



ST. PAUL HIGHLIGHTS

June 2019

VOLUME 68 ISSUE 6



PENTECOST-JUNE 9TH

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THIS MONTH

JUNE 9TH- PENTECOST

JUNE 14TH-FLAG DAY

JUNE 21ST-FIRST DAY OF SUMMER

JUNE 23RD-YOUTH LEAVE FOR WORK CAMP

JUNE 30TH-FIFTH SUNDAY-ONE SERVICE-POTLUCK TO HONOR RAE

DATE	TIME	LECTORS	SERVERS	LITURGISTS	BREAD BAKERS	ALTAR GUILD	USHERS	GREETERS	MONEY COUNTERS
6/2	8:30	Culley Coughlin	Mike & Linda King	Lynnette Ozanich	Sue Grunau	Sandy Henning Randy & Beth French	Team 1 R Hamilton T Herr G Hofman T English F Putman T Brunett	Tracy Hamilton Laurie English	Denny & Rae Batig
	11:00	Bonnie Sears	Alice Chadbourne Sharon Lappin	Dean Firing		Beth Boerke Los Wolfe	Team 2 J Montag T Riggle G Rohde J Lappin R Genther T Norris	Jan Sultan Sharon Genther	Lois Wolfe Diane Barrett
6/9	8:30	Bette Idemoto	Tiffany Salay Lynnette Ozanich	Sherrill Crawford	Marie Herr		Team 3 T Salay D Henning D Moore M Eckert P Milloy W Crawford	Sandy Henning Amy Russo Joyce Moore	I. Sumner J. Bairoti M. Grunau
	11:00	Cheryl Harkema	Liz & Jeff Campbell	Cindy Cain			Team 4 B Wester A Krueger P Sultan P Sultan D Cain W Hansen	Diane Barrett Jane Krisher	
6/16	8:30	Marilyn Niksa	Marilyn Niksa Liz Wittman	Meg Montag	Marie Herr		Team 5 W Hansen J Flick J Schlott J Cutnaw L Carmean	June Carmean	Paul & Pat Luster
	11:00	Diane Ferreri	Linda Jungeberg Bev Hubler	Jon Montag			Team 6 H Daniels G Hrivnak R Genther M & H Hollingsworth	Nancy Goette Pat Gugliotta	

6/23	8:30	Bob Trausch	Charles Russo Gail Hansen	Liz Wittmann	Jennifer Hinton		Team 7 R Winwood B Trausch J Holden R French B French J Sears		Adam & Jennifer Hinton
	11:00	Danelle Eikens	Cathie Varnes Lois Wolfe	Dave Hall			Team 8 L Walker J Sears G Grizzell S Harkema	Barb & Harold Daniels	
6/30	10:00	Amy Kurek	Danelle Eikens Anna Mae Migra	Mike King	Jennifer Hinton		Team 7 R Winwood B Trausch J Holden R French B French J Sears		

JULY LECTORS AND SERVERS

8:30

11:00

07-Jul	LECTOR	Diane Ferreri	Bonnie Sears
	SERVERS	Judy Stintsman	Tracy Krug
		Liz Wittman	Meg Montag
14-Jul	LECTOR	Mike King	Dave Hall
	SERVERS	Mike King	Dave Hall
		Linda King	Chris Hall
21-Jul	LECTOR	Paul Heyse	Jane Krisher
	SERVERS	Adam Hinton	Lois Wolfe
		Jennifer Hinton	Cathie Varnes
28-Jul	LECTOR	Mel Grunau	Linda Jungeberg
	SERVERS	Mel Grunau	Lynne Morella
		Sue Grunau	Linda Jungeberg



Justification and Sin

If you're a Christian in the 21st century, you've been affected by Martin Luther's doctrine of justification by grace through faith. It doesn't matter if you're Roman Catholic, or Eastern orthodox, or if you've never heard of Luther at all. So, I'd like to write about justification for a moment, and its corollary, sin.

Justification by grace through faith is the claim that a person does not need to earn their good standing before God, but rather, God grants this good standing, freely, simply out of divine, fatherly goodness and mercy. People are invited to believe that they are of infinite value simply because they are human beings.

From this perspective, sin, as a doctrine, functions as a safeguard against any assault on justification. If a person asserts their own merits as the basis of their worth, the retort is, *But you are a sinner. Whatever your merits, they do not cancel out the reality of your sin.* Take the example of an otherwise good man, convicted of murder. It does that good man no good to say, *But there are plenty of people I haven't murdered.* He stands convicted, and the only way out for him is a pardon.

Over the years, and more so in certain wings of Christendom than others, the doctrine of sin has been magnified to the extent that it is taught that there is nothing good that dwells in people, and that people are essentially bad and worthless.

Further, the doctrine of sin has taken priority over the doctrine of justification. That is, it has been thought that the doctrine of justification stands or falls with the doctrine of sin. If it could be shown that the doctrine of sin were incorrect, then justification would collapse.

What has been forgotten is that the doctrine of sin is born out of the doctrine of justification, and not the other way around. The doctrine of sin is intended to safeguard the doctrine of justification, not to stand on its own merits (pun definitely intended). When someone has been told that their worth is not based on their own merit, but then retroactively reads their good works back into the declaration, the doctrine of sin stands as a reminder that that way is barred. No one earns their standing. Try it, and you will only see how far short you fall.

Further, it is only in the light of justification that sin makes any sense. One who has been declared perfectly good may indeed fail to live up to that high calling, and thus be seen to be a sinner. On the other hand, no one expects anything out of someone in whom

nothing good whatsoever lives. Such a person hasn't fallen at all. They started at the bottom.

To go one step further, let us suppose that there were a perfect man who had never once stumbled or sinned. Justification asserts that even that man's standing before God is not based on their merits. Their value is not a question of their works. They are valuable simply because they are human beings.

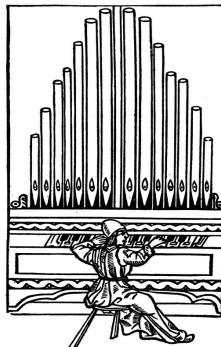
When it comes to human worth, the very concept of merit is a category mistake. It's not that human beings can't amass enough "goody goody points" to please God. It's that "goody goody points" are completely unnecessary, and even an affront to the gracious declaration: you are valuable simply because you are.

Sin is not the article on which the doctrine of justification stands or falls. Rather, to use the old Lutheran language, justification is the article on which the church (including its doctrine of sin) stands or falls. Justification is primary. The doctrine of sin is merely supportive, and should never be considered foundational.

Pastor Dan

CONGRATULATIONS!

Our Music Director, Dale Hukill, has been elected Dean of the Cleveland Chapter of the American Guild of Organists! When you see him, please wish him well with his new position!



FINANCIALS

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

April 30, 2019

Income and Expenses Summary	Current Year Actual YTD	Current Year Budget YTD	Over/(Under) Budget	Previous Year Actual YTD
Income				
Congregational Contributions	\$ 135,821.76	\$ 163,444.00	\$ (27,622.24)	\$ 140,766.08
Building Use	2,099.00	2,400.00	(301.00)	1,580.00
Interest	63.71	60.00	3.71	33.71
Other Income	2,963.07	2,400.00	563.07	2,100.52
Total Income	\$ 140,947.54	\$ 168,304.00	\$ (27,356.46)	\$ 144,480.31
	Current Year Actual YTD	Current Year Budget YTD	(Over)/Under Budget	Previous Year Actual YTD
Expenses				
Benevolence	13,582.13	16,840.00	3,257.87	14,076.58
Worship	3,969.37	4,938.00	968.63	4,046.32
Programs & Services	1,993.55	5,730.00	3,736.45	1,338.06
Property	23,143.65	37,366.00	14,222.35	37,584.52
Staff Salaries and Benefits	69,952.63	82,207.00	12,254.37	70,696.21
Contracted Services	9,968.00	11,000.00	1,032.00	9,876.68
Administration & Support	5,851.99	9,783.00	3,931.01	8,108.36
Total Expenses	128,461.32	167,864.00	39,402.68	145,726.73
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 12,486.22	\$ 440.00	\$ 12,046.22	\$ (1,246.42)

Income and Expenses Summary Notes:

Income

The YTD period ending April 30, 2019, has an operating surplus of \$12,486, year-to-date at April 30, 2018 was a deficit. Congregational Contributions through April 2019 are \$5K less than contributions received through April 2018, a decrease of 3.5%. Building Use/Other Income is \$1400 more than the amount at this time last year. Total Income at April 30, 2019, is \$3500 less than at April 30, 2018. Congregational Contributions are under budget by nearly \$28K and Total Income is under budget by nearly the same amount.

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

Expenses

Total expenses were under budget by just over \$12K as of April 30, 2019. Total expenses YTD are \$1200 less than total expenses as of April 2018.

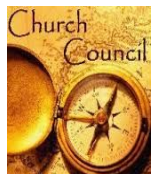
Note: Benevolence payments are percentages of contributions. Therefore, when contributions are higher, benevolence payments are higher.

Balance Sheet Summary	As of April 30, 2019	As of April 30, 2018	Variance
Assets			
Current Assets (Cash)	\$ 155,007.90	\$ 147,361.62	\$ 7,646.28
Fixed Assets (Building)	3,041,549.00	3,041,549.00	0.00
Invested Assets (Endowment)	603,759.87	585,895.15	17,864.72
Total Assets	\$ 3,800,316.77	\$ 3,774,805.77	\$ 25,511.00
Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	\$ 19,248.29	\$ 14,255.44	\$ 4,992.85
Loan from Endowment Fund	0.00	7,528.00	(7,528.00)
Payroll Withholding	3,111.20	7,254.87	(4,143.67)
Accrued Expenses and Other	150.00	100.00	50.00
Dedicated Fund Balances	164,921.27	139,964.48	24,956.79
Total Liabilities	\$ 187,430.76	\$ 169,102.79	\$ 18,327.97
Equity			
General Fund	\$ (31,222.86)	\$ (14,213.17)	\$ (17,009.69)
Investments (Endowment)	602,559.87	578,367.15	24,192.72
Fixed Assets (Building)	3,041,549.00	3,041,549.00	0.00
Total Equity	\$ 3,612,886.01	\$ 3,605,702.98	\$ 7,183.03
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$ 3,800,316.77	\$ 3,774,805.77	\$ 25,511.00

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.

COUNCIL CORNER



I must say Pastor Dan has some powerful sermons! Even our beloved church mouse had to come out from hiding and make an appearance during the 11:00 service. He felt so moved by Dan's words that he had to race up the stained glass windows to get a better look. Have no fear, the Property Committee talked to the mouse and has relocated his hiding place.

You may have heard that Rae has resigned from her position on the office staff after nearly 12 years. It's true. I for one will miss hearing "This is Rae" over the phone. We are planning a celebration of her ministry for June 30th after the 10:00 service. Expect to read more in the Sunday bulletins.

With the summer upon us, and starting June 1st we are adjusting the office hours to M-Th 9-12, 1-3. The Office will be closed Fridays. Flowers for worship services will need to be delivered Thursday or before Sunday services.

Yours in Christ,

Dean L. Firing
President

Please contact any member of the church council with questions or concerns: Peter Brumenschenkel, Dean Firing, Jack Flick, Randy Genther, Jennifer Hinton, Kara Krywyj, Jon Montag, Lynne Morella, Aaron Ozanich, Pastor Dan Skillman



PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The Property Committee continues to concentrate on researching the details of proposed repairs and improvements, and then determining the scope, cost, and timing of the work required.

The committee has received a proposal from Cathedral Crafts Inc. of Winona, MN., for completely replacing the exterior plastic windows and aluminum trim with new double strength glass panes and extruded trim. The proposal also includes painting/repairing/replacing the rotted areas of wood framing around some of the stained glass windows. The cost for this proposal exceeds the amount typically funded within the 15 year plan, so the committee will continue to solicit more proposals.

The rearrangement of the office is entering the last phases of the project. Installation of carpet and a new book shelf unit in the new pastor's' office will be completed soon, making it both attractive and functional.

The Preschool room reported a loss of power to all wall outlets and the ceiling fans in the rooms. Investigation showed that all wall outlets from the Sunday School office to the west end of the hall were out. Ultimately a wire in conduit below the concrete floor in the east preschool room was found to have shorted out in the underground metal conduit due to age and the deterioration of the conduit. This is a situation that we are likely to experience again as the building ages. A certified, licensed electrician has been working with Property to find the problem, and will be preparing a report for the Property Committee detailing what we can do to help make the next event easier to track and repair. Property Committee will forward the report and recommendations to the Church Council as soon as it is received and reviewed.

Thanks to the Congregation for your continued faith in the Property Committee and the 15 Year Plan. Please prayerfully consider your giving status so that the Church Council and Property Committee can confidently proceed with the replacement of the Sanctuary roof before a failure occurs and renovation work in the sanctuary below is put in jeopardy.

-Jim Jungeberg

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL NEWS-

VBS Registration has begun! Please join us July 8-12 from 9:30-Noon. Register at the table with the TALL giraffe by the east doors. Bring your grandkids, neighbors, school friends & church friends. We hope that you will join the fun. We are also in need of volunteers to help guide our younger VBS'ers. If you are 11 on up, we need you! Please sign-up on the clipboard bulletin board. We are especially looking for a leader at the Games Station, but we could use volunteers in all areas. Thanks so much!

SAVE THE DATE-

Our VBS parade will be held on July 5 at 5:30. Please mark your calendars to join us as we pass out ice pops & flyers to spread the word about our VBS. We need you all ... little guys & their families, youth & adults of all ages. Walk the parade route, sit on our float or ride in the vehicle pulling our float. We need folks of all ages. We hope you will join us!

HELP! HELP! -

We are in need of someone that has a vehicle that can pull our float in the parade. Please see Susan, if you are able. Your help would be so appreciated!

Susan Moore 440-243-1144 ext. 207; email: children@stpaulbera.org

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CALENDAR

June 2 See you in Worship at 8:30 or 11:00

June 9 See you in Worship at 8:30 or 11:00

June 16 See you in Worship at 8:30 or 11:00

June 23 10:00-10:45 Final Vacation Bible School Volunteer Meeting for all
Volunteers 11 on up in the Fellowship Hall
12:15-1:15 Join us in the Fellowship Hall to help with the finishing
touches for VBS - cutting nametags, finishing the float etc.
-Grab a light lunch while we work-

June 30 5th Sunday 10:00 Worship
Watch for Upcoming Details





JUNE

- 2** - Zoo Trip 1-4pm
9 - Ice Cream & Mini Golf 6pm
23-27 Work Camp HAVE FUN!

JULY

- 5** - Parade 5:30pm, please meet at the fairgrounds to walk in the parade!
7 - Movie Night 6-9pm Youth Room, Pizza & Drinks Provided
8-12: VBS 9am-12pm
21: Cedar Point! Please Sign up on the Youth Room Board. \$49.99 per person, unless we get a group of 15 or more to go! Sign up on the sheet ASAP so we can get a count! Parents, please plan on attending this one with us! You don't have to stay with the group, but it would be great if we can all car pool out there! Let me know if anyone has the season pass, note it next to your sign up, so I know we don't need to arrange tickets for you. The Teens have been asking for this one, so I hope we get a lot of people to go!
27-28: Lock In 5pm-8:30am - Food, Ice Cream, Movies, Fellowship & Friends. We need at least 1 parent to volunteer to chaperone and stay over night!

AUGUST

- 11** - A Trip to the Farm : 1-5pm Hale Farm & Village, \$10 per person, All Ages are Welcome to come! Parents, we made need help transporting children down there depending on how many want to go. Please dress for the weather, with comfortable shoes. This is mainly outdoors, so hats, sunglasses, sunscreen! This is the weekend of their Civil War Reenactment, so it should be fairly exciting.
18 - Wallace Lake: 2pm Family Picnic
 Bring a Dish to share, swim if you like or just enjoy the Metroparks!
25 - Back to School Party 6-9pm
 Food and Drinks in the Youth Room. Games & Movies to celebrate the beginning of the school year!

Youth Jam will return in the Fall.

JUNE 9- EDUCATION COMMITTEE INFORMATIONAL MEETING

If you are interested in being a part of the education committee, please stay for a brief meeting after the 11 o'clock service. We'll meet in the sanctuary. We are in need of any interested party; parents, teachers, youth. If you'd like input into the education from cradle to grave at St. Paul please consider joining us.

Amanda PerryMiller 216-856-2718; e-mail aperrymiller@stpaulbera.org

UPDATE ON OUR COURTYARD DUCKS

Four baby ducklings hatched over the weekend of May 4-5. Unfortunately, before we were able to safely guide them out, Mama duck fell victim to a hawk. However, we are lucky to have a youth director who raises ducks. Amanda came and collected the ducklings right away and only one did not survive.





STRONGSVILLE RELAY FOR LIFE SATURDAY, JUNE 8 AT 1 P.M. THRU SUNDAY, JUNE 9 AT 6 A.M.

The Strongsville Relay for Life will be held from Saturday, June 8 at 1 p.m. until Sunday, June 9 at 6 a.m. at the Pat Catan Stadium in Strongsville.

For the first time, the relay team has included 2 honorary survivors, husband and wife, Dave and Cindy Cain. In August, 1997, Cindy was diagnosed with AML (Acute Myelogenous Leukemia) and Dave with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma in September, 2018. Both have undergone intense treatment regimens and credit their good outcomes to love, laughter and a strong medical team.

They would like to invite everyone to the Relay in June. It is a family friendly activity and they hope to see you there.

For further information, fundraising, etc. see <https://relayforlife.org/Strongsville> or email Strongsville Relay for Life @ gmail.com

*Thank
you*

Dave Cain would like to thank everyone for all of their prayers and good wishes during his cancer treatments. Thankfully, he is now in remission!



SHEEP AND GOATS FOCUS

MISSIONARIES BRUCE AND SONYA WALKER

Bruce and Sonya Walker have been providing educational and humanitarian services for almost 17 years in a country in Southeast Asia. They provide daily sharing of the Word along with financial and medical support.

After one and a half years of resistance, Bruce was able to get a program in the school system to wash hands and brush teeth as these hygiene practices are not normally done in homes in a third world country. The program has proven to be beneficial in reducing the transmittal of viruses. The government has since recognized the benefits and has taken over the program.

Three major disasters have taken place causing total devastation of three islands (Lombok, Palu, and Benten) and the loss of many lives. They traveled to and established clinical shelters to provide medical and spiritual support. Some of the members of the team have returned to follow up.

Their recent emphasis has been in teaching and training young health care professionals to travel to outlying islands to spread the message to their own people. Because of their efforts, there are many who now believe in Christ. They believe that this is an exciting time in their ministry and they are grateful for the support that St. Paul has provided.

Bruce will be doing a presentation at the 8:30 and 11:00 services on June 23rd. He and Sonya will be available to answer questions between services.

STEWARDSHIP EMPHASIS

Have you ever noticed how the offerings each Sunday pile up in the offering plate? Those are gifts which add up to do miraculous things in the name of God. Committing to share your gifts means standing together with your Christian brothers and sisters in ministry and mission for a purpose beyond yourself. It means trusting that together our gifts are divine abundance, more than enough to change the world.

MONTHLY COLLECTION FOR CHURCH STREET MINISTRIES

Peanut Butter and Jelly

In addition all canned, boxed, shelf stable food is welcome every month



COMMISSION ON AGING FOR SENIOR CITIZENS



**Tuesday June 11 at noon
the Senior Luncheon will
be held at Coe Lake
Cost \$5.00**

**Contact the
"Active Senior Network"
for reservations
at 440 891-3316**

MEMORIALS

Wrenda Rix
Dave & Chris Hall



OFFICIAL ACTS

Baptisms

5/5 Alianna Guzman
Angelina Guzman

Funeral

5/13 Bruce "Tex" Bynum

Confirmations

5/19 Audrey Eden Eikens
David Thomas Hoag
Jonathan Jay Miller
Kylie Patricia Handa
Morgan Leigh Hartman
Lena Jayne Morella
Norah Ryleigh Spencer
Brendan Alan Tinay

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

FIRST CLASS
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

