



# ST. PAUL HIGHLIGHTS

September 2019

VOLUME 68 ISSUE 9



**HAPPY FALL Y'ALL!**

**IMPORTANT DATES FOR THIS MONTH**  
**SEPTEMBER 2ND-LABOR DAY-OFFICE CLOSED**  
**SEPTEMBER 21ST-LUTHERAN OKTOBERFEST**  
**AT MEMPHIS METROPARKS-NOON-10PM**  
**SEPTEMBER 29TH-NOT A SINGLE SERVICE FOR 5TH SUNDAY**

DATE	TIME	LECTORS	SERVERS	LITURGISTS	BREAD BAKERS	ALTAR GUILD	USHERS	GREETERS	MONEY COUNTERS
9/1	8:30 Traditional	Kara Krywyj	Ginny Anderson Liz Wittmann	Lynnette Ozanich	Barb Mihalek	Jennifer Hinton Barb Spatz	Team 1 <b>R Hamilton</b> T Herr G Hofman T English F Putman T Brunett	Tracy Hamilton Laurie English	Denny & Rae Batig
	11:00 Traditional	Bonnie Sears	Lynne Morella Danelle Eikens	Dean Firing		Debbie Baechle Beth Boerke	Team 2 <b>J Montag</b> T Riggle G Rohde J Lappin R Genter T Norris	Jan Sultan Sharon Genter	
9/8	8:30 New Song	Bob Trausch	Barb Spatz Thelma Brunett	Sherrill Crawford	Barb Mihalek		Team 3 <b>T Salay</b> D Henning D Moore M Eckert P Milloy W Crawford	Sandy Henning Amy Russo Joyce Moore	I. Sumner J. Bairoti
	11:00 Traditional	Dave Hall	Dave & Chris Hall	Cindy Cain			Team 4 <b>B Wester</b> A Krueger P Sultan P Sultan D Cain W Hansen	Diane Barrett Jane Krisher	
9/15	8:30 Traditional	Lynnette Ozanich	Lynnette Ozanich	Meg Montag	Laura Nennstiel		Team 5 <b>W Hansen</b> J Flick J Schlott J Cutnaw L Carmean		
	11:00 New Song	Danelle Eikens	Alice Chadbourne Bev Hubler	Jon Montag			Team 6 <b>H Daniels</b> G Hrivnak R Genter M & H Hollingsworth	Nancy Goette Pat Gugliotta	
9/22	8:30 Celebration	Judy Stintsman	Donna Tindera Lynnette Ozanich	Liz Wittmann	Laura Nennstiel		Team 7 <b>R Winwood</b> B Trausch J Holden R French B French J Sears	Rudy & Carol Spagnuolo	Adam & Jennifer Hinton

	11:00 Traditional	Jane Krisher	Jon & Meg Montag	Dave Hall			Team 8 <b>L Walker</b> J Sears G Grizzell S Harkema	Barb & Harold Daniels	Alice Chadbourne Nancy Thompson
<b>9/29</b>	8:30 Traditional	Tom Herr	Adam & Jennifer Hinton	TBD	Maria Phillips		Team 3 <b>T Salay</b> D Henning D Moore M Eckert P Milloy W Crawford	Sandy Henning Amy Russo Joyce Moore	
	11:00 Celebration	Linda Jungeberg	Alice Chadbourne Cathie Varnes	TBD			Team 4 <b>B Wester</b> A Krueger P Sultan P Sultan D Cain W Hansen	Diane Barrett Jane Krisher	

**OCTOBER LECTOR/SERVER SCHEDULE**

		<b>8:30</b>	<b>11:00</b>
<b>06-Oct</b>	LECTOR	Marilyn Niksa	Danelle Eikens
	SERVERS	Marilyn Niksa Barb Spatz	Lois Wolfe Cathie Varnes
<b>13-Oct</b>	LECTOR	Tom Herr	Cheryl Harkema
	SERVERS	TBD* TBD*	Liz Campbell Jeff Campbell
<b>20-Oct</b>	LECTOR	Mike King	TBD*
	SERVERS	TBD* Anna Mae Migra	Linda Jungeberg TBD*
<b>27-Oct</b>	LECTOR	Kara Krywyj	Bonnie Sears
	SERVERS	Tracy Krug Liz Wittman	Lynne Morella Thelma Brunett

**\*If you can fill any of these spots, please call the office @440-243-1144**

*Thank  
you*

**This thank you was inadvertently left out of last month's Highlights!**

Dear St. Paul Family: Thank you for the cards, kind words and retirement gift. The party was wonderful and each element of it made me feel very special. The flowers that were on each table are now blooming beautifully in our backyard. Rae

**Feed the Kids Summer Lunch Program Recap.....**

Thank you for your generous donations to the Summer Lunch Program. For those of you who don't know, the program was begun several years ago in Berea to help feed the kids who rely on the school for breakfast and lunch. During the summer, these kids do not have enough food.

Thus churches and organizations in Berea came together to feed the kids. Bagged lunches are handed out at St. Mary School and People's Community Church between noon and 1pm weekdays. St. Paul had the week of August 5. We made 350 bagged lunches consisting of a sandwich (peanut butter or ham), Capri Sun drink, fruit bits and a package of cookies. We also handed out ice pops. While doing some research on hunger in Berea, I found that more than 50 students are given special backpacks each Friday during the school year because there isn't enough food at home for over the weekend! Imagine the stress of families trying to feed everyone over the summer months!



I would like to thank the volunteers who helped during the week: Jan Prentice, Cathie Varnes, Kara Krywyj, Nancy Hines, Margaret Zappone, the Hartman family, the Harkema family, Mike and Mary Eckert and Liz Campbell. Bless you! Rae Batig



## WHY I GET TURNED DOWN FOR COMMUNION IN THE NURSING HOME

I make my way over to one of the local nursing homes for a regular communion service once a month. I lead the residents who want and are able to gather with me in prayers, hymns, Bible readings, a short sermon, and holy communion. The service takes somewhere between thirty and forty-five minutes.

Then, after the service, I, and an assistant from St. Paul, take the elements of the holy communion around to those who have indicated to the Activities Director in the facility that they are open to receiving communion from the local lutheran minister, but are not able to leave their rooms to attend the service. We will sometimes visit twenty rooms.

Typically, between ten and fifteen of the twenty or so shut-in residents on our list refuse a visit from us at St. Paul. They turn down the opportunity to take communion. They take a pass on receiving a blessing.

Why?

There might be any number of reasons. Perhaps they're tired that day. Maybe they don't feel well and they aren't up to a visitor. That seems entirely likely, and I have little doubt that it's a major factor.

However, I think that there is another factor in play. I don't know this for a fact. I'm just playing a hunch. But I think that one of the reasons some people, who you would expect to take communion, turn us down when we come by their rooms is that they see it as little more than a hollow gesture. Let me explain.

Communion is about fellowship. Fellowship with God. And fellowship with God's people. Communion is about community. Togetherness. Relationship.

Many of the people in our nursing home down the road are painfully lonely because they seldom get any visitors. They spend their days in bed, alone. And while anyone might appreciate a little solitude from time to time, when days, and even weeks go by without any contact from friends or family, most people take that rather hard. They feel abandoned. Forgotten.

So, when I, in many ways a stranger to these dear folks in the nursing home, show up at their bedsides with a **symbol** of fellowship, the religious **representation** of relationship, the churchly **token** of communion, they see it as little more than an empty gesture. It has the religious veneer of meaningful contact, but it's devoid of the real substance of deep interaction. In short: they see it as fake, and they don't want to play the game. If the sign doesn't signify a tangible reality, pretty soon the sign loses its power. If the family and friends of someone in a nursing home do not take the time to share honest communion with the person they call their "loved one," then that "loved one" won't feel very loved, and they might just take a pass on the **symbols** of love and communion, too, because they realize that they're empty.

We represent God to each other. We are the presence of God in the life of our family and friends. When we are absent, when we don't participate in their lives, when we don't visit our loved ones in the nursing home, they often take this as being forsaken by God. So, it is no wonder at all to me, that they would be frustrated with God, and refuse the symbol of his communion. They don't want a symbol. They want the real thing. And, all due respect, our doctrine of the real presence doesn't mean much if we don't live it out.

Unfortunately, all too many people think that it's the pastor's job to visit their sick and shut in relatives. And while I am, of course, happy to do that, the fact is, the pastor can **never** be an adequate substitute for a person's own family and friends. When a person's family and friends don't visit them, then, for some, the pastor becomes the tangible symbol, not of God's presence, but of God's abandonment.

*My family sent a stranger to bring me a crumb of bread and a sip of wine, but they won't spend even one hour with me. The stranger can stuff it. Thanks, but no thanks.*

Like I said, I can't be sure of all this. But I've been visiting people in nursing homes and hospice houses for quite a long time. And the complaint I hear from residents the most, even above complaints about physical pain, is that no one comes to visit them. Their own family and friends won't commune with them. That often makes it impossible for me to bring the communion of Jesus to them, because they just don't believe it's real. And I have to say, I don't blame them.

I'll keep trying. But communing someone takes more than a pastor. It takes a **community**.

Dan

# FINANCIALS

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

July 31, 2019

Income and Expenses Summary	Current Year Actual YTD	Current Year Budget YTD	Over/(Under) Budget	Previous Year Actual YTD
<b>Income</b>				
Congregational Contributions	\$ 223,619.81	\$ 286,027.00	\$ (62,407.19)	\$ 233,939.09
Building Use	4,959.00	4,200.00	759.00	3,860.00
Interest	116.64	105.00	11.64	68.00
Other Income	3,712.20	4,200.00	(487.80)	5,681.29
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 232,407.65</b>	<b>\$ 294,532.00</b>	<b>\$ (62,124.35)</b>	<b>\$ 243,548.38</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Benevolence	22,361.93	29,470.00	7,108.07	\$ 23,393.91
Worship	7,182.24	9,041.00	1,858.76	\$ 6,562.55
Programs & Services	5,949.24	11,591.00	5,641.76	\$ 5,613.32
Property	36,076.25	65,390.00	29,313.75	\$ 60,443.77
Staff Salaries and Benefits	125,866.57	143,962.00	18,095.43	\$ 127,815.67
Contracted Services	17,444.00	19,250.00	1,806.00	\$ 17,334.19
Administration & Support	11,858.02	17,120.00	5,261.98	\$ 14,022.60
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>226,738.25</b>	<b>295,824.00</b>	<b>69,085.75</b>	<b>255,186.01</b>
<b>Operating Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ 5,669.40</b>	<b>\$ (1,292.00)</b>	<b>\$ 6,961.40</b>	<b>\$ (11,637.63)</b>

**Income and Expenses Summary Notes:**
**Income**

The YTD period ending July 31, 2019, has an operating surplus of \$5,669, year-to-date July 31, 2018 was at a deficit of \$11,638..

Congregational Contributions through July 2019 are just over \$10k less than contributions received through July 2018, a decrease of 4.4%

Building Use/Other Income is \$800 less than the amount at this time last year. Total Income at July 31, 2019, is now more than \$11,000 less than at July 31, 2018. Congregational Contributions and Total Income are under budget by just over \$62,000.

**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 just under \$69k as of July 31, 2019. Total expenses YTD are \$28k less than total expenses as of July 2018.

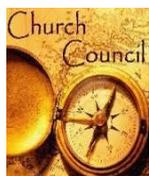
**Note:** Benevolence payments are percentages of contributions. Therefore, when contributions are higher, benevolence payments are higher.

Balance Sheet Summary	As of July 31, 2019	As of July 31, 2018	Variance
<b>Assets</b>			
Current Assets (Cash)	\$ 110,529.67	\$ 107,569.94	\$ 2,959.73
Fixed Assets (Building)	3,041,549.00	3,041,549.00	0.00
Invested Assets (Endowment)	620,633.31	599,129.70	21,503.61
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 3,772,711.98</b>	<b>\$ 3,748,248.64</b>	<b>\$ 24,463.34</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Accounts Payable	\$ 4,811.55	\$ 2,090.57	\$ 2,720.98
Loan from Endowment Fund	0.00	7,528.00	(7,528.00)
Payroll Withholding	2,663.55	1,690.74	972.81
Accrued Expenses and Other	250.00	100.00	150.00
Dedicated Fund Balances	142,044.25	128,293.01	13,751.24
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 149,769.35</b>	<b>\$ 139,702.32</b>	<b>\$ 10,067.03</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
General Fund	\$ (38,039.68)	\$ (24,604.38)	\$ (13,435.30)
Investments (Endowment)	619,433.31	591,601.70	27,831.61
Fixed Assets (Building)	3,041,549.00	3,041,549.00	0.00
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$ 3,622,942.63</b>	<b>\$ 3,608,546.32</b>	<b>\$ 14,396.31</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>	<b>\$ 3,772,711.98</b>	<b>\$ 3,748,248.64</b>	<b>\$ 24,463.34</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.

## COUNCIL CORNER



While most people have been enjoying a lazy month this August, it has been quite busy within the Church.

Amanda Perry-Miller, our Youth Leader, has resigned from St. Paul and accepted a position as the Director of Christian Education with Valley Presbyterian. We wish her all the success in her new position. She will be missed. Her resignation has created a void and the Education Committee has been seeking a volunteer to teach during the Sunday School hour. If no volunteer comes forward, the youth will be joining Pastor's 6-week class on Lutheranism.

Council has decided not to immediately fill the Youth Leader position. Time is needed to evaluate the situation, determine the wants and needs of the congregation, and determine the proper course ahead.

Our search for an Administrative Assistant has ended with the hiring of Dean Firing to share the position with Sherrill Crawford. Dean's acceptance of the position has necessitated his resignation as President and from Council. Jack Flick has been elevated to President and Aaron Ozanich has been elected as Vice President.

The electrical outage within the Early Education Center has been corrected. This outage was preventable. Property Committee has repeatedly stressed that no additions or alterations be made to the Church without their prior approval. Please meet with the Property Committee on all alterations or additions. While we view this building as an extension of our homes, we must treat it as a public space to ensure the safety and security of all who use it.

We will return to our normal office days and hours starting September 16th. That being Monday through Friday 9-12, 1-4.

On a personal note: it has been my pleasure to serve on Council and to be the President this past year. I look forward to continuing to serve St Paul's to the best of my abilities, just in a new and different way.

Yours in Christ,

Dean L. Firing  
Ex-President

Please contact any member of the church council with questions or concerns: Peter Brumenschenkel, Jack Flick, Randy Genter, 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 repairs and improvements, and then determining the scope, cost, and priority of the work required, and then updating the 15 year plan to guide the congregation in planning to avoid catastrophic repairs.

The committee has ordered repair of the holes that have recently appeared in the parking lot, and sealing and restriping the lot surface before the start of school. Thanks to Surface Engineering for helping to meet the critical calendar date for us.

The loss of power to all wall outlets and the ceiling fans reported in the Preschool rooms has been solved and corrected. A wire run in metal conduit under the floor at the time of the original construction of the building failed. The lost circuitry was replaced with a run overhead in the attic and was complete before the start of school.

A certified, licensed electrician has been working with Property, 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. The report should be available in the next month with estimated costs.

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



### Sunday School-

Can't wait to be together again! Please join us on September 8 from 9:45-10:45 for our 1st day of Sunday School. There will be folks in the hallway to help you find your classrooms. Should be fun! See you then!

### Some Fun VBS Facts-

We had such a great Vacation Bible School week! Many thanks go out to our adult volunteers, our youth (11 on ups), our families, and our wonderful children. Thank you to our St. Paul congregation, as well, for all of their support. Thought you might want to hear some fun facts from this year,

- We had 121 children at our VBS
- We had 35 adult helpers to assist throughout the week
- Folks from 18 different churches participated
- 21 did not have a home church
- Our kids & youth came from 15 different communities
- Our float was once again used by another church. This time in Lorain, Ohio.
- We drank 10 cases of water throughout the week!

### Sending Our Love & Prayers-

Our week also had sadness. All of us send our love to the family of Pat Luster. Pat was a very loyal worker for many years at VBS. She was a good friend.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CALENDAR

**September 1** See you in Worship at 8:30 or 11:00

**September 8** 9:45-10:45 1st Day of Sunday School  
11:00 Worship  
Blessing of Backpacks  
Dedication of Sunday School &  
Confirmation Teachers

**September 15** 9:45-10:45 Sunday School  
11:00 Worship  
Bibles given to all 3-year-olds & 3rd graders

**September 22** 8:30 & 11:00 1st Day of Children's Church  
9:45-10:45 Sunday School

**September 29** 9:45-10:45 Sunday School

**Susan Moore 440-243-1144 ext. 207; email: [children@stpaulbera.org](mailto:children@stpaulbera.org)**





To the Youth of St. Paul,

I am writing to you to let you know that as of August 31, 2019; I will no longer be the Youth Leader of St. Paul. It was an incredibly difficult decision to make and I will miss you all very much. I hope you all continue to grow in your faith. I have enjoyed my years here with you and will keep you in my thoughts and prayers.

Hopefully, I was able to see many of you at Rally Day on August 25!

Sincerely,

Amanda

**Amanda PerryMiller 216-856-2718; e-mail [aperrymiller@stpaulbera.org](mailto:aperrymiller@stpaulbera.org)**

## STEWARDSHIP EMPHASIS

If an interview from National Public Radio could talk to Joseph, the reporter might ask, "Joseph, what does it mean to you to be a steward? You've been through some tough times. You were kidnapped by your brothers and sold as a slave. You wound up in Egypt and eventually became a steward in the house of Potiphar. Tell us, Joseph, what does it mean to be a steward?" The great Hebrew with a coat of many colors might have responded, "It means to be trusted. My boss trusted me with everything he had. He told me I had the run of the house, and he gave me the authority to do business in his name. For me it meant to live up to that trust, even when he didn't think that I was. I was an honest steward. I handled his money faithfully and made him even richer. My stewardship charge was really from God. Living up to that stewardship is what my whole life is about."

## WHEELS FOR THE WORLD EQUIPMENT DRIVE AUG 10 2019



On Sat, Aug 10th, the weather was wonderful- sunny but not too warm. And St Paul hosted, for the first time, a drop off point for equipment for Wheels for the World. This event is done every Aug by Joni and Friends, but this was the first year that St. Paul hosted a site. We accepted 37 wheelchairs, 48 walkers, 6 rollators, 17 pairs of crutches and 11 canes, along with a host of other misc. items... tray tables, foot rests, cushions, etc.

A big thanks to Rob Winwood, and Wally and Sherrill Crawford for helping to accept and organize the donations.

The equipment was picked up around 6pm by the Chair Corps group to start the journey for refurbishing and their ultimate destination to a person in need in another country.

It was a new experience for me to see the quantity of wheelchairs at this end of their journey. I also had a chance to talk to quite a few people about the work of Wheels for the World. One person, a physical therapist, was quite interested and may consider a mission trip with WFTW in the future.



It was a great day!

- Jan Bairoti

## SHEEP AND GOATS FOCUS



At Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity, we strengthen communities, restore homes, revitalize local neighborhoods and invest in our neighbor's quest to become a homeowner. With the support of over 250 sponsor teams, 80,000 volunteers, and other supporters in the past 31 years, we have been able to help make homeownership a possibility for more than 250 Habitat homeowners and over 800 children in Greater Cleveland. Habitat homeowners reside in affordable homes in 20 different neighborhoods.

Building new homes from the ground up is expensive and the homes are scattered throughout the city, which is the reason we changed our model in 2013. We now fully rehab vacant homes concentrated on the same street or in the same Cleveland neighborhood. Our new model, with sponsorship and volunteer support, is much more affordable allowing us to impact more families. The average rehab is \$70,000, compared to the \$180,000 – \$200,000 to build a new structure from the ground up. The resulting positive benefit to the city of Cleveland tax rolls is reducing some of the more than 5,000 vacant homes.

Greater Cleveland Habitat launched a three-year initiative to fully rehab 100 homes in Cleveland with a ten-house initiative in Cleveland's Buckeye neighborhood. Since our 2016 launch, we have completed 21 houses in the Buckeye neighborhood.

**MONTHLY COLLECTION  
FOR BEREA COMMUNITY  
OUTREACH**

**Personal Care-  
Toothpaste, Toothbrushes,  
Deodorant**

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



**COMMISSION ON AGING  
FOR SENIOR CITIZENS**



**Tuesday September 10th at noon  
the Senior Luncheon will  
be held at St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Cost \$5.00**

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

**MEMORIALS**

**Pat Luster  
Berea Mill Stream Quilters**

**OFFICIAL ACTS**

**Baptism  
7/28 Gabriel David Koblitz  
Funerals  
6/20 Linda Ann Miller  
7/15 Patricia Luster  
7/20 Glenn (Ted) Baehr  
7/24 Rebecca Kushman**

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

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



*Thank  
you*

How Blessed we are to be a part of the St. Paul family. I am sending a very heartfelt Thank You for all of the prayers said for Max. We all know God hears our prayers. Thank you to all of you-He answered them. Max's Cat Scan came back CLEAR of cancer. He had his chemo shunts removed and is now enjoying getting back to being Max. Our family would have never gotten through this without all of your prayers.

God Bless and Thank You!  
The Brandt Family