67% Youth Education
Lambert Fund PNB Mutual Funds	26,174.70*	100 % Current Expenses

Principle & Interest Designated Funds:	Amount
Savings: Heartland Bank - money market	\$69,685.06
includes Lucas Bible Fund	+1,966.74
Weiss Interest	+4,010.00
Total	\$75,661.80

Designated Funds	Amount	Designation
Edward Jones Danford Fund	\$23,617.06*	Interest for Seminarian
\$11,403.00 Principal	(\$12,204.06 accumulated interest)	
Edward Jones Ponser Fund	33,058.98*	Undesignated
Edward Jones Youth Gathering Fund	22,609.20 *	100% Youth Gathering

Undesignated Funds

Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA 22,720.93

**does not include December interest.*

Bob & Ruth Watson Thrivent Fund 71,460.53*

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

– Report Submitted by Financial Secretary, Kerrill Foster 01/12/2025

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

We collected 80 hats, 66 pairs of mittens 2 pairs of socks and 16 scarves for the Salvation Army this year, in addition we collected over 200 items and socks and underwear in March for the YES Club. Marti Kolb and Kendell Stotts continue to spearhead those projects. Ruth Circle continues to meet on the **2nd Wednesday** of the month at **9:30 a.m.** Rummage Sale in April was a great success. A meeting will be held on February 2nd after church to discuss plans for 2025's sale. Please join us if you can help. Our thanks again to Florence Knerr for sending out birthday cards. 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

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 2024 a total of **\$3,544.00** 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. In 2024 we donated \$100.00 to the pantry.

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 2024, 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.

February Birthdays

1 - Christopher Logan	Paul Meyers	16 - Clara Hinger
2 - Denise Crews	Courtney Swisher	Connie Rutter
Ryan Green	8 - Silas Engle-Abbott	20 - Marti Kolb-Conner
Tiffany Myers	Emily Ossa	22 - Nick Baker
3 - Gene Crawler	10 - Carlos McElfresh	Thelma Trainor
Traci Dupler	12 - Dick Daly	23 - Arianna Hinger
Karen Jordan	Susan Enderle	Michael Mumaw
Katherine Plante	Daniel Fuller	Tanya Myers
4 - Troy Triplett	13 - Jeff Kinser	26 - Kate (Daly) Jordan-
Tabatha Trost	14 - Richard Barrett	Downs
6 - Gerry Billy	15 - Matt Godenschwager	29 - Linda Kinser
Kaitlyn Carpenter	Starr Cummings	

February Anniversaries

5 - Wayne & Margaret Marx (53)	14 - Ron & Mary Howard (61)
6 - David & Elviria Engle (51)	22 - Chuck & Jane Lawrence (22)
9 - Jayson & Megan Thorpe (17)	

Sunday Volunteers for February 2025

Position	Feb 4	Feb 11	Feb 18	Feb 25
Cantor	Ruth Gehring	Julie Hippen	Juli Rauch	Dustin Hill
Lector	Ann Daly	Ainsley Laidlaw-Smith	Gerry Billy	Kathy Jordan
Com. Assistant	Carol Mumaw	Addison Laidlaw-Smith	Mary Billy	Mandy John
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	Kerrill Foster	Sally Finck, Greg & Kim Everingham	Fred & Lindsay Freytag, Don Miller

LOOK FOR THE FORWARD TO BE MAILED OUT ON FEBRUARY 18, 2025.

THE ANNUAL REPORT January 14, 2025
St. Paul' s Evangelical Lutheran Church
67 North Fifth Street (at Locust)
Newark, OH 43055

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