

# THE FORWARD

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF  
ST. Paul's EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
NEWARK, OHIO MARCH 18, 2025



Church Phone: 740-345-6115 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

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)

## How God Works

I've been a pastor for almost thirty years, and I still don't know how God works. I know how to pick hymns, organize a committee, plan worship, visit the sick, and write a sermon. But tell you how God works? Nope.

Part of the problem is the word *works*. It makes God sound like a can opener or a bicycle. I'm actually pretty good at bicycles; I can usually find the source of that wobble or grinding noise pretty quickly and fix it too. Same for clocks, mowers, power tools and what have you. If it is mechanical, I can usually figure it out. But God isn't mechanical and, in the words of Monty Python, "is SO big, so absolutely huge." that I find God impossible to comprehend.

Our lives are becoming more and more unpredictable. Our government is being shredded, and the future looks stormy. What is going to happen? I don't know. I would make a terrible politician, and probably an even worse sociologist. I never thought things would come to this, so I certainly wouldn't trust me to predict the future. I can't tell what is going to happen any better than I can tell you what God might do about it. But I can tell you, based on what God has done and said in the past, what God is *likely* to do in the future. God has shown a consistent preference for the poor and vulnerable (Exodus 22:20-26). The prophets repeatedly remind us that God has little patience with tyrants who shove and bully and abuse their power (Ezekiel 34:20-22). God delivered slaves into freedom (Deuteronomy 26:5-8), raised a shepherd to be king (Psalm 78:70-72), provided mana for the starving (Exodus 16:1-5), drink for the thirsty (Exodus 17:1-7), healed lepers (Matthew 8:1-4), and gave hope to the despised (John 4:21-26). But that

same God crushed tyrants, humbled the proud, and sent the rich away hungry and befuddled.

I don't know what is going to happen, but as God's people have always done in dangerous times, I will pray and look to my God. But *while* I'm praying and waiting for God to act, I plan to act out a bit myself. I may not be able to crush tyrants, but I can be a burr in the saddle. After all, God may choose to use me in the grand scheme of things. Who knows?

God bless you all! Pastor Martin

**Please keep the following people in your prayers Immediate: Mark Finck, Caleb Erwin, Dick Daly, Nicholas Mtui, Donald Wildman, Tom Gehring, Gloria Popovich, the family of Harding Ganz, the family of Mark Anctil.**

**Ongoing: Margaret Marx, Cheryl Seabright**

*(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.)*



*Our condolences to the family and friends of **Mark Anctil** who died March 8<sup>th</sup>.*

***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) 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*** –meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday night of the month 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.
- ***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 April 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.*** in Danford Hall.
- ***Church Council will meet March 24<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 April 9<sup>th</sup>.

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

**CONGREGATION VOTE** will be held the week of April 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> to approve the repair of the pipe organ in the church. Due to on-going damage from past water leaks, several of the pipes and engines are in need of repair and water-damaged walls need to be repaired as well in the chambers. The cost of the needed repairs are not to exceed \$20,000. Monies will be used from the Gladys Schoffner Fund to pay for the repairs.

**LIFE LINE HEALTH SCREENING** will be here at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church on **Wednesday, March 26, 2025**, offering safe, painless, non-invasive preventive health screenings that are typically not a part of a routine physical. To be more proactive about your health for yourself, your family and your community, register for these health screenings today. You can register one of three ways:

- Call toll-free: 1-888-814-0466 (promo code HSCA001) • Online: <https://www.ilsa.social/hsc>
- Text: the word *circle* to 216-279-1607

**SEWING & FELLOWSHIP:** We will be meeting Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am in Danford Hall. All are invited. We will discuss what and how we want to proceed- all ideas welcome!!! Please contact Connie Baker, 740-334-8961 if you have any questions.

**WEDNESDAYS IN LENT: Encountering God:**  
**The Shape of Worship** What draws us together for worship? Why do we worship the way we do? How do we worship outside of this place? Join us Wednesdays in Lent for a worship series exploring the what's and why's of our worship, and the ways in which it is shaped by the events of Holy Week.

- Gather (March 19)
- Word (March 26)
- Meal (April 2)
- Sending (April 9)

Worship begins at 7pm, preceded by a soup supper at 6pm. If your circumstances allow, please consider bringing a side dish to share.



## **SPRING RUMMAGE SALE**

St. Paul's will host the annual rummage, antiques, collectables, and bake sale on **Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. and Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 A.M. to Noon**. You may phone the church during office hours (between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. weekdays) to donate your time for a 2 hour block of sale time, for helping with setting up on Wednesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> or Thursday the 24<sup>th</sup>, or boxing left-overs on Saturday immediately after the sale. Sign-up sheets for volunteering and for donating baked goods will also be out at services starting in March. We will have an 'Antique and Collectables' room for Items of greater value. These items will be valued and priced individually.

The committee has voted that the proceeds from this year's event will be donated to Lutheran World Relief's Disaster Fund. **Please consider volunteering** for this event which helps congregation members find new homes for items they no longer need as well as benefiting the local community and aiding victims of natural disaster.

Items may be dropped off at the church during office hours starting on Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup> and between 5:30 and 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday and Wednesday

(22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>). Signs on the tables will identify where to place specific donations. (No TV's that are not flat screen or soiled items will be accepted.) If you are not able to drop off your donations you may phone Diane Ganz (740-344-9141) to make other arrangements.

**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.

**ST. BARTHOLOMEW VISITATION AUG. 1-10: We are looking for one more host to, minimally, house and provide breakfast for a German couple (ages 71 and 60).**

In order to organize transportation and set up a budget, the committee needs to know the number of people interested. Below is the tentative itinerary including estimated admission costs per person. Please complete the form by April 1 if you have interest in a given day's activities. Return the form to the church office, Kerrill Foster or Fred Freytag.

Sat. Aug. 2 Potluck picnic lunch at Fairfield Beach (south shore Buckeye Lake). Walk along the North Shore.

Sun. Aug. 3 Church. Lunch provided by the Women's group in Danford Hall. Columbus Museum of Art. Free on Sundays except for an optional walking tour with headphones.

Mon. Aug. 4 Downtown tour. Community Service talk at Licking County Aging Partners. Dawes tour (\$8 or \$10 for non-members of Dawes).

Tues. Aug. 5 Amish area. Yoder's Farmhouse and Barn tour (\$6 ages 2-12, \$9 over 12), Schoenbrunn Village (\$4-7 depending on age, under 6 free). Walk around Berlin. Lunch at your own cost. Potluck at the church? Possible other stops.

Wed. Aug. 6 Adena Mansion Historic site (tour \$10-12 adults, \$6 ages 6-12. Box lunch \$13). Tecumseh Outdoor Theater in the evening (\$30-\$35 including behind the scenes tour. Must be paid in advance). 13 tickets will be distributed to drivers and/or host families at no charge. Evening meals may be purchased at on site Kenton House (limited menu with modest pricing).

Thr. Aug. 7 Walking tour German Village (possible \$10 charge if there is enough interest that 2 second tour group is added). Self guided Brickline tour - no

charge. Lunch on your own. Wagner Hagen Auto Museum Tour - no charge. Columbus Clippers baseball game (\$10 per ticket estimate + ballpark food for evening meal)  
Fri. Aug. 8 Hocking Hills hiking- Old Man’s Cave and another site. Box lunch (\$13) or lunch at the lodge (moderate pricing). Evening Pizza Danford Hall - no charge  
Sat. Aug. 9 Possibly The Wilds. (\$35 per person?)  
The above schedule is tentative. We need to know congregational interest before planning further. Entrance, ticket fees and transportation fees depend on the number of participants. If interested in any activity please complete the following form ASAP, and no later than April 1. Thank you.

For each day you wish to participate, please write one of the following numbers on the line beside the appropriate date:  
//

- 1. I am interested and need transportation
- 2. I am interested and could provide my own transportation and possibly take others
- 3. I am interested in a part of the day’s activities and will provide my own transportation

20  
NAME(S):\_\_\_\_\_

Check the days you wish to participate:

Sa.Aug.2 \_\_\_\_\_ Su.Aug.3 \_\_\_\_\_ Mo.Aug.4 \_\_\_\_\_ Tu.Aug.5 \_\_\_\_\_  
We.Aug. 6 \_\_\_\_\_ Th.Aug. 7 \_\_\_\_\_ Fr. Aug.8 \_\_\_\_\_ Sa. Aug. 9 \_\_\_\_\_

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**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”.

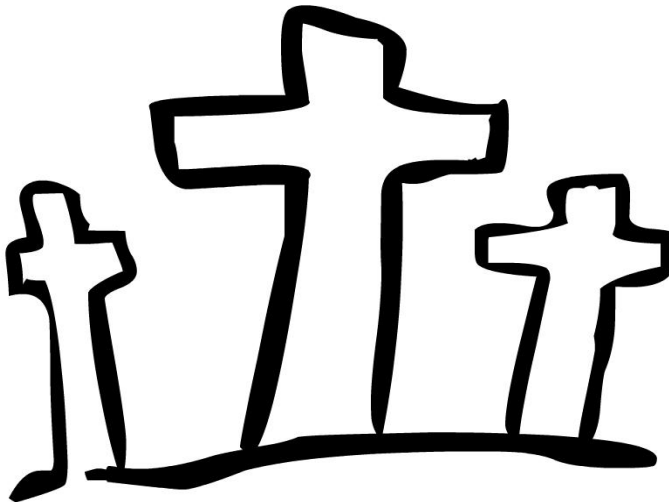
**ARE YOU GRIEVING THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE?** – The Grief Group meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays at 1:30 in Danford Hall. If you would like more information, please contact Jean Hovland. The group **meets next on April 9<sup>th</sup>.**

## April Birthdays

1 - Thomas Zinn	12 - Doug Berg	21 - Fred Freytag
2 - Tim Jordan	13 - Donna King	Shepard Grubb (83)
Ann Mullady	14 - Sheila Carpenter	Robin Stamper
3 - Jim Williams	Becca Godenschwager	22 - Jennifer Casto
4 - Pastor Bill Rauch	Alex Triplett	Joey Stamper
5 - Erik Larson	Madison Wittman	23 - Sharon Baumer
Dick Shiels	15 - Samuel Mumaw	Matthew Mumaw
Debbie Stamper	17 - Andrew DeBacco	24 - Lois Lovelady (100)
6 - Jasmine Swisher	Jadin Mumaw	26 - Ron Crist
8 - Jessica Freytag	Nic Trainor	27 - Josh Peterson
Sarah O'Keefe	Jocelyn Wilson	Mackenzie Swisher
11 - Deborah Hall	18 - Ethan McDaniel	28 - Quilyta Fuller
Richard Larson	Oliver Jordan	
Stephanie Strobe	20 - Rita Ricketts	

## April Anniversaries

3 - Brian & Michelle Miller (20)	13 - Charles & Lisa Hill (23)
Thomas & Ann Mullady (44)	25 - John F. & Lindsay Jordan(16)
7 - Fred & Lindsay Freytag (46)	



## FINANCIAL REPORT

Received 2/2/2025	Year to Date	Attendance
Current      \$ 5,372.00	\$14,941.00	Sat. 4 p.m.      9
Benevolence <u>100.00</u>	<u>265.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>52</u>
Total            \$5,472.00	\$ 2,182.00	Total      61

Received 2/9/2025	Year to Date	Attendance
Current      \$ 10,377.00	\$25,318.00	Sat. 4 p.m.      10
Benevolence <u>15.00</u>	<u>280.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>52</u>
Total            \$10,392.00	\$ 25,598.00	Total      62

Received 2/16/2025	Year to Date	
Attendance		
Current      \$ 2,753.16	\$28,071.16	Sat. 4 p.m.      10
Benevolence <u>20.00</u>	<u>300.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>50</u>
Total            \$2,773.16	\$ 28,371.16	Total      60

Received 2/23/2025	Year to Date	
Attendance		
Current      \$ 3,723.00	\$31,794.16	Sat. 4 p.m.      9
Benevolence <u>64.00</u>	<u>364.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>46</u>
Total            \$3,787.00	\$ 32,158.16	Total      55

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

*A donation to the Memorial Fund in memory of **Betty Gehring** was made by  
Greg & Kim Everingham*

Year to date operational revenue as of February 28, 2025	<b>\$34,374.79</b>
Year to date operational expenses as of February 28, 2025	<b><u>43,388.27</u></b>
Deficit	<b>(\$9,013.48)</b>



Sunday Volunteers for April 2025

	April 6	April 13 Palm Sunday	April 20 Easter	April 27
Cantor	Ruth Gehring	Julie Hippen	Juli Rauch	Dustin Hill
Lector	Shirley Campbell	Ainsley Laidlaw-Smith	Gerry Billy	Kerrill Foster
Com. Assistant	Carol Mumaw	Addison Laidlaw-Smith	Mary Billy	Greta Blegvad
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	Geoff Kaercher & Don Miller

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**Easter Lily Ordering Time!** We will be ordering an array of Easter lilies to adorn the altar on Easter Sunday. The plants will still cost **\$11.00** each. The form below can be filled out and either put in the offering plate at worship or mailed to the church office (67 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Newark, Ohio 43055)

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ / I want to place an Easter flower for the following reason:

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

To the Glory of God \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER OF PLANTS \_\_\_\_\_

*Prayer Fasting Works of Love*



**40  
Days**

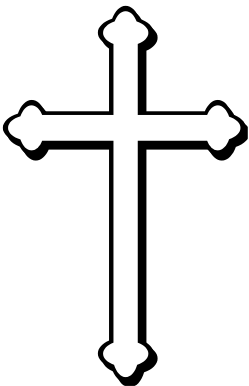


THE FORWARD March 18, 2025  
St. Paul' s Ev. Lutheran Church  
67 North Fifth Street  
Newark, OH 43055-5031

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.**"*