

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church Newark, Ohio

Annual Report

FOR THE YEAR 2019

Between the winter and the spring,
To add to our joy and sport,
Comes a pause in the year's occupation,
That's known as the "annual report."

It's the bane of our existence
With its detail of every sort,
This involved, inquisitive query,
This loquacious annual report.

Yet the facts can be clearly stated,
Without shame and with no retort,
We've again known God's blessing,
It's all spelled out in the annual report!

**Annual Report meeting in conjunction with services
January 25/26, 2020**

PASTOR'S REPORT *as we have an interim pastor at this point and have had many supply pastors over the last year, this report has been omitted*

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

As I look back at the 2019 church year, I think of Maria's line in The Sound of Music "When the Lord closes a door, somewhere he opens a window."

This year has been filled with both challenges and blessings. Many challenges this year stemmed from staffing issues. We dealt with vacancies of the pastor, janitor and choral/ bell director positions. We began the year knowing our pastor was ill and going to be out of the pulpit for an extended period of time. At the start of the year, Pastor Betsy was awaiting surgery for lung cancer. Her surgery occurred in early February and followed with a regimen of chemotherapy. It looked as if she would return to the pulpit by mid-year, but she experienced several setbacks in her recovery that kept her out of the pulpit throughout the remainder of 2019.

We also had challenges with janitorial care. At the beginning of the year Amber Armstrong was serving as our janitor. Amber experienced some health issues that prevented her from consistently providing acceptable janitorial care for the church. In June, due to both health and personal issues, Amber resigned her position as janitor. After weighing our options, the council made the decision to hire a cleaning service to provide janitorial care. Our current janitor is Shawn Cummings from the New Jan II janitorial service. Shawn cleans 15 hours per week on Monday and Friday.

Another staffing change occurred in May when Josh Ice resigned his position as our choral/handbell director after accepting a full-time teaching position with Westerville Schools. A search committee was formed and worked tirelessly to find a new choral/handbell director by Rally Day. Michael Belt, music major at Muskingum University, was hired to fill this position.

Despite these staffing issues, the Lord has continued to shower our congregation with blessings. He has allowed us to continue our strong music program, enjoy a clean church, and have a pastor in the pulpit for both Saturday and Sunday services for the entire year. Also, Jodie Nickles has provided stability in our secretarial position as we all continue getting more used to working with a part-time secretary.

Although there have been some obstacles finding supply pastors for Pastor Betsy, we always found a way to make it happen. I am thankful for the assistance of the Southern Ohio Synod, especially Sister Sally Burk, for being both flexible and unwearied in finding supply pastors. This task was difficult due to a shortage of supply pastors and because we were unsure of when Pastor Betsy would be able to return. We were lucky to find Pastor Matt Van Winkle who has provided stable care for the Saturday service. We were able to find supply pastors throughout the spring and summer, and fortunate this fall that Pastor John Stroup was able to step in as an interim pastor. Both Pastor Van Winkle

and Pastor Stroup are currently willing to continue serving at St. Paul's until Pastor Betsy returns. Pastor Stroup has been able to provide pastoral care beyond Sunday morning services. He has visited our shut-ins and provided communion as desired. He has also performed a baptism and inducted two new members into the congregation.

We were able to host a few special visitors to our church this year. In mid-August we hosted an influential contingent from the German Church of the North. Six delegates came from Mecklenburg-Vorpommern region to worship with us and share in conversations about the future of the church both here and in Northern Germany. In late August, we were blessed to have Bishop Suzanne Dillahunt serve as our pastor for our Sunday service and talk with us at a reception following the service.

The church council continued to address items identified in the Listening Post. The council had quarterly congregational meetings for both Saturday and Sunday services not only to provide regular financial updates, but also to focus on communication, the Church Constitution update, relocation of the handbell choir to the south transept, and the effects of the upcoming 5th Street sewer project on the church property. These meetings also provided a venue to field general questions from congregational members.

We have been faced with plenty of challenging situations in 2019, but our parishioners have risen to the call by contributing both their time and their talents. Though I am thankful for St. Paul's many active and willing members, I would like to challenge members who have been less active in day-to-day church activities or committees to consider becoming more involved in 2020. A greater number of active members will create less burden on each individual member.

- Respectfully, Amanda S John, Church Council President

CONGREGATION CARE COMMITTEE:

The members of the Congregation Care Committee are responsible for the care and well-being of the congregation, especially those who are unable to attend regular services. The committee continues throughout the year to visit members of St. Paul's who are in nursing homes, assisted living centers, and those who are housebound even if only temporarily. Flowers from the altar are taken to the shut-ins. Thinking of you cards are sent monthly, and these reach our shut-ins who decline to have visits.

Members also attend the calling hours and funerals of members of the congregation.

The committee makes a special effort to reach out during the holiday seasons. We deliver Easter flowers and poinsettias to the shut-ins. Our Thanksgiving outreach program provides holiday meals to members and friends of the congregation who need assistance. We prepared and delivered 6 boxes of fixings for a Thanksgiving meal this year, which included the turkey, side dishes and desserts. This year the funds were provided by a Thrivent Action Grant. Thanks to Sharon Phelps for helping me with the

form.

During the year anniversary, get-well, thinking of you and sympathy cards are mailed to members of the congregation. Florence Knerr sends birthday cards. Many thanks to those who continue to donate cards and stamps.

Thanks to the Congregational Care Committee for their time and care of our shut-ins. Our current committee members include; Debbie Anctil, John & Gail Grangaard, Jackie Casto, Gloria Popovich, Jodie Nickles, Anne Daly, Lindsay Freytag, and Linda Smart. This is my last year on the committee, and I want to thank Debbie Anctil and Gail Grangaard for taking the helm.

- Linda Smart, Chairperson

EVANGELISM (*with a request for your input)

We would like to thank the Property Committee for their repairs to the frame/rigging to enable our St. Paul's banner to once again hang from the bell tower. We're also glad to have welcomed Gene and Julie Lamp into the congregation this past fall.

* Looking ahead, we are interested in your ideas for Lenten and year-round evangelism. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 21 at 7 pm, taking place in person at the church and by e-mail. If you'd like to participate in either way, please contact Jerry Young at mandyjerry@aol.com and he can share the meeting details. All are welcome.

Thanks! -- Ruth Graham, Steve Wiersma, and Jerry Young

FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP:

Faith and Fellowship's usual meeting date is the third Wednesday of the month. All are welcome to attend. This year we went to; Watts Restaurant and the shops in Utica, toured the courthouse, Weathervane Playhouse, Roscoe Village, the Solarium at the Works, the Hanby House, Moundbuilders Earthworks, and Cheryl Seabright taught us more Tai-Chi. We ended the year with our Christmas Luncheon and white elephant gift exchange. Plan to join us in 2020.

Paul & Connie Baker, Chairpersons

FOUR CHURCH FARM REPORT 2019:

I'd like to begin by saying the Four Church Farm meeting is the 3rd Tuesday of the Month except December and February when we don't hold a meeting. Anyone from the four churches are welcome to come to our meetings. During the cold months we meet at Christ Lutheran Church in Heath and at the farm the rest of the year. We are always looking for help with the upkeep of the farm, so anyone who would like to help at the farm, just let us know. St. John's is scheduled to mow the 1st Wednesday of the month, St. Paul's the 2nd Wednesday, Christ Lutheran the 3rd Wednesday, and on the 4th Wednesday, Holy Trinity, and if there's a 5th Wednesday it's a joint effort from all Four Churches.

Our Easter Service went well as did the Hog Roast thanks to the volunteers who helped getting the farm ready for each occasion. Also, thanks to everybody who brought food, drink, or any other thing needed for our Hog Roast. The picnic was held at St. John's in their hall because of weather issues. I believe this change affected the turnout, as there were not as many as have been there before. However, the people who worked did a fine job and the people who did show up for the picnic had a great time. Please remember in the future that when weather causes us problems, we will be at St. John's in their hall and we can still enjoy visiting with all of our friends from all the churches, a blessing indeed.

We also want to welcome Christ Lutheran's new Pastor, Chris Adams, into our church family this year, and also to our Four Church Farm Staff. On our last meeting of the year, November 19th, we were supposed to do elections, but due to personal issues, we didn't have enough members make it to our meeting. We will hold our elections of officers at our January 21st meeting. Anyone interested in serving on the Four Church Farm Committee, from any of our churches, please feel free to come to the meeting at Christ Lutheran Church in Heath, Ohio.

- Mark Finck, Secretary, Four Church Farm

HEART AND SOUL CLASS

Our class has been examining a mix of historical, cultural, and contemporary issues. This past spring, the class explored the place of religion in our society and the religious writings of C.S. Lewis - including an inter-generational discussion on the *Chronicles of Narnia*. Pastor Betsy led a session on anti-Semitism and the foundations of hate, and Pastor Jim Childs discussed his work in the field of ethics and the synod's/ELCA's earlier deliberations on homosexuality. Other topics have included sin and evil, Baptism and Communion, St. Paul's oral history, the Newark community's outreach to the homeless (particularly during extreme winter weather), past and present theocracies around the world, Yom Kippur, and the modern Nativity. We've also ventured outside the church walls to attend meetings with the Salvation Army, Licking County Emergency Operations staff, and other groups.

Our current focus is a several week discussion on the Biblical roots of our shared Christian values, with a discussion this coming spring on Dante's *Inferno* and how that impacts our conceptions of the afterlife. No advance reading is required and all are welcome to join us on Sundays from 11-12 in the Weisgerber Lounge.

Jerry Young, Heart and Soul Class

NURSERY SCHOOL:

Thank you to the nursery attendants that were available as needed in the nursery this year. In January 2020 we will be in the nursery until 9:45 AM. If there are no children

by then, the attendant will go into church. If you need a nursery attendant please contact an usher.

--Jean Hovland, Coordinator

OCTOBERFEST COMMITTEE:

Octoberfest was held on September 28, 2019. Over 80 people came for dinner and stayed for beer. Entertainment was provided by the Newark Maennerchor. A Markplaz provided an area for church groups to vend wares and raise funds. In addition, a 50/50 raffle benefitted the Education Fund. Over \$400 was raised by the dinner for the New Horizons and the Lobby Renovation Project, over \$350 for the Music Fund and over \$50 each for the Property Fund and the Education Fund. Thanks to all who participated and especial thanks to Alex Crews and Diane Ganz for organizing the kitchen. Mark your calendars for the 2020 Octoberfest on September 26, 2020.

--Denise Crews, Coordinator

PROPERTY COMMITTEE: Committee Members: Russ Hovland, John Jordan, Charlie Laidlaw-Smith, Diane Ganz.

The Property Committee undertook no large projects in 2019 and incurred no major expenses. However, the committee was kept occupied with ongoing maintenance and repairs as well as some smaller projects.

After experiencing problems with our custodial service early in the year, Mandy John researched other companies and engaged NewJanII this past summer. Their employee, Sean Cummings, works at St. Paul's on Mondays and Fridays for a total of 15 hours per week.

The steps outside the main entrance to the sanctuary were dangerously deteriorated from weathering. John removed the broken parts and poured concrete in the area, making it blend into the existing steps as much as possible. Work was also done at the sacristy entrance. Concrete sealer was then applied to both areas by Erik Ganz.

We were approached by the bell choir considering a move from the balcony to the south transept of the sanctuary. After discussion, it was decided that they would make the move for the choir season and then reevaluate the decision. Property committee removed and stored the extra pews and rearranged others as well as making lighting adjustments to accommodate the choir.

Jim Rengert approached us about the idea of power washing the exterior of the church buildings and roof. He had obtained an estimate for the project, and we received two additional estimates. However, it was decided to wait until spring 2020 to have the work done and include the cost in the 2020 budget. The exterior has never before been washed/cleaned.

There was some concern that the dogwood tree in the courtyard had overgrown its

space and might be damaging the foundation of the sanctuary. We consulted with an arborist, who said that the roots would not be putting pressure on the foundation. He also said that the tree was one of the nicest and largest he has ever seen and that there should be only very minor pruning done.

Related to our parking lot, The Phoenix School is to be responsible for snow removal this winter in return for using the space during the school week. In addition, the apron at the Locust Street entrance had broken, resulting in potholes. John has filled these with asphalt patch as a temporary measure.

Russ continues to monitor the bat situation in the church and has been closing off access points as he discovers them. He has also made repairs to the heating/AC equipment, saving the cost of an outside repairperson.

Late in the year we met with a representative of the company that will construct the round-about on our corner. We have recommended accepting the compensation offered for the land to be taken and discussed the cost of relocating our sign, which they will partially reimburse. We have a few years to plan for a replacement sign.

We are very appreciative of the dedicated care that Hank and Tammy Trites have given to our landscaping. Not only have they installed seasonal plantings, they have routinely tidied the beds and kept them watered and fertilized throughout the year.

Diane Ganz, Property Committee

RENTAL PROPERTY COMMITTEE:

All 6 rental properties maintained the current renters for the year. This is good news since the properties provide a substantial income for the church. The committee entered into a service agreement to maintain the furnaces and air conditioners. Improvements to some of the properties were; a new bathroom floor, new air conditioner, new gutters and spouting, new toilet, lights, vanity and stairway carpet in one unit, and heating duct cleaning in another. The committee has tried to keep ahead of major expenses that may happen in the future. Outside appearance of the properties has been a priority of the committee. The committee feels it is important that we keep the line of communication open with each renter.

-- Jim Rengert, Rental Property

TREASURER'S REPORT January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019

Account Name	Receipts	Disbursements	Ending Balance
General Operating Fund	\$229,950.05	\$140,162.15	\$140,182.24
Altar Flowers & Candles	3,153.36	2,944.42	564.93
Christian Education	1,491.13	3,356.79	0.00
Youth Ministry	1,667.82	0.00	19,669.70
Benevolence	6,266.00	6,266.00	0.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	1,002.91	229.00	2,236.91
Memorial Fund	251.00	0.00	2077.69
Matthew's Kitchen Fund Balance	100.00	0.00	297.89
Community Outreach	5,905.27	5905.27	90.49
Choir Fund	1,383.85	686.00	2,479.92
Rental Property	52,388.00	51,760.06	13,683.98
Mary A. Ponser Bequest*	9,580.32	0.00	87,230.88
Thrivent Choice Dollars Fund	2,986.00	0.00	17,793.94
New Bell/Ringers Fund	1,000.00	0.00	1,100.00
Lucas Bible Fund	0.00	0.00	2,330.70
Bob and Ruth Watson Fund*	0.00	0.00	61,642.49
Margaret Ann Dupler Fund*	<u>5,153.69</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>43,905.97</u>
Total	\$321,279.40	\$211,309.69	\$395,538.73

*At the time of this report, no information on 4th quarter mutual fund interest was available.

2019 Benevolence Paid to Synod	\$6,266.00
Checking Account Balance – January 1, 2019	\$ 56,282.85
Checking Account Balance – December 31, 2019	\$149,692.36

Investments - Certificates of Deposits and Savings as of December 31, 2019

Interest only endowments:	Principle	Interest Designation
Davis Fund-Edward Jones	\$156,725.86*	75% Current Expenses 25% Discretionary
Weiss Fund PNB Mutual Funds	82,827.12*	33% Youth Ministries 67% Youth Education
Lambert Fund PNB Mutual Funds	22,464.67*	100 % Current Expenses

Principle & Interest Designated Funds:	Amount
Savings: Heartland Bank - money market	\$69,270.23
includes Lucas Bible Fund	<u>+2,330.70</u>
Weiss Interest	<u>+4,010.00</u>
Total	\$75,610.93

Designated Funds	Amount	Designation
Edward Jones Danford Fund	\$14,588.13*	Interest for Seminarian (\$3,185.13 accumulated interest)
Edward Jones Ponser Fund	87,230.88*	74% Major Property Exp 26% Undesignated
Edward Jones Youth Gathering Fund	10,920.62 *	100% Youth Gathering Exp

Undesignated Funds

Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA 22,043.80

**does not include December interest.*

Bob & Ruth Watson Thrivent Fund 61,642.49*

**At the time of this report, no information on 4th quarter mutual fund interest was available.*

– Report Submitted by Financial Secretary, Kerrill Foster 01/8/2019

WOMEN of the ELCA: *Co-Chairs, Diane Ganz & Kerrill Foster, secretary, Shirley Campbell, Treasurer – Debbie Anctil*

2019 was another busy year for the Women of the ECLA at St. Paul’s. We support our activities by raising funds through our annual rummage and bake sale in April. We have three active circles. For Bible study and fellowship, Ruth Circle meets the **2nd Wednesday** of the month at **9:30 a.m.** and Alice Circle meets the **3rd Thursday** of the month at **1:00 p.m.** Nancy Circle, a more service oriented group, meets irregularly whenever there is a project. In addition to our recurring meetings, we hold four quarterly meetings. I encourage you to pick a Circle and join in the fellowship!

One of our most important ministries continues to be providing a time of fellowship where families and friends can begin to experience healing, wholeness and love in our church after a loss. We do this by providing bereavement luncheons after a funeral or memorial service at no cost to the family. This year we were not called to provide any luncheons. We did host an Irish Potato Bake in March to benefit the Vertical 196 Shelter and made \$1,000! We plan to host the same event in 2020. In November and December, mittens and scarves were collected for the Salvation Army, a project headed by Marti Kolb. All year long, Florence Knerr sent birthday cards to members of the congregation.

– Kerrill Foster, & Diane Ganz, St. Paul’s WELCA

WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE

The Worship and Music Committee has had an active 2019 stepping up to help plan worship while Pastor Betsy is out. The committee worked to enhance the liturgical year and provide meaningful worship services for Lent, Holy Week, Easter, and Pentecost. Starting in June we moved to our summer worship cycle. Summer worship focused on a more simple liturgy, well beloved hymns, and weekly special music provided by musicians from the congregation. The high point in our summer worship came during the last two weeks of August. On 8/18 we celebrated the feast of Mary, Mother of God with representatives from the Church of the North in Germany. The following week we welcomed Bishop Suzanne to worship and learned about the exciting initiatives taking place in our synod. Fall brought the services of St. Michael and All the Angels, a choral mass to celebrate the 502nd Anniversary of the Reformation, and a touching All Saints service to remember our departed brothers and sisters in Christ. In September we also welcomed our new choir and bell director, Michael Belt, to St. Pauls. He is doing an excellent job and learning the ropes quickly. For our Advent season a special service of Lessons and Carol was celebrated, and we hope that this will start a new tradition at St. Paul's. As always the Christ Mass was a festive celebration to close out the year and take time to reflect on everything we have accomplished. We are looking forward to 2020 and finding ways to enhance worship.

-Matt Hummel, Worship Committee

VARIOUS BENEVOLENT PROJECTS of the congregation:

1. The Licking County Coalition of Care, The coalition attempts to help people in need through monetary and other assistance to help with rent and utility payments, prescription costs, and other very basic human needs. At St. Paul's we support this ministry through a special offering received on the first weekend of each month. In 2019 a total of **\$2,933.00** was donated by the members of St. Paul's and given to the Coalition of Care for distribution. Some members of the parish volunteer in their office or assist with the annual fund-raiser. The Coalition continues to hold its monthly board meeting in our parish hall.

2. The Center for the Visually Impaired is a social agency housed at St. Paul's that provides services to severely visually impaired, low income individuals. The program is supported by United Way, the Lions Clubs of Licking County, and the Senior Citizen Levy. St. Paul's has provided housing to the agency for over 30 years. Among its services is the providing of eye exams and glasses for indigent people as well as homebound services to senior citizens. In 2019, it provided exams, purchased pairs of glasses, and gave out low vision aids

3. The Licking County Food Pantry The food pantry is also one of the services we support. Imperishable food items and staples are brought in to the church and then taken to the main pantry for distribution. We also collect money-off coupons for the pantry to distribute.

4. Licking County Humane Society Jodie Nickles, Coordinator. Thanks to everyone who donated items to the Licking County Humane Society through the church. We had donated many items including the dog treats made by the youth in February, cat food, dog food, towels, leashes, sweaters for small dogs, scarves, and numerous cleaning items. Please continue to serve our community by helping the animals who are homeless, abused or need relocated. Together we can all make a difference in these animals' lives. Please continue to give to the Humane Society. God bless all of us and God's creatures big and small.

5. 1st United Methodist Church Community Dinner – Gift Card Program. John Grangaard Coordinator During 2019, I sold 256 gift cards for a total of \$4,210. Each retailer has a different percentage of the card value that is returned to the charity ranging from 2.5% to as much as 10%, with most in the range of approximately 8%. Over the year of 2019, we have contributed \$224 for the funding of the community meal. FUMC serves over 300 meals on the second Wednesday of every month from 5:00 to 6:00 pm. Thanks to everyone who has helped by using the Scrips cards program.

ORGANIZATIONS THAT WE REGULARLY HOST:

Narcotics Anonymous was added during 2006 as a group meeting on Friday evenings in Danford Hall at 7:00 p.m. to assist people trying to live free of narcotics. It operates on much the same formula as A.A. Meetings continue to be held in Danford Hall on Friday evenings at 7 p.m.

Alcoholics Anonymous In 2019, AA met in Weisgerber Lounge on Saturday evenings from 5-6 p.m., and a group meets in Danford Hall on Saturday mornings at 11 a.m. Another group joined us this year, and they meet at 6 p.m. on Saturday evenings in Weisgerber Lounge.

Alpha Pi Sigma Sorority – These ladies meet in Weisgerber Lounge the second Tuesday of every month.

Tuesday Remnants is a splinter group of the Heart of Ohio Quilters. They meet in Danford Hall every 4th Tuesday morning from 10 to noon.

LOOK FOR THE FORWARD TO BE MAILED OUT ON JANUARY 21, 2020!

THE ANNUAL REPORT January 14, 2019
St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
67 North Fifth Street (at Locust)
Newark, OH 43055

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Newark, OH 43055
Permit Number 117