



# ST. PAUL HIGHLIGHTS

January 2021

VOLUME 70 ISSUE 01



**IMPORTANT DATES FOR THIS MONTH**  
**JANUARY 1ST-NEW YEAR'S DAY-OFFICE CLOSED**  
**JANUARY 6TH-EPIPHANY**  
**JANUARY 18TH-MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR DAY**

| DATE         | TIME  | ASSISTING MINISTER | MUSIC LEADERS       | ALTAR GUILD                            | AUDIO/VIDEO                                | USHERS/ GREETERS          |
|--------------|-------|--------------------|---------------------|--|--|---------------------------|
| <b>01/03</b> | 9:00  | Taffy Pavlick      | Covenant Choir Team | Jennifer Hinton<br><br>Karen Kolozvary | Dave Kushman                               | Team 1&2                  |
|              | 11:00 | Meg Montag         | Covenant Singers    |  | Phil Sultan<br>Nate French<br>Jeff Campbel | Team 1&2                  |
| <b>01/10</b> | 9:00  | Sherrill Crawford  | Praise Team         |  | Dave Kushman                               | Team 3&4                  |
|              | 11:00 | Liz Wittmann       | Covenant Singers    |  | Phil Sultan<br>Nate French<br>Jeff Campbel | Team 3&4                  |
| <b>01/17</b> | 9:00  | Cindy Cain         | Covenant Choir Team |  | Dave Kushman                               | Team 5&6                  |
|              | 11:00 | Jon Montag         | Covenant Singers    |  | Phil Sultan<br>Nate French<br>Jeff Campbel | Team 5&6                  |
| <b>01/24</b> | 9:00  | Mike King          | Praise Team         |  | Dave Kushman                               | Team 7&8                  |
|              | 11:00 | Dean Firing        | Covenant Singers    |  | Phil Sultan<br>Nate French<br>Jeff Campbel | Team 7&8                  |
| <b>01/31</b> | 9:00  | TBD                | Covenant Choir Team |  | Dave Kushman                               | Volunteers from Teams 1-8 |
|              | 11:00 | TBD                | Covenant Singers    |  | Phil Sultan<br>Nate French<br>Jeff Campbel | Volunteers from Teams 1-8 |

**JANUARY CELEBRATIONS!**



**January 13th-Lena Morella's 16th Birthday**

**January 26th-Nancy Goette's Birthday**



## Love Is the Main Thing

In his letter to the Philippians, St. Paul wrote, "This is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ--to the glory and praise of God." (Philippians 1:9-11)

What strikes me about this passage is that Paul's concern for the Philippians is that they would abound in love. Not that they would know the Bible by heart, or that they would be able to recite creeds, or that they would be specialists in theology. Rather, it was his singular prayer that they would abound in \*love.

Love, in Paul's estimation, is true knowledge and insight. Love is that which would help the Philippians discern those things that were best. It would keep them pure and blameless.

A deep, knowledgeable, insightful love, forged in the fires of real world relationships, is a far better moral, ethical, and behavioral guide than words from ancient books are, no matter how venerable those ancient books may be. Even if those books are accorded canonical status.

What makes certain books canonical is that they stand at the head of a conversation. Their goal is a conversation that opens up ever increasing insights that, while never leaving their source behind, indeed move beyond it. "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do." (John 14:12)

The Scriptures do not point to themselves, but to Jesus as Lord, and Jesus points to love (i.e. His Father) as Lord. Later Christians, seeing the intimate connection between God the Father and Jesus, also accorded Jesus the title, "Lord." And, seeing the intimate connection between Jesus and the Scriptures, they accorded those Scriptures the title, "the word of the Lord." Yet, over the centuries, many Christians have lost sight of the connection that these titles have with their source, love. Where this link with love is lost, the titles take on foreign meanings.

St. Paul might not have envisioned that his letters would be canonized, and he probably wouldn't have thought about the Trinity in the way that theologians of later centuries would. But I do think that he would have approved of these developments based as they were on his doctrine of love. St. Paul would not, however, have given his blessing to the notions of the Lordship of Jesus or the canonical status of his writings in the abstract. He would have welcomed only that which served the cause of love. That which didn't serve love, he would have had problems with.

The upshot for the Church today is that love is the main thing. The canonical status of Scripture, the doctrine of the Trinity, and indeed our commitment to Jesus as Lord, as important as they are, can become idols if they do not serve love. But when love leads the

way, then the Scriptures are truly upheld as canon, the Trinity is worshiped with integrity, and "Jesus is Lord" is a faithful confession. -Pastor Dan

## FINANCIALS

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

November 30, 2020

| Income and Expenses Summary        | Current Year<br>Actual YTD | Current Year<br>Budget YTD | Over/(Under)<br>Budget | Previous Year<br>Actual YTD |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Income</b>                      |                            |                            |                        |                             |
| Congregational Contributions       | \$ 327,615.09              | \$ 370,337.00              | \$ (42,721.91)         | \$ 349,285.83               |
| Building Use                       | 2,555.00                   | 7,150.00                   | (4,595.00)             | \$ 7,349.00                 |
| Interest                           | 12.42                      | 165.00                     | (152.58)               | \$ 134.64                   |
| Other Income                       | 2,016.77                   | 5,137.00                   | (3,120.23)             | \$ 4,075.86                 |
| <b>Total Income</b>                | <b>\$ 332,199.28</b>       | <b>\$ 382,789.00</b>       | <b>\$ (50,589.72)</b>  | <b>\$ 360,845.33</b>        |
| <b>Expenses</b>                    |                            |                            |                        |                             |
| Benevolence                        | 6,552.31                   | 7,403.00                   | 850.69                 | \$ 34,928.53                |
| Worship                            | 9,944.37                   | 15,976.00                  | 6,031.63               | \$ 10,409.37                |
| Programs & Services                | 2,916.60                   | 13,269.00                  | 10,352.40              | \$ 10,541.54                |
| Property                           | 77,727.83                  | 95,216.00                  | 17,488.17              | \$ 52,406.89                |
| Staff Salaries and Benefits        | 178,388.55                 | 199,172.00                 | 20,783.45              | \$ 194,331.26               |
| Contracted Services                | 22,057.00                  | 29,337.00                  | 7,280.00               | \$ 27,412.00                |
| Administration & Support           | 13,647.80                  | 22,493.00                  | 8,845.20               | \$ 19,045.48                |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>              | <b>\$ 311,232.46</b>       | <b>\$ 382,866.00</b>       | <b>\$ 71,633.54</b>    | <b>\$ 349,075.07</b>        |
| <b>Operating Surplus (Deficit)</b> | <b>\$ 20,966.82</b>        | <b>\$ (77.00)</b>          | <b>\$ 21,043.82</b>    | <b>\$ 11,770.26</b>         |

### Income and Expenses Summary Notes:

#### Overall Comments and Income Review

The YTD period ending November 30, 2020, has an operating surplus of nearly \$21,000, about \$9,000 better than at November 30, 2019. However, Congregational Contributions through November 2020 are nearly \$22,000 less than contributions received through November 2019, a reduction of 6.2%. Total Income at November 30, 2020, is now \$28,700 less than at November 30, 2019. Congregational Contributions are under budget by nearly \$43,000 and Total Income is under budget by a little less than \$50,600 as of November 30, 2020. November did rebound a bit from October.

**Note:** Other Income includes periodic gifts made by the Thrivent Choice Donation program, clothing and paper recycling programs, and other miscellaneous unrestricted income. For the foreseeable future, we will not be receiving paper or clothing recycling income.

#### Expenses Review

Total expenses are under budget by about \$72,000 as of November 30, 2020. Total expenses YTD are nearly \$88,000 less than total expenses as of November 2019. We are now about 19% under budget.

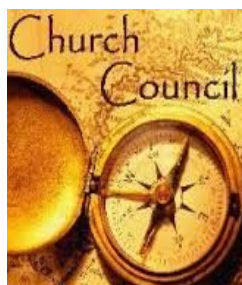
**Note:** Benevolence payments are a percentage of contributions. Therefore, when contributions are higher, benevolence payments are higher. In 2020, we budgeted 2% for the Synod only.

| Balance Sheet Summary                | As of<br>November 30, 2020 | As of<br>November 30, 2019 | Variance             |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Assets</b>                        |                            |                            |                      |
| Current Assets (Cash)                | \$ 199,625.55              | \$ 124,198.32              | \$ 75,427.23         |
| Fixed Assets (Building)              | 3,041,549.00               | 3,041,549.00               | 0.00                 |
| Invested Assets (Endowment)          | 698,735.53                 | 651,897.97                 | 46,837.56            |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                  | <b>\$ 3,939,910.08</b>     | <b>\$ 3,817,645.29</b>     | <b>\$ 122,264.79</b> |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                   |                            |                            |                      |
| Accounts Payable                     | \$ 1,398.25                | \$ 11,426.06               | \$ (10,027.81)       |
| 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                  | 2,846.58                   | 4,151.74                   | (1,305.16)           |
| Accrued Expenses and Other           | 250.00                     | 250.00                     | 0.00                 |
| Dedicated Fund Balances              | 150,967.66                 | 141,509.34                 | 9,458.32             |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b>             | <b>\$ 195,881.49</b>       | <b>\$ 157,337.14</b>       | <b>\$ 38,544.35</b>  |
| <b>Equity</b>                        |                            |                            |                      |
| General Fund                         | \$ 4,944.06                | \$ (31,938.82)             | \$ 36,882.88         |
| Investments (Endowment)              | 697,535.53                 | 650,697.97                 | 46,837.56            |
| Fixed Assets (Building)              | 3,041,549.00               | 3,041,549.00               | 0.00                 |
| <b>Total Equity</b>                  | <b>\$ 3,744,028.59</b>     | <b>\$ 3,660,308.15</b>     | <b>\$ 83,720.44</b>  |
| <b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>  | <b>\$ 3,939,910.08</b>     | <b>\$ 3,817,645.29</b>     | <b>\$ 122,264.79</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



Blessed New Year Saint Paul Family!

I am sure that we are all praying for a safer and a more enjoyable new year. If you have been touched by the Covid virus in any way we pray for good health, peace, and understanding for you and your family and friends.

Aaron Ozanich and I have finished two terms serving on Council. Lynne Morella and Rob Winwood are not returning to Council. Returning members are Jennifer Hinton, Peter Brumenschenkel, Phil Sultan, and Donna Tindera. I want to thank them for their earnest contributions while serving on Council. Welcome Christine Hall, Dennis Mille, Erika Tully, Scott Miller, Gary Grizzell, and Jon Montag to the 2021 Council. Thank you! I want to send a big shout out of 'thanks' to our car ushers at the outdoor parking lot services! Thank you for standing out in the sun, heat, rain, cold, and snow while we sat in our cars with the AC or the heat on. It was appreciated and should not be expected during the coming winter.

For the coming year I hope all of us will ask ourselves what we wish for the future of Saint Paul Lutheran Church? What do we want our congregation to look like? What do we wish for our family of believers? Does our Savior want us to pray that Saint Paul be what 'we' want it to be? Should Saint Paul be what we personally want it to look like? Is it 'your' church, 'our' church, or Christ's church?

The scriptures show that we do not 'own' our church even though we may believe we do. We are God's stewards or the custodians of a congregation of believers. Saint Paul is not there for only us. It is there for all people. It is our duty to make it a welcoming place for all people.

I tried to stress in 2020 the importance of leaving a legacy for our believers. For the future of our church is up to only us. What are we going to do? Do things as always? Do things that only each of us enjoy and agree with? Are we open to change? Do we change without direction? No. But we have to adapt as Christmas future moves forward. What will be Saint Paul's legacy? What will be our legacy for our congregation? I do not have the answers. But we should be searching for answers. And making changes as may be required. And do so in harmony to create our legacy for the future. None of us enjoy change. But is it really about each of us? No. It is our Father's house. He says it is for anyone. We have to make our church a place attractive and welcoming to everyone.

We need to get our absent members back to worship. We need to attract more visitors. And get them to come back. We need to support our regular family of members.



Satan did not cause the pandemic. But Satan is using it to keep people away from having Jesus as the center of their lives. There are those who have decided sitting in a car is not for them. Or sitting in church with a mask is not to their liking. Or sitting at home and either listening or watching a service is not really church. Satan is busy using the virus as a means to separate us from Jesus. Too many people may have gotten comfortable waking Sunday mornings drinking their coffee, reading the paper, watching TV, surfing the web, or whatever instead of attending worship in one way or another.

We need to be prepared to make our church a place of refuge, as allowable, for all people now and in the near future. Life will return to normal one day. What will be our legacy?

Randy Genter  
Council President

Feel free to speak with any of the Church Council members: Pastor Dan Skillman, Vice President Aaron Ozanich, Recording Secretary Jennifer Hinton, Lynne Morella, Peter Brumenschenkel, Rob Winwood, Phil Sultan, and Donna Tindera.





## PROPERTY COMMITTEE

As you have probably seen, at least one new strain of the Covid19 virus has emerged, and initial information indicates that the new strain is up to 70% easier to transmit. Social distance, hand washing, and masks are still the major keys to protecting yourself, and those you love, from being infected. Now with a new and more dangerous virus 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 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



### HAPPY NEW YEAR KIDS & FAMILIES

As another year ends, we look forward to a good year ahead and better times. Many thanks to all of our kids and families as we have shared our Sunday School Bags each month. It is always fun for us to see a wave from the window or door as we are able to connect once again. We will be continuing to deliver our bags again in January and will end in May for a summer break.

We hope your holidays are fun ones. We will continue to think of all of you and will see you in January. Our January bags will be delivered during the second week of the month. As you know, deliveries are slow right now and some of our supplies have not yet arrived.

We send lots of hugs and love to all of you and we wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Susan M

[children@stpaulbera.org](mailto:children@stpaulbera.org)



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CALENDAR NO ACTIVITIES SCHEDULED



**CONFIRMATION CLASSES CONTINUE  
MONDAYS AT 7PM**

The teachers, children and the Preschool Board thank you for your contributions and support to our preschool during the Pandemic.

**Our preschoolers tell you what they like about our preschool.**



Everett-games, books



Mei-scooters, Barbies



Olivia-being in school



Keagan-the teachers



Zoey-games, snack



Henry-games, gym room



Peyton-writing center



Dietrich-dinosaurs, cars



Mallory-stories, projects



Benny- blocks, books



CeCe-making things



Aurora-friends, projects

Next month different preschool children will tell you things they like.



## ONCE UPON A TIME....

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

**1944** – First Highlights Newsletter published.

**1962** – On January 7<sup>th</sup> – Pastor Menchhofer started to serve St.Paul's

**1970** – On Jan 26<sup>th</sup>, the Senior Center opened. This was a vision of Loni Flagner's to serve older people in the community

**1970** - Annual Meeting scheduled Jan 19<sup>th</sup>, but due to water pipe burst and flooding of office and youth room, postponed to after Ash Wednesday Services on Feb 11<sup>th</sup>

**1971** – St Pauls Women of the Church reorganized into several new Circles: Love, Joy, Life, Charity, Faith, Peace and Hope

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

**1982** – Carol Roose commissioned as Church Staff Associate-Administrative Assistant by ELCA

**1989** - Arthur Last Estate donated over 315,000 – later basis of Endowment fund

**2000** – Dallas Young resigned Dec 19 1999 – Search committee for new organist/choir director established January 2000

**2001** - Pastor Evans became part-time visiting pastor on Jan 7<sup>th</sup>

**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



## CLEVELAND PREGNANCY CENTER



**RESTORING HOPE. HEALING HEARTS.**  
**SAVING LIVES**

The Cleveland Pregnancy Center assists women who choose to carry their baby to term by providing emotional support and practical assistance while sharing God's love and plan for their lives. We offer pregnant women and parenting women and men a wide array of supportive services which include:

Pregnancy Support  
Life Development Classes  
Post-Abortion & Grief Support  
Frontline Fatherhood Program

## 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.**

## MEMORIALS

### Jean Meresko

Eric & Luanne Prestegaard

### Ruth Hans

Bob & Marianne Trausch  
Richard & Phyllis Lowry  
Louis & Karen Groza  
Anna Mae Migra  
Bob & Ruth Hamilton  
Dave & Cindy Cain  
Eileen Clymer  
Harold & Barb Daniels  
Margaret Wayner  
Ann Purdy  
Ken & Lois Hines  
Marjorie Lundberg  
Bob Antl

### Duane O. Boyer

The Boyer Family

## OFFICIAL ACTS

### Funeral

December 1st-Ruth Hans





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