

# THE FORWARD

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF  
ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
NEWARK, OHIO DECEMBER 17, 2019  
Church Phone: 740-345-6115 Web Site: <[www.stpaulselca.org](http://www.stpaulselca.org)>



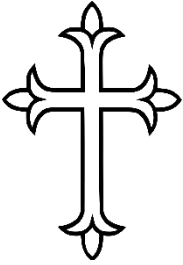
Pastor: Reverend Betsy M. Williams  
Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. John D. Stroup  
Congregation Council President: Mandy S. John  
Office Secretary: Jodie Nickles  
Church Phone: 740-345-6115

Home Phone: 740-588-3620  
Home Phone: 614-920-4575  
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Mon-Fri 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
Web Site: [www.stpaulselca.org](http://www.stpaulselca.org)

My favorite Christmas Carol is **“It Came Upon A Midnight Clear.”** It was written in 1849 by a Unitarian Minister, William Sears. It is an unusual carol since there is no mention of the Christ Child or the Manger scene. As a Unitarian, Sears’ concern in the carol is the turmoil brought about by the lack of world peace. He wrote it at the end of the Mexican-American War and during the conflict over revolution in Europe. His main theme is set forth in the third verse which, unfortunately, is missing from most hymnals. Here it is: ***Yet with the woes of sin and strife, the world has suffered long, Beneath the angel-strain has rolled two thousand years of wrong; And man at war with man hears not the love song which they bring; O hush the noise ye men of strife, and hear the angels sing.***

Today’s world is not much different than the world of 1849—or for that matter, not much different than the world at the time of Jesus’s birth. It seems that the world is still deaf to the voices of the angels bringing their message of “Peace on Earth.” We will sing this carol during the Christmas Eve Worship Service this year with the third verse included. The birth of the Christ Child was God’s message of bringing Peace and Hope and Joy to a world that for too long had failed to hear that message. In the Christ, God was entering the world in a very special way as the Almighty Deity dawned the flesh and body of the human world. It was God’s action that would bring Salvation and Hope to all humankind.

Today the angels that spoke words of Peace to shepherds on a hillside outside Bethlehem, also speak to us and to our world today. They speak a message of peace and hope and joy that comes to all those who open their lives and hearts to receive the message. So, as you are celebrating Christmas this year with your families and friends, listen carefully—perhaps in a moment of silence in this noisy world—to the message of the angels, “Peace on earth goodwill to all people.” It is God’s message of Salvation and Peace and Hope to you and to all who will listen and take seriously the voices of the angels. May the Birth of the Christ Child bring Peace and Hope and Joy to you and to your loved ones this Christmas. *Pastor John Stroup, D. Min. Interim pastor*



**PRAYERS** Our prayers are requested for the following people: *Dawn Campbell, Mary Beamer, Jan Rengert, Davey Saylor, Matthew Rauch, Marty Altmaier, Terri Beamer, Ruth White, Paul Baker, Mike Contoin, Ginny Baker, Stan Mozer, Bob Foster, Betsy Williams, Tricia Queen, Logan Johnson, Steve Sukara, & Jeff Kinser.*

**Those with Long-Term Prayer Concerns:** *Ginny Baker, Terrie Baker, Dawn Campbell, Fred Citrone, Ernest & Wanda Cooperider, Rose Godenschwager, Wilma Keller, Betty Neighbarger, Terry Nelson, Frances Slebodnik, Gretchen Treneff, Margaret Marx, Alice Smith.*

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

*Our sympathy to Richard and Anne Daly on the death of Dick's brother, Mike Daly who died November 28<sup>th</sup>.*

**Notes to the Church and Congregation:**

**Services on Christmas Eve:**

**Early Service – 3 p.m. An abbreviated service in the Church. Communion will be celebrated, no special music.**

**The Christ Mass – Special Music begins at 10 p.m. Communion is celebrated. Candlelight service.**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME** to experience the fellowship we offer by joining us for coffee/tea & occasional snack before or after the 9:30 a.m. Church Service in the lobby of the educational building each week.

**SO WHY ARE THERE STAKES IN THE YARD?** The City of Newark is planning the Ohio EPA mandated 4<sup>th</sup> Street Combined Sewer Overflow Separation Project. As part of the project the City plans to install a traffic circle at the intersection of Locust St., Granville St., and N. Fifth St. To do this, they need to purchase additional right of way from the church in front of the sign. The City has

offered a fair market price of \$872 for the right of way and we are negotiating with them to pay to replace the existing sign. Don't worry the project is not slated to reach us until the fall of 2022. More information is available on the lobby bulletin board.

**THANKS TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED** in Nine Lessons and Carols. It was a wonderful program and we could not have done it without you.

**BREADS OF THE WORLD**-Once again we are asking for bakers to help us celebrate world missions by providing breads from around the world for communion during the time after Epiphany. Be it rye bread from Norway, Naan from India, Bao from China or anything in between. If you are interested, please see Terri Beamer.

**BACK TO WORK ON OUR MISSION.** After your input this summer and an examination of our spiritual gifts, we are ready to delve back into developing a mission for the congregation. We were asked to provide information on programs and needs identified by the ELCA, the Synod and the Community. We are kicking off this information in January starting with ELCA programs that cross the globe and the country. During the Lenten season we will focus on local needs and programs. Look for more information in the bulletins and the Forward.

**IT'S WINTER WEATHER SEASON.** Remember if there is a level 2 snow emergency in Licking County we will not have services or activities. We love you all and want to keep you safe.

**BIG CONGREGATION MEETINGS!!!** The weekend of January 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> we will be voting to approve the 2019 annual report.

**WELCA NEWS** Ruth Circle – will meet Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. on January 8<sup>th</sup> at Florence Knerr's Alice Circle – will meet Thursday January 16<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. at the I-Hop on 79 for an after Christmas brunch.

**ANNUAL REPORT!!!** Everyone who is responsible for having a committee or group report in the Annual Report needs to have those in the office (emailed preferably) by January 8<sup>th</sup> 2020. Thanks!

**THANK YOU, LINDA SMART** – After 60 years of serving in congregational care, Linda Smart is stepping down from the committee. Thank you Linda, for your dedication to the congregation of St. Paul's!!! In her place, Gail Grangaard and Debbie Anctil will be chairing the committee.

### **THE WHEN'S AND THE WHERE'S**

- **ST. PAUL'S BOOK CLUB** meets the third Monday evening of each month at 7 p.m.
- **MATTHEW'S KITCHEN** continues to meet the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in Danford Hall.
- **GAME NIGHT – December 20<sup>th</sup>** 7p.m. in Weisgerber Lounge. Bring your favorite board or card games or play someone else's favorite. Bring along a snack to share.
- **YOUTH NEWS** The January breakfast is canceled. Look for us in February.
- **FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP** the date for our Christmas party is December 18<sup>th</sup> at noon in Danford Hall. Be searching for your white elephant gift. The meeting in January is on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Members and Friends of St. Paul's,

At this time of year, it has been our custom here at St. Paul's to offer our congregation the opportunity to give a monetary Christmas gift to the members of our church staff including our Pastor, Choir Director, Organist, Secretary, Financial Secretary and Janitor. If you are interested in participating this year, please make your check out to St. Paul's Lutheran Church and mail it to the church office to the attention of the Treasurer. Please indicate how you wish for your gift to be distributed.

The gift will be presented at the Christmas Eve services. If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call at 360-551-5046, or e-mail me at [mandydjb@aol.com](mailto:mandydjb@aol.com). Thank you for your time and have a blessed Advent and Christmas!

Yours in Christ,  
Amanda John, Congregation Council President

## ALTAR FLOWERS AND SANCTUARY LAMP CANDLES

**\*The new 2020 Candle and Flower charts are up and ready to be filled out! Please remember to also fill out a yellow sheet and turn that into the office! All flowers and candles are available for January!\***

**December 22<sup>nd</sup>** – One vase of flowers is given by Marti Kolb Conner to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas! The second vase is given by Steve and Janet Gall in memory of Steve's mother, ***Minnie Bell Gall*** whose birthday would have been Christmas Day. The candle is given by Starr Cummings in honor of her daughter, ***Mary Cummings Kosman*** whose birthday is December 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**December 29<sup>th</sup>** – We will have poinsettias. The candle is given by Webb Mills in memory of his wife, Elsie.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Received 11/10/2019:	Year to Date	Attendance
Current      \$ 2,363.00	\$166,521.37	Sat. 4 p.m.    19
Benevolence <u>26.00</u>	<u>5,434.00</u>	Sun. 9:30 a.m. <u>75</u>
Total            \$2,389.00	\$ 171,955.37	S.S. <u>16</u> Total   94

Received 11/17/2019:	Year to Date	Attendance
Current      \$ 2,284.00	\$168,805.37	Sat. 4 p.m.    16
Benevolence <u>151.00</u>	<u>5,585.00</u>	Sun. 9:30 a.m. <u>65</u>
Total            \$2,435.00	\$ 158,472.37	S.S. <u>33</u> Total   81

Received 11/24/2019:	Year to Date	Attendance
Current      \$ 1,983.00	\$170,788.37	Sat. 4 p.m.    16
Benevolence <u>26.00</u>	<u>5,611.00</u>	Sun. 9:30 a.m. <u>68</u>
Total            \$2,009.00	\$ 176,399.37	S.S. <u>??</u> Total   84

Received 12/01/2019:	Year to Date	Attendance
Current      \$ 4,306.00	\$175,094.37	Sat. 4 p.m.    14
Benevolence <u>138.00</u>	<u>5,749.00</u>	Sun. 9:30 a.m. <u>85</u>
Total            \$4,444.00	\$ 180,843.37	S.S. <u>21</u> Total   99

*Thank you Thrivent Members for directing your money to St. Paul's!*

Total Income for Operations as of November 30, 2019	\$183,048.38
Total Operating Expenses as of November 30, 2019	<u>- 125,630.49</u>
<b><u>Balance</u></b>	<b>\$ 57,417.89</b>

## **Un-Edited and Un-Approved Council Minutes: November 25, 2019**

Members present: Alice Beamer, Denise Crews, Anne Daly, Mark Finck, Kerrill Foster, Jean Hovland, Mandy John, Charlie Laidlaw-Smith, Joe McDaniel, Al Miller, Jim Rengert, Pastor Stroup. Excused: Greta Blegvad, Matt Hummel, Betsy Williams

**Call to Order:** 7:00pm

**Devotion:** Thrive Information

**Congregational Concerns:** No congregation members present

**Review of Aug. 26, 2019 minutes:**

\*Motion to accept the minutes: Denise Crews, Seconded: Anne Daly. Motion Approved

**Committee Reports:**

\*Motion to accept the reports: Anne Daly, Seconded: Charlie Laidlaw-Smith. Motion Approved

- **Congregational Care:** Submitted written report attached
- **Education: No Report**
- **Evangelism: No Report**
- **Four Church Farm:** Submitted written report attached
- **Mutual Ministry:** Met. no further information
- **Property:** Submitted written report attached
- **Rental Property:** Did not meet in Nov. , all rents have been paid up and all furnaces have been serviced before the winter.
- **Technology/Website:** No Report
- **WELCA: No Report**
- **Worship:** Planned through Epiphany
- **Youth Ministry:** No youth breakfast on the 8th.

**Treasurer's Report:** \*Motion to approve the treasurer's report: Mark Fink, Seconded: Charlie Laidlaw-Smith

**Pastor's Report:** Written report attached

**Old Business:**

- Mecklenburg 2020(20 confirmed) Currently looking for housing for 5 visitors. Activities and transportation to be determined. Meeting the first week in Dec to discuss these
- 2020 church council. We are looking for members, currently we have plenty of women running but few to no men
- TRECA Digital Academy use of Danford Hall Dec 2-6 and 9th and 10th (4 hours each day). Had already found a new location

- Request to be a site for 2 additional AA meeting( Sunday 7pm-8:45pm, average of 15 people and Tuesday 6:15pm-8:15pm, average of 25 people). Follow up on these groups indicated that First Pres had trouble with them. Council agreed to deny their request to use the space.
- Roundabout: The city wants to acquire .003 acres of our land, not including the existing sign. They have offered ~\$870 as a fair market price for the real estate. Council discussed the price of a new sign . December 3rd meeting about the right-of-way

### **New Business:**

- Next Council meeting? Does Dec 30 work? yes.
- Proposed end of year bonuses for church staff

\*motion to give the sexton a \$25 gift card and \$100 to all other employees: Jim Rengert,  
Seconded: Jean Hovland. Motion approved

### **Roundtable: No reports**

**Closing prayer:** The meeting was concluded by reciting the Lord's Prayer

### **Dates to Remember**

Dec 7 & 8- Financial/budget meeting

Dec 14 & 15- Congregational Meeting

Dec 30- Council meeting

Jan 8- Cutoff for annual report

Jan 10- Annual Reports

Jan 12- Installation of new council members

Jan 15- Forward

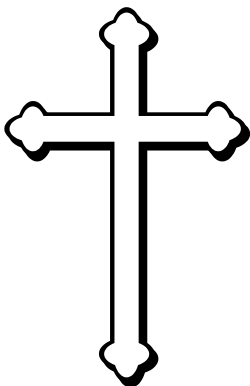
Jan 25 & 26- Congregational Meeting

THE FORWARD December 17, 2019  
St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church  
67 North Fifth Street  
Newark, OH 43055-5031

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization  
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Permit Number 117

**SUNDAY  
SCHEDULE**  
**Traditional Worship**  
**9:30 a.m.**  
**Sunday School for all**  
**ages 11:00 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.**"*