



ST. PAUL HIGHLIGHTS

August 2023

VOLUME 72 ISSUE 08



The *godly* are transplanted into
the *Lord's Own Garden*
and are under His *personal* care.

Psalms 92:13 Ref

Living Bible

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THIS MONTH
AUGUST 16TH-PRESCHOOL ORIENTATION
AUGUST 31ST-FIRST DAY OF PRESCHOOL

DATE	TIME	ASSISTING MINISTER	MUSIC LEADERS	ALTAR GUILD	AUDIO/VIDEO	USHERS/ GREETERS
8/6	10:00	Meg Montag	Cindy Cain	Lois Wolfe Ginny Anderson	Jeff Campbell Phil Sultan	Team 1st
8/13	10:00	Sherrill Crawford	Sherrill Crawford		Jeff Campbell Phil Sultan	Team 2nd
8/20	10:00	Jon Montag	Meg Montag		Jeff Campbell Phil Sultan	Team 3rd
8/27	10:00	Mike King	Craig Housum		Jeff Campbell Phil Sultan	Team 4th



AUGUST CELEBRATIONS

HAVE A CELEBRATION COMING IN SEPTEMBER?

If you have a July celebration you would like in this space,
 Please notify the office by **August 25th**.

A THANK YOU FROM A FAMILY ASSISTANCE RECIPIENT

A member who receives regular help from our family assistance fund has sent a heartfelt Thank You letter to the church congregation. It is posted on the bulletin board. Please take a moment to stop by and read it!





Liberty or Death

After escaping from slavery in Egypt, the people found themselves in a desolate place, and they were very hungry. After spending time walking through some of the desolate places of Arizona in the 108° temperatures of July, I have a feel for what that must have been like. They were so hungry that they actually grumbled against Moses, their own leader. I know what that's like, too. There were a couple of days of no sleep, and up at dawn for another forced 8 mile march around the Grand Canyon that had me grumbling against **my** tour guide. And that was my **wife**. The Israelites said,

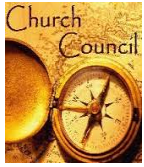
“What did you do, Moses? Free us from slavery only to bring us out into the desert to die? At least back in Egypt we had food.” (See Exodus 16:3)

And they had a point. I mean, sure, they worked from sunup 'til sundown for people who didn't care about them, treated them like property, and had no intention of changing, but at least they had bread. Right? Right?!

I don't think so.

It's sad to think that hungry, fearful, and demoralized people could be willing to trade away their happiness, well-being and **freedom**, for a loaf of bread. Dry, stale, moldy bread. But desperate people don't tend to think very clearly. And when faced with the prospect of death, they'll often choose **slavery** to avoid it. I'm not judging the ancient Israelites, but their weakness in the desert should be a warning to **us not** to be weak like they were. We should be like Patrick Henry who at the Virginia Assembly in 1775 shouted, “Give me liberty, or give me death.”

Listen to me. Continually choosing between the lesser of two evils eventually results in slavery, and worse. The Israelites were so hungry that they were willing to accept a life of **slavery** so they could have a measly crumb of bread. Fortunately, they had a good leader in Moses who, with the help of God, helped them overcome that bad choice. But the real question is, what will we do when faced with a similar choice? That's for each of you to decide. But I'll tell you what I think. We should be brave enough to choose **freedom**. And if we can't win our freedom, then we should rather accept **death** than a life of **slavery**.



COUNCIL CORNER

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.

This month, I want to give a big shout-out to the St. Paul Financial Team. Our church Treasurer, Finance Committee, Endowment Committee, and our bookkeeper have been doing a bang-up job reviewing budget line items, finding ways to save money, brainstorming new ways to support our budget, and in general, modeling what it means to be good stewards of time and talents. I have heard this called “economic wisdom,” and this is essential to glorifying God and loving our neighbor.

We keep our Financial Team remarkably busy. The St. Paul community has traditionally gone beyond the call of duty to express generosity and hospitality to all who are in need. If there is anything that St. Paul Lutheran Church is known for, it is their generosity. Did you know, we have approximately eighty-four family giving units who faithfully support the General Fund and the Sheep and Goats monthly benevolent campaigns? Our donor community uses many means to support our ministries. The most popular means of giving is by using weekly offering envelopes. Another popular method is by using the on-line Vanco Stewardship web portal located on St. Paul's webpage. Yes, indeed, we are a community that reaches across boundaries, works together to understand what needs doing, and then gets to work. What a blessing it is when people come together to support and encourage goodness in creation.

There is one place that we could be doing better, and that is, if we could encourage new folks to join us in our worship and in our mission of God to serve the well-being of the world around us. I invite you to consider someone you know that you could ask to come to church with you. Because in the words of Mother Teresa, “I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot. Together we can do great things.” To Him Be the Glory.

PS: Council wishes to thank Corrine Grizzell and the Team of volunteers for a delicious sweet treat and fun square dance at the Ice Cream Social. A fun time was had by all.



PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Jim is on vacation. Article not available at time of printing.

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



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & OUTREACH

We all had a great time at Vacation Bible School!!! Partnering with other area churches opened the door to reach out to the larger community. A special thank you goes out to Linda Jungeberg who was the “chief cook and bottle washer” for the annual picnic provided by St Paul. The children, staff and parents enjoyed hot dogs, chips, juice and ice cream on the last day.

As we head into August it’s just about time for back to school! A great time for us to reach out to students of all ages to let them know we are here for them.

Our pre-school children will be welcomed back to school with the gift of their “First Bible” and an invitation to join us on Sunday mornings for Kids Club! We will also welcome our recent confirmands and the children who received their first communion this summer – Kids Club will meet from 9:00 am to 9:50 each Sunday beginning September 10th. Volunteers are needed to host.

Did you know, the average planned back-to-school spending per household in the United States has gradually increased year-on-year to reach about 890 U.S. dollars in 2023. This is an increase of over 400 dollars since the beginning of the survey period in 2004. - Source Statista website .. You can help defray some of those costs by participating in the 3rd Annual Stuff the Bus! Or visit berea.k12.oh.us for the supply lists and bring them to the church by August 8th and I will drop them off at the transportation office.

August 17th is BW’s WOW (Week of Welcome, where new and transfer students will become acclimated to our community. As a welcome gift, we will be on site at the Student Union and provide students with a cinch bag (with St. Paul’s logo) filled with personal hygiene items – just in case they forgot them – an invitation to join us for church services and an opportunity to partner with a local family while away from home. Volunteers will be needed to fill the bags on August 14th at the church.

3rd Annual Stuff the Bus
Hosted by:
Berea City School District's Transportation Department

Brook Park Marc's
5725 Smith Rd.
July 20 & 21 • 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Berea Marc's
371 W. Bagley Rd.
July 27 & 28 • 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Middleburg Hts. Marc's
6849 Southland Dr.
August 3 & 4 • 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

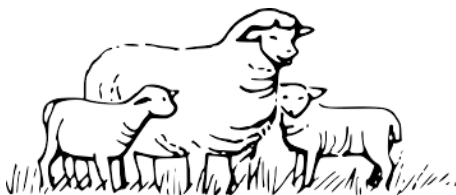
Supply Pick Up Day
BCSD Transportation
235 Riveredge Parkway, Berea
August 10 • 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Please visit
berea.k12.oh.us
for supply lists

VBS-REFLECTING RAINBOW!



SHEEP AND GOATS



BEREA COMMUNITY OUTREACH

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Berea Community Outreach is to support residents and connect the community by lending a hand to make a difference.

We strive to identify specific needs and provide services to the people who need it most with programs such as Berea Cares which mobilizes religious and civic organizations to serve the community.

Our programs include:

- [Senior Grass, Leaf and Snow Removal](#)
- [Senior Wheels](#)
- [Berea Cares](#)
- [Housing Resource Office](#)
- [Veterans Outreach Office](#)
- [The Food Pantry](#)
- [Dinner to Your Door](#)
- The Backpack Food Program provides a bag of easy to prepare meals, snacks and drinks every weekend to food insecure students at Grindstone Elementary and Berea-Midpark High School. Contact us or your school guidance counselor for more information.

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	\$ 857.25
May	Habitat for Humanity	\$1,126.89
June	Navajo Mission (Arizona)	\$1,805.25
July	Young Life (in process)	
	Total to date	\$7,460.56

DESIGNATED FUND DONATIONS

Thank you to those who have donated to specific continuing Designated Funds for the Church. From January through May 2023 we received the following specific donations to Designated Funds for the Church:

Special Benevolence - Miscellaneous	\$ 215.00
Special Benevolence- ELCA receipts	\$ 50.00
Habitat for Humanity	\$ 150.00
Redeemer Crisis Center	\$ 450.00
Community Meal	\$ 5,940.00 (includes \$3,600 grant)
Family Assistance	\$1,060.67
Building Fund	\$ 858.88
Cemetery Restoration Fund	\$ 550.00
Designated Property Needs	\$ 75.00
Memorials/Honorariums	\$ 371.68
Outreach Committee Receipts	\$1,000.00
Education Services	\$1,091.24
Music Ministry Fund	\$1,755.25
Early Education Center Fund	\$ 260.00
Total January through May	\$13,827.72

The contributions for Sheep and Goats and Designated Fund Donations (both total \$21,288.28) 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



The St Paul Lutheran Church Berea Men's Group is sponsoring our 3rd Annual Winter Coat Drive to benefit the Men's Shelter at 2100 Lakeside Avenue in Cleveland! We're collecting coats, sweatshirts, sweaters, sox, hats and gloves, and with your help, we will bless these men and make their lives a little warmer this year. We're hoping to deliver the clothes to the Shelter in early November.

Please only donate new or gently used clothes, and PLEASE clean them before donating. We will fold, bag, and mark the sizes, so that the Shelter can distribute the clothes more effectively.

Each year we've collected more coats so let's make 2023 the BEST EVER. The clothes can be dropped off at St Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church Berea at 276 E. Bagley Rd, Berea, OH or you can contact the church office at (440) 243-1144 or Wes Hansen (216) 789-1809 for pickup.

NOW IS THE TIME! Go thru those closets, and shop for winter clothes while they're available and more economical. We'll be here for you.

REDEEMER CRISIS CENTER PROJECT

On July 17th, six men from the Monday Night at Mike's men's group (Mike King, Bob Trausch, Randy Genter, Dave Pavlick, Mark Lickert, and Wes Hansen) installed new LED light fixtures and replaced ceiling tile at the Redeemer Crisis Center. We were blessed to be able to brighten another area of the center and had a great time doing it. It is our hope to continue to focus more projects on Redeemer and help Diane and the near Westside neighborhood whenever we can. Added thanks to Randy Hamilton for providing the ceiling tile.



FINANCIALS

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
Year-to-Date Financial Summary as of: **June 30, 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	\$ 133,978.12	\$ 140,650.00	\$ (6,671.88)	\$ 146,944.47	(12,966.35)	-8.8%
Building Use	17,510.00	2,500.00	15,010.00	2,615.00	14,895.00	569.6%
Interest	83.16	8.00	75.16	5.19	77.97	1502.3%
Other Income	2,469.36	900.00	1,569.36	1,560.57	908.79	58.2%
Total Income	\$ 154,040.64	\$ 144,058.00	\$ 9,982.64	\$ 151,125.23	2,915.41	1.9%
Expenses						
Benevolence	1,935.49	2,813.00	877.51	2,938.88	1,003.39	-34.1%
Worship	7,895.62	8,543.00	647.38	7,156.88	(738.74)	10.3%
Programs & Services	1,252.51	5,006.00	3,753.49	1,929.84	677.33	0.0%
Property	34,698.59	31,850.00	(2,848.59)	33,200.58	(1,498.01)	4.5%
Staff Salaries and Benefits	104,262.47	107,129.00	2,866.53	96,377.39	(7,885.08)	8.2%
Contracted Services	17,443.37	18,661.00	1,217.63	13,414.17	(4,029.20)	30.0%
Administration & Support	9,844.66	11,100.00	1,255.34	7,383.49	(2,461.17)	33.3%
Total Expenses	177,332.71	185,102.00	7,769.29	162,401.23	(14,931.48)	9.2%
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (23,292.07)	\$ (41,044.00)	\$ 17,751.93	\$ (11,276.00)	(12,016.07)	

Income and Expenses Summary Notes:

Income

The YTD period ending June 30, 2023 has an operating deficit of \$23,292, \$12,016 more than June 2022's deficit. Congregational Contributions through June 2023 are \$12,966 less than contributions received through June 2022. Total Income is \$2,915 more than at June 30, 2022. Congregational Contributions are under budget by \$6,671 and Total Income is over budget by \$9,982 as of June 30, 2023. This increase in Total Income was the result of \$15,000 rent paid by Early Education Center (EEC) to the Church.

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 \$7,769 as of June 30, 2023. Total expenses YTD are \$14,931 more than total expenses as of June 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 June 30, 2023, we have a \$31,062 shortfall (\$185,102-\$154,040) of income to budget expenses.

Balance Sheet Summary	As of June 30, 2023	As of June 30, 2022	Over (Under) Variance
Assets			
Current Assets (Cash)	\$ 201,473.04	\$ 208,835.57	\$ (7,362.53)
Invested Assets (Endowment)	650,624.67	661,042.63	(10,417.96)
Total Assets	\$ 852,097.71	\$ 869,878.20	\$ (17,780.49)
Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	\$ 50.00	\$ 2,036.09	\$ (1,986.09)
Loan from Endowment Fund	-	-	0.00
Payroll Withholding	\$ 3,036.09	-	3,036.09
Accrued Expenses and Other	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	0.00
Payroll Protection Program Temp Loan	-	-	0.00
Dedicated Fund Balances	\$ 191,836.41	\$ 168,275.54	23,560.87
Total Liabilities	\$ 195,222.50	\$ 170,611.63	\$ 24,610.87
Equity			
General Fund	\$ 4,832.21	\$ 39,423.94	\$ (34,591.73)
Investments (Endowment)	671,098.53	659,842.63	11,255.90
Total Equity	\$ 675,930.74	\$ 699,266.57	\$ (23,335.83)
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$ 871,153.24	\$ 869,878.20	\$ 1,275.04

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 increased 2.9% in the month of June.



MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER:

Greetings. 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 \$23,292 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 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

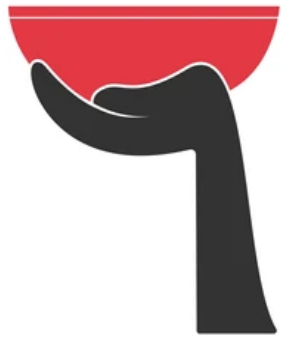
Just ask one person a week

This is not a broken record (if you're old enough to know what a record is and remember what happens when a groove is scratched causing the music to repeat itself). Just repeating an important need for St. Paul. 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

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 July 12th and 26th at 5pm-Drive up/Take out from Door #2 here at St. Paul



BEREA SENIOR LUNCHEON

Tuesday August 8th at noon the Senior Luncheon will be held at COE LAKE Cost \$5.00

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

MEMORIALS



OFFICIAL ACTS

First Communion

7/2 Kellen Kolozvary
Keegan Kolozvary
Cormick Kolozvary
Allison Phillips
Caiden Phillips

Funeral

7/25 Alice Emond

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

FIRST CLASS
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



EXPENSES DON'T TAKE OFF FOR THE SUMMER

We need your help for the summer. Expenses for St. Paul do not stop for the summer months. We continue to pay salaries, utilities, and other operating expenses just as we do in the winter, spring and fall. We hope that you will continue with your generous contributions through the summer and consider making your contribution for the entire month at the beginning of the month that you may be on vacation. Thank you for your help and generosity.

With Gratitude,
Dennis Mille, Treasurer

