

St Paul Lutheran Church

4167 Juddville Rd
Fish Creek, WI 54212

920-868-2826

stpauljuddville.com

Epistle

March 2022

What's in this month's issue:

- Pastor's Page – 2
- The Wave – 3-4
- Church Re-Engagement – 5
- Worship in March – 6
- Church Calendar – 7
- Local Benevolence – 8
- Volunteers & Prayer Shawls – 9
- Bible Studies & Gatherings – 10
- Giving & Care – 11
- Connections – 12
- Financial Update – 13
- Highlights from the Treasurer – 14
- Highlights from Council – 15-16
- Council Minutes – 17-19

Congregation Council:

Pastor Frank Kauzlarich: 920-217-0204

Betty Eisenhauer: 920-493-0631
Congregation President & Communications Chair

Karen Peterson: 920-868-2928
Congregation Vice President & Local Benevolence Chair

Cathy Mestek: 262-470-9754
Worship & Music Chair

Greg Ehlke: 920-868-1092
Congregation Treasurer

Bob Kuftrin: 920-737-2523
Congregation Secretary & Technology Chair

Jeff Kuchenbecker: 608-770-0755
Evangelism & Men's Ministry

Peder Nelson: 920-854-0136
Property, Maintenance, & Cemetery Chair

Mary Sawyer: 920-868-2826
Administrative Assistant



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Pastor's Page

We are children of God, the baptized. We are members/associate members or a part of the community of St. Paul Lutheran Church. We are a member congregation of the East Central Synod of Wisconsin (ECSW) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Many of you likely don't know much about the ELCA or ECSW. Let me try to fill in a few blanks.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is the largest Lutheran denomination in the United States of America. There are 8,894 member congregations which are divided into 65 synods, 64 of which are geographical and one non geographical. There are 119 congregations in the ECSW.

To learn more about the ministry we share with other congregations as the ECSW, go to ecsw.org. To learn more about the ministry we share with other congregations of the entire ELCA, go to elca.org. These websites are wonderful resources to learn more about our shared mission and ministries. I highly recommend them to you.

The ECSW has a weekly online newsletter titled "The Wave." Beginning with this edition of the Epistle, an article from The Wave will be included in each Epistle. The goal is to help us stay more connected with the larger Church and to present possibilities for shared ministry which we might wish to embrace.

We have had a strong history of doing ministry locally, may we grow in our ministry "to the ends of the earth."

Pastor Frank





The Wave

East Central Synod of Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Surge is Ending ... Now What?

"Now what, O Lord?" is not a direct Biblical reference, but it's sentiment that echoes throughout scripture, in the voices of prophets and psalmists; in Jesus' prayers in the garden and on the cross; in the conflicts we can imagine and relate to as we read Paul's letters to early congregations and Christian communities, struggling with how to be God's church together. Sometimes there is no answer given in the text, but often there is a repetition and reassurance of the faith that grounds us and holds us together: God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. That love was, is and will be given a body in Jesus, and in Jesus, we can have hope for all the "now what?" times.

What does that mean for us as the omicron surge ends, bringing new hope and new questions about how to be church together? We are in good company—with psalmists, saints, sinners, the whole Body of Christ, each other. Here are some of the questions we're thinking about at the synod office at the end of the omicron surge and the start of whatever comes next:

How do we stop and give thanks?

Congregations in our synod joined other synods, denominations and faith communities around Wisconsin and around the world in committing to safer Covid practices during the omicron surge, a period experts predicted would last about 4-6 weeks. All the numbers in our synod—cases, deaths, and hospital burden figures—are starting to come down. Thanks be to God. The pandemic isn't over, but this is good news, especially for all the people whose work and lives are most directly impacted by rising Covid cases, such as healthcare workers, educators, and all people who work in person, indoors, in crowded places.

Are you experiencing any sense of pandemic relief these days? What's changing, or not, for you and your congregation as the omicron surge ends? What are you thankful for, in your life, for your loved ones, in your congregation, and in your community? As you give thanks, what losses and ongoing hurts would you also name? With a quick note or other form of appreciation, how can you share gratitude with people around you—staff and leaders of your congregation; teachers and school administrators; post office, grocery and restaurant workers, and others?

How do we stop and listen?

Making space for gratitude is so important. As we give thanks, it's also important to listen to each other: to what other people are thankful for, but also to what other people are experiencing that is painful. We give thanks and show appreciation for our leaders and church staff people in these times, but they also need appropriate spaces to share and be listened to: many are exhausted, burned out (or close to burning out,) and in danger of losing some of the healthy boundaries that make good work, ministry (and meaningful volunteer ministry, for Council members) possible.

In conversations with lay and rostered leaders lately, I've heard important and thoughtful questions about being church and being hospitable to a wide range of people at this stage of the pandemic. Genuine listening is part of that hospitality. It can be easy to get caught in our own Covid worlds and realities and forget about the choices other people have to make. For example, now that both of my kids are vaccinated, I have to remember to listen to people with children under 5, and notice that the choices they are having to make regarding daycare, employment, and the safety of church/crowded places may be different than my family's Covid risk calculus.

The listening won't give us as congregations or synod any easy answers for how to be together or make Covid policy, but it's an essential part of empathy, which is part of how we're called to be like Christ to each other.

How do we stop and reflect?

This has been, and continues to be a time. We need opportunities to tell and share these stories; I know that some congregations have already started oral history projects and other storytelling to gather people's memories, stories, and reflections on life and faith in the pandemic. This work is not only important for posterity, but for our own meaning-making and transformative growth, now. Pastor Jenn Pockat, Associate to the Bishop and Director for Communication and Community, will be working with congregations and on ideas for synod-wide story-sharing and reflection.

In the coming weeks, the synod staff and I will review our [Synod Covid policy](#). There are new guidelines coming from the Wisconsin Council of Churches which we will look to, as well as continuing to monitor the CDC and Wisconsin DHS for updates and information about the pandemic in our area. We will share our resources and process with you, knowing that you will be reshaping your policies, too. The congregations in your conference are also, as always, resources and partners for you as you make these decisions and changes. While we reacted as quickly as possible to increased Covid dangers, we are going to take some time to adjust to the decreased danger, and that may be frustrating to some and welcome to others. Thankfully, with decreased danger there is time: to give thanks, to listen, to reflect. Not knowing the "now what," but confident in Christ's love, we can take some time to get there, together.



Bishop Anne Edison-Albright



Church Re-engagement

2022 Re-engagement Ideas

As a welcoming family bringing Christ into people's lives, an inspired conversation was held during the February Council meeting about possible activities which could bring people together this year. Keeping our mission statement of nurturing disciples in the forefront, following are several suggestions about things we're thinking about. As we transition to warmer weather, the activities would be outside and mindful of peoples' safety and health.

1. Golf outing for men & women
2. Work parties to help maintain the church grounds
3. Two or more outdoor worship services
4. Late summer outdoor social gathering
5. One-time Bible study bringing all study groups together
6. Community service project
7. Connection with another Door County congregation

Please give some thought to which of the activities you will help with, coordinate, or lead. Then, call the church office at 920-868-2826 to provide us with that information. Feel free to contact any Council member if you'd like more details about a particular idea.

For planning purposes, Council would like to finalize which activities will be pursued at our March Council meeting so we're asking for your affirmative feedback before March 11th. It will take many hands to make these ideas realities – we hope two of those hands are yours.

Betty Eisenhauer, Congregation President

No Child Has To Sleep On The Floor

This year's Synod Assembly service project will be partnering with Sleep in Heavenly Peace, a non-profit committed to making sure no child has to sleep on the floor by building twin-sized bunk beds. St Paul has been invited to participate in one of three ways:

Bedding Drive - NEW twin-sized sheets and comforters, pillows, mattress pads, and mattress protectors. Quilts that are made should be comfortable for children and may be full or twin sized. But NO white sheets.

Build Day - Willing hands are needed Saturday, May 7th to help build bunk beds. While experience is helpful it is not necessary! The synod has a goal of making 20 beds!

Bless through Giving - Donations are needed to fund a build day. One bed costs about \$250 to build. Would you consider making a donation for a bed?

The St Paul Council wishes to organize a unified response to this building project. And when this is successfully completed, we hope to make it a local effort too.

If you would like to volunteer or donate to the May 7 build please email your interest to Jeff Kuchenbecker, jlkuichenbecker27@gmail.com.

Worship in March

WORSHIP IN MARCH

Sundays in March at 9am and Wednesdays at 6:30pm we worship in one of three ways:

- In the sanctuary, masked and socially distanced, with singing offered by a soloist.
- In the parking lot, on 92.1 FM, with the song leader indoors leading the outdoor congregation in song.
- Taped and placed online on Facebook at 6am on each Sunday morning, and by noon on Wednesdays.

Join us each Sunday and Wednesday as we make worship in a variety of ways.

THE SEASON OF LENT BEGINS ON MARCH 2 WORSHIP AT 6:30pm

Ash Wednesday. We begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. With the cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism, we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that "now is the day of salvation." Returning to our baptismal Call, we more internationally bear the fruits of mercy and juices in the world.

FIVE WEDNESDAYS OF SERVICE BEGINNING MARCH 9 AT 6:30pm

Turning Toward God's Abundance

March 9 Faithfulness

March 16 Mercy

March 23 Compassion

March 30 Forgiveness

April 6 Love

Join us these Wednesdays for Word, Holy Communion, and Prayer.



March 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Ash Wednesday 6:30pm Worship	3 9am Women's Spiritual Growth Group	4 8:30am Men's Zoom Bible Study	5
6 9am Worship In-Sanctuary & Parking Lot	7	8 10am Worship & Music Meeting	9 6:30pm Worship Lent - Faithfulness	10 9am Women's Spiritual Growth Group	11 8:30am Men's Zoom Bible Study	12
13 9am Worship In-Sanctuary & Parking Lot	14	15	16 1pm Church Council Meeting 6:30pm Worship Lent – Mercy	17 9am Women's Spiritual Growth Group	18 8:30am Men's Zoom Bible Study	19
20 9am Worship In-Sanctuary & Parking Lot	21	22	23 6:30pm Worship Lent - Compassion	24 9am Women's Spiritual Growth Group	25 8:30am Men's Zoom Bible Study	26
27 9am Worship In-Sanctuary & Parking Lot	28	29	30 6:30pm Worship Lent - Forgiveness	31 9am Women's Spiritual Growth Group		

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH –WORSHIP Volunteers MARCH 2022

Service Date → Responsibility	Mar 6	Mar 13	Mar 20	Mar 27	
Assisting Minister	Jane DeCock	Debbie Jones	Jane DeCock	Pat Kaldor	
Indoor Ushers	Tom & Sue Beranek	Jerry Lecy	Jana Raines	Tom & Sue Beranek	
Outdoor Ushers	MaryAnne & Clarence Scherer	Andrea Esau	Cathy & Charlie Mestek	Dave DeCock	
Musician	Doreen Holt	Doreen Holt	Doreen Holt	Doreen Holt	
Song Leader	Open	Open	Open	Open	
	WEDNESDAY	LENTEN	SERVICES	6:30 PM	
	Mar 2	Mar 9	Mar 16	Mar 23	Mar 30
Assisting Minister	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open
Indoor Ushers	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open
Outdoor Ushers	Open	MaryAnne & Clarence Scherer	Andrea Esau	Open	Andrea Esau
Musician	Doreen Holt	Doreen Holt	Doreen Holt	Doreen Holt	Doreen Holt
Song Leader	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open

Local Benevolence

Your Gifts in Our Community: Spotlight on HELP of Door County

Our Local Benevolence committee has contributed to HELP of D.C. annually. Unfortunately, issues with mental health crisis and domestic violence are far too common. HELP provides free and confidential services and programs to all of Door County. The scope of their work is vast. They are often called when people are at their most desperate point.

We'd like to share some of the services addressing domestic violence. This is a complex issue that usually isn't a "one and done" situation. HELP provides safe housing to get the abused spouse (and often children) to a place of safety. Door County doesn't have any domestic violence shelters so this often includes a costly hotel stay until more permanent housing is available. HELP offers safe visitation and exchange between children and estranged parents. This removes the stress and danger of both parents being together while children go between guardians. They also offer access to legal professionals and support groups. HELP also has services and programs to address elder abuse. Sadly, some of Door County's large population of seniors are victims to this. These are just a few of the hands-on areas HELP is there for.

Perhaps the most positive area of their work is in prevention programs. How wonderful to stop a problem before it happens! They have started a teen group called FYRE that addresses all kinds of issues—from healthy relationships to self-care. Also, classes are offered to help adult men and women learn healthy, non-violent behaviors and learn trust and respect for themselves and others.

Thank you, Congregation, for your gifts!
Karen Peterson



Volunteer Opportunities

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
VOLUNTEER SIDEWALK SHOVELING SCHEDULE
FOR DECEMBER 2021 THRU FEBRUARY 2022

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED PLEASE EMAIL CLARENCE SCHERER AT
CMSCHERER42@GMAIL.COM THE WEEK YOU WOULD BE WILLING TO SHOVEL THE
SIDEWALKS AT CHURCH. THANK YOU

- SUN FEB 20 THRU SAT FEB 26 Dennis Hahn
- SUN FEB 27 THRU SAT MAR 5 _____
- SUN MAR 6 THRU SAT MAR 12 Dave DeDock
- SUN MAR 13 THRU SAT MAR 19 _____
- SUN MAR 20 THRU SAT MAR 26 _____
- SUN MAR 27 THRU SAT APR 3 _____
- SUN APR 4 THRU SAT APR 10 _____
- SUN APR 11 THRU SAT APR 17 _____

1. PLEASE NOTE YOU ARE SIGNING UP FOR THE ENTIRE WEEK SUN THRU SAT
2. ALSO IF YOU TAKE THE WEEK OF SUN DEC 19 THRU SAT DEC 25 YOU WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE AND CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE.
3. IF IT SNOWS DURING THE WEEK YOU WILL NEED TO SHOVEL THE WALK FROM WHERE PASTOR FRANK AND MARY PARK THEIR CARS TO THE CHURCH ENTRANCE.

Prayer Shawls

Thank you to those of you who have stepped forward and shared your gifts of knitting or crocheting for our Prayer Shawl ministry. We continue to have a good supply on hand, but this is a good time of the year to put those knitting and crocheting skills to work creating one of these gifts of comfort and love. If you have any questions or need the pattern, please contact Debbie Jones at 651-328-1261, debbie.jones.pmp@gmail.com.

Thank you, too, to all who have shared a prayer shawl with another. If you are aware of someone in need of one, you may pick one up at the table on Sunday before or after worship.



Thank You!

There are many things to celebrate and to be thankful for at St. Paul. Today we want to thank the many worship assistants who step forward week after week, as well as those who coordinate those schedules. It is a very gratifying thing to put out an email request for worship assistants to fill the various positions and to have those openings filled within a very short time, often a matter of hours. Whether you are a person who has served as an usher, inside or out, a song leader, or an assisting minister, we appreciate your willingness to share your gifts. Most of all, we are grateful for the spirit with which you offer and your flexibility when plans shift, as seems to be the rule of thumb these days. You are making a difference every single time we

Bible Studies & Gatherings

Men's Bible Study

Our bible study devotees meet weekly in two different settings; one via Zoom and the other in-person. We read the same Bible passages and begin discussion with the same thought-provoking questions provided by Gary Jones. The Zoom session meets on Fridays at 8:30am.

The in-person session also meets Fridays at 8:30am, in a restaurant setting. Given the recent seasonal closing of Julies in Fish Creek, the in-person session devotees have scheduled a break until Friday, April 8, 2022. Inasmuch as Julies will not yet have reopened, we plan to meet at The Village Café in Egg Harbor. Stay tuned.

Zoom Session – Gary Jones – 651-271-9094

In-Person Session – John Hermann – 920-743-1675

Christian Women's Book Club

It is time to get ready for another year of interesting reading and good conversation with St. Paul women and friends. Our first meeting will be April 19, 2022 at the Kress Center in Egg Harbor. Depending on where we are regarding the pandemic, masks may be required and we may be socially distanced. So be prepared. Kathy Olson will be our host. We welcome all women of St. Paul and you can get a copy of our 2022 reading list if you contact Dolores Hermann at 920-559-6261 or dolores.e.hermann@gmail.com.

Our first book selection is *The Barbizon: The Hotel That Set Women Free* by Paulina Bren. The Barbizon Hotel for women first opened its doors on East 63rd Street in 1928 and this book focuses on the changing cultural perceptions of women's ambition throughout the last century, set against the backdrop of the most famous theater of aspiration, New York City. This was a residential hotel that provided maid service and food on site, provisions that allowed the women to focus on their professions without the burden of housework. Writers, artists, secretarial students, models and actresses all used the Barbizon as a stepping stone to success.

Women's Spiritual Growth Group

The Women's Spiritual Growth Group is ending its winter session on Thursday, March 3. As we move into Lent, we will continue to meet via Zoom using the Living Compass devotional, "Living Well through Lent 2022: Letting Go with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind." The sessions during Lent will be on Thursdays from 9:00-9:45 starting March 10. Each week we will have a different facilitator as we volunteer for this role. For more information and to be included in the Zoom invitation or if you are interested in an evening session, please contact Debbie Jones at 651-328-1261 or debbie.jones.pmp@gmail.com. All are welcome!

Our spring session will begin after Easter. The study/book is still under consideration and will be communicated in the April Epistle.

Giving & Care

Do You Have An Urgent Financial Need? We Have An Urgent Need Fund.

This fund is available to those who have urgent needs in areas such as payment of rent, fuel bills, food, and health bills. Please contact Pastor Frank if you have need. 920-217-0204.

Offerings:

The ministry of Saint Paul Lutheran Church needs your ongoing support. Financial offerings to the ministry maybe offered during worship, sent through the mail, or made electronically. Please see the update from our Treasurer Greg Ehlke in this edition of The Epistle.

Sending by mail:

Address your gift to Saint Paul Lutheran at: 4167 Juddville Rd. Fish Creek, WI 54212.

Sending Electronically:

Electronic giving can be done by clicking the blue button labeled "give online" located at the bottom of this email OR by visiting our website, where the same button is found on the bottom right of our webpage. Thank you for responding to the Lord through our shared ministry. Our website: www.stpauljuddville.com

Christ In Our Home And The Lutheran Magazine.

This devotional and this magazine continue to be available at worship and upon request.

Pastoral Care.

Please let Pastor Frank know if you have need. He can be reached at all time. 920-217-0204.

Church Council.

We regularly meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm via Zoom. If you wish to be a part of these monthly Zoom meetings, please contact the Church Office in advance at 920-868-2826.

Food Pantry

We at St Paul Lutheran Church have been very generous to the food pantries in February. We contributed both financially and food donations. When I am in contact with the pantries, they tell me how generous our church is. If you know someone in need, the following are walk in pantries: Stella Maris in Fish Creek, Door of Life in Sister Bay, and Shepherd of the Bay in Ellison Bay. At Feed My People & Lakeshore Cap in Sturgeon Bay, you can call to find out when food is distributed.

Thank you,

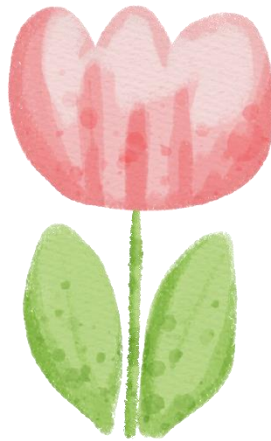
Mary Anne & Clarence Scherer

Connections

Among other things, Connections is a "shared outreach ministry" which encourages each member of St. Paul to connect with others in need. As we see needs each day in our daily living, we have opportunities to share the love and light of Christ with others.

I am always amazed when I hear that Lent is an old word that means "Spring!" What a great reminder that Lent is a season for growth - growth and deepening of our relationship with Christ. It is a time to let go of things that keep us from grasping a hold of God's grace; a time to make room in our lives to spend more time with Him and in being His hands and feet to others. Make time each day to soak up the everlasting love and light of His presence. May it overflow into acts and messages of love and joy as we share the light and love of Christ with others.

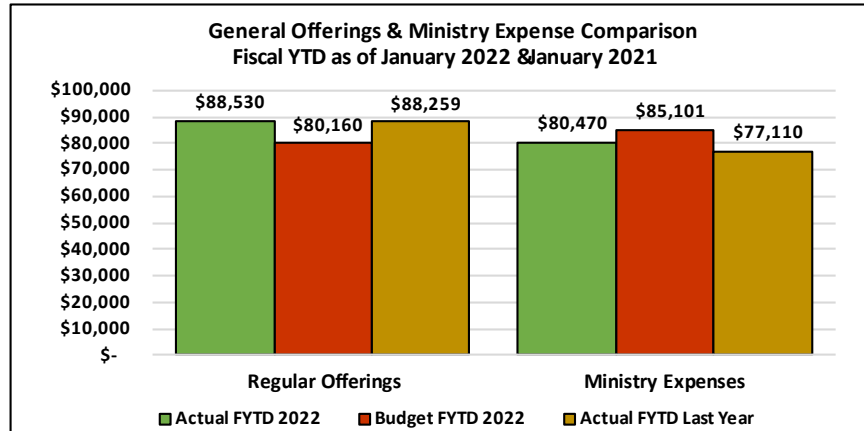
-Debbie Jones



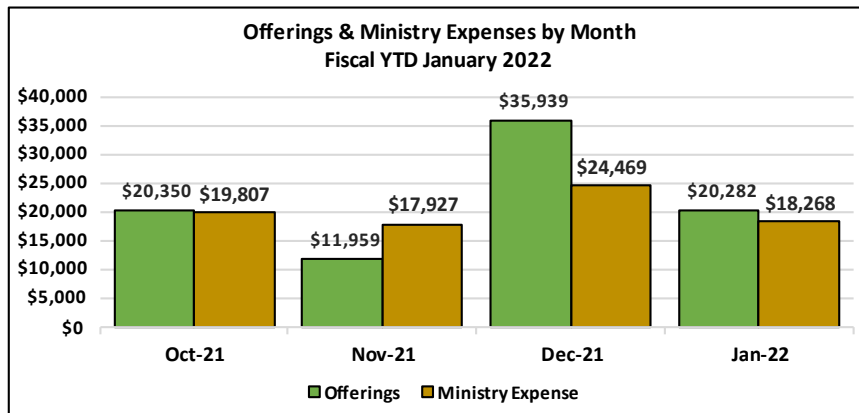
"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit - fruit that will last - and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you."

John 15:16

Financial Update



- FYTD = Fiscal Year-to-Date. St. Paul Lutheran's fiscal year begins on 01-Oct.
- The 2021-22 fiscal year Ministry Expenses budget is \$250,954
- Regular Offerings in the four months of the current fiscal year were greater than budgeted by \$8,370 (\$88,530 - \$80,160) and were \$271 greater than received in the comparable prior year period
- Ministry Expenses were higher than in the prior year period by \$3,360, principally reflecting a full year payment of Insurance premiums, higher Local Benevolence expenses and increased heating costs (which were \$1,649, \$1,915 and \$984 higher, respectively), partially offset by \$2,037 of lower expenses incurred for the Administrative Assistant and Organists



- FYTD = Fiscal Year-to-Date. St. Paul Lutheran's fiscal year begins on 01-Oct.
- Offerings in the first four months of the 2021-22 fiscal year varied substantially (i.e., \$20,350 in October, \$11,959 in November, \$35,939 in December and \$20,282 in January, respectively)
- Ministry Expenses were less variable as \$19,807 of Ministry Expenses were incurred in October, \$17,927 in November, \$24,469 in December and \$18,268 in January
- The higher Ministry Expenses recorded in December reflected \$5,500 of Benevolence disbursements
- The variability of monthly Offerings highlights the need for strong ongoing liquidity management

Highlights from the Treasurer

“Souper Bowl” Sunday Donations

Thank you so much for your wonderful response to the “Souper Bowl” Sunday appeal in February to support local food pantries. Almost \$2,500 was received to benefit others through this appeal (including \$1,700 received through our Online Giving application). Your generosity to help those in need is so greatly appreciated.

Online Giving Trends

In the first four months of the current fiscal year, we have seen an increase in the usage of Online Giving for which we wish to say a big thank you. Approximately one-third of Offerings to Our Lord received in the current fiscal year period (i.e., almost \$30,000 of the approximately \$88,500 of Offerings received) have come from donors using our secure Online Giving application. Thirty donors have used the Online Giving site so far during the current fiscal year.

Anyone needing assistance either to set up a member profile to begin using the secure Online Giving application, which is administered through Vanco, or having any questions or issues about Online Giving should contact the Church Treasurer.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Thank you to those Thrivent members who recently directed Thrivent Choice Dollars to St. Paul Lutheran. Thrivent members are reminded that the deadline for directing 2021 Thrivent Choice Dollars to your favorite charitable organization is March 31, 2022.

Contribution Summary Mailings

Around the end of January, all St. Paul Lutheran members or guests who made an Offering during 2021 should have received a Contribution Summary providing details of their giving during calendar year 2021, along with a quarterly letter from Pastor Frank. The next quarterly Contribution Summary mailing, detailing Offerings received during the first quarter of 2022 is expected to be dispatched before April 30th. If you have any changes to your current, or preferred, mailing address to receive the quarterly summaries, please advise the Church Office so you promptly receive them.



Highlights from Council

February 2022

In addition to the discussion of 2022 re-engagement ideas (see separate article), the meeting focused on finalizing the goals developed by each Council member serving as a ministry liaison. Recall that at the January meeting, Pastor asked that each of us think how our goals support the St. Paul mission. As you will see as you peruse the list below, some goals are targeted directly at the mission, such as those of the benevolence and worship & music ministries. Others are subtler (such as technology or communications), as they work in the background supporting systems and processes that help the congregation, its groups and ministries. Please – feel free to contact any Council member if you have questions or feedback on our 2022 plans.

With Blessings to All,
Betty Eisenhauer, President

Ministry Goals for 2022

Building, Maintenance, Cemetery

Peder Nelson

- Volunteer team for grounds clean-up & upkeep
- Research cemetery survey cost
- Install access/security system & develop policy
- Prepare 3–5-year capital needs list
- Remain vigilant regarding building systems

Communications

Betty Eisenhauer

- Update, maintain church website
- Explore new methods to reach members, community
- Address effectiveness/cost comparison of databases
- Integrate Epistle into on-line platforms
- Provide educational synod information in Epistles

Evangelism

Jeff Kuckenbecker

- Build a St. Paul men's ministry
- Increase communication with Juddville neighbors
- Lead and/or participate in a mission driven project with other DC churches

Finance

Greg Ehlke

- Strive to meet financial plan without reducing cash reserves
- Seek members' assistance to increase offerings during pandemic & when members residing elsewhere
- Expand documentation, scan, & establish library of finance processes & records

Local Benevolence

Karen Peterson

- Welcome new members & continue quarterly meetings
- Communicate to congregation: community needs, recipient organizations & programs, other giving opportunities
- Communicate our donations with larger community when appropriate
- Be grateful to congregation for sharing their financial gifts & letting ministry know where needs are

Pastor Frank Kauzlarich

- Continue to meet letter of call duties using holy imagination
- Reach out to people not seen during pandemic, invite them to worship & serve the Lord
- Update membership records
- Reinstate online worship presence
- Continue providing COVID taskforce counsel to congregation
- Take better spiritual, mental & physical care of myself

Technology

Bob Kufrin

- Develop replacement schedule for tech. equipment
- Review cloud backup services & evaluate options
- Develop digital records backup policy
- Evaluate gmail address system for Council & develop email record retention policy
- Evaluate telephone & cell phone services
- Evaluate scanner, printer, copier lease vs. purchase options
- Monitor Starlink's availability for St. Paul
- Evaluate future need of outside technology service

Worship & Music

Cathy Mestek

- Identify creative ways to keep worship safe, fresh, meaningful & engaging
- Improve the existing sound system to facilitate sanctuary, parking lot, outdoor worship & praise band events considering following factors: sound quality, balance, versatility, portability & scalability
- Providing sound system approved, recruit & train volunteers to operate and maintain it

Council Minutes

St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday, January 19, 2022

Mission: St. Paul Lutheran Church is a welcoming family bringing Christ into people's lives by developing, nurturing and supporting disciples.

Council Members Present: Betty Eisenhauer, Cathy Durkin, Peder Nelson (arrived at 1:58pm), Karen Peterson, Greg Ehlke, Bob Kufirin, Jeff Kuchenbecker and Pastor Frank (*all attending remotely via Zoom given COVID-19 pandemic social distancing*)

Absent/Excused: None

Others Attendees: None

Meeting Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Betty Eisenhauer at 1:00pm

Devotions

Pastor opened the meeting with a prayer (no devotion).

Agenda Approval

The previously circulated agenda was reviewed and accepted by acclamation.

Minutes

The previously circulated minutes from the December 15, 2021 meeting, following a motion made by Karen and seconded by Greg, were approved.

Record of Electronic Business Approval

Betty reported that the Council Executive Committee approved the voted to return to parking lot worship only at least until the end of January based on guidance from both the Synod and Wisconsin Council of Churches.

REPORTS AND MINISTRY ACTION ITEMS

Financial Report

- Greg reported that financially speaking, December was a strong month as Regular Offerings (i.e., all Offerings excluding Urgent Need contributions) exceeded \$35,900. This included a \$5,000 donation from a non-member designated for Local Benevolences plus almost \$900 for ELCA Disaster Relief and almost \$300 for Global Benevolences.

- For the first three months of the current fiscal year, we recorded positive Ordinary Net Income of approximately \$6,100 as Regular Offerings of \$68,200 exceeded total Ministry Expenses of approximately \$62,200. Our liquidity position remains strong - we had about \$124,000 of undesignated cash available, which would cover about 6 months of Ministry Expenses without any reliance on any additional Offerings being received.

Motion by Bob seconded by Jeff to approve the financial report. All ayes.

Pastor's Led Discussion

Pastor Frank discussed the need to connect Baptism, the Affirmation of Baptism, with the Council's Mission Statement and 2022 Goals & Objectives. Pastor Frank discussed how Baptism is a key component of faith and the Council needed to discuss and think about the words and their meaning in the life of the Church.

The Council repeated the Apostles Creed and discussed how it impacted their lives and how it could be used to direct the mission and goals of the Church.

Pastor Frank told the Council that you have made public profession of your faith, do you intend to continue in the covenant God has made with you in Holy Baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear his Word and share in his supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ Jesus through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth? The members indicted yes.

The Council next discussed the St. Paul Lutheran Church Mission Statement:

St. Paul Lutheran Church is a welcoming family bringing Christ into people's lives by developing, nurturing and supporting disciples.

The Council discussed questions like:

Are we welcoming to new members or visitors?

Does the Council provide opportunities for members to participate in the life of the Church?

Does the Council encourage discipleship and would all members have the same understanding of its impact on their lives and that of the Church?

What does our mission statement, which we affirm, look like as it is activated in the world by the Holy Spirit through us and the community of St. Paul?

What are the "marks" left in and on the world?

Pastor Frank lead the discussion regarding our Goals & Objectives and how they related to the Church's mission statement.

What is needed in our goals and objectives that flow from our Baptism, Affirmation of Baptism, and our Mission Statement?

Each member was asked to review the list of goals or objectives that had previously been submitted and rewrite them so they support the Church's mission statement.

New Business:

Regarding the 2022 goals submitted by the members for this meeting, it was agreed by all that the Council would table the agenda item until the February meeting.

Adjournment:

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 3:00pm with the praying of The Lord’s Prayer.

Next Council Meeting:

Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 6:00pm using Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Kufirin, Secretary

