



ST. PAUL HIGHLIGHTS

August 2021

VOLUME 70 ISSUE 08



IMPORTANT DATES FOR THIS MONTH
AUGUST 14TH-WHEELS FOR THE WORLD EQUIPMENT DRIVE
AUGUST 30TH-CONFIRMATION TEACHER ORIENTATION

DATE	TIME	ASSISTING MINISTER	MUSIC LEADERS	ALTAR GUILD	AUDIO/VIDEO	USHERS/ GREETERS
8/1	9:00	Taffy Pavlick	Lynne Morella	Barb Spatz	Dave Kushman	Team 1&2
	11:00	Meg Montag	Culley Coughlin	Beth Boerke Erika Tully	Phil Sultan Nate French Jeff Campbell	Team 1&2
8/8	9:00	Sherrill Crawford	Cindy Cain		Dave Kushman	Team 3&4
	11:00	Liz Wittmann	Culley Coughlin		Phil Sultan Nate French Jeff Campbell	Team 3&4
8/15	9:00	Cindy Cain	Loren Reash-Henz		Dave Kushman	Team 5&6
	11:00	Jon Montag	Loren Reash-Henz		Phil Sultan Nate French Jeff Campbell	Team 5&6
8/22	9:00	TBD	Sherrill Crawford		Dave Kushman	Team 7&8
	11:00	Dean Firing	Sherrill Crawford		Phil Sultan Nate French Jeff Campbell	Team 7&8
8/29	9:00	Sherrill Crawford	Culley Coughlin		Dave Kushman	Volunteers Teams 1-8
	11:00	TBD	Culley Coughlin		Phil Sultan Nate French Jeff Campbell	Volunteers Teams 1-8



AUGUST CELEBRATIONS

Dave and Cindy Cain are celebrating their 55th
 Wedding Anniversary on August 13th!

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE A CELEBRATION IN SEPTEMBER, PLEASE
 SUBMIT THE INFORMATION TO THE OFFICE BY AUGUST 20TH.**



Forgiveness and Reconciliation

I want to talk about forgiveness with reconciliation.
I think there's a lot of confusion in churches surrounding these topics.
I hope to clear some of that up.

Forgiveness is all about your response to someone who's wronged you.
It's about letting go of your desire for revenge.
It's about releasing your anger, and seeking a life of peace.
Forgiveness depends only on you.

Reconciliation depends, to a great extent, on the other person.
Are they willing to acknowledge the wrong they did to you?
Are they willing to promise not to do it again?
Are they willing to do what they can to make amends?
Reconciliation requires that the answer to all three of those questions needs to be, "Yes."
Sometimes the other person just isn't willing to do their part.
If that's the case, then reconciliation isn't possible, no matter how much you've forgiven.

You can forgive someone truly, deeply, from the bottom of your heart, and still recognize that reconciliation has not occurred, and might never occur.
That's because forgiveness is about what you can control (you), and reconciliation is partially about something that you can't control (the other person's response).

So, don't confuse forgiveness and reconciliation.
The two are not the same.

And don't let anyone else buffalo you into confusing those things either.
Pastors in the Christian Church, and well-meaning Christians are positively **famous** for doing this. It's one of the reasons why, for example, so many Christians tell even severely abused spouses to stay in their marriages. "You have to forgive them. It's what Jesus would want."

Uh, no.

What Jesus would want is for you to leave that abuser, get to a safe place, and find true healing for your body and mind so that you can eventually get to a place of forgiveness that will set **you** free, no matter what your ex-spouse goes on to do or not do.

I don't know the hurts you've faced.

I don't know whether or not reconciliation is possible with the one who wronged you.

But I do know that reconciliation isn't necessary for you to find healing.

It's not necessary for you to be a better, stronger, happier person.

And it's not necessary for you to forgive the one who wronged you.

Reconciliation depends to a great extent on the other person.

Sometimes, sadly, they're just not willing to do their part.

In that case, you need to do what you have to do to protect yourself from further harm.

That might mean that you just can't have a relationship with that person anymore.

But forgiveness depends on you, and on you alone.

You can forgive no matter what the other person does.

And when you do, you can find a great measure of peace.



FINANCIALS

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

June 30, 2021

Income and Expenses Summary	Current Year Actual YTD	Current Year Budget YTD	Over/(Under) Budget	Previous Year Actual YTD
Income				
Congregational Contributions	\$ 151,294.04	\$ 193,500.00	\$ (42,205.96)	\$ 186,103.99
Building Use	1,405.00	2,748.00	(1,343.00)	1,735.00
Interest	3.44	18.00	(14.56)	9.51
Other Income	1,323.95	708.00	615.95	1,073.21
Total Income	\$ 154,026.43	\$ 196,974.00	\$ (42,947.57)	\$ 188,921.71
Expenses				
Benevolence	3,025.89	3,870.00	844.11	3,722.09
Worship	7,108.10	7,310.00	201.90	6,209.62
Programs & Services	1,545.17	6,558.00	5,012.83	1,351.71
Property	27,713.57	48,564.00	20,850.43	24,745.86
Staff Salaries and Benefits	94,290.28	104,120.00	9,829.72	97,497.24
Contracted Services	15,160.06	15,378.00	217.94	10,362.00
Administration & Support	7,581.27	12,534.00	4,952.73	7,830.63
Total Expenses	156,424.34	198,334.00	41,909.66	151,719.15
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (2,397.91)	\$ (1,360.00)	\$ (1,037.91)	\$ 37,202.56
Grant Income	40,419.00	0.00	40,419.00	\$ -

Income and Expenses Summary Notes:

Overall Comments and Income Review

The YTD period ending June 30, 2021, has a surplus of a little over \$38,000. This surplus is only the result of converting the PPP loan to a grant. Congregational Contributions through June 2021 are nearly \$35,000 less than contributions received through June 2020, as is Total Income. Congregational Contributions are under budget by about \$42,000 and Total Income is under budget by nearly \$43,000 as of June 30, 2021. For the third month in a row, Congregational Contributions are down nearly 20% from the prior year. Regular operational deficit is nearly \$2,400 for the year..

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

Expenses Review

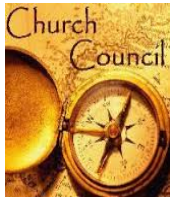
Total expenses are under budget by nearly \$42,000 as of June 30, 2021. Total expenses YTD are \$4,700 less than total expenses as of June 2020.

Note: Benevolence payments are a percentage of contributions. Therefore, when contributions are higher, benevolence payments are higher. In 2021, we budgeted 2% for only the Synod.

Balance Sheet Summary	As of June 30, 2021	As of June 30, 2020	Variance
Assets			
Current Assets (Cash)	\$ 198,367.82	\$ 209,525.66	\$ (11,157.84)
Fixed Assets (Building)	3,041,549.00	3,041,549.00	0.00
Invested Assets (Endowment)	759,061.12	644,753.98	114,307.14
Total Assets	\$ 3,998,977.94	\$ 3,895,828.64	\$ 103,149.30
Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	\$ 2,647.55	\$ 814.30	\$ 1,833.25
Loan from Endowment Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
Payroll Protection Program Temp Loan	0.00	40,419.00	(40,419.00)
Payroll Withholding	2,966.82	0.00	2,966.82
Accrued Expenses and Other	300.00	250.00	50.00
Dedicated Fund Balances	140,366.22	145,750.73	(5,384.51)
Total Liabilities	\$ 146,280.59	\$ 187,234.03	\$ (40,953.44)
Equity			
General Fund	\$ 53,287.23	\$ 23,491.63	\$ 29,795.60
Investments (Endowment)	757,861.12	643,553.98	114,307.14
Fixed Assets (Building)	3,041,549.00	3,041,549.00	0.00
Total Equity	\$ 3,852,697.35	\$ 3,708,594.61	\$ 144,102.74
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$ 3,998,977.94	\$ 3,895,828.64	\$ 103,149.30

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

By popular request we are printing Jon's message from July 18th for those who may have missed it.

Fellow members of St Paul,

When Pastor Dan told me he would not be here today, I decided that I would take my hand at delivering the message today. As I thought about what to say, or what message to convey, I thought "I wonder how many members of St Paul have read the Mission and Vision of the ELCA in America?" I also wondered, "how many members have actually looked at the ELCA Website?" If you have viewed the website, or have reviewed the Mission and Vision of the ELCA, then I will bore you for the next few minutes. If you have not, I hope that the next few minutes will lend some insight as to the message of Love that Pastor Dan has been preaching for the past, almost 3 years here at St Paul. So Here goes:

Mission & Vision

Our mission

Together in Jesus Christ we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly and serve joyfully.

As Martin Luther Said, "To be convinced in our hearts that we have forgiveness of sins and Peace with God by grace alone is the hardest thing." As a member of the "Mondays at Mike's group", I am going to break one unwritten law of the group, that is "What happens at Mike's stays at Mike's". But we have had many discussions about grace and being able to accept the fact that it is given to us even though we do not deserve it. That we should witness boldly and serve joyfully are a gift from the grace that is given by God.

Our vision

A world experiencing the difference God's grace and love in Christ makes for all people and creation.

As the vision states, we should be showing the world the difference God's grace and love in Christ makes for all people. We, as Christians, or members of St Paul are not the only people this applies to. This applies to all people we come into contact with. I know this is hard sometimes, but we should be examples of Christian faith and love, and welcome all who enter our lives, homes, and church. When someone walks through those doors, we need to say good morning, welcome to worship. Introduce ourselves and make everyone feel welcome. I know it can be hard to talk to strangers. As someone who worked in retail sales for over 11 years, I became accustomed to saying hello to everyone who walked into my store. The response I got back a lot, before I even asked if I could help, was "I'm just looking". I would reply, "I am just saying hello, but let me know if you need any help." I think of a visitor here as a customer in one of those stores. We want the visitor to feel Welcome.

Our values

Our values are grounded in faith, in our biblical and Lutheran confessional sources and our love of God and neighbor. They speak to the way this church lives and

practices our faith, and they will guide how we journey forward in Christ as church together.

Who here attended catechism classes? Of those who attended, who remembers all ten commandments and their meanings, defined by Martin Luther? I am sure some of us remember, but I am also sure some of us have forgotten. I attended a Lutheran Day School where my Mother was a teacher. During 7th and 8th grade, we had catechism class every day, in the morning at 9 am. I can honestly say, I do not remember much of what I memorized from those classes. But I do know that those classes did help shape the person I have become. Currently, we are looking for members to assist with teaching the confirmation aged kids. This call is not to teach every week, but assist with possibly one or two weeks so that the kids get a different perspective on the church from different members. This will be every other year volunteer taught class with the opposite year being taught by pastor Dan. I would ask that you all prayerfully consider volunteering for a week or two so that the kids get to know more members of St Paul and also get to hear from others, what being a Christian is about and how you view areas of the Bible and catechism. For the past few years that Pastor Dan has stood in this pulpit, his underlying message every week has been one of Love. If you truly listen to what is being preached, there is only one theme: LOVE. Pastor Dan is trying to help us understand the underlying message that is being presented by the ELCA, we are to love one another, unconditionally. In Ephesians 2:8, Paul wrote, "you were saved by faith in God, who treats us much better than we deserve, this is God's gift to you, and not anything you have done on your own.

Forgiveness and reconciliation – We are reconciled to God by God's forgiving mercy. Forgiveness and reconciliation flow from what God has made us to be in Jesus Christ and what God is doing with us in the world. As a people of God, we embody forgiveness in speech, action and relationships, and our ministry in reconciliation is foundational.

The Definition of Reconciliation is to restore friendly relations or the action of making one view or belief compatible with another. I think we all know what forgiveness means. As is written in 2 Corinthians 5:18—All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. When we are wronged, or hurt in some way, we do and should forgive the person who wronged us over time, or so I hope we do. To be reconciled with that person is difficult. Restoring a relationship, or being able to see someone's point of view, after an argument is very difficult. But, as God used Jesus to reconcile with us, we should embody reconciliation as well.

Dignity, compassion and justice – Each person is created in God's image. We respect this God-given right to dignity and, inspired by the life of Jesus, show love and compassion for all people. Through proclamation of the gospel, through worship and as servants of God working for healing and justice in the world, we uphold and seek to protect the dignity and human rights of all people.

This is a tough time to speak about most any subject in the USA. When one of us speaks on most any topic, we run into an opposing view. We have lost the ability to be able to see a viewpoint from where someone else stands. As St. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 1:10 "I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgement" We, as members of St. Paul, and citizens of the United States need to learn to accept that not everyone looks or thinks like we do. Pastor Dan has been speaking on some of these issues. And the issues of race, social justice, fair wages and acceptance of people different than we are, are not political issues. These issues should be at the forefront of the church to assist those who are oppressed and those who are left behind. As is written in Galatians 3:28 "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ". The Mondays at Mike's group has served meals at The Men's Shelter downtown for the past several years. The biggest thing I have taken out of that experience is these gentlemen, who may be at their low point in life and have nowhere else to go, no one to take care of them, or no family., really appreciate being served a meal. They appreciate being treated as a human being and having someone take the time to say a kind word.

Inclusion and diversity – As Christ's church, we value the richness of God's creation and offer a radical welcome to all people, appreciating our common humanity and our differences. We are a church that does not view diversity as a barrier to unity. We recognize and will challenge dynamics of power and privilege that create barriers to participation and equity in this church and society – for women, people of color, minority ethnic groups, people with disabilities, people who are marginalized or living in poverty, and the LGBTQ community. As Jesus commanded in Matthew 22:37-39 "Jesus Replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is just like it "Love your neighbor as yourself."

As this passage points out we are to love ALL OF OUR NEIGHBORS", not just the ones who look, think, and act like us. This applies to ALL of our neighbors. I have heard from some visitors, "St. Paul was cold and not welcoming" "St. Paul is like a Country Club " For this reason, they decided to worship elsewhere. WE have also heard from current members that it took a month for other members to say "Hello, welcome to St Paul ". This cold welcome is not something we should be known for. Judgement of a person coming through our doors, who may look different, have a different background, be of a different religion, be of a different race, be of a different economic class, be of the LGBTQ community, is not up to us. We are to welcome ALL of God's children. I know of members who have left, visitors who did not attend again because of condemnation of their background or their place in life. We need to reach out to all of Berea and the surrounding community and let ALL know they are welcome here. This should be our top priority as we move forward coming out of this pandemic.

Courage and openness to change – Because we trust in God's promise and understand faith to be a living, daring confidence in God's grace, we are emboldened to embrace learning and change in our spiritual and institutional journey as a

church. This means we are open to new ways and willing to take risks to discover God's plan for this church.

In the past couple years, since Pastor Dan arrived, St. Paul has experienced many changes. When the questionnaire was sent out to the congregation by the call committee, the overwhelming majority of comments were that we did not want to have another Pastor Tom. The call committee presented their choice to the congregation, which we voted unanimously to call Pastor Dan. Almost immediately, the leadership began to hear rumblings that Pastor Dan was much different than Pastor Tom. Was that not what we were told by the congregation? Members complained that Pastor Dan is not preaching the Bible from the pulpit and only picking out 1 or 2 words that they did not like him saying. People complained that Pastor Dan was addressing social matters, which they derived as political. Social matters such as black lives matter, minimum wage, feeding fellow humans, and treating all humans with dignity and respect have been politicized, but these are not political issues, they are basic human decency issues. With whom did Jesus break bread most often? Was it not sinners? The Scum of the Scum; tax collectors, prostitutes, and the like? Look around, the pews are not full. The pews are not full at MANY churches. Churches, as we know them, are a dying breed. AS this value states, we need to have openness to change! Doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result, I think most of us have heard this saying as a definition of insanity. We cannot keep doing the same thing we have done for years, saying "We have always done it that way, and that is how it will stay." This will lead us to close our doors in the not-too-distant future. Council voted a few months back to have the Synod resource committee work with St. Paul to discover what and where we currently are, what challenges we face, and what we can do to move forward. This process will start in the next few weeks. Once their report is completed, we will have a congregational meeting where the findings will be presented. This is the first step we are taking to hope to move St. Paul into the future. We need to be, as some current office lingo states "Change Champions". We need to find ways to reach outside of these doors. This is not only Pastor Dan's mission it is the mission for all of us. Maybe we need to offer different service times, maybe we need to work with other organizations within our community? Maybe we need to use our Facebook page and digital marketing better. There are many questions to be answered, but we cannot have the attitude of "That is not my worry" or "What is wrong with the way things are now?" Our income for the year is down approximately 20%. We know that the Pandemic hurt us and we know some members have left. We are not asking everyone to give more, but if you feel like it, please do. We need to look at different ways to gain income using our location. We have a great facility in a prime location. Let's take advantage of what we have and where we are located.

Faithful stewardship of God's creation and gifts – As church together, faithful stewardship is about holding to God's purpose and ensuring the responsibilities and resources that God has entrusted to us are used with great care and with accountability to God, to each other and those served by this church.

As a church community, we have many gifts to share. Our building is a gift to many groups that use it, such as Gamblers Anonymous, AA, etc. We, as a congregation, give to many causes throughout the year. Our sheep and goats program continues to support several organizations throughout the year. We provide a community meal once a month, as

people draw to the end of their assistance. Can we do more with our resources? Absolutely! Could St. Paul benefit by members giving more of their own financial gifts, of course! As I pointed out earlier, our income is down approximately 20%. So yes, we could benefit from more financial support. We know that when a financial need arises, St. Paul is always up to the challenge. But we could also benefit from members giving of their time. Time offerings are also a gift. There is always a need to assist with worship on Sundays, and other areas of St Paul during the week.

In closing, as someone who has now attended St. Paul for over 15 years, I look back on a lot of memories that have been shared here with Meg, of Marissa being confirmed, assisting in church services, Meg singing in the choirs, serving on church council for WAY too many years.. (by the way, I hold the record for shortest council meeting) And I also look forward, as everyone should, to the continued growth of St. Paul. Pastor Dan has been here for almost 3 years now. Pastor has preached from this pulpit about LOVE. The man has felt compelled to not take vacation over the past few years as he saw members leaving, fielded complaints about this or that, all the while working to bring us to a better understanding of what the ELCA stands for and most of all, about love. I, and council, have implored him to take his time as he needs some rest, as we all enjoy time away from work and home. It is time for the comparisons to previous Pastors to end. It is time that we embrace change, as pointed out in the Vision and Mission of the ELCA. It is time to move St. Paul forward using the Vision and Mission as our guide. I have committed many hours to St. Paul over the years. I would ask that we all commit ourselves to making St. Paul a beacon of love and acceptance in Berea and in our surrounding communities.

Thank you.

Jon Montag, Council President

Council Members: Peter Brumenschenkel, Gary Grizzell, Chris Hall, Amy Hofmann, Dennis Mille, Scott Miller, Jon Montag, Phil Sultan, Donna Tindera, Erika Tully and Pastor Skillman.



PROPERTY COMMITTEE

With a return to having services in the Sanctuary, the appearance of the Covid D virus mutation, and the higher contagious potential for transmission, the task of determining when we can do that with reasonable safety for all has become an even greater challenge. The Property Committee will work with the Worship Committee and the Church Council to provide a comfortable environment without unnecessarily stirring up the air in the Sanctuary. Of additional concern is that all worshippers may not have gotten vaccinated, making themselves not only vulnerable to the virus infection, but able to spread it as well. We will attempt to provide the safest possible worship environment possible. **Please** take advantage of your ability to be vaccinated and protect not only yourself but those around you as well.

The Property Committee has found a source with good references to install a reflective film to the inside of the office windows. This film will reflect the sun and further increase the efficiency of the cooling system in the office complex, as well as providing privacy from the outside of the building. Installation will be completed soon.

The Property Committee continues to work with the manager of Woodvale Cemetery to evaluate the water issues and needs for restoration of St. Paul's Cemetery. Through the efforts of Dennis Mille, contact with the city councils and management have allowed St. Paul to explore the needs and options that an expert in the area can develop for our consideration and action. Expect to see some physical changes as the exact property lines are confirmed and removal of trees and refined drainage on the south end take place.

Evaluation of our parking lot by Surface Engineering, the paving contractor who has serviced our lot for the last several years now, suggests that the parking lot probably does not need service at this time. However, if not serviced this year, we should plan on having to resurface the main aisle along the building along with some other spot repairs and overall sealing and restriping. Property and Church Council will weigh the financial benefits along with a decision on encouraging Berea-Midpark students to again use our parking lot before making a final decision.

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.



DEC 4 | KEYBANK STATE THEATRE
THE GREAT DIVORCE

EVENT TIMES

SAT | DEC 04, 2021 4:00 PM

EVENT DESCRIPTION

Ticket Sales & Show Information: 216-241-6000

Take a theatrical bus ride to heaven in C.S. Lewis' imaginative ***The Great Divorce***.

The Great Divorce — C.S. Lewis' mesmerizing fantasy about heaven, hell and the choice between them. Lewis' signature wit, amazing actors and dazzling, state-of-the-art stagecraft!

Lewis' brilliantly drawn characters take a fantastical bus trip from hell to the outskirts of paradise to stay . . . or return to hell, forever divorced from heaven. The choice proves more challenging than you think. In hell, take a trip to heaven and glimpse the everlasting — in only 85 minutes!

WORSHIP COMMITTEE



Music Ministry— In Romans, we read that “faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ” (Romans 10:17). Martin Luther believed that “the church is not a pen-house but a mouth-house” (Luther’s Works, Companion Volume, p. 63). We come to know God not only through written words, but also and especially through the spoken word and song.

Two fundamentals are shared by Lutherans and other Christians in our community and throughout the world: We proclaim Scripture and we sing together. These may seem too obvious to mention, yet these profoundly shape the faith we receive and express. No single musical expression works equally well in all places or at all times. At its best, it embraces the gifts we share while being intentional about our local identity. Choices in music are influenced by many factors: history of the assembly, cultures present in the congregation and surrounding community, the musical gifts of the leaders, available voices and instruments, worship space and more.

In other words, we need to know who is willing to share their gift with the congregation so our Director of Music Ministry can craft a program that best proclaims Jesus’ message in song.

If you feel the calling to add your voice with others in song, please contact Dale Hukill at: music@stpaulbera.org or 440-243-1144.





For many years, St. Paul has had a two-year catechetical program leading up to Confirmation. That seems to have worked well, and I see no reason to change it. However, I do think we might benefit from changing who teaches in that program.

In years past, the Catechism Class was led by a very small handful of dedicated volunteer teachers. This past year, I taught the class by myself. I had a lot of fun doing that, and I think it's in the best interest of the congregation that I remain a significant contributor to the catechetical program going forward. However, I also think it's important that we continue to involve others as teachers in the program as well.

What I'm envisioning going forward is this: I will teach the Catechism Classes that begin in the even numbered years, while you, my friends in the congregation, will teach the classes that begin in the odd numbered years. That means, it's your turn this year (2021-2022).

Now, I know that most of you are busy people with full calendars. And most of you aren't trained teachers, let alone trained theology teachers. So, I'm not asking that any of you volunteer to take on the responsibility of teaching for the entire year. Instead, what I'm asking of you is to consider the Catechism Class calendar laid out below, and sign up for 1 to 3 sessions. Your responsibility would be leading the children through the relevant section of Luther's Small Catechism for that particular class period, and then teaching that portion, and fielding questions from the children, based on your own experience and journey in the faith.

At the beginning of his Small Catechism, Martin Luther wrote these words: "As the head of the family should teach in a simple way to his household." In other words, Martin Luther never envisioned pastors leading the Catechism Class. He saw members of the congregation doing that, and in particular the mothers and fathers of the children. I think there is a lot of wisdom in this.

For starters, if we have a large number of teachers, our children will get to hear many different points of view. They will hear the faith presented in many different ways. This alone will teach them something very valuable.

But just as important, this will provide an opportunity for a mingling of the generations in the congregation. The children will be introduced to a large number of the adults who attend worship services at St. Paul's, and you adults will be in a position to make relationships with, and mentor the children who may just lead this congregation someday.

I'm going to start by requesting volunteers. If this looks interesting to you, please look at the schedule below, and give the office a call to sign up.

In Christ,
Pastor Skillman

2021-22 St. Paul Catechesis Schedule
(All Classes 7-8:15pm, Monday nights)

Pre-Session 30 August Teacher orientation (teachers only)

1st Semester

Session 1	13 September	The 10 Commandments
Session 2	20 September	The 10 Commandments
Session 3	27 September	The Apostles' Creed
Session 4	04 October	The Apostles' Creed
Session 5	11 October	The Lord's Prayer
Session 6	18 October	The Lord's Prayer
Session 7	25 October	Holy Baptism
Session 8	01 November	Holy Baptism
Session 9	08 November	Holy Communion
Session 10	15 November	Holy Communion
Session 11	22 November	The Office of the Keys / Absolution
Session 12	29 November	The Office of the Keys / Absolution

Make-up dates if necessary:

06 December

13 December

2nd Semester

Session 13	24 January	The 10 Commandments
Session 14	31 January	The 10 Commandments
Session 15	07 February	The Apostles' Creed
Session 16	14 February	The Apostles' Creed
Session 17	07 March	The Lord's Prayer
Session 18	14 March	The Lord's Prayer
Session 19	21 March	Holy Baptism
Session 20	28 March	Holy Baptism
Session 21	04 April	Holy Communion
Session 22	25 April	Holy Communion
Session 23	02 May	The Office of the Keys / Absolution
Session 24	09 May	The Office of the Keys / Absolution

Make-up dates if necessary:

16 May

23 May

Confirmation Date:

Sunday 05 June (Pentecost)



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

MANY THANKS

Special thanks are being sent to all of the folks that helped to make our Virtual VBS a success. Thank you to all of our kids, parents, grandparents and friends from the community that took part in our Rocky Railway. Many thanks to Steven Wagner and Nate, who assisted him in the Video Editing. Thank you to Nate French, Phil Sultan, and Aaron Ozanich who helped with the final presentation of our daily VBS videos. Thank you to Dean and Sherrill who are always a huge help in any of our activities. Couldn't have done it without all of you!

A shout-out also goes to Berea Dairy Queen. They very generously donated coupons for 100 free Dilly Bars for our VBS kids. Thank you Berea Dairy Queen for being such a good friend to our church and community.

AUGUST BAGS

Watch your front doors! By the middle of August, we will be back on the road.

FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL

Plans are currently being made for Sunday School in the fall. Please watch the weekly bulletin announcements for updates. We are also in need of Sunday School teachers. Please consider joining our team. We would love to have you join us.

children@stpaulberea.org

WHEELS FOR THE WORLD EQUIPMENT DRIVE SATURDAY, AUGUST 14, 2021

Plan to bring unwanted wheelchairs, walkers, rollators, canes and crutches (no electric wheelchairs accepted) to the Wheels for the World Equipment Drive from 9am - 1pm on Sat Aug 14th.



This equipment, after restoration by federal prisons, are sent to other countries where this equipment is priceless. Teams of therapists and support staff meet up with the equipment for fitting to people in need. Though only a couple mission trips occurred last year due to covid, the teams are ramping up again and equipment is needed. The equipment need not be in good condition, as it will be restored, or parts used for restoration of other equipment.



ONCE UPON A TIME....

1868 - St Paul had developed a relationship with people in Parma, establishing a mission congregation in 1868. In August of that year, St. John Lutheran Church, Parma, dedicated their church building. (unfortunately this congregation dissolved in the early 1900's).

1954 - We received our Parish Worker, Della Koester in August of this year. She served as office secretary, and in charge of education and youth programs.

1969 – Sharon Minor began as organist/choir director

1977 - Pastor Rauch began at St Paul

1979 - Emma Baehr “retired” after 35 years of voluntarily teaching Sunday School and conducting Junior Church during both services on Sundays.

2000 - Lois Hines started as Organist/ Choir Director Aug

2009 – Adopted full communion with United Methodist Church, the 6th full communion relationship. Previous were with Presbyterians, Episcopal, United Church of Christ, the Moravians and the Reformed Church.



SHEEP AND GOATS BEREA COMMUNITY OUTREACH INCLUDES:

- A food pantry which serves more than 150 families and individuals on a monthly basis. We also provide gift cards for Thanksgiving as well as Christmas gifts, Easter baskets and school supplies for children.
- Dinner to Your Door is a meal delivery service for senior, disabled and shut in residents of Berea, Brook Park and Middleburg Heights
- We also provide grass cutting, leaf raking and snow plowing for low-income seniors that live in Berea

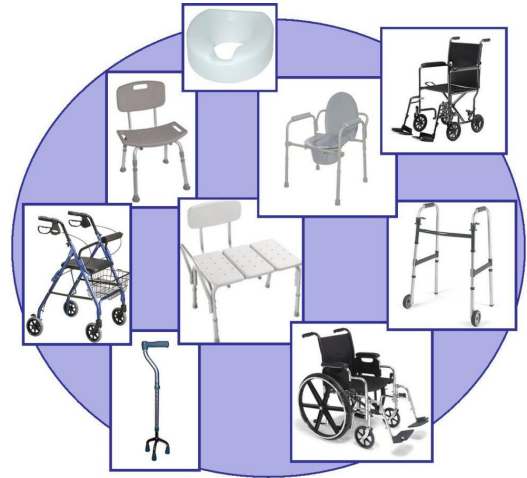


Thank You

A huge Thank You to Linda Jungeberg, Brian, Amy and Madison Hofmann for keeping our courtyard beautiful by weeding and trimming the beds and plants!

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE FOR MEMBERS

Did You Know?...St Paul has a lending closet of Durable Medical Equipment (DME). What is DME? Simply stated (as opposed to Medicare/insurance definitions), it is equipment used to assist people in caring for themselves, or even assist others to care for them. Many of these items are considered a "convenience" by insurance companies, requiring patients to purchase or rent them on their own. So before you buy something, check us out!!! We have several items in our attic that are currently available to loan:



Bariatric Rollator (extra heavy and wide)

18" Transport wheelchair

Bedside commodes in various sizes. These can also serve as a raised seat over a toilet, or as a shower chair. Some appear to have never been used.

Tub Benches

Arms for installation on/around a toilet

Shower seats - one without back, one with back

Walkers – standard with and without wheels various sizes

Pyramid cane (sometimes called a walk cane)

Canvas walker bag

Straight canes various styles

Bed rail

"Hip kits" (reacher, long handled shoe horn, sock aid, long handle sponge)

The above are currently available, but donations are accepted and the inventory may change slightly. In this world of Covid, you should know all the equipment is sanitized and wrapped with plastic before going into the church attic.

If you wish to donate something, you may bring it into the church office or Room F during the week. We are especially in need of quad (4-prong) canes. Please be sure any equipment donated is in excellent condition.

If you need something and you don't see it at the church, please feel free to call Jan Bairoti (440-234-1535) – she also has many items from taking care of her father that she is willing to lend.

When you borrow something, please sign it out through the church office. There is no charge. Also, if you have questions about the use of any item, or adjustments needed to fit the person using it, Jan Bairoti is an occupational therapist and is willing to assist you in the safe and proper use of the equipment, just give her a call.

The poster features a yellow banner at the top with the website 'LutheranOktoberfest.com'. Below it is a central logo for the '4TH ANNUAL OKTOBERFEST' with the years '2020' and '2021' crossed out. The background shows a blurred image of beer mugs. The bottom half of the poster is dark blue with white and yellow text. At the bottom, there is a large illustration of two beer mugs clinking, with a circular logo on the right containing a crown and the letters 'HB'.

LutheranOktoberfest.com

4TH ANNUAL
OKTOBERFEST
2020
2021

Family, Friends, & Fellowship • Food • Biergarten • Live Music
• Kids' Activities • Pastor Dunk Tank •
Carnival Games • Cornhole Tournament

Saturday, September 11, 2021
Noon - 10:00 PM
at the Memphis Picnic Area in the Metroparks in Brooklyn

Admission:
Seniors (60+): \$5
Adults (21-59): \$10 (ID required)
Youth (11-20): \$5
Children (10 and under): FREE

Presented by:
Lutheran Churches of
Northeast Ohio and
Hofbräuhaus Cleveland

HB

WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP AT THE OKTOBERFEST (FREE ENTRY, A T-SHIRT, BRAT AND A BEVERAGE).

For more information go to www.lutheranoktoberfest.com

OUR MEN'S GROUP HAS BEEN BUSY VOLUNTEERING AT THE MEN'S SHELTER

Recently, several members of the Mondays at Mike's group (Wes Hansen, Dave Pavlick and Bob Trausch) volunteered at the Men's shelter at 2100 Lakeside making portions of "pods" to create privacy for the 100s of men that are coming back to the shelter. Great work guys! Hope we can see the finished product when they are done.



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



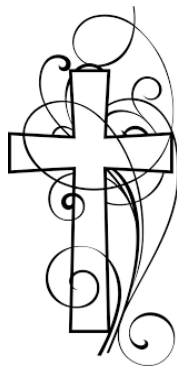
GREAT NEWS!

**The Senior Luncheon will resume on the
2nd Tuesday of the month at
St. Paul Fellowship Hall
beginning in September!**

MEMORIALS

Donald G. Dewey

Robert & Diane Ferreri



OFFICIAL ACTS

Funeral

7/30 Robert Theiss



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

FIRST CLASS
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



LEARN TO SQUARE DANCE!!



FREE LESSONS!!

SOLO SQUARES DANCE CLUB cordially invites you to join them for 3 free Square Dance Lessons on Mondays: September 13th, 20th, & 27th, 2021, 7-9pm in the Fellowship Hall at St. Paul Lutheran Church!!! All ages are welcome; singles & couples are welcome! If you like what you see, please join us for lessons (continuing on October 4th, 2021. @ \$5/Lesson, or we have bargains!

Come and see what Square Dancing is like! It's a wonderful, wholesome family activity! It's fun, friendship, & exercise, set to music!!!

Sincerely,
Brenda Nelson, President

Questions? Call Diane (440-779-8379), Brenda (216-281-3958), or email: BethF56@aol.com