



St Paul Lutheran Church

4167 Juddville Rd
Fish Creek, WI 54212

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stpauljuddville.com

Epistle

OCTOBER 2023

What's in this month's issue:

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- Pastor's Message
 - Local Benevolence
 - October 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 Friends in Christ!

Remembering is profoundly powerful. During the sermon this past Sunday, I remembered aloud those who I am thankful for blessing me. While not naming names, I know who they are and they should know who they are, for I continue to thank them. And I thank God for them.

Pastors are invited into the lives of people in ways that are unique because of their vocation. Pastors have a lot to remember. We experience conversations with those willing to share the most intimate details of their lives. We journey with those in the midst of deepest sorrow and greatest joy. We are present to welcome a child into the world and when a child dies way too soon. We're there when tragedy brings about death and when length of one's life is reason for celebration of their new life. We celebrate with others their births, baptisms, confirmations, weddings, anniversaries. And we minister to and with those who mourn the death of loved ones.

Because of my vocation, I have a lot to remember. It is all about life shared. What do you remember these days for which you might give thanks to someone, and to God?

In the month of October, I will take time to remember. I will remember you. And I will remember my Pastors from my younger years and my colleagues who have and continue to minister to and with me.

"Take and eat, take and drink. Do this in remembrance of me." Remembering is profoundly powerful.

In Christ,
Pastor Frank



LOCAL BENEVOLENCE UPDATE



THANK YOU, THANK YOU, AND THANK YOU!!!

Thanks to your **GENEROSITY**, support, and partnering with Ephraim Moravian and Shepherd of the Bay, we were able to present Door County Habitat for Humanity with funding to purchase not just one ramp, **BUT TWO !!!**



We presented Door County Habitat for Humanity Executive Director Lori Allen with the check from the three churches' fundraiser. Pictured from left to right: Karen Peterson, Susan Sturm, Pam Davis, Lori Allen, Grace Rossman (Shepherd of the Bay) and Sher Rockway... and Cooper the puppy!

Below is a description from DCHH of how the Ramps are provided to those in need:

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.

DIAPER DRIVE

Our annual Diaper Drive will continue through the month of October. We are collecting diapers, pull-ups, and wipes to be given to Family Services of Door County. They distribute to young families throughout our county. Gina reports that while all sizes are appreciated, they currently are in greatest need of Newborn, and sizes 1, 4, 5 and 6. As always, we strive for "No child wet behind"!



CALENDAR / SPECIAL EVENTS

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES: 8:00am & 9:30am **SPECIAL NOTICE!** *Your Church Council members want to hear from you, as they carefully consider whether or not to move to one service at 9am beginning in November, or stay with two services, 8 and 9:30am. Please share your preference with them.*



THE CHOSEN ~ SEASON 2 BIBLE STUDY Mondays @ 5:30PM

Everyone is welcome to gather in the St Paul Fellowship area at 5:30PM every Monday to October 30 as we continue this gathering. We begin with a simple supper, watch an episode of this award-winning show, and finish with discussion. These gatherings have resulted in a deeper bonding with Jesus as well as many new friendships.

Season 2 of *The Chosen* focuses on the beginning of Jesus' public ministry and what happens as word of His ministry begins to spread. Come and See!

Contact Jeff Kuchenbecker with any questions. jkuchenbecker27@gmail.com, 608-770-0755.

KIDNITS -TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3 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!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, the SPL PRAISE TEAM will sing at both services.

WORSHIP & MUSIC MINISTRY - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12 at 10 A.M.

CHURCH COUNCIL – WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18 at 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.

ANNUAL MEETING OF ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29
FOLLOWING OUR ONE WORSHIP TIME THAT DAY AT 9 A.M.

Annual Reports will be sent to you 10 days prior to the meeting. We will be addressing a number of important Resolutions, and well as adopting a financial plan for our ministry in the upcoming year. All confirmed members are asked to be present and participate fully.



SING YOUR PRAISE TO THE LORD! JOIN THE CHOIR

Choir practice will be held 6:30PM-7:30PM on Thursdays in October. Choir singing dates TBD. All are welcome.
Shawn Mathys & Jan Meier

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





COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS – September 20, 2023

Council began, as always, with prayer and a devotion centered on giving our anxiety to God and the power of prayer in all circumstances.

Pastor updated Council with the good news of baptisms and a number of people who are interested in joining St. Paul. The membership database is being updated so that we have accurate records of members and associate members.

The Council meeting focused largely on a detailed review of the financial status of the St. Paul congregation as we conclude our fiscal year. The group then worked to finalize a fiscally responsible, yet sufficiently ambitious, budget to be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on October 29. Council expressed thanks to Greg Ehlke, treasurer, for his efforts and skills going above and beyond in preparing the budget.

Council has heard a variety of opinions from members as to timing and number of Sunday worship services. After discussion, the group decided that for the month of October, worship will be held at 8am and 9:30am with the exception of October 29, the day of the Annual Meeting, when there will be a single 9am worship service with the meeting to follow directly after.

However, to better inform the decision for the coming months, St. Paul members will be asked to complete a short survey regarding worship times.

The following disbursements were approved from Local Benevolence funds: \$500 to Ministry Fund of Door County Medical Center; \$500 to 115 Club, a 12-step ministry; \$700 to Neighbor to Neighbor. Global Benevolence will also be making distributions before the end of September. We are most appreciative of the generous gifts that have funded these ministries.

Council heard from the Property Ministry an update regarding a proposal to upgrade the lighting in the sanctuary. Many members have commented that the lighting seems dim for reading and, at times, borders on gloomy. A lighting upgrade proposal, funded as a capital improvement outside the budget, will be presented for a vote at the Annual Meeting. A member has already offered a generous sum to seed the project. You will be hearing (and, hopefully seeing) more before long.

Council heard that the Forward Planning Task Force will begin its work before long, and we look forward to hearing some of their thoughts and recommendations.

The complete approved minutes of the September Council meeting will be published in the November "Epistle." The Council meeting concluded as we began, with prayer, including prayers for those in need and prayers of thanks for your partnership in the Gospel.

Respectfully submitted, Cathy Mestek, Council President



VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

MUSICIANS FOR OCTOBER

Oct 1 - Doreen

Oct 8 - Praise Team

Oct 15 - Doreen

Oct 22 - Doreen

Oct 29 - Doreen

USHERS FOR OCTOBER

October 1:	8:00 -	Indoor: Jana Raines	Outdoor: Andrea Esau
	9:30 -	Indoor:	Outdoor:
October 8:	8:00 -	Indoor: Jerry Lecy	Outdoor: Andrea Esau
	9:30 -	Indoor:	Outdoor:
October 15:	8:00 -	Indoor: Jerry Lecy	Outdoor: Dave DeCook
	9:30 -	Indoor: Sue Beranek	Outdoor: Tom Beranek
October 22:	8:00 -	Indoor: Al Peterson	Outdoor:
	9:30 -	Indoor:	Outdoor:
October 29:	9:00 -	Indoor: MaryAnne Scherer	Outdoor: Clarence Scherer

ASSISTING MINISTERS FOR OCTOBER

October 1: 8:00 - John Hermann 9:30 - Cathy Mestek

October 8: 8:00 - Praise team 9:30 - Praise team

October 15: 8:00 - Jane DeCock 9:30 - Pam Davis

October 22: 8:00 - John Hermann 9:30 - Dennis Kaldor

October 29: 9:00 - Debbie Jones



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.

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

The Women's Spiritual Growth Group began our fall session on Thursday, September 28 and **will 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

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!

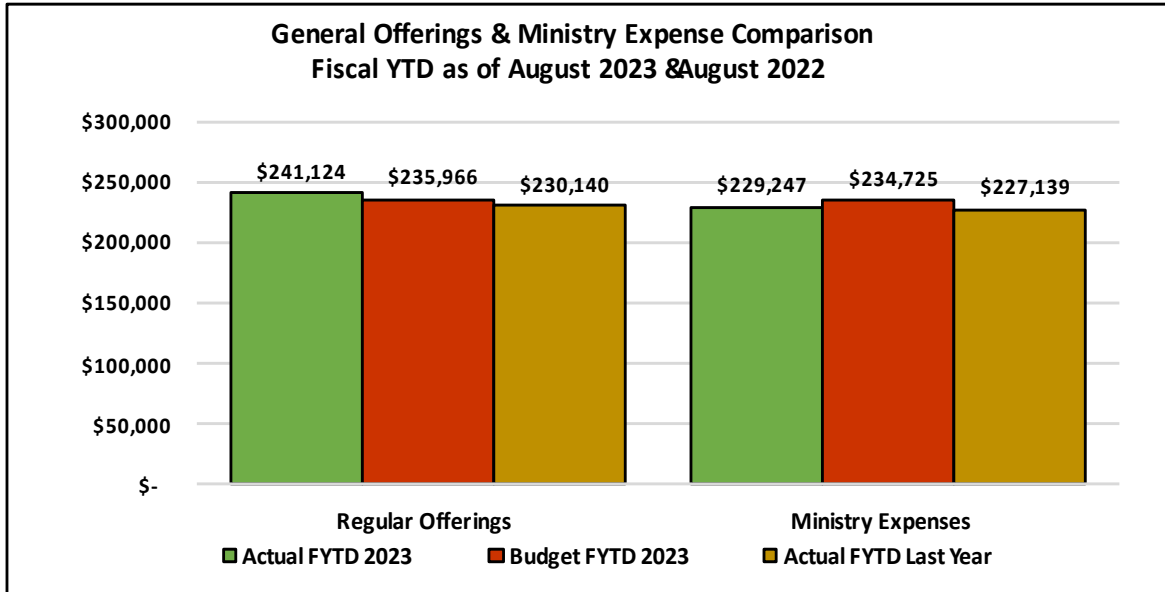
ST PAUL MEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP meets on Fridays at 8:30am

with the opportunity to meet via Zoom or in person at Julie's Café in Fish Creek.

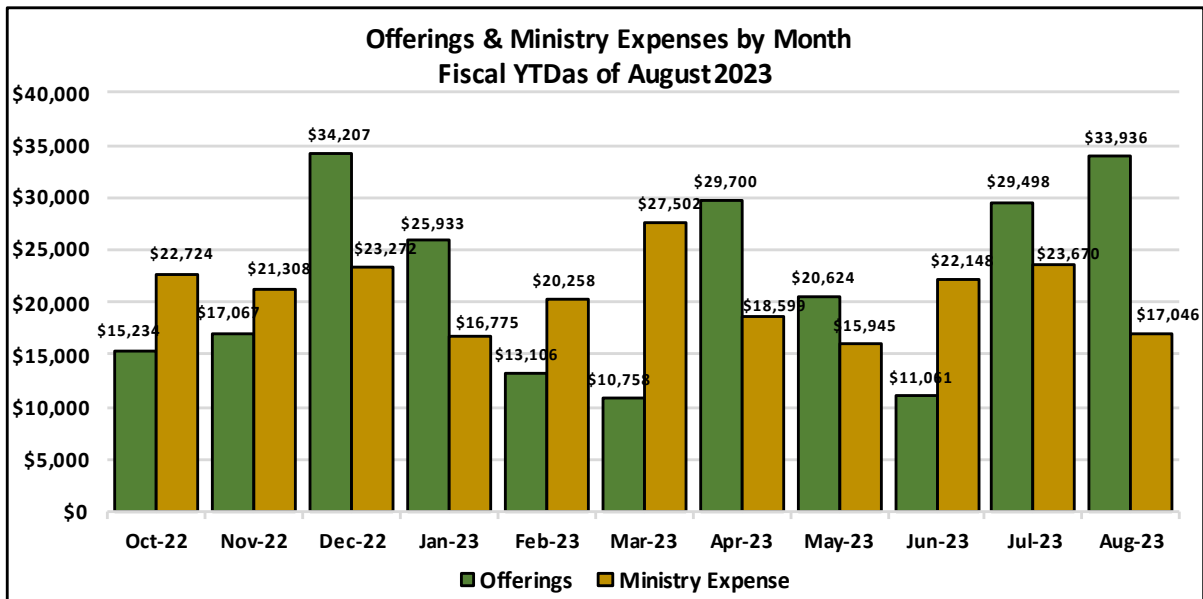
For more information about the Zoom session or to receive a copy of the readings and questions, please contact Gary Jones at gary.jones09@gmail.com. To learn about the in-person meeting, please contact John Hermann at john.c.hermann@gmail.com.



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 eleven months of the fiscal year were \$10,984 higher than in the prior year (\$241,124 vs. \$230,140), partially reflecting \$19,393 of higher Offerings received in August versus the comparable prior year month
- General Offerings were higher than Ministry Expenses by \$11,877 (i.e., \$241,124 - \$229,247 = \$11,877)



- General Offerings in August totaled \$33,936, as shown above, which was the second highest monthly Offerings total received in the first eleven months of this fiscal year
- Ministry Expenses were lower in August than in July by \$6.6K largely reflecting the absence of Benevolence outlays in August (versus \$6.0K in July) and \$1.6K of higher Building/Maintenance Expenses which were partially offset by \$0.8K of higher Worship & Music Expenses



COUNCIL MINUTES – August 16, 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 Ehlike, Karen Peterson, Steve Stringer, Pam Davis, Peder Nelson.

Excused/Absent: Renee Schwaller

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

Devotions: The devotions were provided by Steve Stringer based on a hymn sung at the 8/13/23 service called, *Jesus Savior Pilot Me*. The hymn spoke to Steve and he "googled" the author of the hymn who was a pastor for sailors among other spiritual works.

Agenda Approval: The previously circulated agenda was approved following a motion made by Karen and seconded by Pam.

Minutes: The previously circulated minutes from the July Council Meeting, were approved following a motion made by Karen and seconded by Steve.

Electronic Business: There has been no electronic business conducted since our last meeting.

Community of Faith: Jeff mentioned that the second season of The Chosen will begin on September 11 and will follow the same format of a supper, video and discussion.

Cathy and Greg both praised the performance on August 8th of the Praise Band.

Greg reported that the 2nd Annual Golf outing raised \$1770.00 which will go to our Ramp Up project. Thanks to Greg for organizing a great afternoon.

Pastor mentioned that another \$350.00 had just been received in the mail and another \$100. was coming, both earmarked for the Ramp project.

Pastor Frank talked of how thankful he was for all the wonderful volunteer support he had for the two recent funerals and how the funeral director for Emmet's funeral commented about all the work that had been done by St. Paul's volunteers, leaving her with little to do.

Pastor also spoke of a man he met online, Paul Otto, that was on vacation in Door County with his family, and how he was looking for a teaching position. On a casual walk one day, he went into the Gibraltar School administrative office and asked if they had need of an upper-level math instructor. The staff was surprised and gratified as their upper-level math instructor had just taken a position in Fond Du Lac. The following day they hired Mr. Otto. He also was able to find housing for the months of October through May at a very reasonable price, and in the months until then he will be moving into the Mestek's home. It was felt that God certainly orchestrated the job and housing for Paul Otto.

The boat ride on August the 6th was discussed, and Jeff was thanked for leading both the worship and the music. A good time was had by all, and all included 99 people on board!

Pastor Frank also thanked the Council for the birthday surprise, the gift of which his son had always wanted.

Financial Report: Greg Ehlke referred to the financial summary and supporting reports that he distributed by email prior to the meeting. The financial summary for July, 2023, highlighted that Total Offerings for the month approximated \$30.4K, which was \$2.1K lower than the prior year month and the third highest month in the current fiscal year.

Ministry expenses approximated \$23.7K, which was about \$4.5K higher than the prior year month principally reflecting higher Benevolence Expenses and steam cleaning of the carpets, stairs and upholstered furniture.

Year to date Regular Offerings were about \$207.2K which was about \$8.4K lower than in July 2022. Ministry Expenses were \$212.2K in the first ten months of the fiscal year, which was \$1.8K higher than the prior year period. The fiscal year to date Ordinary Net Loss was \$3.9K or \$9.6K worse than the prior year.

Undesignated cash funds available would cover about 5.3 months of Ministry Expenses without any reliance on additional Offerings being received This includes the liquidity that could be quickly provided from approximately \$51.8K of liquid assets (cash, U.S. Treasury Notes and bills) invested with Thrivent Financial to enhance the church's interest income.

The Treasurer stated that the ELCA Foundation reported that the Ministry Growth Fund, which houses our two Endowment funds, recorded a 2Q '23 gain of 3.4% and an 8.6% gain for the first six months of 2023.

The Treasurer then provided a detailed analysis of the congregations' year to date expenses and its forecasted full year financial results and projected fiscal year-end liquidity position. He noted a full year funding shortfall of approximately

9.0K could result if Offerings in the final two months approximated average budgeted amounts.

The financial report was approved by the Council pursuant to a motion made by Pastor Frank and seconded by Steve. A copy of the July 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 Frank spoke of two applicants for the Administrative Position. Pastor will be meeting with a few people that are interested in joining. Pastor has two baptisms scheduled, one of which will be on Labor Day weekend.

Worship and Music Report: A discussion was held concerning the date in which we will return to one service. No definite date has been determined but most likely it will not be until sometime in October. Also discussed was the boat and worship Sunday. It was a big success and Jeff was thanked for doing a tremendous job of leading both the worship and music, in lieu of Pastor not being able to attend. It was decided that we will definitely do it again in summer of 2024.

Property: Steve and Peder reported on property-related items which included: A DNR representative was on the church property checking our water and septic. Peder mentioned he checks our water every quarter by taking a sample to Ephraim.

Local Benevolence: Karen reported that with the addition of the \$1770.00 raised in the golf outing and the auction of the print, that we should be able to reach a goal of \$20,000. which would buy two ramps, for the Ramp Up project. Next will be our annual diaper drive starting in September.

Old Business: -A discussion was held concerning compensation for both Bev and Lorna. Also mentioned were the two applicants that Pastor had previously told us during the Pastor's report.
-The streaming proposal was addressed by Jeff and Pastor. The cost for the streaming would be \$4191.89. It was decided that the streaming expense would be part of next year's budget.
-With our annual meeting approaching, the subjects which we will be addressing are the lighting proposal which needs input from the congregation, incorporation, nominations for additional council members. A meeting format needs to be decided.

New Business:

-Jeff spoke of the handling of Memorial funds. When the church receives a memorial check, it must be specified on the check if the donor wishes it to be used in a specific way, otherwise it should be added to the general church fund. However, in the case of donations made in memory of Emmet Shemaek, Kathleen has asked that they go towards the Ramp Up project. All agreed that her request would be honored.
-Inventory/orders: It was suggested that we have a designated Council member to do the ordering when supplies are low. Pastor mentioned that he normally does the ordering. No decision was made to change that procedure.
-Council reports: Cathy asked that we all have our annual reports submitted to her by September 15th.

Adjournment: There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 P.M. with the praying of the Lord's Prayer. The motion to adjourn was made by Pam and seconded by Steve.

Next Council Meeting: Wednesday, September 20, 6:30 P.M. Devotion and Prayer-Pam.

*Respectfully submitted,
Pam Davis, Secretary*