

THE FORWARD

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

ST. Paul's EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEWARK, OHIO FEBRUARY 18, 2025

Church Phone: 740-345-6115 Web Site: <www.stpaulselca.org>



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

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

No News Would be Good News

A Prayer Before Reading the News

“My God, the soul you have placed in me is pure and vulnerable. I am afraid that looking at today’s news will be painful. Encircle me in a robe of light so that I can witness the wounds of the world without being wounded myself. Let me learn what I need to know in order to be of my greatest use, without being overwhelmed by despair. I feel your protective light now as I open myself to the world’s suffering and the world’s joys.” (Rabbi Irwin Keller, 2016)

Listening to the news these days has become a jarring experience. It seems each new morning brings a fresh assault on our sense of stability and well-being. Lately billionaire Elon Musk has been illegally seizing control of and gutting various governmental agencies, claiming they are corrupt, lazy, wasteful, and criminal, without offering a shred of proof for his claims or transparency in his actions. Last week Musk turned his sights on our own Lutheran Social Services of Ohio, accusing it of making illegal payments and laundering money – again with no proof.

I do not like writing about politics; normally I figure if politicians stay in their lane, I’ll stay in mine. But when such ridiculous and baseless accusations are made against one of the most effective non-profit charitable agencies of our denomination, I feel a responsibility to respond. Lutheran Social Services of Ohio was founded in 1912 and is one of central Ohio’s largest non-profits helping to aid the elderly, children, victims of domestic violence, and those experiencing homelessness and poverty. It has a sterling reputation for effectiveness, efficiency, and transparency, and has benefited millions of Ohioans over the years. It would be tragic if this administration’s irresponsible actions led to drastic cuts in such desperately needed services. – especially here in Licking County.

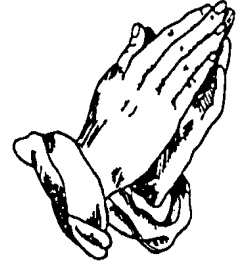
Please do not accept Musk’s libelous accusations at face value without

demanding they be backed up by detailed and verifiable proof.

God bless you all, Pastor Martin

Please keep the following people in your prayers Immediate: Shirley Campbell, Dick Daly, Cheryl Seabright, Donald Wildman, Margaret Marx

Ongoing: Nicholaus Mtui, Adam Haskell, Eric Hostetter
(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 after church. See Ruth Graham , Sally Finck (ssfinck@yahoo.com) or Thelma Trainor (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 3rd 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. The book we will begin in February is *The Chilbury Ladies' Choir* by Jennifer Ryan.

- **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 12th at 10:00 a.m.** in Danford Hall.
- **Church Council will meet February 24th at 7 p.m.**
- **Matthew's Kitchen** meets on the 2nd Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.
- **Grief Group** meets on the 2nd Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. They meet next on March 12th.

Notes to the Church and Congregation:

Thank you very much for the thoughtful gifts at Christmas! *Dale & Genny Faller, Kerrill Foster, Dustin Hill, Jodie Nickles & Tim Utterback*

SEWING & FELLOWSHIP: We will have our first meeting on Saturday, March 1st 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.

THE ST. PATRICK'S DAY SOCK/UNDERWEAR BOX is out at the back of the church. We will be collecting new packages socks and underwear of all sizes for the YES Club until Sunday, March 16th.

MITTEN TREE RESULTS This year we collected 80 hats, 66 pairs of mittens, 2 pairs of socks and 12 scarves for the Salvation Army Christmas drive. A big thank you to everyone who donated and a big thank you also to Kendell Stotts and Marti Kolb Conner for managing the drive!

SPRING RUMMAGE SALE

St. Paul's will host the annual rummage, antiques, collectables, and bake sale on **Friday, April 25th from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. and Saturday, April 26th 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 23rd or Thursday the 24th, 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 21st and between 5:30 and 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday and Wednesday (22nd and 23rd). 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.

COME JOIN THE CHOIRS! Adult & bell choirs rehearse on Wednesdays – 7:30 for the choir and 6:30 p.m. for the bells. Children's choirs rehearse after worship the first and third Sundays of the month. All children are welcome for the children's choir. For information about the adult and bell choirs, please contact Dustin Hill (740) 258-4335; for the Children's choir, please contact Juli Rauch (740) 405-8833.

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.

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 2nd Wednesdays at 1:30 in Danford Hall. If you would like more information, please contact Jean Hovland. The group **meets next on March 12th.**

2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES Are still available on the table in the breezeway. If you would like a box and don't have one, just take one of the boxes without a name. Be sure to put your name on your first envelope! *Kerrill*

Unapproved Congregation Council Minutes for Postponed December Meeting January 13, 2025

In Attendance: Jerry Young, Sally Finck, John Grangaard, Pastor Martin, Jim Rengert, Kerrill Foster, Mary Billy. Excused: Greta Blegvad, Julie Ingram, Sadie Smith Jerry DePalmo

Jerry Young opened the meeting with prayer.

Mary Billy has decided not to run for another term, so another council member will need to be sought.

November Minutes were approved 1st Sally, 2nd Mary

Financial Report – All W-2s' sent and payroll tax reconciliations for federal, state and local governments have been filed. Preliminary December budget shows a deficit half of what was forecast owing to better than expected contribution income and rentals contributing what they were budgeted to do. \$9,805 Balance left on Sacristy Roof. Annual report will be printed for distribution this week. Vote on report will be January 25-26 weekend.

Pastor's Report – Christmas went well. 102 in attendance at 10 p.m. service, 26 at 4 p.m. Working on redesign of Forward. Also need to find a better heat source for the coffee area.

Rental Property – Management of properties turned over to Encore Management. Working on adding property donated by Jerry DePalmo to the insurance. Questions about new property have been referred to Encore. They will begin collecting rents in February.

Jodie will reach out to Climbing Rose and discontinue live flowers. Ruth Graham has made some very nice arrangements to be used on the altar. Thank you Ruth!

Respectfully submitted, Kerrill Foster

March Birthdays

1 - Terrie Baker Chay Leang	10 - Julia McCormack Laura Triplett	Bonita Levy
3 - Gene Lamp	11 - Dan Fischer	19 - Ainsley Laidlaw-Smith
4 - Belinda Baker	Benjamin Leber	20 - Matthew Berg
5 - Greg Everingham Erin Daly-Zinn Amanda John	14 - Kim Everingham John McElfresh	23 - Allison Gehring Carole Carter(83) Craig Wolf
7 - Anna Sayatovich	15 - Jim Eastman	28 - Gloria Popovich
9 - Benjamin Ricciardo Sally Smith (82)	16 - Linda Cline 17 - Geoff Kaercher Ashley Shaw	29 - Kristal Kinser Willard Stamper
	18 - Anne Daly	31 - Cheryl Fulton Alexander Ricciardo

March Anniversaries

2 - Willard & Deborah Stamper (57)	21 - Gene & Linda Crawmer (55)
12 - Carl & Suzanne McElfresh (32) Craig & Alexandrina Wolf (34)	29 - Gene & Rita Ricketts (45)
17 - Nick & Belinda Baker (57)	31 - Bill & Judy Rauch (57)

Sunday Volunteers for March 2025

	March 2	March 9	March 16	March 23	March 30
Cantor	Ruth Gehring	Julie Hippen	Juli Rauch	Dustin Hill	Julie Hippen
Lector	Connie Baker	Addison Laidlaw-Smith	Mark Finck	Jim Eastman	Diane Ganz
Com. Assistent	Greta Blegvad	Ainsley Laidlaw-Smith	Mary Billy	Mandy John	Kerrill Foster
Usher	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
Counters	Fred & Lindsay Freytag, Sally Finck	Kerrill Foster	Sally Finck, Greg & Kim Everingham	Geoff Kaercher & Don Miller	Diane Ganz, Kerrill Foster

FINANCIAL REPORT

Received 1/5/2025	Year to Date	Attendance
Current \$ 2,152.00	\$2,152.00	Sat. 4 p.m. 9
Benevolence <u>30.00</u>	<u>30.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>52</u>
Total \$2,182.00	\$ 2,182.00	Total 61

Received 1/12/2025	Year to Date	Attendance
Current \$ 3,125.00	\$5,277.00	Sat. 4 p.m. 9
Benevolence <u>95.00</u>	<u>125.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>38</u>
Total \$3,220.00	\$ 5,402.00	Total 47

Received 1/19/2025	Year to Date	Attendance
Current \$ 2,566.00	\$7,843.00	Sat. 4 p.m. 9
Benevolence <u>15.00</u>	<u>140.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>48</u>
Total \$2,581.00	\$ 7,983.00	Total 57

Received 1/26/2025	Year to Date	Attendance
Current \$ 1,726.00	\$9,569.00	Sat. 4 p.m. 9
Benevolence <u>25.00</u>	<u>165.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>40</u>
Total \$1,751.00	\$ 9,734.00	Total 49

*Thank you Thrivent Choice Members for donating to St. Paul's! A donation to the Memorial Fund in memory of **Peg Hupp** was made by Jim & Jackie Casto. A donation to the Memorial Fund in memory of **Jim Landis** was made by Mark & Sally Finck*

Thrive Campaign Ended December 31, 2024! Total given \$29,253!!!

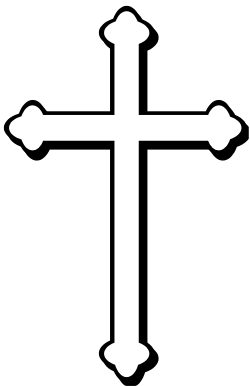
Year to date operational revenue as of December 31, 2024	\$214,400.85
Year to date operational expenses as of December 31, 2024	<u>248,228.52</u>
Deficit	(33,827.67)
Year to date operational revenue as of January 31, 2025	\$12,197.36
Year to date operational expenses as of January 31, 2025	<u>23,487.32</u>
Deficit	(11,289.96)

THE FORWARD February 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.”*