



# ST. PAUL

## HIGHLIGHTS

September 2020

VOLUME 69 ISSUE 09



**IMPORTANT DATES FOR THIS MONTH**  
**SEPTEMBER 7TH-LABOR DAY-OFFICE CLOSED**  
**SEPTEMBER 8TH-NORMAL OFFICE HOURS RESUME**  
**SEPTEMBER 10TH-PRESCHOOL OPENS**  
**SEPTEMBER 14TH-FIRST CATECHISM CLASS 7PM**

DATE	TIME	ASSISTING MINISTER	MUSIC LEADERS	AUDIO/VIDEO	ALTAR GUILD	USHERS/GREETERS
<b>9/6</b>	9:00	Taffy Pavlick	Meg Montag Sherrill Crawford	Nate French Dave Kushman Phillip Sultan	Barb Spatz Karen Kolozyvary Maria Phillips	Team 1&2
	11:00	Meg Montag	Covenant Singers	Jeff Campbell Nate French Phillip Sultan	Deb Baechle Diane Barrett	Team 1&2
<b>9/13</b>	9:00	Sherrill Crawford	Covenant Choir Team	Nate French Dave Kushman Phillip Sultan		Team 3&4
	11:00	Liz Wittmann	Covenant Singers	Jeff Campbell Nate French Phillip Sultan		Team 3&4
<b>9/20</b>	9:00	Cindy Cain	Praise Team	Nate French Dave Kushman Phillip Sultan		Team 5&6
	11:00	Jon Montag	Covenant Singers	Jeff Campbell Nate French Phillip Sultan		Team 5&6
<b>9/27</b>	9:00	Mike King	Covenant Choir Team	Nate French Dave Kushman Phillip Sultan		Team 7&8
	11:00	Dean Firing	Covenant Singers	Jeff Campbell Nate French Phillip Sultan		Team 7&8

## SEPTEMBER CELEBRATIONS



September 20-Dougie Cormack-8th Birthday  
September 25-Pastor John Evans -100th Birthday!

If you have a special event for October that you would like acknowledged in this space, please notify the office by September 15th.



## FIND PEACE IN FORGIVENESS

"God, be merciful to me, a sinner!"

-Luke 18:13

We've all been there haven't we?

At some low point. Some place we never thought we'd be.

Or at least, never be again.

We've all carried some amount of guilt and shame in our lives.

Some more. Some less.

Some for longer periods, some shorter.

But I haven't met a perfect person yet.

The only people who don't have some pangs of conscience from time to time are those without a conscience.

If you have any faults, errors, lapses, misdeeds, crimes, or sins that weigh on your conscience, the Church, and in particular its ministers exist to extinguish your guilt. The Church is to be the voice of Jesus, the voice of unconditional forgiveness.

It's true, not all Churches, and not all ministers actually offer this in practice.

(They should. It's literally their job.) But many do. If you need to hear words of forgiveness, and maybe a little advice on how best to proceed going forward, seek out a Church and a minister you can trust. Talk to them about the ancient practice of confession and absolution. Ask them about the confessional seal and their promise not to divulge the sins confessed to them.

And then unburden yourself. Tell someone everything. And find peace in the simple, but powerful words of forgiveness.

-Pastor Dan

# FINANCIALS

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

July 31, 2020

Income and Expenses Summary	Current Year Actual YTD	Current Year Budget YTD	Over/(Under) Budget	Previous Year Actual YTD
<b>Income</b>				
Congregational Contributions	\$ 212,336.19	\$ 235,669.00	\$ (23,332.81)	\$ 223,619.81
Building Use	1,735.00	4,550.00	(2,815.00)	4,959.00
Interest	10.10	105.00	(94.90)	116.64
Other Income	1,110.23	3,269.00	(2,158.77)	3,712.20
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 215,191.52</b>	<b>\$ 243,593.00</b>	<b>\$ (28,401.48)</b>	<b>\$ 232,407.65</b>
	<b>Current Year Actual YTD</b>	<b>Current Year Budget YTD</b>	<b>(Over)/Under Budget</b>	<b>Previous Year Actual YTD</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Benevolence	4,246.73	4,711.00	464.27	22,361.93
Worship	7,025.20	10,167.00	3,141.80	7,182.24
Programs & Services	1,351.71	9,737.00	8,385.29	5,949.24
Property	30,558.27	60,592.00	30,033.73	36,076.25
Staff Salaries and Benefits	113,055.40	126,747.00	13,691.60	125,866.57
Contracted Services	12,854.00	18,669.00	5,815.00	17,444.00
Administration & Support	9,876.41	14,315.00	4,438.59	11,858.02
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>178,967.72</b>	<b>244,938.00</b>	<b>65,970.28</b>	<b>226,738.25</b>
<b>Operating Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ 36,223.80</b>	<b>\$ (1,345.00)</b>	<b>\$ 37,568.80</b>	<b>\$ 5,669.40</b>

## Income and Expenses Summary Notes:

### Overall Comments and Income Review

The YTD period ending July 31, 2020, has an operating surplus of \$36,224, about \$30,500 more than at July 31, 2019. Congregational Contributions through July 2020 are a little more than \$11,000 less than contributions received through July 2019, a decrease of 5%. Total Income at July 31, 2020, is just over \$17,000 less than at July 31, 2019. Congregational Contributions are under budget by more than \$23,000 and Total Income is under budget by over \$28,000 as of July 31, 2020. Note that we have received no Building Use money since March. We will monitor things closely as we continue through the pandemic and adjust accordingly.

**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 more than \$37,000 as of July 31, 2020. Total expenses YTD are almost \$31k less than total expenses as of July 2019. We remain more than 20% under budget. We expect to pay the roof repairs in the next month or so which is a rather large expense.

**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 July 31, 2020	As of July 31, 2019	Variance
<b>Assets</b>			
Current Assets (Cash)	\$ 208,953.27	\$ 110,529.67	\$ 98,423.60
Fixed Assets (Building)	3,041,549.00	3,041,549.00	0.00
Invested Assets (Endowment)	660,420.58	620,633.31	39,787.27
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 3,910,922.85</b>	<b>\$ 3,772,711.98</b>	<b>\$ 138,210.87</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Accounts Payable	\$ 2,070.83	\$ 4,502.64	\$ (2,431.81)
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	2972.46	(2,972.46)
Accrued Expenses and Other	250.00	250.00	0.00
Dedicated Fund Balances	147,212.40	142,044.25	5,168.15
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 189,952.23</b>	<b>\$ 149,769.35</b>	<b>\$ 40,182.88</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
General Fund	\$ 20,201.04	\$ (38,039.68)	\$ 58,240.72
Investments (Endowment)	659,220.58	619,433.31	39,787.27
Fixed Assets (Building)	3,041,549.00	3,041,549.00	0.00
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$ 3,720,970.62</b>	<b>\$ 3,622,942.63</b>	<b>\$ 98,027.99</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>	<b>\$ 3,910,922.85</b>	<b>\$ 3,772,711.98</b>	<b>\$ 138,210.87</b>

## 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.



**IF YOU ARE THINKING OF COMING TO THE  
“IN BUILDING” SERVICE, HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF SAFETY  
PRECAUTIONS BEING PRACTICED**



One way traffic, masks, sanitizer



Registration for contact tracing



Staggered pew use



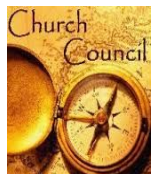
Bulletins in place for social distance



Plexiglass shields on music stands and  
Between organ and sound board



## COUNCIL CORNER



Sunday August 30<sup>th</sup> was the Rite of Confirmation for this year's young people who completed two years of classes focusing on the basics of our Lutheran faith. Congratulations!

The sanctuary roof has been replaced! Thank you Jim Jungeberg and the Property Committee for all of the planning to make it a reality.

We are pleased to be able to offer three means to worship at Saint Paul. They are the parking lot service, the sanctuary service, and by viewing the service on YouTube. We hope you are participating somehow during this strange time. But please do not forget your offering.

Offering is taken at both "in person" services. Automated giving is also an option. (Please contact the office for further information). Offerings may also be mailed (please use a mailing envelope).

Council has been grateful that giving is not too far behind last year considering the separation and the changes this year has brought. We are also blessed that expenses are well below budget.

No one knows how long this separation will last. And we do not know what the future will hold. The much needed sanctuary roof replacement has been completed. That, naturally, is a major expense.

Please prayerfully consider your giving for this year. Thank you.

Randy Genther, Council President

Feel free to speak with any of the Council members- Lynne Morella, Peter Brumenshenkel, Phil Sultan, Donna Tindera, Rob Winwood, Recording Secretary Jennifer Hinton, Vice President Aaron Ozanich, Pastor Daniel Skillman, and Randy Genther

## PROPERTY COMMITTEE



As stated last month, the Property Committee, Worship Committee and Church Council continue to closely monitor the releases of information from the experts who are learning more about the Covid19 virus and evaluating what the new information tells us about how we can live with it in the safest way possible. Social distance and masks are still the major keys to protecting you and those you love from being infected. There are studies still being done regarding air movement by fans or air conditioning systems to determine the effective travel range of the tiny infected droplets. Our Sanctuary system air movement from floor vents will tend to push the droplets back into the air. For this reason we will continue to shut down the air conditioning or heating of the Sanctuary while it is in use.

Hopefully wearing of masks and ample social distancing will be sufficient to prevent direct transmission of the virus. As wonderful as it is to see our friends in worship again, remember not to shake hands, hug, or kiss any non-family member at this critical time when the number of new Covid19 cases has suddenly risen so dramatically.

Colony Roofing has taken advantage of the hot dry days earlier this month and completed the replacement of the Sanctuary roof. The new roof got a real test after the 11 AM service on August 16<sup>th</sup>. The new gutters need to be installed to complete the job and redirect some of the water from the Sanctuary roof to the downspouts on the north edge of the flat roof above door #7 by the Altar guild room.

Now that the Sanctuary roof is replaced, property emphasis will be shifting to replacing the office air conditioning system. The 46 year old system has served us well, but it is more than twice the age of most commercial systems when they fail. Hopefully the replacement will be a scheduled event and not an emergency issue.

The usual monthly reminder : When the major repairs and replacement of parts of St. Paul's 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 congregational meeting, the financial report showed that the level of giving has decreased about 5% in the last year, making it difficult if not impossible to continue with the annual repairs in the future years. Please prayerfully consider what you may be able to do to help offset this decrease so that we can continue to make the necessary repairs and replacements before they become a more costly emergency situation. -Jim Jungeberg

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



### SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS...

#### CALLING ALL KIDS & FAMILIES-SPECIAL DELIVERY!

Sunday School is coming back ... only in a different way. Sunday School will be coming to you! The month of September will be our month for registration and getting organized. For October, November and December, our kids will be getting "Kid's Bags" delivered to their front door on the first week of each month. Our "Kid's Bags" will be delivered to all of our preschoolers-6th graders. We miss all of you so much & look forward to being in contact once again.

The monthly bags will contain a devotion, a song (and in October a shaker), a craft, a Kindness activity, Bible stories, a puppet show, a Blessing of our Backpacks "sunshine" to hang on your bag, and a Birthday card & treat on your Birthday month.

We also hope that any grandchildren, cousins, friends, neighbors etc. that would like one will sign up and we will deliver!

To sign up, please send the following information to my email at church.  
[children@stpaulbera.org](mailto:children@stpaulbera.org)

Child's Name  
Age/Grade in School  
Home Address  
Phone Number where you can be reached

Sounds like fun!  
-Susan Moore



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CALENDAR

### NO ACTIVITIES SCHEDULED



### CATECHISM CLASSES BEGIN

Catechism classes will begin Monday, September 14th at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall



Church Council and all members of Saint Paul appreciate the dedication of all of the workers in our ministry. We would not be here without any of these people or groups. To show Saint Paul's appreciation each month different ones will be highlighted.

This month we highlight all of the volunteers in the office, all of the members who work in the kitchen before and after the meals we have at Saint Paul, those who volunteer in so many other areas at Saint Paul. Thank you!

## DID YOU KNOW?

*This article is meant to learn more about some of our Saint Paul staff members:*

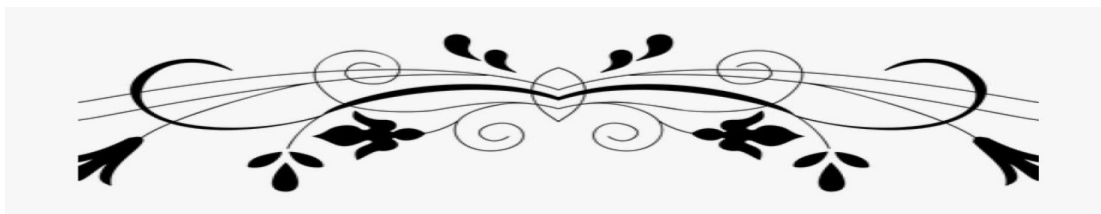
This month we will learn more about Dean Firing, one of our Administrative Assistants.

So who is this new Administrative Assistant in the office? Wasn't he a Liturgist? Hasn't he spoken from the pulpit during Pastor's absence? Wasn't he on Council? Wasn't he a past Congregational President? Why yes, yes, he was.

Dean was born, raised, and educated in Virginia. This is something he shares with Culley Coughlin. He devoted much of his childhood to Scouting and the Church. He was a stalwart acolyte and consistently arrived at the church before the Minister. His mother thought for sure he was going to be in the clergy. In Scouting he rose to the rank of Eagle and spent many summers as a camp counselor teaching field sports and rifle marksmanship. After graduating from Hampden-Sydney College he entered the United States Coast Guard through the Officer Candidate School and spent 25 years serving our country.

In 2012 Dean retired from the Coast Guard as a Lieutenant Commander. He was stationed in Yorktown VA, Port Arthur TX, Wilmington NC, Washington DC (three tours), Chicago IL, and Cleveland OH. His assignments took him throughout the world and he was on many national and international workgroups focused on the safety and security of the maritime industry.

Dean is married to Lisa Nelson-Firing and they have one daughter, Jessica, who was married to Shaun McGrath here at St Paul in 2019. Dean and Lisa are both into dog sports; just ask him about his terriers. Be prepared for a long discussion and lots of pictures!



# WHEELS FOR THE WORLD

## EQUIPMENT DRIVE

**AUG 1 2020**



On Sat, Aug 1st, the weather was cool, but rain appeared throughout the day. And St Paul hosted, for our second time, a drop off point for equipment for Wheels for the World. This event is done every August by Joni and Friends, NorthEast Ohio Region. We accepted 54 wheelchairs, 61 walkers, 18 rollators, 17 pairs of crutches and 11 quad canes, along with a host of other misc items, straight canes, foot rests, cushions, etc.

A big thanks to Wes Hansen for helping with accepting and organizing the donations.

The equipment was picked up around 9pm, during a heavy rain, by the Chair Corps group to start the journey for refurbishing and their ultimate destination to a person in need in another country.

The whole NorthEast Ohio Collection acquired 344 wheelchairs, enough for a large teams' distribution, or 2 small teams. One shipping container holds about 200 chairs, which includes some newly made adjustable pediatric chairs.

It was a great day!

- Jan Bairoti

## ONCE UPON A TIME...



### SEPTEMBER:

**1954** - Sept 26th, St. Paul broke ground for the initial construction of the facility at Bagley and Eastland Roads, the 'Educational Building' consisting of the Fellowship Hall, kitchen, office and sunday school rooms.

**1959** - Redeemer Lutheran in Brookpark Dedicated. St. Paul was instrumental in the development of this congregation.

**1966** - Choir Director/organist, Mr. Sommers, resigned Sept 11 1966.

**1968** - Sept 16th we dedicated the new Sanctuary, only 14 years since originally breaking ground at this location. The initial Educational Building loan had been paid off in record time by Oct 1960, providing the means to begin the process of designing and building a sanctuary.

**1969** - Celebrated 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of new Sanctuary on Sept 28.

**1979** - Emma Baehr Retirement celebration held Sept 9.

**1980** - Communion increased to 2x/month on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays.

**1982** - The organ committee, which had been appointed in 1978, submitted their final report in Sept 1982, allowing for progress towards purchasing the organ that was dedicated in May 1986.

**1999** - Pastor Henderson accepts call to be Senior Pastor at St. Paul.

**2009** - New Handbell directors hired following resignation of Jan Bairoti. New directors: Culley Coughlin (adult) and Marilyn Niksa (youth).



## SHEEP AND GOATS FOCUS



## 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. 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, 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.

By the end of 2019, we will have completed 300 decent and affordable homes in one of the most distressed urban areas in the United States. To date, 275 families (1000 children and adults) 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.

**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.

September 25th will be John Evans' 100th Birthday!! The 2020 Habitat Walk was to honor him and Greater Cleveland Habitat hoped to raise \$100,000 to celebrate his birthday. Unfortunately, this year the walk had to be done virtually rather than gathering and walking at Edgewater Park as had been planned. If you would like to contribute to the walk in John's honor, please indicate on the memo line of your check for John Evans birthday.

## MONTHLY COLLECTION FOR BERA Community OUTREACH

**IF YOU ARE ABLE TO DONATE ITEMS FOR  
THE FOOD BANK, PLEASE TAKE THEM  
DIRECTLY TO THE FOODBANK AT  
535 WYLESWOOD DRIVE, BERA.  
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.**



## OFFICIAL ACTS

### Confirmation 8/30

Moriah Ann Brandt  
Taylor Rose Gluss  
Alianna Maryah Guzman  
Abigail Grace Hall  
Ava Marie Harkema  
Lydia Mae Hollingsworth

# Back to School

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

ALPHABET  
APPLE  
BACKPACK  
BINDER  
BOOKS  
BUS  
CLASSROOM

DESK  
LEARN  
LOCKER  
LUNCHBOX  
NOTEBOOK  
PAPER  
PENCIL

RECESS  
RULER  
SCISSORS  
STUDENT  
TEACHER  
WHITEBOARD

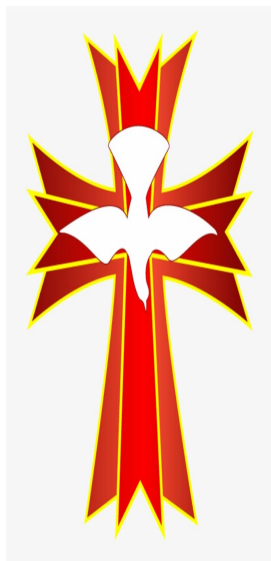
ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
276 EAST BAGLEY ROAD  
BEREA, OHIO 44017  
440-243-1144  
[www.stpaulbera.org](http://www.stpaulbera.org)

**FIRST CLASS**  
**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



---

**CONGRATULATIONS CONFIRMANDS!**  
**GOD'S BLESSINGS TO YOU!**



Moriah Ann Brandt

Taylor Rose Gluss

Alianna Maryah Guzman

Abigail Grace Hall

Ava Marie Harkema

Lydia Mae Hollingsworth