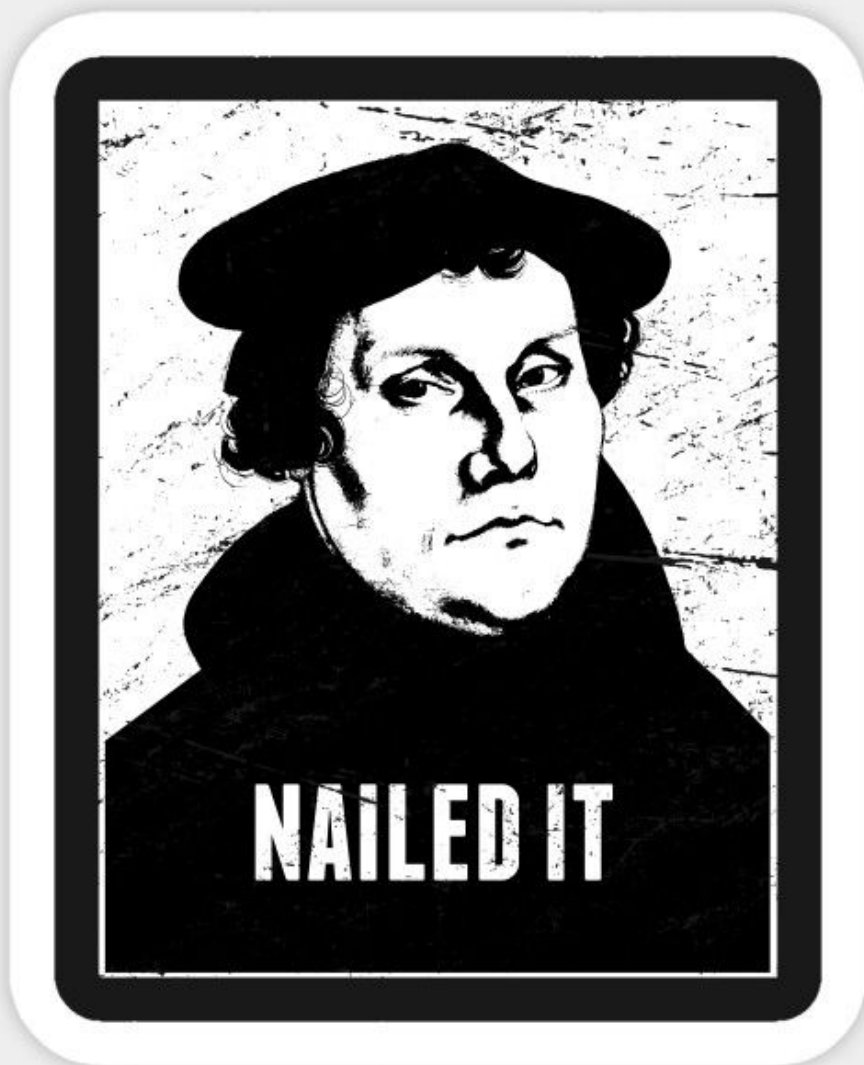




ST. PAUL HIGHLIGHTS

October 2020

VOLUME 69 ISSUE 10



REFORMATION SUNDAY-OCTOBER 25TH

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THIS MONTH
OCTOBER 4-10TH-MENTAL AWARENESS WEEK
OCTOBER 12-COLUMBUS DAY
OCTOBER 18TH-PASTOR APPRECIATION SUNDAY
OCTOBER 25TH-REFORMATION SUNDAY

DATE	TIME	ASSISTING MINISTER	MUSIC LEADERS	AUDIO/ VIDEO	ALTAR GUILD	USHERS/GREETERS
10/4	9:00	Taffy Pavlick	Covenant Choir	Nate French Dave Kushman Phillip Sultan	Beth French Ginny Anderson	Team 1&2
	11:00	Meg Montag	Covenant Singers	Jeff Campbell Nate French Phillip Sultan	Lois Wolfe	Team 1&2
10/11	9:00	Sherrill Crawford	Praise Team	Nate French Dave Kushman Phillip Sultan		Team 3&4
	11:00	Liz Wittmann	Covenant Singers	Jeff Campbell Nate French Phillip Sultan		Team 3&4
10/18	9:00	Cindy Cain	Covenant Choir	Nate French Dave Kushman Phillip Sultan		Team 5&6
	11:00	Jon Montag	Covenant Singers	Jeff Campbell Nate French Phillip Sultan		Team 5&6
10/25	9:00	Mike King	Praise Team	Nate French Dave Kushman Phillip Sultan		Team 7&8
	11:00	Dean Firing	Covenant Singers	Jeff Campbell Nate French Phillip Sultan		Team 7&8

OCTOBER CELEBRATIONS



October 10th- Jim & Linda Jungeberg-50th Wedding Anniversary

If you have a special event for November that you would like acknowledged in this space, please notify the office by October 15th.



Unconditional Love

God's mission is love, unconditional love.

Love that doesn't impose conditions, restrictions, or prohibitions.

Love for all people that generates love between all people.

The words of the beloved apostle in his first epistle speak to this mission far better than I ever could, and I consider them foundational for my life and ministry:

7. Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 8. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. 10. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the mercy seat for our sins. 11. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. 13. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. (1 John 4:7-13)

Unconditional love is the most important thing in the universe.

It's unconditional love that gives meaning to our day to day lives,
and it's unconditional love that makes life worth living.

Why do we love?

There is no "why."

If we had an answer, that would be a condition.

But love is unconditional.

This is the reality into which we are born, for which we are made, to which we are called,
and from which we find hope, meaning, and a future.

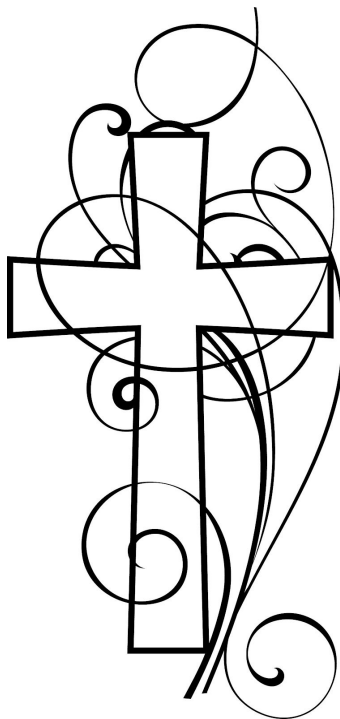
If I can help people to experience that,

I will have stayed true to the central Reformation doctrine that we in the Lutheran Church
make it a point to remember not only in October, but every day of our lives: The doctrine of
justification by grace alone.

Unconditional love is what the doctrine of justification by grace is about.
We are justified, we stand in the right, forgiven, valued, and loved,
not because we have earned it or deserved it,
but simply because we are human beings.
As Lutherans, we find our life by being unconditionally loved,
and we try to help others find life in the same
by loving **them** unconditionally.
We who are justified, in turn, justify others.
We who are loved, in turn, love others.

If I can see this, and realize it more and more each day,
and if I can help others discover it, and live from and in it,
I will have also fulfilled the better part of my promise as a pastor
and a human being created in the image of God.

Pastor Dan



FINANCIALS

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

August 31, 2020

Income and Expenses Summary	Current Year Actual YTD	Current Year Budget YTD	Over/(Under) Budget	Previous Year Actual YTD
Income				
Congregational Contributions	\$ 245,337.94	\$ 269,336.00	\$ (23,998.06)	\$ 248,602.11
Building Use	1,985.00	5,200.00	(3,215.00)	5,184.00
Interest	10.69	120.00	(109.31)	122.27
Other Income	1,133.99	3,736.00	(2,602.01)	3,744.65
Total Income	\$ 248,467.62	\$ 278,392.00	\$ (29,924.38)	\$ 257,653.03
Expenses				
Benevolence	4,906.77	5,384.00	477.23	24,860.14
Worship	7,410.20	11,619.00	4,208.80	7,672.24
Programs & Services	1,149.94	10,314.00	9,164.06	8,995.86
Property	32,316.37	69,248.00	36,931.63	39,875.72
Staff Salaries and Benefits	127,771.67	144,854.00	17,082.33	143,149.15
Contracted Services	15,006.00	21,336.00	6,330.00	19,936.00
Administration & Support	10,701.01	16,360.00	5,658.99	14,622.69
Total Expenses	199,261.96	279,115.00	79,853.04	259,111.80
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 49,205.66	\$ (723.00)	\$ 49,928.66	\$ (1,458.77)

Income and Expenses Summary Notes:

Overall Comments and Income Review

The YTD period ending August 31, 2020, has an operating surplus of \$49,206, about \$50,700 more than at August 31, 2019. Congregational Contributions through August 2020 are a little more than \$3,200 less than contributions received through August 2019, a reduction of only 1.3%. The month of August saw a substantial increase in giving and reduced our giving deficit by nearly 4%. Total Income at August 31, 2020, is nearly \$10,000 less than at August 31, 2019. Congregational Contributions are under budget by nearly \$24,000 and Total Income is under budget by over \$29,000 as of August 31, 2020. Note that we are beginning to receive Building Use money again.

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 almost \$80,000 as of July 31, 2020. Total expenses YTD are almost \$60,000 less than total expenses as of August 2019. We remain more than 20% under budget. We will pay the roof repairs in September, which will increase YTD expenses by \$35,000.

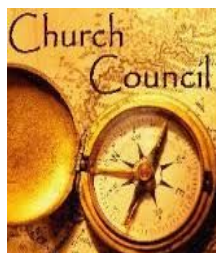
Note: Benevolence payments are a percentage of contributions. Therefore, when contributions are higher, benevolence payments are higher. In 2020, we budgeted 2% for the Synod only.

Balance Sheet Summary	As of August 31, 2020	As of August 31, 2019	Variance
Assets			
Current Assets (Cash)	\$ 226,629.23	\$ 111,928.48	\$ 114,700.75
Fixed Assets (Building)	3,041,549.00	3,041,549.00	0.00
Invested Assets (Endowment)	672,847.53	627,234.42	45,613.11
Total Assets	\$ 3,941,025.76	\$ 3,780,711.90	\$ 160,313.86
Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	\$ 2,183.48	\$ 9,722.10	\$ (7,538.62)
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	2,776.45	2,873.52	(97.07)
Accrued Expenses and Other	250.00	250.00	0.00
Dedicated Fund Balances	149,017.40	145,450.71	3,566.69
Total Liabilities	\$ 194,646.33	\$ 158,296.33	\$ 36,350.00
Equity			
General Fund	\$ 33,182.90	\$ (45,167.85)	\$ 78,350.75
Investments (Endowment)	671,647.53	626,034.42	45,613.11
Fixed Assets (Building)	3,041,549.00	3,041,549.00	0.00
Total Equity	\$ 3,746,379.43	\$ 3,622,415.57	\$ 123,963.86
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$ 3,941,025.76	\$ 3,780,711.90	\$ 160,313.86

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

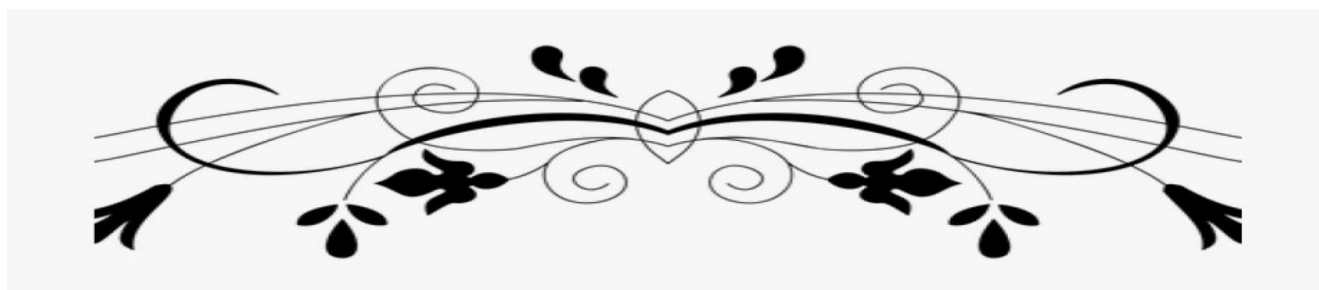


The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held November 8th. It will begin following the 9:00am parking lot service. Unfortunately, under the circumstances, there will not be a meal following. Please attend for your participation is important.

Please continue to prayerfully consider your offering. We know many of you may have been affected by the economical impact the pandemic has had. If not, please consider meeting the goal you made for your offering this year. Thank you.

Randy Genther
Council President

Feel free to speak with any of the Council members- Lynne Morella, Peter Brumenshenkel, Phil Sultan, Donna Tindera, Rob Winwood, Recording Secretary Jennifer Hinton, Vice President Aaron Ozanich, Pastor Daniel Skillman, and Randy Genther





PROPERTY COMMITTEE

As stated last month, the Property Committee, Worship Committee and Church Council continue to closely monitor the releases of information from the experts who are learning more about the Covid19 virus and evaluating what the new information tells us about how we can live in the safest possible way with it. Social distance, hand washing, and masks are still the major keys to protecting you and those you love from being infected. Hand washing is important because we are creatures of habit and will rub our eyes without thinking about the tiny virus that may be on our fingers. There are studies still being done regarding air movement by fans or air conditioning systems to determine the effective travel range of the tiny infected droplets. With our Sanctuary system, air discharge from floor vents will tend to push the droplets back into the air. For this reason we will continue to shut down the air conditioning or heating of the Sanctuary while it is in use.

Now that the Sanctuary roof is replaced, property emphasis will be shifting to replacing the office air conditioning system. The 46 year old system has served us well, but it is more than twice the age of most commercial systems when they fail. Hopefully the replacement will be a scheduled event and not an emergency issue.

The commercial refrigerator in the kitchen has a very small leak in the compressor which gradually reduces the unit's ability to cool. A charge of Freon will keep the unit functioning for 18 months or so, but eventually the temperature will not be sufficiently cold. Replacing the compressor on the 12 year old refrigerator will cost about half of the purchase price of a new commercial unit. Recharging the existing unit is a good economical band aid while we hold back on the purchase of a new refrigerator until our financial position has recovered a bit.

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 congregation meeting, the financial report showed that the level of giving has decreased about 5% in the last year, making it difficult if not impossible to continue with the annual repairs in the future years. Please prayerfully consider what you may be able to do to help offset this decrease so that we can continue to make the necessary repairs and replacements before they become a more costly emergency situation.

-Jim Jungeberg

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



CALLING ALL KIDS- SUNDAY SCHOOL IS COMING TO YOU! KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR YOUR SPECIAL DELIVERY!

During the first week of October, you will need to watch the front door of your house. During that first week, we are going to deliver a “Kid’s Bag” to your front door. We will deliver the next one during the first week of November and also the first week of December. Should be fun!

The bag will be yours to keep & enjoy & learn from throughout the month. There will be songs and a puppet play that will be fun to do with your families.

Take a look at what will be in your bag-

- A book of Bible Stories
- A Bible Activity Sheet
- A Craft
- A Puppet Show
- A Kindness Activity
- Devotions From our Closing
- Songs & a Shaker
- A Getting-to-Know-You Activity
- A Copy of The Small Catechism
- A “Sunshine Tag” for our Blessing of our Backpacks
- A Birthday Treat on your Birthday Month

Our bags will be going out to all of our children in Sunday School, but we would love to include any grandkids or someone that you think might enjoy and benefit from our "Kid's Bags". Please email me at children@stpaulbera.org & we will make sure that they get one on their front door also. Please include the following information-

Child's Name
Age
Grade in School
Address
Phone # where I can reach you
Birthdate

Should be fun! Watch your front doors for your special delivery!

xoxo Susan M



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CALENDAR

NO ACTIVITIES SCHEDULED



CONFIRMATION CLASSES CONTINUE

Confirmation classes began on September 14th
and continue on Monday evenings at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall



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.

This month we highlight all those who volunteer in the Property, Education, Worship, Finance, and the Outreach Committees. All of your work and dedication is appreciated. Thank you!



EARLY EDUCATION CENTER

CAN YOU HELP OUR PRESCHOOL?

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Proverbs 22.6

As many of you know, our preschool, St. Paul Early Education Center has been operating as a mission of our church since 2002. As with many other organizations, the preschool has been impacted financially due to COVID-19. Based on enrollment numbers in July, the preschool board was cautiously optimistic that we would be able to ride out the impacts and make it through the school year. On September 10th, the preschool began the school year with all of the appropriate precautions for the school year. However, shortly before the school year began several students were withdrawn from school, which has created a shortfall in our finances. We are coming to you, our members, to ask you to support our preschool with contributions so we can continue to maintain the preschool for the children. We are very appreciative of the support church members have provided over the years, and a number of members have sent their children to our preschool. Please make any donations payable to St. Paul Lutheran church and list the preschool on the memo line.

Thank you.

Early Education Center Board of Directors

Joan Holden, Cindy Cain, Michael Henderson, Meg Montag, Nancy Goette





**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.



**Northeastern
Ohio Synod, ELCA**
God's work. Our hands.

Laura Barbins elected bishop of the ELCA Northeastern Ohio Synod

CHICAGO (Sept. 16, 2020) — The Rev. Dr. Laura Barbins, Mentor, Ohio, was elected Sept. 12 to serve a six-year term as the fifth bishop of the Northeastern Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The election took place during an online synod assembly.

Barbins was elected on the fifth ballot, with 171 votes. The Rev. Angela Freeman-Riley, pastor of Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran Church in Bay Village, Ohio, received 148 votes.

The bishop-elect has served as pastor of Celebration Lutheran Church in Chardon since 2001 and adjunct faculty at Trinity Lutheran Seminary at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio, since 2018. Trinity is one of seven ELCA seminaries. Barbins served as interim pastor at Messiah Lutheran Church in Fairview Park, Ohio, from 1999 to 2000 and associate pastor for youth at Holy Trinity Lutheran in Nashville, Tenn., from 1995 to 1997.

The Rev. Dr. Barbins received a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Roanoke College in Salem, Va., in 1990 and a Master of Divinity degree from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg (now United Lutheran Seminary) in Gettysburg, Pa., in 1994. United is one of seven ELCA seminaries. She received a Doctor of Philosophy degree from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tn., in 2004.

Bishop-Elect Barbins is married to the Rev. Dr. Paul Barbins, pastor of the Latvian Baptist Church of Cleveland and Program Coordinator of the Spiritual Program for Adults at St. Ignatius High School in Cleveland, Ohio. The Revs. Barbins have four daughters and live in Mentor, Ohio.

The Rev. Abraham D. Allende has served as bishop of the Northeastern Ohio Synod since 2014. Information about the Northeastern Ohio Synod is available at neos-elca.org/.

Details about the installation of Bishop-Elect Barbins will be forthcoming.

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For information contact:
Candice Hill Buchbinder
773-380-2877
Candice.HillBuchbinder@ELCA.org

Regional contact:
Northeastern Ohio Synod
330-929-9022
office@neos-elca.org

MENTAL ILLNESS AWARENESS WEEK

first full week of October



***THE LUCILLE CHRISTOFFERSON MEMORIAL CANDLE WILL BE LIT ON THE ALTAR TO
RAISE AWARENESS OF "MENTAL ILLNESS AWARENESS WEEK."***

Take this opportunity to learn more about mental illness.

<https://www.nami.org/About-Mental-Illness> covers mental health conditions such as schizophrenia, PTSD, bipolar, borderline personality disorder, ADHD, OCD, depression, anxiety, eating disorders, suicide, addiction and others.

Trying to tell the difference between what expected behaviors are and what might be the signs of a mental health condition isn't always easy, but identifying a problem early can help lead to the best outcome.

Common **WARNING SIGNS** of Mental Illness

Diagnosing mental illness isn't a straightforward science. We can't test for it the same way we can test blood sugar levels for diabetes. Each condition has its own set of unique symptoms, though symptoms often overlap. Common signs and/or symptoms can include:

- 
- ! Feeling very sad or withdrawn for more than two weeks
 - ! Trying to harm or end one's life or making plans to do so
 - ! Severe, out-of-control, risk-taking behavior that causes harm to self or others
 - ! Sudden overwhelming fear for no reason, sometimes with a racing heart, physical discomfort or difficulty breathing
 - ! Significant weight loss or gain
 - ! Seeing, hearing or believing things that aren't real*
 - ! Excessive use of alcohol or drugs
 - ! Drastic changes in mood, behavior, personality or sleeping habits
 - ! Extreme difficulty concentrating or staying still
 - ! Intense worries or fears that get in the way of daily activities

*Various communities and backgrounds might view this sign differently based on their beliefs and experiences. Some people within these communities and cultures may not interpret hearing voices as unusual.

WORRIED ABOUT YOURSELF OR SOMEONE YOU CARE ABOUT?



If you notice any of these symptoms, it's important to ask questions



Try to understand what they're experiencing and how their daily life is impacted



Making this connection is often the first step to getting treatment

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER



Talk with a health care professional



Learn more about mental illness



Take a mental health education class



Call the NAMI HelpLine at 800-950-NAMI (6264)

50%
of all lifetime mental illness begins by age
14

75%
by age
24

Data from CDC, NIMH and other select sources. Find citations for this resource at nami.org/mhstats

NAMI HelpLine
800-950-NAMI (6264)



NAMI



NAMICommunicate

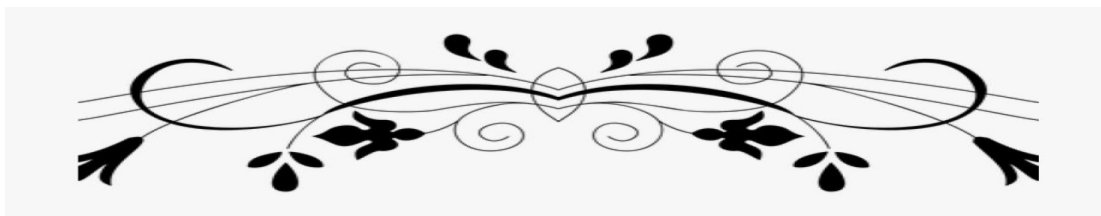


NAMICommunicate



www.nami.org

nami
National Alliance on Mental Illness



ONCE UPON A TIME...



OCTOBER:

1960 - Mortgage burning for education wing on Oct 9

1980 - Pastor Kuenzli attended National ALC convention as delegate from the Cleveland Conference

1990 - New windows installed in Fellowship Hall

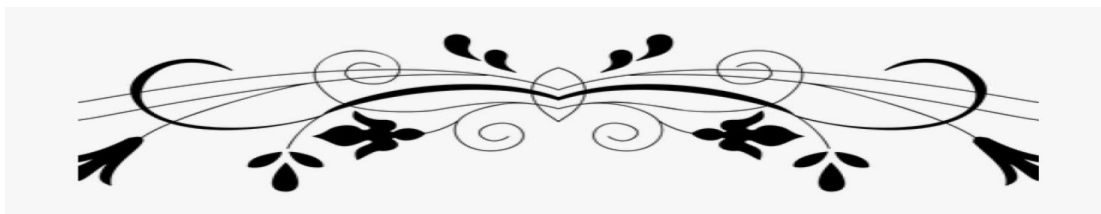
1999 - Pastor Henderson returned as Senior Pastor, preaching on Oct 17

2000 - Deb Michaels, daughter of our congregation, was installed at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Hickory NC

2009 - Mary Turos resigned from youth director position

2016 - in year of 150th anniversary of St Paul, a special reformation service was held followed by Octoberfest in Fellowship Hall

2010 - Council established a new rule that no lending/removal of church property allowed by members or others, including chairs and tables.



SHEEP AND GOATS FOCUS



REDEEMER CRISIS CENTER

Building a community of hope, through serving, witnessing and celebrating.

WHO WE SERVE

Hunger is the inability to identify where your next meal is coming from.

The Center's goal is to help families and individuals with the food resources necessary to feed themselves and their families in their homes for the next 9 – 12 nutritious meals. Since joining the Hunger Network of Greater Cleveland in 1976, we have served people living on the near west side of Cleveland who continuously struggle to survive financially.

Our clients include:

- Senior Citizens and the Disabled on Fixed Incomes
- Recently Unemployed/Underemployed Families
- The Homeless
- Those Below the Poverty Level
- People Facing Unexpected Circumstances
- The Working Poor

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

Dorothy Raynak

Karyn Schmidt
Jack Flick

Sue Ledel

Lois Stueber

Barton Family

Fred & Phyllis Bement



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

FIRST CLASS
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

