

THE FORWARD

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

ST. Paul's EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEWARK, OHIO SEPTEMBER 16, 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

A Word for Love

Schadenfreude ('SHädən, froidə) (n.)

"malicious joy in the misfortunes of others," 1922, German *Schadenfreude*, literally "damage-joy," from *schaden* "damage, harm, injury" (see "scathe") + *freude*, from Old High German *frewida* "joy".

What a fearful thing it is that any language should have a word expressing the pleasure we feel in the calamities of others; for the existence of the word bears testimony to the existence of the thing. Yet more than one language has such a word (see Greek **epicaricacy**), and those without such a word have gleefully borrowed one and put it to good use. English doesn't quite have an equivalent though we make pretty good use of *spite* in a pinch.

All such words rely on our willingness to see our neighbor as the *other*, as someone separate from, and unrelated to us. They describe the opposite of *compassion* and *empathy*, which express a connectedness and commonality. I can only take pleasure in the misfortune or downfall of another as long as the pain does not bleed over to me.

Such feelings seem to lie at the heart of what we call "identity politics." We divide our society into "us," those who think, look, and act like us, and "them," those who don't. From the safety of our ideological bubbles, we project the blame for all our problems onto "them." We try to make them conform to our way of thinking, and when they do not (do they ever?) we work to subdue or defeat them, feeling righteous joy in doing so – *schadenfreude*.

Yet Jesus worked to undermine any notion of "us" and "them." He

taught his followers to “love God, *and your neighbor as yourself.*” In the parable of the Good Samaritan he invited us to see our connectedness and reliance on foreigners, and in the parable of the Prodigal Son he taught us to love and welcome even the irresponsible and wayward, revealing just how his own notion of the community of God was constantly expanding to embrace additional political, national, racial, and social identities. Indeed, his death and resurrection provided the final proof that in God there is no “other,” but only the one all-inclusive family of God.

Schadenfreude can only be felt toward *others*. In Christ, there is no other. The misfortune of another is our misfortune; the joy of another is ours as well. Instead of schadenfreude, perhaps it is time to come up with a word to express our delight in the success and wellbeing of the other, which in the end is really our own anyway.

God bless you all! Pastor Martin

Please keep the following people in your prayers

Immediate: *Cheryl Seabright, Carol McDaniel, Mary Jane John, Gloria Popovich*

Ongoing: *Tim Wiley, Brian Finck*

(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** –Beginning in September, Game Night will happen on the first and third Fridays of the month. Come join us on September 19th and October 3rd & 17th 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 September is *The Underground Library* 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 October 8th at 10:00 a.m.** in Danford Hall.
- **Church Council will meet September 22nd 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 October 8th.
- **Crafts & Sewing Group** usually meets the first Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. in Danford Hall. **They will next meet on October 4th.** *Please contact Connie Baker, 740-334-8961 if you have any questions.*

Notes to the Church and Congregation:

GIFT FROM OUR SISTER CONGREGATION. You may have noticed the artwork at the back of the church over the door. These were gifted to us by our sister congregation St. Bartholomew's in Wittenburg, Germany, and are reproductions of artwork now installed there. Inside their renovated church is a 15th-century carved altarpiece originally from Hagenow (a town 12 km southeast of Wittenburg). The shrine of the winged altar depicts the Coronation of the Virgin Mary, while the wings depict four saints and the twelve apostles in two rows, one above the other. Passion paintings from the late 17th century are mounted on the outer sides of the wings. One large tapestry for the altar and three smaller tapestries were also gifted to our congregation.

AND ALONG THOSE LINES The Mecklenburg committee would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in the events held during the week our visitors were here. They truly had a wonderful time and so did we!

FOUR CHURCH FARM PICNIC WILL NOT BE HELD THIS YEAR. If you would like to help at the farm, please contact Mark Finck.

COMMUNITY PICNIC – Last community picnic will be held September 28th. In case of inclement weather, we will move the fun indoors to Danford Hall! Look forward to seeing you there! Check for signup sheets at the back of the church.

NEWARK PRIDE EVENT – St. Paul's will once again host a table at the Canal Market on Saturday October 4th from noon to 5 p.m. offering coffee, hot chocolate and love. If you would like to help please see Julie Hippen or Pastor Martin. Thanks!

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 October 8th.**

SCHOOL KIT RESULTS: Volunteers have assembled 120 school kits for Lutheran World Relief. This is the most we have ever done! Geoff Kaercher and Gail & John Grangaard will deliver them to the Columbus collection point in early October. Thank you to everyone who donated supplies, money, or time for this project and to Thrivent for their support.

Unapproved Congregation Council Minutes August 11, 2024

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

Jerry Y opened the meeting with prayer.

Diane Ganz joined us for property committee as there is a home school group that would like to use our space one day a week through the school year. The council requested more information. Bathrooms have been refurbished thanks to Tim O'Keefe for the labor and expertise and WELCA for the funding. Someone will check that the ventilators are working in both restrooms. Bat abatement has been completed. It was paid for by an anonymous member. Sign should be installed in four weeks. Motion to approve Pastor Martin, seconded by Jerry D passed unanimously.

Rental Property – all properties rented and look nice. Jim would like to have copies of leases for his files. Kerrill will work on. Motion to approve – Greta, seconded by Julie, passed unanimously.

Pastor's report – Mostly Holy Trinity – new members being accepted August 24th, upcoming catechism class, fixing coffee counter.

President's report – German visit was great. Picnic 8/24, will arrange signs to indicate if picnic is indoors. At end will fill up some takeout plates. Mary moved to accept pastor's and president's report, Julie seconded passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report –June income exceeded expenses thanks to some annual givers. Unrecognized gains on mutual funds topped 30,000 for 2nd quarter. Jerry D moved to approve, Greta seconded, passed unanimously.

Next meeting September 22nd at 7 p.m. Pastor closed with prayer.
Respectfully submitted, Kerrill Foster

October Anniversaries

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 4 - Jerry Young & Mandy John (28) | 19- Pete & Kathy Plante (12) |
| 5 - Don & Stephanie Strobe III (12) | 21 - Matt & Jill Mumaw (25) |
| 6 - Carl & Teresa Beamer (41) | 23 - John & Belinda Seabright (26) |
| 16 – Kala & Kevin Watkins (4) | |

October Birthdays

1 -Ann Fuller	Roger Dupler	21 - Paul Harble
2 -Bob Swisher Vicci Walters	Sarah Swisher	24 - Kerrill Foster Patricia Justice
5 -Wanda Cooperider (86)	11 - Gabrielle Pastorius	Linda Kerr
6 -Lauren Grangaard Dale Faller	13 - Marty Altmaier (82) Christine Robbins	Brenda O'Keefe Harry Wolfe (83)
7 -Ruth Graham	14 - Tyler Thacher Rachel Steiner	25 – Miriam Truex
8 -Michelle Billy	15 - Eleanor Crews	26 - Suzanne Wittman
9 -Gail Grangaard Jennifer Rebecca Ricciardo	17 - David Bowen Shaun O'Keefe Bill Robbins	28 - Jason Bragg Chris Truex
10 –William Gehring Debbie Ancil	19 - Samuel Leber	30 – Ruth Gehring Vickie Zigan
	20 - Mary Harble Michael Smith	31 - Susan Woolard

Sunday Volunteers for October 2025

	October 5	October 12	October 19	October 26
Cantor	Juli Rauch	Dustin Hill	Ruth Gehring	Julie Hippen
Lector	Connie Baker	Addison Laidlaw-Smith	Shirley Campbell	Kathy Jordan
Com. Assistant	Carol Mumaw	Addison Laidlaw-Smith	Greta Blegvad	Sadie Smith
Usher	Fred Freytag, Charles Cooperider, Steve Wiersma	Charlie Laidlaw-Smith, Charles Cooperider	Greg Everingham John Grangaard	Jerry Young, Charles Cooperider
Counters	Fred & Lindsay Freytag, Sally Finck	Kerrill Foster	Sally Finck, Greg & Kim Everingham	Geoff Kaercher & Don Miller

FINANCIAL REPORT

Received 8/3/2025		Year to Date	Attendance	
Current	\$ 2,075.00	\$120,364.83	Sat. 4 p.m.	10
Benevolence	<u>30.00</u>	<u>3,037.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m.	<u>65</u>
Total	\$2,105.00	\$ 123,401.83	Total	75

Received 8/10/2025		Year to Date	Attendance	
Current	\$ 2,424.00	\$122,788.83	Sat. 4 p.m.	50
Benevolence	<u>25.00</u>	<u>3,062.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m.	<u>41</u>
Total	\$2,449.00	\$ 125,850.83	Total	91

Received 8/17/2025		Year to Date	Attendance	
Current	\$ 2,940.00	\$125,728.83	Sat. 4 p.m.	10
Benevolence	<u>95.00</u>	<u>3,157.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m.	<u>45</u>
Total	\$3,035.00	\$ 133,186.83	Total	55

Received 8/24/2025		Year to Date	Attendance	
Current	\$ 4,046.00	\$129,774.83	Sat. 4 p.m.	13
Benevolence	<u>255.00</u>	<u>3,412.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m.	<u>47</u>
Total	\$4,301.00	\$ 133,186.83	Total	60

Received 8/31/2025		Year to Date	Attendance	
Current	\$ 1,715.00	\$131,489.83	Sat. 4 p.m.	10
Benevolence	<u>30.00</u>	<u>3,442.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m.	<u>48</u>
Total	\$1,745.00	\$ 134,931.83	Total	58

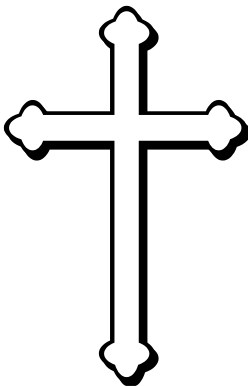
Year to date operational revenue as of August 31, 2025	\$137,666.16
Year to date operational expenses as of August 31, 2025	<u>173,068.61</u>
Deficit	(\$35,402.45)

THE FORWARD September 16, 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."*