



ST. PAUL HIGHLIGHTS

January 2020

VOLUME 69 ISSUE 01



IMPORTANT DATES FOR THIS MONTH
JANUARY 1ST-NEW YEAR'S DAY-OFFICE CLOSED
JANUARY 6TH-EPIPHANY

JANUARY 20TH-MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY-OFFICE CLOSED

DATE	TIME	LECTORS	SERVERS	LITURGISTS	ALTAR GUILD	USHERS	GREETERS	MONEY COUNTERS
1/5	8:30 Traditional	Tom Herr	Adam & Jennifer Hinton	Lynnette Ozanich	Jennifer Hinton Cheryl Winwood	Team 1 R Hamilton T Herr G Hofman T English T Brunett	Tracy Hamilton Laurie English	Denny & Rae Batig
	11:00 New Song	Jane Krisher	Lois Wolfe Cathie Varnes	Dean Firing	Debbie Baechle	Team 2 J Montag T Riggle G Rohde R Genther T Norris	Jan Sultan Sharon Genther	
1/12	8:30 New Song	Paul Heyse	Donna Tindera Tiffany Salay	Sherrill Crawford	Jennifer Hinton Cheryl Winwood	Team 3 T Salay D Henning D Moore M Eckert P Milloy W Crawford	Sandy Henning Amy Russo Joyce Moore	I. Sumner J. Bairoti
	11:00 Traditional	Diane Ferreri	Alice Chadbourne Danelle Eikens	Cindy Cain	Debbie Baechle	Team 4 B Wester A Krueger P Sultan P Sultan Dave Cain W Hansen	Diane Barrett Jane Krisher	
1/19	8:30 Traditional	Bette Idemoto	Ginny Anderson Gail Hansen	Meg Montag	Jennifer Hinton Cheryl Winwood	Team 5 W Hansen J Flick J Schlott J Cutnaw L Carmean		
	11:00 Celebration	Cheryl Harkema	Liz & Jeff Campbell	Jon Montag	Debbie Baechle	Team 6 R Genther G Hrivnak P Sultan	Nancy Goette	
1/26	8:30 Celebration	Lynnette Ozanich	Barb Spatz Anna Mae Migra	Liz Wittmann	Jennifer Hinton Cheryl Winwood	Team 7 R Winwood B Trausch J Holden R French B French J Sears	Tania French Nate French	Adam & Jennifer Hinton
	11:00 Traditional	Linda Jungeberg	Linda Jungeberg Lynne Morella	Dave Hall	Debbie Baechle	Team 8 L Walker J Sears G Grizzell S Harkema K Hines	Barb Daniels	Alice Chadbourn e Nancy Thompson

FEBRUARY LECTOR/SERVER SCHEDULE

		8:30	11:00
2-Feb	LECTOR	Kara Krywyj	Bonnie Sears
	SERVERS	Jon Montag	Cathie Varnes
		Meg Montag	Alice Chadbourne
9-Feb	LECTOR	Bob Trausch	Dave Hall
	SERVERS	Donna Tindera	Dave Hall
		Tiffany Salay	Chris Hall
16-Feb	LECTOR	Mike King	Danelle Eikens
	SERVERS	Linda King	Liz Campbell
		Mike King	Jeff Campbell
23-Feb	LECTOR	Judy Stintsman	Jane Krisher
	SERVERS	Anna Mae Migra	Lynne Morella
		Lynnette Ozanich	Linda Jungeberg

2020 FLOWER CHART

The 2020 Flower chart is up. Please sign up to commemorate a special event or just to the glory of God! We especially need folks to sign up for January!



An Epiphany for Evangelism

Daniel Skillman

The word “epiphany” means, basically, a revelation or an unveiling. Something that was previously unseen has made itself known. In the Church, we speak of Jesus as the Epiphany of God.

I'd like to offer something that I think could possibly act as an epiphany for you about evangelism.

Often times, we think of evangelism as the act of deliberately and directly telling people who have never heard about Jesus (or who are, at least, unfamiliar with what Jesus could mean for their lives) the story of that first century son of Mary, who was also the son of God, and the savior of the world. Evangelism is about bringing Jesus into the lives of people who haven't yet had the pleasure of his company. And that is one way to think about evangelism.

But I want you to consider something.

Jesus, the eternal word of God, is the creating and animating force of all things. Nothing that has been made was made apart from the word of God, and all things hold together by that same word. (see John 1:1-3)

Now, if that's true, I think we have to conclude that there's no one who stands outside of the life-giving, animating word of God that is Jesus Christ. The notion that the people of the world can be divided into those who are “in Christ,” and those who are “outside of Christ” comes crashing down. All people are in Christ, and Christ is in all people.

The distinction that we might still make is this: Not all people know this yet.

So, evangelism isn't so much about bringing Jesus to places he hasn't reached yet. Rather, it's about pointing out that he's been there all along. Whatever is true, and noble, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable--that is the presence of Jesus. The task of evangelism is simply drawing that connection--helping people to have that epiphany.

This means that you don't have to be an expert in the Bible or “theology” to evangelize. All you have to do is realize that Jesus is the force in, with, and under all that is good.

I hope that's a positive epiphany for you and for your evangelistic efforts.

FROM THE BISHOP OF THE NEOS

Are You the One Who Is to Come?
Bishop Abraham Allende /12-09-2019

Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?

I somewhat jokingly throw that line in once in a while when I preach at the installation of a new pastor. A congregation usually pins all its expectations on the new pastor who will solve all their problems single-handedly. He or she will bring back all their inactive members, find them a flock of young families with children, boost the offerings so as to replenish their depleted budget, and for good measure, fix the leaky faucet in the bathroom.

No human individual on earth, no matter how talented, can turn around a congregation that doesn't want to change. Many of the problems that plague a church were created over generations of time by a multitude of people. The pastor is no miracle worker, much to the disappointment of those who are most often the chronic complainers.

There will always be those whose expectations remain unfulfilled no matter who the leader is. For them, things will never get better. No matter how many pastors have served their church, they're still waiting for things to change - and they just aren't.

On one level or another, they and we can relate to the question of John the Baptist in our Gospel text for the Third Sunday of Advent: Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?

What were John's expectations about Jesus? The previous week's gospel stated that many people, including Sadducees and Pharisees, were coming to see John, and that he was baptizing them with water for the repentance of their sins.

But John prophesied that Christ would come with a baptism of fire and a winnowing fork in his hand. John envisioned a Messiah who would arrive on the scene with a vengeance.

Imagine his surprise when this man Jesus comes not with a winnowing fork, but with a healing touch, with a forgiving heart, and with a message of God's unconditional love.

It's all a big disappointment for John. The Messiah seemed to spend lots of time with misfits and spiritual losers, wining and dining with sinners, but too little time chopping down the

rotten wood that John has singled out for fiery destruction. Nothing seems to really change for John, or anyone else, for that matter.

Jesus' approach was most definitely different than John's expectations, but the result of Jesus' ministry was what the prophet Isaiah speaks of in the Old Testament lesson - the blind see, the deaf hear, the lame walk, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them.

Each week we come to church, we hear the Scriptures read and preached, we sing the hymns, say the prayers, share the eucharist, and, if we're lucky, we may have an experience of God.

I suspect that one of the reasons many of our traditions are withering, and our church population is declining, is that, as people of God, we haven't been trained to see God at work in the ordinary areas of our lives. It's easy to limit ourselves to think merely in terms of maintaining the church afloat, of making sure the bills get paid, the repairs are made, the programs continue, to do just enough.

But the mission of the church is the mission of Jesus Christ. All of us are called to bring good news to the people, not just the professional clergy. God uses us in our various roles as employee, retiree, parent, spouse, friend, citizen, and volunteer, to extend God's love, blessing, and steadfast care for all creation.

Going forward into this coming year, we as the ELCA have put an emphasis on congregational vitality. Rather than ask the pastor, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?", it might be helpful to ask ourselves the following:

- "Is our congregation a living servant church?"
- "Do we have a clear understanding that we exist in service to Jesus?"
- "Do all our actions stem from Jesus' commission to proclaim the gospel?"
- "Do we carry our worship experience with us out of church and into our everyday lives?"
- "Do we look for God in the ordinary? In our home, work, school, economics, or politics?"

I can't remember from where I borrowed these questions, but they invite us to think of ourselves in relation to Jesus, to join him in mission for the sake of the world.

We are instruments of God's love for others, called to be a community of compassion, a place and a people who show the world that God is alive, and God is love.

FINANCIALS

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

November 30, 2019

Income and Expenses Summary	Current Year Actual YTD	Current Year Budget YTD	Over/(Under) Budget	Previous Year Actual YTD
Income				
Congregational Contributions	\$ 349,285.83	\$ 449,471.00	\$ (100,185.17)	\$ 371,279.42
Building Use	7,349.00	6,600.00	749.00	5,861.00
Interest	134.64	165.00	(30.36)	122.31
Other Income	4,075.86	6,600.00	(2,524.14)	5,945.04
Total Income	\$ 360,845.33	\$ 462,836.00	\$ (101,990.67)	\$ 383,207.77
Expenses				
Benevolence	34,928.53	46,310.00	11,381.47	36,919.58
Worship	10,402.18	13,978.00	3,575.82	8,642.45
Programs & Services	10,541.54	15,979.00	5,437.46	8,606.86
Property	52,406.89	102,756.00	50,349.11	76,775.40
Staff Salaries and Benefits	194,331.26	226,161.00	31,829.74	223,389.64
Contracted Services	27,412.00	30,250.00	2,838.00	27,435.87
Administration & Support	18,590.06	26,899.00	8,308.94	21,509.24
Total Expenses	348,612.46	462,333.00	113,720.54	403,279.04
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	\$12,232.87	\$503.00	\$ 11,729.87	(\$20,071.27)

Income and Expenses Summary Notes:

Income

The YTD period ending November 30, 2019, has an operating surplus of \$12,233, year-to-date November 30, 2018, was at a deficit of \$20,071, a \$32,000 improvement. Congregational Contributions through November 2019 are almost \$22k less than contributions received through November 2018, a decrease of 5.9%. Building Use/Other Income is about \$360 less than the amount at this time last year. Total Income at November 30, 2019, is over \$22,000 less than at November 30, 2018. Congregational Contributions and Total Income are under budget by nearly \$102,000.

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

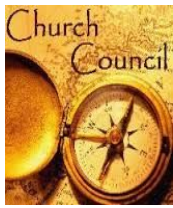
Expenses

Total expenses are under budget by nearly \$114K as of November 30, 2019. Total expenses YTD are almost \$55k less than total expenses as of November 2018. Note: Benevolence payments are percentages of contributions. Therefore, when contributions are higher, benevolence payments are higher.

Balance Sheet Summary	As of November 30, 2019	As of November 30, 2018	Variance
Assets			
Current Assets (Cash)	\$ 124,079.08	\$ 114,980.45	\$ 9,098.63
Fixed Assets (Building)	3,041,549.00	3,041,549.00	0.00
Invested Assets (Endowment)	651,897.97	576,430.44	75,467.53
Total Assets	\$ 3,817,526.05	\$ 3,732,959.89	\$ 84,566.16
Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	\$ 10,888.98	\$ 529.37	\$ 10,359.61
Loan from Endowment Fund	0.00	7,528.00	(7,528.00)
Payroll Withholding	4,151.74	4,049.25	102.49
Accrued Expenses and Other	250.00	150.00	100.00
Dedicated Fund Balances	141,464.57	143,289.85	(1,825.28)
Total Liabilities	\$ 156,755.29	\$ 155,546.47	\$ 1,208.82
Equity			
General Fund	\$ (31,476.21)	\$ (33,038.02)	\$ 1,561.81
Investments (Endowment)	650,697.97	568,902.44	81,795.53
Fixed Assets (Building)	3,041,549.00	3,041,549.00	0.00
Total Equity	\$ 3,660,770.76	\$ 3,577,413.42	\$ 83,357.34
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$ 3,817,526.05	\$ 3,732,959.89	\$ 84,566.16

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

Church Council met on December 10th. Following are key items discussed at the meeting:

- The financial position has not improved from previous months. To date, contributions are slightly higher than expenses but the cash situation remains in a less than desirable state. That is, the Church is still in a borrowing position using the designated memorial and other funds to pay our operating expenses.
- Updates were provided by the Property, Outreach, Education and Worship Committees. These committees are making progress on various matters.
- January's Sheep and Goats (monthly benevolence giving) will be for Lutheran Metro Ministries' Men's Shelter at 2100 Lakeside in Cleveland. As mentioned at the Annual Congregational Meeting, the monthly Sheep and Goats will be how the Church will provide monetary benevolence to various organizations in 2020.
- The outgoing Council Members – Jon Montag, Kara Krywyj and Dean Firing – were recognized for their work on Council for the past four years,

The next Council Meeting will be held Tuesday, January 21st at 7:00. Members of the congregation are welcome to attend any Council Meeting. If you plan to attend and have a matter to be discussed, please let the Council President know a week prior to the meeting so that preparations can be made to have a meaningful discussion on the matter.

Lastly, I announced at the Council Meeting that I will be resigning from Council effective after the January Meeting. My decision is for personal reasons. I feel honored to be President and hope that the congregation will continue to support the Council and various committees.

Jack Flick, President of Church Council

Please contact any member of the church council with questions or concerns: Peter Brumenschenkel, Jack Flick, Randy Genther, Jennifer Hinton, Lynne Morella, Aaron Ozanich, Pastor Dan Skillman, Phil Sultan, Rob Winwood



PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Property Committee is pleased to report that signed contracts have been returned to Colony Roofing for the replacement of the Sanctuary roof and gutter system. Unless another leak in the roof appears, work will be scheduled to create the minimum interference with regular building use and provide maximum safety considering the amount of tile roof that must be removed. Previous re-roofing work was done between the end of the school year and the Vacation Bible School, and that will likely be the ideal time frame again. Colony advises that the work will take approximately 1 week to fully complete.

The live Christmas trees in the back of the Sanctuary that served as our giving trees this year will be planted in the lawn between the parking lot entrances on December 14th. The trees were donated by Schonhut Landscaping Services with assistance from the women's Thursday evening Bible Study Group in memory of Pat Luster. They trees will also be planted by Schonhut as well. Many thanks to Matt Schonhut and the Women's Bible Study for their generous contributions to St. Paul's.

Thanks to our lawn care expert Jon Williams for his cleanup effort. The extremely windy weather front left a significant collection of leaves and paper debris from the recycle bins scattered around the church property and up against the fence on the East side of the property. Jon picked up all the debris and then mowed the lawn and collected all the leaves from the property to prevent damage to the lawn during the winter.

Misc items - The refrigerator in the pass-thru between the kitchen and the Fellowship Hall has been repaired by Survoy Refrigeration. Screens have been stored for the winter, and the interior of all the windows will be cleaned within the next month.

When the major repairs and replacement of parts of St. Paul's was built into the budget 8 years ago, the congregation was told 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's to make several improvements that have reduced the upkeep and operating expenses for the congregation. In the 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



MANY THANKS-

Special thanks are being sent to everyone who helped to make our children's activities in December so successful. Katie Lickert led our Advent Workshop and Linda Jungeburg led our Happy Birthday Jesus Party. As you know, it takes the contributions of many to plan and carry out an event. We had folks that set up tables and decorated the Fellowship Hall. Specific activities needed to be planned and supplies gathered. Folks helped with our food and drinks. Live music was provided at both. Our folks are so gracious to also help with the clean-up. Can't thank you enough. Our St. Paul congregation is truly a group that willingly gives of themselves and shares their time and talents. We thank you for coming to our events. The time of fellowship is always a blessing. Many thanks, as always, for your support of our Children's Ministry.

Susan

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

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CALENDAR

January 5 8:45 Education Committee Meeting
(SS Office)
9:45-10:45 Sunday School

January 12 8:30 Children's Church
9:45-10:45 Sunday School
11:00 Children's Church

January 19 9:45-10:45 Sunday School

January 26 8:30 Children's Church
9:45-10:45 Sunday School
11:00 Children's Church





STAY TUNED-UPDATES WILL BE IN THE BULLETINS

STEWARDSHIP EMPHASIS

Stewardship Verse: Matthew 2:10-11 : "When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh."

Stewardship Minute: I asked Jesus "How much do you love me?" "This much!" and He stretched out his arms and died for me.

ARE YOU A KNITTER OR CROCHETER?

We are in need of a few people who can make blankets/shawls for baptisms. If you would be willing to share your talents in this way, please contact the church office at 440-243-1144. We can get you patterns if needed.



ONCE UPON A TIME....

1866 – On Jan 7th what was to become our congregation had its 1st service conducted by Missionary Franz Matter – 15 families were present.

1939 – In January a new Berea Library opened, Pastor Henkelmann served on the board to create the library.

1962 – On January 7th – Pastor Menchhofer started to serve St.Paul's

1970 – On Jan 26th, the Senior Center opened. A vision of Loni Flagner's to serve older people in the community

1980 - Council approved jointly sponsoring a refugee family with St John's Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod) Strongsville

1987 – At our Congregational Meeting on January 18th, we voted to become member of ELCA when formally established

1988 – ELCA officially formed on Jan 1st, a merger of the ALC, LCA and AELC synods

2000 – Dallas Young resigned Dec 19 1989 – Search committee for new organist/choir director established January 2000

2001 - Pastor Evans became part-time visiting pastor on Jan 7th

2016 – A new elevator for disabled access to the choir loft was dedicated in memory of Mr and Mrs Fred Dewey

2017 – Sanctuary renovation started

SHEEP AND GOATS FOCUS



MEN'S SHELTER AT 2100 LAKESIDE

In 2005, LMM began administering the Men's Shelter at 2100 Lakeside Avenue. The shelter serves up to 350 men per night with an additional 30-60 beds available at partner overflow sites. Social service partners provide on and off-site services to increase resident self-sufficiency. The staff offers hope while providing support for men in transition and in crisis. Six shelter communities address men's individual journeys: Entry, Decision, Transformation, Work, Partnership, Service.

The majority of shelter funding is provided by Cuyahoga County, City of Cleveland, Veterans' Administration, FEMA and HUD. Individuals, churches, organizations and businesses provide financial and in-kind support.

THANK YOU!



Lydia Miller collected more than her goal of 500 pairs of socks for Redeemer Crisis Center!

Final count 550!

MONTHLY COLLECTION FOR BERA COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Chapstick, Body Lotion, Body Wash

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



COMMISSION ON AGING FOR SENIOR CITIZENS



**Tuesday January 14th at noon
the Senior Luncheon will
be held at St. Paul Lutheran
Cost \$5.00**

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

MEMORIALS

Bonnie Carson

The Carson Family
David & Susan Kercher
Harold & Barb Daniels

OFFICIAL ACTS

Baptism

11/24 Lorelai Victoria Graham

Funerals

11/29 Richard Gluss
12/9 Jeannette "Bonnie" Carson

Thank You



Thank you kind and loving congregation for the beautiful greeting cards you have sent us!

May the good Lord bless all of you with a Healthy, Happy New Year!
Pastor John and Mary Evans

FIRST CLASS
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

