



St Paul Lutheran Church

4167 Juddville Rd
Fish Creek, WI 54212

920-868-2826
stpauljuddville.com

Epistle

August 2022

What's in this month's issue:

- Pastor's Page – 2
- September Calendar – 3
- Volunteer Schedule & Thanks – 4
- Local Benevolence & Women's Spiritual Growth Group – 5
- Prayer Shawls, Global Mission Opportunity & Council Appreciation - 6
- Book Club, Bible Study, Food Pantry, Council Recruitment – 7
- A Free Gift & Connections – 8
- Financial Update – 9
- Council Highlights – 10
- July Council Minutes – 11-13

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

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Summer is soon coming to an end and I am writing this on the first day of my vacation. Anne and I aren't going anywhere, but that's okay. Sometimes it is nice to just be. To sit on the porch in a chair and enjoy life. Some of Anne's cousins are coming over tomorrow to help take down some trees and we're looking forward to the day with them. We hope to see some friends we haven't seen in a while. It will be good.

Many in this congregation are perpetually moving from one location to another, while some of us continue to toil unto the Lord. The birth of a child is coming to one family soon! And we can't forget the grandchildren, and grandparents don't!

Some are dancing these days, some are mourning, some of us are struggling with health concerns. Many of us are caring for family members, and each other.

This summer Anne and I have been blessed by this community of faith and those new to our lives. We long to see Mark and that will happen at Christmas.

I have enjoyed a new sense of the creation of which we are a part, sitting on a little white bench in the woods, built by Anne's grandfather. We do live in a beautiful place but often do not take the time to notice it.

God has done this, gifted us life, the seasons, the relationships. God is with us in our dancing and our mourning, in those times when we are in need of healing in many ways. God is with us as we remember, as we live now, and in our anticipation of what is to come.

I am reminded of the hymn written by Brother John, "Borning Cry." May we be renewed in our Baptism in all of the stations of our lives, as we await the never-ending surprise, the gift of the Resurrection we receive from our Lord.

This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Pastor Frank Kauzlarich



September Calendar

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
				1 Office Hours 10:30am – 12:30pm	2 Office Closed Men's Bible Study 8:30am at Julie's Café and Zoom	3 Office Hours 2:30 – 4:00
4 Worship Sanctuary & Parking Lot 8:00am & 9:30am	5 Labor Day Office Closed	6 Kidknits 1:15pm At St Paul Lutheran	7 Office Hours 10:30am – 3:30pm	8 Office Hours 10:30am – 1:30pm	9 Office Hours 10:30am – 1:30pm Men's Bible Study 8:30am at Julie's Café and Zoom	10
11 Worship Sanctuary & Parking Lot 8:00am & 9:30am	12 Office Hours 10:30am – 3:30pm	13 Worship & Music Zoom 10:00am	14 Office Hours 10:30am – 3:30pm	15 Office Hours 10:30am – 1:30pm	16 Office Hours 10:30am – 1:30pm Men's Bible Study 8:30am at Julie's Café and Zoom	17
18 Worship Sanctuary & Parking Lot 8:00am & 9:30am	19 Office Hours 10:30am – 3:30pm	20	21 Office Hours 10:30am – 3:30pm Church Council Zoom 6:30pm	22 Office Hours 10:30am – 1:30pm	23 Office Hours 10:30am – 1:30pm Men's Bible Study 8:30am at Julie's Café and Zoom	24
25 Worship Sanctuary & Parking Lot 8:00am & 9:30am	26 Office Hours 10:30am – 3:30pm	27 Christian Women's Book Club 1:00pm at the Kress Center	28 Office Hours 10:30am – 3:30pm	29 Office Hours 10:30am – 1:30pm Women's Spiritual Growth Group 8:45 – 10:15am	30 Office Hours 10:30am – 1:30pm Men's Bible Study 8:30am at Julie's Café and Zoom	

Notes

SEPTEMBER OFFICE HOURS

PLEASE REFER TO THE CALENDAR IN THIS EPISTLE FOR THE CHURCH'S SEPTEMBER OFFICE HOURS.
 SHOULD THE OFFICE NOT BE OPEN WHEN YOU ARE IN NEED, PLEASE CONTACT PASTOR FRANK AT 920-217-0204.

Local Benevolence & Women's Spiritual Growth Group

Local Benevolence 4th Quarter – 2022 report

Greetings! Following is our final financial allocation for this year. Our giving continues with the diaper drive, food pantry collection, and kid knits. We've done a lot this year and our community needs us.

The Ministry Fund – Door County Medical Center: Goes directly to help people struggling financially with bills ranging from medicine/ medical equipment, shelter, transportation, utilities, etc.

115 Club: Dedicated to helping people involved in any 12-step recovery program, primarily for alcohol or drug addiction. They host many AA meetings at the Sturgeon Bay site and sponsor alcohol free events. Funds are needed to help pay the mortgage.

Neighbor to Neighbor: We will be purchasing adult incontinence products (ie. Depends) for their clients. The need is great, and like baby diapers, these can be hard on budgets.

Crossways Camping Ministries: Their mission statement is "Bringing people together in Christ so lives are changed and communities enhanced." These Lutheran based camps have hosted kids and families since the 1940's. Financially they are struggling since the pandemic.

Lakeshore CAP: This agency has over a dozen community programs. These include housing/ rent assistance, family development and resources, a food pantry, employment skill enhancement, GED assistance, and JAK's Place (focusing on mental wellness). We will request that our gift be used in Door County.

Thank you all for your generosity! We are blessed to be a blessing.

Karen Peterson

Women's Spiritual Growth Group

The Women's Spiritual Growth Group will be starting their fall session Thursday, September 29 8:45-10:15 AM in the upstairs meeting room at St. Paul. We will be gathering on Thursdays through November 17.

Our Fall study will be "Serving from the Heart - Finding Your Gifts and Talents for Service" by Carol Cartmill and Yvonne Gentile. We will be gaining understanding regarding spiritual gifts, taking an assessment to help us recognize which gifts we may have, and briefly exploring our unique personality styles, our talents, and our experiences. The discussion will lead us to possibilities where we might serve based on the unique masterpiece God has created with each of us.

If you are interested in attending or learning more about our discussions, please contact Debbie Jones at 651-328-1261 or debbie.jones.pmp@gmail.com

Prayer Shawls, Global Mission Opportunity, In Appreciation

Prayer Shawls

Thank you to all who have been distributing prayer shawls. If you are aware of someone in need of one, please pick one up from the credenza in the narthex or from the table outside on Sunday before or after worship or call the office during the week. It's not too early for those of you who knit or crochet to get started on creating one of these gifts of care and concern as our supply diminishes. For additional information, contact Debbie Jones at 651-328-1261 or debbie.jones.pmp@gmail.com.

A New Global Mission Opportunity Just for You!

St Paul's has always reached into the local community to serve those in need. Now, as a congregation, we have a new way to serve others in need of health and healing beyond Door County. That's the mission of Compassion International.

Compassion International, based in Colorado Springs, CO, is a faith-based ministry serving the needs of impoverished children in third world countries. Compassion's approach is holistic, meaning it focuses on a child's spiritual, mental, physical and emotional needs. Compassion partners with local churches where children attend a child development center. Center staff teach bible stories which tell of Jesus's love for all children; tutor children to read, write and learn basic life skills; provide nutritious meals and clean drinking water and shore up a child's self-esteem by showing them they are loved and valued.

Sponsoring a child involves a monthly payment of \$38 as well as a commitment to regularly write and pray for the child. In addition to individuals sponsoring a child, church groups can band together to sponsor a child. Sponsors choose a child based on what interests them: a certain country, boy or girl, age of the child, etc... In lieu of sponsoring a child, one-time gifts can be given to various funds: child survival, disaster relief, unsponsored children, etc...

Many of you were present Sunday, August 21 at the outdoor services and heard this message. If you were not or if you are interested in learning more, go to compassion.com, talk to Pastor Frank or contact Darnell Pettengill at dwpettengill@cox.net or call/text 847-951-5758.

Thank you for prayerfully considering this new ministry of St Paul's.

Darnell Pettengill

In Appreciation

We'd like to offer a particular word of thanks to Pastor Frank and the Church Council for their leadership during this very demanding past year. There were so many critical decisions that needed to be made to continue to keep St Paul a very viable presence to our members and to the community. For all the hard work and deep commitment to St Paul Lutheran Church, a big thank you to Betty Eisenhauer, Cathy Mestek, Greg Ehlike, Peder Nelson, Karen Peterson, Bob Kufirin, Jeff Kuchenbecker, and Pastor Frank Kauzlarich.

Bible Study, Book Club, Council Recruitment, Food Pantry

Men's Zoom Bible Study

The Men's Bible Study has 2 groups, both of which meet on Friday's at 8:20 AM. One group meets on Zoom and the other at Julie's Café in Fish Creek. Anyone is welcome to join either of those Friday discussions. For more information, contact Gary Jones at gary.jones09@gmail.com or John Hermann at john.c.hermann@gmail.com.



Kidnits

Kidnits started in the fall of 2016. Our first shipment was sent in February 2017. To date we have sent: Blankets 246, Hats 455, Sweaters 29, Fleece Blankets 32, and Miscellaneous 13. This was all sent to World Vision in Sewickley, PA. In March we sent: Blankets 28, Sweaters 2, Fleece Blankets 2, Hats 10, Scarfs 5 to Ukraine. Our group has been a very busy group. This is our support of World Mission. Many of these gifts go to small countries we have not heard of. We meet the 1st Tuesday of the month 1:15 at Church. All are welcome to help our mission project. If you don't know how to knit or crochet we will teach you. Thank you.

Christian Women's Book Club

Join the women of St. Paul's at their next meeting on Tuesday, September 20 at 1:00 pm at the Kress Center in Egg Harbor. The book to be discussed is *Furiously Happy* by Jennie Lawson. In *Furiously Happy* we learn about daily struggles with the author's mental health. This kind of subject is hardly new but what is refreshing is Lawson's un-ashamedness about her condition. There is so much negativity surrounding the discussion of mental health that here Lawson is saying "hello, look at me and my stinking issues". *Furiously Happy* helps to take away the stigma and the sting of mental health and provides a fresh perspective on mental health and how personal acceptance can be very helpful; besides being really enlightening, *Furiously Happy* is just very funny. A very funny look at a very serious subject. Your host is Carol Czajkowski.

Church Council Recruitment

If you or someone you know may be interested in becoming part of our church council, please let Pastor Frank or Betty Eisenhower know. We're recruiting people who are able to attend a monthly meeting on Zoom and wish to contribute their time and talents to help St. Paul continue meeting its ministry goals and program commitments.

A Free Gift & Connections

A Free Gift, Each and Every Week.

St Paul Church has a partnership with Augsburg Fortress to supply us with worship resources. One of these resources is the weekly bulletin covers. Each of the bulletins has a colorful picture or artwork on the front cover and a devotional message on the back cover. The devotional message interprets the weekly gospel reading in a style that is easy to understand.

Prior to my becoming a member of St Paul Church I was a member of a large church in Madison, WI. About 25 years ago Good Shepherd Lutheran Church discontinued the use of these weekly bulletins. The church justified it as a way to save money and be more flexible. When I began attending St Paul, and this resource was once again available to me, it was like I had found an old friend.

The Holy Spirit is the gift promised to each of us by Jesus. I believe that the work of the Holy Spirit provides us with the combination of artwork and devotion in each weekly bulletin in order to help us strengthen our relationship with Jesus. The visual and written interpretations contained in each bulletin help me gain a better understanding of God's Word and stirs-up the Holy Spirit inside me.

I encourage you to take your bulletin home every week. Keep it handy. Refer to it often. Enjoy it for what it is, a wonderful gift.

Jeff Kuchenbecker
Council Member

Connections

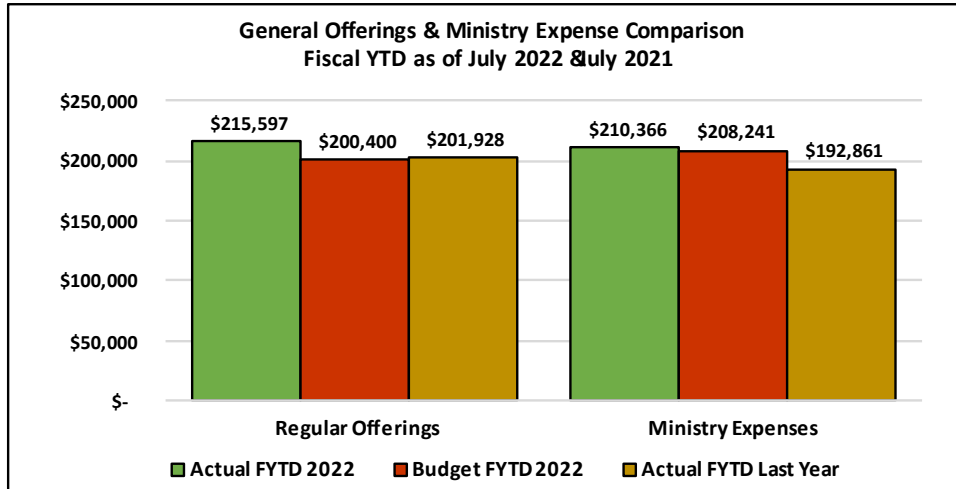
Among other things, Connections is a "shared outreach ministry" which encourages each member of St. Paul to connect with others in need. As we see needs each day in our daily living, we have opportunities to share the love and light of Christ with others.

When I was growing up, September was always an exciting month of new beginnings - if for no other reason than the fact that school was starting! I loved school - new clothes, new supplies, catching up with old friends and meeting new ones. That one change in the year created an entirely new routine and brought new life into my being.

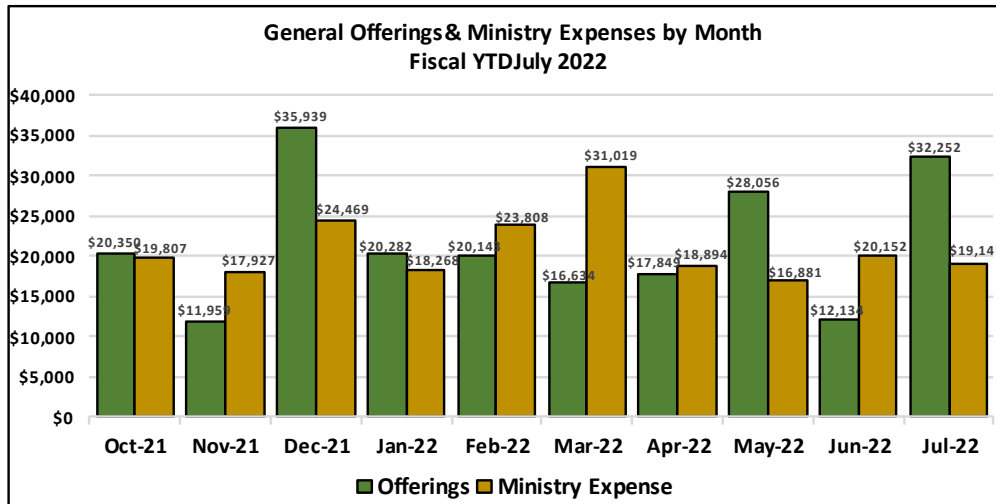
Today, I think about those around me who recently have had major life changing events but not necessarily for the good - sudden illness/diagnosis, loss of a loved one, broken relationships, loss of dreams. Maybe you know someone who is in that situation. May the Lord inspire us to seek out not only those who are full of life but also those who need encouragement and hope. Perhaps just a simple act of kindness can be that turning point in someone's life. Be the hands and feet of Christ. He can turn our crumbs into a banquet of blessings!

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." -1 Peter 4:10

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 first ten months of the current fiscal year were greater than budgeted by \$15,197 (\$215,597 - \$200,400) and \$13,669 higher than received in the comparable prior year period



- FYTD = Fiscal Year-to-Date. St. Paul Lutheran's fiscal year begins on 01-Oct.
- July's General Offerings (\$32,252) were the second highest of this fiscal year
- General Offerings in the first ten months of the 2021-22 fiscal year varied substantially (from a low of \$11,959 in November to a high of \$35,939 in December)
- Monthly Ministry Expenses were less variable, ranging from \$17,927 to \$31,019
- The higher Ministry Expenses recorded in December, February and March reflected strong support for, and timing of, Benevolence disbursements (e.g., Ukraine Relief)

Council Highlights

AUGUST COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Following are the highlights of the August 17th Church Council meeting.

- Cathy shared a story about relationships and roles growing up and how they shaped her life.
- With \$7,000 in the budget, 4th quarter local benevolence recipients were approved as follows:
 - \$1,000 to Door County Memorial Hospital's Ministry Fund to help people with financial bills ranging from medicine/medical equipment to shelter, transportation, utilities, etc.
 - \$1,000 to the 115 Club to assist people primarily involved in the 12-step alcohol and drug addiction programs.
 - \$500 for Neighbor to Neighbor to purchase adult incontinence products.
 - \$2,000 to CrossWays Camping Ministry, whose mission since the 1940's has been bringing people together in Christ so lives are changed and communities enhanced.
 - \$2,500 to Lakeshore CAP to provide housing/rental assistance, family development, employment skills enhancement, GED assistance, JAK's Place (focusing on mental wellness) and a food pantry.
- Greg reviewed the updated budget projections and projects for the upcoming fiscal year and indicated a final proposal will be presented at the September council meeting.
- Based on the responsibility of the council, as stated in the constitution, it was agreed that we reach out to individuals who have not worshiped, communed, or financially supported St. Paul in the past year – two years to understand their future commitment.
- A suggestion was made to plan a fall work day: this idea will be coordinated with the Property and Maintenance team.

The full council-approved minutes of the August meeting will be published in the October Epistle. In the meantime, feel free to contact any member of council with questions or comments.

Blessings to All,

Betty Eisenhower

Congregation President

Council Minutes

**ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
July 20, 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 Mestek, Karen Peterson, Greg Ehlke, Bob Kuftrin, Jeff Kuchenbecker and Pastor Frank (all attending remotely via Zoom)

Absent/Excused: Peder Nelson

Other Attendees: Shawn Mathys

Meeting Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Betty Eisenhauer at 6:36 P.M.

Devotions

Bob read a devotion from Matthew 6:19-24 regarding putting your money where your heart is.

Agenda Approval

Betty made a motion to accept the agenda and it was approved unanimously.

Minutes

Greg made a motion to approve the June 20 meeting minutes, seconded by Bob, and it was approved unanimously.

Electronic Business Conducted since June Meeting

There were two Urgent Need requests approved by the Executive Committee, one for a member and the other for a non-member each for \$200.

Reports & Action Items

Pastor's Report – Pastor Frank stated the Council and membership should celebrate (i) the efforts of the Local Benevolence Committee doing more for the community of faith, (ii) more members stepping up to use their musical talents and (iii) the Praise Band concert that was enjoyed by 25 people. Pastor Frank stated he is reaching out to members he doesn't see often at church. He noted his vacation will be taken from July 21 to July 28. He noted that Mary is doing more records management and digital organization.

Financial Report – Greg noted that recent monthly giving to the Church has been less than the budget projected. The Council will need to recommend a budget for the next year and he is hopeful that the contributions will return to the normal level of giving so Church programs can continue at the same level. For the month of June, contributions were down \$2,500 compared to the prior year month even though online giving was \$6,300. For the nine month year-to-date period, Regular Offerings were about \$2,300 lower than last year. If the current trends continue, as detailed in the initial budget draft provided to the Council for review, Offerings for the 2021-

22 fiscal year would approximate \$237,811 and Ministry Expenses would approximate \$256,799, a shortfall of \$18,988 before any Endowment funds are applied.

Greg reviewed the process for developing a budget for next year. The Council is required to meet the compensation, vacation and benefits guidelines established by the Synod for Pastor Frank. The Council feedback to the initial 2022-23 budget draft was that the final budget should emphasize meeting the congregation's 2022-23 mission objectives rather than being driven by austerity measures in a potentially difficult economic environment. Motion by Bob, seconded by Cathy, to approve the financial report. All ayes.

Nominations for Council Membership – Betty discussed the Council terms and whose terms were expiring. New members will need to be approved at the Annual Congregation Meeting in October.

Betty: Term expires in October and not staying on Council.

Karen: Term expires in October and will seek to stay for three more years.

Jeff: Term expires in two more years.

Cathy: Term expires in two more years.

Greg: Term expires in two more years.

Bob: Term expires in one more year.

Peder: Unknown Term expires in one more year.

3rd Quarter Local Benevolence Recipients

Karen reported on the recommendations of the Committee which were:

\$750 for Neighbor to Neighbor

\$250 for Habitat for Humanity

\$500 for NEW Family services

She noted that there is \$7,000 unallocated after these donations are approved. She also mentioned that St. Paul is holding a disposable diaper and wipes drive. Motion by Karen seconded by Jeff. All aye.

Old Business

Budget Planning –The Council will see several drafts before presenting a recommended budget to the Congregation in October. Discussion was held concerning potential Staff Ministry wage and salary increases relative to recent inflationary trends and the range of Offerings that may occur in the coming year. The Council plans to write a letter to members explaining the financial needs and importance of giving and worship attendance to sustain the church's ministries.

Mileage Reimbursement – The Council approved an increase in Pastor Frank's annual car allowance from \$5,500 to \$6,000 consistent with the recently announced IRS mid-year increase for mileage reimbursement. Motion by Greg, seconded by Bob to approve the increase effective July 1, 2022, which results in an increased expense of \$125 for the last quarter of the current fiscal year.

Global Benevolence Distribution – Pastor Frank explained the group is working to develop a recommendation for August or September. One of the challenges is to define "global." Does it mean outside of Door County, but in our region, the State, United States or the World?

New Business

Fellowship Ministry Reactivation – Betty reported a fellowship coffee hour will begin again between the first and second service based on volunteer interest and coordination. COVID numbers are rising again and outside fellowship should be safe, but not in the Fellowship Hall. Jeff and the Stadtmuellers will work to set it up in the vestibule this coming Sunday.

Greg reported on the golf outing set for July 31st. He noted that attendance for the recent NorDoor boat church service and picnic was very good and that an Offering of \$1,258 was received from the boat worship service which was being used to benefit people in need through HELP of Door County.

Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M. with the praying of The Lord's Prayer.

Next Council Meeting:

Wednesday, August 17, 2022 at 6:30 pm by Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Kufrin, Secretary