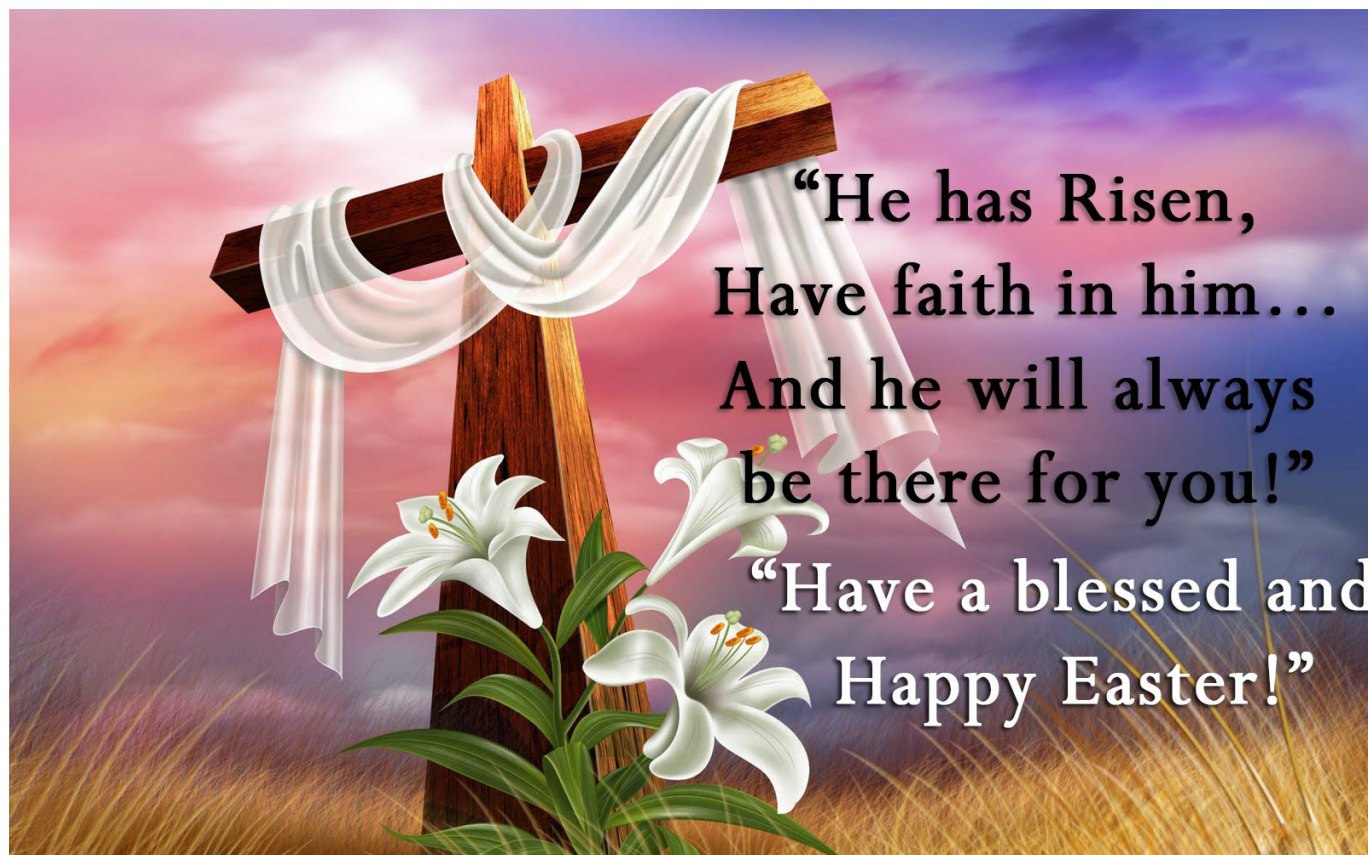




ST. PAUL HIGHLIGHTS

2020

VOLUME 69 ISSUE



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

APRIL 9-7:00PM-MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP WITH FIRST COMMUNION

APRIL 10-7PM-GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP

APRIL 12-8:30AM EASTER WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION

9:45AM-EASTER BREAKFAST

**11:00AM-EASTER WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION AND
RECEIVING NEW MEMBERS**

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THIS MONTH

APRIL 1ST-APRIL FOOL'S DAY

APRIL 9TH-MAUNDY THURSDAY-WORSHIP W/FIRST COMMUNION 7PM

APRIL 10TH-GOOD FRIDAY-WORSHIP 7PM

APRIL 12-EASTER WORSHIP 8:30 & 11AM

BREAKFAST BETWEEN SERVICES

NEW MEMBERS TO BE RECEIVED AT 11A SERVICE

APRIL 15TH-TAXES DUE

APRIL 22ND-EARTH DAY & ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS DAY

DATE	TIME	LECTORS	SERVERS	LITURGISTS	AUDIO	ALTAR GUILD	USHERS	GREETERS	MONEY COUNTERS
4/1 Lenten Worship	6:30								
4/5	8:30	Marilyn Niksa	Barb Spatz Donna Tinidera	Lynnette Ozanich	Denny Batig	Marilyn Niksa	Team 1 R Hamilton T Herr G Hofman T English T Brunett	Tracy Hamilton Laurie English	Denny & Rae Batig
	11:00	Dave Hall	Dave & Chris Hall	Dean Firing	Philip Sultan	Beth Boerke Erika Tully	Team 2 J Montag T Riggle G Rohde R Genther T Norris	Jan Sultan Sharon Genther	
4/9 Maundy Thursday	7:00						Team 5 W Hansen J Flick J Schlott J Cutnaw L Carmean		
4/10 Good Friday	7:00						Team 6 R Genther G Hrivnak P Sultan	Nancy Goette	
4/12	8:30	Mike King	Mike & Linda King	Meg Montag	Aaron Ozanich	Marilyn Niksa	Team 3 T Salay D Henning D Moore M Eckert P Milloy W Crawford	Sandy Henning Amy Russo Joyce Moore	I. Sumner J. Bairoti
Easter	11:00	Linda Jungeberg	Jon & Meg Montag	Cindy Cain	Randy Genther	Beth Boerke Erika Tully	Team 4 B Wester A Krueger P Sultan P Sultan Dave Cain	Diane Barrett Jane Krisher	

							W Hansen		
4/19	8:30	Paul Heyse	Gail Hansen Tiffany Salay	Meg Montag	Aaron Ozanich	Marilyn Niksa	Team 5 W Hansen J Flick J Schlott J Cutnaw L Carmean		
	11:00	Danelle Eikens	Lynne Morella Linda Jungeberg	Jon Montag	Dave Kushman	Beth Boerke Erika Tully	Team 6 R Genthner G Hrivnak P Sultan	Nancy Goette	
4/26	8:30	Lynnette Ozanich	Lynnette Ozanich Anna mae Migra	Liz Wittmann	Denny Batig	Marilyn Niksa	Team 7 R Winwood B Trausch J Holden R French B French J Sears	Tania French Nate French	Adam & Jennifer Hinton
	11:00	Bette Idemoto	Cathie Varnes Lois Wolfe	Dave Hall	Jeff Campbell	Beth Boerke Erika Tully	Team 8 L Walker J Sears G Grizzell S Harkema K Hines	Barb Daniels	Alice Chadbourne Nancy Thompson

**THE ABOVE SCHEDULE AND ALL OTHER ACTIVITIES
LISTED IN THIS ISSUE ARE SUBJECT TO
CHANGE BASED ON THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY**

PIERSTORF MEMORIAL FUND

Applications will be accepted beginning April 1st through June 30th
for interest-free loan funds.

Please go to <http://www.messiahschoolfairview.org/>
Click on the Pierstorf Memorial Fund button to apply.
This is an interest-free loan for Lutheran Students.



Lent and Coronavirus

Lent is a time when the Church reflects on the many sacrifices that Jesus made for his people, and we consider the sacrifices we are called by his example to make for each other. It isn't easy. Giving alms never is.

While there are exceedingly generous people out there, most of us tend to be a bit stingy. And when things get scarce, a lot of us turn into genuine hoarders. Doubt it? Have you gone out looking for toilet paper and hand sanitizer in your local stores? Perhaps you've noticed completely empty shelves. More people than we'd like to admit are responding to this Coronavirus outbreak with selfishness.

The ancient Lenten practices of prayer and fasting can help.

Whether you planned to fast or not, you're fasting now. Some people like to make fun of fasting, as if it were simply a silly relic of the past. Others mock fasting by asserting what they call their "Christian freedom." But none of that matters now. The universe has spoken. We're all fasting from something today.

Maybe we have enough food. More than enough, likely. But we're all being forced to fast. Some of us are fasting from going into our place of business. Some of us are fasting from going to shows, movies, or concerts. Most of us are fasting from seeing as many people as we'd like.

This time of forced fasting can be a time of deep spiritual reflection. When what we like is stripped away, that which is truly important comes into focus. Are you discovering what's truly important yet? Don't forget that lesson when things return to normal.

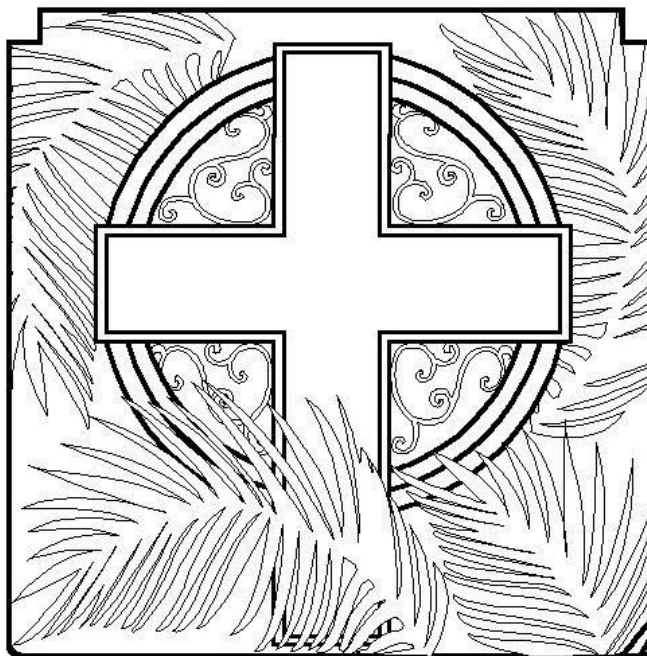
In the meantime, many of you will have some extra time on your hands (though, some of you will be working more than ever). Might I suggest that you use at least some of that time to pray. In your time of prayer, you might reflect again on those lessons that this forced fast is teaching you. As you pray for what you need, consider that your neighbor very likely needs those same things. Remember that when things return to normal.

If you remember the lessons that you're learning now, you may very well find giving alms to be easier on the other side of this Coronavirus outbreak. Having "gone hungry" yourself, you might be more sympathetic to those who "go hungry" every day in thousands of ways all around you.

We have not been able to gather together as a church this Lent. Maybe this will turn out to have been a good thing. Maybe we will learn more this Lent through this forced fast and isolation than we ever could have learned had we met as usual. If that's the outcome, then, one day, we will thank God even for this moment. Perhaps we do not even need to wait to offer our thanksgiving.

Stay safe out there,
Pastor Skillman

danielskillman@stpaulberea.org



FINANCIALS

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

February 29, 2020

Income and Expenses Summary	Current Year Actual YTD	Current Year Budget YTD	Over(Under) Budget	Previous Year Actual YTD
Income				
Congregational Contributions	\$ 55,754.24	\$ 67,334.00	\$ (11,579.76)	\$ 53,718.00
Building Use	1,295.00	1,300.00	(5.00)	820.00
Interest	6.17	30.00	(23.83)	30.07
Other Income	54.37	934.00	(879.63)	16.45
Total Income	\$ 57,109.78	\$ 69,598.00	\$ (12,488.22)	\$ 54,584.52
Expenses				
Benevolence	1,115.09	1,346.00	230.91	\$ 5,371.80
Worship	2,170.07	2,905.00	734.93	\$ 1,411.95
Programs & Services	814.61	1,629.00	814.39	\$ 1,404.36
Property	10,950.37	17,312.00	6,361.63	\$ 10,023.80
Staff Salaries and Benefits	30,658.08	36,214.00	5,555.92	\$ 34,355.56
Contracted Services	4,984.00	5,334.00	350.00	\$ 4,984.00
Administration & Support	1,797.62	4,090.00	2,292.38	\$ 2,203.45
Total Expenses	52,489.84	68,830.00	16,340.16	59,754.92
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 4,619.94	\$ 768.00	\$ 3,851.94	\$ (5,170.40)

Income and Expenses Summary Notes:

Income

The YTD period ending February 29, 2020 has an operating surplus of \$4,620, a increase of \$9,790 from February 28, 2019. Congregational Contributions through February 2020 are \$2K more than contributions received through February 2019, but \$2,248 less than the surplus at the end of January. Building Use/Other Income is \$475 more than the amount at this time last year. Total Income at February 29, 2020, is \$2500K more than at February 28, 2019. Congregational Contributions are under budget by nearly \$11,600 and Total Income is under budget by nearly \$12,500 as of February 28, 2020.

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

Expenses

Total expenses were under budget by nearly \$16K as of February 28, 2020. Total expenses YTD are \$5k less than total expenses as of February 2019.

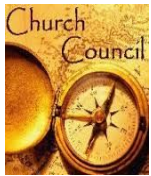
Note: Benevolence payments are percentages of contributions. Therefore, when contributions are higher, benevolence payments are higher. In 2020, we budgeted 2% for the Synod only.

Balance Sheet Summary	As of February 29, 2020	As of February 28, 2019	Variance
Assets			
Current Assets (Cash)	\$ 144,991.80	\$ 117,240.71	\$ 27,751.09
Fixed Assets (Building)	3,041,549.00	3,041,549.00	0.00
Invested Assets (Endowment)	629,692.55	593,886.73	35,805.82
Total Assets	\$ 3,816,233.35	\$ 3,752,676.44	\$ 63,556.91
Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	\$ 7,125.56	\$ 10,883.99	\$ (3,758.43)
Loan from Endowment Fund	0.00	7,528.00	(7,528.00)
Payroll Withholding	2,490.34	3,102.15	(611.81)
Accrued Expenses and Other	250.00	150.00	100.00
Dedicated Fund Balances	147,728.72	151,984.05	(4,255.33)
Total Liabilities	\$ 157,594.62	\$ 173,648.19	\$ (16,053.57)
Equity			
General Fund	\$ (11,402.82)	\$ (48,879.48)	\$ 37,476.66
Investments (Endowment)	628,492.55	586,358.73	42,133.82
Fixed Assets (Building)	3,041,549.00	3,041,549.00	0.00
Total Equity	\$ 3,658,638.73	\$ 3,579,028.25	\$ 79,610.48
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$ 3,816,233.35	\$ 3,752,676.44	\$ 63,556.91

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



What will be your legacy to Saint Paul?

What will be your legacy to Saint Paul Lutheran Church? Do you wish to leave a healthy one? In order for you and me to leave any legacy, positive influences are needed.

For some time there has been some unhappiness by a few members. Everyone's feelings and opinions are important. Christian discussion of these was critical, especially at the beginning of the transition to our present pastor's ministry. Unfortunately, there has lately been an increase in negative talk. It appears that some of us insist on molding the details of sermons, ministry, and church administration into what they desire. We should ask ourselves "When did Saint Paul Lutheran Church become (put your name here) Lutheran Church?"

Even those with good intentions are being overshadowed by some spreading rumors with harmful intent to some of the staff. This has to stop.

We have always believed our Savior wants his church to be an inviting and attractive place for anyone and everyone. This means it is up to us to make it a house of worship for anyone and everyone. St Paul cannot be exactly what each of us desires it to be.

I can truly say in the thirty three years I have been a member of Saint Paul, I may never have been fully satisfied all of the time with every facet of our ministry. Be it the sermons, the music, outreach, money, liturgy, and more. But the overall benefit I receive from worshipping and serving Christ at Saint Paul overshadows any facet which may not fully appeal to me.

Your pastor and officers are listening to your concerns. Actions have been taken on issues which affect the congregation as a whole. We will continue in our efforts to grow our ministry. However, continuing to sow seeds of discontent in the hope that major changes will be made is counterproductive at best and more likely destructive to our church.

We know most members are positive about building our legacy for future generations and are happy with many of the changes that have been made. I am very excited about the approximately fifteen new worshippers I see on most Sundays which were not with us one year ago!

I can assure everyone that our staff, the Transition Call Team, your Church Council, members of both sexes, and those of all ages are behind our ministry. It is our hope that if you are not fully satisfied with certain aspects of our ministry that you make an effort to resolve or accept the differences and choose to move forward with us.

DECISION TO CLOSE

On Thursday March 12th Pastor Skillman and I spoke many times in regards to our responsibility to all members and to any visitors to St. Paul and what affect the Corona virus may have on anyone's health as well as the spread of the virus. Because we care about each of you we suspended all activities. Then the governor made it official.

At this time we do not know how long the restrictions will last. Our prayers are for anyone who may be ill from this or any other condition.

Our administrative staff, Sherrill and Dean, will be there as scheduled. Call the office at 440-243-1144. Their email is officestaff@stpaulbera.org.

Pastor Skillman is available anytime by calling the church or 440-251-4423. Pastor's email is Danielskillman@stpaulbera.org.

Due to rules imposed by our government visits to nursing homes, hospitals, those who are ill and at home, and those who meet the 'high risk' category are restricted. Thus, the pastor's ability to visit has been impacted.

Pastor Dan is making daily messages sent to your email. Be sure the office has your correct email address.

Sunday sermons will be recorded and are available on our website www.stpaulbera.org

Due to restrictions some of you may be facing financial difficulties. Saint Paul has a Family Assistance Fund. It is not designed to supplement one's income but to help purchase critical items. This may be able to help.

The Sheep and Goats collection for April is The Family Assistance Fund, naturally.

Are you unable to leave your home? A group of members have graciously stepped up and offered to pick up your list of needed items for you. Please reimburse them. If you need this assistance please call the office.

The building is CLOSED to all but a critical few. We are serious about trying to help decrease the spread of the virus. Most codes and fobs have been shut down at this time. Your Council is abiding by the rules and is doing video conferences.

We should all pray as a family of believers for Jesus' healing and calming grace and have faith that this will soon pass.

Sincerely,

Randy Genther, Council President

Your Church Council: Pastor Daniel Skillman, Vice President Aaron Ozanich, Recording Secretary Jennifer Hinton, Lynne Morella, Peter Brumenschenkel, Rob Winwood, Phil Sultan, Donna Tindera, and President Randy Genther.

COVID-19 Prevention

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend some simple steps to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses,

including:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based sanitizer;
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands;
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick;
- Stay home when you are sick;
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue and then throw the tissue in the trash;
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

WORSHIP

During Times of Public Health Concerns

When we return to worship together, let's use common sense and intentional action with regard to preventing the spread of additional pathogens while continuing to gather around the means of grace.

Greetings

Be friendly without hand shakes or hugs.

Passing of the Peace

No hand shakes

Lord's Prayer

We will not hold hands.

Holy Communion

Cups with wine will be handed to you,
please discard the cups in the baskets by the pew end.

Be Your Brother's Keeper

Stay in contact with one another via phone, text, email.
Let's extend help if someone is in need.



PROPERTY COMMITTEE

At this time, our church is closed to all activities and visitors and the temperature in all rooms and the hallways, except for the church office, are at 55 degrees to conserve energy. The office staff continues to work so that emergency calls and needs can be forwarded as necessary, and to publish communications to the general membership. Eagle Cleaning has been busy disinfecting the interior of the entire building.

Once the virus emergency is over and we can again socialize and meet, things in our plans may be quite different. The plans that the public schools establish for re-opening may have a significant impact. Our plans to replace the Sanctuary roof were planned for after school is out so that there would be no danger to children who may get too close to the work zone. If the school year is not resumed immediately, having the roof replaced can be done earlier than expected, and hopefully the ancient office air conditioning system can also be replaced before the summer sun makes it difficult to work in the attic space over the office. A member has graciously donated funds to replace the office air conditioning system on our schedule instead of it being a panic when the 1974 system finally gives up and catches us by surprise.

Please continue to contribute to St. Paul's as you are able during this difficult time. Even conserving as best we can right now, it still requires some resources to keep the utilities on and our office operational.

Jim Jungeberg



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

SUNDAY SCHOOL-

Please join us from 9:45-10:45. Meet some great teachers and make some great friends. Learn a lot each week and have some fun. It is never too late to join us. Would love to have you!

FIRST COMMUNION-

First Communion will take place on April 9th at 7pm during our Maundy Thursday Worship Service. There will be a cake reception before Worship. Families can join us in the parlor anytime between 6:00-6:45 for a time of fellowship. If you have a young person from third grade on up that has not had their First Communion and would like to join us, please call the church office. 440-243-1144

EASTER EGG HUNT-

Hope that you can join us on Sunday, April 5. Right after Sunday School Closing at 10:45, we will be having an Easter Egg Hunt throughout the halls of St. Paul. You won't want to miss it!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CALENDAR

- April 5** 8:45 Education Committee Meeting
(Sunday School Office)
9:45-10:45 Sunday School
10:45 Easter Egg Hunt
- April 9** 7pm Maundy Thursday Worship with First Communion
- April 12** 8:30 & 11:00 Easter Worship
(No Sunday School or Children's Church)
- April 19** 9:45-10:45 Sunday School
- April 26** 8:30 Children's Church
9:45-10:45 Sunday School
11:00 Children's Church

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





APRIL YOUTH SCHEDULE

STAY TUNED-UPDATES WILL BE IN THE BULLETINS

YOUTH LEADER UPDATE

The exploration team has been investigating options for a new High School Youth Leader. Several congregation members attended a presentation and meeting regarding potential collaboration with Young Life. After a follow up meeting, Young Life informed us that due to unexpected personnel changes at Young Life no candidates remained to serve as our Youth Leader. We have recently posted a job description at local colleges targeting religious studies and education majors. Of course if any congregation members are interested in the position they should let us know right away.

We are looking for some youth and parents of youth to be available for interviewing candidates. If you would be willing to participate in interviews or have any questions about the search for a Youth Leader please contact Lynne Morella (440 552 4725) or Jennifer Hinton (440 234 9912).



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.

In this initial 'thank you' we start with our staff: Children's Education Director Susan Moore, Administrative Assistants Sherrill Crawford and Dean Firing, Music Director Dale Hukill, Handbell directors Culley Coughlin and Marilyn Niksa, Treasurer/Bookkeeper Lynette Ozanich, Nursery Care Attendant Gail Brandt, Custodian Gail Ryan and of course our Pastor Daniel Skillman. Where would we be without Barb Tibbits the Worship Team Accompanist, and Richard Shirey, the Assistant Organist?

Thank you all!

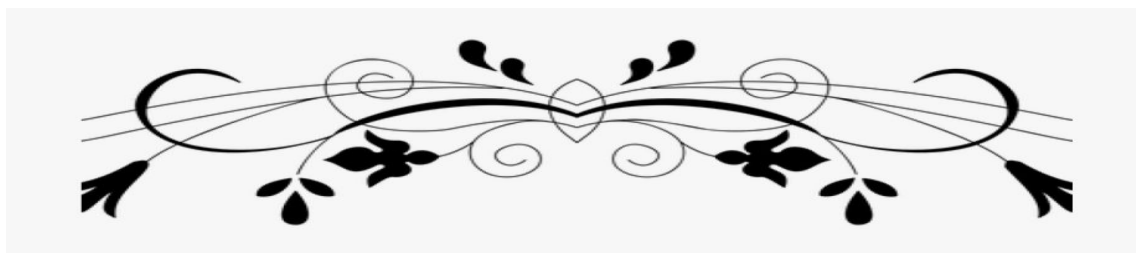
SHEEP AND GOATS FOCUS



ST. PAUL FAMILY ASSISTANCE

The donations collected this month will be placed in the St. Paul Family Assistance Fund. This fund is a discretionary account set up to provide emergency aid for a St. Paul family who may be experiencing unexpected events such as illness, and/or an overwhelming obligation that may require short term assistance.





ONCE UPON A TIME....

APRIL:

1867 - April 11th St Paul Cemetery dedicated, the first burial, was that of Johann Siems, an officer of the church.

1959 Special Adult Confirmation on Palm Sunday (12 adults confirmed)

1960 - The American Lutheran Church (German) merged with the United Evangelical Lutheran Church (Danish) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church (Norwegian) to form the American Lutheran Church (ALC)

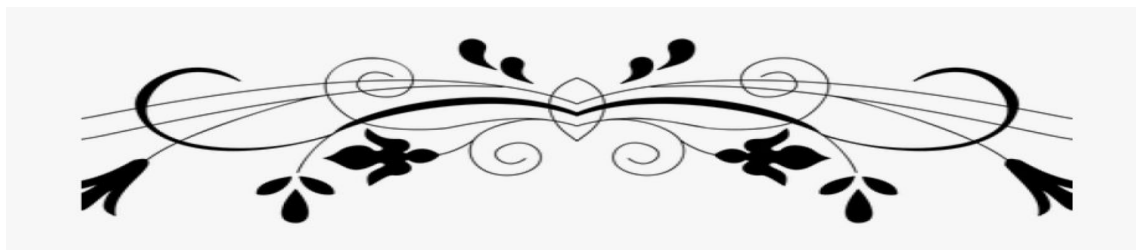
1969 - St Paul hosted the spring meeting of the American Lutheran Church Women of the Cleveland Conference.

- Council approved installation of Basketball net in the Fellowship Hall
- Carolyn Boehm resigned from office staff and Jane Parker was hired.

1970 - Council approved placement of a fence on the East side of the Fellowship Hall

1999 - Call Committee formed that eventually lead to calling Pastor Henderson

2009 - St Paul's hosted the Mens Community Prayer Breakfast on April 13th with speakers Terry Pluto (Cleveland Plain Dealer) and Berea Mayor, Cyril Kleem



MONTHLY COLLECTION FOR BERA COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Diapers, Depends, Feminine Care

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



COMMISSION ON AGING FOR SENIOR CITIZENS



**Tuesday April 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

Neal Coughlin
Jan Bairoti



OFFICIAL ACTS

Baptism
03/08-Gregory Allen Buell

Funeral
03/13-Neal Wahl Coughlin

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

FIRST CLASS
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE CHURCH

While we are restricted from getting together, we still have bills to pay! Please consider signing up for automatic deduction from your checking or savings to get the funds to the church as quickly as possible and minimize anyone having to physically go to the bank.

To sign up for automatic giving, go to our website www.stpaulberea.org and click on the donate tab. It will take you to the "Give & Vanco Payment Solutions" page. You will have to Sign Up if you have not done so.

Secondly, you could mail your offering. Be sure to use "security" envelopes if you mail in your offering.

Please *do not* come to the church in order to deliver your envelope. We are serious about restricting your travels and the building is closed to members except a critical few.

The *Sheep and Goats* collection for April is The St. Paul Family Assistance Fund, naturally.

