

# THE FORWARD

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

ST. Paul's EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEWARK, OHIO FEBRUARY 20, 2024

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



Cell phone: 586.864.4004

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

Mon-Fri 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Web Site: [www.stpaulselca.org](http://www.stpaulselca.org)

## Gotta Love It!

Perusing through the history of Valentine's Day, I find that in 1400<sup>AD</sup> King Charles VI of France issued a charter for a "Court of Love" to take place on the feast of Saint Valentine in Mantes-la-Jolie, where randy suiters would compete in singing amorous songs, writing love poetry, and lusty dancing. The ladies in attendance would judge their efforts and settle their love-fueled disputes. As it turns out, the only lady-judge there that day was Charles's queen, Isabea of Bavaria, which might explain the sparse attendance. Nice try, Charlie.

February tends to be a cold month, and therefore not such a bad time to celebrate love. You've been stuck indoors all winter and are likely to be for some days yet. You've been hunkered down on the couch in your pajamas and happy-socks. Trust me, you are being judged – and I wouldn't count on a positive assessment. Best to polish up those wooing skills that got you in the door in the first place.

The first thing to understand about love is that it is not a decision but a lifestyle, not a noun but a verb. Love is not something we make or attain, as if it were something we could display on a shelf or lock away for safe-keeping. Love is the sum of all the decisions we make and actions we take every day. Every moment, we are deciding how we will relate to those around us. We can sink together into grumpy silence, or build a bridge with an unexpected compliment. We can choose to be offended, or view the actions of others in the best possible light. We can treat others as resources to be drawn upon when it suits us, or as treasures to be added to and invested in. And not just people. The earth desperately needs our love, and we have neglected it far too long.

St. Paul writes in Romans 12:10, "love one another with mutual affection; and

outdo one another in showing honor.” We share this earth with a lot of other people. Our choices can turn it into a heaven or a hell. Let’s turn it into a Court of Love. God bless you all! Pastor Martin

**Please keep the following people in your prayers** Paul Baker, Margaret Marx,

Ongoing: *The families and friends of Gladys Schoffner*

*(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 ages 9 a.m. see Ruth Graham for details.***
- ***Tuesday Lessons*** – A discussion led by Pastor Martin of the lessons to be read for the coming weekend. Starts at 5:30 p.m. in Weisgerber Lounge.
- ***Friday Night Game Nights*** –meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday nights at 7 p.m. in Weisgerber Lounge! Interested? Bring a favorite game 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. March’s book is “The Paris Daughter” by Kristin Harmel.
- ***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 March 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.** in Danford Hall.
- **Church Council will meet February 26<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 March 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Notes to the Church and Congregation:**

**MEET OUR NEW OFFICERS!** At January's council meeting, the following people were elected for office:

**Jerry Young – President**

**Greta Blegvad – Vice-President**

**Sadie Smith – Secretary**

**Mark Finck – Treasurer**

**Charlie Laidlaw-Smith – Vice-Treasurer**

We are thankful for their willingness to serve in these important positions!

**THE 2023 ANNUAL REPORT** was approved by the congregation on January 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY SOCK AND UNDERWEAR TREE** will be up and collecting donations through March 17<sup>th</sup>. Socks and underwear of all types and sizes are appreciated. Donations will be taken to the YES Club for distribution.

**THE RENTAL PROPERTY COMMITTEE** is in need of volunteers to get a house ready for rent on Hudson Avenue. Some outside work is needed along with inside work that includes washing of walls and woodwork for painting. All cleaning supplies are furnished and you can work within your own schedule. Contact Jim Rengert for additional information.

**LENTEN WEDNESDAY SERVICE & SOUP SUPPER:** It's that time of year again! Lenten Soup Suppers are a wonderful time of fellowship and will be held

prior to worship, at 6pm on the following Wednesdays: February 21, 28, March 6, 13, and 20. The service will follow at 7 p.m. Please bring a dish to share! We are in need of soup makers so if you are interested in being added to the list please text or call Greta Blegvad with your preferred date at 740- 644-4620.

**SPRING RUMMAGE SALE:** St. Paul's will host the annual rummage, antiques, collectables, and bake sale on **Friday, April 19 from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. and Saturday, April 20 from 9:00 A.M. to Noon.** Starting the end of February we will have sign-up sheets in the narthex or 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 3 hour block of sale time or for helping with setting up. On Wednesday the 16<sup>th</sup> or Thursday the 17<sup>th</sup> or boxing left-overs immediately after the sale.

We will have an 'Antique and Collectables' room for items of greater value. These items will be valued and priced individually. Items may be dropped off at the church during office hours starting on Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. If that is not possible you may phone Diane Ganz (740-344-9141) to make other arrangements. (No soiled items, or TV's that are not flat screen will be accepted.)

***We will have an organizational meeting for the rummage and bake sale after church on February 25<sup>th</sup>. Everyone interested in helping is invited to attend.***

**SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH CHOIR:** Sally Finck and Thelma Trainor are starting a Sunday School class for our 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> graders! This means that on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays there will be choir after church in the chapel with Juli Rauch, and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays, there will be Sunday School in the nursery. Since we can now meet in person, Thelma will no longer be sending out the Sunday School Packets. For more information, contact Sally Finck (ssfinck@yahoo.com) or Thelma Trainor ([ttrainor@roadrunner.com](mailto:ttrainor@roadrunner.com)).

**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. Coffee donations are always appreciated.

**FOOD PANTRY NEWS!** The food pantry collection barrel is currently located across from the office. ***The needs for this month are jellies and soups.*** ***Please no clothing items.*** As always, all donations are welcome. 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 March 13<sup>th</sup>.**

### **March Birthdays**

1 - Terrie Baker	10 - Will Kennard	Bonita Levy
Chay Leang	Julia McCormack	19 - Ainsley Laidlaw-Smith
3 - Gene Lamp	Laura Triplett	20 - Matthew Berg
4 - Belinda Baker	11 - Dan Fischer	23 – Allison Gehring
5 - Greg Everingham	Benjamin Leber	Carole Carter(82)
Erin Daly-Zinn	14 - Kim Everingham	Craig Wolf
Amanda John	John McElfresh	24 - Bob Brooker(84)
7 - Anna Sayatovich	15 - Jim Eastman	28 - Gloria Popovich
9 - Benjamin	16 - Linda Cline	29 - Kristal Kinser
Ricciardo	17 - Geoff Kaercher	Willard Stamper
Sally Smith (81)	Ashley Shaw	31 - Cheryl Fulton
	18 - Anne Daly	Alexander Ricciardo

### **March Anniversaries**

2 - Willard & Deborah Stamper (56)	21 - Gene & Linda Crawmer (54)
12 - Carl & Suzanne McElfresh (31)	29 - Gene & Rita Ricketts (44)
Craig & Alexandrina Wolf (33)	31 - Bill & Judy Rauch (56)
17 - Nick & Belinda Baker (56)	

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** Lectors and ushers are needed for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday March 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. If you can help call the office or speak to the pastor.

## Sunday Volunteers for March 2024

Position	Mar 3	Mar 10	Mar 17	Mar 24 Palm Sunday	Mar 31 Easter
<b>Cantor</b>	Ruth Gehring	Tim Jordan	Juli Rauch	Dustin Hill	Tim Jordan
<b>Lector</b>	Greta Blegvad	Ainsley Laidlaw-Smith	Dick Daly	Tim Jordan	Gerry Billy
<b>Com. Assistant</b>	Carol Mumaw	Addison Laidlaw-Smith	Anne Daly	Tim Jordan	Kendell Stotts, Marti Kolb
<b>Usher</b>	Fred Freytag, Charles Cooperider, Steve Wiersma	Charlie Laidlaw-Smith, Charles Cooperider	Greg Everingham, John Grangaard	Don Miller, Jerry Young, Charles Cooperider	Charles Cooperider, Florence Knerr, Dan Fischer
<b>Counters</b>	Fred & Lindsay Freytag, Sally Finck	Julie Lamp, Kerrill Foster	Sally Finck, Greg & Kim Everingham	Sally Finck & Don Miller	Diane Ganz, Kerrill Foster

**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** \_\_\_\_\_

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Received 12/3/2023	Year to Date	Attendance
Current     \$ 3,872.00	\$159,798.55	Sat. 4 p.m.     9
Benevolence <u>295.00</u>	<u>4,875.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>56</u>
Total            \$4,167.00	\$ 164,673.55	65

Received 12/10/2023	Year to Date	Attendance
Current     \$ 4,847.00	\$164,645.55	Sat. 4 p.m.    16
Benevolence <u>15.00</u>	<u>4,847.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>71</u>
Total            \$4,862.00	\$ 169,535.55	Total        87

Received 12/17/2023	Year to Date	Attendance
Current     \$ 2,570.00	\$167,215.55	Sat. 4 p.m.     9
Benevolence <u>35.00</u>	<u>4,925.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>63</u>
Total            \$2,605.00	\$ 172,140.55	Total        72

Received 12/24/2023	Year to Date	Attendance
Current     \$ 2,150.00	\$169,365.55	Sat. 4 p.m.    24
Benevolence <u>0.00</u>	<u>4,925.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>102</u>
Total            \$2,150.00	\$ 174,290.55	Total        126

Received 12/24/2023	Year to Date	Attendance
Current     \$ 4,101.00	\$173,466.55	Sat. 4 p.m.    14
Benevolence <u>256.00</u>	<u>5,181.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>39</u>
Total            \$4,357.00	\$ 178,647.55	Total        53

*A donation was made to the Memorial Fund in memory of **Gladys Schoffner** by Linda Kinser. Thank you Thrivent Choice members, for your donations to St. Paul's!*

**Thrive! Campaign \$29,175 Pledged (Adjusted for changes in pledged amount.)**  
**\$10,318 Paid in 2023 \$22,126 paid in total.**  
**\$6,362 outstanding pledges**

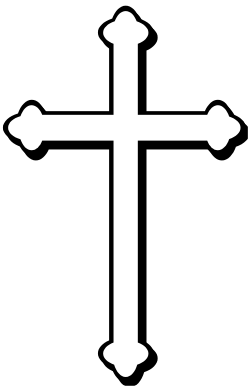
Income for Operations as of December 31, 2023	\$205,219.77
Total Operating Expenses as of December 31, 2023	<u>-244,190.27</u>
<b>Deficit</b>	<b>(\$ 38,970.50)</b>

THE FORWARD February 20, 2024  
St. Pauls 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.**"*