

St Paul Lutheran Church

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Epistle

November 2022

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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 Kufirin: 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,

In the coming days, if you haven't already, citizens of this nation will have the privilege to vote to elect leaders. Martin Luther wrote extensively concerning citizenship. I share with you this article I saved with hope that the words inform your life of faith and life as a citizen.

How Luther Helps Today's Citizens

By Gary Simpson on October 17, 2016 for The Living Lutheran

People often wonder how Martin Luther can inform our citizenship in today's world. One of his main teachings is pertinent here: his understanding of God's two kingdoms, as it's often called. How can Luther's doctrine of two kingdoms help us today as citizens?

God's Two Kingdoms

Luther wasn't the first, nor the last, theologian to emphasize a "doctrine of the two." Augustine, Thomas Aquinas and John Calvin each propounded a doctrine of the two.

Famously, Augustine's was a doctrine of two cities: the City of God, manifested spiritually on earth in the church, and the Earthly City, manifested temporally in political government that is predominantly under the sway, even the dominance, of the devil and of sin. For Augustine, being a Christian ruler or citizen within the Earthly City was largely a negative, even cynical, experience with little trust that anyone but a perfect Christian could govern, and then only to establish a minimum of coercive order to prevent all-out chaos. His theological imagination still influences American Christians today, especially many—not all—American Evangelicals, who are his heirs by being heirs of the Puritans. These are today's "Christian Right."

Over the centuries Lutherans sometimes adopted a "quietist" version of Augustine and mostly withdrew from active political engagement. But Luther's doctrine of God's two kingdoms represents a significant revision of, even a departure from, Augustine's doctrine of the two. Therefore, Luther's doctrine also offers a very different imagination for our life as citizens. How is this the case?

On the basis of Scripture, Luther noted that the triune God has two kingdoms or authorities, two different ways to rule the one world in which we live. It's important to note, especially in comparison to Augustine's teaching, that both of these kingdoms are God's, something Luther often emphasized. In his sermons Luther referred to these two kingdoms as God's "left hand" temporal way to govern and God's "right hand" spiritual way to govern.

Luther's teaching of the two kingdoms is a corollary of his understanding of the Scripture's teaching of law and gospel, both of which contend with sin and evil, though in different ways, and both of which seek to bless the world, though also in different ways. Briefly stated, God's right-hand work of gospel happens as the Spirit through word and sacrament graciously brings us into full communion with Jesus and his "righteousness, innocence and blessedness," which become ours "by faith alone." Together we become the body of Christ in the world.

Pastor's Page

God's Left-Hand and Human Reason

God's left-hand work of law is comprehensive and pervades all creation. God's left hand governing of the world begins with God's ongoing creating of the natural world as the environment for the flourishing of all creatures. God's left-hand governing extends then into establishing our most basic human relationships and enduring social life and institutions (family, work, citizenship and other institutional arrangements for creating and preserving human and environmental well-being).

Within these relational, social and environmental networks, we also discover what God would have us do and not do in order for earthly life to flourish rather than flounder. Finally, we discover how God uses dissuading and rewarding consequences to prevent sin and evil from proliferating, and to preserve and promote both human flourishing and the well-being of all creation. Luther also called God's left hand governing God's "political" or "civil use of law," remembering that God's left-hand work is more extensive than what we today refer to as government, politics and citizenship.

Luther taught that God fervently desires that all humans share in God's own left-hand governing. We are called and sent in our various vocations to be God's "masks" in the world, as he liked to say, through which God's left-hand governing happens. As God's co-creative creatures, we serve our neighbors in solidarity and love, seeking justice, peace and well-being.

God thereby endows human beings with remarkable capacities of "reason," making it possible for humans to participate in God's left-hand governing. Reason was Luther's shorthand to identify the broad scope of worldly wisdom, including the sciences, the arts and humanities, and especially the traditions of moral wisdom.

Five Advantages of Luther's Two Kingdoms

Luther distinguished God's left hand and right-hand ways to govern, first of all, to ensure that the gospel remains gospel and, secondly, to ensure that the law remains law. The integrity of both of God's hands is thereby honored. Indeed, God has the whole world in God's hands, "both" of them.

For his time Luther had a full-bodied notion of reason, borrowed from Cicero, which is why he strongly advocated for universal education. God desires that we, too, employ the best worldly wisdom available to us in our time.

Famously, Luther noted that Christians seek human welfare as we "put on" our neighbors" as Christ has "put on" us. In this way, Christian faith enlists the capacities of full-bodied, enfleshed reason in order to serve our neighbors.

Citing Psalm 82, Luther urged citizens and political authorities to promote social justice with special attention to the most vulnerable among us: "Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute." Doing so, citizens become "partakers of Divine majesty."

Exercising our citizenship is the joyous experience of sharing in God's left-hand governing, which we do with other Christians, with those of other faiths, and with those of no particular religious faith at all. We can "joyfully enjoy the joyful things when they are present," as Luther once encouraged his students.

November Calendar

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
		1	2 3pm Choir Practice 4pm Praise Team 12:30am – 3:30pm Office Hours	3 8:45am – 10:15am Women's Spiritual Growth Group Office Closed	4 8:30am Men's Zoom & In-Person Bible Study 10:30am – 1:30pm Office Hours	5
6 9am Worship In-Sanctuary & Parking Lot All Saints Sunday	7 10:30am – 3:30pm Office Hours	8	9 3pm Choir Practice 4pm Praise Team 10:30am – 3:30pm Office Hours	10 8:45am – 10:15am Women's Spiritual Growth Group 10am Worship & Music Zoom Meeting 10:30am – 1:30pm Office Hours	11 8:30am Men's Zoom & In-Person Bible Study 10:30am – 1:30pm Office Hours	12
13 9am Worship In-Sanctuary & Parking Lot	14 10:30am – 3:30pm Office Hours	15	16 6:30pm In-person Church Council Meeting 10:30am – 3:30pm Office Hours	17 8:45am – 10:15am Women's Spiritual Growth Group 10:30am – 1:30pm Office Hours	18 8:30am Men's Zoom & In-Person Bible Study 10:30am – 1:30pm Office Hours	19 9am Holiday Decorating Party 2:30pm – 5:30pm Office Hours
20 9am Worship In-Sanctuary & Parking Lot Christ the King	21 10:30am – 3:30pm Office Hours	22 2:30pm – 5:30pm Office Hours	23 6pm Worship In-Sanctuary & Parking Lot Thanksgiving Service Office Closed	24 Office Closed	25 8:30am Men's Zoom & In-Person Bible Study Office Closed	26
27 9am Worship In-Sanctuary & Parking Lot	28 Office Closed	29 2:30pm – 5:30pm Office Hours	30 10:30am – 3:30pm Office Hours			

Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers, who bring such joy and care to our time at St Paul Lutheran Church! Our church-life is made infinitely better through the help and creativity of our volunteers.

Volunteer Schedule

Please contact the church office at 920-868-2826 if you would like to be added to the volunteer contact list.

Worship Volunteers - November 2022

Song Leaders

11/06/2022 Jeff Kuchenbecker
 11/13/2022 Praise Team - Mary Ehlke, Wendy Beil
 11/20/2022 Jeff Kuchenbecker
 11/27/2022 Mary Ehlke

Musicians

11/06/2022 Doreen Holt
 11/13/2022 Shawn Mathys
 11/20/2022 Doreen Holt
 11/27/2022 Jacob Beranek

Pastor

Pastor Frank Kauzlarich

Volunteers	6 Sunday	13 Sunday	20 Sunday	27 Sunday	23 Wednesday Thanksgiving Service
9am Assisting Minister	Pam Davis	Pam Davis	Dennis Kaldor		
9am Indoor Usher	Jerry Lecy	Roy Back	Mary Anne Scherer	Jerry Lecy	
9am Outdoor Usher	John & Jill Dew	Terri Back	Clarence Scherer	Tom & Sue Beranek	Andrea Essau

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. For those of you who knit or crochet, the fall is a great time 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.

November Musician Schedule & Worship & Music Highlights

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 CHOIR PRACTICE 3 PM PRAISE TEAM 4 PM	4	5
6 MUSICIAN: Doreen; 1 service SONG LEADER: Jeff Kuchenbecker	7	8	9	10 CHOIR PRACTICE 3 PM PRAISE TEAM 4 PM	11	12
13 MUSICIAN: Shawn; 1 service SONG LEADERS: Praise Team: Mary Ehlke, Wendy Beilfuss, Jerry Lecy, Jeff Kuchenbecker CHOIR: Shawn "A Thanksgiving Prayer"	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 MUSICIAN: Doreen; 1 service SONG LEADER: Jeff Kuchenbecker	21	22	23 Thanksgiving Eve MUSICIAN: Doreen; 1 service	24	25	26
27 MUSICIAN: Jacob Beranek; 1 service SONG LEADER: Mary Ehlke	28	29	30			

Highlights of October Worship & Music Ministry Meeting:

- Pastor reported he sent 21 "missing you" letters to families who are by constitution "inactive," having not attended, communed, or contributed in the past two calendar years. The goal of the letters is always first to invite members to return. By their responses we can keep accurate membership rolls, so that we know who we are as a people of God. Pastor also continues to make numerous calls to encourage members to join us for worship.
- We outlined contingency plans for worship in the event that Pastor is unable to lead Sunday worship for illness or emergency reasons. The ministry feels confident in our lay leadership in such a case.
- Following are special worship services in November:
 - All Saints Sunday, November 6th, will be a service of remembrance and thanks for the lives of those who have been born into eternal life this past year.
 - Thanksgiving Eve worship, November, 23, 6pm, parking lot and in-sanctuary.
 - Christ the King Sunday, November 20 - A walk through the church year featuring Scripture and a hymn from each season.
- We are blessed to have numerous musicians who have come forward to provide music for Sunday worship in the coming months and also for our Christmas Eve and Day services.
- The group further discussed plans for the accessible pathway to the Prayer Garden with an eye for presenting the project for approval/revision to the new Council in November.
- The next meeting will be on Thursday, November 10am, by Zoom. We welcome and appreciate new members for the ministry team.
- As always, the ministry meeting began and ended with prayer for those in need and also prayers of gratitude for the many among us who joyfully serve in the name of Christ.

Upcoming Events



CHRIST THE KING NOVEMBER 20TH – 9AM PARKING LOT & SANCTUARY WORSHIP

DECORATING PARTY

November 19, Saturday, 9am

Join the fun and help decorate the parking lot for the Advent and Christmas seasons! The more people who help, the more fun we can have!

CHRIST THE KING WORSHIP

November 20, Sunday, 9am

On this last Sunday of the Church Year, we journey through the seasons of the year: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost. We hear scripture and sing hymns of each of the seasons. We celebrate Christ the King with in-sanctuary and parking lot worship!

THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP

November 23, Wednesday, 6pm

We will collect offerings of canned goods and other nonperishable food items in the sanctuary or in the parking lot during this worship for the benefit of local food pantries. Financial offerings may also be given and will go to the support of World Hunger Appeal.

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

November 27, Sunday, 9am

We watch and wait for the coming of the Lord, as Christ's Child and as the Lord comes again to usher in a New Kingdom!

SUNDAYS IN DECEMBER

9am Worship

Women's Spiritual Growth Group, All Saints Day, Men's Bible Study, Local Benevolence

Women's Spiritual Growth Group

The Women's Spiritual Growth Group which started their fall session Thursday, September 29 8:45-10:15 AM in the upstairs meeting room at St. Paul will have their final session on November 17.

Our Fall study is "Serving from the Heart - Finding Your Gifts and Talents for Service" by Carol Cartmill and Yvonne Gentile. We are gaining deeper 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. Our discussions have challenged us to reflect on God's goodness, to recognize His unique gifts given to each of us, and to be thankful and good stewards by using our gifts to serve others and bring glory to God.

During Advent which begins November 27, we will once again use the seasonal devotional from Living Compass. This year's theme is "Practicing Simplicity with all Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind." In the next few weeks, we will be determining if we will have weekly ZOOM sessions with rotating facilitators to discuss the devotions for the week. Regardless, we encourage everyone to set aside time each day during this season of preparation to reflect on this amazing gift of the Christ child.

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

All Saints Day

We remember we are the 'saints' now, forgiven sinners. We remember and give thanks for "the saints who have gone before us," tolling the bell as a sign of the resurrection as we speak the names of those who have gone before us this past year.

From the community of St Paul Lutheran Church those 'saints' are: James Jordan and David Olson

Men's Bible Study

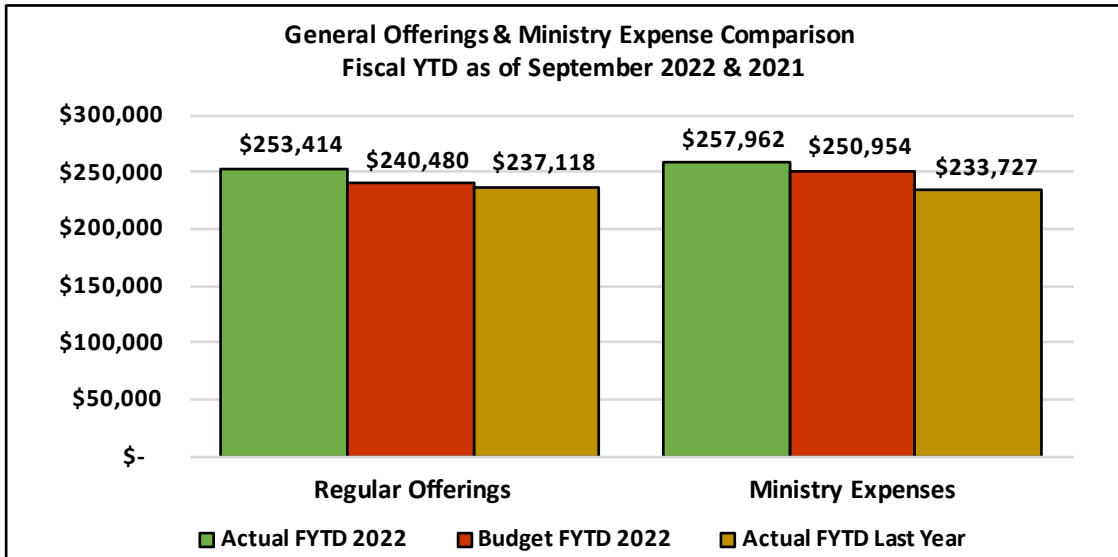
The Men's Bible Study has 2 groups, both of which meet on Friday's at 8:30 AM. One group meets on Zoom and the other at Julie's Café in Fish Creek. Anyone is welcome to join either of those Friday discussions. For more information, contact Gary Jones at gary.jones09@gmail.com or John Hermann at john.c.hermann@gmail.com.

Local Benevolence

These are two knee scooters donated by the congregation of St. Paul Lutheran to Neighbor to Neighbor through our Local Benevolence Ministry.

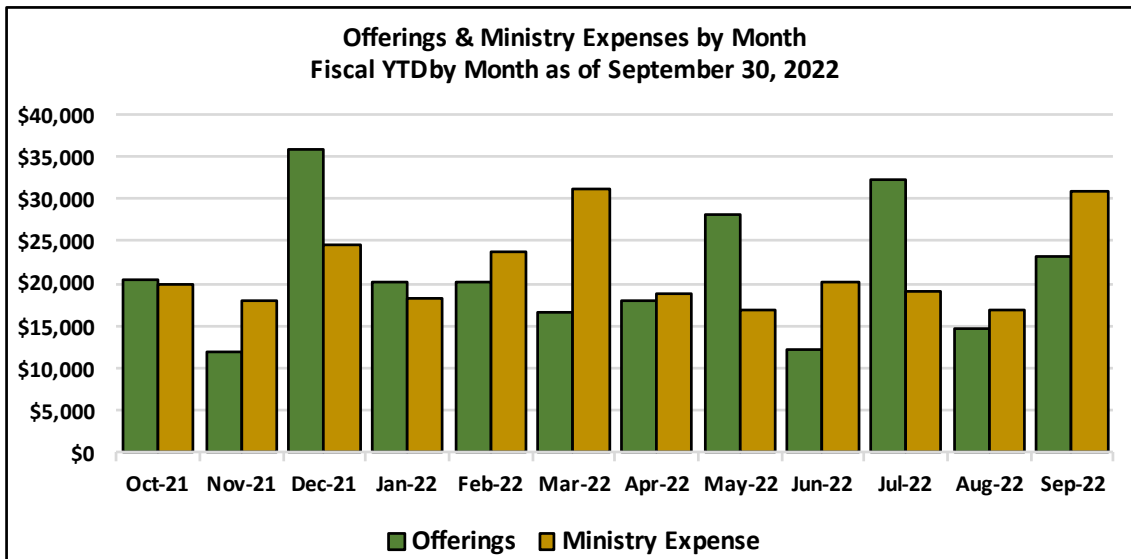


Financial Update



- Regular Offerings in the current fiscal year were greater than budgeted by \$12,934 (\$253,414 - \$240,480) and greater than the prior fiscal year by \$16,296 (or 6.9%)
- Ministry Expenses were greater than Offerings in 2021-22 by (\$4,548)
 - That cash shortfall was covered after the 2021-22 fiscal year-end by an approved 2021-22 withdrawal from the Everlasting Endowment Fund funding previously disbursed Local Benevolences that was requested in September but not received until early October

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- Offerings by month varied substantially and ranged from a high of almost \$36,000 in December to lows of under \$13,000 in November and June
- Ministry Expenses show less variability by month and the larger outflows in December, February, March and September principally reflect the timing of sizable Benevolence outflows
- The variability of monthly Offerings highlights the need for strong ongoing liquidity management

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Council Minutes

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
September 21, 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, Peder Nelson, Greg Ehlke, Bob Kufirin, Karen Peterson, Jeff Kuchenbecker and Pastor Frank (all attending remotely *via Zoom*)

Absent/Excused: None

Other Attendees: None

The meeting was called to order late by Betty Eisenhauer at 6:30 P.M.

Devotions

Frank read a devotion on communion seeking people to be prepared to take communion.

Agenda Approval

Betty made a motion to accept the agenda and it was approved unanimously. There was no support for returning to in person meetings at the Church due to lack of high-speed internet for zoom access.

Minutes

Cathy made a motion to approve the August 17 meeting minutes, seconded by Jeff and it was approved unanimously.

Electronic Business Conducted since July Meeting

There was nothing that required council action since the July meeting.

Reports & Action Items

Pastor's Report – Pastor Frank stated that the community of Faith is still strong and has contributed donation valued over \$1,000 diapers. He mentioned that Jim Jordan's funeral service has held without a funeral director present which presented some challenges. Information will be made available to families to seek additional support if no director is present. Jeff questioned if there were enough hymnals in the Church as we return to only sanctuary worship. The effort to reach out to members have not attended church in over two years is still underway. There are 66 individuals who will receive a follow up contact to confirm their interest in maintaining their membership. There are approximately 170 individual members of the church. The pandemic has changed worship patterns and attendance, which has dropped to 50-55% of pre-pandemic levels.

Financial Report – Greg mentioned that monthly offerings have not returned to prior levels. Greg noted that the reserves are still at the expected levels in spite of fluctuations in giving levels this year. The Council discussed Greg’s proposed budget at some length. Council felt comfortable with his projections and voted to present that budget and the salary recommendations to the entire congregation at the October 30th meeting. Motion by _____ seconded by _____ to recommend the proposed budget to the Congregation. All ayes.

The October 30th Congregation meeting will occur immediately after the single worship service at 9:00 AM. The membership will also vote to fill vacant Council and Endowment Committee positions.

Betty reminded the committee chairs that they need to complete their annual report to submit at the congregation meeting.

Fall Groundskeeping – Peder will set a date for the fall work party to do grounds keeping and routine maintenance.

Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 8:24 P.M. with the praying of The Lord’s Prayer.

Next Council Meeting:

Wednesday, October 19, 2022 at 6:30 pm by Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Kufirin, Secretary

Council Highlights

Council highlights from the annual meeting will be included in a future edition of the epistle. We thank you for your patience during this busy time.