

THE FORWARD

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
ST. Paul's EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
NEWARK, OHIO MAY 19, 2026



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

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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

The Rain of God

This is the Spirit He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we would become heirs with the hope of eternal life. (Titus 3:6-7)

It is an unseasonably cool Spring day and rainy. It is the weekend our neighborhood, in a fit of optimistic thinking, picked to have their collective garage sale. But garage “sailors” are a hardy bunch, not to be deterred by less-than-ideal weather. Nonetheless, it didn’t keep us from grumbling about winter coats, arks and pitiless Karma.

The plants, on the other hand, couldn’t get enough. Spangled with a multi-colored, Easter confetti of blooms, they swelled with verdant potential, stretching toward the soggy sky as if their collective lives depended on it. Which, of course, they do. For all our kvetching, Spring was doing exactly what it was supposed to do – supplying the rain in due season – and the plants were doing exactly what they were supposed to do – lifting their heads in prayers of simultaneous supplication and thanksgiving.

Such a breathtaking display of grace and faith taking place right under our feet! The seeds, sunk in forgetful tombs, sealed with stones of ice, had dared to dream of Spring throughout the eternal Winter. Now, stirred by the seasonal prophecy of new life, they had put down their roots and dared to emerge, resurrected all, into Spring, trusting their creator to provide what they could not. And today, while we grumbled at the inconvenience of it all, the rain fell in abundance, grace tumbling from the sky, soaking leaves and flowers, streams and aquifers, and us as we pulled our coats more tightly around us and complained about the weather.

God bless you all! Pastor Martin



Please keep the following people in your prayers
Immediate:, Mary Beth Young, Rosemary Grube,
Ernie Cooperrider Jr. (Charles' brother)

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 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.**

- ***Friday Night Game Night*** – Game Night happens on the first and third Fridays of the month. Please join us on June 5th and 19th 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 June is *Eliza Hamilton: The Extraordinary Life and Times of the Wife of Alexander Hamilton* by Mazzeo Tilar.
- ***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 June 10th at 10:00 a.m. in Danford Hall.
- ***Church Council*** will meet June 1st 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 June 10th.
- **Crafts & Sewing Group** usually meets the first Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. in Danford Hall. *Please contact Connie Baker, 740-334-8961 if you have any questions.*

Notes to the Church and Congregation:

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!

UPDATE FROM THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE The property committee reported to Council that there are several areas around the main church where the tuck pointing (the grouting between the stones) is missing allowing for water penetration, several stones are cracked, about 12 slates need repairing on the roof and the gutters around the church need to be replaced. As you can imagine, this will be a costly group of repairs. The first estimate has come in at over \$165,000. The Property Committee is continuing to gather estimates and information. In June and July, there will be congregation meetings to explain the needed repairs and to listen to dialog concerning the future of the building. Please look for those upcoming dates in the bulletin or emails.

COMMUNITY MEAL RETURNS! As we have done for the past two summers, we will be holding monthly community meals starting in May. Our next meals will take place on the fourth Sundays of June 28th, July 26th and August 23rd after church from 11:30 am until 1:00 pm. In the past summers, this has been a really positive way to provide some outreach and fellowship to members of our community through food. If you would like to be a part of these community meals, either through bringing a dish to share, donations of tableware or even monetary donations, helping to set up or clean up, please let Juli Rauch know.

URGENT NEED FOR FOOD PANTRY ITEMS! *Any shelf-stable items are needed...especially peanut butter.* Items that can be made without the addition of milk or dairy, like; powered milk, juice boxes, cereal, soups, crackers instant mashed potatoes, pastas, spaghetti sauces, bread, toilet paper. If you wish to give a monetary donation, mark your offering envelope designated to the "Food Pantry".

Unapproved Congregation April 26, 2026 Congregation Council Minutes

Present: Martin Gehring, Jerry Young, John Grangaard, Julie Ingram, Julie Hippen, Jerry DePalmo, Kerrill Foster (non-voting), Jim Rengert, Beth Warner. Guests: Diane Ganz, Charlie Laidlaw-Smith

Jerry Young opened with prayer.

Property Committee – Diane and Charlie reported that the downspout repair/replacement has been completed around the church and a new tree will be planted out front in the fall. Par Excellence has made an inquiry regarding renting rooms on the second floor of the educational building. More information will be gathered regarding this.

The Stone work around the church needs repair. Many stones are cracking and the tuck pointing between stones is missing or in need of patching. This leaves the building open to water damage and other issues. In addition, the copper gutters need repair/replacement and several slates (less than 20) need repaired or replaced on the church roof. So far, one estimate has been provided by Durable Slate at the approximate cost of \$165,000. Diane and Charlie are looking for additional quotes and are also going back to Durable Slate for a better understanding of some items in the estimate including not using copper for the gutters and perhaps replacing the roof with metal.

Council discussed finances and said that the church can use current funds to cover about half of the cost and will need to fund raise for the rest, which led to a discussion of whether or not we wanted to stay in the current building – is it a good fit for the size of our congregation?

An article will be placed in the May Forward alerting the congregation to this large imminent repair with congregation meetings to be scheduled.

Charlie and Diane were thanked for their information and they left the meeting.

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the last council meeting by Jim Rengert and seconded by Beth Warner. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – The mutual funds all lost money during the first quarter to the tune of about \$20,000. However, our deficit remains well below expectations. Motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Jerry DePalmo and seconded by Sally Finck. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Pastor's report – Thinks he fixed the chapel piano which was having an issue with a loud key the previous Saturday. Catechism classes will be starting up again and will be announced in the bulletin.

President's Report – Jerry's mom not doing well please keep them all in our prayers. May 17th is the first community meal. Next meeting will be June 1st to miss the Memorial Day holiday.

Motion to accept the Pastor's and President's reports made by Beth Warner and seconded by Julie Ingram. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Rental Report – Jim has been working with Vicki Mason regarding her rent and we will be forgiving April and she expects to be paying May at the end of the month and be back on track in June. Motion made by Beth Warner to approve rental report and seconded by Julie Ingram. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Other discussion - Jerry DePalmo suggested we think about moving to a smaller space and see if we can't get an idea of cost of future repairs and look at metal roofing.

Council discussed gift for Tim Jordan. Motion made by Kerrill Foster to allot \$600 from memorial fund to Pastor Martin for gift he feels most appropriate, and the motion was seconded by Jerry Depalmo. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Bylaw discussion postponed until June due to lateness of the hour.

Pastor closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Kerrill Foster Secretary

Sunday Volunteers for May 2026

	June 7	June 14	June 21 Father's Day	June 28
Cantor	Ruth Gehring	Julie Hippen	Juli Rauch	Ruth Gehring
Lector	Connie Baker	Addison Laidlaw-Smith	John Minard	Anne Daly
Com. Assistant	Carol Mumaw	Ainsley Laidlaw-Smith	Beth Warner	Shaun Riley
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	Diane Ganz	Sally Finck, Greg & Kim Everingham	Geoff Kaercher & Don Miller



June Anniversaries

4 - Brian & Joyce Woolard (38)

4 - Dick & Louise Shiels (54)

12 - John & Georgeann Leber(27)

14 - Troy & Laura Triplett (45)

19 - Gerry & Mary Billy (50)

20 - Stephen & Denise Crews(45)

John & June Whiteside (39)

23 - Greg & Kim Everingham (53)

John & Gail Grangaard (53)

24 - David & Miriam Truex (46)

26 - William & Deborah Hall (42)

June Birthdays

2 - Judy Seabright

Zachary Seabright

3 - Shawna Campbell-

Noyd

Chuck Lawrence

5 - Tracey Harble

Betsy

Kleinknecht

6 - Cindy Street

7 - Marshall Rosene

Elvira Engle

8 - Chris Ingram

Charles Mays

9 - Daniel Grangaard

John Warnock

10 - Mary Billy

Jack Conner (95)

Sarah Freytag

Lindsey Cochran

11 - Juli Rauch

12 - Ginger Bailey

Doug Hartfield

Amberlynn

Whiteside

13 - Cheryl Seabright

Kala Simon

Watkins

15 - Hank Trites

16 - Carey Hovland

Mtui

17 - Mary Howard

Abbey Swisher

Kayla Swisher

Reagan Swisher

19 - Josiah Hamilton

Richard Price

Vince Walters

20 - Cameron Kolb

21 - Tiffany Evans

22 - Gerald DePalmo

(93)

Florence Knerr

Betty Neighbarger

(94)

23 - Kathie Hayden

24 - Sheriena Fuller

26 - Gaven Billy

Lindsay Jordan

27 - Jeffrey Wiersma

29 - Julia Hodges

30 - Cameron Leang

Carson Scott Hardy

RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE RESULTS -The 2026 Rummage & Bake Sale made \$2,298.00 for the Community Drop-In Center at Holy Trinity! Our thanks to everyone who donated items, baked goods (they were ALL gone!) and volunteered their time to work setting up, pricing and manning the sale. A special thank you to everyone who helped load up the leftovers and deliver them to other charities in the area. Good work for a great cause. Thanks again!

FINANCIAL REPORT

Received 4/5/12026		Year to Date	Attendance
Current	\$ 3,815.00	\$60,558.25	Sat. 4 p.m. -
Benevolence	<u>180.00</u>	<u>1,817.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. 97
Total	\$3,995.00	\$ 62,375.25	MT 41 & GF 37. <u>78</u>
			Total 175

Received 4/12/2026		Year to Date	Attendance
Current	\$ 2,082.00	\$62,640.25	Sat. 4 p.m. 13
Benevolence	<u>40.00</u>	<u>1,857.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>53</u>
Total	\$2,122.00	\$ 64,497.25	Total 66

Received 4/19/2026		Year to Date	Attendance
Current	\$ 2,285.00	\$64,925.25	Sat. 4 p.m. 13
Benevolence	<u>15.00</u>	<u>1,872.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>54</u>
Total	\$2,300.00	\$ 66,797.25	Total 67

Received 4/26/2026		Year to Date	Attendance
Current	\$ 2,277.00	\$67,202.25	Sat. 4 p.m. 12
Benevolence	<u>290.00</u>	<u>2,162.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>44</u>
Total	\$3,242.00	69,364.25	Total 56

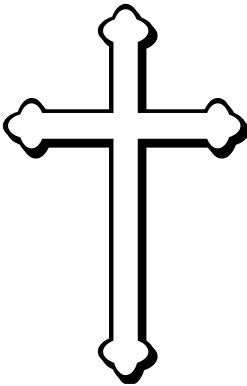
Thank you Thrivent Choice members for your donations to St. Paul's!

Year to date operational revenue as of April 30, 2026	\$72,290.74
Year to date operational expenses as of April 30, 2026	<u>\$84,636.89</u>
Deficit	(\$12,346.15)

THE FORWARD May 19, 2026
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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