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JANUARY 2022

EPISTLE

ST PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Church Council:

- Frank Kauzlarich: (920) 217-0204
Pastor
- Betty Eisenhauer: (920) 493-0631
President, Chair of Communications
- Cathy Mestek: (262) 470-9754
Chair of Worship & Music
- Greg Ehlke: (920) 868-1092
Treasurer
- Bob Kufrin: (920) 737-2523
Secretary, Chair of Technology
- Karen Peterson: (920) 868-2928
Vice President, Chair of Local Benevolence
- Jeff Kuchenbecker: (608) 770-0755
Chair of Evangelism
- Peder Nelson: (920) 854-0136
Chair of Property, Maintenance, & Cemetery

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I'm writing on this my Friday off before the fourth Sunday in Advent, an early morning following two days of mighty winds. I have always enjoyed the quiet of early mornings, a time for me to pray, dwell in the Word and reflect. I have nearly finished the second of four sermons I will preach in the coming eight days.

This morning my mind turns again to thankfulness. I am thankful for Jesus coming into the world and into our lives as Christ-Child, to be with us, our Emmanuel. Wrapped up in this child are forgiveness and life eternal. That is the true gift of this season and all seasons.

I am thankful for my wife Anne who has given much so that I may do what I do, a wonderful wife and companion. I am thankful for my son Mark, who though far away is ever close. I am thankful for my mother-in-law Trieva, a source of joy and wisdom to me.

I am thankful for this community of faith, for those who have served and continue to serve in new ways.

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I am thankful for the leadership of this community of faith who lead in challenging times, partners indeed.

I am thankful to those who practice the arts of healing, called on to do too much these days. I am thankful for those who protect and serve us, members of our military, police officers and firefighters, who place themselves in harm's way on our behalf.

I am thankful for those who toil so that we may have the lives we live. I am thankful for elected officials who see themselves as servants who speak truth, do justice and work for the common good.

I am thankful for the creation of which we are a part and for all who seek to protect it.

In my prayers this morning, for these and others I am giving thanks. My petitions end always with the Lord's Prayer as I respond to one who gives us all good gifts.

As we move through the season of Christmas and into a New Year, might we wish to focus our hearts, minds and petitions on the Almighty in thankfulness?

A blessed Christmas and New Year to you all,

Pastor Frank Kauzlarich



SUNDAY WORSHIP IN JANUARY, 9 A.M.

Simultaneous In-Sanctuary Worship with masks and Parking Lot Worship on 92.1 FM.

Moving through the winter months we will gather for worship at this time.

WORSHIP LEADERS NEEDED

We are in need of Assisting Ministers, Ushers, Song Leaders! If you feel called to serve, please contact the Church office, 920-868-2826

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

January 2022—March 2022

We are in need of volunteer sidewalk shovelers for the following weeks in the 2022 snow season:

- December 26 - January 1
- January 23 - January 29
- February 6 - February 12
- February 20 - February 26
- February 27 - March 5
- March 6 - March 12
- March 13 - March 19
- March 20 - March 26.

If you are interested in signing up please contact Clarence Scherer at CMSCHERER42@GMAIL.COM.

1. Please note that you are signing up for the entire (Sunday thru Saturday) week.
2. If it snows during the week you will need to shovel the walk from where Pastor Frank and Mary park to the church entrance.
3. Your assistance with this task is greatly appreciated.

WIND WALL REPAIR

A big thank you to the men who helped repair the North side wind wall on December 17th. Tom Prohl, Peder Nelson, Keith Nordahl, Tom Esau, Steve Stringer, and Clarence Scherer, thank you for your willingness to serve.





DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS

During this Advent and Christmas season we have been blessed with beautiful decorations and wonderful acts of service that have made the inside and outside of St Paul Lutheran Church welcoming and festive. To every volunteer, we thank you and look forward to sharing the blessings and fellowship sure to come in the New Year.

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 need for replenishment - especially this time of year when there are so many who would benefit from receiving 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.

CHRISTMAS THANKS

Thank you to those who have sent us cards and other expressions of Christmas greeting,

Pastor Frank and Anne



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULES

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. The in-person session will meet on Friday's at Julie's Restaurant in Fish Creek at 8:30 A.M. The Zoom Session will meet on Friday's at 8:30 A.M.

If you are interested in joining either session or have questions, call us.

Gary Jones

Zoom Session—651-271-9094

John Hermann

In-Person Session – 920-743-1675

NEW BIBLE STUDY ON ZOOM

Pastor Frank will lead a weekly overview of themes in the Gospel of Luke beginning on Monday, January 10, We will meet on ZOOM each Monday at 6:30 p.m. To sign up for these times of study and mutual sharing of the Word, please contact the Church office (920) 868-2826. More information will be coming to you via email in the coming days.



WOMAN'S SPIRITUAL GROWTH GROUP

The Women's Spiritual Growth Group will begin its winter session on Thursday, January 6. We will be discussing Traveling Light, Releasing the Burdens You Were Never Intended to Bear, by Max Lucado which is based on the promise of Psalm 23. This book explores 18 different burdens that have the potential of weighing us down and introduces us to new perspectives on "letting go and letting God."

Our winter session will meet on Thursdays from 8:45AM - 10:30AM via Zoom from January 6 and ending March 3. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Debbie Jones at 651-328-1261 or debbie.jones.pmp@gmail.com. All are welcome!



DO YOU HAVE A 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. If you have, contact Pastor Frank at 217-0204.

OFFERINGS

Now, more than ever, the ministry of Saint Paul Lutheran Church needs your support. Financial offerings to the ministry can be sent through the mail or 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 Church 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 logging onto our website, where the same button is found at the bottom left of our web page. Thank you for responding to the Lord through our shared ministry. Our website:

www.stpaullutheranjuddville.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 times (920) 217-0204.

CHURCH COUNCIL

We regularly meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM but we will be meeting at 1PM in January via ZOOM. If you wish to be a part of these monthly Zoom calls, please contact the Church Office in advance 868-2826.

COMMUNICATION CONTINUES TO BE A TOP PRIORITY

If you believe we have incorrect contact information for you, please contact the Church Office 868-2826.

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 really have to work at "keeping my light shining" in January. It is a cold month and a dark month (we don't even have Christmas lights to brighten the night). But wait, it is also a time of new beginnings with the start of a new calendar year. May our hearts be open to all the Lord has planned for us. Are there activities in your life that need to be replaced with something new or to make space for whatever the Lord may be calling you to do?

The source of our greatest joy is the ever Presence of the Lord. No matter what the circumstances, He is with us and provides for what we need one day at a time. He also leads us in unexpected ways to connect with others and be that light of Christ. Wait expectantly for the Lord. He has great plans for you!

—Debbie Jones

"For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'" -Jeremiah 29:11

HIGHLIGHTS OF DECEMBER COUNCIL Meeting

Though the meeting was packed with agenda items, many were driven by day-to-day operations. Of significance, was the review of the successes and opportunities regarding Council's 2021 goals and objectives. A lot of needed "brick and mortar" projects were completed, as well as the majority of positive "getting things done" goals established by other ministries. The specific details have been published in earlier Epistle publications so I won't reiterate them at this point.

As the 2021 review took up most of the time at the meeting, we did not attempt to begin a discussion of the preliminary goals that have been prepared for 2022. Instead, consensus was reached that we have a separate planning meeting in January where the focus is on the St. Paul mission as the basis for goal development. As leaders, are we rightly supporting and driving St. Paul to be a *welcoming family bringing Christ into people's lives by developing, nurturing and supporting disciples* and, are our goals guided by the mission statement?

As we prayerfully prepare for this important discussion, I personally invite you to share your thoughts with me or other council members that may inspire all of us (the congregation as well as the council) to live out who we say we are.

Blessings to All,

Betty Eisenhauer, Congregation President

Note that approved full minutes of the December Council meeting will be published in the February Epistle.



FOOD PANTRY

The Thanksgiving food drive was a great success. The food was donated to Feed My People in Sturgeon Bay. They do meals for Thanksgiving and Christmas for people in need. The donation was greatly appreciated.

Thank you,
MaryAnne & Clarence
Scherer

COVID-19 TASKFORCE: “HOLDING STEADY”

The St. Paul COVID Taskforce (Pastor Frank, Dave DeCock & Betty Eisenhauer) has been quiet for some time. Given that information, we thought it time to let you know we continue to read and listen to the advice from the CDC, ELCA and Wisconsin Council of Churches (WCC), as well as the Door County Health Department. The news from these sources reflects that Door County’s escalating positive cases this month almost match the number from last year at this time and are averaging 22 cases per day currently.

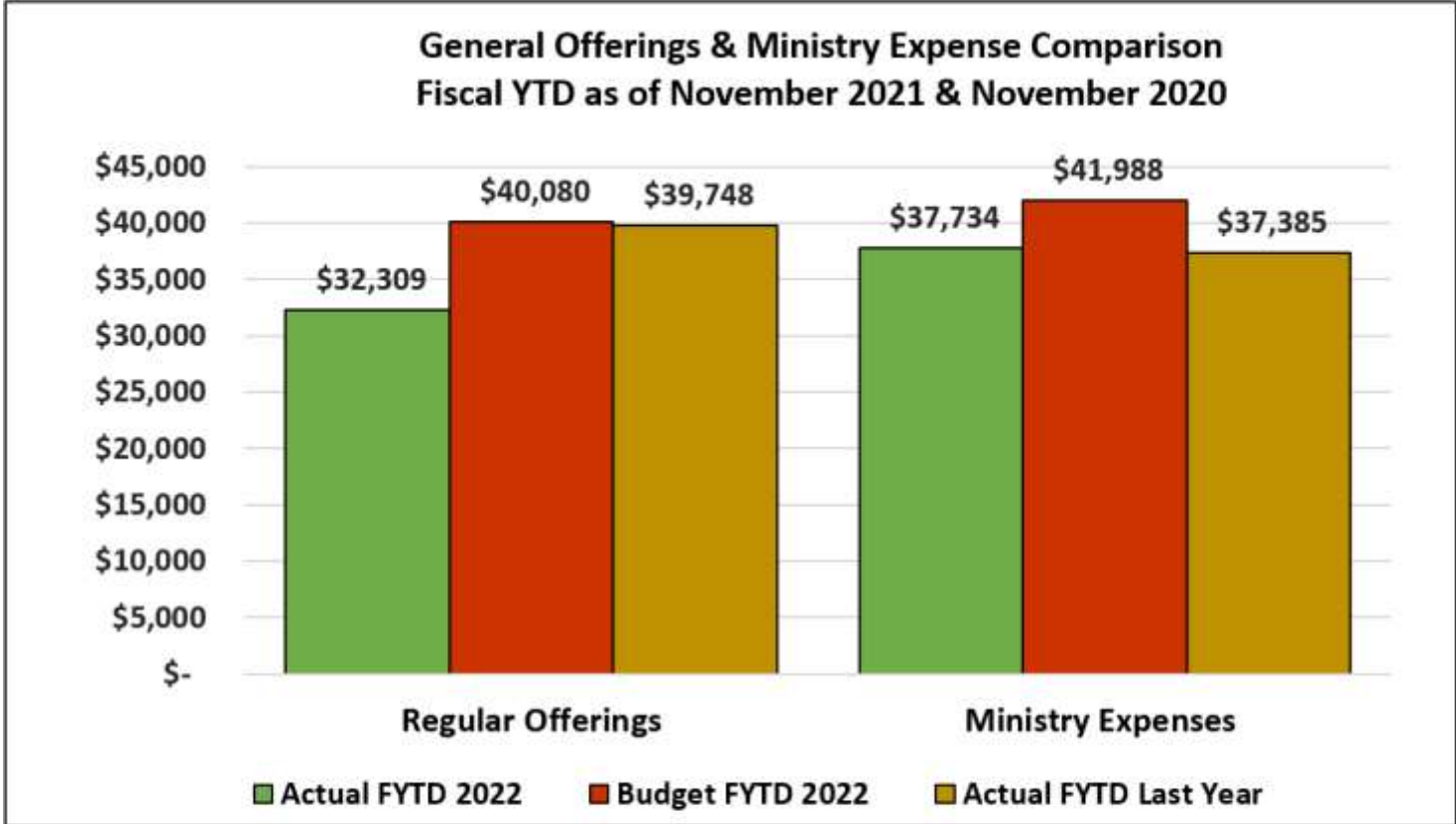
A December publication from the CDC titled “Safer Ways to Celebrate the Holidays” reinforces all we already know about getting fully vaccinated, wearing masks, avoiding crowds, distancing. In addition to the medical and safety guidance, the message from the WCC’s “With One Body and One Spirit Returning to Church 3.0” is theological, ethical, and value-driven. The 18-page report begins with 1 Corinthians 12:26-27, *“If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. Now you are a body of Christ and individually members in it.”* The report goes on to speak to telling the truth in public about the nature and severity of COVID-19, supporting public health needs and valuing the lives of others over our own.

While the factual data abounds from many sources supporting our guidance to “hold steady,” a deeper responsibility to the congregation and beyond must also be driven by our compassion for and truth to each other. Sometimes that is difficult, but your taskforce believes it could be life-saving.

January 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
30 9am Worship Sanctuary & Parking Lot	31					1
2 9am Worship Sanctuary & Parking Lot	3	4	5	6 8:45-10:30 Women's Spiritual Growth Group	7 8:30am Men's in-person & Zoom Bible Studies 10:00am Un-decorating Church	8
9 9am Worship Sanctuary & Parking Lot	10 10:30am Communications Meeting via Zoom 6:30pm Bible Study via Zoom	11 10am Worship & Music Meeting	12	13 8:45-10:30 Women's Spiritual Growth Group	14 8:30am Men's in-person & Zoom Bible Studies	15
16 9am Worship Sanctuary & Parking Lot	17 6:30pm Bible Study via Zoom	18	19 1:00pm Church Council	20 8:45-10:30 Women's Spiritual Growth Group	21 8:30am Men's in-person & Zoom Bible Studies	22
23 9am Worship Sanctuary & Parking Lot	24 6:30pm Bible Study via Zoom	25	26	27 8:45-10:30 Women's Spiritual Growth Group	28 8:30am Men's in-person & Zoom Bible Studies	29

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 two months of the current fiscal year were lower than budgeted by \$7,771 (\$32,309 - \$40,080) and were (\$7,439) or (19%) less than received in October and November 2020
- Ministry Expenses were higher than in the prior year period by \$349, principally reflecting a full year payment of Insurance premiums that was largely offset by lower Building & Maintenance Expenses and Staff Ministry Expenses

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Offerings & Ministry Expenses by Month
Fiscal YTD November, 2021



- FYTD = Fiscal Year-to-Date. St. Paul Lutheran's fiscal year begins on 01-Oct.
- Offerings in the first two months of the 2021-22 fiscal year varied substantially (i.e., \$20,350 in October and 11,959 in November, respectively)
- Ministry Expenses were less variable as \$19,807 of Ministry Expenses were incurred in October and \$17,927 in November
- The variability of monthly Offerings highlights the need for strong ongoing liquidity management

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 17, 2021

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, Karen Peterson, Greg Ehlke, Bob Kuftrin, Jeff Kuchenbecker and Pastor Frank (*all attending remotely via Zoom given COVID-19 pandemic social distancing*)

Absent/Excused: None Peder Nelson

Others Attendees: None

Meeting Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Betty Eisenhauer at 6:35 P.M.

Devotions

Karen provided an opening devotion and a prayer.

Agenda Approval

The previously circulated agenda was reviewed and accepted by acclamation.

Minutes

The previously circulated minutes from the October 20, 2021 meeting, following a motion made by Karen and seconded by Greg, were approved.

Record of Electronic Business Approval

Betty reported that there was no electronic business conducted by the Council since the October meeting.

REPORTS AND MINISTRY ACTION ITEMS

Community of Faith

Karen reported that members were collecting donated fabric and other sewing items to send to Fort McCoy for the Afghan refugees.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Frank provided a report on various matters. Several members who had been in the hospital had been released and returned home. Nursing home and hospital visits remain challenging due to Covid.

Financial Report

October donations were down \$6,400 from the same period last year; however, the amount is consistent with the amount expected in the budget. Expenses were also consistent with several one-time expenses such as workers' compensation and insurance.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Greg discussed the interest income earned by the Endowment funds and that the Church qualified for \$9,558 as part as the Employee Retention Tax Credit program.

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

Council Committees and Assignments:

The Council approved the following Council position assignments for the next year, i.e., November, 2021 – October, 2022.

Council President: Betty Eisenhower

Karen Peterson: Vice-President

Greg Ehlke: Treasurer

Bob Kufirin: Secretary

Peder Nelson will chair Property and Cemetery

Bob Kufirin will chair Technology

Betty Eisenhauer will chair Communications

Karen Peterson will chair Local Benevolences

Jeff Kuckenbecker will chair Evangelism

Cathy Mestek will chair Worship and Music

Motion by Pastor Frank seconded by Bob to approve the list of assignments. All aye.

MINISTRY ACTION ITEMS

Communications Technology: Bob reported on the action taken at the last Committee meeting where they decided to split up the responsibilities as outlined in the Church Constitution, which is a separate Communications Committee concentrating on all forms of communications with the members and a Technology Committee concentrating on the computers, network, internet access and related hardware and software. Betty assigned herself as the Chair of the Communications Committee. Betty assigned Bob as the Chair of the Technology Committee.

Property, Maintenance & Cemetery: No report.

Worship & Music

The Committee recommended the following schedule for worship during the holidays.

Beginning in December, ONE worship time 9 a.m., simultaneous worship

December 24 Christmas Eve 5:30 p.m. simultaneous worship and

December 24 Christmas Eve 7:30 p.m. worship, Parking Lot Only

December 25 Christmas Day 9 a.m., simultaneous worship

First Sunday after Christmas December 26 9 a.m. simultaneous worship

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

OTHER BUSINESS

Betty recommended the approval of a \$500 scholarship per student applicant as follows for their college expenses in 2022: Ava Beaudot, Anika Peterson, Marcus Reinhardt, Trevor Reinhardt. Motion by Pastor Frank seconded by Bob, all aye.

Pastor Frank mentioned that two people have spoken to him regarding serving on a global benevolence committee. There was no feedback on the Cemetery Policy announced at the Annual Meeting. The Council agreed that changes were needed for church security especially access to the Church office. Peder would be asked to re-key all outside doors and secure the both church offices. Office keys would be provided to the individual in the following positions: Administrative Assistant, Pastor, Council President, Council Treasurer, Finance Secretary, Property & Maintenance Chair, Technology Chair and the custodian.

Each of the Committee chairs were asked to develop a list of possible goals for 2022 to be discussed at the December meeting. The possible goals need to be sent to Betty by December 12th.

The Council also discussed the Giving Tree, how it originated, who has run the program the past several years and if there was a better way to help others in need. The Council felt that a season of service during Christmas through anonymous action would be as effective. The Council expressed appreciation for the work done in the past on the Giving Tree and decided not to support it this year.

Pastor Frank reported that he would not be present after the first of the year for a period of time due to health issues. The date and duration will be determined. The Council expressed concern for him and told him his health comes first.

Adjournment:

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M. with the praying of The Lord's Prayer.

Next Council Meeting:

Wednesday, December 15, 6:30 P.M. via Zoom. Peder Nelson will provide devotions.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Kufirin, Secretary

UPDATE

At the time of the Church Council meeting, Pastor Frank was anticipating surgery to replace his left knee. That has now been postponed as he is doing better, for now.