



St Paul Lutheran Church

4167 Juddville Rd
Fish Creek, WI 54212

920-868-2826

stpauljuddville.com

Epistle

SEPTEMBER 2023

What's in this month's issue:

-
- Pastor's Message
 - Local Benevolence
 - September 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 Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Early in my pastoral ministry, I discovered one of the roles of a pastor is to invite others to be generous or to give them the opportunity to be generous. Jesus did this all the time in his ministry.

When we think of generosity, many of our minds turn to money as the tool of that generosity. While it is a profoundly powerful tool for ministry, our time and talents have equal import, and all work together to make ministry happen and give voice to the Gospel.

I have seen the Holy Spirit work through gifts which we sometimes discount as not having worth.

I have witnessed this generosity and been the recipient of it throughout my entire life.

And during my nearly nine years as a member of this community of faith I have seen the profound impact of the invitation and the response.

Sometimes worth can be measured, like monetary gifts. But one cannot measure the true worth of those gifts in what they do for others. A recent example, while a ramp may be valued at so many dollars and cents, how can one put a value on being able to access one's own home? And while canned goods may have a financial cost of a certain number of dollars and cents, what is the worth of a person being fed so that they may have life? What is the worth of someone reading the lessons during worship, listening to a neighbor in need of a compassionate friend, or forgiving someone who has hurt them?

As we move to the end of a fiscal year at the end of September and we focus on the challenge of "ending the year in the black," Isn't it more faithful to consider the generosity of our Lord and respond to our Lord's initiation to live not in scarcity but in the abundance with which we have been blessed in all aspects of our lives?

In Christ,
Pastor Frank



LOCAL BENEVOLENCE UPDATE



WE DID IT! RAMP UP WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!

What began as an idea of the Local Benevolence Task Force became an invitation to Ephraim Moravian Church and Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church to join us in this ministry effort. Holy imagination, invitation and the Spirit have led us to a very successful effort. Inviting makes a difference.

Thank you to all who have given gifts to raise funds for this ministry! Watch for a full, final report on RAMP UP in the October *Epistle!*

DIAPER DRIVE



It's time for our annual Diaper Drive! Through the month of September, we will be 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"!



HELPING THE HUNGRY IN DOOR COUNTY

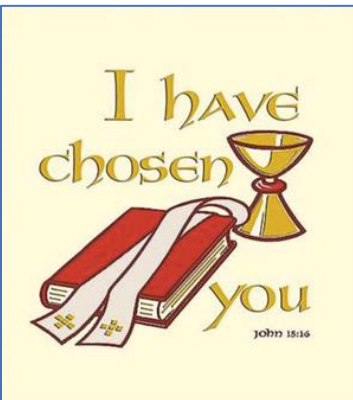
St. Paul made a donation of \$5,000 to the Door County Food Pantry Coalition. Pictured with Local Benevolence committee members is Edee Madsen from the Shepherd of the Bay food pantry.

Karen Peterson



CALENDAR / SPECIAL EVENTS

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES: 8:00am & 9:30am



Please join us to Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Pastor Michael Brecke

*Sunday, September 10 Service at 10:30 am
Reception to Follow*

*First Lutheran Church
6400 State Line Road
Shawnee Mission, KS 66208*

Please share cards and remembrances.

If you are unable to attend, cards may be sent to Pastor Michael c/o First Lutheran Church



THE CHOSEN ~ SEASON 2 BIBLE STUDY starts SEPT. 11, 5:30PM

Everyone is welcome to gather in the St Paul Fellowship area at 5:30PM every Monday from September 11 to October 30. 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's public ministry and what happens as word of His ministry begins to spread. Jesus performs miracles and heals people, including a paralyzed man at the Pool of Bethesda and a woman with a bleeding disorder. Jesus continues to call his disciples and teaches them about God's love and forgiveness. The season ends with Jesus preparing for the Sermon on the Mount.

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

KIDNITS -TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 at 1:15 P.M. in the Conference Room

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

WORSHIP & MUSIC MINISTRY - TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 at 10 A.M.

CHURCH COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 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.



SING YOUR PRAISE TO THE LORD! JOIN THE CHOIR

Choir practice will be held 6:30PM-7:30PM on Thursdays in September. 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 – August 16, 2023

Before I list Council business, I'm compelled to say the real highlight of these Council meetings is the palpable spirit of faith and dedication to the Gospel shown by those serving on Council. Best of all, these are easy people to work with. In our lives, we've likely all shared faith, commitment and a common goal with a group of people, without having any intention of sharing our time with them beyond the allotted hour. In contrast, your elected Council members are all people who are a pleasure to hang around with. If that's not a highlight, I don't know what is.

Council celebrated many good things that have come through congregation members including, but not limited to:

- 2nd Annual Golf outing on August 13 was successful in terms of funds raised for Ramp Up and fellowship.
- Pastor gave thanks for all those who came forward to help with two recent funerals. The funeral director noted

she hasn't seen that level of caring in other places.

- The August 6th service on the boat was meaningful and well-received by the 99 people on board, the majority from outside our congregation, a very worthy outreach.
- The Peace Praise event on August 8th as well as Sunday music from our Praise Team and all summer musicians have added depth to our worship both indoors and out.
- "The Chosen, Season 2" will begin on September 11, with supper, video, and discussion. Season 1 attendees became a close-knit group and look forward to having others join.
- The "Ramp Up" project, led by the Local Benevolence Ministry and fed by the incredible generosity of members and friends, is closing in on a goal of raising \$20,000. (Wow!)

Council approved Greg Ehlke's financial report as detailed elsewhere, but also voiced our continued amazement at Greg's level of expertise and service to St. Paul in this capacity. Council also heard information as to the proper handling of memorial funds.

Worship & Music Ministry came to Council seeking input on returning to a single Sunday worship service. Council decided that we should continue with the 8 and 9:30am services until, most likely, the Annual Meeting at the end of October, when we'd return to one 9am service.

Council continued work in preparation for the Annual Meeting, including looking over a draft budget, discussing a possible sanctuary lighting proposal, and discussing the meeting format. It was decided that the proposal for streaming worship services will be brought before the congregation at the Annual meeting, rather than to be decided by Council at this time. All reports for the Annual Meeting are due September 15 to be compiled and mailed prior to the October 29th meeting. Candidates for Church Council will be sought for nomination in the weeks ahead. (If you feel called to serve as such, please let Pastor or Cathy Mestek know.)

As always, Council began and ended with prayers for those in need, the Lord's Prayer and our gratitude for your partnership in the Gospel.

Respectfully submitted, Cathy Mestek, Council President



VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

MUSICIANS FOR SEPTEMBER

Sept 3 - Doreen Holt

Sept 10 - Praise Team

Sept 17 - Doreen Holt

Sept 24 - Doreen Holt

USHERS FOR SEPTEMBER

September 3 - 8am - Indoors - Jana Raines
9:30am - Indoors -

Outdoors -
Outdoors -

September 10 - 8am - Indoors -
9:30am - Indoors - Sue Beranek

Outdoors - Andrea Esau
Outdoors - Tom Beranek

September 17 -	8am - Indoors - Jerry Lecy	Outdoors -
	9:30am - Indoors -	Outdoors -
September 24 -	8am - Indoors - Jerry Lecy	Outdoors -
	9:30am - Indoors -	Outdoors

ASSISTING MINISTERS FOR SEPTEMBER

September 3 - 8am - Debbie Jones	9:30am - Dennis Kaldor
September 10 - 8am - John Hermann	9:30am - Praise Team/ Jan Meier
September 17 - 8am - Jane DeCock	9:30am - Pam Davis
September 24 - 8am - John Hermann	9:30am - Pam Davis



CHURCH LIFE

THE LUTHERAN MAGAZINE

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

CHRIST IN OUR HOME DEVOTIONS

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

PRAYER SHAWLS

Thank you to all who have been distributing prayer shawls. If you are aware of someone in need of one, please pick one up from the credenza in the narthex or from the table outside on Sunday before or after worship or call the office during the week. For those of you who knit or crochet, we are always grateful for any contributions you make of these gifts of care and concern. For additional information, contact Debbie Jones at 651-328-1261 or debbie.jones.pmp@gmail.com.

WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL GROWTH GROUP - FALL SESSION

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

Week 1: God is with you in the ordinary

Week 2: God is with you when you are stuck

Week 3: God is with you in the storm

Week 4: God is with you in the dark

Week 5: God is with you in the valley

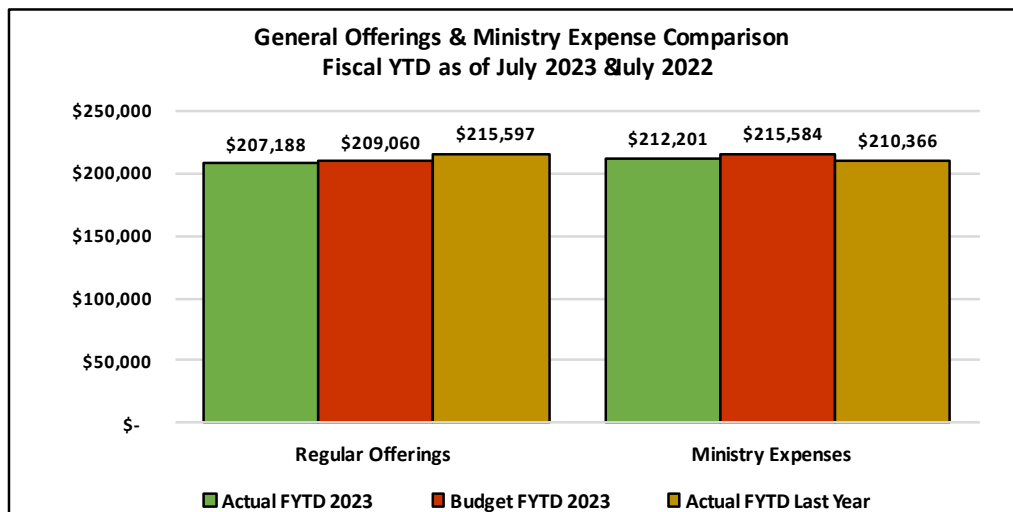
Week 6: God is with you when you need grace

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

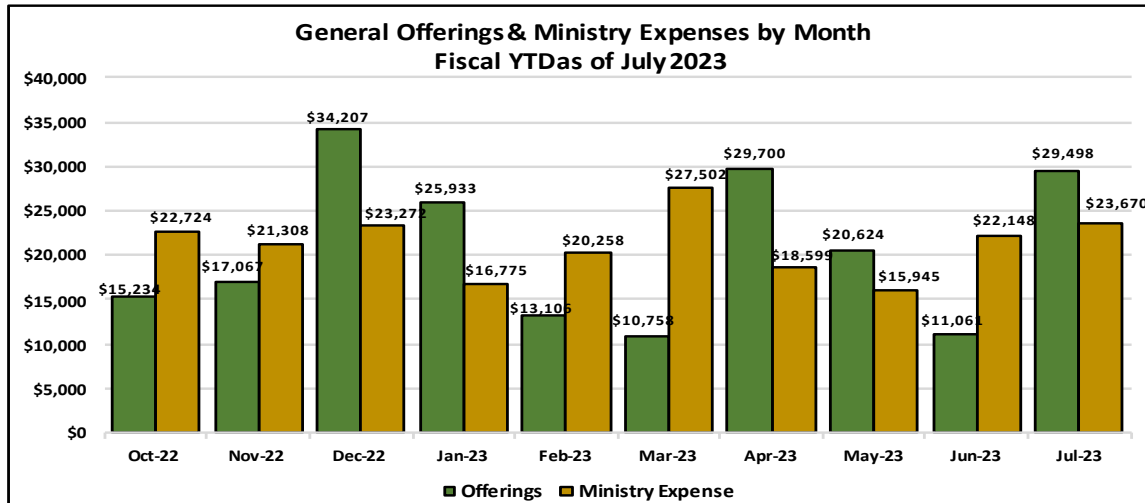
If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Debbie Jones at 651-328-1261 or debbie.jones.pmp@gmail.com. All are welcome!



FINANCIAL UPDATE



- FYTD = Fiscal Year-to-Date. St. Paul Lutheran's fiscal year begins on 01-Oct.
- The 2022-23 fiscal year Ministry Expenses budget is \$258,868
- General Offerings received in the first ten months of the fiscal year were \$8,409 lower than in the prior year (\$207,188 vs. \$215,597), partially reflecting \$2,754 of lower Offerings received in July versus the comparable prior year month
- General Offerings were less than Ministry Expenses by \$5,013 (i.e., \$207,188 - \$212,201 = \$5,013)



- General Offerings in July totaled \$29,498, as shown above, which was the third highest monthly Offerings total received in the first ten months of this fiscal year
- Ministry Expenses were higher in July than in June by \$1.5K principally due to higher Benevolence outlays to benefit others (up \$1.2K)



TREASURER'S CORNER



2ND ANNUAL ST. PAUL GOLF OUTING - MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

Twenty golfers, plus our two Golf Ambassadors Pat and Dennis Kaldor, attended the Second Annual St. Paul Golf Outing at Maxwellton Braes on Sunday afternoon, August 13th. After an outdoor lunch and short devotion, a fun round was enjoyed by all. Special thanks to the Kaldor's for adding to the golfers' fun by overseeing some fun golf skill challenges on the course.

We are so grateful for the generosity of those attendees. A total of \$2,470 was raised and donated to the Ramp Up Drive to help Northern Door residents with mobility issues more easily enter their homes. Awesome! Please plan to join next year's Third Annual Golf Outing.

Gregory Ehlke



COUNCIL MINUTES – July 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, Karen Peterson, Steve Stringer, Pam Davis

Excused/Absent: Peder Nelson, Renee Schwaller

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

Devotions: Karen Peterson provided an opening devotion entitled "Deeply Worn Grooves", read from Christ in our Home. It focused on asking God's help in breaking our harmful patterns.

Agenda Approval: The previously circulated agenda was reviewed, and following a motion made by Jeff and seconded by Pam, were approved.

Minutes: The previously circulated minutes from the June 21, 2023 meeting, following a motion made by Karen and seconded by Steve, were approved.

Record of Electronic Business Approval: Cathy reported that since the last meeting, the Council unanimously approved, on June 29th, by electronic means, the proposal from Synergy to install a new air conditioning system and gas furnace at a cost of up to \$19.K subject to approval at a special Congregational Meeting on July 16th, given the contract exceeds Council threshold approval levels.

Community of Faith: Cathy spoke of her gratitude that her daughter Cassie and grandson Dean were uninjured following a recent and serious car accident. She also expressed gratitude for an answer to prayer that her sister's house recently sold. Pastor Frank reported that someone that he was in contact with has kindly donated a Charles Peterson print that can be used as a silent auction item for the Ramp Up Project. The print will be displayed in the narthex and already has 3 bids, with the top bid being \$400. The Pastor also told of a lady that has kindly donated a ramp that her mother had used, which she is donating to Habitat.

Financial Report: Greg Ehlke referred to the financial summary and supporting reports that he had distributed by email prior to the meeting. The financial summary for June 2023 highlighted that Total Offerings for the month approximated \$11.3K which was about \$1.3K lower than the prior year month and the second lowest month in the current fiscal year. Ministry Expenses approximated \$22.1K, which was about \$2.0K higher than the prior year month. The playground mulch and Prayer Garden landscape improvement expenses totaling \$3.6K were paid in June. Year to date Regular Offerings were about \$177.7K which was about \$5.7K lower than in June 2022. Ministry Expenses were \$188.5K in the first nine months of the fiscal year, which was \$2.7K lower than the prior year period. The fiscal year-to-date Ordinary Net Loss was \$9.8K or \$2.4K worse than the prior year period. Undesignated cash funds available would cover about 6.0 months of Ministry Expenses without any reliance on additional Offerings being received. They include the liquidity that could be quickly provided from approximately \$51.3K 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 and projected fiscal year-end position. He noted there has been a recent slowdown in Offerings which may well result in a loss of liquidity and a full year operating loss if this trend continues. It was reported that a donation of stocks was made which, when sold, provided \$4600.00 The financial report was approved by the Council pursuant to a motion made by Karen and seconded by Steve. A copy of the June 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 spoke of his concern about the low attendance, which has also been noticed at Ephraim Moravian church. Pastoral care has been taking much of his time. Pastor spoke of the new Door County Medical Center in Sister Bay that has 3 mental health counselors on staff. The Pastor will be on vacation until July 27th.

Worship and Music Report: Jacob Baranek will be back on the 30th of July. Jeff commented that the Praise Team recommends approval of the streaming. A discussion was held regarding the expense of doing so. The Praise Band from Ripon will again be gracing us with their music on Tuesday, August 8th at 6:00 P.M. The St. Paul team will be supplying music on our August 6th boat cruise.

Property Report: Steve reported that the new furnace and air conditioner have been installed and seem to be functioning well. An elevator inspection is due in November. Steve said that the cemetery survey is in progress but will not be completed until later this fall. Greg mentioned that the fire extinguishers need to be inspected. Greg also suggested that we compensate Chris for all of the painting work he has done and is continuing to do. So far he has spent more than 51 hours painting for St. Paul.

Local Benevolence: Karen provided an update on the Ramp-Up fundraising project which is being overseen by the Local Benevolence Ministry team. Presently we have \$12,500. toward our goal of buying 2 ramps at the cost of \$10,000. each. This does not include the art auction or the golf outing. Karen then mentioned two allocations that the Local Benevolence team would like approved. Those being \$5000.00 for the Food Pantry Coalition and \$1000. to Help of Door County. These allocations were approved following a motion made by Pam, and seconded by Jeff.

Old Business: Cathy talked to Lorna and Bev concerning compensation for their work while the search continues for a new Administrative Assistant. The Council has approved the compensation for those filling in until the position is filled.

Starlink Status/Next Steps: Pastor reported that Quantum had installed the StarLink hardware on the peaked roof nearest the Prayer Garden on May 31st. He also reported on efforts to enlist Quantum to enable our worship services to be livestreamed as the services occur. A discussion concerning the cost of that service was held and it was decided that the decision would be tabled for now.

Summer Fellowship Events: A discussion was held concerning updates on summer fellowship events. These included: - Worship on the Nor Door boat on August 6th - The Second Annual St. Paul Golf Outing on August 13th at Maxwellton Braes - The Peace Praise Band on Tuesday, August 8th.

New Business:

Preliminary Annual Budget Work: Greg led a discussion on the forecasted fiscal year-end financial position and sought input on key assumptions to be included in the 2023-24 budget which will be reviewed in detail at the next Council meeting. It was noted that our fuel cost for next year is much lower than it has been for the past year. However, our Insurance has gone up by 8%. Jeff mentioned that Shawn Mathys would like an end date to her duties as Financial Secretary.

Streaming Proposal: Jeff provided an update on a streaming proposal for worship services. It would include a new camera and would require 3 to 4 people to be trained. It has been recommended that we proceed by the Praise group. The cost of the streaming would be approximately \$4192. Pastor Frank made the motion that we table the decision on streaming until a later date. Pam seconded the motion and it was approved.

Adjournment: There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 P.M. with the praying of The Lord's Prayer.

Next Council Meeting: Our next meeting will be August 16th, 2023, 6:30 P.M in person at the church. Steve Stringer will provide the opening devotion and prayer.

*Respectfully submitted,
Pam Davis, Secretary*