

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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Council President Annual Report

Brothers and Sister in Christ,

It is with honor I again share the generosity of our congregation's gifts for our congregation, our community, synod and world. We have been busy and the Lord continues to make His presence known at St. Paul's!

Council, committee chairs and congregation members renewed our purpose and principles this January. These include:

Purpose:

We are called through Christ to praise God and love generously.

Guiding Principles:

As instruments of God's love, when you see us at our best you will see us:

- ***Generously*** stewarding God's gifts of resources, time, and talents
- ***Serving*** as God's hands and feet in ministries and missions of outreach to all
- ***Providing*** for the care of God's people, both physically and spiritually
- ***Growing in faith*** through worship, study, and discernment
- ***Praising God*** through music, word, and service
- ***Welcoming*** all people into fellowship with God

Our original priorities were put on hold as we worked with the Synod to determine our next steps following Pastor Burkhardt's May resignation. Our new journey began with intentional interim Pastor Holland's arrival in August.

We are now on our way managing a lot of changes...from our sanctuary renovation, to decluttering and pastoral leadership. Change is hard, it's good, bad, emotional, chaotic and different for everyone. But, we're managing, healing, forging through, learning and listening. And this report shows we are clearly still serving God through our generosity and the sharing of our time, talents and resources within our congregation, our community, synod and the world.

Many thanks to all of you, our committee chairs, council and our staff for your presence, grace, generosity and continued support.

Nancy Smith,

Council President

**St. Paul Lutheran Church
Congregation Council Annual Report
September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023**

We are called through Christ to praise God and love generously.

Mission: To fulfill the command given in Matthew 25:35 "for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me."

How are we living our purpose and principles? What do we have to celebrate?

Members of the 2023 council were Sharon Bortner(2024), Sherry Cracium-Bolin(2025), Lucille Farrington(2025), Amy Feeser (2024), Russell Kaltreider(2025), Dan Kiser(2023), Donna Lehman(2023), Dave Maus(2025), Cindy Schmidt(2023), Peg Sennett(2024), Jon Shaw(2023), Nancy Smith(2024), Pastor Robert Burkhart(May 14, 2023), Pastor Katrina Holland(began August 1, 2023), Frank Hueske(Treasurer) and Linda Zellers(Secretary).

Frank Hueske(2022), Tom Miller(2022) and Laura Silver(2022) served on council through December 31, 2022.

Officers of the council and the congregation for 2023 are:

President – Nancy Smith	Vice-President – Peg Sennett
Treasurer – Frank Hueske	Secretary – Linda Zellers

The committee liaisons for 2023 are as follows:

- Worship – Donna Lehman, Dave Maus
- Parish Education/Youth – Lucille Farrington, Russ Kaltreider
- Property – Jon Shaw
- Evangelism – Nancy Smith
- Finance – Sharon Bortner
- Faith in Action – Dan Kiser, Cindy Schmidt
- Stewardship – Sherry Cracium-Bolin, Amy Feeser
- Visioning/Steering – Frank Hueske

In addition to receiving committee reports, the council did the following:

- met in regular session in 2022 on October 12th, November 9th and December 14th and in 2023 on January 12th, February 8th, March 8th, April 19th, July 12th and August 9th;
- met in special session on September 27, 2022(electronically); April 12, 2023; April 23, 2023, May 3, 2023 and May 10, 2023;
- approved monthly Treasurer's Report subject to audit;

Congregation Council Annual Report - continued

- approved designated givings for each month which are listed in Financial Report;
- approved actions, which are listed in the monthly highlights in the Evangel. Council minutes are, also, available in the church office.

The council begins each meeting with devotions and then identifies how the congregation of St. Paul's is living our purpose and principles as well as what we have to celebrate.

On January 21, 2023, twenty-four persons including council members, committee chairs and/or representatives, ministry leadership and members met for a congregational planning session with Pastor Richard Jorgenson. The session began with a Bible study on John 15:1-12. Those gathered discussed the meaning of the passage. The group then moved into small group discussion of our current purpose and priorities and what they mean to us. The common threads from the small groups were people – youth and adults, relationships between and among us within St. Paul's and with the greater community, service and growth. Pastor Jorgenson suggested that we need an Invitation Strategy for 2023. He also noted that prayer was not on the list. Prayer is necessary to discern direction which is first before speed. The small groups discussed priorities for 2023 which were then shared to the group. Following discussion as a whole, the following priorities were developed for 2023:

1. The Executive Committee would request a meeting with Bishop Dunlop to discuss member and community engagement, varying worship styles and spiritual leadership.
2. Complementary ministries and leadership in partnership between members and pastoral leadership.
3. Youth and family tools and new models for engagement and formation
4. Develop an Invitational Strategy.

Pastor Jorgenson would return on April 23rd to preach and to help develop the priorities since they had changed from 2022.

On April 12, 2023, Pastor Burkhart informed council that he was resigning from St. Paul's effective Sunday, May 14, 2023. Council held a reception for Pastor Burkhart on May 7, 2023, for the congregation to wish him well in his new call.

When council and other members met with Pastor Jorgenson on April 23, 2023, the discussion centered on what the next steps would be when Pastor Burkhart's call to St. Paul's ends in May. Pastor Jorgenson

Congregation Council Annual Report - continued

said that St. Paul's would have an interim pastor, and the call process would not begin until after the interim arrives.

On May 10, 2023, council met with Pastor Jorgenson and Pastor Katrina Holland, an intentional interim. Pastor Holland and council interviewed each other. Following the interview, Pastor Holland and Pastor Jorgenson left the room so council could discuss. Council decided to enter into contract with Pastor Holland who would begin on August 1, 2023.

Please pray for council, the congregation and Pastor Holland as we move through this time of transition. It is a time of waiting, listening to each other and discerning God's call to ministry in this place.

Council meets the second Wednesday of each month. Unless stated as closed, meetings are open to members of the congregation.

Submitted by,

Linda P. Zellers, Secretary

"And the King will answer, truly I tell you, just as you did it unto one of the least of these, my brothers and sisters, you did unto me" Matthew 25:40

Congregational Treasurer's Report

For calendar year 2023, we have faced some challenges, yet also see some encouraging progress.

Attendance is increasing and giving has also increased somewhat .

- 1) Through September 30, we are at a deficit of \$44,293.00 in Parish Ministry (Operating) Income versus forecasted expenses.
- 2) Based on YTD giving, our regular offering is forecast to be \$221,431 for 2023
- 3) Based on YTD giving, Property giving is forecast to be \$19,175 and Capital giving is forecast to be \$6,000 for 2023.
- 4) As of September 30, we had a total of \$633,595.65 in the endowment funds broken down as follows:
 - a. Family Crisis Fund: \$ 1,562.85
 - b. Sabbatical Policy Fund:\$ 30,089.44
 - c. Marsh Family Fund: \$ 57,876.96
 - d. Mission Trip Fund: \$ 10,427.70
 - e. Raubenstine Fund: \$ 65,914.84
 - f. Main Endowment Fund: \$ 467,723.89

Congregational Treasurer's Report - continued

- 5) The markets are fluctuating quite a bit so I do publish a monthly status of regular giving and the endowment funds. Look for them in the Bulletin and *The Evangel*.
- 6) We did have Bequests of about \$25,000 this year. \$5,000 of this amount is designated for church programs and cannot be used for Operating Expenses.
- 7) Due to generous congregational giving to our Grocery Ministry, thus far we have only used \$4,000 of the AIM Funds approved by the congregation last December (Approval was \$15,000)
- 8) Beyond what we currently have in our Operating checking account, we have approximately \$42,000 in cash reserves which is down from about \$90,000 last year.
- 9) Thank you to Michele Whitman, Wayne Butler and Diane Klunk for auditing the 2022 yearend books and the 2023 mid-year books.
- 10) We are looking to provide more transparency to the Congregation and its various committees as we are able. Currently, we are looking at some expanded software to enable this.
- 11) Thank you to the Finance Committee; they are 5 very competent and dedicated people who care a great deal about the well-being of the congregation.
- 12) Thank you also to Carmen Buckley for all she does – I don't think most people realize all that she does that extends well beyond the job description. Thanks also to Bridget Wurtz, our outside Bookkeeper, and Maureen Kaltreider who provide me with invaluable information.

Respectfully,
Frank R. Hueske,
Treasurer
10/18/2023

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

**Annual Congregational Meeting
December 11, 2022**

Purpose:

We are called through Christ to praise God and love generously.

The Annual Congregational Meeting to approve congregational meeting minutes of December 11, 2021, and June 26, 2022 to accept 2022 annual reports (September 1, 2021 to August 31, 2022), to adopt 2023 budget, to elect council persons and to approve continuing building renovations was held Sunday, December 11, 2022 in Fellowship Hall

Annual Congregational Meeting December 11, 2022 - continued

and via ZOOM. Nancy Smith, President, declared a quorum present. Pastor Burkhart offered prayer and declared the meeting open at 10:28 AM.

Election of Council Members: Nancy Smith introduced the nominees. Nominee for one year term was Donna Lehman. Nominee for a two year term was Amy Feeser. Nominees for four three year terms were Sherry Cracium-Bolin, Lucille Farrington, Russ Kaltreider, Diane Klunk, David Maus and Deb Sowers. The vote was taken by written ballot and counted by Frank Hueske, Tom Miller and Laura Silver. The results were Donna Lehman, one year term ending in 2023; Amy Feeser, two year term ending in 2024; and Sherry Cracium-Bolin, Lucille Farrington, Russ Kaltreider and Dave Maus, three year term ending in 2025.

Congregational Minutes of December 11, 2021 and June 26, 2022 and 2022 Annual Reports were moved for acceptance by Donna Lehman, seconded by Leroy Zellers. The motion carried.

Renovation Funding: Peg Sennett presented the motion from council that painting of Fellowship Hall including stage and stairwells to landing above main floor, including wallpaper border removal be done by Ausherman's Painting at cost not to exceed \$40,000.00 from the Raubenstine bequest. The motion carried.

2023 Budget: Frank Hueske, Treasurer, presented the 2023 budget to the congregation. Frank said that projected Parish Ministry giving through December 2022 will be approximately \$215,000 to \$218,000 which is below 2022 budget of \$250,000. The Finance Committee recommended a \$200,000 Parish Offering line item for 2023. The difference between income and expense would be balanced by annual bequest, cash on hand and \$20,000 Certificate of Deposit. Current balances in accounts are \$35,000 at PNC operating and \$62,000 at Peoples operating in addition to the Certificate of Deposit. Frank reported that cash flow was well in 2022 and no problem paying bills.

The total in the endowment fund is \$702,000 which includes \$474,000 of the main endowment.

1. Frank Hueske clarified that the pastor's medical insurance is listed under pastoral expenses, and medical expense for full time Lay Staff is listed under Staff Expenses.

2. Expenses are being met in spite of shortfall in Parish Ministries.

In addition to the budget, the estimated expense for 2023 for the ministries of Dinner Church, Walk through Bethlehem, Camperships

Annual Congregational Meeting December 11, 2022 - continued

and Grocery Ministry were listed so congregation would know the costs of each ministry.

3. A question was asked if the fund for the four ministries would be added to budget. The ministries are not part of the budget.
4. In response to the question about intent cards, Nancy Smith said that about forty cards have been received with a \$239.00 increase per week.
5. In response to how these ministries are currently funded, it was stated that funding is through donations, Adventures in Ministry Fund or Designated Giving. The funds available in the Adventures in Ministry Fund are currently about \$80,000.00. This amount may be used for unbudgeted outreach ministries.
6. In response to question of when these ministries become part of the budget, the answer was when parish offerings increase to pay for them.
7. Only money received for Synod Benevolence is sent on to Synod. The current budget has line item of \$30,000. If giving does not reach \$30,000, no funds are used to make up the difference.

Glen Alwine, second by Gary Martin, moved to accept the 2023 budget for St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church. The motion carried.

Since 2023 funding for Grocery Ministry exceeds \$10,000, the congregation needed to approve them. **Russ Johnson, second by Judy Zumburum, moved to fund Grocery Ministry in 2023 for approximately \$15,600 with funding from donations, designated giving and/or Adventures in Ministry. The motion carried.**

Russ Johnson, second by Dan Feeser, moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 11:02 AM.

Pastor Burkhart closed the meeting with prayer.

Submitted by,
Linda Zellers, Secretary

**Congregational Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2023**

Purpose:

We are called through Christ to praise God and love generously.

Congregational Meeting Minutes March 26, 2023 - continued

Congregational Meeting to approve additional renovations was held Sunday, March 26, 2023, in the sanctuary. Nancy Smith, President, declared a quorum present. Pastor Burkhardt offered prayer. Nancy Smith opened the meeting at 10:30 AM.

Mission Moment: Nancy Smith stated that through generosity of the congregation St. Paul's is able to offer worship services, hold Bible Studies, feed our neighbors through the Grocery Ministry Program, provide space for various groups to meet and to keep doors open to help our neighbors. As of the meeting, Frank Hueske, Treasurer, had transferred \$20,000.00 from Peoples Bank to the general checking account to meet current expenses.

Renovations: Peg Sennett presented the motion from council as presented by the Building Renovation Task Force to finance the following with \$40,000.00 from the Raubenstine Bequest:

- 1) Front steps replacement of treads and repair of risers,
- 2) Painting of front of church, six columns, door surround, lights and railing,
- 3) Painting of five metal exterior doors,
- 4) Protection of two canopies at parking lot entrances to preserve and prevent further deterioration of wood beams.

Peg Sennett asked for questions from the congregation.

- 1) The roof leak above balcony was resolved by repairing the flashing.
- 2) The vestibule and stairwell to balcony will be painted in the future.
- 3) The piano blocking the Middle Street stairwell was moved there during renovations and will be returned to the sanctuary.

With no further questions, the motion unanimously passed.

Ken Roser, second by Diana Leppo, moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 10:37 AM with prayer by Pastor Burkhardt.

Submitted by,
Linda Zellers, Secretary

Congregational Meeting Minutes May 7, 2023

Purpose:

We are called through Christ to praise God and love generously.

Congregational Meeting to approve replacement of administration roof was held Sunday, May 7, 2023, in the sanctuary. Nancy Smith, President, declared a quorum present. Pastor Burkhardt offered prayer and declared the meeting open at 10:32 AM

Congregational Meeting Minutes - May 7, 2023 - continued

Renovations: Peg Sennett presented the motion passed by the Property Committee and approved by Council to install a new roof on the Administration section of the building, along with associated repairs, not to exceed \$35,000 to be paid for as follows: \$8,455.00 from the

Property Committee account, the current balance in the Capital Campaign account at approximately \$11,545.00, and the balance at approximately \$15,000 to be taken from the Raubenstine bequest. There was no discussion so Nancy Smith called for the vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Cindy Schmidt, second by Donna Lehman, moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 10:36 AM with prayer by Pastor Burkhart.

Submitted by,
Linda Zellers, Secretary

STAFF REPORTS

Director Of Music Ministries/Organist

The Adult Choir, which averaged 20 members, rehearses weekly and sings at two services a month, plus special services such as Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. The Adult choir sings on all the festival Sundays and provides a wide variety of music.

The Youth choir had 5 dedicated members this past year. They rehearsed weekly and joined the Adult Choir to sing 2 services a month and special services.

The Heritage Choir, which averaged between 6 and 10 members, would rehearse once a month on Saturday mornings and supply music for worship one Sunday a month.

The process for selecting music for each choir is still the same each year.

- We look at the readings and images for the Sundays we have and get an idea of what music would be proper for each Sunday.
- We look for music to match the Service and look at the difficulty of the piece. We have an idea of the number we will have in each group, so we try to match the music to the ability of the group. Sometimes this changes once the choirs begin rehearsing.
- We spend a great amount of time going through the files, looking for music to use. We also look at new music from publishers. We try to use what we have in our files and try to limit the buying of new music.

Director Of Music Ministries/Organist - continued

- Since we are live streaming and recording our services, we now check to ensure the piece selected for a given day is covered under one of the licenses the church has for copyrighted music. We check the listing for each license and sometimes we will need to contact a publisher and ask for permission to record or live stream the music. If permission is not given, we start all over again to find a new piece of music for that service.
- Once the rehearsals begin, we try to get a calendar out so members of the various groups have an idea of the services they will be supplying the music. If we have a service where we might be short of singers or players, we look at the music and change it if we need to. This means going through the process again to find another piece.
- We were very blessed to have a total of 10 anthems purchased by members this past year. Thank you to everyone who purchased an anthem for St. Paul's.

Each week I report all music, anthems, and hymns, that are printed in the bulletins or used on the livestream to ensure we are in compliance with the copyright laws and our license agreements.

I prepare the service part of the bulletins, then pass them to the church office where the announcements are added and the bulletins are printed for each service.

I attended online webinars and events such as:

- Old vs. New Music – Can it exist together in Worship
- New music for worship – Vocal and Organ Music
- Copyright and the Church
- Mixing new and old together in Worship
- Selecting the right Music for YOUR Choirs

I am grateful to all the staff and the Worship and Music committee for their continued support of the music ministry.

Thank you, Lori and Gretchen, for your support and dedication to the music program at St Paul's. We have a wonderful music team and music ministry at St Paul's.

Special thanks to Kathy Bishop and Wendy O'Brien who are the music librarians for the Adult and Youth choirs.

Respectfully,
Steven Ruppright
Director of Music Ministries/Organist

Director Of Handbell Choir

Our handbell choir consisted of seven ringers this year. We rehearsed weekly from September to May and played for services 1-2 times per month. On occasion we combined the handbells with the adult, youth and children's choir to add a fuller sound to their vocal selections.

Every 5-10 years handbells need to be refurbished. Inner springs and washers need replaced and polishing and tuning are done on each bell. Our bells spent the summer at Malmark Bell Manufacturing doing just that. We are excited for their return and ready to ring for you in the coming months.

Additional duties and volunteer activities:

- Substitute for organist during vacation times
- Member of the Faith in Action Committee
- Vacation Bible School Helper

I take pride in the musical choirs here at St. Paul's and look forward to being a part of these groups moving forward.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lori Rebling

Director Of Children's Music

This year I enjoyed creating a weekly lesson plan for the Rotation Sunday School children. I told a Bible story and incorporated a craft, video, or game that reinforced the story. I lead music enrichment activities and taught songs which we shared with the congregation once a month as a musical offering during the worship service, often accompanied with percussion instruments or ASL.

Along with directing these anthems sung by the children, I played the handbells in two additional anthems with the other Music Department staff members.

For our Christmas Eve service the children worked very hard on our anthems and as a thank you I purchased Chrismons (made by Wayne Butler) again this year for each participant. All proceeds went to a charity organization.

I served as the staff representative on the Education Committee and as a co-director, music leader, and storyteller of the summer's Vacation Bible School (held at St. Mark's) with over 40 participants. To keep our costs low, I helped to write the curricula as well.

It has been my great joy to serve as your Director of Children's Music and I look forward to continuing to grow and improve in this position and in my service to St. Paul's.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Walter

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Christian Education/Youth

Committee members are: Lynne Thompson, chairperson; Lucille Farrington, Russ Kaltreider (2023 Council Liaison), Tom Miller (2022 Council Liaison), Deb Sowers, Bill Sowers, Gretchen Walters, Linda Zellers, recorder.

Committee organized Faith Formation rotation classes for elementary-age children, provided confirmation instruction and Adult Bible Studies, supported the activities of Youth and Family and Vacation Bible School and choose Lenten and Advent Devotional materials.

Rotation Sunday School began September 11, 2022, for children in grades Kindergarten through 6. Students participated in music, games, and other activities during the 9:30 Worship service. They were led by Gretchen Walter, assisted by Lynne Thompson and parents. The committee included a children's message in the weekly Happenings and Reminders until April 2023..

Vacation Bible School was held July 31 through August 4, 2023 at St. Mark Lutheran Church. Gretchen Walter organized the program along with volunteers from St. Mark and St. Paul's. Forty-two children attended.

Junior High (Confirmation) class was taught by Lucille Farrington. Kitty Angel also helped, and Pastor Burkhardt met with confirmands on the fifth Sunday in months that had five Sundays.

Adult Education: Pastor Burkhardt led the "Something Brewing Bible Study" with a study of "The Parables" by William Barkley. In the fall of 2022, Leroy Zellers led a study of Revelation. Linda Zellers led an Advent study "Light of the World" and a Lenten study "Witnesses at the Cross".

The committee helped with the de-cluttering project in the theatre, art room, PreK room and Science and Cooking room.

Pastor Burkhardt led a Communion Enrichment session on April 1, 2023.

The committee sent motions to council that St. Paul's pay for one week of classic camp at tier 1 level for members of St. Paul's with funding from designated giving and Adventures in Ministry Fund and to have Faith Formation following the 9:30 AM worship service for approximately forty-five minutes beginning in September.

Easter bags were prepared and given out on April 1, 2023, to Grocery Ministry participants.

Christian Education/Youth - continued

The committee planned a Youth Reunion for Saturday, June 10, 2023, following the Saturday worship service. However, the event was cancelled due to lack of response.

Thank you to Lynne Thompson for chairing the committee the past two years. We welcome the new chair, Bill Sowers, as of September 1, 2023.

Studying God's Word is one way we grow in faith and strengthen our relationship with God. In the Christian faith, one is never done. If you have ideas for a class or would like to lead a class, please contact a member of the committee.

Youth And Family Ministry

Youth and Family Ministry is a group for all St. Paul's youth (grades K-12) and their families. Deb and Bill Sowers lead the group activities with parent support. For the 2022-2023 year our group met on the third Sunday of each month for a time of food, fellowship, and devotions before (usually) splitting into the SPYKids group (youth grades K-6) and SPY group (youth grades 7-12).

One model for youth ministry is a balanced offering of **SERVICE, LEARNING, WORSHIP, and FUN**. Some of these aspects are interwoven in one gathering; at our monthly gathering, we generally have a time of games (fun) and worship (devotions and song). Here is a glimpse of some of our other activities:

SERVICE:

- +CROP Walk (SPYKids)
- +Parents Night Out (SPYKids attended, SPY led activities)
- +cleaned up Fisher Chapel at Nawakwa (SPY)
- +made an Easter "treat" (SPY)
- +Family Mission trip--see description of activities below
- +helped once a month with Grocery Ministry

LEARNING:

- + "Love" games—what IS love and how do we show Christian love?
- +retreat at Nawakwa (SPY) — our theme was "Freedom"
- +Creation scavenger hunt (SPYKids)
- +various service organizations within the ELCA and local synods

WORSHIP:

- +devotions at all of our gatherings

Youth And Family Ministry - continued

+worship experiences on our retreat (SPY) and Mission trip

FUN:

+games at our gatherings

+Road Rally and Lock-In (SPY)

+Hershey Bears game

+bowling

+Family Mission trip--see more info below

Family Mission Trip

+organized/packed 30 Baby Care kits for Lutheran World Relief

+served at a local ministry (half the group served at Middletown Food Bank, the other half served at Zion Clothing Bank)

+painted a fence at Mar-Lu-Ridge

+built 5 benches for the barn at Mar-Lu-Ridge

+PLUS some fun (card games, campfire and Shock Rock)

WHEW! We crammed a lot into that weekend!

We look forward to another exciting year of ministry!

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Zellers, recorder

Christian Education Committee

Deb Sowers

Youth and Family Ministry Leader

Faith In Action Committee

The members of the Faith In Action Committee are Lori Rebling, Cindy Selby, Hazel Lehigh, Cindy Schmidt (council rep), Dan Kiser (council rep) and Janet Haack.

The Faith in Action committee would like to thank the members of St. Paul's for being so generous and giving so much to help others in our community and around the world. God's blessing on you all.

WELCOME BASKETS FOR NEW PARENTS—This is an ongoing project. No baskets were delivered to new parents in the congregation.

Faith In Action Committee - continued

2022 SCHOOL KITS—We made up 72 School Kits for Lutheran World Relief. A group of church members met at the church to fill and box the kits for delivery to New Windsor. They were delivered to New Windsor, MD to Lutheran World Relief on the same day. School supplies left over were taken to New Hope Ministries .

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD— There were 26 boxes for Operation Christmas Child filled by the congregation and taken to the drop-off location at Hanover First Church of God in November 2022.

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS—This year again we decided to fulfill the request received from New Hope Ministries in Hanover for unwrapped Christmas presents. Their guests are then able to shop for their whole family. We were able to deliver 102 pounds of gifts or 89 individual gifts to New Hope Ministries in December 2022 for this purpose.

CARDS FOR HOMEBOUND—Members of the church were asked to sign up for one homebound member and to make a year's commitment to send appropriate cards to that particular shut-in through 2023 . The sign-up sheet was filled in and cards are being sent.

SOUPER BOWL PROJECT— During the entire month of February, the committee held the Souper Bowl project. We collected 320 cans of soup and given to St. Paul's Grocery Ministry that month.

LENTEN PROJECT—The group decided to collect food items needed for Ruth's Harvest during Lent. Ruth's Harvest is a program of the Hanover Area Council of Churches that supplies weekend meals for qualified students to take home on Fridays. We collect over 600 individual servings of various food items requested by HACC as well as 2 large boxes of applesauce.

SCHOOL KITS—In July and August, the Committee began its 2023 School Kit Drive. This year the Committee purchased 96 backpacks to fill with school supplies.

Our committee has tried to continue providing opportunities for St. Paul's members to help those less fortunate than ourselves. We invite anyone who is interested in this kind of outreach to join our committee. We are also looking for new ideas and new ways to help others.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Haack

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee is currently comprised of Sharon Bortner (council liaison), Stephanie Sanders, Ginny Murray, Laura Silver and John Vannes. We usually meet on the third Wednesday of each month at the church.

In 2023 we:

- + reviewed the monthly reports compiled by our bookkeeper & treasurer
- + discussed the reports watching for financial trends, overall income & spending
- + investigated items that needed explanation
- + organized a yearly budget with input from all committees
- + presented the 2024 annual budget to Church Council in November 2023

Property Committee

Property committee members Dan Feeser, Lorraine Mason, Mike Buckley and myself performed throughout the year as noted below. All were members of the Renovation Tasks Force, as well. We completed the following:

- Prepared the lounge to accommodate the pews for the sanctuary painting and flooring work;
- Installed the donated ceiling tiles in fellowship hall;
- Returned the pews to the sanctuary;
- Sealed the underside of the pews;
- Coordinated volunteers to secure the pews to the floor;
- Worked with several contractors to secure bids for approved projects (air conditioning, roof, etc.);
- Trimmed the bushes and cut the lawn while Mike recovered from shoulder surgery (special thanks to Gary and Nancy Martin for weeding and for trimming the bushes);
- Installed tiles for the gym floor and closets near the gym.

•
Property funds were used to purchase choir chairs.

Mike Buckley worked with Spangler Boyer to reduce the cost of the steel beam needed to secure the top A/C unit correctly. Have excess (no longer used) duct work on the roof removed to allow roof replacement to be installed easier. Many more items Mike worked on throughout the year, with input from the Property Committee if Mike was unsure.

Respectfully submitted,
Russell Johnson

Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship committee completed training in Building a Culture of Generosity and introduced Intent Cards during a fall Stewardship Campaign. Thirty-nine cards were returned with 95% intent to increase giving during 2023.

Amy Feeser, Chair

Worship and Music Committee

The Worship and Music Committee once again found this year to have some challenges and many blessings.

We continued using Fellowship Hall for worship during the painting and renovation of our Sanctuary. We were not able to return to the Sanctuary until the beginning of February. Thankfully we had many volunteers to help us return the Bibles, hymnals, communion cards, etc. to each pew! How beautiful our Sanctuary is and how wonderful it is to worship there again!

With Pastor Burkhardt's resignation and the calling of an intentional interim, we decided that continuing with just a 9:30AM service on Sundays would be to everyone's benefit. There were requests for our Saturday, 5PM service again, and we were able to begin it in the spring with volunteers that were willing to lead.

We do not have many volunteers to help with the tasks that help worship flow smoothly. Thankfully we do have congregants that are willing to step up at our worship services. At the time this report was issued we have few ushers and no acolytes. However, there is a list of worshippers who are willing to be communion distributors. As always, I appreciate the 4 Worship-Altar Preparation teams that make sure all is ready for worship and communion each and every Sunday!

In August we welcomed Pastor Katrina Holland to St. Paul's. With her guidance we hope to be able to move forward even more. We also were able to move all the Worship and Music supplies to one place. Thank you to those who helped, not only to physically move our belongings, but also to clean out and consolidate everything. It is wonderful to have everything together in one room, rather than on 2 floors and 2 closets.

The Worship and Music Committee consists of the pastor, our organist, a council liaison, and anyone else who may want to help guide our church in worship. We always welcome new members to our group.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Butler

GROUPS OF ST. PAUL'S

Lutheran Men in Mission

Our goal and conversation is to grow our faith in God and serve our congregation & community.

This year, due to church renovations, we moved our annual book sale from October to April of 2023. Thank you to everyone who again helped make this a success. This year we decided to have a Pancake breakfast on the last day of the book sale. Donations from the funds received from the two events were made to our Boy Scouts and SPY.

Our Men's group meets every fourth Saturday of each month with a breakfast meeting, bible lesson, and occasional speaker. Join us for some good conversation and fellowship. All are Welcomed.

Active members include: Bob Colehouse, Pete Lehigh, Gary Smith, Leroy Zellers, John Reitz, Glenn Alwine, Pastor Bob, Doug Riley, Alex Riley, Russel Johnson, Christopher Johnson, Steve Busler, and Ron Knisley.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bob Colehouse

St. Paul's Book Club

The St. Paul's Book Club has read 10 books for the year. As of the end of this year the group has read 100 books since 2014, the year we started. We have had some very good discussions and delicious refreshments. We invite anyone who is a reader to join us at a meeting. We meet in the homes of the members on the last Wednesday of the month, so just watch the Evangel to see where the group is meeting. We begin our meetings at 6:30 pm.

This year we had a special meeting in St. Paul's Lounge in September to hear the local author, Audrey Clare Farley, discuss her book The Unfit Heiress. We had a very nice turnout for this event. We had invited several other churches in the area to attend. Audrey did an excellent presentation on her book and she also had copies of her newest book for sale. We were so happy she agreed to come to speak to our group.

Grocery Ministry

Weekly grocery distribution continued throughout the year. We now have a leadership team/committee of 8. Two each take a week to lead the volunteers and distribution. There are other members of the committee from our volunteer pool as well. We meet as needed. Procedures are posted in the gym. We continue to have 4-5 volunteers

Grocery Ministry - continued

for Fri. prep and 15-18 per Sat. including some of our distribution recipients.

This year, thanks to your vote of support, we've spent a little less than \$1,000 month (down from \$1800 in 2022), due to financial and in-kind donations, a \$1300.00 grant and the USDA free food program. We have not had to use AIM funds to date.

We have 140 registrations/households participating. This is similar to previous years.

- 123 - Children under 17;
- 168 - between 18 & 59;
- 107 - 60 and over.

In addition:

- 129 household (92%) are below the federal poverty guidelines regarding income;
- Of the 11 over the poverty level, 3 live in MD and the remaining 8 have medical issues/bills;
- 42 of our households have 4 or more family members; and
- We serve approximately 250 households per month.

Many thanks to our congregation and weekly groups of church members, Cub and Boy Scouts, Book Club, Council and Girl Scouts for their support and participation.

Nancy Smith

GROUPS MEETING AT ST. PAUL'S in 2023

- Boy Scout Troop 102 – New Birth of Freedom Council
- Blue and Grey District, Cub Scout Troop 102
- Daisy Troop 81320, Brownie Troop 81710, Junior Troop 80727, Girl Scout Troop 81659
- Music and Motion

Cub Scout Troop 102 Report

Our pack starts the year in September and usually runs until the beginning of May. During that time, we have den meetings 3 out of the 4 weeks of the month, then on the 4th Thursday we have a pack meeting. The den meetings are grade specific and the scouts focus on activities that are geared towards their grade level. The pack meetings bring all the dens together and that is when the scouts receive their

Cub Scout Troop 102 Report - continued

awards. While we do not have den meetings during the summer, we do have activities usually once or twice a month to keep us connected during the summer. We want to thank St. Paul's Church for continuing to be our Charter Organization.

September - Started our year by selling Popcorn and Nuts to raise money for our Pack

October - Went to Cornfusion. We played in the hay, went on hayrides and went through the corn maze.

November

December - Winter Camp at Camp Tuckahoe The boys take turns making meals and then cleaning up after themselves. They went on hikes, played in the woods and acted like kids.

January

February - We participated in Boy Scout Sunday at the church.

March - Pinewood Derby races. Each Scout, with the help from their parent, carve, sculpt and paint a wooden car to race.

April - Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve Hike

May - Camp Conewago, end of year awards and campout. There was tent camping and cabin camping, playing, cooking and eating.

June - Pack Pool Party

July - Catoctin Zoo trip and Twilight Adventure Camp

August - National Night Out recruitment and activity booth and the Cub Scout Picnic

Music And Motion

Music And Motion is happy to be celebrating its 15th year at St. Paul's. We continue to offer music enrichment classes for over 150 students 0 through 12 years.

Throughout the year the Music And Motion instruments were used to enhance and enrich the music portion of the St. Paul's Sunday School classes and Vacation Bible School, as well as used in many of the anthems sung during the Sunday Worship Service.

I would like to thank the congregation and staff of St. Paul's for their support of the Music And Motion program and for their appreciation of the importance of music in the lives of children.

Respectfully submitted,

Gretchen Walter

Director, Music And Motion - www.mumo.us

FINANCIAL AND STATISTICAL REPORTS

2023 CONGREGATIONAL STATISTICS

Baptized members as of 8/31/2023.....	1130
Active/Confirmed members as of 8/31/2023.....	277
Non-voting/Confirmed members as of 8/31/2023	737
Baptized/Unconfirmed members as of 8/31/2023.....	133
Baptisms	0
Confirmations.....	5
Marriages.....	0
Deaths	12
Members received.....	0
Members released by transfer.....	5
Members removed by their own request	5
Members removed for other reasons (moved/no transfer, etc.)	120
Average weekly worship attendance – 9:30 am – through 8/31/2023....	86
Average weekly Facebook worship atten.–9:30 am–through 8/31/2023..	7
Average weekly Saturday worship attendance -	16
Ash Wednesday attendance 7:00 pm.....	63
Average Midweek Lenten 7:00 pm - through 3/15/2023	24
Holy Week - Maundy Thursday	62
Good Friday.....	83

2022/2023 SPECIAL DESIGNATED GIVING

September '22Grocery Ministry.....	\$1,148.00
October '22Sister Congregation in Tanzania	\$920.00
November '22.World Hunger.....	\$1,230.00
December '22.Lutheran Disaster Relief.....	\$1,100.00
January '23Jessica and Friends	\$962.00
February '23...Missionary Support – The Swansons	\$912.00
March '23St. Paul's Camperships	\$1,571.00
April '23.....Lutheran Disaster Response for Turkey/Syria	\$875.00
May '23St. Paul's Family Crisis Fund	\$948.23
June '23St. Paul's Sabbatical Fund	\$578.00
July '23.....Lutheran Disaster Response for Ukraine.....	\$1,240.00
August '23.....YWCA Safe Home	\$1,075.00
TOTAL DESIGNATED GIVING FOR Sept. 2022 - Aug. 2023	\$12,559.23

Fund	Amount	Market Gain/Loss	Disbursements	Comments
Family Crisis	\$1,614.04	\$ (32.56)		
Sabbatical Policy	\$31,075.15	\$ (626.89)		
Marsh Family Fund	\$61,555.24	\$ (1,241.79)		
Mission Trip	\$10,769.31	\$ (217.25)		
Gladys Raudenstine	\$68,074.18	\$ (22,242.11)		Ashleman Bill to be paid in Aug. - \$22,242.11
Main Endowment	487,177.32	\$ (9,828.08)		
Total Value	\$173,087.92	\$ (34,188.68)		

January through August 2023

Category	Budget (8 Months)	Actual	Difference	Comments
Parish Offering	\$ 133,333.00	\$ 142,598.00	\$ 9,265.00	Regular Offering Plus Plate - August Deficit to Budget: (\$2328)
Synod	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 14,806.16	\$ (5,193.84)	Only Regular Synod Offering
Property	\$ 16,666.00	\$ 12,711.00	\$ (3,955.00)	
Capital	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 3,902.00	\$ (98.00)	
Grocery Ministry		\$ 685.00		Not on Regular Budget but non-AIM funds
August Designated		\$ 1,065.00		YWCA Safe Home
Budgeted Expenses	\$200,681.00			
Actual Parish Offerings	\$142,598.00			
Bequest - Undesignated	\$15,400.00			
Total Parish Income	\$157,998.00			Have taken \$40,000 from savings to cover to pay bills
Deficit	-\$42,683.00			

This 2023 Annual Report through August 2023 will be approved at the 2023 Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 10, 2023.