

Epistle

DECEMBER 2023

St Paul Lutheran Church

4167 Juddville Rd
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stpauljuddville.com

What's in this month's issue:

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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!

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



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We have begun a new Church year, it's Advent. The four weeks and Sundays are a period of watching and waiting, which gives focus on the coming again of the Lord and leads us to the birth of the Christ child. Each Sunday, a candle is lit in preparation for these comings. During the lighting of the candles, we will sing the hymn "O Come, O Come. Emmanuel." The words speak of the one who is 'God with us'. By tradition, the color of those candles is blue, a color of hope.

Our ancestors in faith lived in hope, in faith, that God would continue to be faithful, and so God has been faithful, even when they were not. We can live in hope and faith, or let our lives give way to despair and death. Whatever our choice, God will be God, unwavering, faithful to us in his Son Jesus. God desires we partner with God in this hope. We are not called to sit on the sidelines in this world—God has made and has entrusted to us. There is much to hope for—but hope without action is futile.

There is so very much I hope for this day:

I hope for all people to treat each other as 'neighbors' using the definition Jesus gave to us of that very word,

I hope for leaders to use their authority and power for the common good.

I hope for all to have food, shelter, clothing, medical care,

I hope the disparity between those who have and those who do not would be far, far less,

I hope ...

All of the hopes I have shared, and all others, are found encapsulated in the first hope of the above litany. *Who is my neighbor and how should I live in that relationship through the eyes of God?* I ask you to think on these words as we watch and wait together, trusting in the one who is faithful, in whom we have hope and faith—the one who offers to us unworthy yet loved ones . . . Emmanuel.

In Christ,
Pastor Frank



LOCAL BENEVOLENCE UPDATE



JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS CARD WRITING & GIFT WRAPPING SAT., DEC. 9 AT 10AM.

We'll be getting our cards and gifts ready for caregivers and residents of the Sturgeon Bay Health Services nursing home. All are welcome!



FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS ALWAYS NEEDED AND APPRECIATED

A note from Mary Anne & Clarence Scherer:

We brought the donations to Lakeshore Cap in Sturgeon Bay. They are so appreciative of our donations. We have United Health for our insurance. Through them we can receive \$45.00 per quarter in band aids, Tylenol, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc. This quarter, we purchased numerous items and brought them to Lakeshore Cap. They said they can use all the medical things they can get. There are many other things they would appreciate.

I also spoke to *Feed My People*, and they also would appreciate any donations.

Thank you for supporting the Food Pantries!



CALENDAR / SPECIAL EVENTS

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES - 8 and 9:30 a.m.*

*** DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

(IN THE SANCTUARY, AND PARKING LOT ON 92.1 FM)

Advent Theme: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Sundays December 3, 10, 17, & 31st 8 and 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 24 9 a.m.

Christmas Worship

Christmas Eve Sunday, December 24 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.

Christmas Day Monday, December 25 9 a.m.



***The St. Paul Parking Lot is lit through the seasons of Advent and Christmas.
Come, sit in your car, visit with a friend, pray, meditate and listen to music on 92.1 FM***

KIDNITS -MONDAY, DEC. 4 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!

CHRISTMAS DECORATING INSIDE CHURCH ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9 9 A.M.

All are invited to help.

LOCAL BENEVOLENCE TASK FORCE OUTREACH PROJECT SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9 10 A.M.

All are invited to fill out cards and wrap gifts.



YOU'RE INVITED TO A CONGREGATION POTLUCK! SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 AFTER 9:30 A.M. WORSHIP In church basement.

Hosted by the New Members of St Paul. Get to know them!

Please bring a side dish to share. Sign up on the credenza clipboard in the Narthex by Dec. 3, please, so we know how many for which to prepare. Beverages and main dish will be provided.

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

CHURCH COUNCIL – WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1:00PM, 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.



ST PAUL CHOIR WILL PRACTICE ON THURSDAYS AT 4:00PM DEC 7, 14 & 21.

We rehearse in the sanctuary. 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 – November 15, 2023

Pastor led Council in a devotion focused on showing up for those in need, including those who have shown up in his life in times of need. Council echoed our thanks for all of you who “show up” to carry on ministry here and elsewhere.

- Betty Eisenhauer, who has been lending Council her expertise in the area of human resources, led the Council through the hiring process for an Administrative Assistant. With Betty's assistance, Council fine-tuned the terms of the offer. Betty has completed an in-person interview and has reviewed the applicant's qualifications. She recommended that we extend an offer of employment, to commence December 4th. Council voted unanimously to authorize Betty to extend the offer. We further offered prayers of thanks for Betty's expertise and for the prospect of having a sorely-missed Administrative Assistant after an 8-month vacancy.

- Council reorganized for the coming year as follows:

- Cathy Mestek, President and Co-Chair, Worship & Music Ministry
- Jeff Kuchenbecker, Vice-President and Co-Chair, Worship & Ministry
- Greg Ehlke, Treasurer
- Peder Nelson, Secretary
- Renee Schwaller, Co-Chair, Fellowship
- Pam Davis, Co-Chair, Fellowship
- Steve Stringer, Chair, Property and Maintenance
- Karen Peterson, Chair, Local Benevolence
- Shawn Mathys, Financial Secretary

- Council heard that "The Chosen" study group has completed this season and will resume their study in the spring, with all welcome to join. Council thanked all who have led this group, bringing those involved into a close-knit community.

- Council unanimously voted to accept and welcome Dennis and Connie Stiegenberger as members. Dennis and Connie will be publicly received at an upcoming worship service.

- Christmas services were set as follows: Sunday, Christmas Eve, 9:00am, 5:30pm and 7:30pm; Monday, Christmas Day, 9:00am. All services will be offered both in-sanctuary and parking lot. The usual 8am and 9:30am worship will resume on Sunday, December 31.

- Council unanimously approved a \$1,500 gift, taken from Local Benevolence funds, to the Boys and Girls Club of Door County to purchase gifts for those in need.

- Council heard that St. Paul is on a cusp of having a new membership directory, thanks to volunteers. Members may either submit their own photo or can have a photo taken on a Sunday morning. The goal is to have an in-house directory ready for use in the coming weeks.

*Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Mestek, Council President*



VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

MUSICIANS FOR DECEMBER

12/3	Doreen	12/24 5:30 pm	Doreen
12/10	Doreen	12/24 7:30 pm	Doreen
12/17	Praise Team	12/25 9 am	Jan & Shawn
12/24 9 am	Jacob	12/31	Jacob

USHERS FOR DECEMBER *I know we're asking a lot of our ushers. Seeing all these souls willing to serve is very gratifying. Thank you for being a blessing to those at St. Paul and beyond. God's peace - Cathy M.*

December 3 - 8am	Indoors: Jerry Lecy	Outdoors: Andrea Esau
9:30am -	Indoors: Jana Raines	Outdoors: J & J Dew on standby
December 10 - 8am -	Indoors: Mary Anne Scherer	Outdoors: Clarence Scherer
9:30am -	Indoors: Sher Rockway	Outdoors: Todd Rockway
December 17 - 8am -	Indoors: Jerry Lecy	Outdoors: Clarence Scherer
9:30am -	Indoors: Sue Beranek	Outdoors: Tom Beranek
December 24 - Christmas Eve/Sunday		
9:00am -	Indoors: Terri Back	Outdoors: Roy Back
5:30pm -	Indoors: Dave DeCock	Outdoors:
7:30pm -	Indoors: Charlie Mestek	Outdoors:
December 25 - Christmas Day/Monday		
9:00am -	Indoors: Sher Rockway	Outdoors: Todd Rockway
December 31 - 8:am -	Indoors: Charlie Mestek	Outdoors:
9:30am -	Indoors:	Outdoors:

ASSISTING MINISTERS FOR DECEMBER

December 3 - 8am - Cathy Mestek	9:30am - Debbie Jones
December 10 - 8am - Jane DeCock	9:30am - Dwight Zeller
December 17 - 8am - Praise Team	9:30am - Dennis Kaldor
December 24 - Christmas Eve/Sunday	9:00am - Cathy Mestek
5:30pm - Jane DeCock	7:30pm -
December 25 - Christmas Day/Monday	9:00am - Jan Meier
December 31 - 8:00am - Dwight Zeller	9:30am - Cathy Mestek

NEW! ALTAR GUILD FOR DECEMBER & JANUARY

December 3 - Terri Back	January 7 - Terri Back	January 28 - Jill Dew
December 10 - Jill Dew	January 14 - Jill Dew	
December 17 - Jill Dew	January 21 - Jill Dew	
December 24 Morning/Christmas Eve/Christmas Day - Terri Back & Bev Prohl		
December 31 - Jill Dew		



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 . . .

- *to purchase a poinsettia to decorate the sanctuary and narthex,*
- *to volunteer to shovel the entrance areas and sidewalks,*
- *to 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 – ADVENT

During the season of Advent, the Women's Spiritual Growth Group will be using the daily devotion resource from Living Compass for the **season of Advent**. This year's theme is "Practicing **Wonder** with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind." I still have 1 copy of this resource (no charge) that can be used for personal as well as group study for anyone interested.

There will be no formal study during Advent, but there will be 3 weekly ZOOM sessions (12/7, 12/14, 12/21) with rotating facilitators to share insights, ask questions, and point out highlights which inspired us from this Advent devotional. Please contact Debbie Jones (651-328-1261 or debbie.jones.pmp@gmail.com) if you have an interest.

WINTER 2024 SESSION

Our next structured study will begin on **Thursday, January 4 and continue through Thursday, February 8**. We will be meeting via ZOOM sessions each Thursday morning from 8:45-10:00 AM using Max Luccado's study on the book of **Philippians**, [Life Lessons with Max Lucado: Philippians](#). Each week we will discuss 2 lessons including background on the culture and historical setting, the assigned scripture (NIV and NKJV included in the book), thoughts from Max Lucado, and exploration questions as we apply the scripture to our lives.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Debbie Jones. Please let me know by Sunday, 12/3 if you would like me to include you in the group order for the book (approximately \$10). It will be available for pickup and payment before Christmas. 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.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU!!!

There has been a need to preserve the finish on the Church's wood Communion trays so that any spilled drops of wine on the surface would not degrade the finish.

I reached out to see if there was someone familiar with special wood finishing skills. Jerry Schwaller responded with his suggestion of a special varnish that should be used. He also volunteered to take on the project to refinish both sets of the wood Communion trays and covers.

Thank you, Jerry, for your time and special talent.

Tom Prohl and the Congregation



FINANCIAL UPDATE

Gregory Ehlke, Treasurer

October 2023 Financial Summary

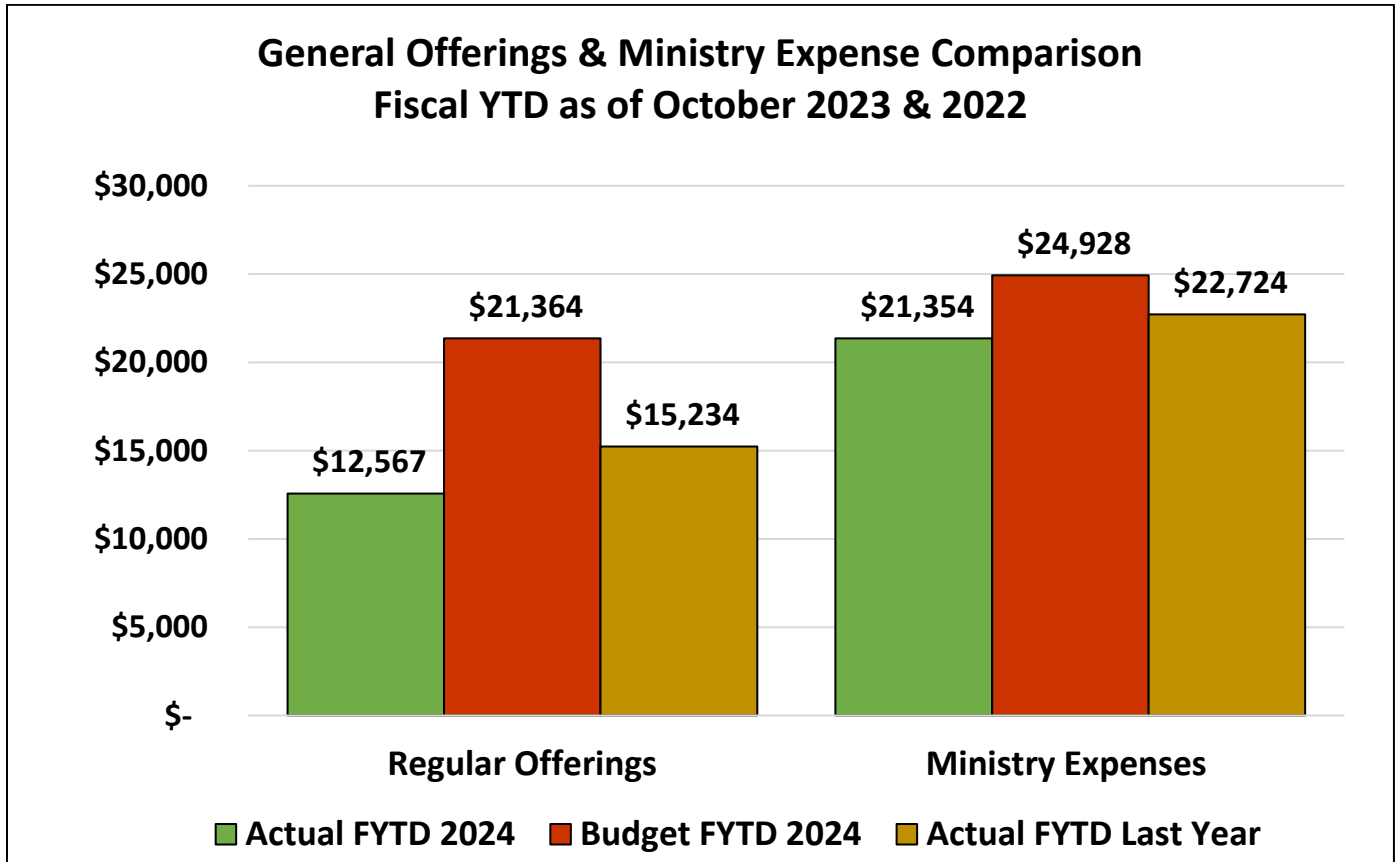
- ▶ **Total Offerings in October totaled \$13,000, approximately \$2,500 lower than the same prior year month**
 - October was the first month of the 2023-24 fiscal year
 - October Offerings included Designated Offerings of \$395 for Urgent Need
 - Regular Offerings (i.e., Total Offerings less the Designated Offerings above) of \$12,600 were \$2,300 lower than last October and about \$9,700 lower than budgeted on a constant monthly basis and included earmarked amounts of \$760 for the Diaper Drive, \$75 for Global Benevolence and \$50 for ELCA Disaster Relief

- ▶ **Total Ministry Expenses (i.e., excluding Dedicated Funds and Endowment-related expenses) were \$21,400, or \$1,400 lower, than in October 2022 and \$3,600 lower than budgeted**
 - Full year Insurance premiums were paid in October including \$4,100 for liability coverage and \$1,200 for Workman's Compensation coverage
 - Pastoral Expenses of \$11,800 were approximately \$800 lower than budgeted while Support Staff Expenses of \$2,800 were about \$500 lower than budgeted
 - There were no Benevolence outlays in October

▶ Undesignated cash (i.e., the Checking - Other sub-account) in the Nicolet Bank checking account was \$36,700 as of October month-end

– This would cover approximately 1.7 months of budgeted Ministry Expenses

Note: Most amounts rounded to the nearest \$100.



NOTE! Financial Offerings - Offering received in worship during 2023 and checks dated 2023 will be credited to 2023.



COUNCIL MINUTES – October 18, 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, Greg Ehlke, Jeff Kuchenbecker (by phone), Karen Peterson, Steve Stringer, Pam Davis **Absent/Excused:** Renee Schwaller, Peder Nelson

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

Devotion: The devotion was presented by Cathy who shared a humorous look at aging.

Agenda Approval: The previously circulated agenda was approved by all.

September Council Minutes Approval: The previously circulated September Council Minutes were approved, following a motion made by Karen and seconded by Steve. Pam had said she thought having both the highlights of the meeting and then the following month the minutes of the same meeting was redundant. However, Pastor said that the highlights come shortly after the meeting whereas the complete minutes don't come until the next month. He suggested "tightening" up the highlights.

Electronic Business: There was no electronic business conducted this past month.

Community of Faith: Karen mentioned that Betty Eisenhower is selling her Door County home and moving to Milwaukee to be close to family. She will be sorely missed as she has been such a blessing to St. Paul with all her dedicated service. Cathy mentioned a friend of hers having domestic problems and that she suggested speaking with her Pastor and thanked Pastor Frank for being readily available for our congregation. Pastor Frank spoke of a number of people that we are praying for and mentioned visiting some home bound people.

Financial Report: Greg Ehlke reported that the advance mailing for the Annual Congregation Meeting was completed earlier today which included full 2022-23 fiscal year financial statements along with the proposed 2023-24 Spending Plan and a draft of an updated member directory. He thanked Betty Eisenhower for all of her work in compiling, formatting, and preparing the booklets and draft member directory for mailing. He then referred to the financial summary and supporting financial reports distributed via email prior to the meeting. The Financial Summary for September highlighted Total Offerings were \$19.9K (about \$1.0K lower than budgeted) and contained \$2.4K of Designated Offerings including \$1.8K for the Ramp Up Drive. September Ministry Expenses were \$47.7K which included \$28.4K of Benevolence outlays. Consistent with the advance mailing, Greg reported that \$260.8K of Regular Offerings were received in fiscal year 2022-23. Ministry Expenses totaled \$277.7K and included \$54.5K of Benevolence outflows (about 21% of Offerings). Undesignated cash and available cash and securities in our two brokerage accounts at Thrivent Financial were sufficient to cover about 6 months of Ministry expenses without any additional Offerings being received which is deemed especially important given the variability of monthly Offerings received especially in the winter months. The Council approved the financial report pursuant to a motion made by Pam and seconded by Karen. A copy of the Financial Summary for September 2023, 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 mentioned more people will be joining and named Pam and Dwight Zeller, from Carlsville, are among those to become members. Karen made a motion to accept them as members, seconded by Pam and the Council approved. Pastor also mentioned visiting a member that doesn't have much family support and how she relies on the church. Pastor reminded her that she could count on him and the church for support.

Property: Steve reported the following items:

-A water sample was taken at the end of September. The report has been received.

-The elevator inspectors came and we now have a new elevator certificate. The bill has been received for that inspection. There is a sign instructing riders how to operate the elevator.

Worship and Music: Cathy mentioned that Jan and Doreen mentioned that the Clavinova is in need of service. The main discussion was once again about the worship times and whether we will stay with the two services. There have been emails requesting both having one service and others that said they couldn't come if there was not an 8:00 A.M. service. Pastor talked with Doreen and she is willing to continue playing for both services. The Council made the decision to stay with the two services pursuant to a motion made by Karen, seconded by Pam. It will be reevaluated during the winter months.

Local Benevolence: Karen reported that we are wrapping up the diaper drive which has been well supported. They will be dispersed following the last Sunday in October. The next meeting will be this next Tuesday, the 24th.

Old Business:

-Administrative Assistant: Presently there is one applicant who does have "quick book" background. She has the necessary skills but Pastor has not yet interviewed her for the position. Jeff mentioned that quick book work could be done online with other people being able to go online to help.

-Review and Planning Session: Pastor mentioned he had not had a review in some time. He feels it would be helpful for the future in finding our next Pastor. Greg asked if the Council should have a special planning meeting, perhaps with a dinner. It has to be determined who will have what position on the Council. Cathy mentioned that Peder would be willing to serve on the Council for another 3 years and would be happy to take over as the secretary. Being an English major he would be an excellent candidate and Pam, a retired nurse with no secretarial skills, has never felt comfortable in the position. No decision was made at this time concerning the planning meeting.

-Lighting Proposal: Steve reported that he has three different proposals:

1. Different bulbs in all the fixtures, which has been done.

2. A proposal by Manning Lighting for a partial solution with 4 lights above the pews and 6 sconces. However he was told that if we wanted to dim them, it would not work. This proposals would be \$14.K.

3. The third proposal would include lighting in the front and that would be \$19.K

Karen thought that the proposals were exceptionally high and thought we could get new lighting fixtures for far less and she has lighting catalogs that we can peruse. The council went into the sanctuary to see how the lighting was now that new bulbs have been inserted. The council all agreed that the present 2 fixtures were not very attractive and do need replacing. Pastor proposed that we look at the catalogs that Karen has and that we not pull the lighting subject at our annual meeting.

Annual Meeting Prep:

Nominations: Peder and Karen are both running for re-election. They are the only two candidates.

Meeting Format: There has been a request that the meeting be held down stairs with refreshments served. It was decided that the meeting would be in the sanctuary with refreshments following.

An Annual Congregation Meeting booklet has been mailed to all St. Paul members with the agenda for the meeting; included in the mailing was a draft of an updated membership list.

New Business: Bev and Tom Pohl would like to circulate sheets asking for people to sign up as volunteers for ways to serve at St. Paul.

Cathy mentioned that there has been a request by Northern Door Alan to use our facility for meetings on Tuesday evenings from 6 to 7:30 P.M. That request has been granted.

Steve has volunteered to take photos for our church directory.

Adjournment: There being no other business, a motion was made by Pam and seconded by Karen to adjourn. All members approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 P.M. following the recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

Next Council Meeting: Wednesday, November 15, 2023, 5:30 P.M. Devotion and Pray by Pastor Frank

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Davis, Secretary

