

THE FORWARD

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
NEWARK, OHIO NOVEMBER 15, 2022



Pastor: Martin P. Gehring
Office Hours: M T W 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. or by appointment
Congregation Council President: Tim Jordan
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A Marvelous Footnote

“If I am asked
what are my grounds for hope,
this is my answer:
Light is lord over darkness,
truth is lord over falsehood,
life is ever lord over death.
Of all the facts I daily live with,
there is none more comforting than this:
If I have two rooms,
one dark, the other light,
and I open the door between them,
the dark room becomes lighter
without the light one becoming darker.
I know this is no headline,
but it’s a marvelous footnote.
And God comforts me in that.”

This brief meditation by the Lutheran theologian Gerhard Emmanuel Frost is one of those literary bits I desperately wish I had written. It reminds me again what the Reign of God looks like, which is the highest compliment I can pay any such writing. It fills me with hope and peace, two commodities I can never get enough of.

We live in a time of pandemic, bitter political divides, warfare, and the anxiety of climate change. Meanwhile, we watch the days grow shorter as we sink into the darkness of the coming winter months. Who could blame us for feeling a bit

pessimistic. At the same time, however, we are entering into the church season of *Advent*, which embraces simultaneously the ideas of *anticipating* and *coming*. We anticipate the coming of a star and the inbreaking of God's glory into our benighted lives. These uncertain days *will* give way to better ones as surely as night must give way to morning. It is already written in the pages of creation and in the DNA of our lives. Nothing can stop it.

May God give you peace during these anxious times and fill you with the certain hope of better days to come. Pastor Martin

Please keep the following people in your prayers: *Pastor Betsy, Judy Seabright, Mark Anctil, Debbie Stamper, Linda Smart, Richard Buse, Lee Sidle, Gloria Popovich, Carol Ackerman.*



Those with long-term ongoing concerns: The McDaniel family, Tambra Simon, Pastor Martin Waack, Milton & Carmella Holman, Peg Hupp, Starr Cummings, Pamela Graham, Jena Olien-Harris, Logan Johnson, Marshall Rosene, Pastor Betsy, Ruth Swinehart, Ginny Baker, Betty Neighbarger, Wilma Keller, Terry Nelson, Margaret Marx, Rose Godenschwager, Terrie Baker. ***If you need an address for anyone or wish to add someone to the list, please call the office.***

*Our sympathy to the family and friends of **Mary Beamer** who passed away on October 30th.*

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!

- ***Friday Night Game Nights*** – would like to restart in January of 2023 meeting on the 3rd Friday nights in Weisgerber Lounge! Interested? Please contact Carl Beamer.
- ***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. There will be an additional meeting on November 21st at 7 p.m.
- ***ST. PAUL'S BOOK CLUB*** meets the third Monday evening of each month at 7 p.m. in Weisgerber Lounge. In November the group will be reading *The*

Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot and *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho for December.

- **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 14th at 10:00 a.m.** in Danford Hall.
- **Church Council will meet Monday November 28th 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.

Newark Area Ministerial Association's Thanksgiving Service

Will be held Sunday, November 20th at 7 p.m. at the Central Christian Church, 587 Mt. Vernon Road, Newark Ohio. Everyone is invited to attend this ecumenical service!

Sights and Sounds of Christmas

Returning after a hiatus, this guided musical walking tour of Newark's downtown churches will once again take place on Thursday December 1st 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.

Notes to the Church and Congregation:

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

**ON DECEMBER 10TH AND 11TH THERE WILL BE A
CONGREGATION MEETING AFTER EACH SERVICE TO VOTE
ON THE 2023 BUDGET AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL. PLEASE
MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND!**

Children's Choir Resuming: Calling all kids who like to sing! We have restarted our children's choir. New members are always welcome! Please contact Juli Rauch for more information. (740) 405-8833 or jrauch248@gmail.com

MITTEN TREE TIME! The Mitten Tree is up! We will once again be collecting children's mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves to be distributed by the Salvation Army at Christmastime. Thank you, Marti Kolb Conner, for overseeing this project!

THRIVE! IS ALIVE! A BIG THANK YOU to all who generously pledged in our thrive campaign. We quadrupled our original goal of \$7500 for a total commitment of \$31,243. There have been questions about how and when to start your donations. You may start now. Remember to make your checks to Saint Paul's, and we will pass the funds on to the Synod. Your Thrive donations will appear on your church contribution statements. Please see below for a message from the Synod Committee Chair:

Good morning! I received word yesterday from Sadie about the amazing results of your Thrive campaign. Such generosity is the result not only of generous hearts but also of excellent leadership.

THANK YOU for running such an excellent campaign! You clearly informed, motivated, asked, and thanked the gracious people of St. Paul's in a most effective way. I mentioned to Sadie that averaging over \$1,000 per household (\$31,243 from 28 households) is likely a record for our synod. You, therefore, serve as an inspiration for the rest of us and a model for how to run a campaign.

Please convey my heartfelt gratitude to the people of St. Paul's. I pray you will be blessed through your experience by knowing you are helping many others in our synod, by benefiting from Thrive programs yourself, and perhaps by using the Thrive model for your own future stewardship campaigns.

Grace and peace, Pastor Larry Donner Thrive! Campaign Manager

A New Class for ALL AGES Beginning November 20th, Ruth Graham will be leading a discussion on various topics such as; how to pray, the Lord's Prayer, Fruits of the Spirit, our faith journey, or the Sunday readings. Join us Sundays, 9:00 AM in Danford hall.

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; ***jelly (no peanut butter), canned fruit, ramen noodles, microwave Mac and cheese hearty soups and chicken noodle, after school snacks, granola bars, toiletries, and cheese sticks. 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.

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.

BIG CONGREGATION MEETINGS!!! The weekend of December 3rd and 4th will be a meeting to discuss the budget. The annual congregation meeting to approve the 2023 budget and elect new council members will be held the following week on December 10th and 11th.

Church Cleaning, Tuesday December 6th from 5-7 p.m. Come and help get the church ready for the Christ Mass! We will be cleaning the main sanctuary and pews in preparation. Everyone is invited to help. Buckets, sponges, rags and enthusiasm are most needed and welcome!

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 Kendall Stotts, Marti Kolb Conner, Bell Ringer (1) Light Luminaries (2) Greeters (2) Signup sheets are available with the church door secretary each week, or if you can help, please call the office.

Christmas Day Volunteers Needed 10 a.m. Service: Cantor (1), Lector (1), Usher (1).

December Anniversaries

16- Charles & Sue Mays (58)

20 - David & Ruth Graham (54)

23 - Cynthia & Robert Street (39)

30 -Richard & Patty Price (34)

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 (84)

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 (89)

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 _____

Sunday Volunteers for December 2022

Position	Dec 4	Dec 11	Dec 18	Dec 25 10 a.m. Service of the Word
Cantor	Ruth Gehring	Dustin Hill	Tim Jordan	See above
Church Door Sec	Volunteer needed!	Sally Finck	Gail Grangaard	Volunteers needed!
Lector	Liam Peterson	Addison Laidlaw-Smith	Gerry Billy	
Com. Assistant	Greta Blegvad	Diana Koch	Mandy John	
Usher	Fred Freytag, Charles Cooperider, Steve Wiersma	Charlie-Laidlaw Smith, Charles Cooperider	Greg Everingham, John Grangaard	
Counters	Fred & Lindsay Freytag, Sally Finck	Julie Lamp, Richard & Diana Koch	Sally Finck, Greg & Kim Everingham	Kerrill Foster, Diane Ganz

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 trjordan4281@gmail.com.

Grace and peace to all of you in this season of waiting and reflection,
Tim Jordan, Congregation Council President

FINANCIAL REPORT

Received 10/2/2022	Year to Date	Attendance
Current \$ 5,413.00	\$133,243.88	Sat. 4 p.m. 14
Benevolence <u>265.00</u>	<u>4,184.50</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>?</u>
Total \$5,678.00	\$ 137,428.38	Total ?

Received 10/9/2022	Year to Date	Attendance
Current \$ 1,069.00	\$134,312.88	Sat. 4 p.m. 10
Benevolence <u>5.00</u>	<u>4,189.50</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>46</u>
Total \$1,074.00	\$ 138,502.38	Total 56

Received 10/16/2022	Year to Date	Attendance
Current \$ 1,990.00	\$136,302.88	Sat. 4 p.m. 7
Benevolence <u>35.00</u>	<u>4,224.50</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>28</u>
Total \$2,025.00	\$ 140,527.38	Total 35

Received 10/23/2022	Year to Date	Attendance
Current \$ 2,882.00	\$139,184.88	Sat. 4 p.m. 13
Benevolence <u>43.00</u>	<u>4,267.50</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>45</u>
Total \$2,925.00	\$ 143,452.38	Total 58

Received 10/30/2022	Year to Date	Attendance
Current \$ 4,914.00	\$144,098.88	Sat. 4 p.m. 12
Benevolence <u>20.00</u>	<u>4,287.50</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>44</u>
Total \$4,934.00	\$ 148,386.38	Total 56

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

Thrive! Campaign \$31,243 Pledged \$5,887 Paid

Income for Operations as of October 31, 2022	\$155,037.92
Total Operating Expenses as of October 31, 2022	<u>- 190,062.29</u>
<u>Balance</u>	\$ (35,024.37)

Proposed Budget for 2023 - This year's proposed budget is in bold, compared to 2022:

Expenses:	Approved 2022 Budget	2023 Proposed Budget
Pastoral Care	\$125,977	\$130,480
Support Staff	55,361	58,596
Care of the Facilities	31,500	39,500
Church Administration	9,050	8,900
Worship & Music	1,200	1,200
Outreach to Others	2,100	3,100
Teaching the Word	<u>4,700</u>	<u>4,700</u>
Budget Totals	\$ 229,889	\$ 245,477

Anticipated Income:

Estimate of Income	\$177,300.00
Anticipated Deficit	(\$68,177.00)

Here is a summary of the changes:

Pastoral Care Since we called Pastor Gehring under the Southern Ohio Synod Guidelines and providing the Gold Level of benefits through the Portico Benefits offered by the ELCA, those benefits were used to calculate the 2023 salary, housing and benefit package. Unlike in past years there is no service credit given for years in ministry, rather the base salary and housing benefit both increase in 2026 with 26 years of service was denoted as \$76,740 for both housing and base salary. Since housing allowances are a separate tax line, I extrapolated the 4% salary increase and service credit making the base salary \$59,808 and the housing allowance the balance of \$17,540. Portico Benefits offers a benefit package calculator which computes the health care costs for 2023 to be \$30,552 – an increase of a little over \$1,332 or 5% which is a phenomenally low health care increase. With other benefits and Social Security, the total cost of Pastoral Care is \$130,480.26.

Supporting Staff Council is recommending a cost-of-living adjustment for most of the staff. This amount will be a 5% increase pending performance reviews. The secretary's wage would increase from \$10.75 per hour to \$11.29. The sexton's wage would increase from \$15 per hour to \$15.75. The Organist increases to \$15,750 annually, a 5% increase, and Choir Director at \$8,400. The Financial Secretary's rate of pay from \$14 to \$15 resulting in a net increase

of \$300. No benefits are paid to support staff except Social Security and Medicare.

Property The property budget has been increased by \$8000 to cover the cost of anticipated parking lot repairs and as a cushion against rising utility bills.

Income Based on the last few recent months, offerings were calculated at \$13,000 a month. Interest income was reduced across the board due to declining and abysmal interest rates. Rental property return was left at \$20,000 to be conservative.

The expected deficit is \$ 67,177.85. Operating Fund balance stands at \$88,163.13 and can absorb this deficit. In 2024 we will need to use savings to cover the deficit amount. This was discussed when we prepared to call a full-time pastor, so the deficit is not unexpected, but cannot continue indefinitely.

Please attend one of the budget meetings on December 3rd and 4th to be held after the services for more information.

Nominees for the 2023 Congregation Council: The council has 9 members and members are elected on a rotating basis. For this election there are **three** open places for men and **two** open places for women. Below are brief biographies of the nominees.

Mary Billy: I have been a member of St. Paul's for more than 55 years. My husband Gerry and I were married in this church in 1976 and raised our two children Angie and PJ in this church. We now have a daughter-in-law, Michelle and a son-in-law Nathan and five beautiful grandchildren. I have been an R.N. for over 45 years and continue to work part time in surgery.

Greg Everingham is married to Kim. They have three children and five grandchildren. He retired from Owens Corning. They have been members of St. Paul's for ten years.

Sally Finck has been a member of St. Paul's for many years. Sally has served as past Treasurer for St. Paul's and continues to review the church's finances. Sally also volunteers to assemble the Forward every month.

John Grangaard: Gail and I joined St Paul's in 1974 and we have been active members ever since. I have served two previous terms on the church council. I have also served on several committees and have been ushering on the third Sunday of each month.

Jerry Young has been a member of St. Paul's since 2011 and has since served with the Heart and Soul class, call committee, VBS and Oktoberfest planning, evangelism, constitution review, and more recently, the bell choir.

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2023 ESTIMATE OF GIVING - Below you will find a detachable "Estimate of Giving" for 2023 for use by your family or by you as an individual. Please fill it out, cut along the dotted line, and deposit it in the offering plate in church, or mail it to the church office at 67 N. 5th Street, Newark, Ohio, 43055.

2023 ESTIMATE OF GIVING FORM: I want to help support the ministry of my congregation, and I estimate that during the next year I will give to my church:

\$_____ per week, or \$_____ per month, or \$_____ per year to be divided as follows:

_____ for Current Fund _____ for Synod Giving

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

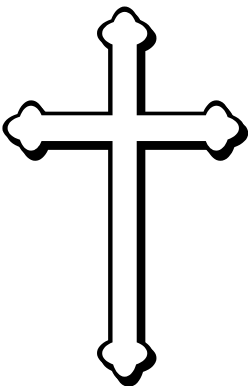
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THE FORWARD November 15, 2022
St. Pauls Ev. Lutheran Church
67 North Fifth Street
Newark, OH 43055-5031

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."*