

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church Newark, Ohio

Annual Report

FOR THE YEAR 2018

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 26/27, 2018**

PASTOR'S REPORT

As we come to the end of 2018, it is encouraging to see some new faces in worship, and some returning faces we haven't seen in a while! We have been sad to say farewell to some brothers and sisters who now worship around the throne of the Lamb, face to face. It has been delightful to "bear with" the distractions new babies and grandbabies bring in our worship and fellowship. We have rejoiced with those who rejoice, especially Juli Rauch as she married Jordan Fantini this fall, with graduates from high school, with confirmands Ryleigh Jones, Carys Williams and Ella Young, and a first communicant, Liam Peterson. We have wept with those who weep, especially with Webb Mills after Elsie's death Christmas Eve, and ... In short, we have been about the business of being the body of Christ, equipped and equipping one another to be hands and feet of Christ walking in the world. That all by itself would be enough.

But how can we do better? How can we rise to our better natures, overcome dissatisfactions and discomforts—maybe even overcome that with which we've become *too* comfortable? Business as usual is no longer usual in the cataclysmic shifts under our feet as we walk in the world these days. No amount of wishing things will go back to being the way things were will work, even if the way things were seemed very good to us and certainly the good work of the Holy Spirit among us. Indeed, the Holy Spirit worked mightily in our midst, and we grew like Jesus—in wisdom, and stature, in numbers and the fear of the Lord—when all around us the world was growing likewise. We were faithful to our Lord's mission. I want to remind you as we begin a new year that the Holy Spirit *has not stopped calling us and working among us*. (To say otherwise is what that "sin against the Holy Spirit" is about.) Paul wrote the young man Timothy, "I am confident of this very thing, that the one who began a good work in you will not cease until the day it is completed in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ." To think otherwise is to doubt the Spirit of Christ who dwells in and among us. These are serious matters. The Listening Post Report from the Synod revealed we have serious matters to attend to, and the leaders of our congregation have not forgotten them or you. These matters may not be resolved according to everyone's wishes or desires, but then again, that isn't what a church is for. We are called into being according to God's wishes, dreams and desires for us and all the world God so loved. Whenever you catch yourself (and you should) saying "They" about your church, St. Paul's, I want you to stop that. Your church is "US" and "WE" and "TOGETHER" and "WITH." There is no part of the body of Christ that is a "They." Every part of the body of Christ belongs to the others. That's a "We." When you catch yourself, put "We" into the sentence instead. Does that make things more understandable? What part of "We" are you, and what part of the path forward are YOU? Then, with courage, kindness, vision and compassion, answer with the young boy Samuel who heard the voice in the middle of the night. "Here I am, Lord."

Pastor Betsy Williams

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

St Paul's has dealt with some changes and challenges in 2018.

We have had two staffing changes this year that have required some adjustments by church members. The first change was the secretary position. Jodie Nickles started at the beginning of 2018. Jodie works part-time (20 hours/week), her work hours are M-F 10 am to 2 pm. She is not a

member of the church, and does not know all the history behind the people and traditions at St Paul's. Please keep that in mind when some things that magically happened in the past do not just happen; it might be that she was not made aware. Please be patient, talk to her and inform her if something is missed or incorrect. Also, we no longer have a full-time Sexton, but have contracted with a cleaning company for 15-20 hours/week. Having a cleaning service means members must be more mindful of cleaning up after themselves after an event or meeting as we no longer have cleaning services M—F.

The biggest challenge the church council faced going into 2018 was dealing with unhealthy communication practices within our congregation. There seemed to be folks within the congregation dissatisfied with the church leadership, but very little of this information was brought directly to the church council as a concern. This left the council in a position of not knowing the true issues on the minds of our church members.

Recognizing this lack of clear communication between members and leadership was not only unhealthy, but also detrimental to the future of St Paul's, the church council requested the assistance of the Southern Ohio Synod. Pastor Bob Abrams met with the church council and gave some insight and some options for dealing with our gap in communication.

After carefully considering the options, the council voted to have a third party work with the congregation to help discover what the true "issues" are at St Paul's. This process was called the Listening Process or Listening Post and was made up of four trained personnel from the Southern Ohio Synod Congregational Resource Team. All members of the congregation were encouraged to participate in this exercise. The resource team reviewed 67 written surveys and in May conducted 44 interviews. In September, all four members of the Resource Team returned to St Paul's to distribute the contents of the 19 page Listening Process Report. We discovered the four main obstacles that seem to inhibit our ability to thrive as a group are: communication, dealing with change, governance, mission/vision for the congregation.

In mid-November, the church council met with Pastor Abrams for a retreat. The focus of this retreat was to stimulate thoughts of how to effectively use the information that was gathered in the Listening Process. Our plan as a council for 2019 is to identify the most critical areas brought forth in the Listening Process and to set some concrete goals to make improvements in those areas.

As we head into 2019, I would like every one of St Paul's members to continue to review the Listening Report and ask the questions "How can I help get past these obstacles?" and "How can I make my church even better?" The church council cannot and will not "fix" these issues. It will take the effort of every member of St Paul's working together to make improvements that can allow us to continue to thrive as a congregation.

Respectfully, Amanda S. John, Church Council President

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

-- Sunday School Coordinator

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 7 boxes of fixings for a Thanksgiving meal this year, which included the turkey, side dishes and desserts. This year the bulk of the funds were provided by a Thrivent Action Grant.

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, Jackie Sainsbury, Jodie Nickles, Anne Daly, Lindsay Freytag, and Linda Smart.

Linda Smart, Chairperson

EVANGELISM

This fall, with input from the congregation, we completed a banner that was hung from the bell tower, communicating better with the neighborhood just who St. Paul's is. While a windstorm damaged the frame and knocked it off the tower, the banner itself is intact and once the frame is ready, it will be back on display.

For those inclined to online communication, there are plenty of posts to the church Facebook page. Spread the word that the Word and music are available online there in abundance. And for those who join us on Sunday, there are also cookies available by the coffee station... one more reason to invite people to stick around and talk after church.

If you're interested in taking part in our evangelism efforts or discussion, or in helping to welcome visitors and the community to St. Paul's, please talk to any of us before or after services. Thank you.

Ruth Graham, Steve Wiersma, Jerry Young, Evangelism Committee

FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP:

Faith and Fellowship had a great year. We went to the LMH Game Show at the Midland, C-Tec for a breakfast and program, Olde Dutch Restaurant in Logan, Ohio, Flint Ridge Museum tour with our own Tim Jordan, Midland Movie, Weathervane for 42nd Street performance, Roscoe Village, and Glass Blowing in St Louisville. We also enjoyed two programs at the church: Cheryl Seabright taught us about Tai Chi and we met for our Christmas Dinner and white elephant exchange. Next year promises to be equally as fun. Faith and Fellowship is open to all. We would like to have you join us.

--Paul & Connie Baker, Chairpersons

FOUR CHURCH FARM REPORT:

I'd like to begin by saying the Four Church Farm meeting is the 3rd Tuesday of the Month except December and February. 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 are 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 anyone from all the churches to mow or any other upkeep that needs to be done, and if there's a 5th Wednesday the same as the 4th.

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. There was a good turnout and everybody seemed to have a good time visiting and sharing our meal. There were also some games going on and with the playground and the trails in the woods, I believe everyone had a great time.

We will miss Pastor Kristin Santiago, as she pursues her career at Hospice in Columbus as of October 2018. She was Secretary of the Four Church Farm Committee and always a lot of help for preparation for the Hog Roast as well as her help at the Easter Service at the farm and we're all blessed to know her.

The officers for the coming year are, President Dan Fischer, Vice President Matthew Clark, Treasurer and Chaplain Pastor William Rauch, and Secretary Mark Finck, as of the election of officers on November 20, 2018. Our first meeting of the new year will be January 15th, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church in Heath, Ohio.

Mark Finck, Secretary, Four Church Farm

HEART AND SOUL CLASS

This Sunday morning class has featured a variety of thought-provoking discussions (from Zionism to the ELCA youth gathering), explorations of religious diversity (from Mormonism to the Evangelical movement), history, Medieval drama, feast days, and interesting authors. Over the summer, we continued our alternate schedule of "Wednesday night Sunday school, pairing discussion with related films. This spring, we'll be talking about anti-Semitism and the foundations of hate, as well as the Christian writings of C.S. Lewis. All ages can attend, there's no homework required, and questions and opinions are always welcome.

Jerry Young, Heart and Soul Class

NURSERY SCHOOL:

Thank you to the nursery attendants that were available as needed to staff the nursery. It is appreciated.

--Jean Hovland, Coordinator

PROPERTY COMMITTEE: *Committee Members: Charles Laidlaw-Smith, Russ Hovland, John Jordan, and Diane Ganz*

In 2018 a new committee assumed responsibility for supervising cleaning personnel inside the church buildings. However, as in the past, Russ and John have taken care of routine maintenance problems throughout the year. This has included replacing malfunctioning faucets in bathrooms and the sacristy and installing a new garbage disposal in the kitchen. High humidity in Pastor Betsy's office led us to purchase and install a dehumidifier for the room. Over the past year all the light fixtures in the sanctuary and in the chapel have been fitted with energy efficient LED lights, and additional fixtures were installed in the chancel to improve visibility.

Building security has long been a concern at St. Paul's. Committee members investigated security systems available and consulted other area churches about what practices they follow. We are concerned about the safety of staff and members, while maintaining accessibility for both parishioners and outside users. After careful consideration, we engaged a local locksmith to change all of locks on exterior entries to the Education Building. Each door has a unique lock. New keys were then assigned to members who wished to have them and to outside users who needed them. Non-members have paid a deposit in order to hold a key to only the west entrance. If/when you no longer need a key, please return it to the church office. These keys cannot be copied.

In answer to parishioners' concerns we engaged Buckeye Wildlife Solutions to inspect our buildings for bat infestation. They provided a report detailing possible entry points that could be closed. Over a period of time Russ has closed these, hoping that any bats would seek a new home. Very little evidence of bats has been seen in recent months.

The Pro-Teen Center, an online education provider, rented space in the second floor of the education building until November 1. Phoenix Academy continues to use our parking lot for staff parking during school hours at no charge and snow removal in the parking lot is provided to us by Mr. Stickle at no charge.

We continue to take responsibility for maintenance of the exterior property at St. Paul's. Russ has done most of the lawn-mowing for the past few years and he and other members have taken responsibility for clearing snow from walks and entrances. This autumn we engaged David Kitzmiller to take care of snow removal on an as needed basis. We reseeded areas that needed additional grass after our landscaping work in 2017.

Since the Abitibi dumpster is no longer in the parking lot to receive paper, we are no longer collecting recycling, except for aluminum cans. These should be placed in the container beside the pop machine. Our dumpster for waste is now located at the end of the west alley near Locust Street, because trucks were breaking the concrete apron by the funeral home garage.

Tammy and Hank Trites graciously offered to donate their time to maintain the landscape plantings on an ongoing basis. Hopefully you have noticed the seasonal flowers that have graced entry areas throughout the year. We are most appreciative of their efforts.

Diane Ganz, Property Committee

RENTAL PROPERTY COMMITTEE:

All of the six rental properties are currently rented. As of November 1, 2018, the management of the properties is now being cared for by a committee within the church with Jim Rengert as chairperson, Charles Laidlaw-Smith, Kerrill Foster, Dick Daly, Dan Fischer and Al Miller.

We certainly thank and appreciate Mark and Debbie Ancil for the past four years of managing the properties.

Most all of the properties are in good repair with normal repairs to be made. One of the goals of the committee for 2019 will be to establish a yearly budget for capital improvements when needed.

We were very blessed to be able to return over \$33,000 to the general fund in 2018.

-- Jim Rengert, Rental Properties

ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT

January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018

Account Name	Receipts	Disbursements	Ending Balance
General Operating Fund	\$228,266.08	\$217,241.83	\$54,007.10
Altar Flowers & Candles	2138.75	3,111.95	355.99
Christian Education	1,699.05	2,782.13	0.00
Youth Ministry	2916.43	(1176.49)*	18,001.88
Benevolence	6,095.50	6,095.50	0.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	1,229.17	1,881.98	1,463.00
Memorial Fund	515.00	0.00	2077.69
Homer Jones Memorial Fund	0.00	4979.84	20.16
Matthew's Kitchen Fund Balance	0.00	0.00	197.89
Community Outreach	3,942.92	3,874.92	90.49
Rental Property	52,702.59	51,040.40	13,056.04
Mary A. Ponser Bequest	1,881.66	6,966.45	77,650.56
Thrivent Choice Dollars Fund	4,726.00	997.50	14,807.94
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	3,538.53+	0.00	61,642.49
Margaret Ann Dupler Fund	1,864.41	3,353.35	38,752.28
Total	\$312,498.09	\$301,149.36	\$285,554.21

**Holy Trinity and Christ Lutheran reimbursed Youth Gathering expenses incurred in 2017 in 2018.*

+Includes both 2017 and 2018 interest

2018 Benevolence Paid to Synod	\$6,095.50
Checking Account Balance – January 1, 2018	\$ 42,880.75
Checking Account Balance – December 31, 2018	\$56,115.25*

**does not include December florist's bill*

Investments - Certificates of Deposits and Savings as of December 31, 2017

<u>Interest only endowments:</u>	Principle	Interest Designation
Davis Fund-Edward Jones	\$140,992.46	75% Current Expenses 25% Discretionary
Weiss Fund PNB Mutual Funds	76,676.75	33% Youth Ministries 67% Youth Education
Lambert Fund PNB Mutual Funds	20,820.98	100 % Current Expenses

Principle & Interest Designated Funds:	Amount	Designation
Savings: Heartland Bank - money market	\$69,239.98	
includes Lucas Bible Fund	+2,330.70	
Weiss Interest	+4,010.00	
Total	\$75,580.68	
Designated Funds		
Edward Jones Danford Fund	\$12,829.61	Interest for Seminarian (\$1,426.61 accumulated interest)
Edward Jones Ponser Fund	77,650.56	74% Major Property Exp 26% Undesignated
Edward Jones Youth Gathering Fund	9,872.5	100% Youth Gathering Exp

Undesignated Funds

Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA	21,586.49*
<i>*does not include December interest.</i>	
Bob & Ruth Watson Thrivent Fund	61,642.49

– Report Submitted by Financial Secretary, Kerrill Foster 01/12/2018

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

2018 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. 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 & Music Committee had a year of transition in 2018. With Pastor Betsy more settled in at St. Paul's, the committee has evolved to help support her in her role as pastor. John Jordan stepped down as the chair of the committee but will still play a vital role on the committee and future artistic projects. During 2018 the youth choir continued to join the Covenant Choir and the feedback has been very positive. In February the committee worked with the youth group to host a Shrove Sunday breakfast before Ash Wednesday. Special music was arranged during Wednesday Lenten evening prayer by members of the congregation. The Newark Good Friday Tre Ora Service was held at St. Paul's along with additional Holy Week Services. In June, our choir director Josh Ice held a secular music concert to great reviews. During the summer months, special music was provided by members of the congregation during the offering. Two special festivals to honor Mary Magdalene and the Blessed Virgin Mary were held in July and August, which helped break up the long season of Pentecost. For the 501st anniversary of the Reformation in October a special Choral Mass was held. At the mass, the congregation was able to sing hymns written by Martin Luther. November offered the congregation a season to meditate on peace and remember those who now dwell eternally with the Lord. A Special service to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the ending of WW1 was held with the installation of a Coventry Cross and bell ringing. Advent and Christmas brought the children's pageant, special Magnificat service, and the Christ Mass on Christmas Eve.

As we move into 2019 we continue to be blessed with a dedicated team of sacristans, musicians, and artists who enhance each one of our services. Liturgy is truly the work of the people.

-Matt Hummel, Worship Committee

YOUTH MINISTRY COMMITTEE:

--Youth Ministry Chairperson

VARIOUS BENEVOLENT PROJECTS of the congregation:

1. The Coalition of Care of Licking County, 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 2018 a total of **\$2,559.00** 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 Licking County 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 year 2018, 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 Jackie Sainsbury/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 and 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 2018, I sold 258 gift cards for a total of \$4,285. 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 2018, this has contributed \$226 for the funding of the community meal. FUMC serves over 300 meals on the second Wednesday of every month from 5:00 to 6:30 pm. Thanks to everyone who has helped by using the Scripts cards program.

6. Community Advent Dinner Together with Holy Trinity we sponsor a community dinner during the first three Wednesdays of Advent. This year, Holy Trinity hosted the first two dinners at their church, and the third dinner due to its size was held at St. Paul's. Over 190 folks came to the dinner at our church, were served a meal, received God's word, and were given gifts by Santa Claus.

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 2018, AA met in Weisgerber Lounge on Saturday evenings from 5-6 p.m., and a new group began meeting in Danford Hall on Saturday mornings at 11 a.m.

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 22, 2019!

THE ANNUAL REPORT January 15, 2019
St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
67 North Fifth Street (at Locust)
Newark, OH 43055

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