



St. Paul Lutheran Church

Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin

April 2021



Pastor Tom Gudmundson

“Government Over-reach”

“We must obey God rather than people” -Acts 5:29

I think that a lot of Christians in this country romanticize the period of the post-resurrection of Jesus. Our Savior had risen from the grave conquering the power of sin, death, and Satan. So, everything was all daisies and roses, right? NOT! It was just the opposite for Christians.

Forty days after the resurrection, Jesus ascended into heaven. 10 days later was Pentecost, the birthday of the Church, and the Apostles immediately began preaching that the Jewish authorities had the Messiah killed, but God raised Him from the dead. As you can imagine, that didn't sit well with the authorities. In Acts 3 we learn about Peter and John miraculously healing a man (in the name of Jesus) who had been lame since birth. Word of the miracle spread like wildfire all over Jerusalem. The Jewish authorities had Peter and John arrested and put on trial before the Sanhedrin. They ordered the Apostles to stop preaching about Jesus and His resurrection. In fact, they were told to never mention the name of Jesus again. The Apostles responded, **“Decide for yourselves whether God wants people to listen to**

you rather than to him. We cannot stop talking about what we have seen and heard.” (Acts 4:19-20).

From this point on, persecution against the church began to escalate, and at the same time, the Church began to explode with growth.

Persecution of the Church by the government is beginning to rear its ugly head in our country today. A bill is now under consideration by the Congress of the United States that is called the “Equality Act.” Dr. Matthew Harrison, President of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod has written an article that is available on our church's website in which he explains the impact that this bill will have upon the Church and other religious organizations. Here is a sample of what's in the article.

...those churches and institutions that are bound by the Word of God to the truth of marriage between a man and a woman, and that sex outside of that institution is contrary to the word of Christ and the apostles in the New Testament (1 Cor. 7:2), could be punished for simply standing on our consistent, ancient

(Continued on page 2)

“Please join Pastor Kyle and I in following these action steps. Together, let's make an impact for the Kingdom of God and for our nation.”

The Mission of St. Paul Lutheran Church

*“As Friends of God through Jesus, empowered by the Spirit, we are **Connecting People to Christ** by sharing His love in word and action everywhere we are.”*

Pastor Tom Letter Continued...

(Continued from page 1)

Christian beliefs. The Equality Act effectively **outlaws the words of Christ**, the sublime doctrine of Creation, the First Article of the Creed, and our “free exercise of religion” based upon the Bible and Apostles’ Creed. The biblical teaching that marriage is between a man and a woman is to be labeled forever a mere “sex-based stereotype.”³

The Equality Act expands the definition of “public accommodation” and puts an ultimatum to individuals, religious non-profits, food banks, schools, charities, adoption agencies and others: **“Change your faith-based practices or face government punishment.”**⁴

Religious schools (K-12 and universities) are a prime target of the Equality Act, which will make it difficult to maintain standards for admission and codes of Christian conduct for students, faculty and staff.

President Harrison urges Christians to unite and do the following: 1) Treat all people with kindness and respect (“You shall love your neighbor as yourself” Mark 12:31), while holding firmly to “the faith once delivered to the saints” (Jude 3). 2) Become informed about the Equality Act and the issues of gender dysphoria. 3) Consider your role as Christian citizens and make your voice known to your elected officials, particularly in the U.S. House (house.gov/representatives) and Senate (senate.gov/senators/index.htm). 4) Pray for our officials, government and the church in these challenging days.

Please join Pastor Kyle and I in following these action steps. Together, let’s make an impact for the Kingdom of God and for our nation.

Pastor Tom

St. Paul Endowment Fund Committee Accepting Grant Applications

The St. Paul Endowment Committee is pleased to announce the availability of grant monies intended to carry out the congregation’s mission of “Connecting People to Christ.” For nearly a decade, the St. Paul Endowment Fund has helped financially support individuals, groups, and missions deliver positive impacts to people in our community and throughout the world. Anyone seeking funds for a special project promoting Christian values and stewardship is encouraged to apply.

The 2021 grant application is available on the St. Paul Church website at stpaul-falls.com/endowment-fund or by contacting the church office.

Completed forms must be received at the church by April 15, 2021. All application submissions will be reviewed by the Endowment Committee, with approved financial distributions expected to occur in May 2021.



Endowment
Fund

St. Paul
Lutheran Church

Rev. Edward W. Albertin Scholarship Grant

The Rev. Edward W. Albertin scholarship grant applications are **due by May 1, 2021**. If you are attending a LCMS college pursuing a full time career within the church, you qualify for a grant. Application forms are available in the Gathering Area or on the church website.



Mission Partner SCRIP Leadership Change

We would like to extend a big thank you to Dave DePagter for running our scrip program for over the past 10 plus years. Mary Kempf has agreed to step into the role to continue this important ministry of providing funds for various missions, locally and abroad.



Congregation Meeting

There will be a Congregation Meeting on **Tuesday, April 27 at 6:45pm** in the Worship Center. The meeting will be live streamed as well. The agenda is as follows:

Church Council & Endowment Team Elections
January Secretary's Report
March Treasurer's Report
New Policies
LHS Update
Congregation Concerns



Absentee Ballots Available

Are you unable to attend the Congregation Meeting on April 27? You can still cast your vote for the Church Council and Endowment Team candidates. **Absentee ballots will be available during office hours** (8:30 to 4:30 Monday to Thursday) April 19 to 26. **Stop in and cast your vote!**

Cinnamon Roll Sale

Good news! Cinnamon rolls are back! We are getting back on regular timing for our annual Cinnamon Roll Sale. Last year, we were delayed but made some small changes to allow for social distancing and hassle-free pick up. We will again be taking pre-orders and offering delivery for orders of 6 rolls or more. **Online ordering begins April 15**, look for a link on the website homepage. Our sale will take place May 9th this year, but ordering will need to be completed by April 24. Look for ordering information on the St Paul website - www.stpaulfalls.com.



Racine Kringle Sale

Thank you to everyone that supported the Youth mission team's Kringle sale. We are very thankful to the love and support our congregation shows to our youth and their mission to help others.

Nominating Team Thank You

A big thank you to this year's nominating team of Donna Felch, Lisa Huehns, Beth Jens and Glen Kohlhagen. A ballot has been put together for Church Council and the Endowment Team. **Voting will be held at the Congregation Meeting on April 27 at 6:45pm.**

A list of nominees can be found on page 8.

Early Childhood Center

The children were very excited when all the snow was gone from the playground. They are finally able to play on the equipment again. We are also taking walks around the property to watch for signs of spring.

Registration for the 2021-22 school year is going well. There are currently 38 children enrolled. The Child Care program looks like it will be quite full this summer and there are only a few morning openings in the fall. There are still openings available in the afternoon Preschool class next year. For more information, call 467-6733, email us at preschool@stpaulfalls.com or visit our website at www.stpaulfalls.com/3-year-old-preschool.



Sunday School Update

Looking Back:

Following along with the worship themes, Sunday School classes are following the lectionary series. In March we focused on the 10 Commandments and Jesus as light, Jesus as our guide, and Holy Week. Along the way, the kids support Emy and Silas from Honduras with their offerings and enjoy praising God with music during large group time.

Moving Forward:

Join us each Sunday during the 9:15 service (kids are dismissed about 9:40) for a sermon-themed message at the kid's level of understanding. In April we will continue looking at the life of Jesus, after His death and resurrection. Can't make Sunday School for a week? Visit stpaulfalls.com/sunday-school for a resource or a video you can show and discuss at home with your kids (or grandkids!).

BINGO Recap

Last month a number of adults and kids enjoyed an hour of fun and prizes with many variations of BINGO. Dice Bingo created intense table competition. Fitness Bingo had the group moving. Reverse Bingo had people not wanting their number called. Jesus Bingo gave the chance to reflect on memorable events from the life of Jesus. And of course, there was some classic Bingo, including blackout to end it all.

Pictures: Keith/Lydia/Brynlee/Dana, Charles/Chris/Dean, Evan/Kari, Adam/Nicole/Rachel, Peter/Liam/Lorraine, Adeline/Arika/Vivian/Matt



Jeff Diener, Director of Children's & Family Ministry - JeffD@stpaulfalls.com

AWANA Update

Looking Back:

Kids and parents continue to spend time learning, understanding, and applying God's Word. This was month 7 of 9 in our In-Person journey of going through the Old Testament. In March, our In-Person AWANA focused on *2 Kings and the Minor Prophets*. King Solomon, who started faithfully serving God, goes astray, leading to an eventual *Divided Kingdom* of Israel. The Northern Kingdom (Israel) would end up with 19 kings, all bad. The Southern Kingdom (Judah) had 20, 12 bad-8 good. So *Mostly Bad Kings*. During this time *Prophets Speak* warning people to turn from the sin but offering them in the promised Messiah to come.

Online teachers, kids (and some parents) continue to connect by learning the Old Testament books of the Bible focusing Prophets and discussing things like Stuffed Animals, Bugs, and Measuring.

At Home a number of students continued earning awards in their handbooks: Emaline Backhaus (1 Jewel-Book 1), Grayson Gierach (Rank Patch—Book 3), Reagan Selby (Rank Emblem-Book 1—*See Picture*), Drew Selby (1 Jewel-Book 2), Jolene Backhaus (1 Chevron-Binder 1), Charles Perronne (Book 1 Award—*See Picture*).



Moving Forward:

Two months remaining in this uniquely-formatted AWANA year (In-Person, Online & At Home). Visit stpaulfalls.com/awana for more information. Consider joining us for a week In April we'll be looking at 2nd Kings and some of the Major Prophets (in person) and Jonah - Malachi (Online).

Family Tool Box

Deuteronomy 6:7 instructs parents to impress God's commandments on their children. While it would be nice if teachers, coaches, and bosses would support this, in the end it is the job of parents to daily raise their kids in the Lord. Below are some suggestions to help along the way. For more specific resources feel free to contact Jeff.

Consider playing or eating... ..without interruptions/distractions.

The message we send without words often times leave a great impact than those with words. Are cellphone calls interrupting valuable family time? Does TV take away from valuable discussion time? In all things we are modeling and sending messages to our kids. Getting more personal... this could extend to our own relationship with Christ. What things distract us from Him?

Consider allowing... ..your kids to help, rather than wait.

It may take more time. It may be frustrating. But in the long run...there may be a greater rewards as they feel empowered (and be able to do it on their own too!). Can they help add an ingredient or mix when cooking? Can they push the vacuum cleaner or lawn mower? Can they help dust or put gas in the car? When they're involved...they're not causing problems. Will it be perfect...no. But the connection they feel is invaluable.

Consider Praying Together:

Dear Jesus. Thank you for family. Thanks for the uniqueness of our family. Help us to take advantage of the time we have together. Only you see the big picture and know what the future holds. May we cherish each second we have together. We pray in your name. Amen.

Youth Ministry at St Paul Nicole Dollevoet, Director of Youth



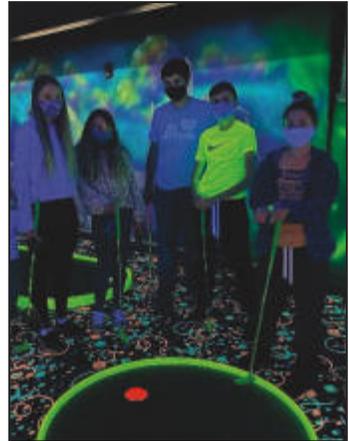
Game Night- Hungry Hungry Hippos!

Confirmation students have completed all of the lessons from their student books. The end of the year wraps up quickly with a service project and assessments.

Our 8th grade students have worked hard and look forward to Confirmation on May 2nd at a special service held in the afternoon. We are blessed to have 29 young people publicly profess their faith.

Youth group had a great time filling college care packages! It is such a great ministry to connect with our young adults near and far. Fun times were had at Black Light

Mini Golf, church scavenger hunt and game night were a blast! We will join in April for church-wide hide-and-seek and our semi-annual Bowling Event. It has been awesome to gather in person every week and gather around His Word. We see new faces often and it sure is a highlight to many of our students to gather in person with their friends.



Mini golf under the black lights



Church scavenger hunt, find the stain glass dove!

The **youth mission team** will gather on April 10th to serve Sheboygan Co. Through these service projects our eyes are really opened to the needs of those in and around our community. We are anxious to see how God will use us this time. Please keep our team in your prayers and the final plans that go into having the trip happen this summer.



Mark your calendars- it is time to get ready for the 2022 LCMS Youth Gathering! An informational meeting will be held on Sunday, April 11th at Noon in the church Fellowship Hall. We will discuss travel plans to Texas, cost, expectations, and what the LCMS Youth Gathering is all about. Please note there are age restrictions placed on the trip: it is only available to youth currently in grades 7-11. Those older are welcome to apply to be a part of Young Adult volunteers and those younger will need to wait until the next Youth Gathering in 3 years. Questions, please see or email Nicole.

Guys Get Together Recap/Next Meeting

Besides the traditional Cornhole and Cribbage, a new game (Tumblin' Dice) created some intense competition as these numbers cubes became a source of chance taking and strategic decision making (and complete luck too!). Once again it was a great time of fellowship, food, and study - including some pizza and homemade oatmeal raisin cookies! Devotional time focused on a video "From Persecutor Saul To Apostle Paul: In Pursuit of Paul" viewing first-hand some of the places Paul experienced life. And understanding the passion and zealousness he had as both a persecutor of Christians and follower of Christ.

Next Guys Get Together **April 12 6-8pm at St. Paul** (Fellowship at 6, Devotion around 7, Optional: Bring a snack to share)

2021 Feed My Starving Children MobilPack

Good news! It looks like our Feed My Starving Children MobilPack will be happening this year. Mark your calendar for this year's dates of **October 7-9.**

We are about half-way to our financial goal, so we have some work to do, but we have faith that we will get there. Please keep this important mission in your prayers.



**DO YOU WANT TO DO SOMETHING TO CHANGE THE WORLD FULL
OF TROUBLES?**

DO YOU WANT TO HELP TURN OUR WORLD AROUND?

DO YOU WANT TO BE GOD'S HANDS AND FEET?

LET'S DO SOMETHING TOGETHER!

AND LET'S START WITH SHEBOYGAN COUNTY, NOW!

IF NOT YOU, THEN WHO?

IF NOT NOW, THEN WHEN?

Become a Love INC volunteer!

To see how you can help go to <https://www.loveincsheboygancounty.org/volunteer> and click on How to get involved.

Candidates for Church Council & Endowment Team

President-2 year term - Vote for 1



Tom Splittgerber: I am married to Vicki and we have 3 children: Julia, Joshua and Anna. I am the Business Manager at Sheboygan Lutheran High School.

Spiritual Maturity: I use the Bible, chapel services at LHS and personal devotion-

ational time as well as the devotional time with the basketball team I help coach to grow in my faith.

Leadership Experience: Prior to working at LHS I was on the LHS BOD for 3 years. I am also currently on the BOD of Neat Repeats and have served as treasurer and on the school board at a prior congregation before joining St. Paul.

Servant Heart: God has blessed me with a wide variety of experiences in my personal and professional life that I believe will help me work with others on the council and in our congregation to continue to provide the best guidance and direction for the future of St. Paul.

Vision: We have a large active congregation that is and has been doing many great things both within the congregation and the community. I see St. Paul continuing to focus on serving through the strong programs that are already in place, as well as looking for new ways to spread God's word locally and wherever else He leads.

Vice President-1 year term - Vote for 1



Jeff Berg: Jeff is married to Paula and they have two children, daughter Addison (12) and son Lochlan (6). Jeff is Part Owner, Chief Technical Officer and Vice President of Development for Compuclaim, Inc.

Spiritual Maturity:

Recently spent a year of small group time with Pr Kyle reading through the Bible. Spent time at Camp Daniel during a mission trip. Also attends Guys' Get Together at St. Paul when possible. Serves as a Communion Server.

Leadership Experience: Executive Leadership Team at Compuclaim. Multiple design and project leads at Compuclaim. Leader, Client Advisory Board at Compuclaim. Shareholder Meetings at Compuclaim and the Packers!

Servant Heart: I will listen and prioritize issues supporting the well-being of the church, which starts with the Congregation. I will protect tradition as well as help accommodate new ideas and facilitate change as needed.

Vision: After our neighbors brought us to church several times and we finally agreed to join St. Paul 2 years ago, I think the main reason for joining was seeing the unwavering path the church takes. Although the world is ever-changing, especially now, God's plan for us never does. My answer to this question lies in the question itself; God leads and His eternal purposes never change. The church should continue to offer opportunities to worship, for fellowship, continued ministry, and go forth and make disciples of all nations.

Other: "I enjoy spending time with my family, playing golf, grilling out and mowing my yard in perfect patterns while wearing cargo shorts - usual dad stuff."

Members-at-large - 2 year term - **Vote for 3**



Chad Berke: Chad is single and employed as Technician / Sales at Complete Water Inc.

Spiritual Maturity: Bible Studies

Leadership Experience: I had previously been on the Sheboygan Theater Company Board.

Servant Heart: Having a common sense approach to assist in making informed decisions for the betterment of our church.

Vision: Hopefully leading St. Paul out of this pandemic.

Additional Information: I welcome the opportunity to be a liaison between the Congregation and the Church Council.



Paul H. Ten Pas: Paul has been married to Marty for 36 years. He retired after 32 years of employment at Kohler Co.

Spiritual Maturity: God draws us closer to Himself as we study His Word. I begin each day in personal devotions guided by Portals of Prayer. I read 2 chapters of the Bible every day and enjoy studying Biblical history

and researching theological scholarship.

Leadership Experience: 12 years as V P- Labor Relations, Corporate security & Sr. Attorney at Kohler Company. Sheboygan & Plymouth Area United Way Board of Directors, Chairman of the Board. Sheboygan County Red Cross BOD. St. Paul Lay Delegate to 2018 LCMS SWD Convention. Finance Team and AIM Table Leader at St. Paul.

Servant Heart: I feel I can provide mature leadership honed through years of experience, together with a pragmatic, results-oriented approach focused on the St. Paul Mission Statement.

Vision: An increasingly secular world marked by record low church membership in America and loss of Christian values in our society, declining worship attendance by church members, the challenges posed by the COVID pandemic, and the ongoing struggles to fill the pastoral staff may all seem cause for pessimism or skepticism. But I am optimistic that God has greater plans for St. Paul. Our church is built on a solid foundation, with Christ as the cornerstone. We must be vigilant in building on that foundation to be a leader of the Lutheran faith in our community.



Marsha Vollbrecht: Husband, Brad. We have three children, all are married. We have 8 grandchildren, the oldest is 9. My family is the greatest blessing and joy of my life. I worked for Aurora Health Care for 40 years, retired June 2018. I was a Geriatric Social Worker (acute and long-term care) and also an

Administrator, my last 15 years I was the Director of Senior Services which was a system-wide position to develop, disseminate and support programs and services for older adults. I always felt my work was God's calling to serve his people.

Spiritual Maturity: I spend time in prayer daily. I strive to have devotional time every day, and to read God's Word. Worship and Fellowship with other Christians is important to me, as well as serving.

Leadership Experience: I was one of the founding members of The Gathering Place with Pastor Mark, and served on the Ministry Team. I still volunteer for special events/activities. I was part of a committee to establish and build affordable apartments in Plymouth (Colonial Columns), and still chair the Board after 30 years. I am the founder of Generations (Intergenerational Community Center in Plymouth) and am currently Vice President of the Board and chair various committees. I am also a Commissioner for the Plymouth Housing Authority, which oversees Quit Qui Oc Manor low income HUD Housing complex.

Servant Heart: I have always felt a calling and a passion for serving God's people. If God calls me to serve on our Church Council, I will humbly and gladly serve by bringing my skills and experience to the Council's work. I have experience with non-profits, program development & evaluation, administration as well as direct care and service. I am a team player and work well others. I have been an effective team member as well as team leader. I always ask God for His guidance.

Vision: I believe St. Paul Lutheran Church has been blessed with visionary leaders and a congregation full of people with serving hearts. I am always thankful for the ministries we have developed to serve God's people. In the next five years, I see this work continuing and expanding. I see us bringing young people into the church and retaining many that we have – always a challenge in today's culture. I see us continuing to serve all generations, with special programs for those with life challenges, those in the dawn of life and those in the twilight of life. Through these ministries, we will continue to connect people to Christ.

Members-at-large continued



Bob Mehre: I am married to Kristine and have two adult children, Andrea and Nick. I work for the USPS in Lomira, WI.

Spiritual Maturity: I find spiritual growth occurs mainly from spending time in the Bible, especially when sharing that time with other

Christians, whether in small groups, Bible studies and particularly with my wife.

Leadership Experience: I served 6 years in the USAF, rising to the rank of Sargent, graduating from NCO Academy. I also served on labor/management committees with the USPS.

Servant Heart: Since joining St. Paul about 17 years ago, I've found much "serving" to be done in the life of the church. This is my 12th year as a Confirmation Mentor, I sing (well, pre-Covid) in the Adult Choir, I enjoy the Saturday Morning Men's Group and served as an Usher for several years as well as taught Sunday School.

Vision: The next 5 years...I think the key word is going to be adaptability. The secular world is becoming more and more hostile to Christianity, while at the same time the need for Christ grows and grows. We have a pastor shortage and face Covid restrictions...I think our mission stays the same; "Connecting People to Christ". But we're going to have to find ways to do more with less.

Additional Information: The church can't be effective in our called role of evangelizing unless there is a committed group of people willing to handle the "nuts & bolts" of the organization. The Church Council has served that role well and faithfully for as long as I've been here. I would enjoy being part of the group that enables the church to concentrate on the mission of "Connecting People to Christ".



Michelle Zuengler: Michelle is married to Joe for almost 20 years. They have three children, Max (17), Raena (15) and Timmy (13). She is currently the Vice President/Director of Risk Operations at HSA Bank.

Spiritual Maturity: It's very important to me to attend church weekly with my family (even virtually). I am a Youth

Group Leader, a Confirmation Mentor sub and a member of the Adult Choir. I also try to read the Bible daily and allow myself personal devotion time. These activities within the church and at home are enhancing my spirituality by experiencing God's Word in various formats and through different perspectives. I am understanding more clearly how God can touch us each differently through song, written and spoken words and even through children's eyes.

Leadership Experience: I was a member of the committee tasked with filling the Director of Worship Ministry position here at St. Paul. I am also on several committees through my employer where I am required to coordinate local community service activities for our employees, increase employee engagement and diversity inclusion, assist in creating policies and am a chairperson on our United Way board. I am also a co-leader of a Girl Scout Troop and lead fundraising activities for Sheboygan Falls Music Boosters. All require organization and communication skills to coordinate service activities that align with the bylaws of the groups and with the goals of the members and their parents.

Servant Heart: I feel my experiences with managing staff, being in various committees and organizations and being active in community service and youth activities demonstrate my passion to serve others. I am very comfortable listening to suggestions and opinions from a large variety of people, ensuring all voices are heard, and having to make decisions that best support the needs of all parties. I am comfortable expressing my own opinion even if I'm in the minority. I can also accept that sometimes decision-making groups must agree to disagree and work to find common ground in order to move forward. God has blessed us all with valuable skills and perspectives which will guide us to best serve the needs of our church.

Vision: I feel St. Paul is on the right path with Connecting People to Christ. I have no agenda to change that path but simply want to offer my service to help navigate through any hurdles we, as a congregation, may face along the way.

Additional Information: I have been a member of St. Paul for 14 years. I truly feel I am welcomed as part of the church family here. That has not been the case in previous churches I have attended. I would love to help make others feel as I do. I also enjoy sharing my time and talents to assist others and would be blessed if I could serve the church by being selected as a Council member.

Endowment Team - 3 year term - **Vote for 3**



Jim Fasse: Jim is married to Karen and they have two adult children. Their son Patrick and his wife Claudine live in Poughkeepsie, NY and have one child Madeline. Their daughter Trisha Neerhof and her husband Greg live in Greenbush and have one daughter Harper.

Harper attends St. John's Lutheran

School in Plymouth. Jim is recently retired and serves as President of the Endowment Team.

Spiritual Maturity: Attends church regularly, reads daily devotionals and attends group Bible studies.

Leadership Experience: Church Council, past Congregation President, Head Elder, Usher, Communion Assistant and Endowment Team President.

Servant Heart: Serving the church in a variety of positions through the years has truly been a rewarding experience. I look forward to the opportunity of serving and helping all of the many mission projects presented to the Endowment Team each year.

Vision: I believe God is leading our church to numerous outreach ministry and mission projects outside the walls of St. Paul. God has blessed our endowment fund with continuous gifts and growth so that we can annually fund a variety of mission project requests.



John Garland: John has been married to Sandra for over 40 years. He has two grown sons, Jason and Michael. John is a retired Financial advisor and was a senior member of the North Point Group at Morgan Stanley.

Spiritual Maturity: John spends time in personal devotion.

Leadership Experience: John has been on the St. Nicholas Friends Board. He is Past President of the Sheboygan Schools Foundation, Past President of the Kohler Schools Foundation, Past three time President of Safe Harbor. He previously served on The Gathering Place Ministry Team and currently is on the Safe Harbor Endowment Board and the St. Paul Endowment Team.

Servant Heart: John can contribute his knowledge of investments, estate planning and fundraising to grow the endowment both in size and in duty to the church.

Vision: The endowment gives the church another arm for outreach to the community in a positive and helpful way. There are so many good ministries hurting for support. Our job is to seek them out and provide any assistance possible. We also would like to help provide assistance to our members in the congregation with financial and planning matters.



Dave DePagter: I am married to Sue with grown children, Jenni, Kyle and Katie. None of our children are married yet. Retired Computer Systems Manager but now work part time as a courier supporting Aurora Health Systems.

Spiritual Maturity: Prayer and worship.

Leadership Experience: Past member of St. Paul Church Council, currently Scrip Coordinator, Usher, volunteer at The Gathering Place, Rebuilding Together, Night to Shine, Trash n Treasure, Confirmation Mentor, Council Nominating Committee, Mission Trip Leader to Mexico, Board of Sheboygan Falls United Way, Past President of Sheboygan Falls High School Booster Club.

Servant Heart: Looking to be part of the Endowment Team to be able to work with others in determining those in need or those providing service to others. To be able to see where God is working and give financial support so those recipients can be successful in their servant heart activities.

Vision: My hope is for all to use servant hearts and meet the needs of what God is leading St. Paul to be doing in connecting people. What we can demonstrate in our community allows those who see it to hopefully connect what they see to our love of our Savior. His love is freely given and does not have to be earned so it would be great if that is made clear to all who need it.

Other: I am a sinner and undeserving of all the blessings I have been given. But by grace thru faith, whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life. I have that faith and will work to the best of my ability to serve as God needs me.

February Council Summary

Youth & Family Ministry Update – Nicole Dollevoet reported that Confirmation has been in person since September. Attendance varies tremendously from week-to-week as kids become quarantined, but we've managed to keep the program going. All retreats have been moved to one day events and we are beginning to plan for Confirmation in May, which will be similar to how it was held last August.

FISH is on hold for this year, but we hope to restart next year. Youth Group continues to meet on Sunday evenings, with 25-35 attending weekly. The Youth Mission Trip is moving forward with their trip to Nashville in June. The team has served and gathered several times this year in preparation. Fundraisers are in full swing, just modified. All Faith Path events have been moved virtual this year. There is definitely a decrease in usage of the Faith@Home Center as foot traffic in the building has decreased.

Nicole leads the Parish Pros for the South Wisconsin District. She has also been asked to be the District Coordinator for the LCMS National Youth Gathering in July 2022.

Investments- Discussion was held about investment options in terms to the questions raised at the January Congregation Meeting. Donna has done follow up, including discussions with other church Treasurer's and Synod recommendations. It is important to not gamble with the church's money, it is different than an Endowment Fund. A policy will be put together.

Call Team Update – The Call Documents for two seminary students were mailed out today. We will find out on Call Day, April 27, if we will extend a Call to one of those individuals.

Elder Team Update - The Elders assisted in reviewing the seminary students. The marketing effort to build up small groups will begin shortly. After Easter we will begin putting a sign up sheet in the gathering area for people to record their attendance for worship, if they didn't sign up online. Online sign up will also remain an option. Capacity isn't an issue except for holidays and this will hopefully make it easier for people to attend.

Senior Pastor Report – Pastor Kyle reported:

- 11 couples are currently seeking marriage counseling for 2021-22
- Baptisms & funerals continue
- A lot of preparation is going into our upcoming Lent Services
- Morning Meditations was recorded this past month
- Shut In Calls continue
- Pr Kyle & Tessa will likely attend the March 17-19 PLI Training virtually.
- The Synod Convention will be pushed back to 2023. We have been told to plan to budget double for our assessment, as many additional costs occurred due to pushing back the Convention.
- Pastor Peter Pietsch was re-elected as or circuit representative for another 3 years.



March Council Summary

Worship Ministry Update – Thomas Walkenhorst reported that he is currently serving in the majority of all worship services to assist with leading worship in song with the worship teams. Volunteers for the worship teams are still needed.

Thomas is developing better communication with the ushers. This is very important as changes in requirements are occurring frequently right now. He will work with the ushers to encourage people to spread out in the Worship Center now that the pew closures have been removed.

Thomas creates all slides, Orders of Worship and selects all the music for services. In selecting music, he is paying close attention to the lyrics to ensure they are doctrinally based. He is also working with an 8 member Vocal Ensemble, which is a smaller version of the Adult Choir, to try to provide at least some special music for upcoming services.

Thomas will be solely responsible for the AV booth, but is looking for a volunteer booth supervisor to help coordinate things for him. Some of Thomas' job duties are being adjusted due to Vicky's retirement, to more closely align with his position. He also continues to assist TGP with sing-alongs.

Stained Glass Windows- The Council approved the repair of the stained glass windows by the library, looking out into the courtyard in the amount of \$10,276. This will be funded by the Stained Glass Window dedicated fund.

Floor Scrubber – The Council approved the purchase of a floor scrubber for our custodial staff to allow for more efficiency, not to exceed \$4,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund.

Policy #56 -Guidelines for Membership- The Elders and Pr Kyle created a policy for membership that was approved by Church Council. This can be found on our website.

Elder Team Update - A new Elder has been added to the team, Keith Schmidt. There was some interest in small groups with the soft marketing campaign that was just done. At this point the marketing will be on hold

until pandemic issues are resolved and then a stronger campaign will be held. A long discussion was held regarding mask requirements and adjustments to worship. These have been published and will be effective following Easter.

Senior Pastor Report – Pastor Kyle reported:

He continues preaching and preparing for Lent, Holy Week and Easter services.

Visitations to shut-ins and counseling sessions continue.

9 weddings are scheduled for later this year, 2 weddings we are unlikely able to do since they fall on the same dates. If we get another Pastor we could possibly officiate these weddings.

Pr Kyle is attending PLI virtually at the end of this week.

Synod Convention has been pushed to 2023.

Information regarding the potential Equality Act that recently passed in the House was shared. It is currently with the Senate and will have very significant impacts to the church if passed.



LCMS
SHEBOYGAN COUNTY
HISPANIC OUTREACH

Hispanic Update

Greetings from The Hispanic Outreach members! The Lord continues His work in 2021 through the Hispanic Ministry in Sheboygan County. So far this year our lowest attendance was three and our highest attendance was 21. Our average attendance so far this year is eight.

The year 2020 to the present has been difficult because of Covid-19. We have a lot of challenges and difficulties in our Ministry. It has been difficult for all of us. Our attendance has dropped; people are still afraid to come to church. Our Ministry funds have been shaken up a bit; but the hand of God has been always helping in our midst, supporting us and providing for us. We are incredibly grateful to God because He has been good. We are very blessed that God has touched the lives around us to provide for our ministry. We are thankful that people like you have answered the call from the Lord to support this wonderful Ministry. Thanks to your commitment we are able to continue to preach the Gospel in Spanish. We are not going to let the devil stick his dirty hands in our ministry. We will continue to advance the Kingdom of the Lord.

We will continue to carry his message of reconciliation, love, peace, forgiveness of sins, salvation, and eternal life. I will start to go out to visit farms and stores more diligently than before. We pray to the Lord that the work of this Ministry continues in our midst. We pray that He continues to touch lives, bringing the ones that need to be saved to expand his ministry here around us. We pray to God to continue to bless you all. We pray to God for your continued support for this ongoing Ministry.

We want to give special thanks to those congregations and members who have supported our ministry to get new Bibles, children's Bible story books, and Catechisms. Thanks to them, we will continue to reach more people with these materials. This material will be used at church and be given away in stores and farms etc.

We continue to plan for Operation Backpack school year 2021-2022. The distribution day is August 7, 1:00 – 3:00 P.M. at Good Shepherd. If you would like to be part of this event please let us know. We would like to

invite you and your churches to be part of this wonderful opportunity. This is a great way to give to our community. We already are collecting materials. If you're willing to be part of this please, bring the school supplies to Good Shepherd. You can also send check donations with a memo: Operation Backpack, to Sheboygan County Hispanic Outreach, 730 County Rd PPP, Sheboygan Falls Wisconsin 53085. For further info you can contact Rev David Blas 630-229-2455.

We are planning for OUR COMBINED VBS. This year VBS will be different. Its not going to be an in-person one since we do not have enough volunteers. Kids will do VBS from home. This is what we are going to do is: kids will register online as always at Lutheran High School website under summer camps, we will set a day for the parents to come to Good Shepherd to pick up the materials, kids will stay at home but they need to have access to internet in order to access the online link where VBS will be recorded, they can do VBS at their own pace. This link will be printed on one of the sheets sent home but also I will try to send it to the churches so they can be uploaded at the churches websites and the kids can also go there and click on the link. **IN ORDER TO HAVE VBS THIS WAY WE NEED VOLUNTEERS:** we need a person with skills on recording the people teaching, singing, etc. This person will also need to edit and put everything together and then create a link and upload on Youtube. I don't have any of these skills. **IF YOU CAN HELP US, PLEASE LET US KNOW OR IF YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE.** VBS will happen if we find this person, if not we sadly will have to cancel and we don't want to do that. Thanks in advance for your help.

Thank you for reading this letter! Thank you for your continuing support for OUR Hispanic Ministry! Thank you for partnering with us. Please continue to pray for us! May God richly bless you!!!

Looking forward to what the Lord has for us! In Christ, His Humble Servant and Yours,

Rev. David Blas

Prayer Calendar



Heavenly Father, we lift to you our prayers for...

- 1-Memory Matters *and birthdays*: Blane Heinen, Donna Ragan, Claudia Siegert *Anniversaries*: David & Jess Young Jr.
- 2-Office Helpers *and birthdays*: Kennedy Albright, Carolyn Deeley, Brianna Entringer, Scott Jensema, Julie Miller, Lauren Moyer, Tayler Otten, Ethan Passehl, Allison Schmid
- 3-Men's Bible Study *and birthdays*: Sandy Entringer, Andrew Hendricks, Christa Knaus, Melissa Main, Shae March, Tyler Miller, Dianna Witt *Anniversaries*: Jim & Rachele De Pagter, Brian & Aaryn Feile, Derek & Sarah Ottman, Jeff & Diana Shircel, Robert & Dolly Weber
- 4-Our Risen Lord *and birthdays*: Brooklynn Buboltz, Janel Kunert, Matt LaPean, Kim Mertes, Carly Mitnacht, Bill Scheidt, Mallory Simons, Noah Stengel, Heber Stoker, Kristen Storm, Jake Wallner *Anniversaries*: Jeff & Kristin Dederling, Scott & Susan Vollbrecht
- 5-Ministry Staff *and birthdays*: Julia Damrow, Sophia Kuehl, Christian Vollbrecht *Anniversaries*: Dick & Lynn Boenisch, Gene & Mary Sommer
- 6-The Gathering Place *and birthdays*: Gary Albrecht, David Bimmel, Peter Bimmel, Sally Haines, Christopher Matz, Kayla Muehlbauer, Tom Schmidtke, Andrea Starr, Madison Thill
- 7-Quilters *and birthdays*: Josh Bruckner, Karen Fasse, Sandy Kimmmer, Jafia LaBarge, Karen Owens, Sue Reichelt, Bob Reineking, Kris Riley, Victoria Smith
- 8-Pastors & their Families *and birthdays*: Bethany Boenisch, Lee Geisthardt, Jean Grasse, James Jenkins, Marty Nemitz, Bill Schultz, Aaron Wimmeler *Anniversaries*: Jim & Patty Thiel, Evan & Kari Wachter
- 9-Able Fellowship *and birthdays*: Janice Koepf, Jean Kuznacic, Rachel Novicki, Brandie Scholten, Jacob Thill, Helen Timm, Terry Van Engen
- 10-Early Childhood Center *and birthdays*: Mardeline Hammersley, Brooke Hartmann, Bruce Kunert, Cindy Lilyquist, Kennedy Lorenz, Tammy Mitnacht, Casey Verhagen *Anniversaries*: Michael & Debbie Ladwig, Orson & Ellen Najacht, Robert & Heidi Ridge
- 11-Communion Assistants *and birthdays*: Deb Fale, Christine Rose, Terri Stone
- 12-Finance Team *and birthdays*: Amir Akright, Carolyn Daniels, David Gruetzmacher, Lilian Olafson, Reya Rosalez, Allen Rose, Laura Self *Anniversaries*: Bonnie & Ralph Heinen, Pat & Allen Jenkins, Wendy & David Young
- 13-Bell Choir *and birthdays*: Denice Doying, Amara Feile, Sue Gollhardt, Jason Leonard, Mark Saeemann, Dan Siemers, Sara Vugrinovich *Anniversary*: Paul H. & Marty Ten Pas
- 14-AWANA *and birthdays*: Brad Albrecht, Evan Behling, Barbara Berg, Cooper Berlin, Karl Brom, Brody Buboltz, Adam Corrigan, Sawyer Dentz, Taylor Ewald, Tina Helmer, Wayne Kohl, Elizabeth Matz, Paige Mauer, Karrie Mertes, Dennis Petrie, Kim Selby, Allison Soerens, Dylan VanderWeele, Lynn Washatko *Anniversaries*: Richard & Rene'e Leicht Jr., Steve & Cheri Miller
- 15-Harvest *and birthdays*: Monika Jenkins, Chris Klemme, Carrie Nikson, Chad Prisinger, Helena Saunders, Elise Schlecht, Sawyer Tuenissen *Anniversaries*: Dennis & Carol Haefke, Mike & Peggy Hahn
- 16-Prayer Chain *and birthdays*: Eric Hildebrand, Jake Long, Zeke Morgen, Sharon Ogea, Becky Ubbelohde, Marilyn Voss, Lyza Woelfel *Anniversaries*: BJ & Karen Bonner, Dave & Sue De Pagter, Jim & Chris Dotz, Sam & Kristin Keller, Wade & Becky Kerfoot, Travis & Macie Kissel, Joel & Peggy Tauschek, Scott & Karen Willadsen
- 17-Endowment Team *and birthdays*: Heidi Gruetzmacher, Jason Hornsby-Gutche, Harriet Klister, Zach Koepf, Isabella Peloquin, Kathryn Peloquin, Brian Van Engen *Anniversary*: Jim & Sherry Montella
- 18-Good Hope Road *and birthday*: Steven Burkhardt, Carol Trekas *Anniversaries*: Jody & Dennis Hodgson
- 19-Youth Ministry *and birthdays*: Joshua Leuck, Paula Schwonek, Helen Teig, Al Toutenhoofd, Scott Vollbrecht
- 20-Adult Choir *and birthday*: Rachel Gartman, Kyle Peterson, Kaylen Rusch, Nick Verhagen *Anniversaries*: Jeff & Chris Casper, Ron & Karen Kuhnly, Mark & Jenny Zimmermann
- 21-Confirmation *and birthdays*: Tyler Albrecht, Kayla Billmann, John Boeldt, Tanner Donath, Jim Fasse, Luke Servant
- 22-Thursday Praise Team *and birthdays*: Jason Duff, Mary Eresh, Dave Janke, Kinley Kerfoot, Jodi Miller, Lynn Pekulik, Michael Pfeifer, Marcus

(Continued on page 16)

Prayer Calendar Continued...

(Continued from page 15)

- Rekowski, Lorne Schlecht **Anniversary:** Ben & Kris Schmidt
- 23-*This Side of Heaven and birthdays:* Brian Feile, Alex Gilson, Harper Lorenz, Taylor Schuette
- 24-Connecting Groups **and birthdays:** Lorelai Haase, Henry Habeck, Alyssa Hiebing, Stacy Karbe, Logan Nonnemacher, Anne Ritter, Howie Schmitz, Rayner Toerpe, Scott Zajkowski **Anniversaries:** Don & Judy Fields, Dave & Sandy Hiebing, Jeff & Leah Wiegand
- 25-*Celebration and birthdays:* Lexi Arenz, Jeff Dederling, Stacy Eirich, Peggy Preder, Tom Ragan, Jay Rusch, Tia Sprengel **Anniversaries:** Dan & Jackie Blindauer, Chad & Diane Oppeneer, Mark & Denise Schroeder, Tom & Barb Slater, Edson & Althea Smith
- 26-Tech Team **and birthdays:** April Mueller, Trent Schroeder, Michael Timm **Anniversaries:** Leslie & Patrick Leighton, Tim & Judy Putz, Steve & Ruth Raab
- 27-Church Council **and birthdays:** Michelle Abrahamson, Jamie Buhler, Jim DePagter, Atley Leuck, Grant Mattes, Joyce Morgan, Jade Oostdyke, Chelsea Rische, Tandra Sbrocco, Haven Simonich, Shirley Spielvogel **Anniversaries:** Jason & Jenny Leonard, Dean & Ruth Ann Palm, Joe & Mary Pfister, Tim & Colleen Sass, Nick & Amy Verhagen
- 28-Facility Maintenance Team **and birthdays:** Addison Eirich, Ashlyn Prisinger, Elizabeth Ragan
- 29-Altar Guild Servers **and birthdays:** Aiden Brotz, Katie DePagter, Richard Leicht Jr., Samantha Martin, Linda Ten Haken, John Weber **Anniversaries:** Tyler & Kaitlyn Jones, Tom & Stacey Leibham, Brett & Michelle Richter
- 30-Ushers **and birthdays:** Alex Fenner, Don Fields, Karen Grupe, Collin Heinz, Mandy Hermann, Jenni Monson, Luke Roe, Melanie Rohde, Heidi Ver Gowe **Anniversaries:** Jeremy & Megan Horn, Jim & Michelle Marshall, Scott & Danielle Monnot

... Amen

Helping Kids Program Update

Hello everyone,

Well, it is official! Kathy has handed off the food portion of the Helping Kids program, but she will be still be running the school supplies, clothing, and winter apparel. She will continue to collect the food items at St. Paul's and give them to me. I wanted to say "Hi" and introduce myself. I have lived in Sheboygan County all my life and have been living in Sheboygan Falls for 16 years. My husband, Marty, and I have 3 daughters. (2 in HS and 1 in MS), and my daughter Amanda lives in Cedar Grove and has blessed me with 3 grandchildren.

Helping kids is in need of a couple of items for the upcoming months. We waited to reach out until AFTER all the current food was moved to my house. It took the better portion of a day, but all the food has been packed, moved, and unpacked, and these items are needed:

Food Items: Crackers, taco kits, box pizza dinner kits, muffin mix, applesauce, instant mashed potatoes, instant oatmeal, jelly, canned fruit, pancake mix (water only), pancake syrup, pop tarts, granola bars, fruit snacks, spaghetti noodles, pasta, cake frosting, and brownie mix.

Hygiene Items: Kids toothpaste, regular tampons, and mini pads/pantie liners.

I want to thank Kathy for recognizing a need in our community and for her dedication to Helping Kids. Over the years she has helped countless families and children. Kathy, *thank you* for your selflessness, your time, and the effort you put into making Helping Kids a sustainable program. You have been a blessing to all. God Bless you and Milt in retirement and enjoy your adventures.

God's Richest Blessings,

Sheri Halverson

(920) 980-6220

Financial Report -

Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

Financial Results- 12 Months Year to Date Actual, Budget & Variance

	8 Months Ended 2-28-21 Actual	8 Months Ended 2-28-21 Budget	Variance from Budget (Short)/Over
General Offerings	\$ 771,325	\$ 859,038	(\$ 87,713)
Other Income	\$ 28,350	\$ 16,210	\$ 12,140
Mission Offerings	<u>\$ 64,072</u>	<u>\$ 56,823</u>	<u>\$ 7,249</u>
Total Income	\$ 863,747	\$ 932,071	(\$ 68,324)
Operating Expenses	\$ 717,493	\$ 874,075 ¹	(\$ 156,582)
Mission Support	<u>\$ 64,072</u>	<u>\$ 56,823</u>	<u>\$ 7,249</u>
Total Expense	\$ 781,565	\$ 930,898	(\$ 149,333)
Surplus (Deficit) Total	\$ 82,182	\$ 1,173	\$ 81,009

1. Expenses are under budget due to the unfilled 3rd pastor position

Early Childhood Center reporting has been included in the numbers shown.

The Gathering Place reporting has been eliminated as it is self-funding.

Capital Improvement & Parking Lot Funds

	Monthly Activity Increase (Decrease)	Balance at Month End
Capital Improvements	<u>\$ 6,802</u>	<u>\$ 54,934</u>
Parking Lot Fund	<u>\$ 2,895</u>	<u>\$ 43,444</u>

Membership Report

Baptized Members	2,609	Confirmed Members	2,146
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Contact Karri in the Church Office for a detailed report.

St Paul Lutheran Church Event Calendar April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 Easter Sunday 6:15 am Worship HC # 7:45 am Worship HC #2 9:15 am Worship HC #6 10:45 am Worship HC #10*	5 9:15 am TGP 11:45 am Dir Mtg 6:00 pm Boy Sct*	6 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 9:15 am TGP 5:45 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm Cub Sct Pk3885 7:00 pm CWF*	7 9:00 am Quilters 10:00 am Pstr Bible Study 6:00 pm Conf 6:00 pm AWANA Sparks Family Night*	8 9:00 am Mmry Mttrs 9:15 am TGP 6:30 pm Worship HC #A*	9 6:30 pm Able Fellowship*	10 8:30 am Celebration Re-hearsal*
11 7:45 am Worship HC #3 9:15 am Worship HC SS #7 10:45 am Worship HC #11 12:00 pm NYG Mtg 5:30 pm Youth Group*	12 9:15 am TGP 11:45 am Staff Mtg 6:00 pm Guys' Get Together 6:00 pm Boy Sct 6:00 pm Harvest**	13 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 9:15 am TGP 5:45 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm Cub Sct Pk3885*	14 10:00 am Pstr Bible Study 6:00 pm Conf 6:00 pm AWANA TNT Family Night 6:00 pm Faith Path-Conf & Worship*	15 9:00 am Mmry Mttrs 9:15 am TGP 6:30 pm Worship HC #B*	16 9:15 am Lutheran High service day*	17 8:00 am Men's Bible Sty 8:30 am Good Hope Road Cummings Memorial Service*
18 7:45 am Worship HC #1 9:15 am Worship SS #5 10:30 am FP-Conf & Worsh 10:45 am Worship #9 & New Member Welcome 12:00 pm TSoH Prac 5:30 pm Youth Group*	19 9:15 am TGP 11:45 am Dir Mtg 6:00 pm Boy Sct 6:00 pm Quilting*	20 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 9:15 am TGP 5:45 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm Cub Sct Pk3885 6:30 pm Boy Sct Ldr Mtg*	21 10:00 am Pstr Bible Study 1:00 pm Ladies' Aux 6:00 pm AWANA 6:00 pm Confirmation*	22 9:00 am Mmry Mttrs 9:15 am TGP 6:30 pm Worship HC #C*	23 Life Line Screening*	24 8:30 am Celebration Re-hearsal 8th Grade Assessment Day*
25 7:45 am Worship HC #4 9:15 am Worsp HCSS #8 10:45 am W/rshp HC #12 12:00 pm TSoH Prac Bowling*	26 9:15 am TGP 11:45 am Staff Mtg 6:00 pm Boy Sct*	27 9:00 & 12:30 ECC Chapel 9:00 am Women's Bible Study 9:15 am TGP 5:45 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm Cub Sct Pk3885 6:45 pm Congregation Mtg Council to follow**	28 8:30 am ECC Chapel 10:00 am Pstr Bible Study 6:00 pm AWANA 6:00 pm Confirmation*	29 9:00 am Mmry Mttrs 9:15 am TGP 6:30 pm Worship HC #D*	30	

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