

THE FORWARD

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
ST. Paul's EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
NEWARK, OHIO JULY 15, 2025



Church Phone: 740-345-6115 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

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

Small Stars

At the time of writing, the current administration has narrowly passed a giant omnibus bill likely to result in millions losing their healthcare, a further widening of the already yawning economic gulf between rich and poor, and a ballooning national debt. Just another Tuesday in Washington. For those paying attention to such things, it is easy to feel discouraged, especially if you are one who already struggles to find affordable housing or healthcare. Compassion for the needs of the poor, the sick, the foreigner, at least on a national level, seems on the ropes. But when the brighter lights of hope grow dim, one can still find more modest stars by which to find the way. Indeed, the darker the night, the brighter such stars seem to shine.

- *When rain threatened to soak a friend's possessions on moving day, painters, hired by the rental company, put down their brushes and pitched in as movers to beat the approaching storm.*
- *Seeing the increase in Newark's homeless population, a small congregation makes the bold choice to express their worship through service, removing church pews to make room for sleeping cots.*
- *Having received support during a difficult time, a congregation member becomes a postage stamp warrior, sending out hundreds of cards each year to ensure no one feels overlooked or forgotten.*
- *Another congregation member simply decides to treat everyone as a friend and is not surprised when she discovers they are.*

None of these will be in tomorrow's headlines; such moments seldom draw much notice from anyone except the recipients of such kindness. But the one whose vigilant eye noticed the lily's divine raiment, a sparrow's final flight, and the widow's single copper coin sees such moments of compassion and remembers. These intimate acts of kindness and those who perform them remind us there is still kindness to be found for those who have eyes to see. As long as we feed the flame of kindness it will not go out, even in the darkest night.

God bless you all, Pastor Martin

Please keep the following people in your prayers
Immediate: Cheryl Seabright, Abbie McIllyar, Judy Rauch, Dick Daly Lauren Everingham

Ongoing: Amelia Hill, Soren Osborne

(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 Nights –We are back to the third Friday of the month the next meetings will be July 18th and August 15th at 7 p.m. in Weisgerber Lounge! Interested? 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 July is *Lucy By the Sea* by Elizabeth Stout.
- ***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 August 13th at 10:00 a.m.*** in Danford Hall.
- ***Church Council will meet August 11th 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 August 13th.
- ***Crafts & Sewing Group*** usually meets the first Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. in Danford Hall. ***They will next meet on August 2nd. Please contact Connie Baker, 740-334-8961 if you have any questions.***

Notes to the Church and Congregation:

CONGREGATION VOTE – The vote to repair the church sign passed unanimously. Repairs should be completed by the end of summer.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES The summer is rushing by and we can already find sales on school supplies. This is the best time to pick up donations for the LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF SCHOOL KIT PROJECT. We hope to prepare at least 90 kits and will greatly appreciate your contributions of the following items: **350 70 sheet** spiral notebooks, **50** pencil sharpeners, **40** pairs blunt safety scissors, **50** boxes of 24 crayons, and **80** rulers showing both metric and inch markings.

Please donate by 17 August. A box placed in the entry area of the education building to receive your donations will have an updated list of what is still needed. Monetary donations are also most welcome. Thank You!

** We have enough pencils, pens, and erasers left from last year's donations. ☺

**** Please do not donate backpacks.** We purchase nylon string backpacks in quantity because we have no way of knowing the age of the recipients.

COMMUNITY PICNIC - Our first community picnic was a great success! Look for signup sheets in the breezeway at church for the next picnic which will be held July 27th. In case of inclement weather, we will move the fun indoors to Danford Hall! Look forward to seeing you there!

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 August 13th.**

August Anniversaries

2 - Kevin & Faith Settles (26)
4 - John & Libby Warnock (52)
6 - Charlie & Hydi Laidlaw-Smith (32)
7 - Jim & Jackie Casto (55)
10 - Doug & Cheryl Fulton (50)
13 - Will & Jeri Kennard (58)
14 - Mark & Sally Finck (30)
Gregg & Elanna Simpkins (15)
17 - Dave & Gloria Metzger (46)

19 - Richard & Diana Koch (47)
20 - Geoff & Jaye Kaercher (37)
21 - Rick & Tanya Myers (49)
22 - Bill & Christine Robbins (27)
25 - Marty & Dee Altmaier (52)
Tim & Brenda O’Keefe (41)
26 - Troy & Dixie Dunlap (47)
31 - Michael & Cynthia Petrella (29)

August Birthdays

1 - Linda Wildman	11 - Logan Bragg	20 - Ann Altmaier
2 - Ashley Baker	Aiden Carpenter	Maggie Fuller
Cayden Leang	Evan Hodges	Jacob Poston
Megan Swisher	12 - Cynthia Flowers	21 - Ashton Hall
3 - Sheila Cline	13 - Laura McDaniel	Jodie Jones
Wayne Marx	Kiera Miller	22 - Melissa Molden
4 - Rose Godenschwager	Ron Wheeler	23- Hannah Watkins
Levi Holloway	Linda Woolard	Karleigh Stotts
5 - Lynn Hostetter	14 - Jordan Harble	25 - Jackie Sainsbury
Cheryl Trainor	Maggie Harble	26 - Jacob Thorpe
6 - Susan Wagenheim	Katie Miller	27 - Jackie Casto
8 - Sadie Smith	16 - Amy Anderson	29 - Dan Campbell
9 - Ellie Crane	17 - Suzanne McElfresh	30 - Jana Hovland
Richard Pound	18 - Linda Slebodnik	Jack Metcalf
Gayla Richmond	Carol Wheeler (93)	Tim O'Keefe
10 - Wanda Barrett	19 - Linda Smart (83)	31 - Alexandrina Wolf

Sunday Volunteers for August 2025

	August 3 Mecklenburg	August 10	August 17	August 24 Community Picnic	August 31
Cantor	Juli Rauch	Kerrill Foster	Ruth Gehring	Juli Rauch	Kerrill Foster
Lector	Sadie Smith	Ainsley Laidlaw-Smith	Mark Finck	Gerry Billy	Diane Ganz
Com. Assistant	Carol Mumaw	Addison Laidlaw-Smith	Greta Blegvad	Mary Billy	Mandy John
Usher	Fred Freytag, Charles Cooperider, Steve Wiersma	Charlie Laidlaw-Smith, Charles Cooperider	Greg Everingham John Grangaard	Jerry Young, Charles Cooperider	Charles Cooperider, Florence Knerr
Counters	Fred & Lindsay Freytag, Sally Finck	Kerrill Foster	Sally Finck, Greg & Kim Everingham	Geoff Kaercher & Don Miller	Diane Ganz, Kerrill Foster

FINANCIAL REPORT

Received 6/1/2025		Year to Date	Attendance	
Current	\$ 2,496.38	\$77,766.85	Sat. 4 p.m.	12
Benevolence	<u>130.00</u>	<u>1,974.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m.	<u>42</u>
Total	\$2,626.38	\$ 79,740.85	Total	54

Received 6/8/2025		Year to Date	Attendance	
Current	\$ 2,947.00	\$80,713.85	Sat. 4 p.m.	10
Benevolence	<u>25.00</u>	<u>1,999.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m.	<u>44</u>
Total	\$2,972.00	\$ 82,712.85	Total	54

Received 6/15/2025		Year to Date	Attendance	
Current	\$ 2,418.00	\$83,131.85	Sat. 4 p.m.	14
Benevolence	<u>15.00</u>	<u>2,014.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m.	<u>43</u>
Total	\$2,433.00	\$ 85,145.85	Total	57

Received 6/22/2025		Year to Date	Attendance	
Current	\$ 7,888.98	\$91,020.83	Sat. 4 p.m.	12
Benevolence	<u>15.00</u>	<u>2,029.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m.	<u>49</u>
Total	\$7,903.98	\$ 93,049.83	Total	61

Received 6/29/2025		Year to Date	Attendance	
Current	\$ 7,305.00	\$98,325.83	Sat. 4 p.m.	13
Benevolence	<u>250.00</u>	<u>2,279.00</u>	Sun. 10 a.m.	<u>41</u>
Total	\$7,555.00	\$ 100,604.83	Total	54

A donation was made to the Memorial Fund by Carol Wheeler in memory of Mary Lou Heatwole.

Year to date operational revenue as of June 30, 2025	\$103,163.83
Year to date operational expenses as of June 30, 2025	<u>132,884.42</u>
Deficit	(\$29,720.59)

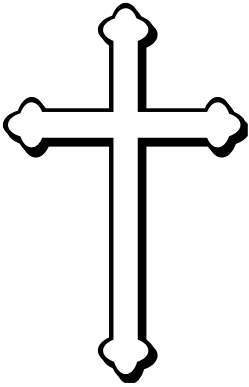
Happy Summer!



THE FORWARD July 15, 2025
St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church
67 North Fifth Street
Newark, OH 43055-5031

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**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."*

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