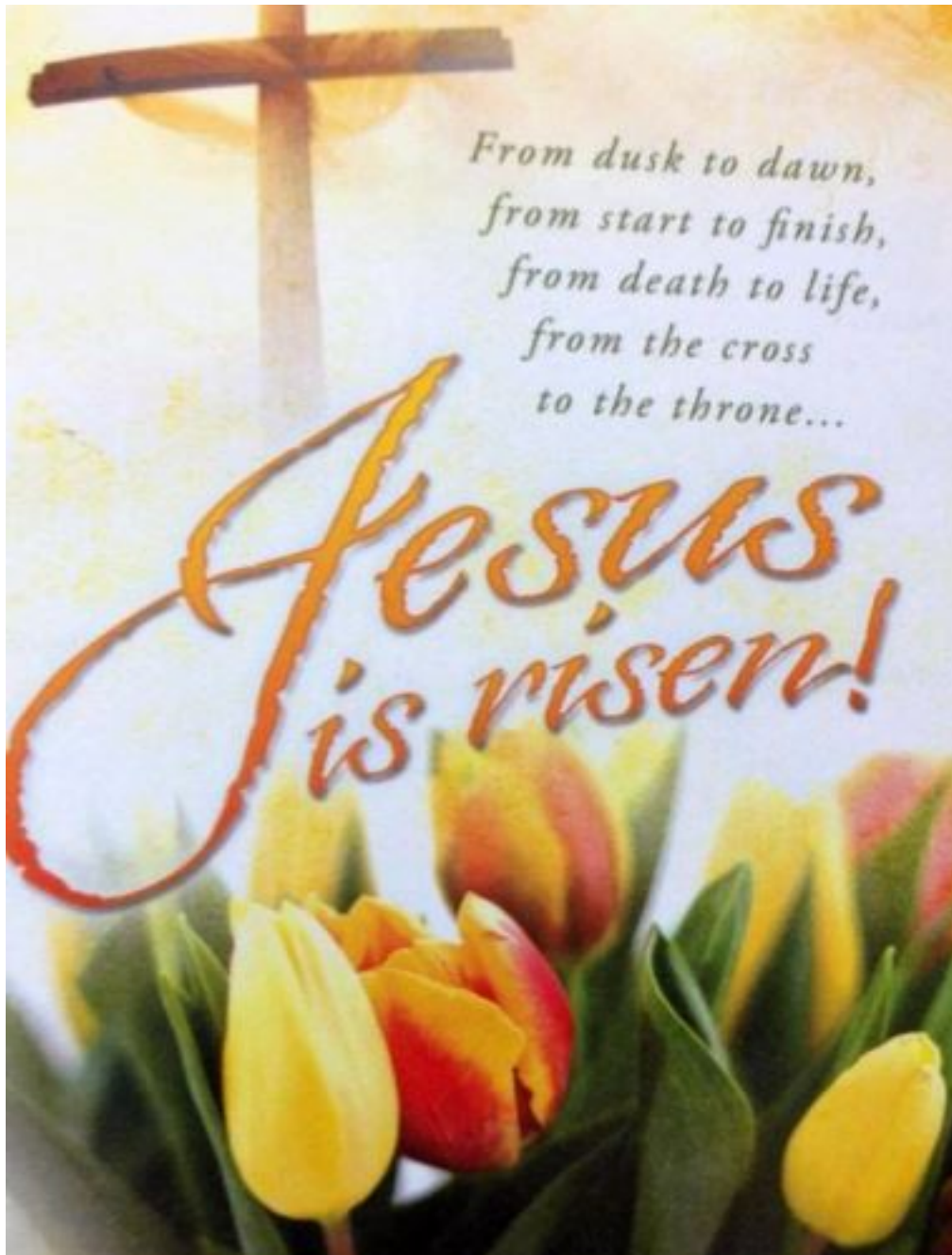




ST. PAUL HIGHLIGHTS

April 2021

VOLUME 70 ISSUE 04



IMPORTANT DATES FOR THIS MONTH

APRIL 1ST-MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL FOOL'S DAY

APRIL 2ND-GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 4TH-EASTER

APRIL 21ST-ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS DAY

APRIL 22ND-EARTH DAY

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

**MAUNDY THURSDAY AND GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES WILL BE PRE-RECORDED
AND AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE OR YOUTUBE**

HAVE A CELEBRATION COMING IN MAY?



If you have a May celebration you would like in this space, please notify the office by April 15th.



Resurrection Now

If Jesus were to listen to the preaching that takes place in many of our churches on Easter, I think he would be surprised and saddened to find so many people who are **waiting** for the resurrection. I'm fairly confident of that, because when he spoke to Martha, who was also **waiting** for the resurrection, he said this:

I am the resurrection and the life.
Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,
and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. (John 11:25-26)

According to Jesus, the resurrection is not something we **should** wait for, let alone something we **have** to wait for. As far as Jesus was concerned, the resurrection is a **present** reality.

The resurrection is the life of Jesus. "I am the resurrection and the life." The Gospels present Jesus as the living embodiment of the resurrection life. You don't have to wait for the first Easter to see the resurrection at work in Jesus' life. The resurrection is at work in **every** day of Jesus' life. Even at the crucifixion. **Especially** at the crucifixion. Even as he hangs dying, the Gospel of Luke, for example, paints Jesus as **forgiving** his enemies, and **loving** his neighbor. That is to say, Jesus, even on the cross, lives as one who has overcome death. Even on the cross, he is risen.

The resurrection isn't chronological. The resurrection is theological. You don't have to wait for it. Resurrection is happening now. Resurrection is happening wherever the life of Jesus has begun to transform the lives of those who follow him. "Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die."

Resurrection is the life that springs right up in the midst of death, defeating death on its own ground. Easter is more powerful than Lent. The resurrection is more powerful than the cross. Life is more powerful than death. And this present moment can be filled with the resurrection life of Jesus. You don't need to wait even one more minute.

Pastor Dan

FINANCIALS

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

February 28, 2021

Income and Expenses Summary	Current Year Actual YTD	Current Year Budget YTD	Over/(Under) Budget	Previous Year Actual YTD
Income				
Congregational Contributions	\$ 48,876.60	\$ 64,500.00	\$ (15,623.40)	\$ 55,754.24
Building Use	510.00	916.00	(406.00)	1,295.00
Interest	1.08	6.00	(4.92)	6.17
Other Income	40.23	236.00	(195.77)	54.37
Total Income	\$ 49,427.91	\$ 65,658.00	\$ (16,230.09)	\$ 57,109.78
	Current Year Actual YTD	Current Year Budget YTD	(Over)/Under Budget	Previous Year Actual YTD
Expenses				
Benevolence	977.54	1,290.00	312.46	1,115.09
Worship	2,207.22	2,437.00	229.78	2,170.07
Programs & Services	295.88	1,745.00	1,449.12	814.61
Property	11,194.21	17,588.00	6,393.79	10,950.37
Staff Salaries and Benefits	29,542.76	34,708.00	5,165.24	30,658.08
Contracted Services	4,984.00	5,126.00	142.00	4,984.00
Administration & Support	1,939.89	4,178.00	2,238.11	1,478.06
Total Expenses	51,141.50	67,072.00	15,930.50	52,170.28
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (1,713.59)	\$ (1,414.00)	\$ (299.59)	\$ 4,939.50

Income and Expenses Summary Notes:

Income

The YTD period ending February 28, 2021 has an operating deficit of \$1714, a decrease of \$6653 from February 29, 2020. Congregational Contributions through February 2021 are nearly \$6900 less than contributions received through February 2020. Building Use/Other Income is \$785 less than the amount at this time last year. Total Income at February 28, 2021, is nearly \$7700 less than at February 29, 2020. Congregational Contributions are under budget by roughly \$15,600 and Total Income is under budget by \$16,230 as of February 28, 2021.

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

Expenses

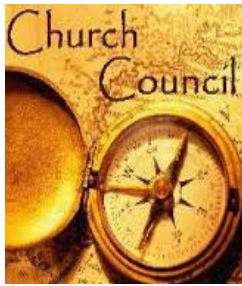
Total expenses were under budget by nearly \$16,000 as of February 28, 2021. Total expenses YTD are \$1,000 less than total expenses as of February 2020.

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

Balance Sheet Summary	As of February 28, 2021	As of February 29, 2020	Variance
Assets			
Current Assets (Cash)	\$ 218,150.73	\$ 145,091.59	\$ 73,059.14
Fixed Assets (Building)	3,041,549.00	3,041,549.00	0.00
Invested Assets (Endowment)	728,121.50	629,692.55	98,428.95
Total Assets	\$ 3,987,821.23	\$ 3,816,333.14	\$ 171,488.09
Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	\$ 2,520.52	\$ 7,058.58	\$ (4,538.06)
Payroll Withholding	4,507.22	2,490.34	2,016.88
Accrued Expenses and Other	300.00	250.00	50.00
Payroll Protection Program Temp Loan	40,419.00	0.00	40,419.00
Dedicated Fund Balances	158,051.44	147,575.93	10,475.51
Total Liabilities	\$ 205,798.18	\$ 157,374.85	\$ 48,423.33
Equity			
General Fund	\$ 13,552.55	\$ (11,083.26)	\$ 24,635.81
Investments (Endowment)	726,921.50	628,492.55	98,428.95
Fixed Assets (Building)	3,041,549.00	3,041,549.00	0.00
Total Equity	\$ 3,782,023.05	\$ 3,658,958.29	\$ 123,064.76
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$ 3,987,821.23	\$ 3,816,333.14	\$ 171,488.09

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

Re-unification and Patience,

As we move forward into Summer, those of us who choose to be vaccinated should be complete. The exception to this will be members of St Paul below the age of 16. We have heard many questions such as “Why aren’t both services in the Sanctuary?”, “Why are we holding services in the Sanctuary?”, “Will we ever get back into the Sanctuary full time?”, “Will we continue to hold our services on YouTube?”

Worship committee and Church Council will be reviewing options for the future in the coming weeks and months. The current offerings of a parking lot service and a sanctuary service are more than some churches are providing. If you have been vaccinated and you want to worship in the Sanctuary, please attend our worship service at 11 am. Our Sanctuary also does not exchange air from the outside, it recirculates the indoor air. As a result, we cannot move both services back inside the Sanctuary until we are advised that it is safe for all of us to worship indoors again! We know that several members have been vaccinated, but keep in mind that our Pastor has not been vaccinated yet. It does appear that he will be able to sign up for the vaccination this month.

Also, in communication with the Worship Committee, additional volunteers are needed for both services. Assisting Minister, Ushering, Sound Board, Parking lot Ushering, are all areas that we currently need additional help. Please reach out to the church office if you are able to assist.

As we move into Spring and Summer, we hope to offer more opportunities for us to gather, socially distant, as a congregation. We understand the importance of community, and we need our community back in fellowship again.

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

Although we would all love to get back to having services in the Sanctuary, the task of determining when we can do that with reasonable safety for all has become an even greater challenge. With more vaccine available now than ever before, it is easier to obtain the shots. But the appearance of new mutations of the virus that are more potent and more easily transmitted has changed the concept of “safe”. With the average age of our members, the majority of the members have had their age group given the opportunity to be vaccinated by now, but surprisingly the infection rate of new cases around Cleveland has suddenly risen dramatically again, and the governor is considering imposing some of the activity restrictions again. Until the rate of new cases declines and stays low for some period of time, it is not prudent to assume that worshippers are “safe”. 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. Please take advantage of your ability to be vaccinated and protect not only yourself but those around you as well.

Last month we had a fiery failure of a ballast in an office ceiling light fixture. Since this was the second such failure of the original fixtures installed in the office, new ballasts for the ceiling fixtures in the office were ordered and have been received. Inspection and replacement of suspect old ballasts can now begin.

The added connections under the portico to the Sanctuary sound system were used for the first time for the Palm Sunday parking lot service and worked well. The Lector worked flawlessly, and with minor adjustments the Pastor’s microphone will be equally high quality on Easter Sunday service. The system will also allow addition of a speaker under the portico to enable the Pastor and the Lector to hear the portions of the service that take place in the Sanctuary. If you have wondered why Pastor and the Lector keep going back in the church, or holding the doors to the back of the Sanctuary open slightly during the service, it is because they can’t tell when the segments done in the Sanctuary are finished and it is their time to resume speaking outside. A monitor speaker by them outside will eliminate that problem and should help the service flow a bit more evenly.

You also may have noticed a new flower bed around the electronic sign along Bagley Rd. The flower bed and plants are a gift from Jon Williams, the gentleman who mows and grooms the church and cemetery property. We wish to thank Jon for the decorative border around the sign, and for the great job he does keeping the church property looking its best.

The usual monthly reminder: When the major repairs and replacement of parts of St. Paul's 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'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



MEN'S GROUP ACTIVITIES

WAY TO GO GUYS!



Friday, March 26th, several members of the men's group delivered clothing donations to the Men's Shelter at 2100 Lakeside.



Saturday, March 27th several members of the group assisted a Berea resident with clearing old bushes from around her house. They also picked up branches that fell in the recent storm and raked out her lawn. She was very pleased!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



HELLO TO ALL OF OUR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES-

We think of all of you so often and love visiting your homes as we deliver your Sunday School Bags. We will see you again in April. We love seeing all of your waves and smiles. You definitely make our days brighter!

We have begun preparing bags for the preschoolers in our St. Paul Early Education Center here at St Paul. Ms. Liz and Ms. Sharon are handing the bags out to the children from their preschool classes. We are happy to be preparing 75 bags in total for our preschoolers - sixth graders.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL-

Mark your calendars for July 6-9 for our upcoming VBS. After much discussion, we have decided to have it presented virtually this year and then hopefully, we will be fully back in action the next Summer 2022. The safety of our adults, youth and children has to be our #1 concern. We promise to have lots of learning and fun for all. Watch for our next Highlights for details on how to sign-up and for details of our July 6-9 week. Hope you can save the date!

children@stpaulbera.org

PRESIDING BISHOP

GOD *will* TRANSFORM THIS CHURCH

By Elizabeth A. Eaton



The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. That's our name. At least two parts of our name, "Evangelical" and "Church," are either misunderstood or an outright stumbling block for a significant percentage of the American population.

Pew Research reports that over one-fifth of the U.S. public—and a third under 30—are religiously unaffiliated. These are the "nones." The religiously unaffiliated, whether never churchd or dechurchd, don't have a favorable impression of church. They see it as extremist, full of hypocrites, judgmental, anti-science, anti-intellectual, dogmatic, overly concerned about other people's morality, naïve and out of touch. Ouch.

In the eyes of the nones, the ELCA gets lumped in with everyone else. Though we aren't perfect, and some of the characteristics of church apply to us at various times, we have a theology based on a liberating gospel of Jesus Christ that is the *euangelion*—the good news. The "Evangelical" in our name points to the transforming love of Jesus, to reconciliation, to freedom, to grace. It's expansive, for everyone and all creation. It doesn't require our effort or our merit, only our trust in God's promise.

It's not naïve. Scripture, Martin Luther, Dietrich Bonhoeffer and others were clear-eyed about the reality of human sin and brokenness and the devastating consequences for individuals, groups of people and creation that result. There is judgment, but it is God's, not ours. Our evangelical understanding of God's word is that it is both law and gospel, judgment and promise. We aren't an everything goes, antinomian church.

I remember the light bulbs going off in my catechism students' heads when learning about grace. Does it give us license to do anything we want? Paul had to address the same line of thinking in the letter to the Romans. No. Grace makes it possible to be honest with ourselves and face our sin because the Spirit grants us the space, time and desire to turn from our sin to the source of life.

Our evangelical witness is full of paradox—we are simultaneously saint and sinner. Yes, there is hypocrisy in the church—welcome to humanity! But there is also

beauty and love poured by the Spirit into sometimes stubborn and broken hearts. There is law and gospel. We are at once perfectly free and lord of all and bound and servant of all (Luther's *The Freedom of a Christian*).

Our evangelical witness is that God called the creation good; that we have been given the gift of curiosity that compels us to study the natural world, to engage in scientific research. The more we know about creation, the closer we draw to the Creator. We aren't anti-intellectual—Luther was a college professor after all.

I happen to know some millennials who had conversations with their none neighbors. These conversations were open and engaged. The none neighbors carried the above-mentioned perceptions of church, but they also knew that their millennial friends served as Young Adults in Global Mission and were active in their congregation. The nones were trying to reconcile their perceptions of church with their experience of actual Lutherans—one of whom is a scientist. Without that relationship, the nones would never have known a true evangelical witness to the liberating good news of Jesus.

In this issue you have read about Future Church (page 20). God is calling us into this exciting mission, and the Spirit will activate each of us to invite people to know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love. The ELCA can hold up our evangelical witness, which is an alternative face of Christianity—not for institutional survival, but so that more people will experience the deep love of Jesus, be transformed and liberated by that love and "work for justice and peace" (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, Holy Baptism).

This mission will take all of us, and it means actual relationships with real people led by an incarnational God. I believe that God will transform this church. †

A monthly message from the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
Her email address is bishop@elca.org.



ONCE UPON A TIME....

1867 - In December 1866, 2.66 acres were purchased for \$80 an acre at the corner of First Avenue and Eastland Road, Middleburg Township, to establish a permanent home for the new congregation. A portion was set aside and

dedicated on April 11, 1867 for a cemetery; the first burial, after the purchase of the land, was that of Johann Siems, an officer of the church.

1959 – Special Adult Confirmation on Palm Sunday (12 confirmands)

– Cleveland Area Young Adult Lutheran group formed (intended for single adults in Cleveland area)

1960 - the American Lutheran Church (German) merged with the United Evangelical Lutheran Church (Danish) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church (Norwegian) to form the American Lutheran Church (ALC). The Lutheran Free Church (Norwegian), which had initially dropped out of merger negotiations, joined the ALC in 1963.

1969 – St Paul hosted the American Lutheran Church Women of the Cleveland Conference's Spring Meeting.

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

1970 – Council approved placement of fence on property line at east side of Fellowship Hall

1992 – Old Fashioned worship service for 125th Anniversary, Son of Congregation, Pastor John Vannorsdall preached.

1999 – Call Committee formed that eventually led to calling Pastor Henderson as Senior Pastor.

2009 – Hosted Mens Community Prayer Breakfast on April 13th w/speakers Terry Pluto(Cleveland Plain Dealer) and Berea Mayor Cyril Kleem

2011 – First Easter Sunrise Service held in Courtyard

2012 - St Paul's hosted Tetelestai production depicting Holy Week

SIGNS OF SPRING



A huge Thank You to Linda Jungeberg for clearing most of the leaves from the courtyard! More clean up is needed. If you are interested in helping, please contact the office or Linda.



SHEEP AND GOATS



Habitat's Vision:

A world where everyone has a decent place to live.

Habitat works to bring affordable housing to the Greater Cleveland area communities and the families that live in them. We build, rehab, and sell homes to families with an affordable mortgage while connecting them to the community through our neighborhood revitalization projects.

This month we will donate our Sheep and Goats collection to the Habitat/Thrivent Faith Build. Thrivent Financial is granting up to 50% of the cost of a home to Habitat with the understanding that matching funds will be raised from area churches to fully fund the home. A family has already been chosen for the Faith Build home. Their story follows on the next page. Please donate generously and pray for future Habitat homebuyers. If you want information about volunteering with the Habitat build or with the ReStore, please contact Tom & Marie Herr who have been active volunteers from our congregation for many years.





Faith Build 2021 Family: Kassy and family

At 10818 Hulda Avenue



Kassy is a single mom of three incredible kids. She has one daughter Kamari (13), and two sons Jeffery (10), and Kasson(8). They are all excited about this journey and have been driving down Hulda Avenue watching the progress of the construction.

Kassy works fulltime at a Westside school as a teacher's aide and has been working in the school system for over 10 years. She loves middle school kids and learning. And this is evident after talking with her for a few moments.

Kamari is in eighth grade. She applied and was accepted into the School of the Arts for the Visual Arts tract. She is looking forward to her freshman year where she can make new friends who love the arts as much as she does.



Jeffery is in fifth grade and LOVES to code. He took one class to learn how to make his own app and now enjoys figuring out how to code games. He also loves Legos and is trying to build a robot.

Kasson is in third grade and loves Pokémon and superheroes. In fact, when he grows up he would like to be the first actual superhero with the superpower of super speed (though that changes). Kasson also loves playing football and basketball.



All three kids do extremely well in school and enjoy painting. Kassy shared, "We just enjoy spending time together. We love having experiences together. My boys might say geocaching is their favorite activity. They love it. Kamari likes shopping- all shopping. She loves grocery shopping, window shopping- anything that has to do with shopping." When the family travels to Cincinnati, they intend to stop at Jungle Jim's Grocery store. Kamari likes to try different types of glass bottled sodas.

Kassy has been wanting to buy a house for a few years. When she moved into her current rental she was told she would be able to purchase it after three years. However after three years, the funding for the program was no longer available. She went to several banks shopping for a mortgage for the \$25,000 house, but only found one option that would provide a 30 year mortgage for \$425 a month. The interest rates seemed unreasonable. Not willing to give up, she learned about Habitat and applied.

"I have always wanted to buy a house. I want to have a legacy for my kids. I want them to know this is our house and no one can take it away. I want them to have a place to come home to when they go to college. I want them to one day say, 'We are going to mom's house.' I want this for us. I just turned 36. It's time to be a homeowner."

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

Ruth Hans

Loni Flagner

Penny Boyer

Loni Flagner

Ed Hrivnak

Loni Flagner

Mel & Ellen Grunau

Bob & Diane Ferreri

Ken & Lois Hines

Antoinette Podracky

Ken & Lois Hines

Jean Meresko

Loni Flagner

Sara Downie

Harold & Barbara Daniels

OFFICIAL ACTS

Funeral

2/26 Sara Downie

3/29 Adam Hetzel

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