

# THE FORWARD

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF  
ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
NEWARK, OHIO *SEPTEMBER 21, 2021*



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## In Between

*“They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one.”* (Hebrews 11:13-16) Ruth and I found a house only six minutes commute from the church. For this we are very thankful as the housing market is such that you get about 15 minutes to see and decide to buy a place before the next desperate house hunter swoops in and snatches it up. The good news: it is a nice house, a brick ranch built in the sixties on top of a hill just southeast of town. The bad news: I don't think the house has received a lick of attention or maintenance since it was built. We need to replace all the windows and doors, a large portion of the flooring, the kitchen, the bathrooms ... suffice it to say there is a LOT to be done.

Meanwhile, we sold our home in Columbus back at the start of August. But the grace of God (and a seller's market) we were able to negotiate 60 days continued occupancy, so we have some time to get stuff done. Ruth and I have been flying down highway 161 every morning and evening trying to get enough done to make the house livable before our move-in date in a couple weeks (God willing).

As a pastor, I can't help but be reminded that as Christians, we are inhabitants of this good earth – at least as good as it can be under the burden of our limitations and broken nature – but our time here is limited. Christ's death and resurrection has closed the deal on our new home in a far better neighborhood. But during this in-between time, there is a LOT of work to be done: there are sick to be cured, homeless to be sheltered, hungry to be fed. And believe me, it is exhausting work.

But it is GOOD work, full of promise and hope. Every time we worship, we fly down that highway to spend a bit of time in our new home and do a bit of good work there. Living in the in-between is never easy. It is unsettling and tiring. But we can look forward with hope and joy to the time our move is complete, and we can finally call our new address *home*. *Pastor Martin*

**Please keep the following people in your prayers:** *Thelma Trainor* (fell recently went to rehab but is now home), **Steve Gall** (continuing health issues – in hospice).

**Those with long-term ongoing concerns:** Mary Beamer, Birgita Wittman, Tambra Simon, Pastor Martin Waack, Milton & Carmella Holman, Ernie Cooperider, 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, Peg Hupp, Rose Godenschwager, Frances Slebodnik, Terrie Baker, Alice Smith.



***If you need an address for anyone or wish to add someone to the list, please call the office.***

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

**Pastor Martin Installation** On Sunday, October 10, Pastor Bob Abrams of the Southern Ohio Synod will be with us for the installation of Pastor Martin. Since this is an event of importance to the whole congregation, **there will be no Saturday worship that weekend.** We hope that our Saturday regulars will join with the rest of the congregation on Sunday in welcoming and embracing Martin as our new pastor!

**A COUPLE OF THANK YOU'S** – Thank you to Sally Finck for once again making sure that our bookkeeping is in balance. Thanks also to Gene Lamp for taking such good care of the grass cutting around the church!

**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!

**Masking for Worship** The COVID 19 Delta Variant is causing infection rates to spike again in Ohio. In response, the Center for Disease Control is calling for masking for all large indoor gatherings. beginning the first of September, in order to protect our more vulnerable congregation members, we are once again asking that all attending worship or other meetings at the church wear masks. This applies to both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals. Thank you for your efforts to keep all our members safe!

**Congregational Meeting October 16 & 17** to vote on the conversion of the 4 – foot fluorescent light fixtures in the first floor of the education building, the sacristy and the counting room. We have 109 fixtures in these areas which each contain 2 florescent tubes and a ballast. By converting them we will eliminate the ballasts which burn out and generate heat. The LED tubes use less than half the electricity, are cooler and will need to be replaced less frequently. The cost will include the conversion of the existing fixtures as well as removal and recycling of the florescent tubes and ballasts. The second floor classroom fixtures will not be converted at this time because they are only lighted a few hours each week. Funds will come from the unencumbered memorial funds and funds set aside for building repair. The amount of the repair is expected to be between \$7000 and \$8000 when completed. Because the amount exceeds \$2500 we need congregational approval before the church can begin this project.

**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!**

- **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
- **Friday Fellowship Bible Study** meets every Friday morning at 10 a.m. in Weisgerber Lounge.
- **Ruth Circle** meets next on **October 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 to noon** in Danford Hall.
- **Our Next Outdoor service will be Sunday October 17<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. weather permitting.** Remember your lawn chair!
- **The Deadline for Forward information is 2 p.m. on Friday the 8<sup>th</sup>.**
- **Church Council will meet Monday September 27<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.**

## Sunday Volunteers for October 2021

Position	Oct 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Oct 10 <sup>th</sup> Installation	Oct 17 <sup>th</sup> Cong. Vote	Oct 24 <sup>th</sup> Mecklenburg	Oct 31 <sup>st</sup> Reformation
<b>Cantor</b>	Dustin Hill	Juli Rauch	Tim Jordan	Ruth Gehring	Alice Burney
<b>Lector</b>	Gerry Billy	Greta Blegvad	Mandy John	Sadie Smith	Diane Ganz
<b>Usher</b>	Charles Cooperider	Charlie-Laidlaw Smith	Greg Everingham	Don Miller	Florence Knerr, Charles Cooperider
<b>Counters</b>	Fred & Lindsay Freytag, Sally Finck	Geoff Kaercher, Juie Lamp, Richard & Diana Koch	Sally Finck, Greg & Kim Everingham	Don Miller, Julie Lamp	Diane Ganz, Fred & Lindsay Freytag

## October Birthdays

1 -Ann Fuller

Tim Gienger

2 -Bob Swisher

Vicci Walters

5 -Wanda Cooperider  
(84)

6 -Lauren Grangaard

7 -Ruth Graham

8 -Michelle Billy

9 -Gail Grangaard

Jeri Kennard

Jennifer Rebecca

Ricciardo

10 –William Gehring

Debbie Anctil

Roger Dupler

Sarah Swisher

11 - Gabrielle Pastorius

13 - Marty Altmaier

Christine Robbins

14 - Tyler Thacher

Rachel Steiner

15 - Eleanor Crews

16 - Gladys Schoffner  
(87)

17 - David Bowen

Shaun O’Keefe

Bill Robbins

19 - Samuel Leber

20 - Mary Harble

Michael Smith

21 - Paul Harble

24 - Kerrill Foster

Patricia Justice

Linda Kerr

Brenda O’Keefe

Harry Wolfe (80)

25 – Matt Hummel

Miriam Truex

26 - Suzanne Wittman

28 - Jason Bragg

Chris Truex

30 – Ruth Gehring

Vickie Zigan

31 - Susan Woolard

## October Anniversaries

- |                                    |                                    |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 3 - Bob & Michele Brooker (34)     | 19- Pete & Kathy Plante (8)        |
| 4 - Jerry Young & Mandy John (24)  | 21 - James & Karen Jordan (15)     |
| 5 - Don & Stephanie Strobe III (8) | Matt & Jill Mumaw (21)             |
| 6 - Carl & Teresa Beamer (37)      | 23 - John & Belinda Seabright (22) |

## Financial Reports

Received May 31, 2021:	Year to Date	Offerings Budget
Offerings \$ 13,652.00	\$ 53,575.00	10,000mo.
Benevolence <u>626.00</u>	<u>1,700.00</u>	50,000 ytd
14,278.00	55,275.00	

Received June 30, 2021:	Year to Date	Offerings Budget
Offerings \$ 8,652.00	\$ 62,227.00	10,000mo.
Benevolence <u>523.00</u>	<u>1,920.00</u>	60,000 ytd
9,175.00	54,649.00	

Received July 31, 2021:	Year to Date	Offerings Budget
Offerings \$ 7,968.00	\$ 70,195.00	10,000mo.
Benevolence <u>472.00</u>	<u>2,392.00</u>	70,000 ytd
8,440.00	72,587.00	

Received August 31, 2021:	Year to Date	Offerings Budget
Offerings \$ 13,918.00	\$ 84,113.00	10,000mo.
Benevolence <u>470.00</u>	<u>2,862.00</u>	80,000 ytd
9,167.00	86,975.00	

Total Income for Operations as of August 31, 2021	\$93,609.38
Total Operating Expenses as of August 31, 2021	<u>- 82,847.96</u>
<b><u>Balance</u></b>	<b>\$ 10,762.42</b>

## ALTAR FLOWERS AND SANCTUARY LAMP CANDLES

Flowers and candles are available for the remainder of September and October.

**August 23<sup>rd</sup> Unedited and Unapproved Council Minutes Attendance:** Alice Beamer, Greta Blegvad, Kerrill Foster, Pastor Gehring, Jean Hovland, Tim Jordan, Richard Koch, Charlie Laidlaw-Smith, Joe McDaniel Excused: Anne Daly, Mandy John, Denise Crews, Gene Lamp Absent: Al Miller **Begin:** 7:03pm

**Concerns of the Congregation:** Libby Warnock was inquiring about when Danford Hall would be available for use to groups. Narcotics Anonymous has also been asking about using the space again for their meetings. There has been concern from the renters at the Locust St. property about the homeless issue around the church, their car has been broken into twice and they have seen people trying to get into the cars at the school.

-Council discussed the issue and passed it to the Property Committee to see about possibly putting in more lighting down the alley and talking with Newark Police.

**Review of Meeting Minutes:** Alice is to find her notes from June to add to the notes taken by Anne. These will be typed up and sent out to vote on at the next meeting. The July minutes have one change; "Willard" to "Willis" with regards to the memorial service. \*Motion to accept the July 2021 Council Meeting minutes as edited: Greta. Seconded. Charlie. Motion Carries.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Property:** The committee received a \$23,644 estimate from KMA Electric to replace the light fixtures on the first floor due to outdated diffuser boxes within the fixtures catching fire. Another estimate at \$6,000 came from Weekly. This would cover the removal of the ballasts, conversion to fluorescent lighting, and the exit signs on the first floor. They request council approve Weekly as the contractor for the project with the stipulation the project not exceed \$8,000. \*Motion to accept Weekly as the lighting project contractor with cost not to exceed \$8,000: Pastor. Seconded. Richard. Motion Carries **Rental**

**Property:** All but one renter has paid for the month. The property at 25 28th St. is in need of a wheelchair ramp for the Marx. We are still waiting for the \$9,000 from the 349 Hudson sale. On June 15th an eviction notice was served to 252 Woods property. The house was in need of major repair. Volunteers cleaned out what was left and renovated. \*Motion to accept June and July committee reports: Joe. Seconded: Richard. Motion Carries. **Treasurer's Report:** Congregational meeting is needed to approve \$8,000 limit on the Weekly Electric contract. Notification of this will go in the Forward. \*Motion to accept the Non-Audit Audit completed by Sally Finck: Greta. Seconded. Alice. Motion carries.

\*Motion to use funds from the Unencumbered Memorial Fund with remaining to come from Bob Wright's Fund. Jean. Seconded. Richard. Motion carries. \*Motion to accept the Treasurer's report: Greta. Seconded. Charlie. Motion Carries.

**Pastors Report:** Tim Utterback and Dustin Hill are to choose the hymns for the bulletin. The theme for Advent is Hope. Pastor Gehring's installation is scheduled for October 10th.

\*Motion to accept the Pastor's report. Alice. Seconded. Greta. Motion carries.

### **Old Business:**

**-Delta Variant:** At this time Council will update the COVID safety policy to state that the congregation follows CDC/ DeWine recommendations for masking. We will be requiring masks for worship for both vaccinated and unvaccinated persons. There is an exception for cantors, Pastor, and lectors due to the distance from the congregation. "Due to the increase in the Delta variant, masking is now required in service with exception of the Pastor, lectors, and cantors when in the altar area" \*Motion to make changes to the COVID policy and require masking for congregation. Greta. Second. Charlie. Motion carries with one opposition.

**-Signage:** Property committee is looking at replacements for a new sign out front once the construction at the 5 point intersection is complete.

### **New Business:**

**-COVID Guidelines for Groups:** Smaller groups who wish to use Danford or the lounge will be asked to follow Church guidelines for COVID starting in September. Large groups will be asked to follow CDC guidelines and will be left a cleaning list and supplies for after the event.

**-Thrive:** Monday August 30th will be the Thrive meeting. Zoom link to be sent out

**-Council Rotation:** We have 5 council members that will be completing their 3 year terms for council and will be looking for any interested parties to join. \*Motion to accept Gene Lamp as the replacement for Fred Freytag's Council seat: Richard. Seconded. Charlie. Motion Carries.

### **Next Meeting: September 27th, 2021**

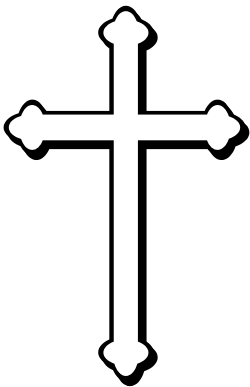
**Roundtable: Jean-** Had a question about what was happening, if anything, about Rally Day. **Kerrill-** Council would like to say thank you to Pastor Stroup for his last few years of service with St. Paul's with a gift. \*Motion to gift Pastor Stroup with a thank you for the last few years: Greta. Seconded. Charlie. Motion Carries

THE FORWARD September 21, 2021  
St. Paul' s Ev. Lutheran Church  
67 North Fifth Street  
Newark, OH 43055-5031

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
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**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.**”*