



St Paul Lutheran Church

4167 Juddville Rd
Fish Creek, WI 54212

920-868-2826

stpauljuddville.com

Epistle

August 2023

What's in this month's issue:

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- Pastor's Message
 - Local Benevolence
 - August Calendar
 - Church Council Meeting Highlights
 - Volunteer Schedules
 - Church Life
 - Financial Update/Treasurer's Corner
 - Church Council Minutes

Congregation Council:

- Pastor Frank Kauzlarich: 920-217-0204
 - Cathy Mestek: 262-470-9754
Congregation President & Worship & Music Co-Chair
 - Pam Davis: 920-559-9806
Congregation Secretary
 - Greg Ehlke: 920-868-1092
Congregation Treasurer
 - Jeff Kuchenbecker: 608-770-0755
Congregation Vice President & Worship & Music Co-Chair
 - Peder Nelson: 920-854-0136
Property, Maintenance, & Cemetery Chair
 - Karen Peterson: 920-868-2928
Local Benevolence Chair
 - Renee Schwaller: 920-868-9608
Fellowship Ministry Chair
 - Steve Stringer: 815-670-5754
Property, Maintenance, & Cemetery
-

Thank You!

To all our wonderful volunteers, we thank you!
Without your talents and time church life would lose
its luster. We are grateful!

Bless you!



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



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Proclaimers of the Gospel,

"The resurrection. That is all my intern supervisor Pastor Joy Eisenhauer whispered to me before I moved to the pulpit to preach for the first time some four decades ago at American Lutheran Church in Grand Junction, Colorado. It was enough, it was everything. It is always everything.

Joy likely sensed my nervousness, after all, I was preaching to a bunch of folks I barely knew, and I would be with them for a year. There was no going back.

In our baptism into Christ we are all Called to be proclaimers of Good News. Some stand behind a pulpit or stand in front of the gathered community. The majority of us are called to do this in our daily lives where we live and breathe and move led by the Spirit.

Lots of things can get in the way of living and sharing and being Christ to the world. Lots of things can stop us from sharing Good News though our words and actions, nerves, shyness, it's not appropriate, you fill in the blank. And we are ready to fill in the blank over and over again.

Then. I hear the words, "The resurrection", and all of those blanks to be filled, they fade away.

No obstacle is too great for God to move. Sisters and Brothers in Christ, the proclamation of the resurrection is everything.

Live it, share it, do it, in Christ!

Pastor Frank



LOCAL BENEVOLENCE UPDATE



Continue RAMPING UP!!!!

When our Local Benevolence Team recently met, we learned that we have accumulated at least \$13,000 among our three supporting churches (Ephraim Moravian, Shepherd of the Bay, and us.) **HOORAY!** We now feel confident we can actually raise funds to help Door County Habitat for Humanity purchase **two** RAMPS.



As an FYI...

An inch of ramp has a cost of \$27.50.

A foot of ramp has a cost of \$330.

A yard of ramp has a cost of \$990.

Your donation will enable Door County residents with a physical and financial need to remain in their homes longer. If you haven't contributed to this project yet or want to do more, you can still do so by:

- a) Using our Sunday offering plate designating your donation for the RAMPS...(i.e. memo on your check, envelope marked for RAMPS)
- b) Adding to your electronic offering
- c) Attending upcoming parish events where donations may be collected

Thank you for your prayers and support of this endeavor. It is our hope to conclude our RAMP-UP project by August 31, 2023.

BUT WAIT! There is another way you can donate to RAMP UP!. . . WE WERE GIFTED A PRINT BY CHALES L. PETERSON, "POTLUCK AT JUDDVILLE." YOU CAN OWN IT AND HELP US PURCHASE A RAMP!

A 'sister' to the print being auctioned is shown in the narthex. The winner will receive a framed print which is on the way to us.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS

The starting bid is \$300. You may bid in \$25 increments until the bidding reaches \$400. After that, we'll see. Don't be too frugal as 100% of the winning bid will go to the purchase of a ramp. See other information about this project in this copy of the Epistle.

WHAT IS IT?

It is a print which is signed and numbered and in its original framing. The subject is St. Paul Lutheran Church in Juddville. Yes, this Church! The print on display in the narthex was gifted to us anonymously. It simply was dropped at our door one day. Thank you again to the giver. The framed print the winner will receive has a story as well.

WHAT'S THE STORY?

One day Pastor Frank inquired about it on Facebook Marketplace, He has one, but you know how he is. He and its owner Julie started messaging him and she checked out his profile and our Church website to make sure who he was. When she realized he was the Pastor of the Church, she shared this with her brothers and the three of them graciously offered it to us to sell for this project! It belonged to their parents who have died in recent years and could surely have used a ramp, she said.

WHO DO WE HAVE TO THANK?

Julie and her brothers and their families have donated the framed print, "Potluck at Juddville" by Charles L. Peterson in memory of their parents Hal And Lu Berndt of Rhinelander who were the original owners of the print.

IS THIS SUPER COOL AND THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT?

YES, IT IS! and Julie is even a member of an ELCA Church in Rhinelander. Thank you to Pastor Frank and Anne's friends Pastor John and Jan Meachen of suburban Parish, near Gleason, which together are part of the Rhinelander megalopolis for the print's upcoming delivery to Door County.

DON'T YOU LOVE IT WHEN A PLAN COMES TOGETHER? THANKS BE TO GOD!

Diaper Drive

The Local Benevolence Team will be continuing a “fall tradition” of gathering diaper donations for Family Services of Door County. They distribute them to families in need and those families GREATLY appreciate receiving the diapers. You have always been so supportive of this project, and we thank you.

The start date will be sometime after Labor Day, but if you happen to see a great sale during August, please purchase but hold the items until our “official” start. Monetary donations will also be gladly accepted.



CALENDAR / SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday Worship Services: 8:00am & 9:30am

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6 – 2ND ANNUAL WORSHIP/CRUISE ON THE NORRA DORR. DEPARTING SISTER BAY 2 P.M.



It's not too late to sign up for the NORRA DORR WORSHIP CRUISE OUT OF SISTER BAY on SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, DEPARTING 2 P.M. SHARP! The cruise is an hour and a half long. To sign up, Call the Church Office and leave a message with "who and how many" on the answering machine OR sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex. We have a lot of room, so invite others!

There is no fee for the cruise; however, we ask you to bring your Sunday offering, a special offering “above & beyond” for our RAMP UP project, and don't forget to bring a tip for the Crew!

THERE WILL BE WORSHIP SUNDAY MORNING AT 8 AND 9:30 A.M.; THE CRUISE WORSHIP WILL BE TOTALLY DIFFERENT THAN THE MORNING WORSHIP.

PEACE PRAISE BAND RETURNS - TUESDAY, AUGUST 8 6 P.M. OUTDOORS

The Peace Praise Band from Ripon will return on Tuesday, August 8th for another concert in the prayer garden. The concert, which begins at 6:00 p.m., will feature selections from contemporary Christian artists as well as familiar traditional hymns and camp songs for a fun sing along opportunity. Rain or shine, inside or out, come for some great music and fellowship!

Jan Meier

KIDNITS -TUESDAY, AUGUST 1 at 1:15 P.M. in the Conference Room

Calling all knitters and crocheters, join us for conversation as we minister to those who need through what God creates through us. All are welcome!

WORSHIP & MUSIC MINISTRY - AUGUST 8, 10AM

2nd ANNUAL GOLF OUTING, MAXWELTON BRAES - SUNDAY, AUGUST 13

First tee time is 1:00 P.M. and we plan to gather at 12:15 P.M. for a short devotional and lunch. Water will be provided for the golfers and you can play either 9 or 18 holes. Please sign-up on the clipboard in the narthex.

Greg Ehlke

CHURCH COUNCIL – AUGUST 16, 6:30pm in the Basement

Our leadership gathers to do the work you called them to do as they lead and give guidance to our ministry. You are always welcome to attend.

SING YOUR PRAISE TO THE LORD! JOIN THE CHOIR - Choir practice continues at 6:30PM on Thursdays in August. Choir singing dates TBD.

Shawn Mathys

FELLOWSHIP TIME ON SUNDAYS Please sign up on bulletin board in Narthex to host a Sunday.



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS – July 19, 2023

As always, Council began the meeting with prayer. The focus remains not on the minutiae, but on the mission, the heart that guides all decisions and actions. In that vein, Karen Peterson led a devotion to focus our thoughts.

- Council thanked everyone who worked to bring the AC and furnace demise to a quick resolution, including members who attended the special meeting on July 16. It was fortunate that the “aye” vote was unanimous on the 16th, as Synergy was at the door bright and early on the 17th and had the work complete by the 18th. Everything in life should work so smoothly.

- Pastor addressed the need to help residents find care for senior loved ones. He also reported that Door County Medical is now able to provide mental health services at their new location in Sister Bay. We all agreed such services are sorely needed for young and old alike.

- Council approved Local Benevolence allocations, \$5000 for the Food Pantry Coalition, which provides for 8 area pantries, and \$1000 for Help of Door County. We are grateful for the generous donors who make these gifts possible. The Ramp Up fund at St. Paul sits at \$12,200, with additional funds to be raised from the August golf outing and an artwork auction.

- Council tabled a proposal for obtaining the equipment and training needed to be able to live stream our worship services. Now that St. Paul has dependable Wi-Fi, this will be another step forward in due season.

- Council heard that the search for an Administrative Assistant continues and approved compensating those who are filling in on a temporary basis. We also discussed the possibility of expanding the Administrative Assistant position/hours at some point to include bookkeeping responsibilities.

- Greg Ehlke, treasurer, walked the Council through a preliminary budget draft for the October Annual meeting. The group discussed possible salary increases and any large-scale projects that might be presented for congregation approval. Several congregation members have brought forward the need for improved lighting in the sanctuary and this is one such proposal that may come before the congregation. Council’s goal is to have the proposed budget finalized by the September Council meeting. By that point, we also hope to have nominations in line for open positions on the Endowment Committee as well as any slots that might need to be filled for Council.

- Council concluded with prayers for all in need, in our midst and beyond, and with the Lord’s Prayer. As always, those gathered expressed gratitude for the gifts that each of you brings to the ministry at St. Paul. Complete approved minutes of the July meeting will be published in the September “Epistle.”

Respectfully submitted, Cathy Mestek, Council President



VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

MUSICIANS FOR AUGUST

August 6 Jacob Beranek Shawn/Jan for pm Boat Cruise service

August 13 Jacob Beranek

August 20 Praise Team - Outdoor Worship

August 27 Doreen Holt

USHERS FOR AUGUST

August 6 -	8am - Indoors -	Outdoors -
	9:30am - Indoors - Sue Beranek	Outdoors - Tom Beranek
August 13 -	8am - Indoors - Dave DeCock	Outdoors - Andrea Esau
	9:30am - Indoors - Sue Beranek	Outdoors - Tom Beranek
August 20 -	8am - Indoors - Jerry Lecy	Outdoors -
	9:30am - Indoors -	Outdoors -
August 27 -	8am - Indoors - Roy Back	Outdoors - Teri Back
	9:30am - Indoors -	Outdoors

ASSISTING MINISTERS FOR AUGUST

August 6 -	8am - Pam Davis	9:30am - Cathy Mestek
August 13 -	8am - Jane DeCock	9:30am - Dennis Kaldor
August 20 -	8am - John Hermann	9:30am - Pam Davis
August 27 -	8am - Jane DeCock	9:30am - Debbie Jones



CHURCH LIFE

The Lutheran Magazine

Available in the narthex or from the outdoor usher. Be informed concerning the ministry we share as part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Christ in Our Home Devotions

Available in the narthex and from the outdoor usher. Enter into the daily discipline of reading the world, reflection and prayer.

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, we are always grateful for any contributions you make of these gifts of care and concern. For additional information, contact Debbie Jones at 651-328-1261 or debbie.jones.pmp@gmail.com.

Women's Spiritual Growth Group FALL SESSION

During August, the Women's Spiritual Growth Group will be taking a break. We will begin our fall session on **Thursday, September 28 and continue through Thursday, November 2** meeting face-to-face in the lower level of St. Paul Lutheran church from **8:45-10:00 AM**. The study builds on what we have been discussing during the spring regarding the Holy Spirit and is called "You Are Never Alone" by Max Lucado (created in 2020). It is a 6 week study using the miracles in John's Gospel to highlight that Jesus is right here with us and cares about every aspect of our lives. We will "realize we are stronger than we think because God is nearer than we know."

Week 1: God is with you in the ordinary

Week 2: God is with you when you are stuck

Week 3: God is with you in the storm

Week 4: God is with you in the dark

Week 5: God is with you in the valley

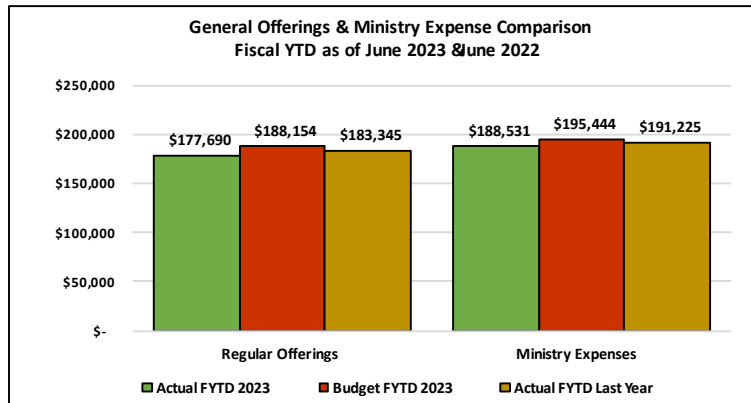
Week 6: God is with you when you need grace

In addition to the study guide, there is a book for those of you who would like to go deeper. Since we are meeting face-to-face, we will also view the accompanying DVD at the beginning of each session.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Debbie Jones at 651-328-1261 or debbie.jones.pmp@gmail.com. All are welcome!

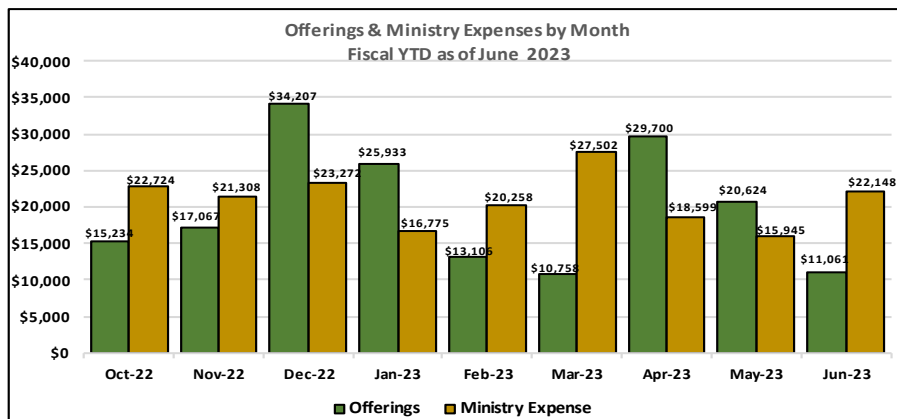


FINANCIAL UPDATE



- 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.
- General Offerings received in the first nine months of the fiscal year were \$5,655 lower than in the prior year (\$177,690 vs. \$183,345), principally reflecting lower Offerings received in May and June (down \$8.5K versus those two comparable prior year months)
- General Offerings were less than Ministry Expenses by \$10,841 (i.e., \$177,690 - \$188,531 = \$10,841)

1



- General Offerings in June totaled \$11,061, as shown above, which was the second lowest monthly Offerings total received in the first nine months of this fiscal year
- Ministry Expenses were higher in June than in May by \$6.2K principally due to higher Benevolence outlays to benefit others (up \$4.8K), Program Ministry Expenses (up \$0.8K) and Support Staff Expenses (up \$0.4K)

2



TREASURER'S CORNER

*Did you know there are **three easy ways to financially support Our Lord's Ministry through St. Paul Lutheran** in case you can't make it to Juddville for worship services each Sunday?*

Online Giving

Our secure online giving platform, established through Vanco, is a great way to make one-time or periodic donations to support our Ministry program. For example, several members have made one-time donations to support the recent Ramp Up program through our online giving platform. Over twenty-five households also give periodic donations via the online platform. Just go online to the link on the St. Paul website to get started, or contact our Church Treasurer for additional assistance.

Common Stock or Securities Donations

The equity markets have been strong during the first half of this year. Perhaps you have securities that have appreciated in value and wish to donate them to a charitable organization such as St. Paul Lutheran to permissibly avoid capital gains that would otherwise be incurred if you sold the securities and used the proceeds for the charitable donation. Early this year we opened a brokerage account through Thrivent Financial to enable our members to donate securities directly to St. Paul Lutheran. This brokerage account has already been used for this purpose. If you wish to learn more about making a donation of common stock or other securities to St. Paul to support the Lord's Ministry, please contact our Church Treasurer.

Qualified Charitable Distributions ("QCDs")

If you have an Individual Retirement Account ("IRA") and are at least 70.5 years of age, you may be able to make charitable contributions to a 501(c) charitable organization by making a QCD. A QCD is a nontaxable distribution made directly by a trustee of an IRA (other than a SEP or SIMPLE IRA) to an organization eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions. QCDs are subject to maximum annual exclusion limits. St. Paul Lutheran cannot provide any tax guidance with respect to QCDs but will confirm such donations made by individuals were received directly from the trustee of your IRA. Several of our members contribute to St. Paul Lutheran in this manner. Please contact our Church Treasurer if you wish to learn more about QCDs.



COUNCIL MINUTES – June 21, 2023

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

Council Members Present: Cathy Mestek, Pastor Frank, Pam Davis, Greg Ehлке, Peder Nelson, Karen Peterson and Steve Stringer.
Excused/Absent: Renee Schwaller, Jeff Kuchenbecker

Meeting Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Cathy Mestek at 6:30 P.M.

Devotions: Greg Ehлке provided an opening devotion focused on having a thankful heart, including Bible verses that referred to thankfulness, followed by the opening prayer.

Agenda Approval: The previously circulated agenda was reviewed, and 2 items were added after which the agenda was accepted.

Minutes: The previously circulated minutes from the May 17, 2023 meeting, following a motion made by Karen Peterson and seconded by Pam Davis, were approved.

Record of Electronic Business Approval: Cathy reported that since the last meeting, the Council, based upon the recommendation of the Local Benevolence Ministry team, unanimously approved by electronic means, the distribution of \$1500 to the ADRC Bailey's Harbor Meals on Wheel program and \$200 to the First Baptist Ecumenical Vacation Bible School.

Community of Faith: Pastor Frank mentioned that he would be visiting a member of our congregation in the hospital the next day. He also spoke of a lunch he had with a visitor to our church who said he would worship at our church because of the wonderful hospitality and ministry. St. Paul's was very welcoming to him, which he did not experience at other churches he visited. Karen had a note from Jeff

thanking everyone for the prayers for his son Mike who is recovering from surgery and doing well. Jeff also wanted Karen to share that the final dinner show and discussion for season one of The Chosen is on June 26th. Everyone that participated enjoyed the food, the episodes and the discussions. The biggest reward has been the fellowship. The group talked about doing it again for season two. Likely to begin on September 11th. Their goal is to get more involvement through local advertising.

Financial Report: Greg referred to the financial summary and supporting reports that he had distributed by email prior to the meeting. The financial summary for May 2023 highlighted that Total Offerings for the month approximated \$20.9K which was about \$7.5K lower than the prior year month. Ministry Expenses approximated \$15.9K, which was about \$0.9K lower than the prior year month reflecting, in part, the absence of expenses for an Administrative Assistant. Year-to-date Regular Offerings were about \$166.6K which was about \$4.6K lower than the May 2022 year-to-date total. Ministry Expenses were \$166.4K in the first eight months of the fiscal year, which was \$4.7K lower than the prior year period. The fiscal year-to-date Ordinary Net Loss was \$1.2K or \$0.6K higher than the prior year. Undesignated cash funds available would cover about 6.5 months of Ministry Expenses without any reliance on additional Offerings being received. This includes the liquidity that could be quickly provided from approximately \$51.2K of liquid assets (cash, U.S. Treasury Notes and bills) invested with Thrivent Financial to enhance the church's interest income. The Financial report was approved by the council pursuant to a motion made by Karen and seconded by Pastor Frank. Greg then advised the Council about the expected timeline for preparation of the 2023-24 Spending Plan. The process will begin next month with a review of fiscal year-to-date results and a discussion of important budget plan assumptions in this inflationary environment. The goal this year is to finalize the Spending Plan by the September 2023 Council meeting.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Frank provided a report on various matters. These included: the need for dates for the church calendar. On July 29th there is a memorial service for Emmet Shemanek. The other dates mentioned are listed under the Summer Fellowship Events. Pastor mentioned the need of volunteers for hospitality following the 8:00 service. Pastor is to meet with Tony from Quantum, on Monday, July 2.

Worship and Music Report: Jeff sent a note saying "Worship continues, music increasing."

Property Report: Steve and Peder reported on numerous property-related developments. These included: A bill from Dave for tree service, which has not yet been received. On the 26th of June the carpets and pews of the sanctuary will be steam cleaned. Steve mentioned the sanctuary lighting proposal from Manning Lighting which needs approval of the congregation before we proceed. Steve has diagrams and photos of various fixtures for us to determine which would best suit our needs.

Local Benevolence Ministry: Karen reported on the roll-out of the Ramp Up fund raising project which is being jointly conducted with the Ephraim Moravian Church and the Shepherd of the Bay congregation. The goal at St. Paul Lutheran is to raise at least \$10,000 thereby funding at least one ramp to help those with mobility issues enter their residence. Karen also mentioned that the committee suggested that we allocate \$500.00 to the Bridges project, to help fund the activities for the international young people that have come to Door County to work for the summer. The committee would also like to allocate \$500. to the Altrusa organization, which outfits students with backpacks, school supplies, a voucher for shoes, and other items. The motion to do so was made by Karen and seconded by Pam. The allocation was approved.

Old Business:

Cemetery Survey: Steve reported that the cemetery survey would be completed on July 11, 2023.

Administrative Assistant Position: Cathy reported that there has just been one applicant recently; her skills were in nursing and she was not a good fit for the position. We will continue to seek the right person for the job.

Starlink Status/Next Steps: Pastor reported that the congregation's Starlink service, was installed by Quantum on May 31st. The internet service is quite good. Pastor was meeting with Tony from Quantum on Monday and he will be giving us an estimate the cost of connecting us to Social Media.

Summer Fellowship Events. A discussion was held concerning potential summer fellowship events. It was decided to forgo the idea of a church picnic/barbeque. The Peace Praise Band will be at St. Paul on Tuesday, June 27th and again on Tuesday, August 8th. An ice cream social might be held sometime in July. Date TBD. The Worship on a Boat service will be held on the afternoon of Sunday, August 6th. The annual golf outing will be held on August 13, 2023.

New Business:

A discussion regarding whether we should compensate Lorna and Bev for all of the work they do to fill in for the lack of an Administrative Position. They would have to be on the payroll with the necessary deductions. It was decided that Cathy would speak to them both and let them decide. If they decline then we would give them both a substantial gift certificate.

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, July 19, 2023: 6:30 P.M. in person at the church. Karen Peterson will provide the opening devotion.

Respectfully submitted, Pam Davis, Secretary