



ST. PAUL HIGHLIGHTS

March 2020

VOLUME 69 ISSUE 03



**LENTEN SOUP SUPPER COMBINED WITH WORSHIP
WEDNESDAYS 6:30 P.M.**

MARCH 4, 11, 18 (25 WILL BE COMMUNITY MEAL AT 6:00)

APRIL 1

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THIS MONTH
MARCH 4, 11, 18, 25-LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES/SOUP SUPPERS
MARCH 8TH-SPRING FORWARD
MARCH 14TH-CONFERENCE GATHERING
MARCH 17TH-ST. PATRICK'S DAY
MARCH 25TH-COMMUNITY MEAL

DATE	TIME	LECTORS	SERVERS	LITURGISTS	AUDIO	ALTAR GUILD	USHERS	GREETERS	MONEY COUNTERS
3/1	8:30 Traditional	Tom Herr	Adam & Jennifer Hinton	Lynnette Ozanich	Denny Batig	Ginny Anderson Karen Kolozvary	Team 1 R Hamilton T Herr G Hofman T English T Brunett	Tracy Hamilton Laurie English	Denny & Rae Batig
	11:00 New Song	Cheryl Harkema	Alice Chadbourne Cathie Varnes	Dean Firing	Phillip Sultan	Erika Tully Margaret Zappone	Team 2 J Montag T Riggie G Rohde R Genter T Norris	Jan Sultan Sharon Genter	
3/4	6:30 Lenten						Team 7 R Winwood B Trausch J Holden R French B French J Sears	Tania French Nate French	
3/8	8:30 New Song	Paul Heyse	Donna Tindera Tiffany Salay	Sherrill Crawford	Aaron Ozanich	Ginny Anderson Karen Kolozvary	Team 3 T Salay D Henning D Moore M Eckert P Milloy W Crawford	Sandy Henning Amy Russo Joyce Moore	I.Sumner J. Bairoti
	11:00 Traditional	Bette Idemoto	Dave & Chris Hall	Cindy Caini	Jeff Campbell	Erika Tully Margaret Zappone	Team 4 B Wester A Krueger P Sultan P Sultan Dave Cain W Hansen	Diane Barrett Jane Krisher	
3/11	6:30 Lenten						Team 8 L Walker J Sears G Grizzell S Harkema K Hines	Barb Daniels	
3/15	8:30 Traditional	Bob Trausch	Ginny Anderson Gail Hansen	Meg Montag	Aaron Ozanich	Ginny Anderson Karen Kolozvary	Team 5 W Hansen J Flick J Schlott J Cutnaw L Carmean		

	11:00 Celebration	Jane Krisher	Liz & Jeff Campbell	Jon Montag	Dave Kushman	Erika Tully Sue Green	Team 6 R Genter G Hrivnak P Sultan	Nancy Goette	
3/18	6:30 Lenten						Team 1 R Hamilton T Herr G Hofman T English T Brunett	Tracy Hamilton Laurie English	
3/22	8:30 Celebration	Lynnette Ozanich	Barb Spatz Anna Mae Migra	Liz Wittmann	Denny Batig	Ginny Anderson Karen Kolozvary	Team 7 R Winwood B Trausch J Holden R French B French J Sears	Tania French Nate French	Adam & Jennifer Hinton
	11:00 Traditional	Diane Feri	Linda Jungeberg Danelle Eikens	Dave Hall	Randy Genter	Erika Tully Sue Green	Team 8 L Walker J Sears G Grizzell S Harkema K Hines	Barb Daniels	Alice Chadbourne Nancy Thompson
3/25	6:30 Lenten						Team 2 J Montag T Riggle G Rohde R Genter T Norris	Jan Sultan Sharon Genter	
3/29	10:00 Traditional	Sherrill Crawford	Karen Kolozvary Marilyn Niksa	Mike King	Denny Batig	Ginny Anderson Karen Kolozvary Erike Tully Sue Green	Team 3 T Salay D Henning D Moore M Eckert P Milloy W Crawford	Sandy Henning Amy Russo Joyce Moore	

APRIL LECTORS AND SERVERS

		8:30	11:00
5-Apr	LECTOR	Marilyn Niksa	Dave Hall
	SERVERS	Barb Spatz	Dave Hall
		Donna Tindera	Chris Hall
12-Apr	LECTOR	Mike King	Linda Jungeberg
		Linda King	Jon Montag
		Mike King	Meg Montag
19-Apr	LECTOR	Paul Heyse	Danelle Eikens
	SERVERS	Gail Hansen	Lynne Morella
		Tiffany Salay	Linda Jungeberg
26-Apr	LECTOR	Lynnette Ozanich	Bette Idemoto
	SERVERS	Lynnette Ozanich	Cathie Varnes
		Anna Mae Migra	Lois Wolfe



On Producing Sermon Content

The reason why most sermons are somewhere between serviceable and terrible is because very few pastors have all that much to say. This isn't a knock. It's just the truth. Coming up with something truly interesting and insightful is not easy.

Then, of those that do have something to say, few pastors know how to say it well. Not many of us actually crave the spotlight, or have the talent to do anything in it. I'm not a trained actor or performer. I get terribly nervous in front of crowds. I can't memorize more than a bullet point or two. And I didn't get in this to have people looking at me. (Keep in mind, I haven't even touched on the various levels of intellectual ability to put one's insights into a coherent and attractive outline for public speaking. Needless to say, that isn't a common gift either.)

Then, of those pastors who both have something to say and know how to say it well, few are able to do this week in and week out with fresh material. In fact, that task seems almost impossible. Consider:

- A rock band will release 45 minutes worth of material once every several years over the course of their career.
- A comedian will deliver the same 45 minutes of material around the country for a year or more.
- Your favorite non-fiction authors will usually write no more than a book a year.
- Politicians give the same stump speech for months on end in different locations.

But pastors are charged with the task of delivering exciting, ground breaking, attention grabbing, profoundly captivating words of wisdom every single Sunday, and on other occasions besides.

And some of them actually do it. By themselves. Without a band backing them up, or a speech writer penning their words, or a research team working for them.

Here's the bottom line: If a pastor delivers **one** dynamite sermon a year, he's already doing more and better than you expect of most people. Those who do it week after week are something special.

Pastor Dan

FINANCIALS

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

January 31, 2020

Income and Expenses Summary	Current Year Actual YTD	Current Year Budget YTD	Over/(Under) Budget	Previous Year Actual YTD
Income				
Congregational Contributions	\$ 29,164.48	\$ 33,667.00	\$ (4,502.52)	\$ 24,880.00
Building Use	980.00	650.00	330.00	235.00
Interest	3.24	15.00	(11.76)	15.80
Other Income	26.95	467.00	(440.05)	-
Total Income	\$ 30,174.67	\$ 34,799.00	\$ (4,624.33)	\$ 25,130.80
Expenses				
Benevolence	583.29	673.00	89.71	2,488.00
Worship	1,540.97	1,453.00	(87.97)	723.65
Programs & Services	607.62	502.00	(105.62)	1,138.28
Property	3,672.26	8,656.00	4,983.74	4,273.93
Staff Salaries and Benefits	13,614.15	18,107.00	4,492.85	16,981.95
Contracted Services	2,492.00	2,667.00	175.00	2,492.00
Administration & Support	791.54	2,045.00	1,253.46	691.73
Total Expenses	23,301.83	34,103.00	10,801.17	28,789.54
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 6,872.84	\$ 696.00	\$ 6,176.84	\$ (3,658.74)

Income and Expenses Summary Notes:

Income

The YTD period ending January 31, 2020 has an operating surplus of \$6,873, a increase of \$10,532 from January 31, 2019 . Congregational Contributions through January 2020 are \$4K more than contributions received through January 2019. Note that we lost one Sunday for weather in 2019. Building Use/Other Income is \$700 more than the amount at this time last year. Total Income at January 31, 2020, is \$5K more than at January 31, 2019. Congregational Contributions are under budget by \$4500 and Total Income is under budget by \$4600 as of January 31, 2020.

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

Expenses

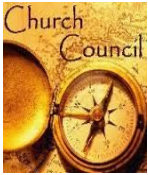
Total expenses were under budget by nearly \$6K as of January 31, 2020. Total expenses YTD are \$5500 less than total expenses as of January 2019.

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 January 31, 2020	As of January 31, 2019	Variance
Assets			
Current Assets (Cash)	\$ 151,029.11	\$ 113,715.43	\$ 37,313.68
Fixed Assets (Building)	3,041,549.00	3,041,549.00	0.00
Invested Assets (Endowment)	662,392.90	581,169.48	81,223.42
Total Assets	\$ 3,854,971.01	\$ 3,736,433.91	\$ 118,537.10
Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	\$ 8,150.72	\$ 7,979.92	\$ 170.80
Loan from Endowment Fund	0.00	7,528.00	(7,528.00)
Payroll Withholding	2,489.28	3,104.13	(614.85)
Accrued Expenses and Other	250.00	150.00	100.00
Dedicated Fund Balances	150,489.03	149,849.20	639.83
Total Liabilities	\$ 161,379.03	\$ 168,611.25	\$ (7,232.22)
Equity			
General Fund	\$ (9,149.92)	\$ (47,367.82)	\$ 38,217.90
Investments (Endowment)	661,192.90	573,641.48	87,551.42
Fixed Assets (Building)	3,041,549.00	3,041,549.00	0.00
Total Equity	\$ 3,693,591.98	\$ 3,567,822.66	\$ 125,769.32
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$ 3,854,971.01	\$ 3,736,433.91	\$ 118,537.10

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

During the February Council Meeting Donna Tindera was added as a Council Member. She offered to become involved. Council voted to name her as a replacement to a recently vacated spot. Donna will complete the one year left in Jack Flick's last term.

Many of you may have heard me ask at the pulpit on February 16th as I filled in for Pastor Dan "What will be our legacy? How will we leave Saint Paul when we are no longer here?" This is Part Two.

Generations of believers before us worked hard together as one body to leave our present generations this legacy. This building and property. This congregation of saints. What about our present family of believers?

It saddens me to hear so many harsh negative feelings of our church among some of our members. I know it is by far not a majority. But it concerns me. It does not take many voices to make a lot of noise. 'Noise' is usually considered a negative description of a sound.

Note, I said 'harsh negative' feelings. One's feelings are real and are important. Obviously where many people are together for a purpose there are bound to be differences. Discussion of these differences can be healthy and are needed. But I have heard comments (noise) which frankly are not Christ-like. Some actions which are meant to cause division. Like something from a reality office TV show!

Most of us have played the Telephone Game. One person tells a listener a story. It is then re-told and passed from one person after another. We learn that by the time it reaches the last person the story bears little resemblance to the original. Who thinks this has not happened here? Recently it did!

I heard of an incident. Who knows how far down the line this individual had heard the original story. I went to the individual involved who answered another member's question. I heard an entirely different story. I wonder how many had heard the incorrect story and told others. And how close it was to the first incorrect story?

Are all that way? Maybe not. I don't know. Do you? Rumors, especially done with malicious intent are cancerous.

I want to clarify something. The Church Council is stated in our Constitution as having "general oversight of the life of this congregation...", and "...is responsible for the financial and property matters of this congregation..." and more. Not the pastor(s) or any other person. Council consists of your fellow members and the pastor(s). The Officers, which are the Executive Committee, is made up of the President, the Vice president, the Recording Secretary, and the pastor(s). Council takes seriously the recommendations of the committees. The standing committees are the Finance, the Property, the Worship, the Education, and soon the Outreach Committee. No one individual controls the Council or the Church. And I cannot forget all of the wonderful staff we have. Everyone contributes in their own way.

Please, if you have concerns, speak with anyone on Council. We want to hear your concerns. Respectful Christian like discussion is what is needed. We need 'movers'. Not 'shakers'.

It is my prayer that we may be the company of believers as our Savior intended so we are able to move ahead the ministry of Saint Paul Lutheran Church.

Randy Genter
Council President

Council members: Peter Brumenschenkle, Randy Genter, Jennifer Hinton, Lynne Morella, Aaron Ozanich, Pastor Dan Skillman, Phil Sultan, Donna Tindera and Rob Winwood

PROPERTY COMMITTEE



Property Committee has been concentrating on assigning priority to items requiring attention in the facilities of St. Paul's and looking for ways to reduce the operating costs too. As discussed at the congregational meeting last fall, the replacing the roof on the Sanctuary is imperative if we are to prevent further damage to the newly renovated interior. This will likely take place shortly after the school year ends. Since we have received a special gift to replace the office air conditioning system, it makes very good sense to do that before summer arrives. The existing system was installed in 1978 and has long out-lived its normal life expectancy. Replacing it with a new energy efficient system on our schedule instead of a crisis makes good sense.

Property has also requested the Church Council to convene a group of representatives from the various disciplines in our church to determine just what building space is required under our current membership and programs. If a disaster were to destroy our existing facility, would we NEED to rebuild the same size building, or could we still operate adequately in a smaller facility. If a smaller building would be acceptable, we can reduce the amount of insurance coverage, and possibly increase the deductible to save money annually.

When the major repairs and replacement of parts of St. Paul's was built into the budget 8 years ago, the congregation was told 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's' 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



SUNDAY SCHOOL-

Come and join us! It is never too late. Please join us from 9:45-10:45 each Sunday. Meet some great teachers and friendly kids. Come and have lots of fun while you learn a lot. Bring a friend, neighbor, cousin or your grandkids. Hope to see you!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL-

Making Summer plans? You won't want to miss our 2020 VBS here at St. Paul. Our theme this year is "Rocky Railway-Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through". Please mark your calendars for July 6-10 from 9:30-Noon. Rocky Railway will teach our kids to know that Jesus' power helps us to do hard things, Jesus' power gives us hope, Jesus' power helps us to be bold, Jesus' power lets us live forever and Jesus' power helps us to be good friends. Beginning March 1, we will be looking for adult and youth leadership (ages 11 on up). There are many jobs that are needed to provide our children with a safe week full of fun and learning. Please consider coming aboard to provide leadership for this exciting week for our St. Paul children and the children from so many communities. Please sign-up on the bulletin board by the east doors. Kids 3-10, it will be your turn to sign-up during the months of May and June. Can't wait! Should be fun!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY-

Happy 93rd birthday to Mrs. Meresko. Mrs. Meresko is our wonderful first/second grade Sunday School teacher. She is such a treasure to our children, teachers and families. Love you lots. You are such a gift to us all!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CALENDAR

March 1 8:45 Education Committee Meeting
(SS Office)
9:45-10:45 Sunday School

March 8 8:30 Children's Church
9:45-10:45 Sunday School
11:00 Children's Church

March 15 9:00-9:40 Ukuleles
(For all ages in the SS office)
9:45-10:45 Sunday School

March 22 8:30 Children's Church
9:45-10:45 Sunday School
11:00 Children's Church

March 29 10:00 Worship Service
No Sunday School



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



MARCH YOUTH SCHEDULE

STAY TUNED-UPDATES WILL BE IN THE BULLETINS

20 INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT LENT

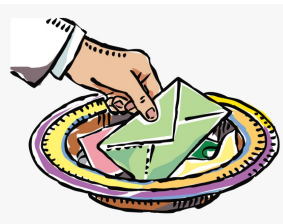
Here we're going to look at 20 interesting facts about Lent!

1. Lent is the 40 weekdays from Ash Wednesday to Easter observed by the Roman Catholic, Eastern, and some Protestant churches as a period of penitence and fasting. Sundays aren't included in the 40-day count.
2. Since Sunday's aren't included, Lent technically lasts 46 days.
3. When Lent started, it was only 36 days. Later, it was changed to 40 days.
4. Why is Lent 40 days? The number 40 is a significant number for Christians. Jesus spent 40 days in a desert. Noah had to wait 40 days for his ark to float. And Moses, along with his followers, traveled through the wilderness for 40 years before reaching the Promised Land.
5. Catholics started the tradition of Lent around the year 325, during the Council of Nicea, but it has spread through other Christian denominations. These include the following denominations: Western Orthodox Churches, Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterians, and Anglicans, among others.
6. Lent comes from the Middle English word "lente," which means springtime.
7. Lent starts on what's known as Ash Wednesday. This is when followers spread ashes on their forehead to signal their repentance to God. The ashes come from burning last year's palms that were distributed on Palm Sunday.
8. One of Lent's central components is fasting. The practice has died in recent years, but that didn't stop New Orleans from throwing a huge party called Mardi Gras. On the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, aka "Fat Tuesday," people party in the streets and get fat since they should be fasting for the next 40 days.
9. In the Catholic tradition, followers should not eat meat from any warm-blooded animal during Lent. This rule has been relaxed to "You can't eat meat on Fridays."
10. You CAN eat fish or other cold-blooded animals, which is why you see fast-food restaurants have sales for their fish sandwiches during Lent.
11. Besides not eating meat, Christians also abstain themselves from certain vices, whether it's chocolate or TV or video games or other pleasurable activities. In a sort of paradoxes, some even abstain from sex for 40 days, even though Christians are told to "go forth and multiply."
12. Prayer is another common practice for those practicing Lent. This, along with fasting, helps Christians stay centered in Christ and God.
13. Violet is the official color of Lent, as this represents mourning for Jesus dying on the cross while also celebrating his resurrection with the colors of royalty.

14. Lent doesn't actually end on Easter; it ends on Good Thursday, the day Jesus has The Last Supper. Good Friday is when Jesus dies on the cross, and on Easter Sunday, he rises from the grave.
15. All Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 should fast every Wednesday after Ash Wednesday. But don't worry; you can still eat one regular-sized meal and two small meals and it's still considered a fast.
16. This is also a time for followers to give to charity. Catholics have given more than \$250 million to feed the hungry during Lent.
17. The date for Easter has been set for thousands of years. It all has to do with the full moon of the Pashal, or Passover, full moon. Easter will fall between March 22 and April 25. There are mathematical formulas you can use to determine when Easter will fall in any year.
18. Because we know the date for every Easter from now until the end of time, we also know the date Lent starts. Just count 46 days (include Sundays) or 40 days (excluding Sundays) from Easter, and you know when Ash Wednesday is.
19. Christian churches still fast and abstain from vices, more so than their Western counterparts. During the "Great Lent," they cannot eat meat, fish, eggs, or butter. Any wine, oil or dairy products are also prohibited.
20. In a study done in 2014, 72% of adults knew what Lent was, and 88% of those participating in Lent were giving up some item of food for 40 days. Chocolate was the number one food most people were willing to give up during Lent.

STEWARDSHIP EMPHASIS

True stewardship is the deliberate, responsible management of all that God has given us - time, abilities, and resources. Some of the ways we respond with our resources are through - Regular Giving: This relates to current expenses and benevolences. Each member joins with the whole fellowship in support of the entire mission of the church, both locally and throughout the world



SHEEP AND GOATS FOCUS



ST. PAUL VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS) “ROCKY RAILWAY” JESUS’ POWER PULLS US THROUGH



Our 2020 VBS will be held July 6-10 from 9:30-noon.

The theme this summer is “Rocky Railway-Jesus’ Power Pulls Us Through”. Each summer we have children and youth that come from 30 different churches and many without home churches. We are so happy to have them join us here at St. Paul. Each day a single Bible point is introduced to the children and youth. They are reinforced daily at every station. Our children learn that Jesus gives us hope, courage, direction, power and love. These will be reinforced through song, dance, puppet shows, skits, crafts, games, snacks and Bible stories. A faith-filled adventure where kids discover that trusting Jesus pulls them through life’s ups and downs.



ONCE UPON A TIME....

MARCH:

1890 Began consideration of forming a new congregation in Berea, due to distance to Sheldon and Eastland, and the frequent flooding of Lake Abrams that restricted access. Later that year became St. John's (Missouri Synod)

1967 Ground Breaking for Sanctuary on Palm Sunday, Mar 26th

1969 Council approved:

- dancing in Fellowship Hall as part of Recreation Nights for the Youth
- the change of Communion from Good Friday to Maundy Thursday.

1970 The youth music group, envisioned and led by Bob Antl, was Named the "Good News Singers"

1975 On March 26th the Cornerstone from the Front Street church was dislodged and opened, revealing several publications, a listing of the building committee and a handwritten copy of the original constitution dated July 28, 1867 in German, with amendments.

1980 - Vietnamese refugees, sponsored jointly with St John's Lutheran Church Strongsville, arrived Mar 8

1999 - Puppet Ministry started

2000 - Karen Frandrich (later Cuy) became the new Youth Director on Mar 15th.

2010 - Jews for Jesus shared Passover with our congregation on Maundy Thursday

2017 - Sanctuary renovation completed

MONTHLY COLLECTION FOR BEREA COMMUNITY OUTREACH

**Paper Products for
home and personal use**

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



COMMISSION ON AGING FOR SENIOR CITIZENS



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

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

MEMORIALS



OFFICIAL ACTS

**Baptism
2/23- Russell James Baron**

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

FIRST CLASS
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



St. Paul Altar Guild Easter Flower Order 2020

Name as you wish it to appear in the bulletin:

FROM: _____
 PHONE: _____

_____ Lily	\$ 6.50	_____ Mums	\$ 9.25	_____ Daffodils	\$ 6.50
_____ Azaleas	\$ 10.00	_____ Hydrangea	\$ 13.50		

_____ We will PICK UP _____ Altar Guild should Give to SHUT-IN

_____ TO THE GLORY OF GOD

_____ In memory of _____

_____ in honor of _____

Deadline for ordering: March 29, 2020

Cash or check to "St. Paul Altar Guild" Questions? Contact Beth Boerke 216-410-4669 or Church office 440 243-1144

Include cash / check with this form and return to the office or put in the box on the Desk outside the office.
 * You may pick up your plant after the 11:00 Service on Easter Sunday!
 Office hours: M-F 9AM-12PM, 1PM-4PM