

St Paul Lutheran Church

4167 Juddville Rd  
Fish Creek, WI 54212

920-868-2826

stpauljuddville.com

# Epistle

June 2023

## What's in this month's issue:

---

Pastor's Page & Local Benevolence  
June Calendar  
Church Council Meeting Highlights  
Volunteer Schedules  
Church Life  
Financial Update  
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 Page & Local Benevolence

## Dear Friends in Christ,

As you read this edition of the Epistle, it will be evident to you that we are in summer ministry mode. Mission partnership opportunities abound. Choir is resuming. A guest Praise Team is returning. Our Praise Team will be leading worship monthly. We will be offering some outdoor worship opportunities. A worship/ boat cruise, golf outing and picnic/cookout are in the works.

Sounds busy, doesn't it?

As WE prepare for Holy Trinity Sunday, let us not forget why we gather and in whose name we live and breathe and do all things: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We can be so busy with things which distract us from the why and also the who. This can overwhelm us. I'm feeling a bit overwhelmed this early morning. At those times I need to breathe and remember who and the why

There are first things, and then there are all of the rest. We have been given life and new life by a loving God. In response we give God thanks and praise to God. The Spirit stirs in us, the children of God now, sent to proclaim through word and deed the mighty acts of God for all.

In the midst of the chaotic lives which we ourselves create, I am reminded that I, and we, are called to discern the Spirit stirring and leading us in the way of first things. Christ is risen. He is risen indeed! Come Holy Spirit, come.

Peace,

*Pastor Frank*

## Local Benevolence Update

### *Bridges of Door County*

On Sunday May 28<sup>th</sup>, Pentecost, Warren Pfohl gave a co-sermon with Pastor Frank and shared the ministry of Bridges. It was wonderful to learn more about the opportunities to interact with the 500+ young people that work in Door County through the J1 Visa program. We hope the Spirit moves you to learn more and get involved. Check out the website [www.dcbbridges.org](http://www.dcbbridges.org).

Below is more from Warren on volunteer opportunities.

#### Volunteer Opportunities

- a. We always need help getting students to our events.
- b. Our greatest need is for American Family Connections. A family will sign up for 1, 2, or more students that they intentionally try to connect with over the summer. We invite them to share a meal in our home, we take them shopping at Target or Walmart, we take them hiking. Our hope is that they will feel loved and cared for and be interested in learning more about our family, culture, and faith. 1 Peter 3:15 says, "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect." We really have a need for American Connection Families in Egg Harbor.

## Highlights of the May Council Meeting

Council unanimously approved by electronic means the cost of the proposed grading of the grassy area leading to the Prayer Garden. This will make outdoor worship more accessible. The estimated cost is \$1787.

Greg took the opportunity to provide the Council with an in-depth briefing of our endowment fund investments with the ELCA Foundation, current liquidity position, recent offerings trends and the likely cash flow forecast through the current fiscal year-end on September 30 th. The briefing helped ensure all Council members have a solid understanding of the financial considerations that impact our ministry program.

Pastor reported that Sunday attendance has been increasing week by week. Attendance trends will be monitored when the two Sunday services resume at the end of May to help assess whether two services or one will better meet our worship needs in the future.

The Peace Praise Band will hold two Tuesday evening concerts on June 27 th and August 8 th . The Praise Team will lead worship at the June 11 th services. Jacob Beranek will return to serve as the musician for seven Sundays this summer. Choir practice will resume in June. Council looks forward to the return of the choir for worship.

The Property Ministry has obtained a proposal from Manning Lighting to enhance the lighting in the sanctuary, since many have noticed that the sanctuary can appear gloomy and the lighting inadequate for some of us to see clearly to read and sing during worship. Congregation members will be kept informed as the project unfolds as to the scope of the effort and possible avenues for funding.

The long-awaited Starlink installation is scheduled for May 31. Having dependable internet will present new possibilities for our ministry. Council is grateful for the work of those who have brought this project to fruition.

The Administrative Assistant position remains open. Council was reminded to keep an open eye for interested candidates. We are grateful for those who are filling in during the interim.

Council discussed fellowship opportunities for summer, including another worship on the waters of Green Bay in August. Other ideas include a barbecue, golf outing and more.

The Council meeting began and ended with prayer for those in need as well as prayers of gratitude for all those who share their gifts. Our meetings are grounded in prayer to remind us that our common faith and our calling as children of God need to guide our plans and decisions. Full Council-approved minutes of the May Council meeting will be published in the July Epistle.

*Cathy Mestek, Congregation President*

# Volunteer Schedules

## Musicians for June

June 4 - Doreen Holt

June 11 - Praise Team (Jan, Shawn, Jeff)

June 18 - Jacob Beranek

June 25 - Jacob Beranek

June 25 - 8am - In - Dave DeCock

Out – Andrea Essau

9:30am – In - Jill Dew

Out – John Dew

## Ushers for June:

June 4 - 8am - In - Jerry Lecy

Out - Andrea Esau

9:30am - In - Jana Raines

Out - Sher Rockway

June 11 - 8am - In - Roy and Terri Back

Out -

9:30am - In - Jill Dew

Out - John Dew

June 18 - 8am - In - Jerry Lecy

Out - Dave DeCock

9:30 In - Sue Beranek

Out – Tom Beranek

## Assisting Ministers for June:

June 4 - 8am - Pam Davis

9:30am - Todd Rockway

June 11 - 8am - Jan Meier

9:30am - Pat Kaldor

June 18 - 8am - Jane Decock

9:30am - Cathy Mestek

June 25 - 8am - Pam Davis

9:30am - Debbie Jones

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

# Church Life

## Experience *"The Chosen"* Series – Study Group

A new group educational study utilizing the groundbreaking TV series "The Chosen" began May 1<sup>st</sup>. Everyone is welcome, especially friends and neighbors on **Monday evenings through June at 5:30pm – 7:00pm**. Each session offers a simple supper, watch an episode, discussion, and fun. For info, contact Jeff Kuchenbecker at [jlkuchenbecker27@gmail.com](mailto:jlkuchenbecker27@gmail.com)

*"Take it from a critic and a Christian with an aversion to Christian entertainment: The show is good."*  
– Chris DeVille, The Atlantic

## 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](mailto:debbie.jones.pmp@gmail.com).

## Women's Spiritual Growth Group Spring Session

The Women's Spiritual Growth Group will be ending on June 15. We are meeting face-to-face at St. Paul on Thursday mornings from 8:45-10:00 AM in the fellowship hall. Our study is "Help Is Here" by Max Lucado and is a 5 week study (including weekly video) on the Holy Spirit. The study guide is available through [Christianbook.com](http://Christianbook.com).

If you are interested in learning more about our discussions, please contact Debbie Jones.  
All are welcome.



# Calendar / Special events

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

**Worship & Music Ministry meeting** - Tuesday, June 13, 10am at church

**Executive Committee** - Wednesday, June 14, 6:30pm at church

**Council** - Wednesday, June 21, 6:30pm at church

**Peace Praise Band** - Tuesday, June 27, 6pm at church

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**Listen to the Music** - On **Tuesday, June 27**, the Ripon Praise Band which includes Jan Meier, of St. Paul, and her friends Al & Christina plus maybe a couple other musicians will present an evening of Christian music outdoors

**Sing your Praise to the Lord! Join the Choir!** - **June 8** will be the first choir practice at 6:30 pm. Other practice dates and times TBD at our first meeting. *Shawn Mathys*

**June 1 – July 31<sup>st</sup> we're Ramping Up!** 

Let's help Door County's Habitat for Humanity purchase a ramp. These in demand items cost \$10,000 but will be reused by our community for many years.

*Supported by: Ephraim Moravian Church; Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church; St. Paul Lutheran Church*

Habitat's Ramp Up Door County installs and leases emergency or temporary aluminum ramps to keep residents with a physical and financial need in their homes longer.

Ramp Up Door County has aluminum ramps available for fast installation by Habitat, especially for those residents surprised by an operation or the onset of a mobility issue. The ramp is leased from Door County Habitat for \$80 per month. When no longer needed, the ramps would cycle back to Habitat for another person.

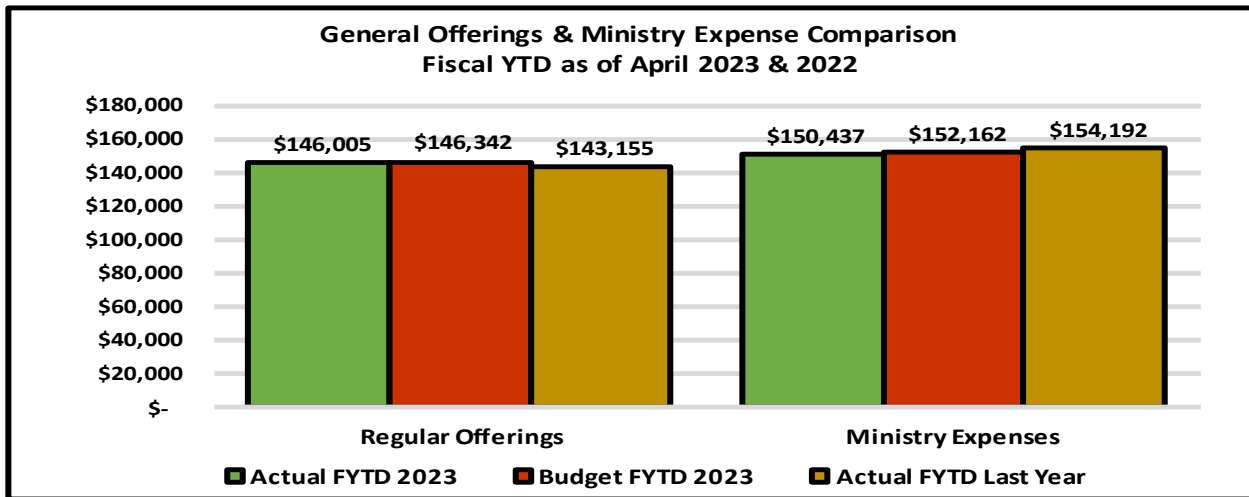
Ramp Up Door County lease lowers the overall cost to the homeowner and enables more Door County residents in need to be able to safely access and stay in their homes. People who could not afford a contractor-constructed ramp now have a lower-cost solution to stay safely in their homes throughout an illness or rehabilitation period.

*Karen Peterson*

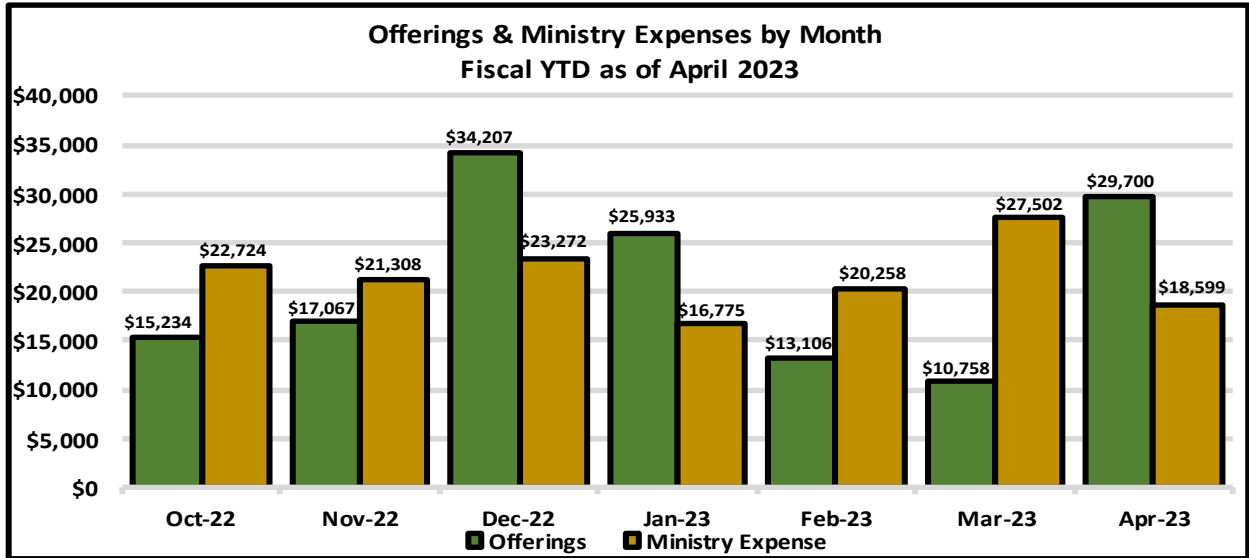
**Sunday, August 5th 2 P.M. Second annual worship boat cruise.** We hope to leave the dock this year.

*More details to come.*

# 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 seven months of the fiscal year were \$2,850 higher than in the prior year (\$146,005 vs. \$143,155), in part reflecting strong Offerings received in April (up \$13,700 versus the comparable prior year month)
- General Offerings were less than Ministry Expenses by \$4,432 (i.e., \$146,005 - \$150,437 = \$4,432)



- General Offerings in April totaled \$29,700 as shown above, which was the second highest monthly Offerings total received in the first seven months of this fiscal year
- Ministry Expenses were lower in April than in March by \$8.9K principally due to lower Benevolence outlays to benefit others (down \$6.4K), Communications Expenses (down \$1.8K) and Building/Maintenance Expenses (down \$0.4K)

# Council Meeting Minutes

**St. Paul Lutheran Church**  
**Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday, April 19, 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, Jeff Kuchenbecker, Greg Ehlke, Peder Nelson, Karen Peterson, Steve Stringer and Renee Schwaller, *(all attending remotely via Zoom)*

**Excused/Absent:** Pam Davis

**Meeting Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Cathy Mestek at 1:30 P.M.

**Devotions**

Pastor Frank provided an opening devotion focused on a story about grace and an opening prayer.

**Agenda Approval**



The previously circulated agenda was reviewed and accepted.

### **Minutes**

The previously circulated minutes from the March 15, 2023 meeting, following a motion made by Greg Ehlke and seconded by Karen Peterson, were approved.

### **Record of Electronic Business Approval**

Cathy reported no actions were approved by electronic means since the last Council meeting.

### **Community of Faith**

- Cathy reported that the Holy Week and Easter services were especially moving.
- The live performance of Jacob Beranek's classical music premiere in New York City on March 27<sup>th</sup> was viewed by approximately twenty members at the Kress Center. The Council thanked Cathy Mestek for coordinating that viewing and for providing cookies for the attendees.
- Pastor shared good news about the health of certain members and local residents we have been praying for including one who has received a double lung transplant and another who is improving after a heart procedure. Another member is now rehabilitating at Woodside in Green Bay who we continue to hold in our prayers.
- Jeff Kuchenbecker advised that the showing and discussion of the series "The Chosen" will begin at the church on Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup> with dinner starting at 5:30 P.M.

### **Financial Report**

- The financial summary for March 2023, previously distributed by email for review and presented by Greg Ehlke, highlighted that Total Offerings for the month approximated \$11.5K which was about \$5.4K lower than the prior year month. Ministry Expenses approximated \$27.5K, which was about \$4.8K lower than the prior year month.
- Year-to-date Regular Offerings were about \$116.3K which was about \$9.0K lower than in March 2022. Ministry Expenses were \$131.8K in the first six months of the fiscal year, which was \$3.5K lower than the prior year period. The fiscal year-to-date Ordinary Net Loss was \$14.9K or \$5.3K worse than the prior year.
- Undesignated cash funds available would cover about six months of Ministry Expenses without any reliance on additional Offerings being received. This includes the liquidity that could be quickly provided from approximately \$51.0K 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 Jeff Kuchenbecker and seconded by Cathy Mestek.
- A copy of the March 2023 Financial Summary, along with the financial statements and schedules provided to the Council, was ordered to be filed with the records of the meeting.

Greg then reported on other financial-related matters including:

#### **Thrivent Brokerage Account Update**

Just before March month-end, \$30.0K par value amount of six-month U.S. Treasury bills were purchased having a yield of 4.562% pursuant to Council authorization previously received.

#### **Quarterly Giving Statements & Cover Letter**

Greg recommended that the Pastor's cover letter and accompanying the 1Q'23 giving statements to be sent out around April month-end be provided to all members and guests who have contributed in the past two years given the wind-down of the pandemic and the anticipated return of many to Door County later this year. The Council concurred with this recommendation.

#### **Signatures on ELCA Endowment Fund Account**

Greg stated it would be prudent to confirm with John Hermann whether any action was required to ensure the current members of the Endowment Committee's signatures were recognized by the ELCA Foundation to ensure future endowment fund transactions can be timely completed. Greg advised the Council he is following up with John Hermann on any such requirements. He recommended that planned 2023 fiscal year endowment fund transactions be initiated by early July to ensure completion in the current fiscal year.

### **Pastor's Report**

Pastor Frank provided a report on various matters. These included:

- The Starlink application has finally been approved and the hardware received Payment was made by Pastor Frank which will be reimbursed by the church.
- This summer we may again have an opportunity, weather permitting, to hold a Sunday afternoon worship service on the waters of Green Bay
- The Pastor recommended that Mary Williamson be approved as a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church which was unanimously approved by the Council.

### **Worship and Music Report**

Cathy and Jeff reported on various matters concerning the Worship and Music Ministry. They requested Council input on whether and when two Sunday services should resume. After discussion, upon motion, made by Jeff and seconded by Karen, the Council approved the start of two Sunday worship services on May 28<sup>th</sup>. Chris Kuhnz will coordinate the changing of service times on the outdoor signs.

Other items addressed included:

- Cathy and Peder indicated that the plastic just outside the entrance will be taken down soon, although parking lot worship service opportunities will continue.
- It is anticipated the first outdoor Sunday worship service this year will be held later in June.
- The Praise Music team is currently planning to sing at the May 14<sup>th</sup> and June 11<sup>th</sup> services.

### **Fellowship Chair Transition**

Renee reported on the planned half-year transition of the Fellowship chair position. She thanked everyone for their support during the first half of the fiscal year. Renee stated that her dad, Gerry Schwaller, will take the lead in coordinating Fellowship opportunities such as the post-Sunday service coffee gatherings for the second half of this fiscal year. The Council wished Renee well and thanked her for her service while she takes a hiatus from Council activities as she ramps up her business for the season.

### **Property and Maintenance Report**

Steve reported on various matters concerning the property which included:

#### **Sanctuary Lighting/Landscape Ground Leveling**

Steve is pursuing better lighting options for the sanctuary. He has reached out to Manning Lighting, a company in Sheboygan that, among other things, specializes in church lighting solutions. Steve has also identified a landscaper to provide an estimate to level the grassy area leading to the Prayer Garden.

#### **Fellowship Hall painting plans**

Peder is coordinating plans to paint the Fellowship area in the basement. A request for members to sign-up to assist in this project is anticipated.

### **Urgent Need Requests**

Cathy reported that the Executive Committee since the prior Council meeting had approved by electronic means two Urgent Needs requests for \$200 and \$1,000, respectively. Greg noted there was approximately \$8.6K in the Urgent Need Fund as of March 31<sup>st</sup> to address future requests for assistance.

### **Second Quarter Benevolence Requests**

Karen provided the Council with additional Local Benevolence Ministry disbursement requests for 2Q'23. She requested Council approval for the following disbursements:

- Gibraltar Schools - Angel Fund - \$500 (assists those students with financial school needs)
- Sevastopol Schools Senior Graduation Party – \$100 (for a non-alcoholic, drug-free event)
- Sunshine House - \$1,000 (likely to be used to rehabilitate their buses and outdoor landscaping needs)

Upon motion, made by Steve Stringer and seconded by Renee Schwaller, the requested disbursements were unanimously approved.

Karen then provided another Local Benevolence Ministry update. Our congregation plans to partner with the Ephraim Moravian Church and Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church to collaboratively work to raise funds to assist Habitat for Humanity's effort to provide outdoor temporary ramps that may be reused to assist those having difficulty getting into their homes. Such metal ramps cost approximately \$10.0K each.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Forward Planning/Transition Task Force**

Greg reported that he has prepared an outline of the information requirements that will be needed as inputs by the Forward Planning/Transition Task Force. The four proposed members for the Task Force have been identified. Greg is awaiting confirmation of the fourth person's willingness to join this Task Force following his expected return to Door County. Work on this project is anticipated to begin shortly and be completed before Sept. 30th.

### **Cemetery Survey**

Steve reported it is currently anticipated that the vendor previously identified to conduct a survey of our cemetery is expected to conduct that survey around the last week in May. The Moravian Church in Ephraim is also using this vendor to conduct a survey of their cemetery.

### **Administrative Assistant Position**

Pastor and Cathy reported on efforts to fill the open administrative assistant position. Two candidates had been interviewed but one accepted a position elsewhere and the other has chosen not to pursue our position. There are no other candidates identified to date.

## **Starlink Status/Next Steps**

Pastor reported that the congregation's application for Starlink service, which had been pending since February 2021 had been approved on Maundy Thursday (almost 26 months). The necessary hardware to install the service was recently received. A site survey has been scheduled with Quantum Technologies on April 26<sup>th</sup> to determine how the satellite-based service can be situated on our property.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Summer Fellowship Events**

A discussion was held concerning summer fellowship events and an opportunity for a NorDoor Worship Opportunity. Gerry Schwaller's planning assistance will be sought on various ideas for summer fellowship events.

### **Mulching of the Playground**

Peder and Steve noted there is a need to re-mulch the playground. Greg noted there are funds in the Fred Weber Memorial account to fund this project. After discussion, it was decided that we should consider having a vendor provide the mulch and distribute it on the playground, rather than have our members distribute the mulch, which could require as much as fifty cubic yards, Pastor Frank agreed to discuss the matter with Todd from Dave's Tree Service.

## **Adjournment**

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 3:48 P.M. with the praying of The Lord's Prayer.

### **Next Council Meeting**

Wednesday, May 17, 2023; 5:30 P.M. at the church. Jeff Kuchenbecker will provide the opening devotion.

Respectfully submitted,  
Greg Ehlke, Acting Secretary