



St. Paul Lutheran Church

4167 Juddville Rd, Fish Creek WI 54212 — (920) 868-2826
Stpaullutheranjuddville.360unite.com



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

January 2020

EPISTLE



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Through the years I have been asked what I wished for at Christmas. Much to the displeasure of those asking, my response has been “world peace.” They are not displeased by what I wish for, however, they know they can't deliver it. I have everything I need and I am most grateful.

The need I express is for all of creation, including me. As salvation is created in Jesus (Christmas), he brings a peace which surpasses all human understanding. It is of his kingdom. Isaiah is a wonderful place to look for images of this peace. It is a peace which will be fulfilled when Christ comes again. No more pain. No more suffering. All are valued.

While we wait for his coming again, we celebrate the season of Christmas. God has come into this world with grace, and truth and peace, God's peace. Is this the gift of Christmas which you hold dear, which you feel so compelled to discover through the reading of the Bible and being in community with your neighbor, in Christ? Is this the peace you participate in by serving your neighbor, in Christ?

It is a gift already given, this peace. It is Jesus Christ our Lord. May we be instruments of this peace as we live our lives in celebration of the life we have been given by God.

Peace be with you.

A blessed Christmas season to you,

Pastor Frank

SEASON OF EPIPHANY



STORY OF THE *CRISMONS*

Our St. Paul Christmas tree is adorned with a variety of beautiful *Chrismons*. *Chrismons* are Christmas decorations with Christian symbols on them. They help Christians to remember that Christmas is the celebration of Jesus's birthday.

They were first made by Frances Kipps Spencer at the Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia. She also thought of the word, "*Chrismon*," which is a combination of Christ and monogram (meaning symbol).

Chrismons are traditionally colored white and gold. White is the liturgical (or Church) color for Christmas and symbolizes that Jesus was pure and perfect. Gold symbolizes His Majesty and Glory. *Chrismons* can be made from nearly anything, but paper and embroidered ones are the most widely used.

According to Loretta Robertoy, long-time member of St. Paul, the *Chrismons* on our tree were here when she joined St. Paul over sixty years ago and were most likely made by the Ladies Aid. They are an important part of our history.

SEASON OF EPIPHANY

This year Epiphany falls on Sunday, January 5th. We celebrate "Jesus, the *Light* of the World." Light will be everywhere! Come and worship at 8:00 A.M. or 9:30 A.M. and celebrate the *Light* and how God makes known Jesus in the world through us.

CHRISTMAS UNDECORATING

Saturday, January 11th, at 9:00 A.M., all the decorations need to be taken down and put away. *Please come and help out.*

EPIPHANY MEAL

On Sunday, January 12th, following the 9:30 A.M. Worship service, the Fellowship Ministry will be hosting a meal to celebrate the season of Epiphany. Once again, the delicious and abundant entrée will be provided. You are invited to bring a side dish, dessert, or salad. Mark January 12th on your calendar and come prepared to dine, visit and share the goodness of our Lord. Please contact Amy Jo Campbell, Fellowship Ministry Chair, with any questions by email at amyjo@oilerie.com.

BEING A READER

Churches need volunteers to be successful and grow. Being a reader is one small way to contribute. It only takes a few minutes to prepare for a very important part of the service. The sermon is usually based on these readings. I feel good about contributing in this way and would encourage others to be readers.
—Lorraine Quarnstom

USHERS—READERS—ASSISTING MINISTERS—ALTAR GUILD

Thank you, thank you to all who have served as ushers, readers, altar guild and/or assisting ministers. Please remember to sign up for dates in 2020.

BIBLE STUDY

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

MEETS THE SECOND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH
FROM 9-11 A.M.

The monthly Women's Bible Study Group will meet on Tuesday, January 14th, at 9:00 A.M. in our multi-purpose room at church to discuss the January study. The title of the study is "We Are Called." In this study, we will learn more about how our ancestors in faith heard and responded to God's call and we will reflect on our own lives and callings. We will discuss how we hear and respond to God's call.

The study is taken from the January/February issue of the Lutheran Women publication — titled *Gather*. Copies of the study will be available. New members are always welcome. Call Kathy Olson at 868-3723 with any questions.

WEEKLY MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

MEETS EACH FRIDAY BEGINNING AT 8:30 A.M.

Please join or visit the St. Paul Men's Bible Study for fellowship and study in a relaxing atmosphere. We meet every Friday at 8:30 A.M. for breakfast and/or coffee and discussion. Contact Gary Jones at 651-271-9094 for location details.

BLANKET ANGELS

MEETS THE FIRST AND THIRD WEDNESDAYS OF EACH MONTH FROM 1-2 P.M.

Join us this month on January 15th downstairs in the Fellowship Hall from 1-2 P.M. Materials are provided -- no experience is necessary!! Bring scissors if you have them. Contact Wendy Graf for more information at 920-559-0160.

WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL GROWTH BIBLE STUDY

MEETS EACH THURSDAY ON SELECT WEEKS
FROM 9-11 A.M.

Looking for a weekly opportunity to reflect on the Word and apply it to your own life? Then perhaps the Women's Spiritual Growth Group is for you!

We meet on Thursdays from 9-11 A.M. at St. Paul in the upstairs meeting room. We begin our winter sessions on Thursday, January 9th with a five-week study by John Ortberg called, "Who Is This Man, The Unpredictable Impact of the Inescapable Jesus."

Each week we will begin our session together with a short (10 minute) companion video that positions the week's discussion. Our topics will include:

Session 1 (1/9): The Man Who Won't Go Away

Session 2 (1/16): A Revolution of Humanity

Session 3 (1/23): The Power of Forgiveness

Session 4 (1/30): Why It's a Small World After All

Session 5 (2/6): Three Days That Changed the World

We will discover "how Jesus' influence has swept over history, bringing his inspiration to the fields of art, science, government, medicine, and education. And how his vision for us to lead lives of dignity, compassion, forgiveness, and hope continues to inspire and challenge humanity today."

All are welcome. For more information, or to sign up, contact Debbie Jones:

E-Mail: debbie.jones.pmp@gmail.com

Telephone: 651-328-1261

The group will meet for a lunch at the White Gull Inn on Friday, January 3rd at 11:30 A.M. where study guides will be distributed.

SERVANTHOOD

KIDNITS

The Kidnits knit and crochet ministry celebrates another year of making garments and blankets for children all over the world. Join us on Tuesday, January 7th at 12:30 P.M. for lunch at the White Gull Inn. Good food and conversation are sure to abound. Please contact Mary Anne Scherer at 920-559-0165 or by email at decgalm@gmail.com to reserve your spot.

CHRISTIAN WOMAN'S BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

MEETS THE THIRD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH APRIL
THROUGH OCTOBER

The group will not meet for discussion until next April. We have, however, selected our 2020 BOOK LIST. Please contact Dolores Hermann if you would like a copy. Read some of the selections, then plan to attend our first meeting on Tuesday, April 21st, 2020 at 1 P.M. New members are welcome at any time.



Book Clubbers enjoy Christmas lunch at the White Gull Inn

CONNECTIONS

As much as we long for relief from the busyness of Christmas, we also do not look forward to the cold dark days of January. Praise God that our peace and contentment are not dependent on our circumstances nor the weather.

January is a beautiful month to snuggle in with The Good Book - yes, the Bible! It reminds us that we will all face trials, but trials have a way of leading us to growth and a closer relationship with God. Trials also draw us closer to one another as we seek to bring support and God's love to others.

The next time you are feeling anxious, discouraged, or alone reach for your Bible. There you will find the true messages of new life in Christ - not the lies of Satan in this world. Carry these messages of hope in your heart and share them with others in this hurting world. When we face darkness in our lives, remember God is Light. He is waiting for us to focus on Him, to trust Him, and to open our hearts to the unseen world of Jesus' ever presence. He is waiting for us to bring this light to those suffering around us. All we need to do is take the first step, and He will provide the rest!

If you are aware of someone who could use some extra encouragement, you can also reach out to Pastor Frank or Debbie Jones at 651-328-1261 or email at debbie.jones.pmp@gmail.com. The Connections Ministry team is available to share Christ's love with those who need a listening ear. They are also available to bring communion to those who have been unable to come to the Lord's table.

"May the God of Hope fill you with all Joy and Peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with Hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." -Romans 15:13

CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Your Church Council wants to communicate with you about the work of the Council on a timely basis. As the new president, I will provide this brief snapshot of the actions taken at each monthly Council meeting. Part of the rationale for the HIGHLIGHTS articles is that in the past, we published *draft* minutes; meaning that Council had not yet approved them. Starting in January, the full minutes in the Epistle and website will have already been approved by the time you read it. Therefore, the full December Council meeting minutes will be found in February's Epistle.

So, here are the highlights of the December 16th Council meeting:

- ⇒ \$500 scholarships awarded to each of five college students: Aleah Bauldry, Ava Beaudot, Anika Peterson, Jared Reinhardt and Trevor Reinhardt.
- ⇒ Approved plans and budget for church office relocation to former Sunday School room to provide a professional work environment for the Administrative Assistant and dedicated work space for volunteers working on various projects, as well as privacy for Pastor in his office.
- ⇒ Actively reaching out to members to join the newly formed local benevolence ministry to begin its work of financially supporting charitable organizations in January.
- ⇒ Approved plans and budget for an improved sound system and new hearing loop in the sanctuary.
- ⇒ Reviewed results of communications & technology ministry survey (see separate article).
- ⇒ Beginning in January, Council meetings will be at 1 P.M. on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

We hope you find these "short and sweet" HIGHLIGHTS of the meetings informative. Let me know what you think.

—Betty Eisenhauer



COUNCIL CONTACTS

Betty Eisenhauer, President
920-868-5043
bettyeisenhauer1@gmail.com

Tom Prohl, Vice President
715-459-4914
tomprohl45@gmail.com

Greg Ehlke, Treasurer
920-868-1092
gregory.elhke@gmail.com

Dave DeCock, Secretary
920-868-1914
decockfamily@gmail.com

Karen Peterson
920-868-2989
maxwells@maxwellshousedc.com

MISCELLANEOUS

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS



Tim and Debbie Hermann



Andrea Esau



Bob and Lainie Kaufrin



John and Jill Dew

WE ASKED, YOU ANSWERED

First of all, bravo to the 56 of you who responded to the November Communications Survey. It's an impressive response rate. We learned important information and plan to incorporate it into our ministry's work in 2020. Following is a summary of the results by survey question.

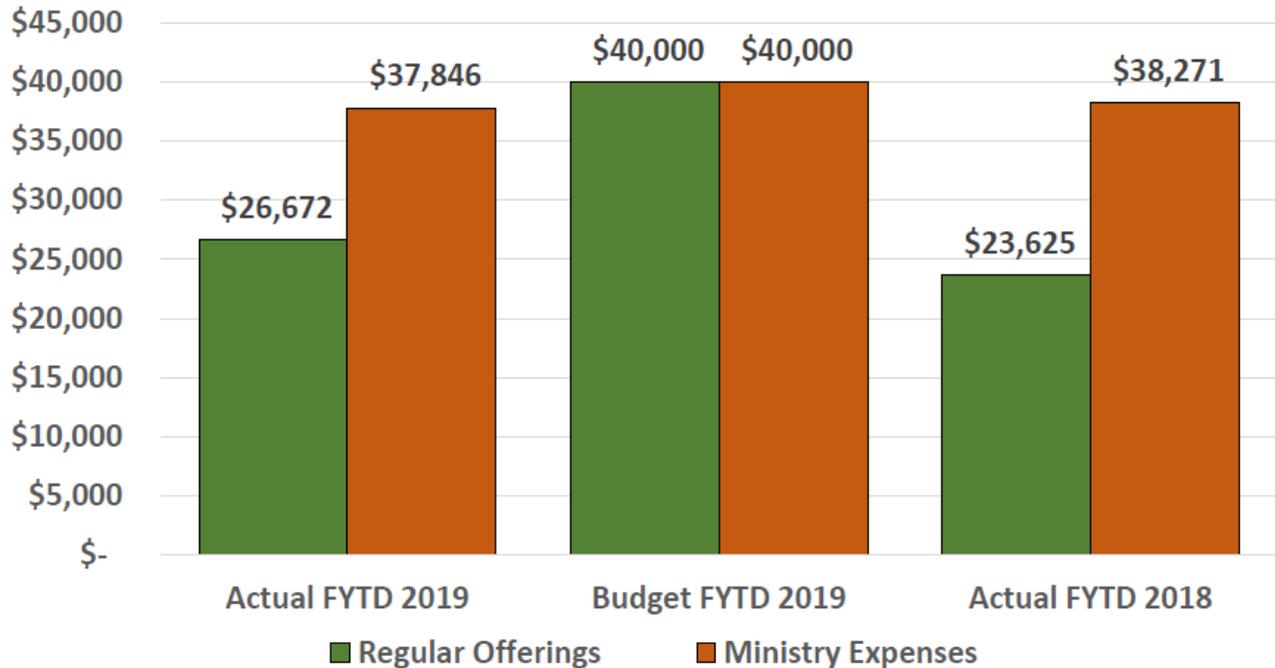
1. Preferred methods to receive information are by e-mail, verbal, and printed material.
2. Over half of the respondents are not regular website users.
2. Those 43% who do visit the website are satisfied with its attributes.
3. The monthly Epistle scored high with over 90% of respondents indicating they are very satisfied or satisfied with it.
4. All specific attributes of the Epistle were found to be between highly satisfactory and satisfactory.
5. More than half answered that fellowship time is important and they participate in it.
6. 43% have no preference regarding the location of fellowship time, followed closely by preferring the fellowship hall in the lower level.
7. Most respondents are interested in having their photos taken for a 2020 directory, but several are undecided.
8. Enough information has been shared about electronic giving for respondents to make an informed decision, though additional education is helpful.

On behalf of the Communications and Technology Ministry, thank you again for participating in the survey. Your interest and support is sincerely appreciated.

Dave DeCock, Chair
Communications & Technology Ministry

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

**General Offerings & Ministry Expense Comparison
Fiscal YTD November, 2019 & 2018**



- FYTD = Fiscal Year-to-Date. St. Paul Lutheran’s fiscal year begins on 01-Oct.
- The 2019-20 fiscal full year budget is \$240,000. Two months (i.e., one-sixth) of the fiscal year were completed as of November month-end.
- Regular Offerings for the current year-to-date fiscal year are greater than the prior year-to-date period by \$3,047 ($\$26,672 - \$23,625 = \$3,047$), but less than one-sixth of the budgeted fiscal year amount of \$40,000 (i.e., one-sixth of $\$240,000 = \$40,000$)

About Online Giving

You can join many of our members who manage their giving to Our Lord online. It is strictly voluntary, easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions. You can view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have internet access. To set up your account, simply follow these easy steps:

Visit the church website at: www.stpaul Lutheranjuddville.360unite.com

Click on the “Give Online” button at the bottom of the Home page.

Click on the “Create Profile” button; then

Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and schedule your recurring contributions.

The secure online giving application is processed through Vanco Payments Solutions and is used by ELCA congregation nationwide.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – NOV. 18, 2019

Mission: St. Paul Lutheran Church is a welcoming family bringing Christ into people's lives by developing, nurturing and supporting disciples.

Council Members Present: Todd Rockway, Betty Eisenhauer, Tom Prohl, Dave DeCock, Karen Peterson, Jim Tyndall and Pastor Frank

Not Present / Excused: Greg Ehlke

Others attending: John and Dolores Hermann

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

Devotions: Dave DeCock provided an opening devotion and a prayer.

Agenda Approval: The previously circulated agenda was reviewed and accepted.

Minutes: The minutes from the prior Council meeting of October 14, 2019 were reviewed and approved.

Community of Faith Report – All

85 Operation Christmas Child boxes were completed and are ready to ship. Several people donated money for shipping at \$9 per box.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Frank Kauzlarich Pastor Frank reported on the meeting of the northeast synod pastors at which 20 pastors were present at St. Paul. There is also an opportunity in January to visit and attend a retreat at a mission church in Seguin, Texas which is the home church of Keith and Helene Statdmueller, associate members of St. Paul. Pastor will share more about this opportunity with the congregation. Eight new members were accepted into membership including, Tim and Debbie Hermann, John and Jill Dew, Keith and Sue Ross, and associate members Denver and Pam Bittner. The motion to approve was moved by Tom Prohl, seconded by Karen Peterson.

Election of 2019-20 Council Officers: Pastor Frank noted that it would be appropriate to elect officers for the 2019-20 fiscal year which began on October 1, 2019. After discussion, upon motion duly made by Karen Peterson and seconded by Todd Rockway, it was:

RESOLVED, that Betty Eisenhauer be elected as President, Tom Prohl be elected as Vice President, Greg Ehlke be elected as Treasurer and Dave DeCock be elected as Secretary of the Church Council for the 2019-20 fiscal year and that their terms end upon the close of the next Annual Congregation Meeting to be held in October 2020.

Old Business: Tom Prohl provided an update on the septic system replacement and new storage shed project. He reported that there had been a moratorium placed on the installation of new septic systems in Door County for the 2 remainder of 2019 given the level of ground saturation. He also noted the new storage shed has been paid for in full and would not be delivered until next year. The funding for these projects remains in place following the withdrawal of \$36,000 from the Emergency Endowment Fund earlier this year.

Plans for the Thanksgiving Eve service were discussed. A pie and ice cream social following the service is scheduled. Advent and Christmas worship service plans were reviewed. The Giving Tree will be set with the following group benefitting: Good Gifts of the ELCA, Loaves and Fishes, and Boys and Girls Club of Door County.

Dave DeCock reported that the East Central Wisconsin Synod Office of the ELCA would be formally advised of the congregation's ratification of the new Constitution at the Annual Congregation Meeting on October 27th. Greg Ehlke has agreed to assist in the drafting of the notification letter. Dave reminded the Council the Synod Office had reviewed the new Constitution prior to the Annual Congregation Meeting and that their review comments had been addressed.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES (CONT.)

Dave DeCock and Tom Prohl updated the Council on the status of the sound system enhancement project. A representative from CCCP will be here to evaluate the possible loop system and our current system.

Betty Eisenhauer provided a summary of the proposed relocation of the Administrative Assistant's space from its current location to the adjoining room which has previously been used as a Sunday School room. The relocation is needed for privacy of Pastor's conversations and space for multiple people working in the office at the same time. Changing congregation demographics have minimized the need for the continued use of the adjoining room for Sunday School instruction.

Financial Report: – submitted by Greg Ehlke for the church's records. The financial summary for October highlighted that Offerings for the month approximated \$12,400 and Ministry expenses approximated \$17,300. The Treasurer's report noted that the current fiscal year budget projects that \$240,000 of Offerings will be needed to meet expected full fiscal year Ministry Expenses.

The Treasurer is currently analyzing recent years' monthly trends to better reflect variances in monthly giving amounts to better reflect monthly Offering amounts.

A copy of the October 2019 Financial Summary was ordered to be uploaded to the members' section of the St. Paul web site and that a copy of the financial statements and schedules provided to the Council be filed with the records of the meeting.

New Business: Karen Peterson provided an update on the post-secondary student scholarship program. She reported that applications for scholarships from students pursuing post-high school education or training programs are due by November 30th .

A discussion was held concerning the formation of a Local Benevolence Steering Committee. A group of three members from the congregation at large, one member from the Endowment Fund Committee, one Council member and Pastor Frank serving as an ex officio member were proposed as the composition of this team which would coordinate the selection of local charitable entities to receive anticipated aggregate support of \$11,000 from St. Paul as an expression of our congregation's ministry to serve others. The chair of the committee will be decided when the committee is selected.

Betty Eisenhauer discussed the need for the Church Council, Pastor and the various Ministries to establish their objectives for the 2019-20 fiscal year. It was suggested that the current long range plan be given priority as an agenda item at the December meeting. Betty is to email the current document to members.

Given the recent change in the composition of the Church Council, it was reiterated that reporting and retention of Committee reports and minutes must be timely performed. Dave DeCock will be the contact point for the retention of such materials. This will be discussed with the Administrative Assistant.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES (CONT.)

A discussion was held concerning the advisability of having a person other than the Council Secretary take notes at future Council meetings. The Council Secretary would continue to be responsible for ensuring the minutes drafted appropriately reflected the actions taken at the meetings. The proposed change was intended to enable the Secretary to more fully participate in the discussions held at Council meetings while still maintaining appropriate oversight of minute taking process. Council members are to bring suggestions of names of minute-takers to the December meeting.

Greg Ehlike has requested that, in light of the changed composition of the Church Council, a financial briefing be provided to ensure each Council member has sufficient knowledge of the current state of the congregation's finances and recent financial trends. A discussion about establishing a convenient briefing time ensued. This one hour meeting could possibly be before a council meeting. Betty will contact Greg to schedule the meeting.

Betty Eisenhower and Pastor Frank highlighted the need for each Ministry team to conduct a self-assessment process to determine what is working well, what actions, if any, should be taken to improve current processes and whether certain Ministry teams should continue, be combined, or reconstituted. Once this task is completed, Council liaisons to the various ministries can be pursued.

Pastor Frank suggested the Council put together an annual calendar of various events so that preparation for and the actual are not overlooked.

Betty Eisenhower then discussed the establishment of the Council's meeting schedule for the coming year. A consensus could not be reached for the December meeting. Further discussion will be held to determine daytime meetings during the winter months.

Betty Eisenhower introduced a proposed project coordination process or project scope. The purpose of his process would be to better define the scope of planned projects, establish responsibilities for timely completion, communicate between various groups so work is not duplicated or unfinished, and minimize unintended outcomes. These will be discussed at Communications and then presented to the Council.

Adjournment: There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M. with the praying of The Lord's Prayer.

Next Council Meeting: Monday, December 16, 2019; 6:00 P.M. Next Executive Meeting: Monday, December 9, 2019; 1 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave DeCock, Secretary



ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1 Happy New Year	2	3 8:30am Men's Bible Study 11:30am Women's Spiritual Growth Group Luncheon	4
5 8am Worship 8:00AM 9:30am Worship 9:30AM Epiphany	6	7 12:30pm KIDNITS Knitting Grp	8 10am Communications/Tech Ministry 6pm Choir Practice	9 9am Women's Spiritual Growth Group	10 8:30am Men's Bible Study 5:30pm Choir Epiphany Party	11
12 8am Worship 8:00AM 9:30am Worship 9:30AM	13	14 9am Woman's Bible Study	15 1pm Blanket Angels Grp 1pm Church Council Meeting 6pm Choir Practice	16 9am Women's Spiritual Growth Group	17 8:30am Men's Bible Study	18
19 8am Worship 8:00AM 9:30am Worship 9:30AM	20	21	22 6pm Choir Practice	23 9am Women's Spiritual Growth Group	24 8:30am Men's Bible Study	25
26 8am Worship 8:00AM 9:30am Worship 9:30AM	27 Epistle Mailed	28	29 1pm Blanket Angels Grp 6pm Choir Practice	30 9am Women's Spiritual Growth Group	31 8:30am Men's Bible Study	1

Please go to our website for changes and the most current calendar events:
<https://stpaulutheranjudville.360unite.com/calendar>