

THE FORWARD

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
NEWARK, OHIO JUNE 20, 2023



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

Pastor: Martin P. Gehring

Cell phone: 586.864.4004

Office Hours: M T W 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. or by appointment

Congregation Council President: Jerry Young

Office Secretary: Jodie Nickles

Mon-Fri 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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Life Goes On

Ever since Adam and Eve bit the apple and belly-flopped out of the Garden of Eden, we human beings have been scratching our heads and trying to make sense of this world.

The carrot dangled in front of the apple, so to speak, was the promise of *knowledge*. “God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened,” saith the serpent, “and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” Well, now we know, and we’ve been regretting it ever since.

Anxiety and depression have become a way of life. Of course, we have lots of reasons to be anxious and depressed. Wars, pandemics, global warming ... it seems as if Mother Nature has had enough of our shenanigans and is sending a warning shot across our collective bow.

Notwithstanding, for me, nature has always been a good tonic for anxiety. The breeze blows, the bugs chirrup, and suddenly my worries don’t seem quite so worrisome. Jesus also pointed to nature as a tonic for worry. “*Look at the birds ... Look at the flowers. God takes care of them. God will take care of you too.*”

Nature seems blissfully unaware of all our goings on. The sun comes up and the leaves blissfully get about their business of photosynthesizing; the rain falls and my dandelions sing a song of praise. I don’t think they spend a single moment worrying about politics or much of anything else except the “knowledge” that God is good and gives them what they need.

Surrounded by the voice of nature, I remember that life goes on. *Life goes on.* Today will not make or break creation. I am neither the apogee nor the nadir of world history. This day is, and I am, just the latest punctuation in

God's unfolding story of loving restoration. It is a beautiful story with a real whizz-bang ending. And we will all be there to read the final lines that will finally make sense of this scrambled hash we experience as history.

"Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." (Matt 6:34)

Amen.

Please keep the following people in your prayers: Gloria Popovich, Sue Charney, Harlow Marie Delafuente, Thelma Trainor.



Those with long-term ongoing concerns: Gail Grangaard, Margaret Marx. If you need an address for anyone or wish to add someone to the list, please call the office.

*Our condolences to the family and friends of **Helen Foster** and **Richard Buse** who both died in May.*

THE WHEN'S AND THE WHERE'S - If your group is starting up again, please let us know so we can get your information on the church calendar!

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

- *Sunday School for all ages 9 a.m. see Ruth Graham for details.*
- **Friday Night Game Nights** –meets on the 3rd Friday nights 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.
- **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 July 18th at 10:00 a.m.** in Danford Hall.
- **Church Council will meet June 26th at 7 p.m.**
- **Matthew's Kitchen** meets on the 2nd Monday at 6:30 p.m.
- **Grief Group** meets on the 2nd Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m.

Notes to the Church and Congregation:

CONGREGATION MEETING AND VOTE There will be a congregation meeting and vote to approve the repaving of the church parking lot off Locust Street. St. Paul's Property Committee recommends that we contract to repair and resurface the church parking lot for a total cost of not more than \$68,000. The last time the lot was repaired was in the early 2000's. The Licking County Board of Education, which operates the Phoenix School on Church Street and uses our lot, has agreed to contribute \$22,000 toward the project as well as pay St. Paul's an annual rent of \$4,500 moving forward. The remaining funds will be from the Ponser Designated Property Fund and any donations from the congregation. ***The Congregation vote will be held after the services on the weekend of July 8th and 9th.***

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES! Congratulations to Ellie Crane of our congregation who graduated from Lakewood High School and Ryleigh Jones who graduated from Newark High School this May. Know of anyone else? Please let the office know.

THANK YOU To everyone who helped make the funeral luncheon for Helen Foster so special. We appreciate everyone who baked desserts, served and helped with the clean-up. You are appreciated by all of us. *The Foster Family.*

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!

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. With school out many children are fixing their own meals. 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".

EVERYONE IS WELCOME to experience the fellowship we offer by joining us for coffee/tea & occasional snack before or after the 10 a.m. Church Service in 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.

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 Thelma Trainor or Jean Hovland.

July Anniversaries

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 - Dick & Anne Daly (45) | 17 - Shannon & Jennifer Rebecca Ricciardo (24) |
| 3 - Jeff & Sandy Chorpenning (30) | 22 - Milton & Carmella Holman (28) |
| 7 - Matt & Chris Godenschwager (31)
Ronald & Sheila Cline (16) | 23 - Paul & Connie Baker (57) |
| 8 - Andy & Lauren Grangaard (17) | 24 - Dick & Marie Oberhotzer (68) |
| 10 - Shaun & Andrea O’Keefe (10) | 29 - Vincent & Betsy Kleinknecht (34) |
| 14 - John & Kathy Jordan (50) | |

July Birthdays

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 - Doug Fulton
Grace Pastorius
Joseph Wolf | 14 - Alice Beamer
Seamus Jordan | Baker
22 - Steve Wiersma |
| 2 - Julie DeBacco
Wilma Keller
Ernestine Yontz (97) | 17 - Pastor Martin Gehring
Katie Stanley | 24 - Paul Fuller
27 - William Enderle |
| 3 - Thomas Mullady | 18 - Addison
Laidlaw-Smith | 28 - Kathy Jordan
Lou Thomas |
| 5 - Amanda Smith | Bryan Vincent | 29 - Jenna Chorpenning |
| 6 - Matt Rauch | 19 - Chelsey Dupler | 30 - Christine
Godenschwager |
| 8 - Rochelle Paul | 20 - Carl Beamer
Charlie | John Grangaard |
| 9 - Nikki McDaniel
Dick Oberholtzer (90)
Tammi Trites | Laidlaw-Smith
Ruth Swinehart (101) | Charles Rager (96) |
| | 21 - Sarah (Armstrong) | |

FINANCIAL REPORT

Received 5/7/2023		Year to Date	Attendance	
Current	\$ 6,113.58	\$66,313.58	Sat. 4 p.m.	11
Benevolence	<u>70.00</u>	<u>2,110.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m.	<u>41</u>
Total	\$6,183.58	\$ 68,423.58	Total	52

Received 5/14/2023		Year to Date	Attendance	
Current	\$ 6,519.58	\$72,733.16	Sat. 4 p.m.	16
Benevolence	<u>45.00</u>	<u>2,155.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m.	<u>58</u>
Total	\$6,564.58	\$ 55,515.00	Total	74

Received 5/21/2023		Year to Date	Attendance	
Current	\$ 2,079.00	\$74,912.16	Sat. 4 p.m.	13
Benevolence	<u>15.00</u>	<u>2,170.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m.	<u>66</u>
Total	\$2,094.00	\$ 77,082.16	Total	79

Received 5/28/2023		Year to Date	Attendance	
Current	\$ 2,489.00	\$77,401.16	Sat. 4 p.m.	9
Benevolence	<u>95.00</u>	<u>2,265.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m.	<u>51</u>
Total	\$2,584.00	\$ 79,666.16	Total	60

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

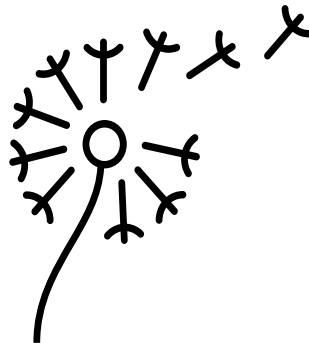
*The following people made donations to the Memorial Fund in memory of **Helen Foster**; Terry & Karen Nelson, Linda Kinser, Diane Ganz, Jackie Sainsbury, Judy VanOster, Judy Seabright, Sally Adlam, Linda Crawmer, Sugar Creek Realty, Caroline King, Jim Eastman, Fred & Lindsay Freytag, and Marti Kolb. A donation was made to the Memorial Fund in memory of **Richard Buse** by Judy Seabright. A donation was made to the Flower Fund in memory of **Helen Foster** by Greg and Kim Everingham.*

Thrive! Campaign \$36,375 Pledged \$5,997 Paid in 2023
\$17,260 paid in total. \$18,420 outstanding pledges

Income for Operations as of May 31, 2023	\$79,789.46
Total Operating Expenses as of April 30, 2023	<u>-109,366.62</u>
<u>Balance</u>	\$ (27,577.16)

Sunday Volunteers for July 2023

Position	July 2	July 9	July 16	July 23	July 30
Cantor	Ruth Gehring	Tim Jordan	Volunteer needed!	Volunteer Needed!	Juli Rauch
Church Door Sec	Volunteer needed!	Sally Finck	Gail Grangaard	Volunteer Needed	Mary Billy
Lector	Mark Finck	Addy Laidlaw-Smith	Gerry Billy	Liam Peterson	Diane Ganz
Com. Assistant	Greta Blegvad	Diana Koch	Sadie Smith	Shirley Campbell	Mary Billy
Usher	Fred Freytag, Charles Cooperider, Steve Weirsma	Charlie Laidlaw-Smith, Charles Cooperider	Greg Everingham, John Grangaard	Don Miller, Jerry Young	Charles Cooperider, Florence Knerr, Dan Fischer
Counters	Fred & Lindsay Freytag, Sally Finck	Julie Lamp, Richard & Diana Koch	Sally Finck, Greg & Kim Everingham	Geoff Kaercher, Don Miller	Diane Ganz, Kerrill Foster



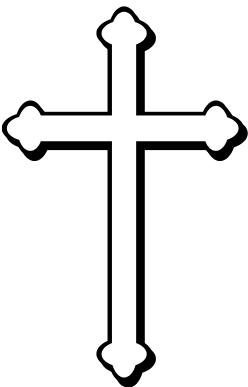


THE FORWARD June 20, 2023
St. Pauls Ev. Lutheran Church
67 North Fifth Street
Newark, OH 43055-5031

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."*