






ST. PAUL HIGHLIGHTS

February 2021

VOLUME 70 ISSUE 02

For God 
SO LOVED THE WORLD
THAT HE GAVE HIS
ONLY
BEGOTTEN
SON SO   
THAT WHOEVER
BELIEVES
IN HIM SHALL
HAVE EVERLASTING
Life 

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THIS MONTH**FEBRUARY 2-GROUNDHOG DAY****FEBRUARY 14TH-VALENTINE'S DAY****FEBRUARY 15TH-PRESIDENTS' DAY****FEBRUARY 17TH-ASH WEDNESDAY**

DATE	TIME	ASSISTING MINISTER	MUSIC LEADERS	ALTAR GUILD	AUDIO/VIDEO	USHERS/ GREETERS
2/7	9:00	Taffy Pavlick	Covenant Choir Team	Karen Kolozyary	Dave Kushman	Team 1&2
	11:00	Meg Montag	Covenant Singers	French's Ginny Anderson	Phil Sultan Nate French Jeff Campbel	Team 1&2
2/14	9:00	Sherrill Crawford	Praise Team		Dave Kushman	Team 3&4
	11:00	Liz Wittmann	Covenant Singers		Phil Sultan Nate French Jeff Campbel	Team 3&4
2/21	9:00	Cindy Cain	Covenant Choir Team		Dave Kushman	Team 5&6
	11:00	Jon Montag	Covenant Singers		Phil Sultan Nate French Jeff Campbel	Team 5&6
2/28	9:00	Mike King	Praise Team		Dave Kushman	Team 7&8
	11:00	Dean Firing	Covenant Singers		Phil Sultan Nate French Jeff Campbel	Team 7&8

FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS!

No February celebrations were submitted. If you have a special occasion in March that you would like noted in this space, please contact the office by February 15th.



What Is the Bible?

What is the Bible?

Is the Bible a collection of books

that demands that we accept everything in it at face value?

Things like God commanding that we kill adulterers?

(Deuteronomy 22)

And God maybe commanding that we kill gay people?

(Leviticus 18 & 20)

And God commanding that we kill disobedient children?

(Deuteronomy 21)

And God commanding that we kill people who do yard work on Saturdays?

(Numbers 15)

Is the Bible a collection of books

that we would be embarrassed about if we had any moral sense?

Or is it possible that the Bible is a collection of books

that shows a development in mankind's thinking,

an evolution in our moral consciousness,

a greater and greater grasp of "the nature of God"?

Maybe the Bible isn't a backwards set of books

where everything harmonizes, and every word is equal to every other.

Maybe the Bible is a highly nuanced collection of competing voices,

Where some words are more important than other words.

Maybe the mount of the beatitudes is higher than Mt. Sinai.

Maybe the Bible is a conversation that began centuries ago,

and invites you to be a part of it.

FINANCIALS

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

December 31, 2020

Income and Expenses Summary	Current Year Actual YTD	Current Year Budget YTD	Over/(Under) Budget	Previous Year Actual YTD
Income				
Congregational Contributions	\$ 366,430.29	\$ 404,000.00	\$ (37,569.71)	\$ 402,936.58
Building Use	2,925.00	7,800.00	(4,875.00)	7,794.00
Interest	13.01	185.00	(171.99)	137.98
Other Income	4,142.70	5,600.00	(1,457.30)	4,098.71
Total Income	\$ 373,511.00	\$ 417,585.00	\$ (44,074.00)	\$ 414,967.27
	Current Year Actual YTD	Current Year Budget YTD	(Over)/(Under) Budget	Previous Year Actual YTD
Expenses				
Benevolence	7,328.61	8,080.00	751.39	40,293.57
Worship	11,186.35	17,415.00	6,228.65	13,852.13
Programs & Services	4,240.03	14,375.00	10,134.97	11,741.19
Property	82,409.41	103,867.00	21,457.59	56,927.21
Staff Salaries and Benefits	196,061.75	217,294.00	21,232.25	212,523.96
Contracted Services	24,549.00	32,004.00	7,455.00	29,904.00
Administration & Support	16,446.95	24,550.00	8,103.05	22,038.89
Total Expenses	342,222.10	417,585.00	75,362.90	387,280.95
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 31,288.90	\$ -	\$ 31,288.90	\$ 27,686.32

Income and Expenses Summary Notes:

Overall Comments and Income Review

2020 has an operating surplus of just over \$31,000, about \$3,600 better than at December 31, 2019. However, Congregational Contributions through December 2020 are more than \$36,000 less than contributions received through December 2019, a reduction of 9.1%. Total Income at December 31, 2020, is \$41,456 less than at December 31, 2019. Congregational Contributions finished 2020 under budget by \$37,570 and Total Income is under budget by \$44,074. In December, we received a \$2,126 rebate from the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation as part of Ohio's response to the economic effect of the pandemic.

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

Expenses Review

Total expenses are under budget by about \$75,363 as of December 31, 2020. Total expenses YTD are just over \$45,000 less than total expenses as of December 2019. We finished the year 11.6% under budget.

Note: Benevolence payments are a percentage of contributions. Therefore, when contributions are higher, benevolence payments are higher. In 2020, we budgeted 2% for the Synod only.

Balance Sheet Summary	As of December 31, 2020	As of December 31, 2019	Variance
Assets			
Current Assets (Cash)	\$ 216,050.82	\$ 141,221.85	\$ 74,828.97
Fixed Assets (Building)	3,041,549.00	3,041,549.00	0.00
Invested Assets (Endowment)	713,465.71	659,336.21	54,129.50
Total Assets	\$ 3,971,065.53	\$ 3,842,107.06	\$ 128,958.47
Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	\$ 1,963.70	\$ 11,234.69	\$ (9,270.99)
Loan from Endowment Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
Payroll Protection Program Temp Loan	40,419.00	0.00	40,419.00
Payroll Withholding	0.00	-	0.00
Accrued Expenses and Other	250.00	250.00	0.00
Dedicated Fund Balances	159,351.98	146,959.92	12,392.06
Total Liabilities	\$ 201,984.68	\$ 158,444.61	\$ 43,540.07
Equity			
General Fund	\$ 15,266.14	\$ (16,022.76)	\$ 31,288.90
Investments (Endowment)	712,265.71	658,136.21	54,129.50
Fixed Assets (Building)	3,041,549.00	3,041,549.00	0.00
Total Equity	\$ 3,769,080.85	\$ 3,683,662.45	\$ 85,418.40
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$ 3,971,065.53	\$ 3,842,107.06	\$ 128,958.47

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

Fellow Members of St Paul's

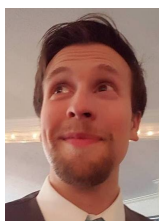
The 2021 Church council held our first meeting last Tuesday, January 19th. The new Executive committee was elected as follows: Jonathan Montag, President. Phillip Sultan, Vice President. Donna Tindera, Recording Secretary. We are honored to serve on the Executive Committee and look forward to leading the council into the upcoming year.

As we move into 2021, we look forward to working with Pastor Dan as we hope to move back into fulltime worship in the sanctuary. We hope to engage more members as we progress with plans to bring us all back together as a family.

Members listed below:



Jon Montag (President): An avid and loyal Pittsburgh fan. Jon can be seen wearing lots of yellow and black much to the chagrin of Pastor. Since coming to St Paul in 2007 the Montags have been continually active in the life of the church. Jon has previously been on council and has served as President. Jon and his wife Meg have one daughter Marissa, and live in Berea.



Phillip Sultan (Vice President): A child of St Paul's. Phil was baptized, raised, and confirmed here at St Paul. If you don't see him in the nave just look up in the balcony, he'll be the one with the headphones on producing the sound. When not at church, he can be found working at Clear Choice Custom LASIK Center. Phil is in his second term on council.



Donna Tindera (Secretary): A beautiful eulogy by Pastor Rauch first brought my family and me to St. Paul. My three children enjoyed many wonderful experiences with the youth group, particularly when Young Life was part of the program. I enjoyed the youth programs with them and have the fondest memories of the National Youth Gathering in St. Louis with Pastor Henderson and a Young Life trip to Lake Champion with lots of middle school girls. My three children are now grown with families of their own, including seven of the most amazing grandchildren anyone could ever ask for! Although retired from one job, I now work with my son supporting home dialysis patients and also squeak in time working for the Cavs. I enjoy traveling, hiking, boating, reading, and volunteering in my spare time (which there seems to be less and less of these days)!



Peter Brumenschenkel: Peter came to St Paul looking for a church in which to raise his daughters. They became members in 2015. His daughters were baptized here and are being brought up in the church. Peter is in his second term on council.



Gary Grizzell: Gary Grizzell has been a member of the St. Paul Lutheran Church family for over 30 years and has served two terms on council. Gary and his wife, Corinne have been together for 48 years and counting. They have three daughters, all confirmed at St Paul, and nine grandchildren. Gary has worked in model development, coaching and pageant production - with two Miss USA wins. Gary has worked with young men and women in preparing them for not only careers in fashion but for life as well. An actor and television producer, Gary was responsible for a television variety show called Auston's Fashionscope and a weekly TV Series called "Life." Shortly after returning to Berea in 1988 with his young family to help his mother and sisters administer care for his ailing father, both Gary and Corinne began a new career as Realtors with Keller Williams in Strongsville.



Christine (Chris) Hall: I have been a member of St. Paul's since 1990 and have been involved in many of our church ministries over the years. Starting with Nursery Coordinator when my children were very young, Vacation Bible School, Confirmation, and Program Director, which included New Member Orientation and Volunteer Coordination. I love learning about our Lord and Savior and have been an avid member of Woman's Bible Studies nearly all my adult years. St. Paul's is like a second home to me and I remember sleeping on the floor in the hallway next to the courtyard during one very cold winter night when we were having a Teen Lock-In, and I had an overwhelming feeling that I was safe, warm, and loved. Wouldn't it be great if everyone who entered our church building received that same feeling?



Amy Hofmann: was appointed to the Council on 1/19 after the early resignation of another Council member. Amy and Brian have two daughters Maddie and Erin. Amy is somewhat of a child of St Paul's being confirmed here. She is in her first term on council.



Dennis Mille: Upon returning from active duty as a Judge Advocate in the Air Force in 1976, I moved to Middleburg Heights, and opened my law practice. I served as a trustee for 32 years with the Middleburg Heights Chamber of Commerce. I also served as a trustee to the Southwest General Hospital from

1985 to 2003. In 1992, I co-founded the law firm of Phillips & Mille, in Middleburg Heights (retiring in 2018). I served in the Air Force Reserves from 1976 to 1999, retiring as a Colonel. I live in Middleburg Heights with my wife Diane. We have one son, Joel who is married to Jennifer, and they have two children, Dominic and Anthony. Diane and I have been members of St Paul for 20 years. We enjoy time with our grandsons, golfing and vacations with the family.



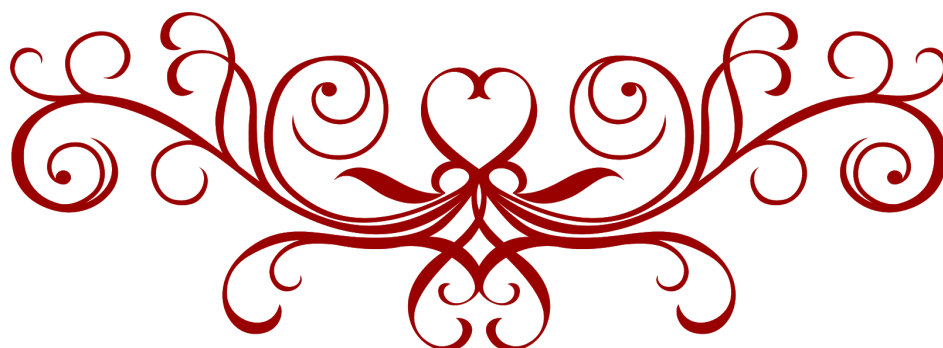
Scott Miller: I was baptized at St Paul's in November of 1975. One of my fondest memories was attending Children's Corner Nursery School, where my mom, Carolyn Miller was a teacher. I have two daughters, Ilsa and Lydia which later attended St Paul's preschool bridging three generations of family involvement with preschool education. I previously served on Church Council for two terms, some of that time as President. I currently teach history at Wooster High School, and am a commissioner for the Medina Metropolitan Housing Authority. My wife Sarah and I celebrated our 20th wedding anniversary in July 2020.



Erika Tully: I have been a member of St Paul's for 17 years. I have 3 kids and 3 cats. I work at MetroHealth as an anesthetist. I have worked there for 8 yrs and am proud to care for those in our community, regardless of their ability to pay. I enjoy traveling with my family, hiking and going out to eat. I look forward to serving on council.



Pastor Dan Skillman: By default the Pastor is always a member of council.





PROPERTY COMMITTEE

As you have probably seen, at least three new strains of the Covid19 virus have emerged, and initial information indicates that the new strains are up to 70% easier to transmit, and at least one new strain attacks the human body with greater strength. Social distance, hand washing, and masks are still the major keys to protecting yourself, and those you love, from being infected. Now with new and more dangerous viruses on the rise, the church council has assumed the responsibility for determining what heating and ventilation systems will be operated and when.

As mentioned during the congregational meeting, what we may be able to do this coming year depends upon the availability of the materials and parts required for a job more than anything. The virus has many materials and manufacturing companies operating at only partial output because of so many ill workers. We have entered a contract with E&L Heating and A/C to replace the 46 year old office air conditioning equipment, and the contractor has located and purchased the equipment needed so that about mid April we will be able to do this job. We are in the process of completing an audio/video connection panel under the portico to enable the use of direct hardwire connection to the microphones and WiFi system for the Sunday morning worship services in the parking lot. This will further improve the sound quality of the broadcast. We will be watching the parking lot carefully for damage from the winter. If major repairs are required in the spring, funds may need to be reallocated to the parking lot so any decision on what work is done next year will be done after we know the status and condition of the parking lot.

The usual monthly reminder: When the major repairs and replacement of parts of St. Paul was built into the budget 8 years ago, 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 the November congregation 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

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



HELLO KIDS AND FAMILIES-

Happy 2021 to all of our St. Paul families. Our February Sunday School bags will be heading your way during the first few weeks of the month. It is always fun seeing the waves from the front door or window. If we aren't able to see you, please know that we are thinking of each and every one of you as we arrive at your house. If you know of anyone that would like to be added to our bag delivery list, please drop me a note on my email. Also, if you ever have a question or are missing a craft piece or item from your bag, let me know and we will get back to you. Thanks for being such terrific kiddos.

KIDS GIVE BACK-

Beginning in February, we will be placing a food collection container that will be put by the front doors off of the parking lot. We are hoping that all of our kids and families will participate, as well as the rest of our congregation. Brown bags with handles will be provided or use a bag of your choice. We need your help by placing one or two items in the bag or fill it up if you are able. There are so many folks in need right now. Let's lend a hand to spread some love to others.

You can put your grocery bags on your door handles and we will collect them when we return or they can be dropped off at St. Paul or you can drop the food donations right in the food bin.

A sign will be placed by our bin to let folks know that they can drop food in the bin or they can take something if they are in need. Thank you for lending a hand for the many folks that could use a hand during these hard times.

xoxo Susan M children@stpaulbera.org

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CALENDAR

NO ACTIVITIES SCHEDULED



CONFIRMATION CLASSES CONTINUE
MONDAYS AT 7PM

GIVE+

St. Paul offers members the opportunity to make your “weekly” offerings consistently and easily. The Give+ program is managed through Vanco and St. Paul enables your contributions to be completed on line automatically.

Through Give+ you are able to have your offering withdrawn from the account of your choice. You may choose between credit and ACH. You decide if it will be weekly, every two weeks, or monthly. You may also make contributions to the designated gift(s) of your choice through Give+.

Your “weekly” gifts are used to fulfill our ministry goals to members as well as outreach to our community and beyond. Your offerings also help meet the operating needs of our staff and the upkeep of our building and property.

No matter how one makes their offering the most important reason for our giving should be love and thankfulness to our Lord and Savior. Excerpts from scriptures say “...each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” from 2 Corinthians 9:7. And from Matthew 10:8 “...freely you have received, freely give.”

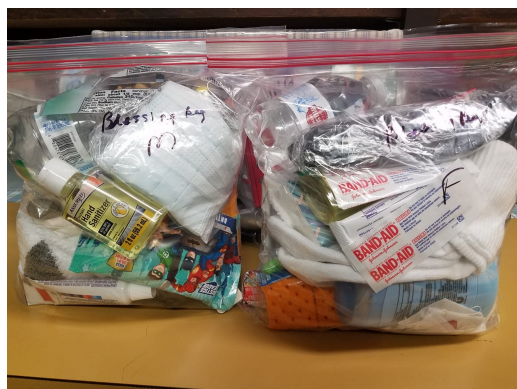
As always, thank you for your offerings to Jesus Christ and to the ministry of St. Paul Lutheran Church.

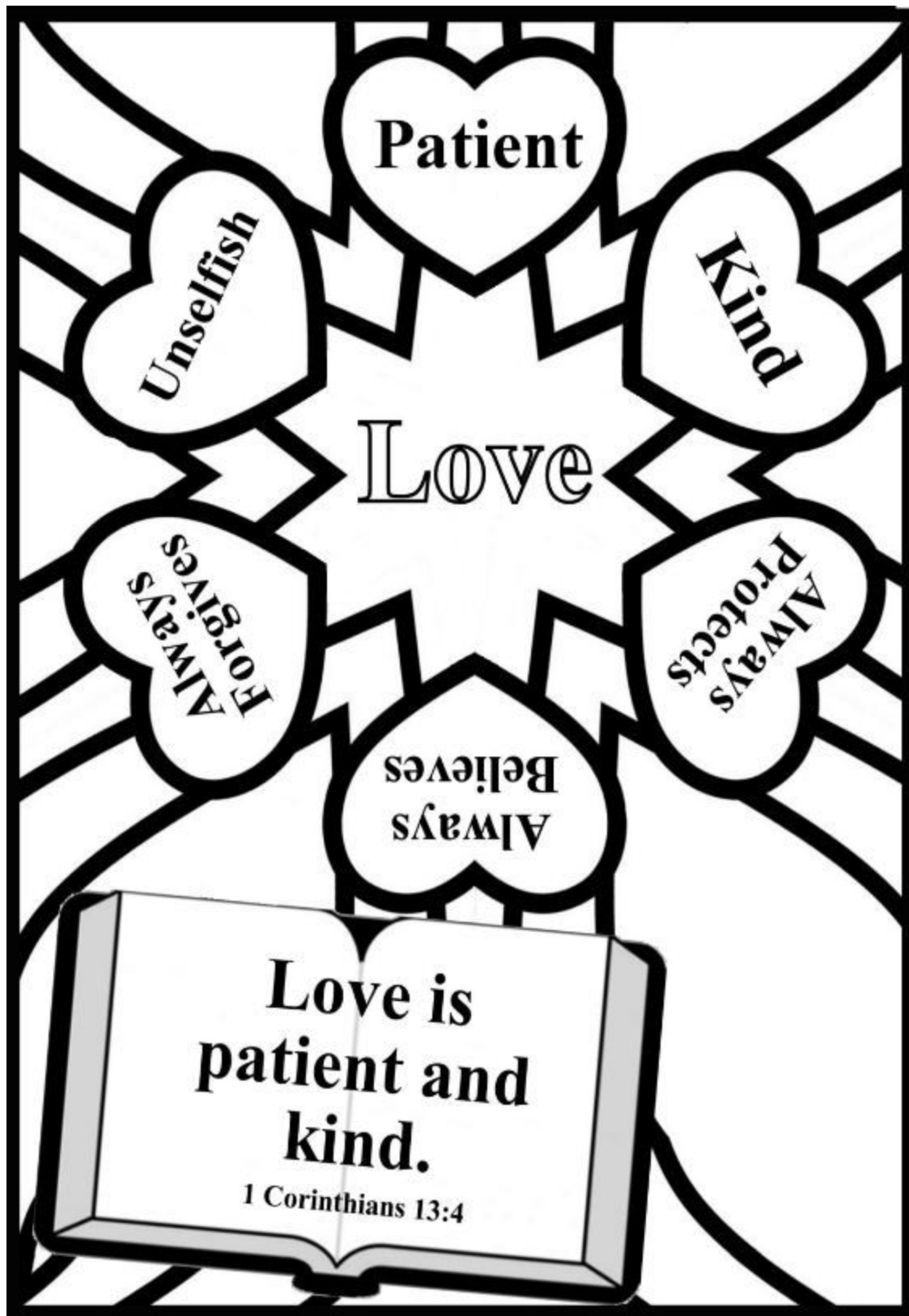
For instructions to join Give+, please follow the link below:

<https://www.stpaulbera.org/donate>

BLESSING BAGS!

What is a Blessing Bag? It is a bag stuffed to the brim with items intended to be a blessing to a recipient in need. Our bags contained a pair of socks, sanitizing wipes, soap and a washcloth, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrush and toothpaste, hand sanitizer, 4 quarters, a new testament and card with info about the Gideon Bible app, bottle of water, tea bags, hot cocoa mix, trail mix, gum, lifesavers, crackers, granola/protein bars and a Note that they are not forgotten. The bags are designated for male or female based upon deodorant and sock type. On January 23rd a group led by Rev. Debbie Michaels put together close to 100 bags. Of those, over 25 were started and donated by Girl Scout Troop 50752 from Columbia Station. We have several of the bags in the office if you know of someone in need.







ONCE UPON A TIME....

1949 Pastor Vannorsdall ordained

1952 – council approved \$400 to Board of Foreign Mission to assist with salary for Alta Madden in New Guinea

-relocation committee established to look for land for larger church building

1956 - Pastor Andersen installed

1959 - On Feb 22, Redeemer Brook Park broke ground – St. Paul had done canvassing to establish a need for a church in Brook Park. Pastor Anderson attended as St Paul rep and as rep for District Mission Committee

1967 - accepted bids for building of sanctuary

1970 - Senior Center starts meeting at St Paul under leadership of Loni Flagner

Throughout the 1960s and 70s many members attended Have-a-Heart Dinners (began in 1964) at Sheraton Cleveland, a fundraiser for Lutheran Children's Aid.

1971 - On Feb 7, the Eagle Scout Award was presented to Keith Duncan, a member of St. Paul from the St. Paul Boy Scout Troop #421

1972 - on Feb 20, Pastor Bill Wilkins installed

1989 – Organ paid off

1992 – began Mission Partnership with Living Word Lutheran Church, Medina. Pastor Begley there at the time.

-Began fundraising for a Youth Mission Trip to Africa in June.

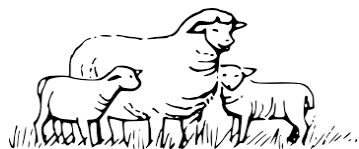
-Began planning for “Good News” service to start in Sept during SS hour

1998 - Feb 8th Pastor Rauch’s final service

2012 – Library moved from Parlor to area outside Fellowship Hall

SHEEP AND GOATS FOCUS

ST. PAUL EARLY EDUCATION CENTER



February's Sheep and Goats ministry is for our Early Education Center to support the scholarship program in our preschool. The program was started in memory of Andrew Trayte, a child in Nancy Goette's preschool, who passed away. The scholarships have enabled us to defray tuition costs for eligible parents who could otherwise not send their children to preschool. However, this year due to the COVID-19 virus, we are asking anyone who is making a donation to consider making it to the preschool instead of the scholarship fund. We have some money in the scholarship fund but have a short fall in the preschool funds to cover expenses. This is due to the COVID-19 expenses and fewer children rerolled because of the virus. The scholarship funds may **only** be used for scholarships and **not** used for preschool expenses. They are always kept totally separate. Thank you for your ongoing support of the preschool.

Other preschool children tell us what they like about the Early Education Center.



Chloe- squirrel game, play dough



Daenerys-big blocks, gym ,friends



Llana-dinosaurs, alphabet puzzles, gym



Harmony-friends, all the blocks



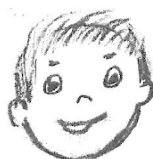
Deliah-work tables, the teachers



Adam-treat jar, building things, play dough



Tallulah-painting pictures, books

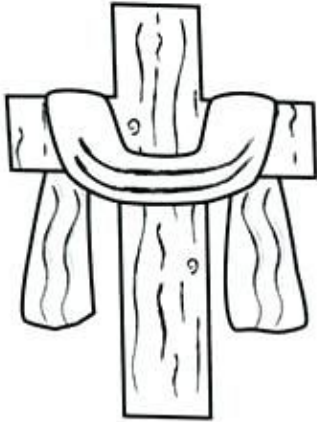


Ben-squirrel game, blocks, friends



Scarlett-friends, counting games, squirrel game

LENTEN BRAIN GAMES



Find all ten words:

- Jesus
- Lent
- Ash
- Wednesday
- Dust
- Prayer
- Alms
- Fasting
- Sacrifice
- Purple

W	J	E	P	S	A	C	T	A	P
E	Q	L	L	U	F	A	W	L	R
D	J	G	E	O	R	V	R	M	A
N	E	A	F	N	V	P	C	Q	Y
E	P	R	R	I	T	E	L	W	E
S	A	C	R	I	F	I	C	E	R
D	U	S	T	F	W	Y	R	Z	N
A	R	Y	H	V	A	L	M	S	D
Y	Z	B	J	E	S	U	S	H	U
Z	J	F	A	S	T	I	N	G	F

Unscramble these Lenten Words

TRYFO YASD _____

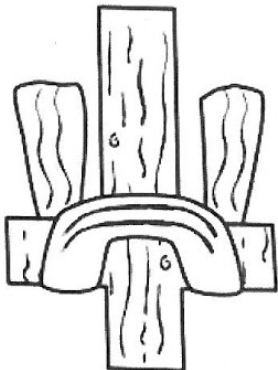
HSESA _____

NLTE _____

TISFGNA _____

One thing I can do during Lent to bring me closer to God...

Answer Key



Find all ten words:

- Jesus
- Lent
- Ash
- Wednesday
- Dust
- Prayer
- Alms
- Fasting
- Sacrifice
- Purple

W	J	E	P	S	A	C	T	A	P
E	Q	L	L	U	F	A	W	L	R
D	J	G	E	O	R	V	R	M	A
N	E	A	F	N	V	P	C	Q	Y
E	P	R	R	I	T	E	L	W	E
S	A	C	R	I	F	I	C	E	R
D	U	S	T	F	W	Y	R	Z	N
A	R	Y	H	V	A	L	M	S	D
Y	Z	B	J	E	S	U	S	H	U
Z	J	F	A	S	T	I	N	G	F

Unscramble these Lenten Words

TRYFO YASD Forty days

HSESA ASHES

NLTE LENT

TISFGNA FASTING

One thing I can do during Lent to bring me closer to God...

MONTHLY COLLECTION FOR BEREA COMMUNITY OUTREACH

**IF YOU ARE ABLE TO DONATE ITEMS FOR
THE FOOD BANK, PLEASE TAKE THEM
DIRECTLY TO THE FOODBANK AT
535 WYLESWOOD DRIVE, BEREA.
PLEASE CALL NATALIE AT
440-826-5800 X 4401 FOR HOURS**



COMMISSION ON AGING FOR SENIOR CITIZENS



**All activities for the Active Senior
Network have been suspended
indefinitely.**

**As soon as we have information about
the resumption of services, we will
publish it.**

MEMORIALS

Ruth Hans

Beth & Gary Birnbaum
Therese Bonamer
Dave & Cindy Cain
Bob & Ruth Hamilton
Marilyn Kemz
AnnaMae Migra

Myron Viola & Rick Barton

Fred & Phyllis Bement

Herbert & Mildred Shalkhauser

Fred & Phyllis Bement

OFFICIAL ACTS

Funeral

Esther Matousek



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

FIRST CLASS
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



COVID-19 VACCINE INFORMATION SESSIONS

If you are feeling confused about what is happening with the vaccines and how to register for them, Bette Idemoto, PhD, APRN, geriatric CNS (retired) will be hosting some information sessions to better inform you.

Most of the sessions will be via virtual meetings, but she is willing to meet with small groups in person for those without internet access. (Note: you can call in to join a virtual meeting without a computer and listen to the information)

Below is a schedule of proposed virtual meeting dates and times in the month of February beginning the 2nd week of February:



Mondays- 3pm and 7pm; Tuesdays- 10am;
Wednesdays-3pm and 7pm, except no 7pm on Feb 10th;
Thursdays-10 am and 7pm, except no 10am on Feb 18th;
Fridays-3pm and 7pm; Saturdays-10am, Sundays- 2pm

Class sizes should be 2-12 people. If only one person is signed up for a time, they will need to reschedule. Please contact the office during regular hours of 9-12 and 1-4, M-F at 440-243-1144 or officestaff@stpaulberea.org to sign up and/or for further information.