

THE FORWARD

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST. Paul's EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEWARK, OHIO OCTOBER 21, 2025

Church Phone: 740-345-6115 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

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

Do Not Judge...

“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.”

(Matthew 7:1-5)

In the first half of 2025, “politically motivated” attacks have almost doubled from the same period in 2024. I say “politically motivated” because motivations in such attacks are often complex and hard to pin down. When such attacks occur, often our first thought is to hope it wasn’t perpetrated by someone representing our own party or views. Our second thought is too often the unspoken, but no less shameful, question of whether perhaps they had it coming to them.

The recent murder of right-wing political activist Charlie Kirk kicked up a whirlwind of such questions. As information trickled in, right and left leaning commentators scrambled to link accused killer Tyler Robinson to their opponents while exonerating themselves, and cast Kirk and Robinson as either saints or demons. Doing so allowed “us” to distance ourselves from “them” and keep our hands clean while asking about the state of our country.

But we are our country. We harbor the same angers, resentments, and bigotry that, given the right circumstances, could lead to the same tragic

outcomes. We have become enthusiastic spectators of the lurid game of partisan politics, fueling the spectacle with our clicks and tweets while cheering on the loudest and most provocative. We have allowed hate speech, lies, and violence to become so normalized, and guns so available, that violence becomes more a matter of when than if.

Jesus was not in the habit of blaming others. He rather encouraged his followers to look within and recognize their own brokenness and guilt as a deterrent to their (and our) pronounced preference for pointing out that same brokenness and guilt in others. He called “us” to recognize those “others” as part of a common humanity whose job it is not to convict but to forgive each other.

As the old bumper sticker said, “When Jesus said ‘love your enemies,’ I think He probably meant don’t kill them.” He did, and He does, no matter what they may have said or done. I will continue to pray for the souls of both Charlie Kirk and Tyler Robinson for the simple reason that our souls are the same – equally marred and equally precious.

God bless you all! Pastor Martin

Please keep the following people in your prayers
Immediate:, Jaque O’Farrell, The McIlyar Family,
Trevor Moore, Kristen McMillion, The Hippen Family



Ongoing: 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.)

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

THE WHENS AND THE WHERES – 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.

- ***Friday Night Game Night – Game Night happens on the first and third Fridays of the month.*** Come join us on November 7th and 21st at 7 p.m. in Weisgerber Lounge! 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 November is *The Lager Queen of Minnesota* by J. Ryan Stradal
- ***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 November 12th at 10:00 a.m. in Danford Hall.
- ***Church Council*** will meet October 20th 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 November 12th.
- ***Crafts & Sewing Group*** usually meets the first Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. in Danford Hall. ***They will next meet on November 1st. Please contact Connie Baker, 740-334-8961 if you have any questions.***

Notes to the Church and Congregation:

COMMUNITY DROP IN CENTER – AN OPPORTUNITY Over the past few months, the leadership of St. Paul's has been in conversation with that of Holy Trinity, exploring the possibility of cooperating in ministry to the growing unhoused population in Newark. Holy Trinity currently provides a weekday Drop-In ministry offering meals, clothing, phone charging, a social setting, and occasional health care. They also offer a Warming Center for winter nights when

temperatures drop to dangerous levels.

We see an opportunity for cooperation in that these ministries are quickly outgrowing the available space at Holy Trinity, and St. Paul's currently has a large amount of well-suited unused space. St. Paul's downtown location makes us an ideal site. The Drop-In Center, open from 9:30am-4pm, Monday-Friday, would make use of Danford Hall, the kitchen, main floor bathrooms, and the library (for use as a food bank). The nighttime Warming Center, activated only when the temperature drops to 10 degrees or lower, would house women and families in the upstairs education rooms, and men in Danford Hall.

Holy Trinity's current operation of these programs has been supported by a countywide network of volunteers, donations, and grants, and this support would also be applied to any efforts at St. Paul's.

After exploring the possibilities, our two councils now feel ready to bring this to our respective congregations for consideration and input. In the coming weeks you will be hearing more with opportunities to ask questions and discuss.

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 November 12th.**

Unapproved Congregation Council Minutes Sept. 22, 2025

Present: Martin Gehring, Jerry Young, Sally Finck, John Grangaard, Jim Rengert, Greta Blegvad, Kerrill Foster (non-voting). Excused: Mary Billy, Julie Ingram, Jerry DePalmo

Jerry Young opened the meeting with prayer.

Picnic – September 28th. Start grill sooner. Plan on indoor dinner on October 19th same menu. Discussion about continuing every month. Will revisit after the holidays.

Property – Sign is now scheduled to be installed at the end of October. Some difficulty getting accurate measurements due to the current state of the sign. RR fans are okay, the lights just need to be on in the hallway next to them. Potholes fixed in parking lot. WELCA paid for restroom refurbishing. Greta made motion to approve, Sally seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Minutes from August meeting - Martin made motion to approve, John seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's – General Fund below \$6,000. Kerrill requested to move \$20,000 undesignated savings to GF to cover expenses. Sally made motion to approve, Greta seconded, motion passed unanimously. Deficit sits at 48% of expected at the end of August, giving for the month was \$200 over \$13,000 budget, but expenses were \$10,000 over income. Jim made motion to approve, Martin seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Rental – Julie Hippen needs help to get piano into 105. Jim will arrange for truck and ask for help for October 5th. Locks also need rekeyed. Referring this to Encore. 1013 front complaining of critters in ceiling to both Jim and Encore but refuses to use remedies provided. Referred back to Encore and Jim encouraged to let the management company handle rather than being in the middle. Martin made motion to approve, John seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Pastor's – Catechism moved to Weisgerber Lounge on Sept 25th due to response being better than expected – (cool to need more room!) Pothole repaired at no charge by company redoing school asphalt. It is uncertain if Fallers can continue into 2026. Sally made motion to approve, Greta seconded, motion passed unanimously.

President's - none.

Next meeting October 20th at 7 p.m.

Pastor closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Kerrill Foster, Secretary

November Anniversaries

5 - Jeff & Kathy Kinser (42)
17- Juli Rauch & Jordan Fantini (6)

22 - Gary & Vicci Walters (56)
26 - Clarence & Connie Rutter (37)

November Birthdays

4 - Acen Fuller
Saron Leang
6 - Dinah Fraley
Carol McDaniel (86)
7- Mia Morris
12 - Cindra Coad
13 - Kayleigh Logan
14 - Diana Koch
Andrew Swisher
Julie Lamp

15 - Kelly Green
Austin Morrow
16 - Phyllis Brotherton
Tracy Graham
17 - Christina Hall
19 - Christy Hoskinson
David Truex
20 - Max Stamper
21 - Matt Kaercher
22 - Julie Ingram

23 - Laura Pastorius
25 - Dee Altmaier
Karen Nelson
26 - Owen Beamer
Kim Lust
B.J. Stamper
27 - Autumn Seabright
28 - Trisha Holtz
30- Ginny Faller

Sunday Volunteers for November 2025

	November 2	November 9	November 16	November 23	November 30
Cantor	Juli Rauch	Dustin Hill	Ruth Gehring	Julie Hippen	Juli Rauch
Lector	Gerry Billy	Kerrill Foster	Shirley Campbell	Mark Finck	Connie Baker
Com. Assistant	Mary Billy	Addison Laidlaw- Smith	Greta Blegvad	Mandy Young	Sadie Smith
Usher	Fred Freytag, Charles Cooperider, Steve Wiersma	Charlie Laidlaw- Smith, Charles Cooperider	Greg Everingham, John Grangaard	Jerry Young, Charles Cooperider	Florence Knerr, Charles Cooperider
Counters	Fred & Lindsay Freytag, Sally Finck	Kerrill Foster	Sally Finck, Greg & Kim Everingham	Geoff Kaercher & Don Miller	Greg & Kim Everingham

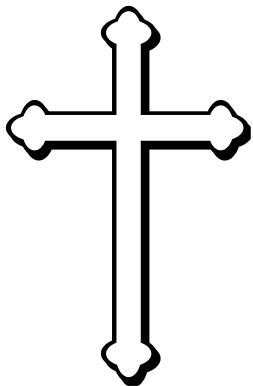
FINANCIAL REPORT

Received 9/7/2025	Year to Date	Attendance
Current \$ 6,035.00	\$137,524.83	Sat. 4 p.m. 10
Benevolence <u>105.00</u>	<u>3,547.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>50</u>
Total \$6,140.00	\$ 141,071.83	Total <u>60</u>
Received 9/14/2025	Year to Date	Attendance
Current \$ 2,374.00	\$139,898.83	Sat. 4 p.m. 14
Benevolence <u>33.00</u>	<u>3,580.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>44</u>
Total \$2,407.00	\$ 143,478.83	Total <u>58</u>
Received 9/21/2025	Year to Date	Attendance
Current \$ 1,045.00	\$140,943.83	Sat. 4 p.m. 13
Benevolence <u>40.00</u>	<u>3,620.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>38</u>
Total \$1,085.00	\$ 144,563.83	Total <u>51</u>
Received 9/28/2025	Year to Date	Attendance
Current \$ 2,552.01	\$143,495.84	Sat. 4 p.m. 13
Benevolence <u>265.00</u>	<u>3,885.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>52</u>
Total \$2,817.01	\$ 147,380.84	Total <u>65</u>
Year to date operational revenue as of September 30, 2025		\$149,685.76
Year to date operational expenses as of September 30, 2025		192,291.06
Deficit		(-\$42,605.30)

THE FORWARD October 21, 2025
St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church
67 North Fifth Street
Newark, OH 43055-5031

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**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."*

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