

THE FORWARD

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
NEWARK, OHIO *NOVEMBER 16, 2021*



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Enraptured by the Rapture

AAAAA! I'm so excited! In the tradition of Luther's 95

“questions” that ignited the reformation, you all asked some WONDERFUL questions last Sunday and it is now my delight to offer what answers I can. The first question received was “Do Lutherans believe in the rapture?” The short answer is no. Now for the longer answer: The period before the First World War was a time of incredible optimism. Advances in science, medicine, sociology, and industry led people to the belief that we were in a golden age, that injustice, warfare, and poverty would soon be eliminated, and the reign of God fully realized on earth. The first world war shocked the world. In America, there was a belief that our nation represented a new chapter in God's salvation history. We were the new Promised Land, the “shining city on a hill.” The first world war shattered that dream, and turned these ideas upside down, convincing many that, far from a new golden age, the world was spiraling into chaos and the end-times must be upon us. This spawned a new interest in eschatology (the study of the end-times) and prophecy.

An Irish clergyman, John Nelson Darby, cobbled together bits of scripture (most notably Matt. 24:30-31, 39-42; Thess. 4:16-17, and bits and pieces of Revelation) to develop a theory that before the end came, the faithful would be “raptured,” gathered up into heaven, from which they would witness the “tribulation,” a period of chaos and suffering on earth in which Satan would have his way. Following the tribulation, the faithful would return with Christ to do battle with, and ultimately defeat, the forces of evil, ushering in a blissful thousand-year reign of Christ on earth. These ideas were popularized by Cyrus Scofield and his immensely

successful Scofield Reference Bible, as well as Hal Lindsey's *The Late, Great Planet Earth*, and the *Left Behind* series of novels.

Such ideas are built on a shaky patchwork of disparate Bible verses, and most Christian denominations, including Lutherans, do not subscribe to it. Far better supported is Christ's consistent teaching that the Second Coming will come "like a thief in the night" and that we will not, and cannot, know when it will be, or how it will unfold. "No one knows when that day or time will be. The Son and the angels in heaven don't know when it will be. Only the Father knows" (Matt. 24:36).

Despite our constant efforts to know when the end will come and what it will entail, the simple fact is *we do not and cannot know*. Rather, we are simply commanded to watch and wait, and to live as if it will happen tomorrow ... or tomorrow ... or tomorrow. Only time will tell. *Pastor Martin*

Please keep the following people in your prayers: *Bill Wittman, Linda Smart, Richard Buse* (Terri Beamer's brother), ***Lee Siddle***, (friend of Gene Lamp), Ruth White (Thelma Trainor's sister).

Those with long-term ongoing concerns: Mary Beamer (now in hospice care), Tandra 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, Frances Slebodnik, Terrie Baker, Alice Smith.



If you need an address for anyone or wish to add someone to the list, please call the office.

Notes to the Church and Congregation:

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

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES – December 24th at 3 p.m. and 10 p.m. Unless the infection rates decline, masks will be required. We need volunteers to usher, lector, light luminaries, If you can help, please call the office or sign up in church.

GRIEF GROUP – The newly formed Grief support group met for the first time on November 10th. Their second meeting will be on the 2nd Wednesday of December at 1:30 in Danford Hall. If you would like more information, please contact Thelma Trainor or Jean Hovland.

THE HANGING OF THE GREENS will take place on Sunday December 19th immediately after the church service. We are in need of many volunteers to help get the church ready for the Christ Mass service on the 24th. Especially helpful will be those who can climb ladders to hang the higher decorations. If you can help, please meet us after church on the 19th! Thanks!

COOKIE DAY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5TH: All children are invited to the church kitchen immediately after the worship service on December 5th for the annual Advent cookie making and eating. If you have any questions contact Diane Ganz (740-344-9141, ganz@alink.com).

SALVATION ARMY MITTEN AND HAT TREE – The Christmas tree is in the Narthex for the annual collection of mittens and hats for the Salvation Army. They provide these with their Christmas gifts to the children of all ages. We will be collecting items through December 12th. If you are unable to place your items on the tree, you can leave them in the office between 10 and 2 and we will place them on the tree for you.

CALENDARS FOR SALE! Members of the Youth Group are selling 2022 wall calendars as a fund raiser. They are printed on sturdy paper with beautiful nature photographs and Bible quotes for each month. All proceeds benefit the Youth Ministry. If you are interested in a calendar, please see Jean Hovland

2022 ELCA TRIENNIAL YOUTH GATHERING Plans are now underway for the 2022 Youth Gathering July 24-28th in Minneapolis, MN. Eligible youth must be in 9th to 12th grade. If you are interested in attending, or helping to plan, please contact the office or speak to Pastor Gehring. We need to know if anyone wishes to attend by December 15th. Please see the ELCA website for more information.

SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS WALKING TOUR HAS BEEN CANCELLED FOR 2021!

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!

- Nancy Circle will be meeting on Saturday Nov 20th at 9 a.m. to prepare and deliver Thanksgiving food boxes.
- **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 Fridays at noon.
- **Friday Fellowship Bible Study** meets every Friday morning at 10 a.m. in Weisgerber Lounge.
- **Ruth Circle** meets next on **December 8th at 10:15 to noon** in Danford Hall.
- **The Deadline for Forward information is 2 p.m.** on Friday the 3rd.
- **Church Council** will meet **Monday November 29th at 7 p.m.**

ALTAR FLOWERS AND SANCTUARY LAMP CANDLES

With the closing of Kimel's Flowers, altar flowers are currently in flux as we look for a new florist. However, sanctuary lamp candles are available for all Sundays in December.

November 28th – The sanctuary lamp candle is given by Greg and Kim Everingham in honor of their grandson, ***Gabriel Pence's*** 17th birthday.

Sunday Volunteers for December 2021

Position	Dec 5th	Dec 12th	Dec 19th	Dec 24th	Dec 26th
Cantor	Juli Rauch	Tim Jordan	Ruth Gehring	<i>Volunteers Needed!</i>	Alice Burney
Lector	Sadie Smith	Anne Daly	Gerry Billy	<i>Please contact</i>	Dick Shiels
Usher	Charles Cooperider	Charlie-Laidlaw Smith	Greg Everingham	<i>The church offic</i>	Don Miller
Counters	Fred & Lindsay Freytag, Sally Finck	Juie Lamp, Richard & Diana Koch	Sally Finck, Greg & Kim Everingham	<i>3 p.m And 10 p.m. Services!</i>	Kerrill Foster, Don Miller

December Birthdays

1 - John Swisher	13 - Teresa Beamer	23 - Audrey Walther
2 - Isaac Beamer	Nathan Godenschwager	24 - Marlie Billy
Karen Lane	Richard Koch	Ray Holtz
4 - Emily Leber	Tambra Simon	Robert Wright (93)
5 - Ernest Cooperider (97)	Christopher Woolard	27 -Stevie Darnar
6 - Bonnie Meyers	14 - Jens Blegvad	Tyler Harble
7 - Aimee Babb	17 - Evelyn Heskett	28 -Vicky Crist
Anne Mayfield	Libby Warnock	Sydney Enderle
8 - Nancy Saylor	18 - Greta Blegvad	Diane Fadley
Ryan Settles	Emily Larson	29 -Cheri Fischer
10 - Ellen Larson	19 - Maxx Billy	31 -Paul Baker
Johanna Wilson	Michelle Campbell	Heather Morrow
12 - Emily Blegvad	Marcy Kaercher	Marie Oberholtzer (88)
Ron Cline	20 -Layne Brotherton	
Harding Ganz (83)	21 -Levi Hoskinson	

December Anniversaries

16- Charles & Sue Mays (58)	23 - Cynthia & Robert Street (38)
20 - David & Ruth Graham (53)	30 - Richard & Patty Price (33)

Financial Reports

Received August 31, 2021:	Year to Date	Offerings Budget
Offerings \$ 13,918.00	\$ 84,113.00	10,000mo.
Benevolence <u>470.00</u>	<u>2,862.00</u>	80,000 ytd
14,388.00	86,975.00	

Received September 30, 2021:	Year to Date	Offerings Budget
Offerings \$ 12,999.84	\$ 97,151.84	10,000mo.
Benevolence <u>385.00</u>	<u>3,247.00</u>	90,000 ytd
13,384.84	100,398.84	

Received October 31, 2021:	Year to Date	Offerings Budget
Offerings \$ 19,264.00	\$ 116,415.84	10,000mo.
Benevolence <u>560.00</u>	<u>3,807.00</u>	100,000 ytd
19,824.00	120,222.84	

Total Income for Operations as of October 31, 2021	\$129,177.71
Total Operating Expenses as of October 31, 2021	<u>- 126,841.83</u>
Deficit	(\$ 2,335.88)

Time to Order Poinsettias for the Christmas Eve Service!
(Crazy, I know, but the next Forward doesn't go out until December 21st!)

Order Form: On Christmas Eve the altar will be surrounded by a wonderful array of red poinsettia plants. This year the poinsettias cost \$10.00 each. To donate one or more plants, fill in the form below and place in the offering or send it to the church office.

Your name: _____ No. Of Plants _____

In memory of: _____

Or In honor of: _____

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2022 ESTIMATE OF GIVING - Below you will find a detachable "Estimate of Giving" for 2022 for use by your family or by you as an individual. Please fill it out, cut along the dotted line, and deposit it in the offering plate in church, or mail it to the church office at 67 N. 5th Street, Newark, Ohio, 43055.

2022 ESTIMATE OF GIVING FORM: I want to help support the ministry of my congregation, and I estimate that during the next year I will give to my church:

\$_____ per week, or \$_____ per month, or \$_____ per year to be divided as follows:

_____ for Current Fund _____ for Synod Giving

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

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Proposed Budget for 2022 - This year's proposed budget is in bold, compared to 2021. The budget will be voted on at the annual December congregation meeting to be held at the services on December 11 and 12. There will be a meeting on the budget after the services on December 4th and 5th.

Expenses:	Approved 2021 Budget	2022 Proposed Budget
Pastoral Care	\$62,000.00	\$125,977.43
Support Staff	54,882.79	55,361.12
Care of the Facilities	31,500.00	31,500.00
Church Administration	9,050.00	9,050.00
Worship & Music	1,200.00	1,200.00
Outreach to Others	2,100.00	3,100.00
Teaching the Word	<u>4,700.00</u>	4,700.00
Budget Totals	\$ 165,432.79	\$ 230,910.55

Anticipated Income:

Estimate of Income	\$177,300.00
Anticipated Deficit	(\$53,610.55)

Pastoral Care is for a full-time pastor using the ELCA guidelines approved in the letter of call. Support Staff includes the church secretary, sexton, choir director and organist at slightly higher rates than in year's past. Kerrill

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Members and Friends of St. Paul's,

At this time of year, it has been our custom here at St. Paul's to offer our congregation the opportunity to give a monetary Christmas gift to the members of our church staff including our Pastor, Choir Director, Organist, Secretary, Financial Secretary and Janitor. If you are interested in participating this year, please make your check out to St. Paul's Lutheran Church and mail it to the church office to the attention of the Treasurer. Please indicate how you wish for your gift to be distributed.

The gift will be presented at the Christmas Eve services. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at : trjordan4281@gmail.com. Thank you for your time and have a blessed Advent and Christmas!

Yours in Christ, Tim Jordan, Congregation Council President

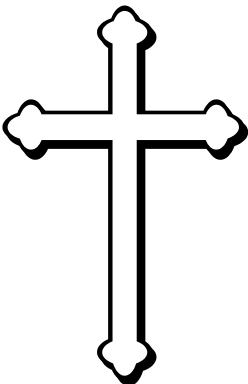
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THE FORWARD November 16, 2021
St. Paul' s Ev. Lutheran Church
67 North Fifth Street
Newark, OH 43055-5031

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."*