**ANNUAL APPEAL FOR 2016**

 **“ I Thank You, Lord” Psalm 138:1**

Finish this sentence…”I thank you, Lord, for…” Perhaps you say I thank you, Lord, for the many blessings I receive…for my spouse, for my family, for my health. When you think of St. Paul’s, what do you say? Here’s what some of your fellow members say. When I think of St. Paul’s, I say thank you, Lord, for…

* giving me a place to help my family grow

 in faith, Kristi, age 31

* good preachin’, friends, choir, windows, memories, Emy, age 76
* the game room, Carter, age 12
* the sense of belonging, Joanne, age 61
* respecting everyone, Dan, age 14
* a place to offer forgiveness, Hunter,

age 12

* boldly in writing welcoming all as an RIC congregation, Lois, age 71
* my forever faith home, Kathy, age 59

You can see these and many more on the bulletin board in the church lobby. You are invited to add your own reasons for giving thanks for St. Paul’s.

The Appeal is an expression of thanks for the many blessings experienced here. It is also an expression of our mutual commitment to see that there will be even more reasons in 2016 and beyond to say, “I thank you, Lord” for St. Paul’s.

 **FOCUS OF APPEAL FOR 2016**

Our gifts and offerings, joined together, accomplish ministry which is blessed by the Lord. Our focus for next year is to strengthen and expand the existing ministries of our congregation.

**Our goal is to increase giving by $34,000** **or more** through new offerings and an increase in current offerings throughout the year. Here is how this increase in offerings will be used.

 **Ministry Initiatives for 2016**

**Youth Ministry $18,000**

**Encourage Team 5,000**

**Invite Team 3,000**

**Building 8,000**

 **$34,000**

**Youth Ministry**  **$18,000**  *Mission: Minnesota Nice*: evangelical youth service event this summer in Red Wing with ELCA Partners. *Expand Caffeine Exchange* program: weekly devotion program for kids in grades 6 – 12. *Participate in urban immersion retreat* and enable more youth to get hands on experience serving those in need. *And* so much more…….

**Encourage Team: Serving our community and the broader church $5,000** *Packing for the weekend*: providing local families with food for the weekend during the school year. *Community Care Fund:* helping individuals within our community during times of trial. *Operation Christmas Child:* sending shoeboxes of toys and necessities to children in other countries. *And* so much more……

**Invite Team: Connecting people within our congregation $3,000** *Welcome New Members* **:** welcoming and orienting new members to St. Paul’s*Home Visitation*:visiting members unable to attend church. *Life’s Milestones*: recognizing special milestones in members’ lives such as 50th wedding anniversaries. *Welcome Space:* creating opportunities for fellowship in the church lobby. *And* so much more……

**Building $8,000** *Celebrate retiring of the mortgage* during the first quarter of 2016. *Ongoing Building Fund*for projects to include making the church more energy efficient. *And* so much more……

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* **Youth Ministry**  **$18,000** *Mission: Minnesota Nice*: evangelical youth service event this summer in Red Wing with ELCA Partners. *Expand Caffeine Exchange* program: weekly devotion program for kids in grades 6 – 12. *Participate in urban immersion retreat* and enable more youth to get hands on experience serving those in need. *And* so much more…….
* **Encourage Team: Serving our community and the broader church $5,000** *Packing for the weekend*: providing local families with food for the weekend during the school year. *Project Neighbor:* helping individuals within our community during times of trial. *Operation Christmas Child:* sending shoeboxes of toys and necessities to children in other countries. *And* so much more……
* **Invite Team: Connecting people within our congregation $3,000** *Home visitation*:visiting members unable to attend church. *Life’s Milestones*: recognizing special milestones in members’ lives such as 50th wedding anniversaries. *Welcome Space:* creating opportunities for fellowship in the church lobby. *And* so much more……
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