

worship *Nurtured & Equipped To Witness & Serve* prayer love mission

January 2021

This newsletter is a monthly publication of St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 31, 2021 at 11:00am

Because of the pandemic, we have had to make changes in the way we gather – for worship... and for meetings. This will be true for our upcoming Annual Meeting as well. Because we do not know what the COVID-19 conditions will be like in Sauk County at the end of January, we are preparing for a *virtual* congregational meeting via Zoom – which allows individuals to login using a computer or laptop *or* to call in using a telephone to join the meeting and participate. [****We *may* be able to allow a limited number of people to attend the meeting on-site.**]

According to our congregation's constitution: C.10.08 – "This congregation may hold meetings by remote communication including electronically and by telephone conference, as long as there is an opportunity for simultaneous aural communication."

What you need to know now:

1. A mailing will be sent out in early January with all the details for how to join and participate in our annual meeting.
2. You will be asked to register in advance for the meeting (by a certain date) – so we can verify that you are an "eligible voting member"... and so we know whether you plan to login or call in.
3. Because this is new to so many, we will offer pre-meeting "trainings" on the ins-and-outs of Zoom meetings... and we will plan to do a dry-run before the meeting for those registered to attend and participate.

****The Annual Report** will be available for you to pick up by January 15, 2021.

Pastor's Reflections...

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The beginning of a new calendar year gives us a chance to pause... to reflect. For me, it isn't so much about making resolutions for the coming year. It is about taking time to look back on the past year—to ponder and give thanks for both the joys and the challenges, the good and the bad, the ups and the downs... to see where God has brought growth and learning and renewed faith and hope. It is also about taking time to look to the new year—to consider the opportunities that lie ahead... to make any necessary changes for the good... to discern how and where God is leading us forward - together.

The past year has clearly not been what any of us expected... or wanted. The year 2020 stretched us... challenged us... and at times, pushed us almost to the edge. But we have not given up. Truly, COVID-19 has impacted us all—some more than others. It has shown us our strengths and our weaknesses – as individuals, as a community, and as a nation. It has forced us to ask hard questions – of ourselves and each other... to make difficult decisions re: the good of our neighbors... to do what we can to keep ourselves and each other as safe as we can. Sadly, instead of unifying us and bringing us together as a people (as other national / global crises have), it has brought division and discord... and death—too much death. Yes, 2020 was a hard year, on so many levels; but with God's help, we as a congregation have stayed connected (though “physically distanced”) and strong. We have adapted and made necessary changes to protect the most vulnerable among us. We have assessed and re-assessed our priorities and values as God's people. And we have been blessed!!

As we move into a new year, I want to, once again, say **“THANK YOU”**...

“THANK YOU” – first and foremost – to our faithful and loving God who has truly been *Emmanuel* to us... for us... and *“with us”* – through all the ups and downs, joys and sorrows of the past year.

“THANK YOU” – to the dedicated staff members with whom I am blessed to work... they are essential to the day-to-day ministry and mission of St. Paul's—Alice Woodward, Kelly Rodenschmit, Sam Howard, and Kathy Schroeder...

“THANK YOU” – to the Church Council and ministry committees, the COVID Task Force, and the Mutual Ministry committee who have served faithfully and diligently... who have encouraged and supported me as we, together, have navigated the “uncharted waters” of the pandemic – making phone calls to check in with congregation members, making difficult decisions regarding gathering or not gathering, meeting in-person or via Zoom, outdoor worship or indoor worship, etc. I am grateful that we have been united in our decisions even if we haven't always been of one mind.

“THANK YOU” – to those who worked with our youth for the first half of 2020—Teri Fichter (SPLASH), Colette Balfanz and Carol Hartmann (SPOTS/SPYS)... *and* to those who took on those responsibilities this fall—Kelly Rodenschmit (SPLASH) and Kariann Bailey (SPOTS/SPYS)... *and* to all the faith mentors and volunteers who work alongside them...

“THANK YOU” – to our gifted musicians—Susan Lappin, Jerry Stich, Katie and Griffin James, Cheryl Warming, Kathy Houzner and others who have provided special music for both our recorded and “in-person” services in 2020... (we look forward to when it will be safe enough for the choir to gather and sing once again)... **“THANK YOU”** to Matt Warming for his AV talents that have allowed us to do what we have been able to do for worship – we are gifted and blessed, indeed...

“THANK YOU” – to all who work behind the scenes to make sure projects get done and things are kept in good order: office volunteers and those who shovel and snow blow our sidewalks and entryways; those who change light bulbs and do needed repairs; those who clean, disinfect and sanitize surfaces; those who decorate for the holiday seasons; those who change paraments / banners and set up communion, , and on and on...

(continued on page 3)

(Pastor's Reflections continued)

And finally, **"THANK YOU"** – to ALL OF YOU who have continued to support St. Paul's and our ongoing ministry—through your prayers... through your generous and faithful financial support. Because of you, our mortgage stands at less than \$20,000, and we begin 2021 in good financial shape. From the bottom of my heart, **"THANK YOU."**

Dear friends, we travel this journey together. As we move into 2021, let us be open to the promise of Christmas—that God is (and always will be) *Emmanuel*, *"God with us"*—our comfort... our strength... our light ... our guide... now and forever. In closing, I offer this prayer entitled: "The New Year." It is my prayer for 2021; I pray it will be your prayer, too.

In Christ, Pastor Karen

Faithful Companion, in this new year I pray:

*to live deeply, with purpose,
to live freely, with detachment,
to live wisely, with humility,
to live justly, with compassion,
to live lovingly, with fidelity,
to live mindfully, with awareness,
to live gratefully, with generosity,
to live fully, with enthusiasm.*

*Help me to hold this vision and to daily renew it in my heart,
becoming ever more one with you, my truest Self.*

--Joyce Rupp (from *Out of the Ordinary: Prayers, Poems, and Reflections for Every Season*, pg. 160).



Call Alice at the church office at 356-3230 or Pastor Karen at 434-3397 to learn more and make your appointment.

Sunday services will continue to be recorded and posted on the website.

Sunday 8:30, 9:30 or 10:30 am

**January 3, 2021
January 10, 2021
January 17, 2021
January 24, 2021
January 31, 2021**

Wednesday 5 pm, 6pm, or 7pm

**January 6, 2021
January 13, 2021
January 20, 2021
January 27, 2021**



2021 Offering Envelopes

Can be picked up at the church during office hours

From Your Council President

Possibilities

"For humans, it is impossible, but for God all things are possible." -Matthew 19:26b

"For nothing will be impossible with God." - Luke 1:37

One of the most inspirational examples of hope, faith, and perseverance that I have ever encountered is the story of Bethany Hamilton. Are you familiar with her story? This young lady was an up and coming surfing star at the age of 13 when she lost her left arm in a shark attack. It seemed to be the end of her dream of becoming a professional surfer, but this girl would not take no for an answer and was back in the water within a month. She went on to win a national championship two years later. When asked in an interview about how she could overcome what seemed to be a career ending accident, she said something that has always stuck with me. She said, "I didn't need easy, I just needed possible." Hear that again....not easy, just possible.

This is something I'm dwelling on as we bring 2020 to a close and begin a new calendar year. I'm going to be a bit presumptuous and speak on behalf of the Council, our Re-opening Task Force, the Music and Worship Committee, the Mutual Ministry Team, and (I'm guessing) for Pastor Karen and many of our other staff and teams here at St. Paul's...there has not been one decision we've had to make or one reinvention of how to go about our ministry in these past months that has been easy. It's been one heart-tugging, sleep-losing, prayer-pleading decision and action after another. Precious and few were the actions that could operate with traditional, routine plans.

As I dwell in these thoughts, I am reading through a beautiful compilation of the history of our church here in Baraboo that Terry Kramer has worked to pull together for our congregation. I am so appreciative of his hours of work and research that brought this into my hands! As I read through the narratives and records, and peruse the drawings that show the church building as she grew and morphed into how we know her today, it strikes me that there could not have been a single year that any of the leaders in this place felt that it had been "easy" year. In fact, it is clear that our congregation, like any not in what was easy.

This May, our congregation will celebrate an anniversary of our "official" beginning in this place we call our church home. We are amazingly close to having the ability to celebrate this anniversary near the same time that we could be paying the final payment on our mortgage. All of which has been made possible by the generosity of hope filled people in our past and in our present who believed...that God's grace and love can and will lead our imperfect plans and circumstances to become more. More than the possibilities we can even imagine. Faith to keep moving forward, enabling the next generation to believe in that same hope.

So, 2020 did not play out according to the human plans laid out a year ago. But, that lack of routine has led, I believe, to new plans fulfilled with both intentional and unintentional purposes. It has not been easy, but by the grace of God, it has been possible. In fact, He knew what would be possible for St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Baraboo, Wisconsin from the beginning and continues to lead us to what is possible for next year, and the year after that, and the year after that.

On behalf of council,
Cheryl Warming, Council President

Prayer List

(Updated November 2020)



Sympathy to:

Abby and Dave Weigel, (death of her mom)
 Karen Schubring, (death of her mom), and the
 Family of Richard Beckwith.

Health concerns, etc.

Shelley Born
 Gene and Sue Clingman
 Amber Squires (Sheri Marsh's daughter)
 Kendra Miescke
 Kathy Anderson (Ralph Heiser's sister)
 Laurie Carpenter (Linda Jenks' niece)
 Bev Mickelson
 Joan Lord (Trish Jackson's aunt)
 Tom Karls (Trish Jackson's uncle)
 Mark Steinhorst (Lorraine Steinhorst's son)
 Rita Zimmerman (friend of Penny Snyder)
 John C. Drescher (John P. Drescher's son)
 Loretta Christian (Glenda Volz's mom)
 Melissa Schadde
 Sharon Madland
 Doug Howard (Sam Howard's brother)
 Gene Harms
 Marjorie Ahlf
 Jerry Drescher
 Jon Hofstad (PK's brother)
 Jim and Barb Farrar
 Joan and Jim Fedkenheuer



In the military:

Sawyer Gard
 Noah Reppen
 McKenna Smith
 Sierra Bowden
 Jacob Warren

Council Summary

December 2020

Financial Update – November income was 26,372
 Expenses 18,960

The proposed budget for 2020 required weekly contributions of \$6,247.17 – The actual weekly giving income to date is \$ 4,948.60

A comparison through : November

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Income	234,194	237,533
Income w/LSS	256,744	260,083
Expenses	260,922	245,519
Prin. Reduction	20,717	83,131
Accounts Payable	1,827	700
Balance on Hand	13,161	36,407
Mortgage	134,408	19,267
Inc. vs Expenses	(4,178)	14,564
Checkbooks	77,440	111,426
Net Cash	11,334	35,707

Net Cash last month 35,707

- 2021 spending plan/budget “approved to present” at annual meeting.
- Annual meeting is set for January 31, 2021
- Thank You” to our out going council members, Karen Schubring and Nicole Knuth.

The next council meeting is Jan.18, 2021 at 6pm

THANK YOU FROM THE SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE!

St. Paul's donated \$1700 plus \$425 in gift cards to the 2020 Giving Tree Project which distributes toys, clothing, food gift cards, etc., to vulnerable children in the Baraboo school district! We also donated \$280 to Lutheran Disaster Relief from Helping Hands Offerings during October and November.

Helping Hands Offerings for January and February will go to Hope House. Last January we collected for Food for Kidz 2020 and have paid for two tables (\$500). We are unaware of when that might happen but will let you know as we learn more.

2020 was a tough year but your continuing kindness and thoughtfulness has certainly added many bright spots for everyone. Thank you for loving and caring for all of God's children!

Social Ministry Committee - Karen Hinze, Kathy Plamann, Nancy Sleight, Patte Steiner and Alice Woodward

Parish Nurse Notes

New Year's Resolutions

New Year's, a time when many people choose to make a New Year's resolution.

Many of these are hard to keep and fail by February or even before. However, research shows there is a way that brings more success and that is to rephrase your resolution.

How you formulate your resolution is of great importance for the final outcome.

If you rephrase your resolution from "I will quit", or "I will avoid" to "I will start to", you will have greater success. Make a resolution where you try to adopt a new habit, or where you introduce something new into your daily scheduled, versus avoiding or quitting.

For example, if your goal is to stop eating sweets in order to lose 10 pounds, you will most likely be more successful if you say, "I will eat more fruits and vegetables several times a day." You then replace the sweets with something healthier which probably means you will also lose weight thereby successfully keeping your resolution.

About 40% of Americans make a New Year's resolution. About 39% fail within a week or 2.

Bernadette Melnyk, chief wellness officer at the College of Nursing of Ohio State has a few more tips to help you make your resolution stick.

- Set a realistic, specific 30 day goal. The more specific and realistic the goal the more you will succeed. There is no sense in making a resolution to wake up at 5 AM each morning to run 5 miles, if you are not a morning person or if you have never run even a mile in your entire life. Instead, try walking 15 to 20 minutes after work 2 to 3 times a week and build from there. Work towards your goal one day at a time. And, remember, you can always start again if you fall behind or forget a day.
- Write your goal down and put it where you can see it every day.
- Keep a journal of your success and write little encouraging messages or congratulations to help you keep going.
- Be patient and kind to yourself. Remember, it can take 30 to 60 days to make a new habit stick and / or break an old one.
- Surround yourself with people who are supportive of your goals or better, set goals with a friend who has similar ones so that you can hold each other accountable.

If you make a New Year's resolution, make this year the year you will succeed in keeping it. My wish for you is a healthy, happy, back to some semblance of normal 2021.

Yvonne



The Property Committee is in need of volunteers for snow removal from the sidewalks and entryways. We have a snow blower, shovels and ice melt that will be provided. This responsibility would be a week to week basis.

Questions call Duane Steiner at 356-7467.

If you would like to volunteer call the church office at 356-3230 to have your name placed on the volunteer list.





SPY'S

(St Paul's Youth—Elementary)

Hello St Paul's Families!

Lesson packets available in Church office for Pick-up!

Please contact me if you have any questions or if you want to start meeting for church school.

I look forward to hearing from you all and growing your child's faith.

Kariann Bauman Bailey

stpaulsspys@gmail.com

608-609-6981



- JAN 6 Intro. to the Commandments
- 13 Commandments 1-3
- 20 Commandments 4-6
- 27 Commandments 7-8

**We will not be meeting in person in January

**Lessons will be emailed



(St Paul's Lutheran Amazing Senior High)

S.P.L.A.S.H.

**(St Paul Lutheran's
Awesome Senior High)**

New Year—Join Us!!

SPLASH meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm in the gathering space. We have a great group and would love to have others join us—I know some work or have sports until 7:00 so if you are a little late—that's OK—come anyway.

S.P.L.A.S.H.

FEBRUARY SERVICE PROJECT

Looking for high schoolers who can help at Beyond Blessed Food Pantry

Wednesday's 3:30pm—approx. 6:30pm If you can help any or all, please contact Kelly at 608-963-4154 ASAP. We need to let them know how much help we can give.

Thank you!!!



JANUARY SCRIPTURE READING

- January 3, 2021 John 1:1-18
- January 10, 2021 Mark 1:4-11
- January 17, 2021 John 1:43-51
- January 24, 2021 Mark 1:14-20
- January 31 2021 Mark 1:29-39

Altar Flowers



If you have signed up to sponsor altar flowers, the cost is \$20.00 payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Please write altar flowers on the memo line.

- January 3, 2021
- January 10, 2021 Alice Woodward
- January 17, 2021 Paul Kropp
- January 24, 2021
- January 31, 2021

January 22, 2021



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January 2021

A Publication of St. Paul's Lutheran Church 727 8th Street Baraboo, Wisconsin 53913

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CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Cheryl Warming, Pres. 608-219-4094 Worship Worship & Music Community & World Outreach Mutual Ministry	Pam Gjersvig 608-333-4887 Community & World Outreach Mutual Ministry Faith Formation/Growth & Education Youth Education	Becky Brenson 608-963-2082 Faith Formation/Growth & Education Youth Education Community & World Outreach Faith Community Health Care
Alice Woodward V.P. 608-393-3685 Faith Formation/Growth & Education Adult Education Stewardship of Resources Stewardship Community and World Outreach Social Ministry	Nicole Knuth 608-393-7315 Stewardship of Resources Endowment Community World Outreach Evangelism Thrivent Rep.	Kelly Rodenschmit 608-963-4154 Stewardship of Resources Finance Stewardship
Steve Schick, Sec 608-434-4311 Faith Formation/Growth Adult Education	Karen Schubring 608-393-9927 Community and World Outreach Fellowship	Glenda Volz 608-963-7484 Worship Worship & Music
James "Andy" Larson 608-448-7499 Stewardship of Resources Property	Karen Hinze 608-963-2120 Community & World Outreach Social Ministry Stewardship of Resources Personnel	Molly Brenson Youth Rep. 608-393-7895 Community & World Outreach Evangelism Stewardship of Resources Personnel
Ryan Liegel Youth Rep. 608-393-9465 Stewardship of Resources Property	Council Email: council@stpaulslutheranchurch.us	Find us on 

St. Paul's Staff	Organist/Keyboard	Susan Lappin	Splash	Kelly Rodenschmit
Pastor	Adult Choir Director	Gerald Stich	Parish Nurse	Yvonne Smith
Treasurer	Youth Education	Kariann Bauman Bailey	Admin. Assistant	Alice Woodward
Financial Secretary				

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