

# THE FORWARD

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

ST. Paul's EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEWARK, OHIO APRIL 15, 2025

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

## Standing for Something

These troubled times have caused me to do a lot of soul-searching, especially about what my responsibilities are as a citizen and as a pastor. In the past I had the luxury of drawing a relatively clear line between religion and politics, between church and state. My role was to teach the gospel and leave politics alone. However, as church and state have become increasingly tangled (a dangerous state of affairs, in my opinion), this line has become increasingly difficult to hold.

Christianity comes in *diverse* flavors, but most all (with a few disturbing exceptions) share a *care* and *advocacy* for the *vulnerable, oppressed, marginalized, underprivileged*, and other *victims of injustice, inequality, prejudice, and racism* (all words, by the way, recently censored by the Trump administration from government websites). Now these traditional roles are becoming increasingly difficult as government agencies, which in the past partnered with churches in serving these *underserved communities* (two more censored words), are being gutted along with those that might have provided any sort of oversight or transparency. Instead, “Project 2025,” the far-right Christian Nationalist document that has provided the blueprint for many of Trump’s executive orders, calls for the church to align with those in power who are using the executive office to marginalize/demonize non-white and non-binary persons, along with foreigners and the poor in general.

Christ never spoke a word about wielding power, though he often spoke in opposition to it. Following Christ has always been, and still is, about taking up the cross and joining with Jesus in serving the lost, the last, and the least, and showing Christ’s costly grace to those our current administration of oligarchs would rather ignore, delete, or export. This is where the church must stand, or we run the risk of standing for nothing at all.

God bless you all, Pastor Martin

Please keep the following people in your prayers  
Immediate: **Bill Mason, Tom Gehring, Gloria Popovich**

Ongoing: **Mark Finck, Nicholas Mtui**

*(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.)*



*Our condolences to the family and friends of **Harding Ganz** who died March 14<sup>th</sup>.*

***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](mailto:ssfinck@yahoo.com)) or Thelma Trainor ([ttrainor@roadrunner.com](mailto: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** –In April we will meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday, the 25<sup>th</sup> because of Good Friday 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 April is *Washington's Spies* by Alexander Rose.
- **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 May 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.** in Danford Hall.
- **Church Council will meet May 5<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 May 14<sup>th</sup> .
- **Crafts & Sewing Group** meets the first Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. in Danford Hall. They will next meet on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. *Please contact Connie Baker, 740-334-8961 if you have any questions.*

### **Notes to the Church and Congregation:**

**SPRING RUMMAGE SALE** St. Paul's will host the annual rummage, antiques, collectables, and bake sale on **Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. and Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> or Thursday the 24<sup>th</sup>, or boxing left-overs on Saturday immediately after the sale. Sign-up sheets for volunteering and for donating baked goods are out at services. 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 21<sup>st</sup> and between 5:30 and 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday and Wednesday (22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>).** 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.

**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 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 May 14<sup>th</sup>.**

### **Unapproved March 24<sup>th</sup> Congregation Council Minutes**

Attending – Martin Gehring, Jerry Young, Jerry DePalmo, Jim Rengert, John Grangaard, Mary Billy, Sally Finck, Julie Ingram, Kerrill Foster. Excused – Greta Blegvad

Jerry Y opened the meeting with prayer.

Julie Ingram stepped down as secretary. Kerrill volunteered. Motion approved.

Financial Report – February saw a surplus of \$2,275 of income over expenses due to several annual gifts being presented. The remainder of Sacristy Roof deficit will be paid from Ponser Funds. Discussion of costs and repairs for Pipe Organ Project. Funds will come from Gladys Schoffner Fund and donations. All reports balance back to the Treasurer's Report. Motion to accept report by Mary Billy, Second by Julie Ingram. Motion passed.

Pastor's Report – Tim Wiley would like to help around church, pastor will refer this to property committee. Lent moving along – a busy time. Baptism of Wreese Stotts 3/23 and Ganz Funeral 3/29. Pictorial Directory moving along slowly and kind of on hold until after Lent/Easter. Licking County Health Department dropped off a NarCan kit which will be placed in church when time permits. A schedule of Holy Week services will appear in upcoming bulletins. Motion to approve report, motion passed.

Rental Property – Working with Encore to enact \$20 rent increase for each unit. Clean up at Hollander Street Properties completed, roof repair on hold for a couple of months. Payments to Encore seem to be going okay. Bill Mason (107 W Locust) in hospice care for cancer, asked to be put on prayer chain. Jerry DePalmo moved to accept reports, Pastor Martin seconded, motion passed.

Four Church Farm – not sure about sunrise service. Will keep us posted.

Mecklenburg – all of our guests have housing. Plans proceeding. Next Meeting May 4<sup>th</sup> after church.

Rummage Sale – planning going well. Next meeting April 6<sup>th</sup> after church.

**Next council meeting May 5<sup>th</sup> 7 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted, Kerrill Foster, Secretary

## **May Birthdays**

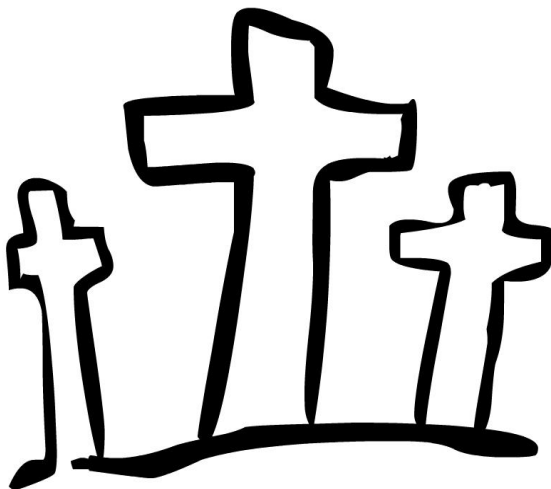
|                         |                         |                            |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 -Charles Cooperider   | 14 - June Whiteside     | Christopher Wiersma        |
| 2 -Donald Miller        | 15 - Judy Rauch         | 23 – Nancy Berg            |
| Carys Williams          | 16 – Addyson Jones      | John Seabright             |
| 3 - Janet Gall (81)     | 18 - Sandra Chorpenning | 24 - Jim Rengert (86)      |
| 4 - Lindsay Freytag     | Oren Stamper            | Louise Shiels              |
| John Leber              | Beverly Swinehart       | 25 - Shirley Campbell (90) |
| 5 - Logan Hacker        | 19 - Margaret Marx      | 26 – Connor Mumaw          |
| 7 – Jade Wilson         | Danette Smitley         | Amber Thatcher             |
| Ella Young              | David Trainor           | Claudia VanWinkle          |
| 8 – Dixie Dunlap        | 20 - Sally Finck        | 27 – Connor Carpenter      |
| 10 - Hayleigh Trainor   | Andy Grangaard          | Liam Peterson              |
| 11 - Jarred Chorpenning | Adam Green              | 28 - Milton Holman (91)    |
| Kristin Hoskinson       | 21 - Jim Casto (83)     | 29 – Jocelyn Brown         |
| 12 - Kristine Wiersma   | 22 – Ben DeBacco        |                            |

## **May Anniversaries**

|                                 |                                  |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 - Carl & Danette Smitley (49) | 18 - George & Penny Coleman (51) |
| 8 - Roger & Traci Dupler (32)   | 19 – Doug & Nancy Berg (29)      |
| 9 - Jason & Heidi Bragg (27)    | 22 - Richard & Emily Larson (49) |
| Edward & Sheila Carpenter (33)  | 25 - Dan & Cheri Fischer (40)    |
| 14 – Ron & Vicky Crist (43)     | 26 - Hank & Tammy Trites (35)    |
|                                 | 28 - Kendell & Jeff Stotts (9)   |

## Sunday Volunteers for May 2025

|                           | May 4  | May 11<br>Mother's Day                           | May 18                                   | May 25   |
|---------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| <b>Cantor</b>             | Dustin Hill  | Julie Hippen                                     | Juli Rauch                               | Ruth Gehring   |
| <b>Lector</b>             | Connie Baker   | Addison<br>Laidlaw-Smith                         | Elizabeth<br>Kleinknecht                 | Anne Daly  |
| <b>Com.<br/>Assistant</b> | Carol Mumaw  | Ainsley<br>Laidlaw-Smith                         | Sadie Smith                              | Mandy John   |
| <b>Usher</b>              | Fred Freytag,<br>Charles<br>Cooperider,<br>Steve Wiersma | Charlie Laidlaw-<br>Smith, Charles<br>Cooperider | Greg<br>Everingham,<br>John Grangaard    | Don Miller,<br>Jerry Young,<br>Charles<br>Cooperider |
| <b>Counters</b>           | Fred & Lindsay<br>Freytag, Sally<br>Finck                | Kerrill Foster                                   | Sally Finck,<br>Greg & Kim<br>Everingham | Geoff Kaercher<br>&<br>Don Miller                    |



## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

**Maundy Thursday (Communion)**  
7 p.m. April 17<sup>th</sup>

**Good Friday 7 p.m. April 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Easter 10 a.m. Sunday April 20<sup>th</sup>.**  
*(There is no Saturday Worship so that we may gather as one body for this most important holy day.)*

## FINANCIAL REPORT

|                            |               |                        |
|----------------------------|---------------|------------------------|
| Received 3/2/2025          | Year to Date  | Attendance             |
| Current     \$ 4,092.05    | \$35,886.21   | Sat. 4 p.m.    11      |
| Benevolence <u>100.00</u>  | <u>709.00</u> | Sun. 10 a.m. <u>63</u> |
| Total           \$5,472.00 | \$ 3,595.21   | Total        74        |

|                            |               |                        |
|----------------------------|---------------|------------------------|
| Received 3/9/2025          | Year to Date  | Attendance             |
| Current     \$ 2,931.00    | \$38,817.21   | Sat. 4 p.m. 12         |
| Benevolence <u>15.00</u>   | <u>724.00</u> | Ash Weds. 49           |
| Total           \$2,946.00 | \$ 39,541.21  | Sun. 10 a.m. <u>60</u> |
|                            |               | Total 121              |

|                            |               |                        |
|----------------------------|---------------|------------------------|
| Received 3/16/2025         | Year to Date  | Attendance             |
| Current     \$ 2,746.00    | \$41,463.21   | Sat. 4 p.m. 12         |
| Benevolence <u>15.00</u>   | <u>739.00</u> | Weds. 30               |
| Total           \$2,761.00 | \$ 42,302.21  | Sun. 10 a.m. <u>46</u> |
|                            |               | Total 88               |

|                            |               |                        |
|----------------------------|---------------|------------------------|
| Received 3/23/2025         | Year to Date  | Attendance             |
| Current     \$ 7,769.00    | \$49,332.21   | Sat. 4 p.m. 11         |
| Benevolence <u>15.00</u>   | <u>754.00</u> | Weds. 32               |
| Total           \$7,784.00 | \$ 50,086.21  | Sun. 10 a.m. <u>70</u> |
|                            |               | Total 113              |

|                            |               |                        |
|----------------------------|---------------|------------------------|
| Received 3/30/2025         | Year to Date  | Attendance             |
| Current     \$ 2,833.00    | \$52,165.21   | Sat. 4 p.m. 12         |
| Benevolence <u>240.00</u>  | <u>994.00</u> | Ash Weds. 40           |
| Total           \$3,073.00 | \$ 53,159.21  | Sun. 10 a.m. <u>52</u> |
|                            |               | Total 104              |

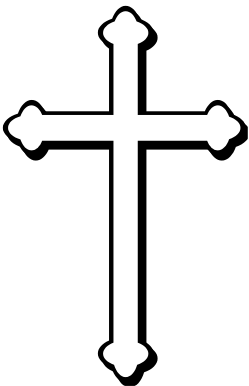
*Thank you Thrivent Choice Members for donating to St. Paul's! A donation to the Memorial Fund in memory of **Denny & Ram Wheeler & Shorty Williams**. A donation was made to the Memorial Fund in remembrance of **Bob Andrew's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 8<sup>th</sup>** was made by Lori Kalinsky.*

|   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| <b>Year to date operational revenue as of March 31, 2025</b>  | <b>\$55,657.12</b>      |
| <b>Year to date operational expenses as of March 31, 2025</b> | <b><u>62,427.42</u></b> |
| <b>Deficit</b>  | <b>(\$6,670.30)</b>     |

THE FORWARD April 15, 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.**”*

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Newark, OH 43055  
Permit Number 117