



ST. PAUL HIGHLIGHTS

January 2023

VOLUME 72 ISSUE 01



IMPORTANT DATES FOR THIS MONTH
JAN 1ST-NEW YEAR’S DAY
JAN 2ND-NEW YEAR’S DAY OBSERVED-OFFICE CLOSED
JAN 6TH-EPIPHANY
JAN 16TH-MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY-OFFICE CLOSED

| DATE | TIME | ASSISTING MINISTER | MUSIC LEADERS | ALTAR GUILD | AUDIO/VIDEO | USHERS/ GREETERS |
|------|-------|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| 1/1 | 10:00 | Liz Wittmann | New Day Singers | Barb Spatz Erica Tully | Jeff Campbell Phil Sultan | Team 1st |
| 1/8 | 10:00 | Taffy Pavlick | New Day Singers New Song | | Jeff Campbell Phil Sultan | Team 2nd |
| 1/15 | 10:00 | Cindy Cain | New Day Singers | | Jeff Campbell Phil Sultan | Team 3rd |
| 1/22 | 10:00 | Dean Firing | New Day Singers | | Jeff Campbell Phil Sultan | Team 4th |
| 1/29 | 10:00 | TBD | New Day Singers | | Jeff Campbell Phil Sultan | TBD |



JANUARY CELEBRATIONS

HAVE A CELEBRATION COMING IN FEBRUARY?
 If you have an February celebration you would like in this space,
 Please notify the office by **January 13th.**



Pastor's Corner

This last Sunday, December 25th, Christmas Day, was the worst attended Sunday service we've had since I've been at St. Paul. It might be the worst attended Sunday service in our congregation's history. We had a small choir, a family of ushers, and just enough people for one communion table at the altar rail. But there's no place I would have rather been.

I don't think that anyone should feel pressured to go to church on Christmas Day (even though the Church **invented** Christmas Day). No one, that is, except for the pastor. The pastor is responsible for the public proclamation of the Christian message, and the administration of Christ's mass. For the pastor to fail to administer Christ's mass on Christmas would always be incongruous with the pastor's calling.

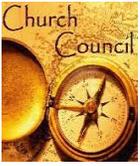
Some of you know that while I pastored a previous church, I sold cars to supplement my income. While at the dealership, I had to work on a number of holidays that other people had off. But on Christmas, the dealership gave me the day off. Now, as a full time pastor, I have most holidays off. But the one I don't is Christmas. That just comes with the job. I get to enjoy Memorial Day, the 4th of July, and Labor Day with my wife and kiddo while all my car selling buddies are on the lot. But on Christmas, while they're with their families (finally!), I'm on the job. And that's just the way it is.

I don't blame anyone for not going to church on Christmas. I understand that Christmas has largely become a secular family holiday with leisurely breakfasts, opening gifts under the tree, and mid-afternoon dinners. And I love all of that. Throw in "Christmas Vacation," and football, and I'm all in.

But the truth is, not everyone has money, leisure time, or family. Some people are poor, overworked, and lonely. The only place that they can truly celebrate Christmas with anything approaching family is the Church. And if the Church is closed on Christmas, they can't even do that.

So, as long as I have strength of mind and body, St. Paul will be taking care of business on Christmas Day. I'll be putting on a service. And while I'm grateful for an organist, a choir, ushers, and a member or two of the altar guild to help, I don't want to obligate anyone else on Christmas. I can put on the service myself if need be. All it really takes is a pastor, a Bible, and a little bit of bread and wine.

Again, Merry Christmas,
Pastor Dan



COUNCIL CORNER

Good day fellow members of St Paul,

As we wrap up 2022, we wanted to update you on some changes on the finance side of St Paul.

First, we want to thank Lynnette Ozanich for her 20 plus years of service to St Paul as Bookkeeper and Treasurer. Lynnette has been a good steward of the finances and we appreciate her years of hard work.

We have hired a new bookkeeper, Nancy Early. Nancy comes with over 30 years of experience with the Lakewood Public Schools system. Lynnette is staying on through the month of January and will begin working with Nancy soon to transition the duties.

Dennis Mille has volunteered to take on the role of Treasurer on an interim basis. We will work to find someone to permanently fill the role over the next year. Dennis provides us a great bridge until we find a more permanent solution. Thank you, Dennis, for your service.

In case you had not noticed or seen, St Paul has begun marketing via ValPak coupon inserts. Special thank you, goes to Dennis Mille here for the research and development of our monthly inserts. We have seen an uptick in visitors that we attribute to the inserts.

We hope you all have a blessed holiday season.

Jon Montag

Council Members: Gary Grizzell, Chris Hall, Amy Hofmann, Lisa Nelson-Firing, Dennis Mille, Jon Montag, Phil Sultan, Donna Tindera, Erika Tully and Pastor Skillman.

Outgoing members: Jon Montag and Erika Tully

New Members: Mike King, Randy Hamilton and Wes Hansen

2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES



The **2023 Offering Envelopes** are ready to be picked up! They are in the Hallway outside the Parlor. If you are unable to pick them up we can mail them to you. If there is not a box with your name on it and you want them, just let the Office Staff know at 440-243-1144.



PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Refrigeration cooler #6 in the Kitchen pass-through has been repaired and is no longer collecting water on the floor of the refrigerator cabinet (or the floor around the refrigerator).

Last month's report stated that the property Committee will be reviewing the items on the 15 Year Plan over the next couple months as new projects, both necessary and desirable are added, and the priority of the items are reevaluated for urgency based on current factors such as how well the parking lot survives the coming winter. On Christmas Eve, "survival of the winter" presented another issue that did not survive the arctic test our weather has provided. A water line in the ceiling near entrance door #3 froze and split open creating an indoor waterfall. By the time you read this, the water line will have been repaired, but there will still be investigation and conversation regarding the ceiling & insulation integrity.

Now the usual monthly reminder: When the major repairs and replacement of parts of St. Paul was built into the budget almost nine years ago now, the congregation was advised that a 7% increase in giving would be able to support that plan. The congregation has been faithful to their unanimous approval and allowed St. Paul to make several improvements that have reduced the upkeep and operating expenses for the congregation. In last November's congregational meeting, the financial report showed that the level of giving has decreased about 5% in the last year, making it difficult if not impossible to continue with the annual repairs in the future years. Please prayerfully consider what you may be able to do to help offset this decrease so that we can continue to make the necessary repairs and replacements before they become a more costly emergency situation.

Jim Jungeberg – Chairman

Committee Members – Dennis Mille (liaison to council), Bill Goette, Ruth Hamilton, Scott Harkema, Diane Mille, Dave Navy, Linda Jungeberg



WORSHIP COMMITTEE



CANDLELIGHT SINGING OF SILENT NIGHT AT 8PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Despite the severe weather, we had good attendance at both services on Christmas Eve....slightly smaller attendance on Christmas Day. Thanks to all who ventured out to participate! A special Thank You to all who decorated the worship space. You made the space magical!



Committee Members - Dale Hukill, Dean Firing, Judy Stintson, Cindy Cain, Lynn Mallinak, Linda Jungeberg, Marlyn Niksa, Phil Sulton, Wes Hansen



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Growing in 2023

First, let me thank everyone who participated, in any way, in the community events hosted at St. Paul this past year. Your involvement is so greatly appreciated.

As 2022 comes to a close, we begin thinking about 2023 and what our church family will look like. My hope is that it will be a reflection of the love of Jesus Christ that wraps us in his warmth and kindness universally - with open doors and open arms as we welcome new families, community members, students and friends with the message that ALL are welcome.

Over the next year, as a part of Christian Education and Outreach, my goal will be to bring more opportunities for programs to engage and inspire youth, bringing them into the church to share experiences, learn and know that they have found a safe space. It is also my hope to create community programs where seniors and youth can come together to learn about each other by sharing experiences and opportunities.

If you would like to help us grow in 2023 – please feel free to reach out to me and let's talk. One simple thing we can all do is to invite a friend, coworker or neighbor to a Sunday service or to any one of the upcoming events being planned. We humans love to share the good things in our life – a great restaurant, a wonderful vacation spot, a new movie - why not church? Share the joy and love that you feel being a part of our church family with someone in 2023. Ask open-ended questions about whether they've been to church before, if they grew up going to church, and if they'd ever consider attending again. If your potential guest seems uninterested or changes the subject, that's okay. Don't be discouraged—it's not personal. Let them be and **don't press the issue.**

Wishing you all a wonderful 2023 as we continue to grow and love unconditionally so that we can be prepared to recognize Jesus when he comes to us.

Corinne



SHEEP AND GOATS



CHILDREN'S ORGAN TRANSPLANT ASSOC. COTA FOR TEAM CORMACK



Autosomal Recessive Polycystic Kidney Disease (ARPKD) is a rare inherited childhood condition, where the development of the kidneys and liver is abnormal. Over time, either one of these organs may fail. Both Jaina and Chesley Cormack have this disease and are expected to need both liver and kidney transplants. You can help them raise funds for their transplant fund through COTA.org. You can use your Sheep and Goats donation in any special envelope or donate directly via the website.

<https://cota.org/campaigns/cotaforteamcormack/contributions/>

Did You Know?

- The Children's Organ Transplant Association does not charge for its services.
- 100% of funds raised in honor of patients are available for transplant-related expenses.
- COTA funds are available for a patient's lifetime for almost any transplant-related expense.

FINANCIALS

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
Year-to-Date Financial Summary as of:

November 30, 2022

| Income and Expenses Summary | Current Year Actual YTD | Current Year Budget YTD | Over/(Under) Budget | Previous Year Actual YTD |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Income | | | | |
| Congregational Contributions | \$ 260,246.46 | \$ 277,750.00 | \$ (17,503.54) | \$ 276,622.57 |
| Building Use | 4,780.00 | 4,587.00 | 193.00 | 3,925.00 |
| Interest | 11.77 | 10.00 | 1.77 | 7.21 |
| Other Income | 1,760.74 | 1,298.00 | 462.74 | 1,475.27 |
| Total Income | \$ 266,798.97 | \$ 283,645.00 | \$ (16,846.03) | \$ 282,030.05 |
| Expenses | | | | |
| Benevolence | 5,204.93 | 5,555.00 | 350.07 | 5,532.46 |
| Worship | 10,326.90 | 12,049.00 | 1,722.10 | 9,827.06 |
| Programs & Services | 5,254.07 | 7,413.00 | 2,158.93 | 4,007.42 |
| Property | 50,892.22 | 49,763.00 | (1,129.22) | 50,064.37 |
| Staff Salaries and Benefits | 173,827.91 | 180,724.00 | 6,896.09 | 174,209.05 |
| Contracted Services | 20,361.64 | 28,193.00 | 7,831.36 | 27,620.06 |
| Administration & Support | 14,378.35 | 20,609.00 | 6,230.65 | 13,724.55 |
| Total Expenses | 280,246.02 | 304,306.00 | 24,059.98 | 284,984.97 |
| Operating Surplus (Deficit) | \$ (13,447.05) | \$ (20,661.00) | \$ 7,213.95 | \$ (2,954.92) |
| Grant Income | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 40,419.00 |

Income and Expenses Summary Notes:

Overall Comments and Income Review

The YTD period ending November 30, 2022, has an operating deficit of nearly \$13,447, \$10,492 larger than at November 30, 2021. Congregational Contributions through November 2022 are \$16,376 less than contributions received through November 2021, a reduction of 5.9%. Total Income at November 30, 2022, is now \$15,231 less than at November 30, 2021. Congregational Contributions are under budget by \$17,503 and Total Income is under budget by a little more than \$16,846 as of November 30, 2022.

Note: *Other Income* includes periodic gifts made by the Thrivent Choice Donation program, clothing recycling programs, and other miscellaneous unrestricted income.

Expenses Review

Total expenses are under budget by \$7,214 as of November 30, 2022. Total expenses YTD are nearly \$2,955 less than total expenses as of November 2021. Expenses are now about 8% under budget.

Note: Benevolence payments are a percentage of contributions. Therefore, when contributions are higher, benevolence payments are higher. In 2021, we budgeted 2% for the Synod only.

| Balance Sheet Summary | As of November 30, 2022 | As of November 30, 2021 | Variance |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Assets | | | |
| Current Assets (Cash) | \$ 233,850.20 | \$ 219,063.50 | \$ 14,786.70 |
| Invested Assets (Endowment) | 662,895.66 | 742,320.68 | (79,425.02) |
| Total Assets | \$ 896,745.86 | \$ 961,384.18 | \$ (64,638.32) |
| Liabilities | | | |
| Accounts Payable | \$ 5,195.82 | \$ 1,565.14 | \$ 3,630.68 |
| Payroll Protection Program Temp Loan | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Payroll Withholding | 0.00 | 323.65 | (323.65) |
| Accrued Expenses and Other | 300.00 | 300.00 | 0.00 |
| Dedicated Fund Balances | 191,180.99 | 165,344.49 | 25,836.50 |
| Total Liabilities | \$ 196,676.81 | \$ 167,533.28 | \$ 29,143.53 |
| Equity | | | |
| General Fund | \$ 37,173.39 | \$ 52,730.22 | \$ (15,556.83) |
| Investments (Endowment) | 662,895.66 | 741,120.68 | (78,225.02) |
| Total Equity | \$ 700,069.05 | \$ 793,850.90 | \$ (93,781.85) |
| Total Liabilities and Equity | \$ 896,745.86 | \$ 961,384.18 | \$ (64,638.32) |

Balance Sheet Summary Notes:

Dedicated Funds include contributions designated for specific Council-approved categories (i.e. Memorials/Honorariums, Habitat for Humanity, Sheep and Goats contributions, Youth Trips/Projects, Music Ministry, Youth Ministry, and others). These funds are tracked separately and the contributions and/or expenses are not reflected in the Operating Income and Expenses Summary. A complete listing of the current Dedicated Funds can be found on the full balance sheet.

The Market Value of Invested Funds have dropped 11.75% from the beginning of the year, but November did show significant improvement.

NOTE: At Council's request, the value of the Building has been removed from the Balance Sheet to reflect more accurately the current financial position.

THANK YOU!

Pastor Dan and the rest of the staff would like to thank all those who gave us cards, gifts and many expressions of appreciation during the holidays! You mean so much to us!

Pastor Dan Dale Dean Sherrill Corinne



FOOD DONATIONS FOR OTHERS

“NONPERISHABLE” items may be placed in our Food Box outside Door #2 at any time of the day or night.



“PERISHABLE” items may be taken directly to the Berea Community Outreach Food Pantry at: 535 Wyleswood Dr, Berea Please call Natalie at 440-826-5800 X 4401 for hours

You are making a difference in the daily lives of others.



COMMUNITY MEAL NOW TWICE A MONTH!

Free Community Meal available Wednesday January 11th and 25th From 5-6pm-Drive up/Take out from Door #2 here at St. Paul



BEREA SENIOR LUNCHEON

Tuesday January 10th at noon the Senior Luncheon will be held at St. Paul Fellowship Hall. Cost \$5.00

Contact the Berea Community Outreach “Active Senior Network” for reservations at 440 891-3316

MEMORIALS



OFFICIAL ACTS



ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
276 EAST BAGLEY ROAD
BEREA, OHIO 44017
440-243-1144
www.stpaulbera.org

**FIRST CLASS
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



WINTER SAFETY TIPS

-  Avoid slipping on ice-Be sure to wear shoes with good traction and non-skid soles.
-  Dress for warmth-Dress in layers-When going outside, use a scarf to cover your mouth and protect your lungs.
-  Fight wintertime depression-Arrange a check-in system with neighbors and friends, where each person looks in on one or two others daily.
-  Check the car-Get your car serviced before wintertime hits-Checking things like the oil, tires and battery and wipers can make a big difference on winter roads.
-  Prepare for power outages-Make sure you have easy access to flashlights and a battery-powered radio in case the power goes out. Stockpile warm blankets.
-  Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning-Using a fireplace, gas heater or lanterns can lead to carbon monoxide poisoning. Ensure your safety by checking the batteries in your carbon monoxide detector and buying an updated one if you need to.