

St. Paul's Church

December Newsletter

651-388-7106

Dear Church Family,

As of the printing of this newsletter we are looking forward to offering in person worship on Christmas Eve.

Christmas Eve Friday, December 24

4:00pm Worship with Communion in person

&

5:30pm Worship with Communion in person and live streamed

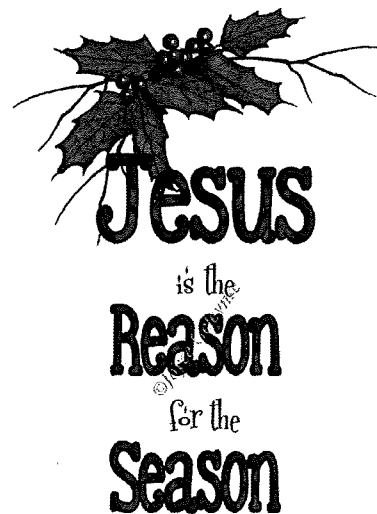
There will be no in person worship on December 25 or 26

Currently there is a high rate of transmission of COVID in Goodhue County, MN and Pierce County, WI. Face masks are required for all worship services from now through the First of the Year. This policy will be reviewed by the Church Council. If wearing a face mask or being in a group of people makes you feel uncomfortable please join us for worship on our livestream service on Sundays through the church website.

<http://www.stpaulsredwing.org>

No matter where you celebrate Christmas Eve this year may you find hope, peace and joy in celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Always, Pastor Dana



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Website: www.stpaulsredwing.org

Email: stpaulc@stpaulsredwing.org

Howdy,

This month I want to make sure you are informed about a few key issues that we discussed at our Leadership Team meeting this week.

First, regarding COVID policies in our building, expect a few changes....Throughout the past nearly 2 years we have maintained a position of flexibility regarding how we gather for worship. In the past several months we have continued to be fairly liberal with our COVID related requirements compared to other churches in town. We have continued to sing and have not been requiring masks. Unfortunately Minnesota is not yet enjoying the downturn in cases like much of the rest of the country and our congregation has not been immune from this either as many of our families are dealing with it in their homes and some have been hospitalized. Leadership is going to strongly recommended to the full council that we move again to require masks in our building at least through the holiday season. I fully expect that by the time you read this we will have already made and implemented this decision. Many will welcome this decision and some will not, but please bear with us.

Remember in last months epistle that I made mention of the forthcoming annual appeal? Well, it might not have been a moment too soon. We have been discussing and looking into the condition of our boilers [3] in recent weeks and the time has come for us to make a decision about replacing them. It is one of those situations where no one can say for sure when they will bite the dust, but mid-January in any year would be a bad time for that to happen. Especially in times like these when replacement parts and new boilers are not readily accessible and the fact remains that something will need to be done in the much sooner than later future. We are currently waiting on a second bid to upgrade the boilers and will have to decide soon. Besides the needed maintenance to our building, this work will make heating our building more efficient and we've been told may decrease our heating expense by 15-25%. A second capital appeal may be necessary at some point.

Lastly, as a church family we have spoken in the past about the need for more for our youth. Right before COVID Dan Flemke and I had an initial meeting of a Youth Committee, one of our youth was also there, and we discussed some initial ideas about how best to reach out to and engage other youth members. When in person activities of our teams and council stopped shortly thereafter because of the pandemic it curtailed that new initiative as well. In the coming year we would like to start by at least organizing youth/household oriented activities at least quarterly. These could be service related or simply social activities for families with kids to spend time together outside of church. If you would be willing, or even like to, help plan and coordinate these activities we would love your help. Look for a sign-up sheet in the Narthex near the other reader/greeter sign-up sheets or feel free to give any one of us on the Leadership Team a call. Perhaps one day we will have another youth focused staff member, but we have to start somewhere!

Hope to see you soon,

Matt

Matt Boyle

President, St. Paul's Church Council

Financial Update

Thank you for your continued financial support of St. Paul's Lutheran Church!

Giving year-to-date through October is about the same as last year, expenses are down about 1% and cash position is still good. The decrease in expenses is mainly due to lower office expenses this year.

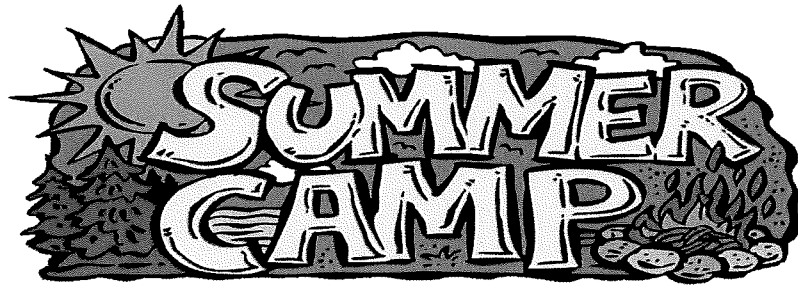
	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Giving	\$298,213	\$298,845	-\$ 632
Expenses	<u>\$207,972</u>	<u>\$209,978</u>	<u>-\$2,006</u>
Difference	\$ 90,241	\$ 88,867	-\$1,374

We're excited that we are able to meet again for worship, Sunday School and Confirmation and have the choir back on Sunday mornings! Small groups are meeting again in the church. We have several options for you to join us for worship services outdoors (depending on the weather) on Saturday evening, indoors on Sunday morning or on-line any time! We are looking forward to in person Christmas Eve worship this year!

Now's the time to start thinking about year-end giving. The CARES Act extended additional tax deductions for charitable giving for 2021. Depending on if you itemize deductions on your tax returns, you may be able to deduct up to 100% of your Adjusted Gross Income or an additional \$300 for charitable giving. Check with your tax advisor now to see if you can take advantage of either of these options. Also, if you are 70½ or older, you may be able to take advantage of tax benefits if you give to the church from your retirement account. Check with your financial advisor to learn more about these options.

2022 Camp Wapo

Mark your calendar!



Seeds Camp- (for kids that have completed grades 1-3 after this School year) is being held July 22-24.

Camp Wapo Youth- (for kids that have completed grades 4-8 after This school year) is being held July 24-29.

Volunteers Needed

St. Paul's Lutheran will be hosting **Hope and Harbor Homeless Shelter** November 28th—December 11th.

Volunteers are needed for:

Registration: 5:45pm –8pm Host/ Hostess: 6pm-10pm.

Provide a dinner meal: 6:30pm—dinner is done.

(dinner only— drinks, paper products, etc. is provided by Hope and Harbor)

Please consider volunteering.

Hope and Harbor representative will assist volunteers.

Please visit: www.rwhopeandharbor.com to register.

Click on 3 lines at the top, then click Volunteer.

Click on “sign up volunteer”

Sign up Genius will show available spots

St. Paul's church Contact is Karen Seaberg.



Merry Martha Quilters

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!!!

Thank you to all the individuals that came to our Quilt/Craft/Bake sale. Thank you to everyone who purchased items at our sale. A special thank you to those who donated *materials needed to craft the items we had for sale*. You helped make our sale a great success. We realized a profit of \$3,050 some of which will be used to buy supplies to continue our mission of making quilts. After determining our needs, the remainder may be used to fund other Church projects.

Keep those donations of *fabric, sheets, thread and yarn* coming so we can continue to provide quilts for those in need. Our next goal is to make quilts for the Christmas project families. Each family will get a quilt along with the food and gifts provided by our congregation. We will also make some available for those using the Hope and Harbor Rotating Homeless Shelter. *We stand ready to provide quilts whenever we are made aware of a need in our congregation or community. These are in addition to the hundreds we have donated to Lutheran World Relief.*

We continue to meet every Tuesday morning from 9 to 11:30. New people are always welcome. Any questions contact Elaine Scharpen 651-388-9512, Maggie Sprick 715-594-3944 or the church office.



Those who sleep under a Quilt,
Sleep under a blanket of Love.

SunnysideQuilts.com