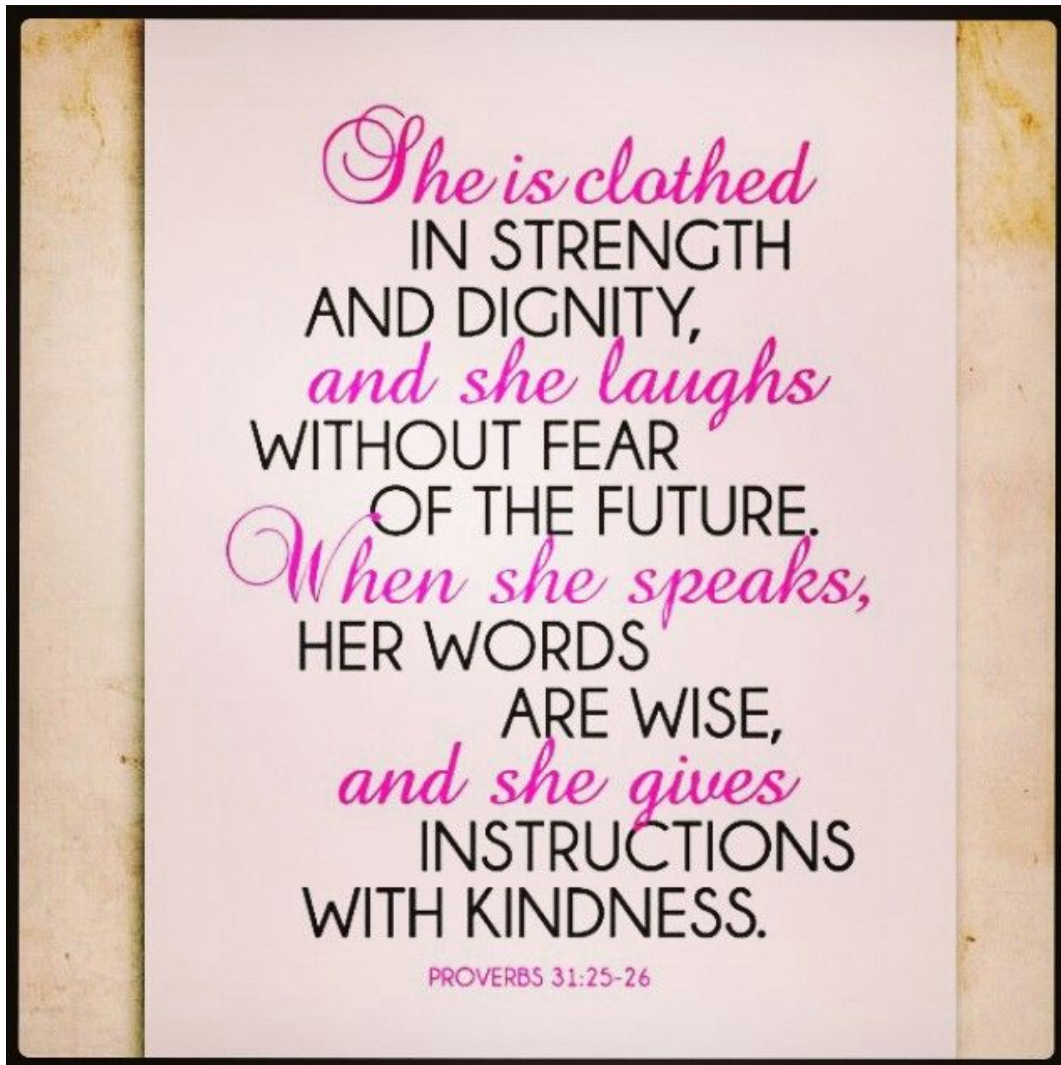




ST. PAUL HIGHLIGHTS

May 2021

VOLUME 70 ISSUE 05



Happy Mother's Day-May 9, 2021

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THIS MONTH
ALL MONTH-MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH
MAY 1ST-MAY DAY
MAY 9TH-MOTHER'S DAY
MAY 23RD-PENTECOST-CONFIRMATION
MAY 31ST-MEMORIAL DAY

DATE	TIME	ASSISTING MINISTER	MUSIC LEADERS	ALTAR GUILD	AUDIO/VIDEO	USHERS/ GREETERS
5/2	9:00	Taffy Pavlick	Covenant Choir Team	Jennifer Hinton	Dave Kushman	Team 1&2
	11:00	Meg Montag	Covenant Singers	Nancy Thompson Barb Daniels	Phil Sultan Nate French Jeff Campbel	Team 1&2
5/9	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
5/16	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
5/23	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
5/30	9:00	TBD	TBD		Dave Kushman	TBD
	11:00	TBD	TBD		Phil Sultan Nate French Jeff Campbel	TBD

MAY CELEBRATIONS



Wishing God's continued Blessings to **Sue Grunau** and **Ralph Rohde** as they celebrate the 70th anniversary of their confirmation this year!

HAVE A CELEBRATION COMING IN JUNE?

If you have a June celebration you would like in this space,
 please notify the office by **May 14th**.



My Fancy New Car

Daniel Skillman

My car's engine "blew up." It had been having problems, and I knew the situation was terminal. It was a 20 year old car, and her demise was just a matter of time. Well, the time came Sunday April 18th. Out on the highway, she gave up the ghost.

I managed to pull off the road and position her in a good spot for a tow to my regular mechanic (You have a regular mechanic when you've got a 20 year old car.) I got an uber home (not cheap, let me tell you), and downed a beer to drown my frustration.

The next day, I called Bob at Yano's Automotive in North Royalton, and he confirmed what I already knew. Without a new motor, my car wasn't running again.

So, on Tuesday, I hit the streets, searching for another car. I set my sights low. Another 15 to 20 year old sled for about \$3k, if I could find it. These days, at that price point, you're not getting anything fancy (to put it mildly), and you're dealing with all sorts of, let's call them "colorful characters." No big name dealerships with guarantees, warranties, and good looking 20 and 30 something salespeople in suits, that's for sure.

At this one "lot" (more like a couple of loose gravel parking spots out in front of a bombed out single story office building off a marginal road on the wrong side of the tracks), I found a sweet 2002 Toyota Camry. Only 130 thousand miles. V6 engine. It had a CD player! (Now, look, to me, that's fancy. My old car, may she rest in peace, had a tape deck. No, not an 8-track. It was suitably modern...for 2001.) So, I ventured inside the building into a dirty empty hall with three doors, none of which were marked.

"Hello?" I said.

"Come on in," I heard in a thick Russian accent from behind door #1. So, I did. There he sat behind a desk cluttered with papers. Early 50s. Black hair with a touch of salt. Big brown eastern European eyes. Completely silent.

"Can I take the Camry for a spin?" I asked, not entirely sure the guy was even the car salesman.

"You have license?"

"Yeah."

"Give to me."

I handed him my license. He turned to the little all in one printer/fax/scanner on the shelf behind him and made a copy while he pulled a key out of his pocket. He turned and gave both to me. Then he got up, carrying a magnetic backed license plate, and walked me out to the car.

"It's real nice," he said as he attached the plate to the rear bumper. "I've got another buyer on it, but he hasn't given me any money yet."

Yeah, right, I thought. That's one of the oldest lines in the book.

"Take it out. You pay first, it's yours." An honest statement, to be sure. Then he turned and walked back inside.

I pulled the car out onto the road, and down the street just a little bit to another small parking lot where my wife was waiting in her car. She was my shuttle, and, no, I wasn't going to have her dealing with these sorts of people.

She and I took the "new" car (6 years older than the '08 dark grey Corolla she was driving) out for a spin. Frankly, we fell in love. Well, as much as you can be in love with a 19 year 39 hundred dollar car.

"Alright, babe, you go on and pick up Olivia (my daughter) from school, and I'll go on inside and work out a deal with the guy. Then I'll meet you at home with my fly new ride." That sounded good to her. So, she got in her car as I walked back inside the run down office building.

There the salesman sat, looking at me like a kid caught dead to rights with his hand in the cookie jar, for across from him was a customer, filling out paperwork for the car I just drove. "I'm sorry. The car is sold."

The customer smiled.

"@#\$\$%&!"

I ran outside to stop my wife from taking off, just in time to see her kick up a cloud of dust pulling out onto the road. So, I called her on my cell. Naturally, my wife, ever safety cautious, keeps her phone's ringer off when she's driving, so she'll never be tempted to answer it.

"@#\$\$%&!"

I call 19 more times.

Yeah, the ringer was **really** off.

I'm outside.

On a marginal road.

On the wrong side of the tracks.

It's 40 degrees.

And I'm not dressed to be spending significant time in these conditions.

No layers.

No gun.

"@#\$\$%&!"

Time for a walk, I guess.

sure wasn't going back to that "dealer's" office. And not just because he sold the ride I was test driving out from under me. I'm not sure his office could accommodate three people while two were working a deal.

Yup, time for a walk.

Brisk walking is an excellent way to keep your temperature up when it's 40 degrees, and your coat over thin T-shirt ensemble isn't quite warding off the more serious teeth chattering. Of course, I also had the fires of my rage to keep me warm. Take that, Buddhists.

I called my wife about every minute at the top of the minute (I didn't want to over do it.) until I finally got through to her. "No deal. I'm outside. Pick me up. And, uh, hon, maybe it's safer TO LEAVE YOUR RINGER ON. Just a suggestion."

She picked me up at an intersection right off the highway. Like, I stuck my thumb out, she slowed down, and I hopped in.

"You look like a homeless person," my wisecracking 11 year old daughter quipped. Still smarting from the cold, I just rubbed my hands together in front of the heater vent.

“Next place.”

The search continued down the same marginal road. This time, the “dealer” was located a quarter mile off a turn onto a street so littered with potholes it could have doubled as the surface of the moon. Once again, I had my wife park a few hundred yards away, while I went into the building.

These kinds of places don’t have cute college aged receptionists who greet you the moment you walk in. What they have is nobody. The dealer acquires the cars, fixes them, and sells them all by himself. He doesn’t have time to greet people. I know this. Still, it’s a bit strange to walk in the front door of a building right into an office with a desk littered with important papers and car keys.

“Hello?”

“Back here.” Another Russian.

I walked past the desk down a hall to another office with another desk covered in disorganized paperwork, behind which sat a bald man in his late 50s working on three things at once. He looked over his reading glasses at me, and said, “You here for car? You want Mike. Go in the back. He’s there.”

Down another hallway to a steel door, behind which was a warehouse filled with what had to be 50 cars of various ages and conditions, all quadruple parked. This was Los Santos Customs (shout out to all my gta5 gamers).

“Mike?”

Short gray hair. Mid 50s. Mike, it turns out, was someone I recognized. Once upon a time, I sold cars for one of those nice suburban dealerships that give you a name tag, make you wear a tie, and teach you to say things like, “Welcome to the dealership. My name’s Dan. What can I show you today?” When our customers traded in cars that were, how should I put this, beneath what our typical clientele would stoop to shop for, Mike was the guy who bought those cars from us. And, apparently, **I’m** the kind of guy who looks to buy a car from Mike.

The first one, a 20 year old Camry v6 (Yeah, I’ve got a type. What’s it to ya?) looked great and ticked all the boxes. Except for the gas leak. “What’s that smell?” my daughter asked on the test drive.

“Oh, that’s just a little gas, honey.

"Rachel?" My wife. "Rachel, what's wrong?"

"I'm getting a headache."

"Me, too," my daughter added.

"This probably isn't the car." I was a little bit frustrated. We'd been at it almost all day ,and I wasn't any closer to new wheels.

That's when Mike said, "How about this one?"

"Very funny, Mike." He was pointing to my wife's car.

"I'm serious. It's papa's car."

That's when I realized that it wasn't my wife's car. It seems that Mike's dad had just gotten out of a mid 2000s dark grey Corolla...identical to my wife's car. And Mike was looking to move it.

Right kind of car.

Right kind of mileage.

Right kind of price.

I wrote him a check.

I realized very quickly, that was a bit of a rookie mistake, as he looked at me like I might as well have handed him a note from my mother. "Cash?"

"Da."

Duh.

So, I rustled up the greenbacks while he cleaned the car, and the next day, I brought home a vehicle that's nearly identical to the one already sitting in my garage. Not very exciting, I know. It's missing a hubcap. But, hey, it's got a CD player, and that's pretty fancy.

FINANCIALS

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

March 31, 2021

Income and Expenses Summary	Current Year Actual YTD	Current Year Budget YTD	Over/(Under) Budget	Previous Year Actual YTD
Income				
Congregational Contributions	\$ 78,552.60	\$ 96,750.00	\$ (18,197.40)	\$ 86,743.08
Building Use	790.00	1,374.00	(584.00)	1,735.00
Interest	1.71	9.00	(7.29)	7.78
Other Income	524.74	354.00	170.74	76.31
Total Income	\$ 79,869.05	\$ 98,487.00	\$ (18,617.95)	\$ 88,562.17
	Current Year Actual YTD	Current Year Budget YTD	(Over)/Under Budget	Previous Year Actual YTD
Expenses				
Benevolence	1,571.06	1,935.00	363.94	1,734.87
Worship	3,759.81	3,655.00	(104.81)	4,011.32
Programs & Services	624.37	2,929.00	2,304.63	1,088.48
Property	16,019.57	25,332.00	9,312.43	14,911.38
Staff Salaries and Benefits	44,333.13	52,060.00	7,726.87	46,052.44
Contracted Services	7,476.00	7,689.00	213.00	7,476.00
Administration & Support	3,173.83	6,267.00	3,093.17	3,876.94
Total Expenses	76,957.77	99,867.00	22,909.23	79,151.43
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 2,911.28	\$ (1,380.00)	\$ 4,291.28	\$ 9,410.74

Income and Expenses Summary Notes:

Overall Comments and Income Review

The YTD period ending March 31, 2021, has an operating surplus of \$2,911, nearly \$6,500 less than at March 31, 2020. Congregational Contributions through March 2021 are \$8,200 less than contributions received through March 2020. Building Use/Other Income has dropped nearly \$1000; remember that we shut the building in mid-March last year. Total Income at March 31, 2021, is \$8700 less than at March 31, 2020. Congregational Contributions are under budget by a little more than \$18k and Total Income is under budget by \$18,600 as of March 31, 2021. March 2020 was a mixed month in that we closed the building about half-way through, as previously mentioned.

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

Expenses Review

Total expenses were under budget by nearly \$23,000 as of March 31, 2021. Total expenses YTD are \$2,200 less than total expenses as of March 2020.

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

Balance Sheet Summary	As of March 31, 2021	As of March 31, 2020	Variance
Assets			
Current Assets (Cash)	\$ 213,571.59	\$ 136,088.34	\$ 77,483.25
Fixed Assets (Building)	3,041,549.00	3,041,549.00	0.00
Invested Assets (Endowment)	726,942.56	578,086.20	148,856.36
Total Assets	\$ 3,982,063.15	\$ 3,755,723.54	\$ 226,339.61
Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	\$ 912.95	\$ 1,233.38	\$ (320.43)
Loan from Endowment Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
Payroll Withholding	0.00	0.00	0.00
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	154,962.22	142,491.22	12,471.00
Total Liabilities	\$ 196,594.17	\$ 143,974.60	\$ 52,619.57
Equity			
General Fund	\$ 18,177.42	\$ (6,686.26)	\$ 24,863.68
Investments (Endowment)	725,742.56	576,886.20	148,856.36
Fixed Assets (Building)	3,041,549.00	3,041,549.00	0.00
Total Equity	\$ 3,785,468.98	\$ 3,611,748.94	\$ 173,720.04
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$ 3,982,063.15	\$ 3,755,723.54	\$ 226,339.61

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

Members of St Paul's, **"For where two or three gather in my name, there I am with them" (Matthew 18:20)**

As we move further into spring, and more of us become vaccinated, more and more members are asking "When will we open the church for both Services? When will we return to full communion? When will we be able to sing again in the sanctuary?"

Please be assured that the Worship Committee, Church Council and Pastor are working together to answer these questions. These decisions will not be made by one of the above, but we will look for a consensus between all parties.

Pastor Dan just had his first vaccination in early April. He will be "in the clear" in mid-May. Several of us are still working on becoming fully vaccinated. While we understand several members are fully vaccinated, there are still several members who have not been vaccinated. As you that have been vaccinated should know, this is not something that happens overnight.

Pastor stated on Easter Sunday; "We will never get back to the old normal. But we hope to get to a new normal." It's going to take time to figure out what that new normal looks like, but rest assured that the Pastor, Council, and the Worship Committee are looking into it. If you have anything to add to the conversation, please feel free to attend one of our meetings. We're all in this together. That will necessitate listening to each other and making compromises. But we will find our way through this and out to the other side soon. That transition will be a lot smoother if we're patient with each other. So, that's what I'm asking of you: patience.

As St Paul said, "I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought" (1 Corinthians 1:10) Please be assured we are all working together so that soon, we can worship together and enjoy some fellowship together. This is not a decision we will enter into lightly. The decisions are made by Church Council, with input from Pastor Dan and from the Worship Committee. If you have comments, concerns, questions, please reach out to your Church Council.

Jonathan 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 have suddenly risen dramatically again, and the governor is considering imposing some of the activity restrictions again. 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.

The small adjustments made to the sound system for the 9am service performed near perfectly for last Sunday's service. Jim Jungeberg would like to thank Scott and Ava Harkema for their help installing the wiring under the portico to the Sanctuary sound system. Ava was invaluable since she could work in small places where neither Scott nor Jim could fit. Thanks also for Phil Sultan and Dave Kushman, who integrated the system and balanced out the components for the best possible performance.

During this past week, the new office air conditioning system was installed, so we can relax now and forget about the system failure that is 20 years overdue. The new system will operate much more efficiently and uses standard home furnace filters that are easily changed to keep the air cleaner. We also hope to locate a good source to apply solar reflective film on the inside of the windows to further reduce the energy required to cool the offices.

We also received a call from the Water Department this last week. They called to advise us that our water consumption rate has jumped up during the previous week compared to our average usage. Quick detective work found that the valve which refills a toilet water tank after a flush had failed in the ladies room, and would not shut off the water flow into the tank. In this condition, the excess water runs through the overflow and right into the sewer. The toilet will make a different sound all the time when this happens, so detecting something is different is not difficult. Anytime you hear or see something at church that doesn't sound or look right, please don't hesitate to contact the church office or a Property Committee member. Many times the cost and time to adjust or repair something is very small when attended to early, instead of having to deal with a full-blown failure. A new toilet fill valve cost is \$8. The increase in the water and sewer bills will be several times that cost.

Property continued

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 the church 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.

PENTECOST

FEAST-MAY 23, 2021

The Christian holiday of Pentecost is a moveable feast, which is celebrated on the 50th day from Easter Sunday. It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks, as described in the Acts of the Apostles.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Hello to all of our Kids and Families-

Our Sunday School Bags keep rolling each month. Our bags for May will be coming your way. We continue to love all of the waves from the windows and the smiles from the doorways. Please know that we are sending hugs to all of you.

A SPECIAL GIFT FROM A VERY SPECIAL PERSON

We received a very special gift this last week. Last week, I met Mrs. Meresko's daughter, Melissa, at church. Mrs. Meresko's family has donated a beautiful piano that belonged to Mrs. Meresko from her home. Her beautiful piano was placed in our Sunday School Closing Room. A tear was shed because we all knew what a special person, teacher, and friend she was. Mrs. Meresko truly loved teaching Sunday School. She loved our children with her whole heart and they loved her.

Mrs. Meresko was a treasure. She was a treasure to all of us. Many thanks to Melissa and her family for sharing this beautiful piano with our children, teachers, and all of us at St. Paul. We love you, Mrs. Meresko. We thank you for teaching us and having such a special place in our hearts.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL NEWS

Mark your calendars! You won't want to miss our VBS Virtual Extravaganza. Our VBS will be held July 6-9. Our theme is Rocky Railways - Jesus' Power Pulls us Through. We will learn that Jesus' power helps us do hard things, Jesus' power gives us hope, Jesus' power helps us be bold, and Jesus' power helps us be good friends.

Since we will be learning virtually, we have the special treat of having Steven Wagner join us each day with a daily stream. Steven was a member of the group Youth Encounter and he led several of our past VBS weeks. You won't want to miss him. He will have some crazy, bad jokes and some fun, silly songs.

More details will be coming in June. We will even provide the train whistles! Should be fun!

children@stpaulbera.org

EARLY EDUCATION CENTER

We want to thank you for the generous contributions we have received for St. Paul's Preschool, for both the scholarship fund and general expenses. This has been a very unusual year for everyone. We needed your help and you made a very loving response to assist us.

Thank you from the children, teachers, treasurer and the preschool board



PIERSTORF MEMORIAL FUND

Applications will be accepted beginning April 15th through June 30th for interest-free loan funds. This year the maximum, interest -free loan is \$3000 for the school year. Please go to www.Pierstorf.org and complete the 2021-2022 application

This is an interest-free loan for Lutheran Students who are or will be enrolled full time in a four-year undergraduate program at any accredited college or university.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CONFIRMANDS!

On Sunday, May 23rd the following youth will be confirmed at the 9:00am service.

Delaney Sophia Donoughe
Janna Elizabeth Hoag
Lydia Elaine Miller
Timothy Jacob Salay
Taylor Nicole Tully

**Congratulations also to Sue Grunau and Ralph Rohde
on the 70th anniversary of their confirmation!**

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH



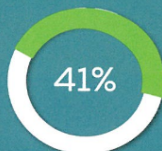
NAMI FaithNet is a resource network of NAMI members, friends, clergy and congregations of all faith traditions who wish to encourage faith communities who are welcoming and supportive of persons and families living with mental illness.



Approximately 1 in 5 adults in the U.S.—43.8 million, or 18.5%—experiences mental illness in a given year



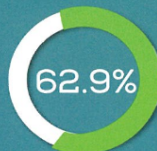
Approximately 1 in 25 adults in the U.S.—10 million, or 4.2%—experiences a serious mental illness in a given year that substantially interferes with or limits one or more major life activities.



Only 41% of adults in the U.S. with a mental health condition received mental health services in the past year.

3rd

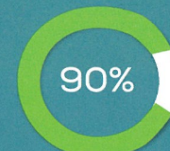
Suicide is the 3rd leading cause of death for people aged 10–24 years old.



Only 62.9% adults with serious mental illness received mental health services in the past year.

2nd

Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for people aged 15–24 years old.



90% of those who die by suicide had an underlying mental illness

10th

Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the U.S.

KNOW THE WARNING SIGNS:

- Excessive worrying or fear
- Feeling excessively sad or low
- Confused thinking or problems concentrating and learning
- Extreme mood changes, including uncontrollable "highs" or feelings of euphoria
- Prolonged or strong feelings of irritability or anger
- Avoiding friends and social activities
- Difficulties understanding or relating to other people
- Changes in sleeping habits or feeling tired and low energy
- Changes in eating habits such as increased hunger or lack of appetite
- Changes in sex drive
- Difficulty perceiving reality (delusions or hallucinations, in which a person experiences and senses things that don't exist in objective reality)
- Inability to perceive changes in one's own feelings, behavior or personality ("lack of insight" or anosognosia)
- Abuse of substances like alcohol or drugs
- Multiple physical ailments without obvious causes (such as headaches, stomach aches, vague and ongoing "aches and pains")
- Thinking about suicide
- Inability to carry out daily activities or handle daily problems and stress
- An intense fear of weight gain or concern with appearance (mostly in adolescents)

nami.org/faithnet



ONCE UPON A TIME....

1841 – Missionary Matter born May 29 in Ramsburg Germany

1866 – Missionary Matter left St. Paul's to return to Wartburg and ultimately Deer Creek Wyoming in May, and our little congregation awaited arrival of our first pastor later that summer

1962 – approved expansion of the parking lot due to insufficient space and crowding on Sunday mornings.

1969 – Robert Wech, organist/choir director resigned effective July, had served since 1966

1971 – Council approved congregation remaining seated during final hymn (*guess that did not last!*)

1979 – constitution changes results in 1 congregational meeting per year instead of 2. Also changed "Board of Trustees" to "Church Council".

1982 – Congregation approved at special congregational meeting, the purchase of a Holtkamp organ to be placed at front of sanctuary (*obviously the location changed later*)

1986 – May 18 the Holtkamp Pipe Organ was dedicated

1990 – Georgie Rohde announced as chair for 125th Anniversary Committee (to celebrate in 1992)

2000 – web page under construction

2002 – Aide Association for Lutherans (AAL) and Lutheran Brotherhood (LB) merged and proposed name change to Thrivent.

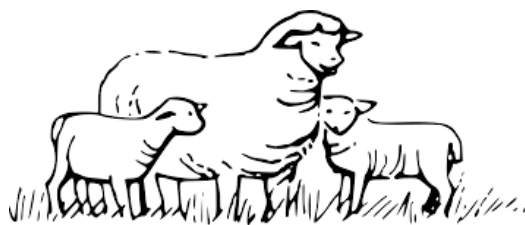
2009 – St Paul congregation received "Spirit of Service" award from city of Berea

2010 – Acquired automated external defibrillator (AED) - placed on wall opposite office

2011 - bids received for replacing courtyard windows

2012 – Meals on Wheels renovated St Paul's kitchen

2019 – Rae Batig retired from office staff



SHEEP AND GOATS-ST. PAUL VBS



The May Sheep and Goats Offering will benefit our 2021 virtual Vacation Bible School held July 6-9. The theme this summer is Rocky Railway. Our children will learn that Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through. What a relevant topic during these challenging times. Your help in funding this important week is so appreciated. We hope to spread this message to all of our young people, as well as, others out in the community. Thanks so much for your support.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND – What a relief!



The virus has put a great deal of stress on a lot of marriages. So now is the perfect time to sign up to attend a **Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend June 11 – 13**. This is designed to bless your relationship, whether you have been married a year or 60+, or whether you are happy, arguing, or “doing ok.” The registration fee has been waived, AND they are offering this “Virtual” so that you can experience this event in the comfort, safety, and privacy of your own home, and for just \$100, as there are no hotel bills to cover. The **deadline is June 4th**, to allow for the mailing of materials to your home. (Payment is refundable. And if \$100 causes financial hardship, scholarship assistance can be discussed.) Go to www.GodLovesMarriage.org.

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

Start looking for wheelchairs, walkers, rollators, canes and crutches to bring to the drive! (no electric wheelchairs accepted) The equipment drive will be from 9am - 1pm. Watch for more information in Highlights and bulletins.



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

Ed Hrivnak

Barbara Kurtz
Eric & Luanne Prestegaard
Dick & Jane Krisher
Dorie Salisbury
Carol Recker
Ralph & Georgie Rohde

Penny Boyer

Ralph & Georgie Rohde

OFFICIAL ACTS

Memorial Service

April 3-Penelope Boyer



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MAY DAY 2021: WHAT IS MAY DAY?

CELEBRATE THE HALFWAY POINT TO SUMMER ON MAY 1

People would leave a paper basket or cone with spring flowers and sweets on each other's doorsteps, usually anonymously. This tradition was popular through the 19th and 20th centuries, especially with children or sweethearts. The custom was to knock on the door, yell "May basket!," and then run.

