



ST. PAUL HIGHLIGHTS

August 2019

VOLUME 68 ISSUE 8



RALLY DAY
SUNDAY, AUGUST 25TH



IMPORTANT DATES FOR THIS MONTH
AUGUST 10TH-WHEELS FOR THE WORLD EQUIPMENT DRIVE
ROOMS J & K , 8AM-1PM
AUGUST 25TH-RALLY DAY, BLUEGRASS SERVICE, 10AM
SLOPPY JOE LUNCH TO FOLLOW

DATE	TIME	LECTORS	SERVERS	LITURGISTS	BREAD BAKERS	ALTAR GUILD	USHERS	GREETERS	MONEY COUNTERS
8/4	8:30	N/A	Adam & Jennifer Hinton	Lynnette Ozanich	Amanda PerryMiller	Barb Spatz Cheryl Winwood	Team 1 R Hamilton T Herr G Hofman T English F Putman T Brunett	Tracy Hamilton Laurie English	Denny & Rae Batig
	11:00	N/A	Lois Wolfe Cathie Varnes	Dean Firing		Nancy Thompson Barb Daniels	Team 2 J Montag T Riggle G Rohde J Lappin R Genther T Norris	Jan Sultan Sharon Genther	
8/11	8:30	N/A	Marilyn Niksa Liz Wittmann	Sherrill Crawford	Amanda PerryMiller		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	N/A	Alice Chadbourne Sharon Lappin	Cindy Cain			Team 4 B Wester A Krueger P Sultan P Sultan D Cain W Hansen	Diane Barrett Jane Krisher	
8/18	8:30	Bette Idemoto	Charles Russo Gail Hansen	Meg Montag	Natalie Kurek		Team 5 W Hansen J Flick J Schlott J Cutnaw L Carmean		
	11:00	Cheryl Harkema	Liz & Jeff Campbell	Jon Montag			Team 6 H Daniels G Hrivnak R Genther M & H Hollingsworth	Nancy Goette Pat Gugliotta	
8/25	10:00 Rally Day Bluegrass Service	Mike King	Linda Jungeberg Anna Mae Migra	Dave Hall	Natalie Kurek		Team 8 L Walker J Sears G Grizzell S Harkema	Barb & Harold Daniels	Adam & Jennifer Hinton

SEPTEMBER LECTORS & SERVERS

		8:30	11:00
01-Sep	LECTOR	Kara Krywyj	Bonnie Sears
	SERVERS	Ginny Anderson	Lynne Morella
		Liz Wittman	Thelma Brunett
08-Sep	LECTOR	Bob Trausch	Dave Hall
	SERVERS	Barb Spatz	Dave Hall
		Jack Flick	Chris Hall
15-Sep	LECTOR	Lynnette Ozanich	Danelle Eikens
	SERVERS	Linda King	Sharon Lappin
		Mike King	Bev Hubler
22-Sep	LECTOR	Judy Stintsman	Jane Krisher
	SERVERS	Karen Kolozvary	Jon Montag
		Lynnette Ozanich	Meg Montag
29-Sep	LECTOR	Tom Herr	Linda Jungeberg
	SERVERS	Adam Hinton	Alice Chadbourne
		Jennifer Hinton	Cathie Varnes



The Good News in Words People Can Hear

Far too many Christians, and even Christian pastors, know all the right “church words,” but have almost no clue what those words mean for life in the real world. They know that they are supposed to make these particular noises, but they can’t articulate the concepts these noises are supposed to convey, let alone how these concepts should impact people’s lives. They have all the right words, but the words are largely empty. The words have not yet taken on life, or, to use the proper church scribbles, the words have not “become flesh.”

Take for example these words:

- 10 Commandments
- Creed
- Lord’s Prayer
- Baptism
- Absolution
- Communion

These are the six standard catechism words. (A catechism is a summary of the Christian faith in the form of questions and answers, used for the instruction of Christians.) These are six bedrock words of the Christian faith. They are foundationally important.

And yet, I have rarely heard or seen simple, straightforward talk about these words in the church groups I’ve mingled with. And that includes plenty of pastors! I’ve heard flowery rhetoric. I’ve read complicated theological musings. I’ve witnessed pulpit pounding sermons. And I’ve heard conversations that were heavily peppered with these words. But, in my experience, far too few Christians, and even Christian preachers, are able to articulate the meaning of these words in ways that people who have not lived with them their entire lives can understand.

Maybe you don’t struggle with this. Maybe you’re able to articulate the deepest truths of the Christian faith in ways that are engaging and intelligible to most of the people you meet. But, just in case you have some trouble with that, I’d like to give you my take on these six words, so that you can see a few examples of what I believe is a step in the right direction for sharing our faith. I’m not going to give any long-winded explanations. I think that’s part of the problem! I just want to give you the bullet points. Here goes.

- 10 Commandments: No one is perfect.
- Creed: Everyone is worthy of love.
- Lord's Prayer: Love is always the right course of action.
- Baptism: Everyone belongs.
- Absolution: Holding grudges hurts everyone involved.
- Communion: Everyone should have their basic needs met.

Now, look at the original six words. And then look at my "translations" of those six words. Do my translations help you grasp the deep inner truths of the original words? Do you think that these "translations" might better help you convey these deep inner truths in simple, understandable ways to other people? If you answered, "yes," to these questions, then, by all means use them.

I mean, you can get into the text of the 10 Commandments with someone if you want to. You can talk about how they're supposed to "have no other gods," "not misuse the name of God," and "remember the Sabbath," and get bogged down in a hundred questions about, "Which God?," "What does misusing his name mean?," and, "What's a Sabbath?," if you want. You can open yourself up to questions about why your particular religion is true, and why anyone should pay attention to your rules in the first place. Or, you can skip over all of those arguments, and start with the simple, yet profound truth: "No one is perfect." Boom. You've just shared the heart of the 10 Commandments, and you've not only avoided questions you're not equipped to answer, you've stated something that 90% of the people you'll meet already agree with.

Repeat this approach with each of the six words. Congratulations. You're a Billy Graham level evangelist. Ok, that's an exaggeration. But you're probably a whole lot more equipped to share your faith now than before you started reading this article. What did that take you? Ten minutes? Seems like a worthwhile investment.

I know that our old "church words" are important to us. And I don't plan on letting them go. Frankly, I think we should bring back even older words like, "Tetelestai", and "Introit," and "Gottesdienst." But I also know that it falls to us to explain those words to people.

We can just assume that "the world"... (That's another really "churchy" phrase that most people misunderstand. "The world." They think we're talking about, well, the world...as in, like, everything they know and love. But in the Church, "the world," is often shorthand for "everything that's wrong with the world." See what a difference that makes? I mean, people love the world. And they should! But almost no one likes "what's wrong with the world." So, when we tell them "to take a stand against the world," they immediately get the wrong message. But if we tell them "to take a stand against *what's wrong with* the world," then we'll almost immediately get an, "Amen." [Actually, no one's going to say, "Amen." You see, that's

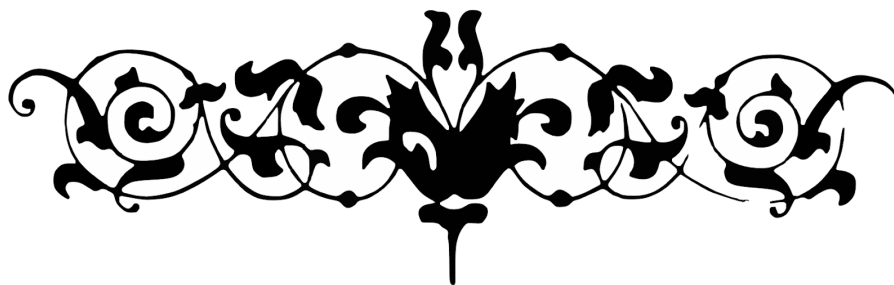
a “church word,” too. What you’ll probably get is an enthusiastic, “Why, yes!”]) But I digress. We can just assume that “the world” has blinded the eyes and deafened the ears of those we’re trying to reach. But I think that would be a huge mistake. The good news of Christianity is supposed to open people’s eyes and ears! So, if people’s eyes and ears aren’t being opened, the first place we should look for problems is in our presentation. Maybe what we’re telling them isn’t really good news. Or, at the very least, maybe we’re not sharing that good news in a way that people can understand.

Until Christian preachers and other Christians who wish to share their faith (and that should really be **every** Christian) can articulate that faith in a **clear, simple, and attractive** way, none of us can expect Christianity to gain a hearing, let alone converts.

If you haven’t already, please consider the essence of the good news that Christianity claims to have for people. Think deeply about just what this good news is...why it’s good news...and what this good news means to you, personally. Then consider how you might tell other people this good news in such a way that **they are likely to hear it as good news.**

You will probably find that some of the ways you were thinking about this good news before don’t really make sense, or aren’t clear, and you’ll almost surely discover new ways to articulate what the good news really means to you deep down. Both of these discoveries will make you far more effective in communicating the good news of Christianity with those you want to reach (which is, hopefully, everyone you meet).

-Dan



FINANCIALS

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

June 30, 2019

Income and Expenses Summary	Current Year Actual YTD	Current Year Budget YTD	Over/(Under) Budget	Previous Year Actual YTD
Income				
Congregational Contributions	\$ 195,405.76	\$ 245,166.00	\$ (49,760.24)	\$ 197,485.09
Building Use	4,634.00	3,600.00	1,034.00	\$ 3,615.00
Interest	97.65	90.00	7.65	\$ 56.07
Other Income	3,085.73	3,600.00	(514.27)	\$ 2,184.59
Total Income	\$ 203,223.14	\$ 252,456.00	\$ (49,232.86)	\$ 203,340.75
Expenses				
Benevolence	19,540.51	25,260.00	5,719.49	\$ 19,748.49
Worship	6,251.33	7,806.00	1,554.67	\$ 5,256.63
Programs & Services	5,510.80	10,131.00	4,620.20	\$ 2,278.52
Property	30,006.10	56,048.00	26,041.90	\$ 54,589.03
Staff Salaries and Benefits	111,314.69	123,410.00	12,095.31	\$ 112,092.76
Contracted Services	14,952.00	16,500.00	1,548.00	\$ 14,865.02
Administration & Support	9,555.78	14,674.00	5,118.22	\$ 11,916.98
Total Expenses	197,131.21	253,829.00	56,697.79	220,747.43
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 6,091.93	\$ (1,373.00)	\$ 7,464.93	\$ (17,406.68)

Income and Expenses Summary Notes:

Income

The YTD period ending June 30, 2019, has an operating surplus of \$6,092, year-to-date June 30, 2018 was at a deficit of more than \$17,000. Congregational Contributions through June 2019 are only \$2k less than contributions received through June 2018, a decrease of only 1.1%. Building Use/Other Income is \$1,000 more than the amount at this time last year. Total Income at June 30, 2019, is now just over \$100 less than at June 30, 2018. Congregational Contributions and Total Income are under budget by nearly \$50k.

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

Expenses

Total expenses are under budget by just under \$57k as of June 30, 2019. Total expenses YTD are \$17k less than total expenses as of June 2018.

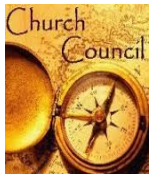
Note: Benevolence payments are percentages of contributions. Therefore, when contributions are higher, benevolence payments are higher.

Balance Sheet Summary	As of June 30, 2019	As of June 30, 2018	Variance
Assets			
Current Assets (Cash)	\$ 111,236.17	\$ 121,003.85	\$ (9,767.68)
Fixed Assets (Building)	3,041,549.00	3,041,549.00	0.00
Invested Assets (Endowment)	612,883.92	590,879.49	22,004.43
Total Assets	\$ 3,765,669.09	\$ 3,753,432.34	\$ 12,236.75
Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	\$ 3,237.29	\$ 3,127.37	\$ 109.92
Loan from Endowment Fund	0.00	7,528.00	(7,528.00)
Payroll Withholding	3,189.55	1,641.42	1,548.13
Accrued Expenses and Other	250.00	100.00	150.00
Dedicated Fund Balances	143,376.48	146,508.49	(3,132.01)
Total Liabilities	\$ 150,053.32	\$ 158,905.28	\$ (8,851.96)
Equity			
General Fund	\$ (37,617.15)	\$ (30,373.43)	\$ (7,243.72)
Investments (Endowment)	611,683.92	583,351.49	28,332.43
Fixed Assets (Building)	3,041,549.00	3,041,549.00	0.00
Total Equity	\$ 3,615,615.77	\$ 3,594,527.06	\$ 21,088.71
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$ 3,765,669.09	\$ 3,753,432.34	\$ 12,236.75

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 summer heat has caused my fingers to type fewer words this month.

After many months of evaluating a proposed structure of the Committees, Council approved new Continuing Resolutions establishing a new structure. Committees covering Call, Audit, Finance, Property, Education, Worship, and Outreach are formed. This new structure, while having fewer Committees from our past, should allow us to focus on our mission: “To know and serve Christ by reaching out in love to all.”

A short update on our part-time Administrative Assistant search; a few individuals have submitted resumes and interviews are in the works. It is our intention to have someone onboard before the Early Educational Center begins their new year.

Yours in Christ,

Dean L. Firing
President

Please contact any member of the church council with questions or concerns: Peter Brumenschenkel, Dean Firing, Jack Flick, Randy Genter, Jennifer Hinton, Kara Krywyj, Jon Montag, Lynne Morella, Aaron Ozanich, Pastor Dan Skillman



PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The Property Committee continues to concentrate on researching the details of proposed repairs and improvements, and then determining the scope, cost, and timing of the work required.

The committee is obtaining bids to repair the holes that have recently appeared in the parking lot. The cost of repair and sealing the lot surface before the start of school will be minimized by the fees collected from the Berea-Midpark students permitted to park in our lot during the day.

The rearrangement of the office is entering the last phases of the project. Installation of carpet tiles in the pastors' office is complete, and the remaining book shelf units will be installed in the pastors' office by the time you are reading this. The offices are now fully functional, and the last details will be completed soon, making it both attractive and functional.

The Preschool room reported a loss of power to all wall outlets and ceiling fans in the rooms. Investigation showed that all wall outlets from the Sunday School office to the west end of the hall were out. The lost circuitry will be repaired before the start of school in August.

A certified, licensed electrician has been working with Property, and will be preparing a report for the Property Committee detailing what we can do to help make the next event easier to track and repair. Property Committee will forward the report and recommendations to the Church Council as soon as it is received and reviewed. The report should be available in the next week.

Thanks to the Congregation for your continued faith in the Property Committee and the 15 Year Plan. Please prayerfully consider your giving status so that the Church Council and Property Committee can confidently proceed with the replacement of the Sanctuary roof before a failure occurs and renovation work in the sanctuary below is put in jeopardy.

Jim Jungeberg

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



VBS NEWS

We had a fantastic week! More details will be forthcoming!
Watch the bulletin board by the East door for pictures to come!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CALENDAR

August 4 9:45 VBS Volunteer Feedback Meeting, Fellowship Hall

August 11 9:45 Sunday School Teachers' Meeting, Fellowship Hall

August 18 Worship at 8:30 & 11:00

August 25 RALLY DAY

10:00 Bluegrass Worship Service

11:15 Fellowship Lunch With Bluegrass Music & Games for the kids

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





AUGUST YOUTH SCHEDULE

August 4 - Meeting at 9:45am for Sunday School teachers
-Meeting at 12:15 for Sunday School Teachers and Education Committee

August 11 - A Trip to the Farm: a family friendly adventure at Hale Farm for their Civil War reenactment. \$10 per person

August 18 - Family Picnic: Youth, Family and friends are all invited to a picnic at Wallace Lake! Bring something to share! Please RSVP on the board so I can plan food.

Amanda PerryMiller 216-856-2718; e-mail aperrymiller@stpaulbera.org

STEWARDSHIP EMPHASIS

Stewardship is simply recognizing that all we are and all we have is a gift from Jesus. We are entrusted with his gifts - to care for them, to manage them, and to employ them to serve God in the world.

You've heard "Stewardship is everything we do after we say 'I believe.'" We live in a world which often honors 'what we have'. Possessions, wealth, influence, and prestige are most important in the eyes of many people. On the other hand, Christian stewards are not so concerned with "what we have" as with "what we do with what we have."

Jesus said "...whoever would be great among you must be your servant..." Matthew 20:26

ST PAUL HOSTS:
WHEELS FOR THE WORLD
EQUIPMENT COLLECTION
AUG 10TH 9AM – 1PM



Wheels for the World, a program by nonprofit Joni and Friends, is holding a drive for used wheelchairs Aug 10th, 2019, from 9am – 1pm. Used wheelchairs, walkers, canes and crutches will be dropped off from 9-1 on Sat Aug 10th at St Paul's. All donations are tax deductible and receipts are available. No power wheelchair can be accepted.

HELP NEEDED!

CAN YOU HELP on Aug 10th from ~8:30 – 1:30? Needed: 2-3 people to assist with accepting, tagging and putting equipment into temporary storage. Please call Jan Bairoti at 440-234-1535 to sign-up to help!



SHEEP AND GOATS FOCUS



LUTHERAN METROPOLITAN MINISTRIES HEALTH & WELLNESS PROGRAMS

LMM's Health & Wellness Services promote health and well-being and support improved quality of life for adults, youth, and families in Northeast Ohio through the provision of mental health and substance abuse services, educational programs, and various community health outreach efforts.

- **Counseling services** including trauma-informed, culturally competent counseling, is available for individuals affected by a variety of emotional and psychological problems, many of them very serious issues such as abuse, violence, anger and stress management, anxiety, depression, drug use and other addictions, marital conflict, and family issues.
- **Case Management** provides a coordinated, comprehensive array of services including assessment, service planning, referral for services, and advocacy. Individuals build on their strengths and meet their service needs through the ongoing support of a trusting, caring case manager.
- **Education & Support Groups** are provided in a group setting to improve emotional well-being and promote self-sufficiency, personal growth, skill building and resilience.
- **Women's Re-Entry Network (WREN)** provides women-specific support.
- **Youth prevention** provides violence and substance abuse prevention education and alternatives to youth ages 7-17 in afterschool settings through the YAARP, Jr. and Afterschool Prevention Resources (ASPR) programs.
- **Community Outreach** provides training and support to a number of congregations that serve as Health Hubs, or community focal points, which seek to reduce health, social and economic disparities in their communities.
- **Friend to Friend** engages volunteers in one-to-one prison visitation.

SERVICE IN ACTION!

Some of the Mondays at Mike's gang serving dinner at the Men's shelter.



MONTHLY COLLECTION FOR CHURCH STREET MINISTRIES

**Laundry Soap, Dish Soap,
Cleaning Supplies**

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



COMMISSION ON AGING FOR SENIOR CITIZENS



**Tuesday August 13th at noon
the Senior Luncheon will
be held at Coe Lake
Cost \$5.00**

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

Thank You!

To our Family and Friends at St. Paul,

We really appreciate all of the prayers for my Mom, Diane Barrett, for the last few months. We thank God for the wonderful medical care and all the prayers that helped all of us get through this very stressful time. We are so grateful for all of our brothers and sisters in Christ so we wanted to share our gratitude and praise with all of you as well.

In Christian love,
Laura Erison

**FAMILY & FRIENDS · FOOD · BIERGARTEN
LIVE MUSIC · KIDS' FUN · PASTOR DUNK TANK**



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

NOON - 10:00 PM

**AT THE MEMPHIS PICNIC AREA
IN THE METROPARKS IN BROOKLYN**

LUTHERANOKTOBERFEST.COM

ADMISSION:

SENIORS (60+): \$5

ADULTS (21-59): \$10 (ID REQUIRED)

YOUTH (11-20): \$5

CHILDREN (10 and under): FREE

Presented by Greater Cleveland Lutheran Churches
and Hofbrauhaus Cleveland



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

FIRST CLASS ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



AUGUST FUN FACTS

- ❖ August was named in honor of Augustus Caesar. It has 31 days because Augustus wanted as many days as Julius Caesar's month of July had.* Previously named Sextilis in Latin, it was the sixth month of the Roman calendar.
* They took that extra day from February.
- ❖ August Birthstone - Peridot
- ❖ August Flower - Gladiolus
- ❖ August is also related to the word "auger", a hole digging tool, because farmers dug for next season at this time every year.
- ❖ A few of the "official" titles for August are "National Back to School Month", "Catfish Month", "Peach Month", "National Picnic Month", and "Family Fun Month".