



Epistle

St Paul Lutheran Church

4167 Juddville Rd
Fish Creek, WI 54212

920-868-2826

stpauljuddville.com

MARCH 2024

What's in this month's issue:

- Pastor's Message
- Local Benevolence
- March 2024 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
Fellowship Ministry Co-Chair
- Greg Ehlke: 920-868-1092
Congregation Treasurer
- Jeff Kuchenbecker: 608-770-0755
Congregation Vice President & Worship & Music Co-Chair
- Peder Nelson: 920-854-0136
Secretary
- Karen Peterson: 920-868-2928
Local Benevolence Chair
- Renee Schwaller: 920-868-9608
Fellowship Ministry Co-Chair
- Steve Stringer: 815-670-5754
Property & Maintenance Chair
- Shawn Mathys: 920-819-6553
Financial Secretary

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!



Thanks to Our Volunteers!



SUNDAY OF THE PASSION / PALM SUNDAY: SUNDAY, MARCH 24 at 8:00 A.M. & 9:30 A.M.

We use this liturgy, written by the late Walt Wangerin, "The Cry of the Congregation". We move from the gates of Jerusalem which Jesus entered triumphantly to the Cross. Members of the congregation read the words of those who were integral in this divine drama and the congregation speaks the words of the crowd. We sing hymns which tell the story and come to the Table to receive the sacrament. We depart in silence.

MAUNDY THURSDAY: THURSDAY, MARCH 28 at 6:00 P.M.

Thursday evening, we continue the liturgy begun on Ash Wednesday when tonight we received the long-awaited Absolution. We hear Jesus' commandment to "love one another" and hear of him washing his disciples' feet. We hear his words. "Do this in remembrance of me" and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

GOOD FRIDAY: FRIDAY, MARCH 29 at 1:00 P.M. & 6:00 P.M.

The Seven Words of Christ from the Cross
We hear and sing the story of Jesus' suffering and death.

SERVICE OF TENEBRAE: FRIDAY, MARCH 29 at 6:00 P.M.

We move from light to darkness as we hear and sing the story of the suffering and death of Jesus.

EASTER SUNDAY: SUNDAY, MARCH 31 at 8:00 AM. & 9:30 A.M.

The Resurrection of Our Lord
We proclaim, "Christ is Risen!" We hear the Word and share in the Meal, singing hymns of praise on this most Holy day of the Church year.

In Christ,
Pastor Frank Kauzlarich



LOCAL BENEVOLENCE UPDATE

ALWAYS THANKFUL FOR FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS



Thank you for your participation and generosity in our 2024 Souper Bowl of Caring.

Our final totals for the Souper Bowl will be announced soon.

- *Mary Anne Scherer*



For our 2nd quarter allocation, we picked two familiar recipients: **HELP** of Door County and the **STRIDE** mental health initiative.

HELP continues to provide services for residents in the most vulnerable situations. Unfortunately, they have had increased need for their services. The **STRIDE** program continues expanding mental health services for Door County youth through the school systems. We thank our congregation for being so generous to our community. - *Karen Peterson*

STRIDE

For better
mental health



CALENDAR / SPECIAL EVENTS

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES – (INDOOR & OUTDOOR) - 8:00 A.M. & 9:30 A.M. Including Easter.

MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP (INDOOR & OUTDOOR): SERVICES ARE BEING HELD EVERY WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON AT 1:00 P.M. (March 6, 13 & 20)

THEME: LAMENT

In scripture, the people of God cry to God using their words, sometimes in the midst of despair, and with great emotion. They speak to God from their situations in life. Life is not always easy. What would we say to God in such times in our lives? Should we dare speak? How should we speak?

We will hear from the scriptures, from Pastor Frank and from members of the congregation concerning the place of lament in daily life as a way to share with God who we are and what we are experiencing. We are free to share as God is always ready and open to hear from God's Children.

PALM SUNDAY: SUNDAY, MARCH 24 at 8:00 A.M. & 9:30 A.M.

MAUNDY THURSDAY: THURSDAY, MARCH 28 at 6:00 P.M.

GOOD FRIDAY: FRIDAY, MARCH 29 at 1:00 P.M. & 6:00 P.M.

EASTER SUNDAY: SUNDAY, MARCH 31 at 8:00 AM. & 9:30 A.M.

KIDNITS: TUESDAY, MARCH 5 at 1:15 P.M. Please bring your finished items to St. Paul's. We will be putting them in the church to be blessed and then sending them to World Vision. Thank you. *Mary Anne*

WORSHIP & MUSIC MINISTRY: THURSDAY, MARCH 14 at 11:00 A.M. (*Not the usual day/time*).

COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13 at 2:00 P.M.

CHURCH COUNCIL: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20 at 2:00 P.M. Held in the church 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.

FELLOWSHIP TIME ON SUNDAYS: *Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex to host a Sunday coffee hour.*

SNOW SHOVELERS NEEDED: *Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex to volunteer or Contact Clarence Scherer via phone or text: 920-559-1951 or via email: cmscherer42@gmail.com*



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS – FEBRUARY 21, 2024

Council convened with 4 members live and in person and 3 members calling in from distant parts. We thank God for the miracles of technology, and for giving us patience when those miracles glitch from time to time. Council quorum is 5 members, so, thanks to phones, we were able to carry on. As an aside, the meeting was fairly brief, since Pastor Frank was not in attendance as he recuperated from shoulder surgery. We banned him from attending for his own health and so that he wouldn't be tempted to hold forth at length while on the various pain meds. Council began and ended with prayer for Pastor Frank and all in need of hope and healing.

Council heard Peder Nelson's devotion based on Star Wars (see? Council is fun) and the fact that we have the force of God with us in any and all circumstances.

Greg Ehlke reported that the new, upgraded copier has been installed and that our Administrative Assistant, Megan, has been trained. We are grateful for Megan's capabilities and diligence as she assumes a greater role in the office as weeks go by.

In Property matters, Steve Stringer reported that there have been inquiries regarding the purchase of cemetery plots. If others are interested in information, please let Steve know. The long-awaited survey of the cemetery is still in the future, but we remain hopeful. After all, hope in the future is a mark of Christianity.

The study/fellowship group viewing "The Chosen" will resume on Monday, April 29. All are invited to join others for a light meal and to watch and discuss episodes each week.

Council heard that Sunday services, including Easter, will be held at 8am and 9:30am. Lenten services will be 1pm on Wednesdays through March 20. Maundy Thursday, March 28, worship will be 6pm. Good Friday services will be 1pm and 6pm. All worship services will be both in-sanctuary and in the parking lot.

The membership directory is nearing completion. (It's a foot race between the cemetery survey and the church directory. Not laying odds.) We are still hoping to be able to include more member photos. Steve Stringer will be available to take a quick photo after worship, or members can email one of their own favorites to the office.

Council discussed various transitions that we need to be preparing for as a congregation. Our treasurer's term will expire at the end of October and our financial secretary will end her position at that time too. Please consider your own gifts or the gifts of others you know in these areas as we look to fill these positions. A Transition Task Force Team will meet for the short term this spring to look into the future of St. Paul, focusing on strengths as well as challenges we may face.

Bishop Anne Edison-Albright of the East Central Synod of WI- ELCA, will be coming to St. Paul as our guest on Sunday, June 2nd. Bishop Anne will preach that day, as well as have time to meet with parishioners. Council discussed plans and ways to enhance this special Sunday in the life of our congregation. Thanks in advance to all of you who will be working to make the most of this opportunity for St. Paul.

Council concluded with the Lord's Prayer and our continued thanks to all of you who share your gifts so willingly in every area of ministry. You are a blessing to the world, and to our corner of it at St. Paul.

Cathy Mestek, Council President



VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

MUSICIANS FOR MARCH

Mar 3	Doreen Holt	Mar 13	Doreen Holt	Mar 24	Doreen Holt	Mar 31	Doreen Holt
Mar 6	Doreen Holt	Mar 17	Doreen Holt	Mar 28	Doreen Holt		
Mar 10	Doreen Holt	Mar 20	Doreen Holt	Mar 29	Doreen Holt		

USHERS FOR MARCH

Mar 3	8:00 AM	Indoor: Dave DeCock Outdoor: Clarence Scherer	9:30 AM	Indoor: Outdoor:
Mar 6	1:00 PM	Indoor: Outdoor:		
Mar 10	8:00 AM	Indoor: Jerry Lecy Outdoor: Clarence Scherer	9:30 AM	Indoor: Sher Rockway Outdoor: Todd Rockway
Mar 13	1:00 PM	Indoor: Outdoor:		
Mar 17	8:00 AM	Indoor: Mary Anne Scherer Outdoor: Andrea Esau	9:30 AM	Indoor: Outdoor:
Mar 20	1:00 PM	Indoor: Outdoor:		
Mar 24	8:00 AM	Indoor: Dave DeCock <i>Passion/Palm Sunday</i> Outdoor: Andrea Esau	9:30 AM	Indoor: Jana Raines Outdoor:
Mar 28	6:00 PM	Indoor: <i>Maundy Thursday</i> Outdoor:		
Mar 29	1:00 PM	Indoor: <i>Good Friday</i> Outdoor:	6:00 PM	Indoor: Jana Raines Outdoor:
Mar 31	8:00 AM	Indoor: Charles Mestek <i>Easter Sunday</i> Outdoor: Clarence Scherer	9:30 AM	Indoor: Outdoor:

ASSISTING MINISTERS FOR MARCH

Mar 3	8:00 AM: Jane DeCock	9:30 AM: Debbie Jones
Mar 6	1:00 PM: Debbie Jones	
Mar 10	8:00 AM: Frank Paul	9:30 AM: Dwight Zeller
Mar 13	1:00 PM: Cathy Mestek	
Mar 17	8:00 AM: Dwight Zeller	9:30 AM: Frank Paul
Mar 20	1:00 PM: Cathy Mestek	
Mar 24	8:00 AM: "Cry of the Congregation"	9:30 AM: "Cry of the Congregation"
Mar 28	6:00 P.M. Dwight Zeller	
Mar 29	1:00 P.M.	6:00 P.M. Cathy Mestek
Mar 31	8:00 AM: Dwight Zeller	9:30 AM: Cathy Mestek

ALTAR GUILD FOR MARCH

Mar 3: Bev Prohl	Mar 13: Bev Prohl	Mar 24: Bev Prohl	Mar 31: Bev Prohl
Mar 6: Bev Prohl	Mar 17: Bev Prohl	Mar 28: Bev Prohl	
Mar 10: Bev Prohl	Mar 20: Bev Prohl	Mar 29: Bev Prohl	

SNOW SHOVELING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED- *Sign up in the narthex.*

Contact Clarence Scherer via phone or text: 920-559-1951 or via email: cmscherer42@gmail.com

Mar 2 - Mar 8: Kurt Schmidt	Mar 16 - Mar 22:	Mar 28 - Mar 31:
Mar 9 - Mar 15:	Mar 23 - Mar 28:	



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 word, reflection and prayer.*



HELP IS NEEDED! SIGN UP ON THE NARTHEX BULLETIN BOARD...

- **Shoveling**-The church entrance areas and sidewalks
- **Coffee Hour**- Provide refreshments following Sunday worship

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 – WINTER 2024 SESSION

WINTER 2024 SESSION

LENT

The Women's Spiritual Growth Group is currently using the Lent daily devotional book (no charge) from Living Compass during Lent (2/14 through 3/31). The theme this year is "Practicing **Forgiveness** with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind." We will continue to meet via ZOOM on **Thursday evenings** through March 27 at **6:15-7:00 PM** for an unstructured discussion of our personal experiences, questions, challenges, deeper insights, whatever you are comfortable sharing related to the readings for the week.

SPRING 2024 SESSION

The Women's Spiritual Growth Group will begin its Spring study on Thursday mornings in person at St. Paul Lutheran Church from 8:45-10 AM beginning **Thursday, April 4 through Wednesday, May 8**. We will use the study by Max Lucado called "How Happiness Happens: Finding Lasting Joy in a World of Comparison, Disappointment, and Unmet Expectations (aka How Happiness Happens)". This is a 6-week study with DVD, study guide, and optional book published in 2019.

In Max Lucado's "How Happiness Happens," he explores passages of Scripture - explaining how practical acts of generosity can produce a life of satisfaction and moments of true joy. In a world searching for happiness, Lucado provides a personal plan for a life filled with lasting and fulfilling joy, supported by Jesus' teaching and modern research. He uses scripture to show us how to address some of the common sources of unhappiness, such as:

- *Dealing with difficult people.*
- *Coping with tough circumstances.*
- *Overcoming low self-esteem.*
- *Managing stress.*

If you are interested in attending either of these studies, learning more about our discussions, or receiving the Lent devotional and ZOOM links, please contact Debbie Jones (651-328-1261 or debbie.jones.pmp@gmail.com). All are welcome!

ST PAUL MEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP – FRIDAYS AT 8:30 A.M. with the opportunity to meet via Zoom or in person at Julie's Café in Fish Creek located at 4020 Main St, Fish Creek, WI 54212.

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.

- COMING SOON IN APRIL 2024 -



ST PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO

THE CHOSEN

APRIL 29 @ 6:00 PM
SEASON 3
FREE DINNER & DISCUSSION

RSVP: JEFF - 608-770-0755

Coming, Spring 2024, the next round of the groundbreaking TV series, "The Chosen" discussion sessions will begin. All are welcome. If interested or have any questions, contact Jeff Kuchenbecker at jlkuchenbecker27@gmail.com or by via telephone 608-770-0755.

The Chosen is an American Christian historical drama television series. Created, directed, and co-written by filmmaker Dallas Jenkins, it is the first multi-season series about the life and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth. Primarily set in Judea and Galilee in the 1st century, the series centers on Jesus and the different people who met and followed or otherwise interacted with him.

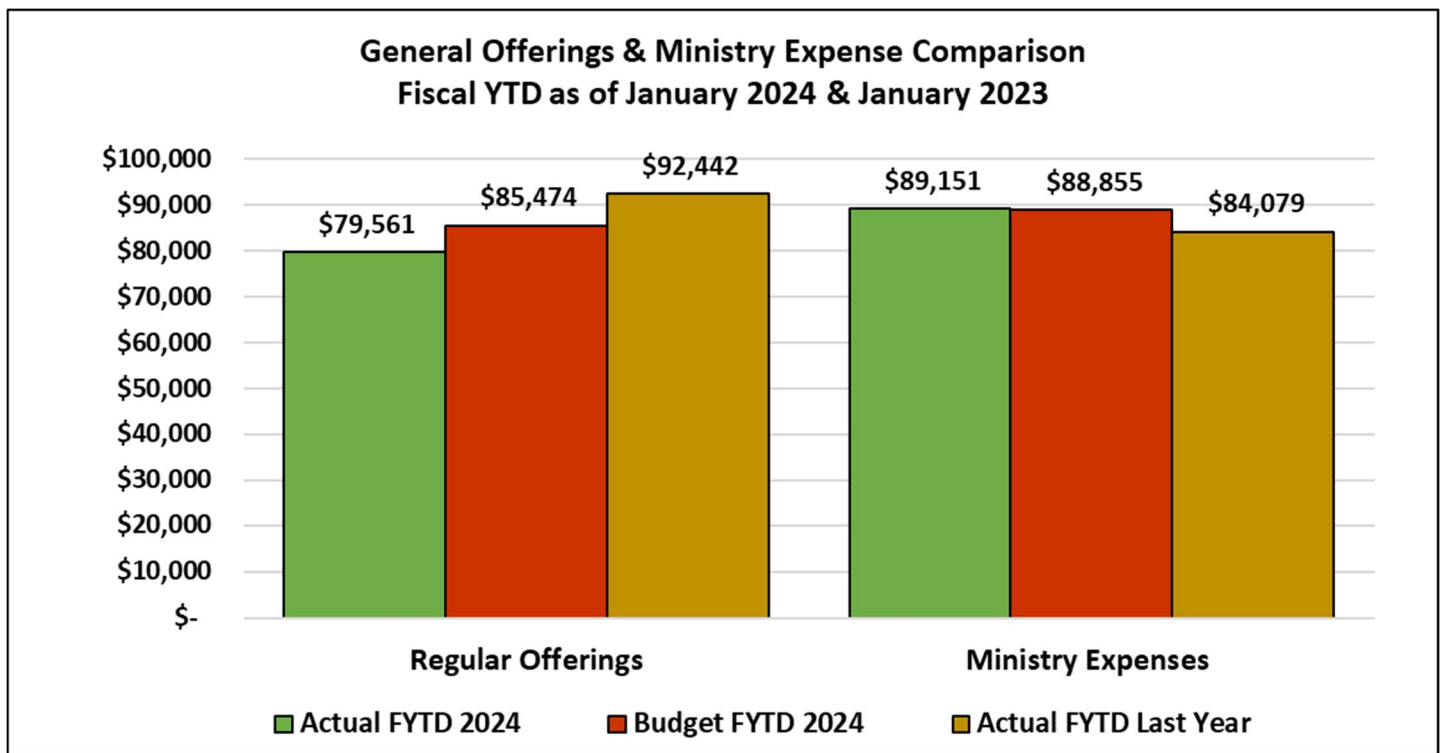
"Take it from a critic and a Christian with an aversion to Christian entertainment: The show is good." – *Chris DeVille, The Atlantic*



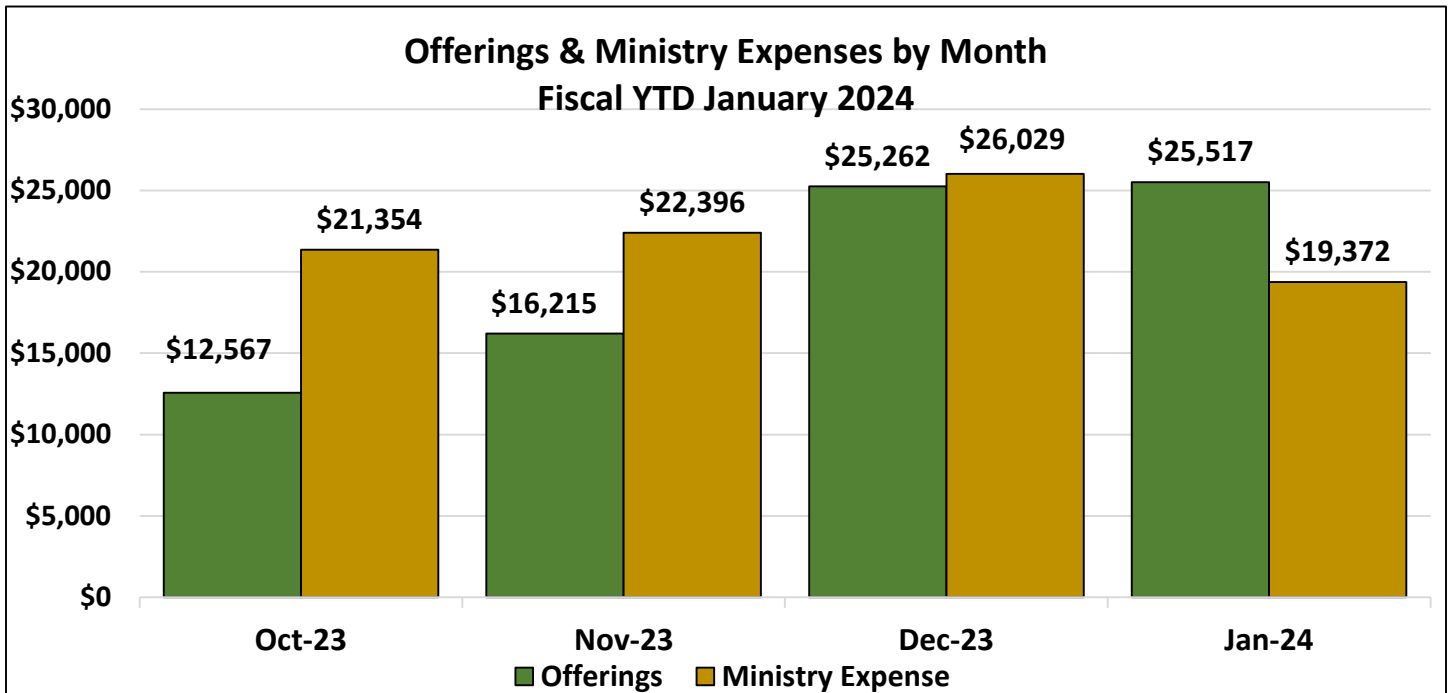
FINANCIAL UPDATE

Gregory Ehlke, Treasurer

Fiscal Year-to-Date Financial Summary



- FYTD = Fiscal Year-to-Date. St. Paul Lutheran's fiscal year begins on 01-Oct.
- The 2023-24 fiscal year Ministry Expenses budget is \$264,434
- General Offerings received in the first months of the fiscal year were \$12,881 lower than in the prior year (\$79,561 vs. \$92,442), principally reflecting \$8,945 of lower Offerings received in December versus the comparable prior year month
- General Offerings were lower than Ministry Expenses by \$9,590 (i.e., \$79,561 - \$89,151 = \$9,590)



- General Offerings in January of \$25,517, as shown above, were the highest of the first four months of this fiscal year (but \$400, or 1.6%, lower than the prior year month)
- Ministry Expenses were lower in January than the prior three months principally reflecting the absence of any Benevolence outlays and lower Supplies Expenses



Additional Ways to Financially Support Our Lord's Ministry through St. Paul Lutheran

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

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Some of our members have insurance policies with Thrivent Financial that enable them to support charitable organizations such as St. Paul Lutheran through Thrivent Choice Dollars. Last year members who were Thrivent Financial policyholders directed \$243 of Thrivent Choice Dollars to support St. Paul's Ministry programs. The deadline for directing Thrivent Choice Dollars for 2023 is March 31st.

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. Over twenty-five households 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 in 2023 and 2024. 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. In 2023, we opened a brokerage account through Thrivent Financial to enable our members to donate securities directly to St. Paul Lutheran. 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.



MEETING MINUTES

COUNCIL MINUTES – January 24, 2024

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 (via telephone), Pam Davis (via telephone), Greg Ehlke, Steve Stringer and Renee Schwaller

Excused/Absent: Peder Nelson, Karen Peterson

Meeting Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Cathy Mestek at 1:07 P.M.

Devotions

Renee Schwaller provided an opening devotion focused on “A Little Boost in the Morning” from the book “The Lives We Actually Have” by Kate Bowler.

Agenda Approval

The previously circulated agenda was reviewed and accepted.

Minutes

The previously circulated minutes from the December 13, 2023 meeting, following a motion made by Renee Schwaller and seconded by Steve Stringer, were approved.

Record of Electronic Business Approval

Cathy reported that, since the last meeting, the Council unanimously approved by electronic means an Urgent Need request on December 21, 2023 for \$671.57.

Community of Faith

- Pastor noted that the Ash Wednesday service will be held at 6:00 P.M. on February 14, 2024 and that the focus of the weekly Lenten services will focus on “Laments” of which many are found in the book of Lamentations in the Old Testament.
- Pastor reported he had spent significant time recently on pastoral care and visitations; he requested prayers be offered for John and Dolores Hermann, Dennis Kaldor, Lorraine Dietrich, George and Carol Kraemer, and Chris Kuhn on his loss of a relative.
- Pastor provided further insight into the report that the number of churches in the Synod with part-time pastors or pastoral vacancies was significant and growing.

Financial Report

Greg Ehlke referred to the financial summary and supporting reports he had distributed by email prior to the meeting. The financial summary for December 2023 highlighted that:

- Total Offerings for the month approximated \$25.5K which was about \$9.0K lower than the prior year month. Ministry Expenses approximated \$26.0K, which was about \$2.8K higher than the prior year month. The increase reflected a full

year prepayment of Advertising Expenses and higher Support Staff Expenses (up \$1.9K and \$2.1K, respectively) which were partially offset by lower Pastoral and Supply Pastor Expenses (down \$0.5K in aggregate).

- Year-to-date Regular Offerings were about \$54.0K which was about \$12.5K lower than in December 2022. Ministry Expenses were \$69.8K in the first three months of the fiscal year, which was \$2.8K higher than the prior year period. The fiscal year-to-date Ordinary Net Loss was \$15.5K or \$14.8K worse than the prior year.
- Undesignated cash funds available would cover about 5.1 months of Ministry Expenses without any reliance on additional Offerings being received. This includes the liquidity that could be quickly provided from \$52.6K of liquid assets (cash, U.S. Treasury Notes and bills) invested with Thrivent Financial to enhance the church's interest income.
- The Treasurer then conducted a detailed analysis of the congregation's liquidity profile. He expressed caution about the year-over-year trend in Offerings and its possible impact on the upcoming quarter if this trend continues.
- Greg concluded his report by reviewing his latest Financial Processes document pertaining to our two Endowment Funds invested with the ELCA Foundation. The Council concurred with his plan to share this Financial Process write-up with the Endowment Fund Committee.
- The Financial report was approved pursuant to a motion made by Pam Davis and seconded by Steve Stringer.
- A copy of the December 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.

Pastor's Report

- Pastor expressed his thanks for our Administrative Assistant, Megan Williamson, who is excelling in her position, for all who helped with the send-off of the Hermanns to their new home in IL, and for Doreen Holt and others who decorated the sanctuary and removed the Christmas tree.
- Another detailed review of the membership rolls is being conducted by Pastor to ensure our roster of members is fully accurate and current.
- Pastor requested that Reed and Judi Saunders be removed from membership at their request to worship elsewhere; upon motion, made by Pastor and seconded by Pam, the request was unanimously approved by the Council.
- Pastor noted he is scheduled for shoulder replacement surgery on Feb. 19th and was making plans for pastoral coverage while he will be recuperating.

Worship and Music Report

Cathy and Jeff reported on various matters concerning the Worship and Music Ministry. Items addressed included:

- A recommendation was made to begin the Lenten services, other than Ash Wednesday, at 1:00 P.M. which the Council approved.
- A previously used white parament for the altar, purchased from an overseas vendor, had arrived and was in the process of being dry cleaned prior to use.
- The Praise Team will be singing on Sunday, Feb. 25th.
- Pastor noted Dolores Hermann had dropped off files concerning prior church anniversary celebrations and matters relating to the pastoral call process prior to her departure to her new home in IL.

Property Report

Steve reported on property-related developments. This included:

- A proposal to purchase an electric snow blower. It was noted that the elevator could not be used to transport such a machine for storage in the lower level due to warranty/insurance considerations and that it could be difficult to access such a machine after large snow storms if it was stored in the shed. The sense of the Council was a snow blower should not be purchased now given these considerations and a better solution may be to prospectively hire one or more persons to manually shovel the walkways after large snow storms.

Local Benevolence

Prior to the meeting, Karen Peterson had provided the Council with the Local Benevolence Ministry team's recommendations for support in the coming quarter. This included a \$1,000 disbursement to HELP of Door County for

unrestricted purposes and a \$1,000 disbursement to United Way designated for the STRIDE youth mental health program and related services. Upon motion, made by Pam and seconded by Renee, the Council unanimously approved these two Local Benevolence disbursements.

Fellowship

Renee reported on Fellowship activities. These included:

- Shawn and Ken Mathys will be hosting a Fellowship brunch on Sunday, Jan. 28th to celebrate the five-year anniversary of Ken's recovery from bacterial meningitis.
- A potluck lunch has been postponed given recent similar events including the send-off for the Hermanns and the aforementioned Fellowship brunch on Jan. 28th.
- A sign-up sheet to host future Fellowship coffee hours has been posted. Several hosts are currently needed.

OLD BUSINESS

Streaming Worship – Equipment Proposal

The proposal to obtain the necessary hardware to live stream worship services from Quantum Technologies was discussed which was previously tabled before Christmas given the busy 4th Quarter calendar. Pastor Frank noted it would be appropriate to form a working group to determine the weekly support required to make use of this new hardware to live stream services. It was agreed the next step would be to form a group with audio or visual interest or technology skills to address how this would be managed prior to purchasing the software. Pastor agreed to approach one or two potential candidates to assist with this task prior to bringing forward the proposal to purchase the needed hardware for live streaming services.

Copier Lease Proposal

The Treasurer referred to his comparative cost analysis of a new office copier lease versus retaining the current copier (which has been leased for over five years) distributed via email prior to the Council meeting. The Treasurer stated it was his recommendation to accept the new lease proposal from Wisconsin Document Imaging (which, based upon the Treasurer's analysis, is expected to have an insignificant increase in all-in quarterly copier lease and operating costs). After discussion, upon motion made by Pastor Frank and seconded by Steve Stringer, the proposal to accept Wisconsin Document Imaging's copier proposal which includes a five-year lease from U.S. Bank Finance.

Church Directory

The new Church Directory is in the process of being finalized. Distribution of the new directory is expected to occur in the near future.

Bishop's Visit

Pastor Frank reported that he is working with the Bishop's office for her to attend a service at St. Paul. A date in April was originally proposed but the sense of the Council was that a date later in the year (e.g., early June or later) would be more appropriate given the mobility patterns of our members in the winter or early spring months.

NEW BUSINESS

Engagement Opportunities

Jeff led a discussion on the importance of social and educational learning opportunities to the spiritual health of our congregation. He cited the group viewing of The Chosen series and recent luncheons as examples. The Council concurred with his observations and agreed to continue to seek out ways to deepen members' connectivity to other members and the local community.

Rechargeable Snow Blower Proposal

The perceived need to purchase a rechargeable snow blower to clear our walkways after major snow storms was discussed. Pastor Frank noted such a snow blower could not be stored in the basement because the elevator may not be

used to transport machinery which would otherwise create elevator warranty and/or insurance issues. The sense of the Council was it may be more appropriate to prospectively contract one or more persons to shovel the walkways after major snow storms.

Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 2:54 P.M. with the praying of The Lord's Prayer.

Next Council Meeting

Wednesday, February 21, 2024; 2:00 P.M. in person at the church. Peder Nelson will provide the opening devotion.

Respectfully submitted,
Gregory C. Ehlke, Acting Secretary

