

THE FORWARD

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

ST. Paul's EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEWARK, OHIO NOVEMBER 21, 2023

Church Phone: 740-345-6115 Web Site: <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

God's Work, Our Hands

Back in September, our congregation took part in *God's Work, Our Hands*. My original intent had been to celebrate the collected projects as part of worship the following week. At the time, I had only received two or three reports and frankly didn't want to draw attention to what I feared had proven a mediocre response. Since that time, however, reports have slowly trickled in, providing a glimpse into the Godly work being done daily by our congregation. Modesty and discretion have lead me to omit names and certain identifying details.

Some projects were ambitious: rebuilding the sacristy steps, taking down a tree threatening a neighbor's property, building an elevated deck for a growing family.

Some projects were community-minded: picking up trash, putting together school-kits for underserved children, distributing gift cards and other needed items to the homeless.

Some projects were more personal: visiting or cooking for sick or isolated neighbors, or simply taking the time to spend in private devotion and prayer.

As we approach Thanksgiving, it is clear we have much to give thanks for! The projects reported were as varied the those reporting them, demonstrating creativity, generosity, and a powerful sense of community. The Spirit still blows through human hearts, kindling dormant embers into fires of faith and service. And the best part is many of the reported projects, far from special efforts, seemed to be business as usual – the simple and magnificent daily work of compassionate, generous souls in the world.

The Kingdom of God will not come with the sound of trumpets and clash of arms. It will come one small, quiet act of kindness at a time. Thank you for participating in *God's Work, Our Hands*. I am proud to be part of this community!

God bless you all! Pastor Martin

Please keep the following people in your prayers

Margaret Marx, Pastor Betsy

Ongoing: *None at this time*



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

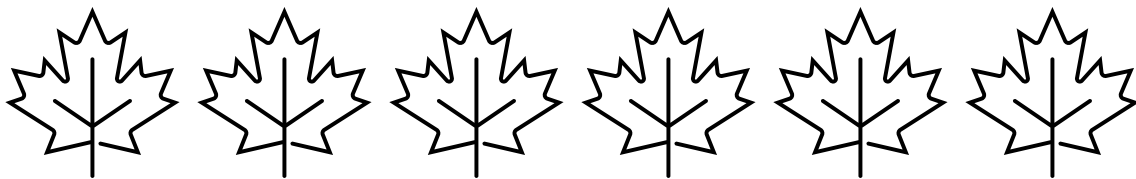
THE WHEN'S AND THE WHERE'S – let the office know if something needs to be added to the list below!

ON DECEMBER 9TH AND 10TH THERE WILL BE A CONGREGATION MEETING AFTER EACH SERVICE TO VOTE ON THE 2024 BUDGET AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL. PLEASE MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND!

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

- **SERVICES THE WEEKEND OF CHRISTMAS EVE:** Since Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year, there will be no Sunday morning worship. And so that we can all join together as one community on this important night, there will be no Saturday service on Dec. 23rd.

- **Decorating the church for the Christ Mass** will take place immediately following the church service Sunday December 17th. Everyone is invited to participate!
- **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. **They will not meet Tuesday November 21st (the Tuesday before Thanksgiving) or December 26th (the Tuesday after Christmas.)**
- **Friday Night Game Nights** –meets on the 3rd 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** will begin meeting 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. For December we plan to read *A Fatal Grace* by Louise Penny (fiction). For January our selection will be *The Choice* by Edith Eger (nonfiction).
- **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 December 13th at 10:00 a.m.** in Danford Hall.
- **Church Council will meet November 27th 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 December 13th.



Notes to the Church and Congregation:

THE MITTEN AND HAT TREE will be making its appearance soon! All donated hats and mittens will be sent to the Salvation Army for their Christmas drive. Let's fill that tree again this year! The tree will be up until after the service on December 17th. Thanks!

THE CHILDREN'S CHOIR meets in the chapel after worship on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. All children are welcome! For more information, please contact Juli Rauch at jrauch248@gmail.com or (740) 405-8833

Nominees for the 2024 Congregation Council: The council has 9 members and members are elected on a rotating basis. For this election there are open places for men and for women. Please look for biographies in upcoming bulletins. If you are willing to serve, please contact Jerry Young.

SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS - This guided musical walking tour of Newark's downtown churches will take place on Thursday December 7th beginning at 6 p.m. Tickets are available for a suggested donation of \$5 and children under 12 are free. Gail Grangaard will have tickets, as well as the church office. St. Paul's Jubilate Ringers will be providing music at our stop. All proceeds from the walk benefit the Food Pantry. For more information, please contact Gail Grangaard, or go to the website: sightsandsoundsofchristmas.org.

VOICE AND BELL CHOIRS meet Wednesday evenings: 6:30p-7:30p (Bells) and 7:30p-8:30p (Choir). These ensembles are open to everyone. Call, text, or email Dustin with any questions (740-258-4335, dustinhilltenor@gmail.com).

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN COMMUNITY DROP-IN CENTER: As the weather gets colder, more volunteers are needed for the Community drop-in center. It is a 2.5 hour commitment, but adjustments can be made to suit volunteer schedules. Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084EA5A722A0F9C07-trinity#/> or by calling Trinity Lutheran.

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 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 any foods that can be prepared by a child. Peanut butter and jelly, ramen noodles, mac and cheese cups, etc. 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 2nd Wednesdays at 1:30 in Danford Hall. If you would like more information, please contact Jean Hovland. The group **meets next on Dec. 13th.**



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 e-mail me at mandyjerry@aol.com.

Grace and peace to all of you in this season of waiting and reflection,

Jerry Young, Congregation Council President

December Anniversaries

16- Charles & Sue Mays (59)

20 - David & Ruth Graham (55)

23 - Cynthia & Robert Street (40)

30 -Richard & Patty Price (35)

December Birthdays

1 - John Swisher

2 - Isaac Beamer

Karen Lane

4 - Emily Leber

6 - Bonnie Meyer

7 - Aimee Babb

Anne Mayfield

8 - Nancy Saylor

Ryan Settles

10 - Ellen Larson

Johanna Wilson

12 - Emily Blegvad

Ron Cline

Harding Ganz (85)

13 - Teresa Beamer

Nathan Godenschwager

Richard Koch

Tambra Simon

Christopher Woolard

14 - Jens Blegvad

17 - Evelyn Heskett

Libby Warnock

18 - Greta Blegvad

Emily Larson

19 - Maxx Billy

Michelle Campbell

Marcy Kaercher

20 -Layne Brotherton

21 -Levi Hoskinson

23 - Audrey Walther

24 - Marlie Billy

Ray Holtz

27 -Stevie Darner

Tyler Harble

28 -Vicky Crist

Sydney Enderle

Diane Fadley

29 -Cheri Fischer

31 -Paul Baker

Heather Morrow

Marie Oberholtzer (90)

Time to Order Poinsettias for the Christmas Eve Service!



Order Form: *On Christmas Eve the altar will be surrounded by a wonderful array of 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: _____

Or to the Glory of God _____

Poinsettias may be taken home after the 10 p.m. Christ Mass.

Proposed Budget for 2024 - This year's proposed budget is in bold, compared to 2023:

Expenses:	Approved 2023 Budget	2024 Proposed Budget
Pastoral Care	\$130,480	127,119
Support Staff	59,403	63,587
Care of the Facilities	39,500	36,500
Church Administration	8,900	8,900
Worship & Music	1,200	1,200
Outreach to Others	2,100	2,100
Teaching the Word	<u>4,700</u>	<u>4,700</u>
Budget Totals	\$ 246,283	\$244,106

Anticipated Income:

Estimate of Income \$177,300.00

Anticipated Deficit **(\$66,806.00)**

Operating Fund Balance October 31, 2023 \$39,345.00

Things to note about the 2024 Budget:

The pastor's salary reflects at 6.3% increase as mandated by the synod. This has been apportioned between the base salary and housing allowance. Medical costs have decreased as the Pastor's primary carrier is now Medicare. The church provides continuing spousal health care, 12% pension, as well as disability and life insurance. The allowance amount has remained constant.

Staff Salaries - The church secretary shows an increase from \$10.75 to \$11.50 per hour. Organist increases to \$16,000 and the Choir director to \$8,500 as mandated by his contract. No hourly increase has been budgeted for the sextons although the budget has been adjusted to reflect the 20 hours per week rather than the 15 in 2023.

Church Facilities has been adjusted to \$36,500 to reflect increasing facility costs.

Income Based on the last few recent months, offerings were calculated at \$13,000 a month. Interest income not adjusted due to market volatility. Rental property return was left at \$20,000 to be conservative.

The expected deficit is \$ 66,806. In 2024 we will need to use savings to cover the deficit amount should it be as large as calculated. This was discussed when we prepared to call a full-time pastor, so the deficit is not unexpected, but cannot continue indefinitely.



Sunday Volunteers for December 2023

Position	Dec 3	Dec 10	Dec 17	Dec 24*	Dec 31
Cantor	Ruth Gehring	Tim Jordan	Juli Rauch		Tim Jordan
Lector	Greta Blegvad	Kathy Jordan	Dick Daly		Diane Ganz
Com. Assistant	Carol Mumaw	Diana Koch	Anne Daly		Kerrill Foster
Usher	Fred Freytag, Charles Cooperider, Steve Wiersma	Charlie Laidlaw-Smith, Charles Cooperider	Greg Everingham, John Grangaard		Charles Cooperider, Florence Knerr, Dan Fischer
Counters	Fred & Lindsay Freytag, Sally Finck	Julie Lamp, Kerrill Foster	Sally Finck, Greg & Kim Everingham		Diane Ganz, Kerrill Foster

SERVICES DECEMBER 23RD AND 24TH Since Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year, there will be no Sunday morning worship. And so that we can all join together as one community on this important night, there will be no Saturday service on Dec. 23rd.

The family Christmas Eve Service will be at 4 p.m.

The Christ Mass will begin at 10 p.m. Volunteers are needed for both services.

Please see below. If you can help, please contact the church office or look for the sign up sheet at the back of the church.

The Christmas Eve Services December 24th Volunteers Needed!

4 p.m. Ushers (2) Lector (1) Communion Assistants (2) Bell Ringer (1)

10: 00 p.m. Ushers (4) Lector (2) Communion Assistants (2), Bell Ringer (1)
Light Luminaries (2) Greeters (2)

FINANCIAL REPORT

Received 10/1/2023		Year to Date	Attendance	
Current	\$ 2,532.00	\$126,433.91	Sat. 4 p.m.	13
Benevolence	<u>195.00</u>	<u>4,020.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m.	<u>52</u>
Total	\$2,727.00	\$ 130,453.91	Total	65

Received 10/8/2023		Year to Date	Attendance	
Current	\$ 3,727.00	\$130,160.91	Sat. 4 p.m.	11
Benevolence	<u>150.00</u>	<u>4,170.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m.	<u>49</u>
Total	\$3,877.00	\$ 134,330.91	Total	60

Received 10/15/2023		Year to Date	Attendance	
Current	\$ 2,137.00	\$132,297.91	Sat. 4 p.m.	10
Benevolence	<u>45.00</u>	<u>4,215.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m.	<u>50</u>
Total	\$2,182.00	\$ 136,512.91	Total	60

Received 10/22/2023		Year to Date	Attendance	
Current	\$ 2,112.00	\$134,409.91	Sat. 4 p.m.	11
Benevolence	<u>25.00</u>	<u>4,240.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m.	<u>54</u>
Total	\$2,137.00	\$ 138,649.91	Total	65

Received 10/29/2023		Year to Date	Attendance	
Current	\$ 1,695.00	\$136,104.91	Sat. 4 p.m.	11
Benevolence	<u>160.00</u>	<u>4,400.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m.	<u>51</u>
Total	\$1,855.00	\$ 140,504.91	Total	62

*Donations were made to the Memorial Fund in memory of **Matthias Young** by David & Miriam Truex and the Choir Fund by Marty & Dee Altmaier and Diane Ganz.*

Thank you Thrivent Choice members, for your donations to St. Paul's!

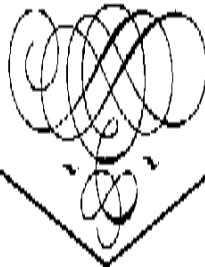
Thrive! Campaign \$36,375 Pledged \$9,161 Paid in 2023
\$20,969 paid in total. \$15,226 outstanding pledges

Income for Operations as of October 31, 2023	\$144,691.08
Total Operating Expenses as of October 31 2023	<u>-203,137.37</u>
Deficit	(\$ 58,446.29)



WE WISH YOU A HAPPY

THANKSGIVING

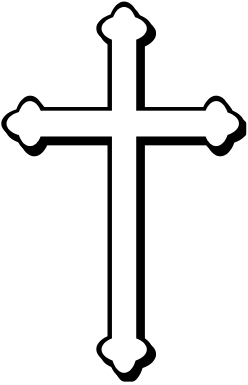


THE FORWARD November 21, 2023
St. Pauls Ev. Lutheran Church
67 North Fifth Street
Newark, OH 43055-5031

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."*