



St Paul Lutheran Church

4167 Juddville Rd
Fish Creek, WI 54212

920-868-2826

stpauljuddville.com

Epistle

December 2022

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Congregation Council:

Pastor Frank Kauzlarich: 920-217-0204

Cathy Mestek: 262-470-9754
Congregation President & Communications Chair

Pam Davis: 920-559-9806
Congregation Secretary

Greg Ehlke: 920-868-1092
Congregation Treasurer

Jeff Kuchenbecker: 608-770-0755
Congregation Vice President

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

Karen Peterson: 920-868-2928
Local Benevolence Chair

Renee Schwaller: 920-868-9608

Steve Stringer: 815-760-5754
Property, Maintenance, & Cemetery

Mary Sawyer: 920-868-2826
Administrative Assistant
Office Hours:
10am – 3pm Mon/Weds, 10am -1pm Thurs/Fri.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Pastor's Page

Dear Advent People!

This morning on the First Sunday of Advent, I had a most unusual experience. I was sitting in a car for worship in the parking lot with Anne and Treiva. It wasn't the same. I was out in the elements for over a year and half with the ushers each Sunday but I was not sitting in a car. Many of you came Sunday after Sunday to sit in your car for worship. Your desire to worship the Lord overcame what we all had known. And you waited for that day of return to sanctuary worship. Some still worship in the parking lot for a variety of reasons and today I was out there with you. I was "rejoicing that this is the day the Lord has made, as we should be rejoicing in it."

Waiting, we all wait. Today I am waiting to get back to what I did before successful back surgery. In this period of waiting, I am so very grateful for Anne and her continuous ministry to me. We wait together. I am so very thankful for those who shared their gifts with me by responding to the call of health and healing as their vocation. They continue to wait with me. For those of this congregation who have expressed their support for me as I have been less physically able than I was when you last saw me, I am very thankful. You have waited for and with me. I give thanks for the friends we made at Mayo Clinic and at St. Mary's Hospital as we waited with each other. I give thanks to God who is Emmanuel, God with us, always with us.

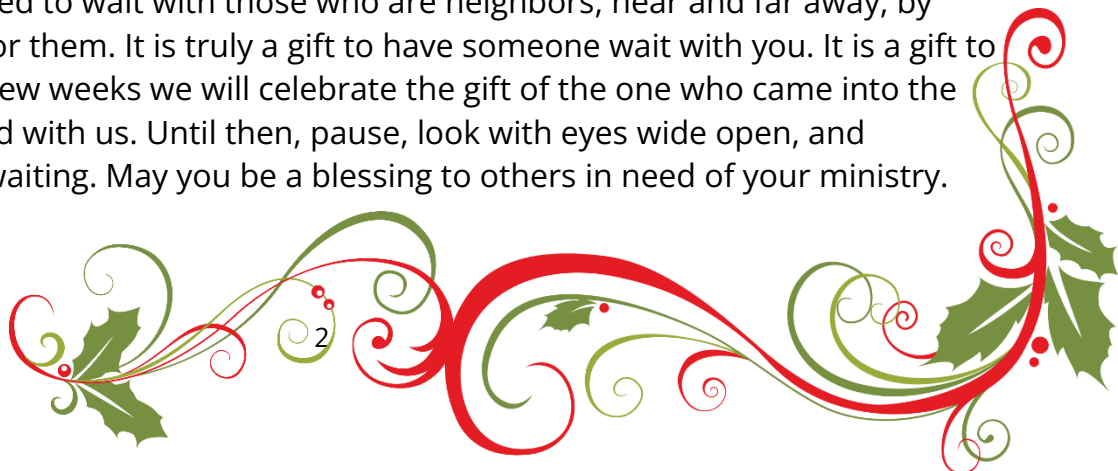
We all have stories of waiting. Some are at the core of our lives. There is a husband who has waited for weeks at the bed of his wife who is hospitalized. There is the couple who waited so very long for the birth of a child, a couple who mourns the death of the child of 14 months. There is the one who waits for the medical test results which may be an ominous message for the future.

Others are elated by the result of medical tests. A couple celebrates 50 year of marriage and the good health they have both experienced. Another couple celebrates the birth of their first child, healthy as can be.

God waits with us in all circumstances; some joyous, some sorrowful, and everything in between.

This is our Lord, whose Advent or "coming" we celebrate this season. We wait for him to come into the world as Christ child, and we wait for his coming again. We who are baptized into his life and death are called to wait with those who are neighbors, near and far away, by being present with and for them. It is truly a gift to have someone wait with you. It is a gift to wait with someone. In a few weeks we will celebrate the gift of the one who came into the world to wait with us, God with us. Until then, pause, look with eyes wide open, and exercise the ministry of waiting. May you be a blessing to others in need of your ministry.

In Christ,
Pastor Frank Kauzlarich



December Calendar

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

01

02

03



6:15pm - 7pm
Women's
Spiritual Growth
Group

8:30am Men's In-
Person & Zoom
Bible Study
Office Closed

04

05

06

07

08

09

10

9am Worship
Sanctuary &
Parking Lot

6:15pm - 7pm
Women's
Spiritual Growth
Group
Office Closed

8:30am Men's In-
Person & Zoom
Bible Study

9am Christmas
Decoration
Gathering

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

9am Worship
Sanctuary &
Parking Lot

12pm Christian
Women's Book
Club Luncheon at
White Gull Inn

10am Worship &
Music Meeting
6:30pm Church
Council Zoom
Meeting
6:15pm - 7pm
Women's
Spiritual Growth
Group

8:30am Men's In-
Person & Zoom
Bible Study

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

9am Worship
Sanctuary &
Parking Lot

Office Closed

6:15pm - 7pm
Women's
Spiritual Growth
Group

8:30am Men's In-
Person & Zoom
Bible Study

5:30pm &
7:30pm
Candlelight
Worship
Sanctuary &
Parking Lot

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

9am Worship
Sanctuary &
Parking Lot

Office Closed

6:15pm - 7pm
Women's
Spiritual Growth
Group

8:30am Men's In-
Person & Zoom
Bible Study

November Council Highlights & Prayer Shawls

Council Highlights

The following are the highlights from the Nov. 16th Council meeting:

- The Council meeting was held in person at the church for the first time since before the pandemic; Pam Davis, Steve Stringer and Renee Schwaller (excused) were welcomed to the Council and all members briefly introduced themselves to the group.
- Pastor Frank (who attended by telephone) expressed his gratitude for all the support he has received during his surgery and recovery to date and those stepping up to help lead during his absence.
- The Council was advised that four students had applied for St. Paul scholarships this year. Karen Peterson moved, and Pam Davis seconded, that \$500 scholarships each be granted to Wyatt Beaudot, Spencer Krause, Marcus Reinhardt and Trevor Reinhardt. The motion passed unanimously and Karen noted that the scholarship proceeds are remitted directly to the respective colleges.
- The Council discussed various officer positions and responsibilities. After discussion, by written ballot, the following officers were elected for the 2022-23 fiscal year:

President – Cathy Mestek

Vice President – Jeff Kuchenbecker

Treasurer – Greg Ehlke

Secretary – Pam Davis

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 winter 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.

Volunteer Schedule

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

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.

Worship Volunteers - December 2022

Song Leaders

Dec 11 - Praise Team, Jan Meier, Jeff Kuchenbecke
 Dec 24 - Jan Meier
 Dec 25 - Jan Meier

Musicians

Dec. 4 - Doreen Holt
 Dec. 11 - Shawn Mathys
 Dec. 18 - Doreen Holt
 Dec. 24 - Doreen Holt, Shawn Mathys
 Dec. 25 - Jacob Beranek, Shawn Mathys

Pastor

Pastor Frank Kauzlarich

Volunteers	4 Sunday	11 Sunday	18 Sunday	25 Sunday	24 Sunday
9am Assisting Minister	✓ Jane DeCock	Dennis Kaldor	✓ Cathy Mestek		✓ 5:30:00 Jane DeCock
9am Indoor Usher	✓ Dave DeCock	✓ Jana Raines	Sue Beranek	✓ Mary Anne Scherer	✓ 7:30:00 Debbie Jone
9am Outdoor Usher	✓ Terri & Roy Back		Tom Beranek	✓ Clarence Scherer	✓ 5:30:00 Dave DeCock
					7:30



Card Ministry Help Needed

Sheryll Rockway has been our card minister for several years and is ready to “pass the baton” to someone else. The time requirement is about 3 hours each in the months of October, January, April, May, and July. Please contact Sher at shrock10@gmail.com for more information if you think you would be willing to serve in this ministry.



Treasurer's Corner & Christian Women's Book Club

Treasurers Corner

Year-end Tax Saving Idea - Qualified Charitable Distributions

A Qualified Charitable Distribution ("QCD") allows individuals who are 70.5 years old or older to donate up to \$100,000 in total to one or more charities directly from a taxable Individual Retirement Account ("IRA"). People who hold IRA's are required to take Required Minimum Distribution ("RMD) beginning at age 72. A QCD may count toward a required RMD. A QCD does not increase taxable income which may be a great benefit to IRA holders for tax purposes.

If you are considering a QCD year to St. Paul Lutheran Church for 2022, be sure to timely notify your IRA trustee well before year-end so that the QCD can be received before year-end. It is the practice of our Church Treasurer to send QCD donors an acknowledgement letter which they may wish to have for tax purposes confirming the amount of the QCD and verifying that the distribution was received directly from the trustee of the IRA.

Online Giving

Our Online Giving platform is a great way to make regular or periodic Offerings, especially when you may be away from Door County and unable to worship at St. Paul while you are away. The Online Giving platform from Vanco is a secure platform. If you need any information about Online Giving, please contact the Church Office or the Treasurer.

Year-end Contributions

It's worth noting that December 31st falls on a Saturday this year. If you are making your Offering in person, the last worship services in 2022 are on Christmas Day (Dec. 25th). If you are mailing your final Offering to the Church Office, please note it must be postmarked by Saturday, Dec. 31st to receive credit in 2022.



Christian Women's Book Club

The Christian Women's Book Club will gather for a festive Christmas luncheon at the White Gull Inn at noon on Tuesday, December 13, 2022. All women of St. Paul are invited; this is an excellent opportunity to meet members of the group and learn more about Book Club. Please contact Dolores Hermann at dolores.e.hermann@gmail.com or 920-743-1675 with any questions and let her know that you wish to participate. Book Club will not meet from January through March. Our next meeting will be April 18, 2023 at the Kress Center in Egg Harbor. If you would like a copy of the book list for 2023, please contact Dolores.

Snow Shovelers Needed!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

Please sign up for shoveling the sidewalks at Church during the snowy season. If you are able to help, please contact Clarence Scherer.

Call or text: 920-559-1951 – Email: cmscherer42@gmail.com

DATE:

NAME:

DEC 1 THRU DEC 7	_____
DEC 8 THRU DEC 14.	_____
DEC 15 THRU DEC 21.	_____
DEC 22 THRU DEC 28.	_____
DEC 29 THRU JAN 5.	_____
JAN 6 THRU JAN 12.	_____
JAN 13 THRU JAN 19	_____
JAN 20 THRU JAN 26	_____
JAN 27 THRU FEB 2.	_____
FEB 3 THRU FEB 9	_____
FEB 10 THRU FEB 16	_____
FEB 17 THRU FEB 23	_____
FEB 24 THRU MAR 2	_____
MAR 3 THRU MAR 9	_____
MAR 10 THRU MAR 16.	_____
MAR 17 THRU MAR 23	_____
MAR 24 THRU MAR 30	_____
MAR 31 THRU APR 6	_____
APR 7 THRU APR 13	_____
APR 12 THRU APR 20	_____



Women's Spiritual Growth Group, Men's Bible Study

Women's Spiritual Growth Group

Once again, the Women's Spiritual Growth Group will be using the seasonal devotional from Living Compass for its Advent devotion. This year's theme is "Practicing Simplicity with all Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind." We will have weekly ZOOM sessions with rotating facilitators to discuss the devotions for the week. The ZOOM sessions will be on Thursday evenings from 6:15-7:00 PM throughout Advent (12/1, 12/8, 12/15, 12/22). If you are interested in receiving the ZOOM link or receiving the Advent devotional, please contact Debbie Jones at 651-328-1261 or debbie.jones.pmp@gmail.com. Regardless of your involvement, we encourage everyone to set aside time each day during this season of preparation to reflect on this amazing gift of the Christ child.

Our winter session will return to meeting on Thursday mornings from 8:45-10:15 AM beginning January 5 through February 16. We will meet via ZOOM to accommodate those who spend their winters away from Door County.

Our study will be a book with "reflection" questions at the end of each section and is called, Pilgrimage into the Last Third of Life - 7 Gateways to Spiritual Growth by Jane Marie Thibault and Richard L. Morgan. It is available at christianbook.com for roughly \$12.

From the back cover:

MAY YOU LIVE TO BE 120!

How shall we spend our God-gift of an extra three decades? The Last Third of life (age 60 and beyond) offers significant challenges that Thibault and Morgan propose we approach as a pilgrimage. Their scripture-based meditations and reflection questions examine 7 tasks essential to living the Last Third fearlessly and with purpose: Facing Aging and Dying; Prayer and Contemplation; Learning to Live with Limitations; Redeeming Loss and Suffering; Doing Inner Work; Leaving a Legacy; and Living In and Out of Community.

If you are interested in attending, learning more about our discussions, or receiving the ZOOM link, please contact Debbie Jones.



Men's Bible Study

The St. Paul Men's Bible Study group continues to meet on Friday's at 8:30 with the opportunity to meet via Zoom or in person at Julie's Café in Fish Creek. For more information about the Zoom session or to receive a copy of the readings and questions, please contact Gary Jones at gary.jones09@gmail.com. To learn about the in-person meeting, please contact John Hermann at john.c.hermann@gmail.com.

Advent Worship

December 4, Second Sunday of Advent
9am Worship In-Sanctuary & Parking Lot

Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again. You fasten righteousness around your waist and baptize with the holy Spirit's fire. Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames, and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare. We ask that peace abound, until none hurt or destroy over all the earth.

December 11, Third Sunday of Advent
9am Worship In-Sanctuary & Parking Lot

Praise to you, O God, who hold our joy and sorrow. You bring water to parched ground and life out of death. Bless us as this light grows, and send sorrow and sighing to flee away. Give us strength and patience, trusting that you are true to your promises. Transform the lives of all who suffer with your wonders near at hand.

December 18, Fourth Sunday of Advent
9am Worship In-Sanctuary & Parking Lot

Praise to you, O God, who lives with us, sharing our flesh and bones. As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed, so we wait and dream for you. Bless us and let your face shine upon us, more radiant than these candles, and more dear than all else we seek. Restore us when we fail to refuse the evil and choose the good, and banish all our fears. We pray in the name of Emmanuel, your promised child and our Savior.

December 24

Christmas Eve Candlelit Worship

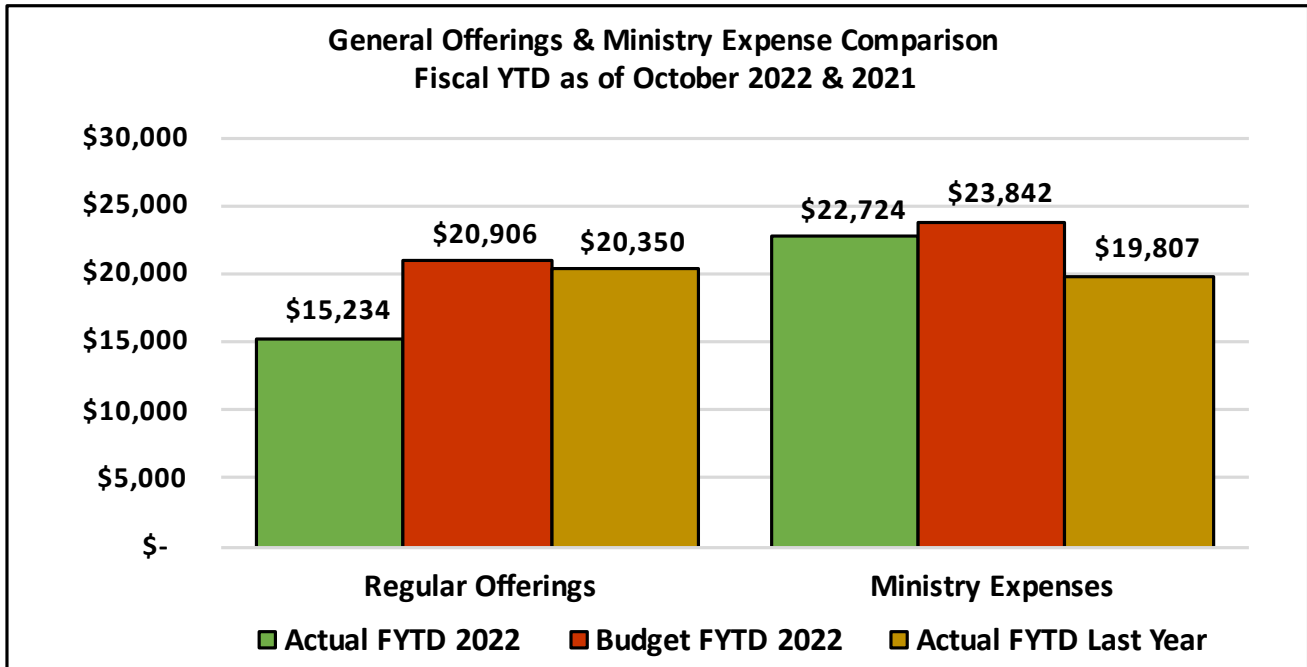
5:30pm & 7:30pm, In-Sanctuary and Parking Lot

December 25

Christmas Day Worship

9am, Lessons, Carols, & Holy Communion, In-Sanctuary and Parking Lot

Financial Update



- FYTD = Fiscal Year-to-Date. St. Paul Lutheran's fiscal year begins on 01-Oct.
- The 2022-23 fiscal year Ministry Expenses budget is \$258,868.



Scholarship Recipients

Four St. Paul members will receive the 2022 continuing education scholarships from monies so designated through the St. Paul Lutheran Church Endowment Fund. Each of the following students will receive \$500. Spencer Krause is a sophomore at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee majoring in Finance, expected to graduate in May 2025. Wyatt Beaudot is attending UW-Eau Claire, a freshman who plans on graduating 2026. He is pursuing an Art Major with a Graphic Design Minor. Marcus Reinhardt is a sophomore at the University of Wisconsin-Madison majoring in Economics. Trevor Reinhardt, a senior at St. Norbert, is currently majoring in Business Administration. We are grateful for the generous donors who have provided these funds over the years. Our prayers and good wishes go with these young people as they further their education.

Council Minute Highlights

HIGHLIGHTS OF OCTOBER 30, 2022 CONGREGATION ANNUAL MEETING

- 2021 Annual Meeting minutes approved.
- Steve Stringer elected to serve on Church Council.
- Todd Rockway elected to serve on Endowment Fund Committee.
- Greg Ehlke, Treasurer provided year-end financial report. Some noteworthy items include:
 - Offerings of \$253,400 highest in 5 years.
 - Benevolence ministry offerings totaled \$40,300, which is 16% of total ministry expenses. Of that, designated offerings toward Ukraine, Local Benevolences, & ELCA Disaster relief were \$26,800.
 - Ministry expenses exceeded offerings by \$4,000. The loss was covered by an approved withdrawal from the Everlasting Endowment Fund.
 - Ended the year with cash reserves sufficient to cover six months of expenses.
 - Met or exceeded most of our financial objectives; though the global benevolence initiative continues to be under development.
- Resolution passed to approve \$8,000 income distribution from Everlasting Endowment Fund to support Local Benevolences.
- Resolution passed to approve \$2,000 distribution from Everlasting Endowment Fund for Post-Secondary School Scholarship Program.
- Resolution passed to approve \$258,868 Council recommended Spending Plan (Budget).
- Debbie and Gary Jones volunteered to accept appointment to the Council Nominating Committee.

