



ST. PAUL HIGHLIGHTS

May 2023

VOLUME 72 ISSUE 05



Come Holy Spirit

PENTECOST SUNDAY

MAY 28, 2023

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THIS MONTH
MAY 1ST-MAY DAY
MAY 14TH-MOTHER’S DAY
MAY 19TH-LAST DAY OF PRESCHOOL
MAY 28TH-PENTECOST SUNDAY-CONFIRMATION
MAY 29TH- MEMORIAL DAY-OFFICE CLOSED

| DATE | TIME | ASSISTING MINISTER | MUSIC LEADERS | ALTAR GUILD | AUDIO/VIDEO | USHERS/ GREETERS |
|------|-------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| 5/7 | 10:00 | Liz Wittmann | New Day Singers | | Jeff Campbell Phil Sultan | Team 1st |
| 5/14 | 10:00 | Taffy Pavlick | New Day Singers | | Jeff Campbell Phil Sultan | Team 2nd |
| 5/21 | 10:00 | Cindy Cain | New Day Singers | | Jeff Campbell Phil Sultan | Team 3rd |
| 5/28 | 10:00 | Dean Firing | New Day Singers | | Jeff Campbell Phil Sultan | Team 4th |



MAY CELEBRATIONS

HAVE A CELEBRATION COMING IN JUNE?
 If you have a June celebration you would like in this space,
 Please notify the office by **May 19th**.



ON PICKING HEROES

Daniel Skillman / 2023-05

In April of this year, I went to the Niagara Falls Elvis Festival, an event licensed by Elvis Presley Enterprises, featuring some of the top Elvis Tribute Artists (ETAs) in the world. (For my money, Dean Z is the most complete package. Look him up.) You should all come with me next year. But I warn you, you have to be a certain kind of Elvis fan to attend an event like this. Over the course of four days, they put on 7 full professional concerts (including a gospel show on Sunday morning, which I, of course, attended, in lieu of going to a traditional church service), 3 aspiring artists' concerts, and 3 "after parties" which were concerts in themselves. It was easily 26 hours of live performances...and I attended about 23 of them. Now, it's one thing to go to an ETA show, or even head down to Graceland (a pilgrimage I look forward to taking one day). It's another thing to go to show after show for four days straight...and not get tired of it all. By the time the weekend was over, I could feel that I had to get back to real life (who can afford the cost of eating out?). But that wasn't because I'd grown tired of listening to the music of Elvis. I could have stayed in that theater forever. A lot of people like Elvis. I love him. I guess you could say he's a hero of mine.

But everyone has feet of clay. Elvis couldn't seem to keep his hands off the girls, even after getting married. And he pretty clearly had a drug problem, even if those drugs were mostly prescribed by a doctor. Toward what would turn out to be the end of his life, he also had a lot of trouble with eating too much. It seems likely some of his bad habits contributed to his tragic and untimely death. May he rest in peace.

Sooner or later, you're going to discover that your hero, whoever he or she is, is **human**. They make mistakes. They have problems. They aren't quite what their image would suggest. They're certainly not exactly like you picture them in your mind. And when you discover this, that they're human, you're going to be disillusioned. And you're probably even going to blame them. *Dog gone it, Elvis. If you weren't such a drug-addicted, womanizing, peanut butter and banana sandwich eating slob, maybe we could have enjoyed you a little longer.*

But maybe we've got it wrong. Maybe we shouldn't have had a hero in the first place. At least not the type of hero that we normally have. Maybe the problem isn't that we picked the wrong hero...and that we keep on picking the wrong heroes. Maybe the problem is what we're expecting out of our heroes.

Let me see if I can explain. When you pick a hero, ordinarily, unconsciously, you set someone up on a pedestal, and expect a type of practical perfection out of them. They become an idol, a god of sorts, onto whom you project all of your fondest hopes for humanity (or at least that slice of humanity they represent to you). But when they fall short of that standard, as they all inevitably do, you become disillusioned.

Although disillusionment can be painful, it's actually a good thing to go through it. To have an illusion removed is a positive experience. You can see more clearly now. You can

see your hero for who they really are, not just some icon, or thing you made up in your head.

But what usually happens is that when our hero demonstrates that they're only human, we typically pick another hero and dive head first into another illusion. This is exactly the wrong move, and it ultimately winds up in the same place: disillusionment all over again.

Some people, observing this pattern, grow cynical. They absolutely refuse to pick another hero, or even to look up to anybody. But this is also a wrong move. It's one thing to be disillusioned. It's another thing to steadfastly refuse to admire the good qualities of others.

The revelation of our heroes as flawed, and the disillusionment that revelation brings, is something that we usually "overcome" by either picking a new hero, or refusing to pick a hero altogether. But I'd like to suggest a third way. I think it's a good idea to have a hero...or two...or ten. It's good to admire the special talents and qualities that certain people have. But rather than placing our heroes on a pedestal, as we normally do, we can make it a point to remember that the people we look up to are **human** just like us. We can look up to them for certain qualities they possess, even as we remember that not everything is as it seems, and that our heroes are as **human** as we are. We can be grateful for what they bring into our lives and the world, even as we understand that they also bring baggage, and flaws, and imperfections. We can admire them, and even make American Idols and "gods" out of them...as long as we remember that the gods are **human** just like us. But you probably knew that I'd say that. After all, I'm a Christian.

So, go ahead, pick yourself a hero...or two...or ten. But try picking them in a different way. Don't put them up on a pedestal. Don't make them out to be something they're not, and something they can never be. It's enough that they're **human**. Extraordinary perhaps. But still only and always **human**.





COUNCIL CORNER

He is Risen! The Council and I want to thank our Church Staff Workers and all the Volunteers who brought us through the Lenten season into the glorious Eastertide. We thank Jesus for each and every one of you, and for your tireless effort during the forty days of Lent all the way through to the capstone of our faith that is Easter.

Most assuredly, Jesus lives! I know this is so because I see it every time I step foot inside St. Paul Church. Have you noticed? There is always something going on inside our building. Someone is practicing music. Someone is preparing a meal in the kitchen. Someone is in the office preparing worship bulletins. Someone is cleaning. Someone is fixing something broken. Someone is teaching. Someone is praying. We are Easter people, living and working as though the Resurrection of Jesus really matters to us and to the whole world. To that, I raise a great big Alleluia!

Please enjoy the following devotional that was shared with the Church Council at their April meeting.

PRAYING and REFLECTIONS on the SCRIPTURES - Contributed by Gary and Corinne Grizzell

For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew First and also to the Greek. Romans 1:16.

My God is a very generous God. When He wants to save someone, He doesn't just save the fellow's soul, He wipes away all records of that person's sin to make it as if he had never committed any.

1 John 1:7 says, "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleans us from all sin."

Believe me honestly, it does not matter how badly you have sinned in the past, God can still save your soul and use you for His glory.

After saving your soul, He doesn't just leave you to figure out how you can remain holy by yourself, He gives you the ability not to sin again by changing your heart from one of stone to one of flesh.

A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you; and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. Ezekiel 36:26

This is the real meaning of grace when you become empowered by God to live holy. Beyond giving you the grace to live holy, God is so generous that He can even use us to save the souls of other people. What a privilege it is because anyone you bring into the kingdom of God becomes a child in the Lord (1 Corinthians 4:15). When was the last time you won a soul to Christ? When was the last time you let God use you to snatch someone from the hands of the devil into the loving hands of Christ?

Let us extend the same grace that God has given us to become His child to our friends and family members. Amen.

Your Church Council at Work

Property and Church Building Updates - Randy Hamilton in conjunction with the Property Committee.

Faith Based Emergency Planning - Wes Hansen with Liz Campbell and Sherrill Crawford in conjunction with the Property Committee.

Finances, Endowment Fund, Stewardship & Generosity - Dennis Mille in conjunction with the Finance Committee, Endowment Committee, and Bookkeeper.

Marketing and Storytelling - Dennis Mille with Corinne Grizzell and Pastor Dan

Mission/Vision Statement rework - Mike King with Pastor Dan and Amy Hofmann

Early Education Center - Amy Hofmann in conjunction with Karen Kolozvary, Liz Campbell, and EEC Board Members.

Phil Sultan - Audio and Visual broadcasting for our YouTube channel with Jeff Campbell and in conjunction with Dale Hulkill.

Lisa Nelson-Firing - Liaison to Office Staff and Council member at large.

Donna Tindera Smith - Youth matters and Council member at large.

Gary Grizzell - Prayer Warrior and Council member at large.

There is plenty of room and opportunity for others to engage in the life and mission work that we do at St. Paul for the sake of the church, the community, but most of all for Jesus. C'mon, it's fun! Contact the Church Office, Pastor or any of the following to let us know what's on your mind.

Council Members: Gary Grizzell, Chris Hall, Randy Hamilton, Wes Hansen, Amy Hofmann, Mike King, Dennis Mille, Lisa Nelson-Firing, Phil Sultan, Donna Tindera, and Pastor Skillman.



PROPERTY COMMITTEE

We have received one used commercial refrigerator as a gift from QSR Executive Enterprises, an Elyria company that specializes in renovating and remodeling restaurants. QSR will be on the lookout for another large refrigerator unit in good condition that can be donated to us as it is replaced in a remodeling job. Many thanks to Mr. Jason Payne, the owner of QSR, for his assistance and donation to St. Paul. St. Paul has also received a used residential refrigerator (now in place in the kitchen) thanks to Karen Kennedy of Hickory Dr. in Berea.

Property, Office staff, and the Early Education Staff are working to design a system which will provide the EEC and office staff a clear view of anyone wishing to enter the building before remotely allowing access. The current system often requires personal visits to the doors for identification. Some additional improvements in safety and convenience for the control of door #3 are being investigated for implementation with the ceiling repair.

The weather over the last four months has been brutal for the parking lot. The worst scenario for pavement is to have a generous rainfall (which seeps into all the hairline cracks) and then a rapid temperature drop to freeze the water in the cracks and make them larger and break the gravel content in the asphalt loose. The paving contractor we have worked with will continue to monitor and advise us of the most economical, but long term course of action to take.

Speaking of pavement, the uneven sidewalk pavement by doors #1 and #2 will soon (when the weather cooperates) be leveled to eliminate the potential tripping hazards.

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.

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



WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Did you notice something new hanging in the Sanctuary? The banner quilt hanging by the Lectern was made by Beth French. What a wonderful addition to our decorations for the season of Easter! Thank you Beth and the entire Altar Guild for all that you do.





CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Save-the-Date

REFLECTING RAINBOW

Vacation Bible School 2023
June 26-30, 9:30-12:30
Berea Area Churches
Collaboration

Welcome to Reflecting Rainbow VBS, where we will discover we are a part of God's continuing story!

Inspired by the t.v. show Reading Rainbow, we will explore God's story, our own stories, and share the joy of reading all kinds of books!

VBS is open to ages 3 - 5th grade.
This is a cooperative VBS between
local Berea Congregations

Follow the QR code to register, or visit
<https://forms.gle/HBqtuTURDr1uwSZbA>.

Email Pastor Carrie at
cantczak@umcb.org for more information
or help registering.

Register here!





The Cleveland West Cluster
Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Spring Gathering

Saturday, May 13th 2023

Registration, Breakfast & Fellowship 8:30 A.M.

Accepting In-Kind Gifts for: The Hope Center (Building Hope in the City)
Coffee, Tea, Sugar, Powdered Creamer, Gas Cards, Sticky Notes, Computer Paper,
Dry Erase Markers and Erasers, Baby Wipes, Cleaning Wipes, New or Like New Children's Books,
Snacks for Children: Goldfish, Graham Crackers, Pretzels (no nuts or gelatin)

Business Meeting 9:30

Call to Worship & Holy Communion

Rev. Susanne Carter, Pastoral Intern: Mariah Mills

Worship Offerings: 50% for NEOSWO & 50% for The Hope Center



Program Speaker: Sandra Noble

Lecturer- Case Western Reserve University

The Art of Quilting

Lunch to follow



Introduction to the Quilting Ministry at Bethany
(Gifts for Triennial Grant Collected)

Registration: \$10 includes Continental Breakfast and Lunch

Cash or checks made payable to NEOSWO

Reservations: Audrey Goebel: aavkg@icloud.com

or call: 440-331-7830

Deadline: Monday, May 8th 2023

Bethany English Lutheran Church

15460 Triskett Road

Cleveland, Ohio 44111



SHEEP AND GOATS



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity was founded in 1987 by a group of dedicated volunteers who shared a vision to revitalize Cuyahoga County neighborhoods and help local hard-working, low-income families help themselves create strength, stability, and self-reliance. In 2022, we expanded our mission to also encompass neighborhoods and families in Lorain County. Cleveland Habitat is dedicated to eliminating substandard housing locally and worldwide through constructing, rehabilitating, and preserving homes; by advocating for fair and just housing policies; and by providing training and access to resources to help families improve their living conditions.

As part of a global, nonprofit housing organization operated on Christian principles that seeks to put God's love into action by building homes, communities, and hope, Greater Cleveland Habitat is one of 1,400 local affiliates across the nation of Habitat for Humanity International and is the largest and most productive affiliate in Ohio.

We have completed and sold more than 300 decent and affordable homes in one of the most distressed urban areas in the United States. More than 680 households earning between 30-80% of the area median income have demonstrated a willingness to partner with Cleveland Habitat by investing sweat equity into the construction or rehabilitation of our homes, participating in required homeowner education classes, and signing a mortgage. More than 2,000 people have benefited from these partnerships, including approximately 1,600 children.

OUR VISION: A world where everyone has a decent place to live.

OUR MISSION: Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.

NON-PROSELYTIZING POLICY: Habitat for Humanity and its affiliate organizations will not proselytize. Nor will Habitat work with entities or individuals who insist on proselytizing as part of their work with Habitat. This means that Habitat will not offer assistance on the expressed or implied condition that people must adhere to or convert to a particular faith or listen and respond to messaging designed to induce conversion to a particular faith.

SHEEP AND GOATS COLLECTIONS

Thank you to those who have supported our benevolent efforts through Sheep and Goats contributions. Below is a report of the success:

| | | |
|----------|--|------------|
| January | COTA for Team Cormack | \$1,320.25 |
| February | EEC "Andrew Tayte Memorial Scholarship Fund" | \$1,340.25 |
| March | St. Paul Family Assistance | \$1,010.67 |
| April | Vacation Bible School (in process) | |
| | Total to date | \$3,671.17 |

DESIGNATED FUND DONATIONS

Thank you for those who have donated to specific continuing Designated Funds for the Church. Below is a report for March specific donations:

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Redeemer Crisis Center | \$ 75.00 |
| Building Fund | \$ 150.00 |
| Designated Property Needs | \$ 190.00 |

From January to March 2023 we received the following specific donations to Designated Funds for the Church:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Special Benevolence - Miscellaneous | \$ 150.00 |
| Redeemer Crisis Center | \$ 150.00 |
| Community Meal | \$ 850.00 |
| Building Fund | \$ 170.00 |
| Cemetery Restoration Fund | \$ 450.00 |
| Memorials/Honorariums | \$ 190.00 |
| Education Services | \$ 180.00 |
| Music Ministry Fund | \$ 75.25 |
| Early Education Center Fund | \$ 100.00 |
| Total January through March | \$2,730.25 |

The contributions for Sheep and Goats and Designated Fund Donations (both total \$6,401.42) are over and above the Congregational Contributions reported on the Year-to-Date Financial Summary. We truly have a generous and giving congregation. Many thanks for your continued support.

With Gratitude, Dennis Mille, Treasurer

FINANCIALS

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
Year-to-Date Financial Summary as of: March 31, 2023

| Income and Expenses Summary | Current Year Actual YTD | Current Year Budget YTD | Over/(Under) Budget | Previous Year Actual YTD | Curr vs Prior Yr Variance | Percent Change |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Income | | | | | | |
| Congregational Contributions | \$ 66,659.71 | \$ 70,325.00 | \$ (3,665.29) | \$ 73,560.82 | (6,901.11) | -9.4% |
| Building Use | 1,430.00 | 1,250.00 | 180.00 | 1,365.00 | 65.00 | 4.8% |
| Interest | 45.41 | 4.00 | 41.41 | 2.58 | 42.83 | 1660.1% |
| Other Income | 775.14 | 450.00 | 325.14 | 1,313.41 | (538.27) | -41.0% |
| Total Income | \$ 68,910.26 | \$ 72,029.00 | \$ (3,118.74) | \$ 76,241.81 | (7,331.55) | -9.6% |
| Expenses | | | | | | |
| Benevolence | 946.78 | 1,407.00 | 460.22 | 1,471.21 | 524.43 | -35.6% |
| Worship | 4,502.19 | 4,271.00 | (231.19) | 2,797.56 | (1,704.63) | 60.9% |
| Programs & Services | 641.28 | 2,253.00 | 1,611.72 | 851.52 | 210.24 | 0.0% |
| Property | 18,470.94 | 16,975.00 | (1,495.94) | 21,167.65 | 2,696.71 | -12.7% |
| Staff Salaries and Benefits | 54,969.43 | 53,255.00 | (1,714.43) | 44,401.47 | (10,567.96) | 23.8% |
| Contracted Services | 9,316.48 | 10,530.00 | 1,213.52 | 7,476.00 | (1,840.48) | 24.6% |
| Administration & Support | 4,961.54 | 5,550.00 | 588.46 | 3,463.78 | (1,497.76) | 43.2% |
| Total Expenses | 93,808.64 | 94,241.00 | 432.36 | 81,629.19 | (12,179.45) | 14.9% |
| Operating Surplus (Deficit) | \$ (24,898.38) | \$ (22,212.00) | \$ (2,686.38) | \$ (5,387.38) | (19,511.00) | |

Income and Expenses Summary Notes:

Income

The YTD period ending March 31, 2023 has an operating deficit of \$24,898, \$19,511 more than March 2022's deficit. Congregational Contributions through March 2023 are \$6,901 less than contributions received through March 2022. Total Income is \$7,331 less than at March 31, 2022. Congregational Contributions are under budget by only \$3,665 and Total Income is under budget by \$3,118 as of March 31, 2023.

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

Expenses

Total expenses are under budget by \$432 as of March 31, 2023. Total expenses YTD are \$12,179 more than total expenses as of March 2022.

Note: Benevolence payments are percentages of contributions. Therefore, when contributions are higher, benevolence payments are higher.

Note on Budget Expenses: Total annual expense budget is \$368,611 or \$30,717 per month. In order to avoid the estimated \$80,496 annual deficit, revenue should equal the annual expense budget. As of March, 2023, we have a \$23,241 shortfall (\$92,151 - \$68,910) of income to budget expenses.

| Balance Sheet Summary | As of March 31, 2023 | As of March 31, 2022 | Over (Under) Variance |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Assets | | | |
| Current Assets (Cash) | \$ 193,419.24 | \$ 218,961.79 | \$ (25,542.55) |
| Invested Assets (Endowment) | 658,677.53 | 660,864.69 | (2,187.16) |
| Total Assets | \$ 852,096.77 | \$ 879,826.48 | \$ (27,729.71) |
| Liabilities | | | |
| Accounts Payable | \$ 6,050.50 | \$ 4,115.46 | \$ 1,935.04 |
| Loan from Endowment Fund | \$ - | \$ - | 0.00 |
| Payroll Withholding | \$ - | \$ - | 0.00 |
| Accrued Expenses and Other | \$ - | \$ - | 0.00 |
| Payroll Protection Program Temp Loan | \$ - | \$ - | 0.00 |
| Dedicated Fund Balances | \$ 184,141.73 | \$ 191,563.30 | (7,421.57) |
| Total Liabilities | \$ 190,192.23 | \$ 195,678.76 | \$ (5,486.53) |
| Equity | | | |
| General Fund | \$ 3,225.90 | \$ 23,283.03 | \$ (20,057.13) |
| Investments (Endowment) | 658,678.64 | 660,864.69 | (2,186.05) |
| Total Equity | \$ 661,904.54 | \$ 684,147.72 | \$ (22,243.18) |
| Total Liabilities and Equity | \$ 852,096.77 | \$ 879,826.48 | \$ (27,729.71) |

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 lost .3% in the month of March.



MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER:

Greetings. Thank you to those who participated in the Easter challenge of giving the same amount or more in the Easter envelope along with the regular Sunday envelope. We received \$2,082 in the Easter envelopes and \$3,194 in the regular Sunday envelopes. Your extra gratitude gift for Easter in whatever amount you could contribute is greatly appreciated.

Thank you to those who have taken the steps to increase their giving by 10% to 20% to help us meet the Congregation approved 2023 budget of \$368,611. Please consider your increased contribution in the year ahead if you can afford to do so. As you can see from the Financial Report we have an operating deficit of \$24,898 to actual expenses. Please continue to prayerfully consider the blessings you have received and the gratitude gift you are able to donate to your church.

Did you know that asking a family member, neighbor or friend to attend our church services is a form of discipleship and similar to financial support expressing gratitude for the blessings you have received. Consider inviting someone to share the worship experience with us. Just think, if just twenty people bring a guest - we have twenty new potential members. How wonderful!

Thank you to those who have started e-giving online with St. Paul. If you want to start just go to www.stpaulbera.org/donate or use the QR code below (just point the camera on your smartphone at the code and tap on the code to go to the website). If you create an account when you donate (email and password) then you will be able to check the history of your online giving throughout the year. Or you can donate without creating an account.

Thank you for your support of the congregation with your time, talent and financial contributions. Moreover, greater participation is always welcome. If you cannot attend our church services in person you merely go to www.stpaulbera.org and click on view the service (or past services).

Thank you for your spirited generosity which ensures we can carry our message and our works throughout the community for years to come.

With Gratitude,

Dennis Mille, Treasurer

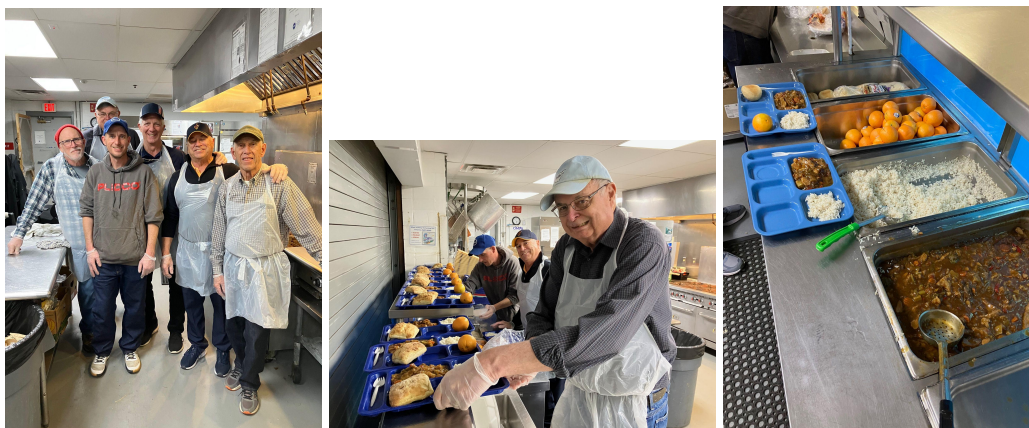
INCREASING MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE

Discipleship is similar to financial support expressing gratitude for the blessings you have received. With discipleship we are introducing others to Jesus. The growth and recovery of our church needs an expanding membership with members like you. This year we hope that you will accept the challenge of asking a family member, neighbor or friend to attend our church services. Your extending an invitation to worship with us makes it possible for us to provide a meaningful and friendly place of worship to share the message of God's love to the community. How can you bring up visiting us? Have a conversation with the person on how are services at their church (maybe they don't go to church). Ask what they think about weekly open communion (maybe they haven't taken communion in a long while and this is an excellent opportunity for them to visit us for communion). You can also encourage others to view our services by going to www.stpaulbera.org and selecting watch a service. <http://www.stpaulbera.org/donate>. Thank you for accepting this challenge.

With Gratitude,

Dennis Mille, Treasurer

MONDAY NIGHT AT MIKE'S



The Monday Night at Mike's group enjoyed a rewarding night serving dinner at the Men's Shelter at 2100 Lakeside. We served over 200 men with a beef stroganoff and rice dinner, and as usual, we got as much of a reward, doing God's work, as we hope the men at the Shelter. They were able to enjoy a brief respite of having their trays of food hand-delivered while they interacted with us and their friends. We're already planning another visit to the Shelter in July.



ELECTRONIC GIVING IS AVAILABLE

Greetings, We offer and encourage electronic giving as a way to automate your regular weekly offering. Electronic giving offers convenience for individual congregation members and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

Direct debit giving is used to automatically transfer funds from your checking or savings account to the church's bank account.

Credit and debit card giving allows you to make offerings automatically on a pre-determined schedule using your credit or debit card. You can also designate the small processing fee that is paid by the church as an additional contribution.

Online giving allows you to go to StPaulBerea.org at any time to set up an automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, select monthly Sheep and Goats donation, make a one-time donation, or view your online donation history. The first time you donate, you will select a password that will enable you to log in at any time. If you have further questions please contact the church office, 440-243-1144.

If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. When travel or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis.

For those who prefer to place their contribution in the offering plate as an "act of worship", this is still available and appreciated. Likewise, you can mail your offering to the church.

Please prayerfully consider the blessings you have received and with gratitude prepare your donation for our church either online or in person.

With Gratitude,

Dennis Mille
Treasurer

www.stpaulbera.org/donate

ENDOWMENT



Dear Committees and Members of St. Paul Lutheran Church,

The St. Paul Living Endowment Committee is accepting requests for the 2023 endowment fund distributions. Requests must be made in writing addressing one of three Fund categories: Benevolence, Capital Improvement and/or Education. Examples of intended distributions can go to:

- ELCA Mission Support
- Redeemer Crisis Center
- Congregational benevolent requests
- Building modifications or repairs
- Major HVAC modifications or replacement
- Parking lot resurfacing
- Camperships or youth conventions
- Scholarships for youth attending Lutheran Universities
- Leadership conferences and retreats
- Media ministries
- Parish education programs and staff support

A complete list of how the distributions can be made can be found in the charter of the St. Paul Living Endowment Fund. (copies can be obtained from the church office) Please send your requests by May 15th to the St. Paul Living Endowment Fund Committee care of the church office.

The committee also encourages you to keep the St. Paul Living Endowment Fund in mind when planning gifts and doing estate planning. Endowment Funds provide ongoing support to the church, its members, and its benevolence. Please talk with any one of our committee members if you have questions.

Thank you for your efforts to help the St. Paul Living Endowment Fund successfully support our church, congregation, and its benevolence.

2023 Living Endowment Committee members: Dean Firing, Linda Garrity, Michael Hollingsworth, Lynn Mallinak, and David Navy

DUCK UPDATE!

It's hard to see but Mama Duck is still on her nest. She has definitely learned the fine art of camouflage. Any day now and we should be seeing ducklings!



CONGRATULATIONS CONFIRMANDS!

The Following youth will be confirmed this May.



Kristl Coates
Emily Hartman
Nora Lingenfelter
Brady Payne
Jacob Payne
Olivia Skillman
Melanie Speck
Nathan Speck

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 May 10th and 31st at 5pm-Drive up/Take out from Door #2 here at St. Paul



BEREA SENIOR LUNCHEON

Tuesday May 9th 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

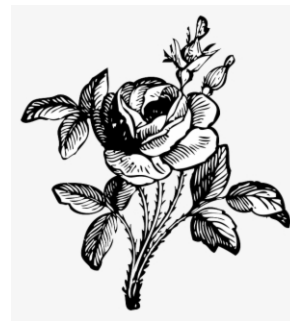
MEMORIALS

Dick Henning
Jack & susan Flick
Jane Krisher



OFFICIAL ACTS

Funeral
4/22 Dick Henning



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

FIRST CLASS
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



CALLING ALL GRADUATES!

If you, or someone you know, is graduating from High School or College/University this year, please let us know! We would love to recognize our graduates in the next issue of Highlights! Please let us know your school and a little bit about yourselves and what you will be doing after graduation