

# THE FORWARD

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF  
ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
NEWARK, OHIO FEBRUARY 21, 2023

Church Phone: 740-345-6115 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

Cell phone: 586.864.4004

email:  
Mon-Fri 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
Web Site: [www.stpaulselca.org](http://www.stpaulselca.org)

## The Fire Within

"The religions start from mysticism. There is no other way to start a religion. But, I compare this to a volcano that gushes forth ...and then ...the magma flows down the sides of the mountain and cools off. And when it reaches the bottom, it's just rocks. You'd never guess that there was fire in it. So after a couple of hundred years, or two thousand years or more, what was once alive is dead rock. Doctrine becomes doctrinaire. Morals become moralistic. Ritual becomes ritualistic. What do we do with it? We have to push through this crust and go to the fire that's within it."

David Steindl-Rast

February 22 is Ash Wednesday. We don't get a lot of time to catch our breath, to reflect upon just what it means that God has joined us on this messy earth, owned our troubled flesh, before Ash Wednesday rolls around to remind us that no one lasts forever, that we are dust and destined to return to same. And as if to test the sincerity of God's investment in this newborn mortality, we will in short order make him bleed and die, his blood the ink on the contract that binds us together come hell or high water, come life or death.

Lent is the time to crack our cold stone hearts open to rediscover the fire within, to again handle the mystery of the Spirit's fire and let it burn us, for there can be no refining without fire. The Old Testament writers warned us of the dangers of coming into God's presence, that death is always the cost of seeing, let alone touching, God. Even now, in worship we regularly reenact our baptismal death, a glorious conflagration of water and fire. But by the time we arrive at Easter morning, having endured the slow humiliation and death via Holy Week, we will

be reminded that there is still fire at the core of our faith, a refining fire that is making all things new, including us. Having drunk deeply of that dark cup, only then will we be ready to experience what lies beyond – a glorious unexpected morning, an empty tomb – ours as well as his – and an eternal life in the presence of our God.

*Pastor Martin*

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

**Those with long-term ongoing concerns:** 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, 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 condolences go out to the families and friends of **Jane King and Ginny Baker** who both died and for whom services were held in the past week.*

**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!**

## **Ash Wednesday Service ??? February 22, 2023**

- ***Friday Night Game Nights*** Would like to restart in 2023 meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday nights in Weisgerber Lounge! Interested? Please contact Carl Beamer.
- **Faith and Fellowship** met on February 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:30 Further meetings to be determined. Contact Connie Baker for more information at 740-334-8961.
- **Quilting and Faith** The weather has not been our friend and we are still trying to get together. If you are interested, please contact Connie Baker for more information at 740-334-8961.

- ***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. For February the book is *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Richardson, Kim Michele. For March the book is *Keeping Faith* by Jodi Picoult.
- **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 March 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in Danford Hall.
- **Church Council** will meet Monday February 27<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.
- **Matthew's Kitchen** meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at 6:30 p.m.
- **Grief Group** meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m.

### Notes to the Church and Congregation:

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

**ANNUAL REPORT** The congregation voted to accept the annual report at the congregation vote on January 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Council officers were elected on January 30<sup>th</sup> at the council meeting. President, Jerry Young; Vice-President, Jean Hovland; Secretary, Sadie Smith; Treasurer, Mark Finck; Asst. Treasurer, Charlie Laidlaw-Smith; Non-voting member of council, Financial Secretary, Kerrill Foster was reaffirmed in her position.

**Heads Up** Yes, we do plan to have a rummage & bake sale in spring 2023. The tentative dates are to be Friday and Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> (the weekend after Easter). Last year it was fun, profitable, and helped us transfer things we no longer use to people who could use them. In the coming months we hope that you will set aside items to donate. We also hope that you will consider donating your time and energy to helping with this event. Please watch for future updates.

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays at 1:30 in Danford Hall. If you would like more information, please contact Thelma Trainor or Jean Hovland.

**Free fly-fishing classes!** If you have always wanted to learn to fly fish, here is your chance! This free class is offered by the Land of Legend Fly Fishers Club in Newark and funded by a grant from the Ohio Division of Wildlife. All equipment and materials are provided. Just bring yourself. The class will consist of in-classroom instruction and practical on-the-water instruction.

Classes will be held Saturday March 18<sup>th</sup> or Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.,  
Lunch will be provided

Participation is limited to 12 people. For more information or to register, email [landoflegendflyfishers@gmail.com](mailto:landoflegendflyfishers@gmail.com)

Please specify the session you wish to attend when you register.

Dear Pastor and Members of St. Paul's Lutheran,  
The Southern Ohio Synod's *Thrive!* Campaign will be concluding in June. Despite the challenges caused by the pandemic, congregations like St. Paul's have made what currently amounts to an incredible \$965,675 in commitments to *Thrive!* because they faced the challenges with generosity, boldness and hope! Thank you!

Your faithful partnership in the *Thrive!* Campaign helped us:

- *Train over 1200 church leaders in "Effective Congregation Council" workshops.*
- *Mentor dozens of pastors to have more impactful ministries through the "Synod Coaching Program".*
- *Teach 23 congregations taking part in the "Stewardship for All Seasons" (SAS) about strategic planning, best uses of social ministry and developing year-round stewardship programs to grow their ministry.*
- *Address the looming clergy shortage through the "Synod Authorized Minister" (SAM) program that is currently training 7 laypersons to do pastoral ministry.*
- *Empower "Emerging Lutheran Worshipping Communities" such as "Tikkun Farms" and "Saints, Sinners, & Sandwiches" to reach people for Jesus using non-traditional means.*

May the love of God, the grace of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit, fill you with peace and confident hope!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Larry Donner *Thrive!*Campaign Manager

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Received 11/6/2022	Year to Date	Attendance
Current \$ 3,791.00	\$147,889.88	Sat. 4 p.m. 12
Benevolence <u>180.00</u>	<u>4,467.50</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>58</u>
Total \$5,678.00	\$ 137,428.38	Total 70

Received 11/13/2022	Year to Date	Attendance
Current \$ 1,069.00	\$134,312.88	Sat. 4 p.m. 15
Benevolence <u>5.00</u>	<u>4,189.50</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>58</u>
Total \$1,074.00	\$ 138,502.38	Total 73

Received 11/20/2022	Year to Date	Attendance
Current \$ 1,768.00	\$136,302.88	Sat. 4 p.m. 9
Benevolence <u>15.00</u>	<u>4,224.50</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>48</u>
Total \$1,783.00	\$ 140,527.38	Total 57

Received 11/27/2022	Year to Date	Attendance
Current \$ 2,179.00	\$139,184.88	Sat. 4 p.m. 9
Benevolence <u>15.00</u>	<u>4,267.50</u>	Sun. 10 a.m. <u>32</u>
Total \$2,194.00	\$ 143,452.38	Total 41

*Thank you, Thrivent Choice members, for your donations to St. Paul's!*  
**Thrive! Campaign \$31,243 Pledged \$5,887 Paid**

*Donations were made to the Memorial Fund in memory of **Jane King** by  
Jean Hovland, Elwood Wells, Donald King, Pam & Carl Mulberry and  
Richard & Elaine Smith*

Income for Operations as of October 31, 2022	\$143,527.19
Total Operating Expenses as of October 31, 2022	- <u>175,685.46</u>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$ (32,158.46)</b>

## March Anniversaries

- 2 - Willard & Deborah Stamper (55)                      21 - Gene & Linda Crawmer (53)  
 12 - Carl & Suzanne McElfresh (30)                      29 - Gene & Rita Ricketts (43)  
       Craig & Alexandrina Wolf (32)                      31 - Bill & Judy Rauch (55)  
 17 - Nick & Belinda Baker (55)

## March Birthdays

- |                        |                            |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 - Terrie Baker       | 11 - Dan Fischer           | Carole Carter(81)    |
| Chay Leang             | Benjamin Leber             | Craig Wolf           |
| 3 - Gene Lamp          | 14 - Kim Everingham        | 24 - Bob Brooker(83) |
| 4 - Belinda Baker      | John McElfresh             | 28 - Gloria Popovich |
| 5 - Greg Everingham    | 15 - Jim Eastman           | 29 - Kristal Kinser  |
| Erin Daly-Zinn         | 16 - Linda Cline           | Willard Stamper      |
| Amanda John            | 17 - Geoff Kaercher        | 31 - Cheryl Fulton   |
| 7 - Anna Sayatovich    | Ashley Shaw                | Alexander Ricciardo  |
| 9 - Benjamin Ricciardo | 18 - Anne Daly             | Matthias Young       |
| Sally Smith (80)       | Bonita Levy                |                      |
| 10 - Will Kennard      | 19 - Ainsley Laidlaw-Smith |                      |
| Julia McCormack        | 20 - Matthew Berg          |                      |
| Laura Triplett         | 23 - Allison Gehring       |                      |

## Sunday Volunteers for March 2023

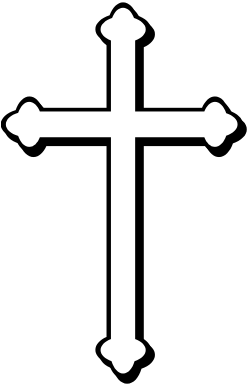
Position	March 5	March 12	March 19	March 26
<b>Cantor</b>	Ruth Gehring	Tim Jordan	Dustin Hill	Juli Rauch
<b>Church Door Sec</b>	Volunteer needed!	Sally Finck	Gail Grangaard	Mary Billy
<b>Lector</b>	Mark Finck	Addison Laidlaw-Smith	Kathy Jordan	Jerry Young
<b>Com. Assistant</b>	Sadie Smith	Diana Koch	Shirley Campbell	Mandy John
<b>Usher</b>	Fred Freytag, Charles Cooperider, Steve Weirsma	Charlie Laidlaw-Smith, Charles Cooperider	Greg Everingham, John Grangaard	Don Miller, Jerry Young
<b>Counters</b>	Fred & Lindsay Freytag, Sally Finck	Julie Lamp, Richard & Diana Koch	Sally Finck, Greg & Kim Everingham	Kerrill Foster, Don Miller

THE FORWARD February 21, 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.**"*