



# **FY 2020** **ANNUAL** **REPORT**

**July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020**

**ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
FY2020 CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL REPORT**

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**FY2020 Annual Meeting Agenda  
July 12, 2020**

<b>Call to Order</b>	Nancy Stout
<b>Devotions</b>	Pastor Rodney Bluml
<b>Minutes from last Annual Meeting</b>	Barb Wilson
<b>President's Report</b>	Nancy Stout
<b>Treasurer's Report</b>	Doug Fairbanks/Nancy Lyon Douglas
<b>Staff Reports</b>	
<b>St. Paul Ministry Report</b>	Pastor Rodney
<b>Youth/Family Ministries</b>	Kaileen Weaver/Barb Wilson
<b>Committee Reports as submitted in the Annual Report Packet</b>	
<b>Old/New Business</b>	
Change in bylaws to include a youth specific seat	
<b>Ballot and Election of Candidates</b>	Nancy Stout
• Church Council	
• Nominating Committee	
• Audit Committee	
• 2020 Synod Assembly	
Discussion and Approval of FY 2021 Budget Guideline	Doug Fairbanks
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Pastor Rodney Bluml
<b>Adjournment</b>	

**St. Paul Lutheran Church  
FY19-20 Annual Congregational Meeting  
July 21, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 12:15 p.m. by President Colin Stiffler. Pastor Rodney began the meeting by leading the 52 members in the singing of the doxology.

Ralph Andresen made a motion to approve the minutes of the FY18-19 Congregational Annual Meeting. The motion was seconded by Shawn Countryman and the motion was passed.

The President's report was accepted as presented. Colin Stiffler introduced Kaileen Weaver, the new Coordinator of Children's and Youth Ministries.

Brian Darrow stated that through generous giving we were able to meet and go above the budget that was established for the fiscal year 2018/19. Unfortunately, our expenditures were over the original budget due to the lightning strike and an extremely harsh winter. Amy Christianson moved to approve the Treasurer's report, and Ken Humpal seconded it. The motion was accepted as presented.

Ken Winter, Director of Discipleship Ministry gave a brief review of ongoing ministries. He encouraged members to take part in the unique Prayer Ministry offerings. He also reinforced the value of the Grief Ministries that are available with facilitator Nancy Lyon-Douglas. The Children's and Youth Ministries report and all other committee reports were shared. Karen Biere and Verna Lewison requested help with providing meals to those in need of special care as part of the Member Care Mission. Amy Christianson suggested they contact Lori Reynolds to have their requests put out on the St. Paul funeral site on Facebook. Barry Anderson moved to accept all reports from the annual meeting packet. Carlene Vavricek seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

Colin Stiffler introduced the candidates for Church Council elections and they shared brief bios. The ballots were passed out, members voted, and the votes were counted. Angie Thomas, Nancy Stout and Jason Geltz were elected to the Council positions (first year of first term). Voting members were also encouraged to write in names on the ballot for positions on the Nomination Committee, Audit committee, and 2020 Synod Assembly Delegates, having two vacancies to be filled. Council will review these nominations and contact those suggested.

Brian Darrow presented the proposed FY 2019/20 Budget while thanking Nancy Lyon-Douglas for her commitment and hard work on the church finances. He asked the attendees to consider these three questions: "Are we better off because of St. Paul? Is *Anamosa* better off because of St. Paul? Is the *world* better off because of St. Paul?" He stated that the budget proposed is attainable and asked that the congregation step forward. A motion to approve the budget was made by Lori Reynolds. It was seconded by Gary Vavricek. The motion was passed.

Ken Winter announced his resignation as Director of Discipleship Ministry. He will be moving on to a position as Staff Chaplain for Genesis Health Systems in Davenport. His last day at St. Paul will be July 31st. He thanked the Council members, Pastor Rodney, and members of the Congregation for all the support given to him and Allison throughout their four-year journey at St. Paul.

Doug Fairbanks and Colin Stiffler expressed their gratitude to Ken, Pastor Rodney and the former Council Members (Lori Reynolds, Carlene Vavricek, and Brian Darrow) for their time, commitment, and leadership at St. Paul.

Pastor Rodney thanked the members for trusting their leadership by supporting the budget, welcomed the new Council Members, and led the attendees in a closing prayer.

A motion to adjourn was made by Jay Willems and seconded by Shawn Countryman. Motion carried.

Submitted by:  
Barb Wilson- Council Secretary

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## Nominations

### Continuing to Serve for FY20 (2019-2020)

#### Church Council

Tom Sabotta 1<sup>st</sup> year of 2<sup>nd</sup> term  
Doug Fairbanks 1<sup>st</sup> year of 2<sup>nd</sup> term  
Barb Wilson 2<sup>nd</sup> year of 2<sup>nd</sup> term  
Shawn Countryman 2<sup>nd</sup> year of 2<sup>nd</sup> term  
Nancy Stout 2<sup>nd</sup> year of 1<sup>st</sup> term  
Jason Geltz 2<sup>nd</sup> year of 1<sup>st</sup> term  
Angie Coyle 2<sup>nd</sup> year of 1<sup>st</sup> term

#### Memorial/Trust Committee

Dan Rickels  
Darla Algoe  
Mark Bickford  
Paula Sisler

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#### Audit Committee

Vic Hamre  
Jay Willems

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### New nominees for FY20 (2019-2020)

#### Church Council

Barry Anderson  
Jamie Hamblin  
Susan Koppenhaver  
Logan Dales  
Sean Hollett

**Memorial/Trust Fund Committee** (1 vacancy to be filled—Mary Achenbach)

**Audit Committee** (1 vacancy to be filled—Stacie Sullivan)

**Nomination Committee** (2 vacancies to be filled)

**Synod Assembly Delegates** (2 vacancies to be filled)

## President's Report

As I began to reflect on the year, I was reminded of God's loving presence in our lives. It has certainly been a year filled with joy and challenges. Through it all, God has walked with us in love.

I would like to thank Pastor Rodney and all of the Council members for their dedication and support this year. Pastor Rodney is, indeed, a blessing to us as he helps us grow in our faith and understanding of the scriptures. Thank you to our staff and volunteers who share countless hours in helping us provide wonderful ministry opportunities.

It is a pleasure being part of a Council who works so very closely together. We have been engaged in many leadership opportunities throughout the year. I would like to highlight a few of the Council's activities this year:

- A council retreat was held in July, in which we reviewed job descriptions of council members and duties of standing committees. We continued our discussion of the Program Church, and made a plan for working on our four goals throughout the year.
- We welcomed Kaileen Weaver to the St. Paul Staff as Children- Youth- Family ministry coordinator, working closely with Barb Wilson and Linda Kenny to provide a comprehensive program of faith development.
- God's Work – Our Hands Rally Sunday provided a wonderful opportunity for people to come together for worship and lunch. A clean-up session of the church campus followed. A lot of positive energy flowed throughout the day.
- St. Paul received a \$7000 ELCA Disabilities Ministry grant, which will be saved for later use as we evaluate ways of best serving our worshippers.
- Funeral policies and procedures were reviewed. The Council supported the practice of using non-disposable tableware as an environmentally friendly method.
- Matt McQuillen and Bryce Ricklefs met with the Council to discuss future developments of downtown Anamosa.
- In February, the Council had a retreat to discuss the ELCA's social statement of how to live faithfully in a complex world and serving our neighbors.
- After Ken's leaving, the parsonage was vacated for a few months. We are pleased to have Carol Pate as a renter of the parsonage.
- Due to safety concerns and lack of insurability, the Lumberyard building will be demolished. The lease ends September 1 and intended demolition will occur this fall.
- A team met with Pastor Erika Uthe, of the SE Iowa Synod, to receive training and begin work on interviewing members of the congregation to obtain their input. Interviews with community leaders will also be conducted.
- Through the diligent work of Nancy Lyon Douglas, the Payroll Protection Program application was submitted and approved. Approximately \$25,000 was received to assist us with two months of financial expenses.
- We are grateful to Pastor Rodney for his caring support during the pandemic. Through technology, opportunities have been available for the St. Paul family to stay connected. Pastor Rodney has hosted semi-weekly zoom sessions allowing people to check in and share happenings in their lives. Weekly worship services and prayer opportunities have also been made available through technology.

This crisis is one where God has called us each to be a blessing to others. It is obvious much love is being shared with our church family, friends, and neighbors. Whether you sewed or delivered masks, delivered groceries, provided food for children and families in need, made a friendly phone call to check in, or shared a wave and smile through a Care Center window, the level of love being shared is so heart-warming.

The coronavirus has brought many changes and challenges to our lives. We all need to continue anchoring ourselves in God's word. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1

In Christ's love,  
Nancy Stout, Council President

## CYM Report 2019-20

This has been a year of exciting new opportunities and lots of learning! I joined an amazing team with Barb Wilson leading me through our First WD4 together! As Co-Coordinators Barb took me under her wings and with a lot of patience, hands on learning and many long Wednesday night talks we made it! We started WD4 on September 11<sup>th</sup>. These are just some of the various activities/experiences from this year's school year:

### Children's Church

This year Linda Kenny did an amazing job leading our Children's Church throughout the summer and into the school year. The amount of time and effort she put into each week showed in the way she led our children! This year we continued using Sparkhouse Whirl Lectionary materials for ages preK thru 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Our children range in age from 2 years through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Attendance range is from 1 to 15 children with average attendance of 7.

Children's church is offered at the 10:30 Sunday service. We begin the service with our families. After the first 3 songs and confession, the congregation sends us with their prayer to meet in our space in the church basement. Children's church offers our younger worshipers the opportunity to hear God's message that is being proclaimed in the sermon. Our teaching is done through a Bible story, scripture reading, songs, crafts, and activities that teach God's word and how it applies in the children's' lives. Our children rejoin their families in the sanctuary for the Lord's Prayer, communion and the remainder of the service.

Our church's Sparkhouse subscription provides a variety of materials for teaching God's word to our children. We are pleased to offer our families the opportunity to include Sunday Children's church in their Christian walk. We are grateful for the prayers of all lifting up our Children and family ministry, the support and direction of Pastor Rodney, our Amazing Children's Church leader Linda Kenny and the worship team. We also are grateful for all who help with Children's church: Mackenzie Paulsen, Olivia Christianson, and the many others who make our Sunday morning Children's program a safe and welcoming place for the children in our fellowship.

### WD4 Preschool-Fourth grade:

This year we averaged 37 preschool through fourth grade students each week. They experienced the Bible through Spark Lectionary Lessons. The children followed the church year by participating in stories, crafts and games that matched the weekly sermons. We added the preschool-fourth graders to our In worship rotation schedule this year along with drumming with Pastor Rodney immediately after the service. The children really seemed to enjoy drumming with Pastor Rodney and always came back smiling and wishing they had more time! We also worked with the children on learning the Books of the Bible. Many of children had memorized all of the Old Testament books during our short time together! They ended their evenings singing God's praises with Laura Secrist. We also had a Five Week Winter Program where the kids did different acts of kindness, service projects at home, wrote notes to the janitor at Strawberry Hill, etc. in order to win a pizza party with Pastor Rodney. The kids came into class excited to tell us what they did the previous week! We even implemented the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> graders bringing their Bibles during the program and were excited to see the great result that was brought even after the program was over! What a great group of young people we were able to be a witness to from our community. During Lent we were starting to collect change for Sleep in Heavenly Peace and the preschool through fourth graders were able to collect \$364 during the short time we were together! It was such an honor and a privilege to be a part of this great community and work along with the teachers & leaders that helped make WD4 a success!

### WD4- 5<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade:

This year, we had an average of 35 middle and high school students each week. Our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders used the Grapple Preteen program to learn how to search the Bible for answers to everyday questions and to build a faith foundation that guides their relationship with Jesus.

The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>-graders participated in lessons from the LIVE Junior High program that helped them to dig deeper into their beliefs, doubts and choices, using God's word as their guide. The high school youth used the weekly Faith Lens blogs and their daily life experiences, to spearhead conversations on what was going on in the world and how that related to them and their faith.

The middle school and high school students continued to engage in activities to practice wellness with the use of the ELCA Wholeness Wheel. This program focused on the importance of spiritual, physical, emotional, and social/interpersonal well-being and growth. Some of these activities included yoga, nutrition, dance, games, music, art, and mindfulness. Special thanks to Jane Orgies, Ben Coyle, Carol Stiffler, and Kristi Fortune for sharing their talents with our youth during these activities! They also were able to experience drumming with Pastor Rodney.

The youth were able to share their talents through many service opportunities this year. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade youth participated in the Wednesday worship services once a month as ushers, singers, readers, communion

distributors, and technology operators. Middle schoolers also helped out with the Spook Carnival, Jesus' birthday party, Valentine's dinner, and a couple of the Lenten meals. The high school students rang the bell for the Salvation Army, took food for the Willis Dady Homeless Shelter, and served meals to the homeless at First Lutheran Church.

Our Children's and Youth Ministries team was blessed with many amazing adult small group leaders. Thank you to all of you!

- Preschool/Kindergarten- Angie Thomas
- 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grade- Sally Clapp, Vicki Wacker
- 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade- Lindsey Austin, Kathleen Cannon
- 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade- Polly Chalstrom and Greta Vaughn
- 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade- Brie Wittenburg, Shawna Giegerich, Barb Wilson
- High School- Kristi Fortune, Lois Ocenosak, Shawn Countryman, Shaun Lambertsen
- Sunday School teacher- Linda Kenny

### **Coronavirus:**

Sadly, due to the virus, we were unable to finish off our WD4 year with each other in celebration. Kaileen and Barb met with many of the kids each week through March and April through Zoom meetings. They played games, talked about God and their daily lives and just enjoyed a chance to be together.

**Christmas Program:** This year our Christmas presentation, "The Friendly Beast", was on Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Families joined us in the church at 6:00 for worship and the program started after the service. The preschool through 6<sup>th</sup> grade students participated in the presentation, singing and playing the roles of the friendly beasts as well as reenacting the night of our Savior's birth. The middle school and high school students helped pass out candy canes after the program and decorated and served food at Jesus' birthday party. Laura Secrist took time each week to teach the news songs that were sung during the program! We cannot forget to mention the amazing costume designer Virginia Danielson who made sure the children all looked superb for their parts no matter how big or small they may have been! A huge thank you to our great WD4 leaders, Barb Wilson, Laura Secrist & Virginia Danielson for all the time and hard work you put into making our program go smoothly! Wrangling all those children is not an easy task!

**VBS:** This year our theme for VBS was "To Mars & Beyond!" We were able to still host VBS but we brought it beyond our walls into the outdoors! We set-up 5 stations where the children were able to stay and have the Group Leaders rotate to the different stations. We had an Opener, Science, Snack, Bible Story & Bible Memorization leaders. The children heard the stories of Daniel in the Lions Den, Queen Esther, The Good Samaritan, & Jesus Comforts Friends on the Way to Emmaus. They learned that with God we can "Go Beyond with Faith, Boldness, Kindness & Hope." For our service project this year we sent the kids home with a postcard and bag to decorate and make a little something to give or send to a neighbor or loved one. We had 47 children register, and averaged 41 each day. VBS was made possible thanks to the many hands that helped with planning, craft & science prep, set-up & tear down each day and much more! The following are the many hands that went into making VBS a great success:

Mars Leaders- Sally Clapp & Addie Dales  
 Saturn Leaders- Angie Coyle & Elijah Secrist  
 Pluto Leaders- Barb Wilson, Regan Cunningham & Tobi Tapken  
 Jupiter Leaders- Greta Vaughn & Ingrid Vaughn  
 Venus Leaders- Brooke Paulsen & Miken Wheeler  
 MC/Music Leader- Laura Secrist  
 Science Leaders- Victoria Lansing & Angie Coyle  
 Snack Leaders- Lori Reynolds & Ella Vaughn  
 Bible Memorization Leaders- Michelle Deskin & Pastor Rodney  
 Bible Story Leader- Shawn Giegerich  
 Game Leaders- Seth Secrist & Devon  
 Registration Leaders- Brooke Paulsen & Libby Atwood,  
 Floaters- Andrea Giegerich, Libby Atwood & Garrett LaDue.

**Family Ministry:**

Wow, what an amazing year this has been working and being a part of such an amazing and giving community!! Because of the great families and Church Family we have here at St. Paul we were able to do several service projects this last year. Here are a few of the ways that our St. Paul community was able to give back and serve our community and surrounding communities this past year through our CYFM ministry:

- Decorate & Take Cookies to Anamosa Care Center & Woodland Park
- Donate Items, Bring a Meal & Serve at the Willis Dady Homeless Shelter
- Make & Deliver 16 blankets to the Willis Dady Homeless Shelter
- Decorate Cookies with Residents at Pinicon Place
- Host & Serve our Love Is Kind Dinner for our St. Paul Community

These are just a few ways that we were able to help our community this past year! We also hosted game nights in our C.E. building and averaged 8 people at each of those. I am looking forward to growing and serving our community this next year and seeing what else the Lord lays on our hearts to do.

Respectfully submitted by Barb Wilson & Kaileen Weaver  
Coordinators of Children's, Youth, & Family Ministries  
cyfmstpaulanamosa@gmail.com

## St. Paul Ministries

### Prayer Ministry

Jane Ortgies, Lois Ocenosak, and Pastor Rodney have offered Prayer Ministry on different days and times. In an attempt to introduce people to various ways of communicating with and experiencing God, they have offered Drumming for Healing, Centering Prayer, Holden Evening Prayer, Summer Solstice, Visio Divina, Taize, and other creative prayer styles.

Laura Secrist teaches songs in the Ed Building while Pastor Rodney spends 20 minutes drumming in the chapel with different grades of WD4 youth following Wednesday evening worship.

**Eucharistic Ministry** has become an extremely meaningful ministry not only for those receiving Communion but for Eucharistic Ministers themselves. Ministers this fiscal year include Karen Biere, Verna Lewison, Kristi Fortune, Jane Ortgies, Carol Stiffler, Bob and Janice Goodyear, Ed Gerst, Denny Oltmann, Arlie and Jay Willems, Lori Reynolds, Ralph and Sandra Andresen, and Pastor Rodney.

Our Anamosa Care Center and Pinicon Place members receive communion monthly as part of a rotating Lutheran Eucharistic Service provided by St. Paul, Wayne Zion, and St. Matthew in Monticello. Pastor Rodney and members of St. Paul lead worship with communion that is open to all on the first Monday of the month at the Woodlands Park Residence. This service was inspired by Mary Carol Lambertsen.

**Parish Nursing** was discontinued this year for a variety of reasons. Thank you Carol Stiffler for your generous attention to those seeking care through the years.

**The St. Paul Grief Support Ministry** continues to use the GriefShare curriculum format. We continue to promote this ministry through word of mouth as well as other materials produced by Stephen Ministries entitled; “Journeying Through Grief”: a set of 4 short inspirational readings to use during the first stages of grief to read during the first year after losing a loved one. Nancy Lyon Douglas has assumed the role as primary facilitator. Recent studies on the Stages of Grief as pioneered by Elizabeth Kubler Ross have indicated that people of faith are better equipped to cope with grief than previously thought and therefore able to move through the grief process with minimal support from outside resources. GriefShare is held Tuesday from 6:00pm-7:00pm in the CE Building, Lower Level, when offered.

### Men’s Ministry

Lutheran Men in Mission discussed the Lectionary readings this year. Thanks to Jim Albrecht for continuing to gather the group at St. Paul.

## Member Care Annual Report—2020

The Member Care team cares for our members in a variety of ways. We send cards to the sick, the grieving, to families welcoming new babies, and to our youth upon confirmation, graduation, and other appropriate times. Birthday cards are sent to members in care facilities and our homebound.

Although sidelined the past several months due to the pandemic, our “**Friend to Friend**” visitation mission team had been very active earlier this year. Fourteen volunteers meet once a month to review visits and receive names for the next month. We deliver Christmas plants yearly. These plants have been purchased with WELCA money for years. Our WELCA organization has disbanded, so a new source of funding will be needed. The “Friend to Friend” team is a favorite of volunteers and those receiving visits, as we develop true friendships and Christian bonds with one another.

Our faithful leader for many years, Karen Biere, has recently moved and will be greatly missed. One of Karen’s projects was maintaining a bulletin board in the narthex highlighting our youth who are featured in local newspapers. Our new Member Care Team members, Ralph and Sandy Andresen, have agreed to take over this mission. We shall continue to strive in our ministry to creatively connect, intentionally grow, and joyfully serve.

**Member Care Team: Verna Lewison, Marty Rowland, Ralph and Sandy Andresen**

**AA:** Weekly meetings are held on Tuesday evenings at the CE building. (They are meeting outside as long as possible.)

**Alanon:** after three months of open meetings, our hosting of this group discontinued for lack of participation. Those seeking meetings were and are encouraged to contact the Cedar Rapids Chapter for times and locations of meetings in that area.

**Jones County Healthy and Safe Youth Coalition.** No representative from St. Paul at this time.

**Technology:** Last year, the St. Paul sanctuary experienced a major power surge/outage. We were able to replace the burned out components with up to date, digital pieces that include a laser projector and a digital sound board (mixer). By jumping into the “Digital Age” we are now in a position to have a more reliable presentation. We are in need of one or two people in the community willing to spend time getting to know this high quality system, and be available to help with worship, recording, funeral music, and broadcast needs. This could be negotiated into a paid position. If curious or interested, please contact the Council Chair.

## Pastoral Care

Pastoral Ministry occurs in the little nooks and crannies of life, at softball games, and over morning coffee. It might be a word or gesture of encouragement, a small but important acknowledgement of pain, struggle or confusion and the taking a moment to listen and console and in some cases, problem solve. At St. Paul, when we become aware, we meet people where they are, ministering to them in unassuming, meaningful and oftentimes confidential ways. Years of ministry and certified spiritual direction training allow Pastor Rodney to be present when called upon. Of course, pastoral care happens in lots of different ways and at various times, requiring a whole team of pastoral care givers. Thanks to Nancy Lyon Douglas, Arlie Willems, Barb Kleis, Lois Ocenosak, Nancy Stout, Verna Lewison, Kaileen Weaver, Karen Biere, Carol Stiffler, Steve Dornbusch, Jane Ortgies, and Jerry Collell for being part of that presencing team. Please do not hesitate to call if you have a need. It is not a sign of weakness but of strength to ask another for a listening ear or a discerning heart.

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## Report from Staff Support Team

The Staff Support Team has visited informally with staff as the year has progressed. We responded to one specific request to assist a staff member in moving forward a request that was granted by Council. Annual individual self-reviews were delayed this spring due to Covid concerns, but will be conducted this summer, either in person or via video communication.

We have assisted the Council in changes in staffing for children/youth/family ministry. We extend our appreciation to Barb Wilson for her excellent leadership in this program. As she steps down, we are excited to see an increase of hours for Kaileen Weaver who has become an integral part of our C/Y/F ministry. Kaileen has recently been joined by Brie Wittenburg as a part-time assistant. Welcome, Brie.

We send best wishes to Ken Winter in his new endeavors as hospital chaplain. He has been missed at St. Paul.

Special congratulations to Shawna Giegerich who recently graduated from Cornell College with a degree in education. She will be teaching at Strawberry Hill Elementary.

St. Paul has been blessed with a wonderful staff who serve with servants’ hearts, especially in the recent months of the Covid challenges.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Kleis  
Carlene Vavricek  
Arlie Willems

## **SOCIAL ACTION REPORT - 2020**

St. Paul members are involved in a wide range of social ministries with opportunities for leadership roles and on-going volunteering, as well as “drop-in” or short-term volunteering. Many of these opportunities are an outgrowth of St. Paul and Church-wide ministries, some are ministries organized through area churches joining together, and an increasing number are the result of community groups seeing needs that may have been unmet previously.

### **ST. PAUL SOCIAL ACTION MINISTRIES**

ELCA Disaster Relief  
 ELCA World Hunger  
 ELCA Good Gifts  
 ELCA God’s Work, Our Hands  
 Lutheran World Relief  
 Thrivent Action Teams  
 Lenten Season Social Concerns Emphasis  
 Advent Giving Trees  
 Collection of pill bottles, eye glasses, etc.

### **COMMUNITY FAITH-BASED MINISTRIES**

ALY  
 Forks and Friends monthly meals  
 Community Clothes Closet

### **OTHER COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES**

Hospital Volunteers  
 Care Center volunteers  
 RSVP Volunteers  
 Sleep in Heavenly Peace  
 Jones County Community Food Bank

### **CURRENT TEAM LEADERS WITHIN THE SOCIAL ACTION TEAM**

#### **ALY Board Representatives**

Wilma Anderson  
 Virginia Danielson  
 Ed Gerst

#### **Community Clothes Closet**

Sylvia Albers

#### **Collections/Reusables**

Betty Hunter

#### **Crop Walk**

Mary Lou Schipper

#### **Advent-Christmas Giving Tree**

Darcie Tenley  
 Pam Humpal  
 Kristi Fortune

#### **Jones County Food Bank**

Barb Klies

#### **Hacap Mobile food Truck**

Ed Gerst

#### **ELCA – various**

(position open)

#### **Lutheran World Relief**

##### *Quilts:*

Jan Allaire  
 Virginia Danielson  
 Pam Humpal

##### *School Kits:*

Myra Powell  
 Pam Humpal

##### *Personal Care Kits:*

Dee Ihlenfeldt

##### *Sewing Kits:*

Karen Biere  
 Nancy Hart

WOMEN OF THE ELCA  
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT  
JULY 2019 THROUGH JUNE 2020

CHECKING ACCOUNT

INCOME

Balance brought forward		<u>1432.59</u>
Circle offerings	54.00	
Funerals	600.00	
Missionary Fund	89.75	
TOTAL		<u>2176.34</u>

EXPENSES

Supplies	105.65	
Salad Supper	55.28	
Speaker for salad supper	50.00	
SWO SEIA	27.00	
Missionary Fund	90.00	
Conventions and Meetings	30.00	
Quilting Supplies	141.46	
Kit and Quilt Shipping	40.00	
Flowers for Shut-Ins	107.00	
Women of ELCA Thankoffering	150.00	
Anamosa Ministerial Association	300.00	
Sleep in Heavenly Peace	100.00	
TOTAL		<u>1196.39</u>
BALANCE IN CHECKING		<u>979.95</u>
St. Paul Lutheran Church	979.95	
BALANCE IN CHECKING		000.00

Mary Circle and Sarah Circle (Women of ELCA at St. Paul) will no longer have financial dealings.

They are now a Bible Study Group.

**2020 Memorial Trust Fund Report**

ST PAUL EVANGELICAL UTHERAN CHURCH

For the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2020

Memorials were received for the following people during the period:

Lucille Zimmerman	Elnora Day	Patsy Hardersen	Ruth Ann Bungum	Verlyn Stolte
Betty Lester	Bev Geltz	Helen Gerst	Loren Lubben	Joyce Stutt
Laura Ortgies	Helen Schoon	Eloise Ricklefs	Ena Faye Bennett	Joann Tackman
Lois Terrell	Leona Luck	Mary Goldsmith	Carol Fairbanks	Debra Herren Weeks
Betty Zumbach	Helen Ehltz	Marie Capron	Dennis Hansen	

**Memorial Trust Fund – Checking Account**

Beginning Balance July 1, 2020	\$20,805.90
Memorials received July 1, 2018 thru June 30, 2019	\$5,691.00
Expenditures:	(\$4,381.79)
\$311.77 for Landscaping	
\$2,865.34 for Technology/Equipment	
\$352.18 for Christmas Decorations	
\$852.50 for Paschal Candle, Holder, etc	
Transfers:	(\$16,000.00)
\$15,000.00 to Money Market	
\$1,000.00 to Weeks Scholarship Fund	
Ending Balance June 30, 2020	\$6,115.11

**Memorial Trust Fund – Money Market**

Initial Deposit 12-1-2019	\$15,000.00
Accrued Interest	53.18
Total as of June 30, 2020	\$15,053.18

**Vanguard Fund**

As of June 30, 2020

**Vanguard Endowment Funds**

	GNMA	Wellesley Fund	Total
Beginning Balance July 1, 2019	10,520.27	\$38,189.07	\$48,709.34
Changes in Value	310.90	559.29	870.19
Ending Balance June 30, 2020	\$10,831.17	\$38,748.36	\$49,579.53

(Continued next page)

The GNMA Fund is designated for repairs (income only). The Wellesley Fund is a Perpetual Fund.  
**Money Market** (opened 12/10/2016 – transfer earnings from GNMA and Wellesley Fund)

Beginning Balance July 1, 2019	\$6,389.86
Earnings from GNMA	262.88
Earnings from Wellesley Fund	1,542.06
Earnings from Money Market	98.13
Changes in Value	15.79
Ending Balance June 30, 2020	\$8,308.72

**Memorial Trust Committee recommends funds continue as currently invested for the coming year.**

### **Debra Herren Weeks Scholarship Fund**

Vanguard Wellington Fund

Beginning Balance July 1, 2108	\$10,759.44
Transactions	
Deposit	\$1,000.00
Distribution of Scholarships	(2,000.00)
Earnings/Reinvestments	438.58
Change in Value	(23.42)
Balance June 30, 2020	\$10,174.60

The two \$1,000.00 college scholarships have been awarded to Abby Fairbanks and Cade Folken for the 2020 – 2021 school year.

## Financial Report for Fiscal Year July 2019 – June 2020

Greetings St Paul Members & Supporters,

This year has been a challenge because of the pandemic but how St. Paul has stepped up to those challenges. Our congregation has been extremely generous during this stressful period. The virtual services, meetings, and get-togethers have made us stronger and closer. Thank you for all those that have been involved with this creativity and the outreach success.

Thank you all for your attention to God's work as we work forward in this coming year.

Financially, we are in deep gratitude with our year end status!  
The following is a synopsis:

Income July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020	\$234,767.82
Expenses July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020	\$246,078.73
FY2020 Operating Budget	\$308,660.02
YTD Expenses to Budget July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020	79.7 %
YTD Income to Expenses July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020	95.4%
FY2021 Operating Budget	\$278,657.27

Thank you to all that faithfully give! We have been able to weather this trying time, thanks to your generosity.

The expense drivers this year were food expense in planning for the Easter Season and the pandemic requiring services, meetings and gatherings to seize, plus the snow removal was more frequent this past winter.

We've had a faithful staff that has worked as a team and kept things flowing smoothly through this unusual time.

Thank you to each and every one of you that serve Him in our church and continue to keep us healthy spiritually, prayerfully and financially.

Should you have any questions, please call the church and leave a message for either of us!

Blessings!  
Doug Fairbanks  
Nancy Lyon Douglas

**Balances of St. Paul Bank Accounts as of 06/30/2020:**

<b>CHECKING</b>	<b>SAVINGS</b>
<b>General Fund Checking Acct.</b> Beginning Balance \$70,095.99 Ending Balance \$71,792.93	<b>Budget Reserve Savings Acct.</b> Beginning Balance \$273.76 Ending Balance \$273.90
<b>Land Maint &amp; Repair Checking Acct.</b> Beginning Balance \$15,798.40 Ending Balance \$17,195.20	<b>Land Development Savings Acct.</b> Beginning Balance \$35,481.04 Ending Balance \$35,486.87
<b>Luther League Checking Acct.</b> Beginning Balance \$4,734.94 Ending Balance \$5,518.89	<b>Luther League Savings Acct.</b> Beginning Balance \$858.20 Ending Balance \$858.63
<b>Seminary Support Checking Acct.</b> Beginning Balance \$809.05 Ending Balance \$809.05	
<b>Memorial Trust Checking Account</b> Beginning Balance \$6,010.11 Ending Balance \$6,115.11	
<b>Memorial Money Market Account</b> Beginning Balance \$15,047.66 Ending Balance \$15,053.18	<b>**Note: General Fund has deposit for Payroll Protection Plan of \$25,291.84 dated 04/30/2020.</b>

## FY 2020 Year End Balance Sheet

Accounts	Amount	Liabilities & Net Assets	
<b>Assets</b>		<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>		<b>Total Liabilities</b>	\$0.00
General Checking		<b>Net Assets</b>	
1000 General - Checking	\$72,826.36	3000 Undesignated Balance	\$60,850.07
Total General Checking	\$72,826.36	3999 Fixed Asset Equity	\$3,029,489.00
Memorial Checking		<b>Designated</b>	
1018 Memorial Trust Checking	\$6,115.11	3912 Youth Balance	\$5,972.19
1019 Memorial Money Market	\$15,053.18	3913 Seminary Support Balance	\$809.05
Total Memorial Checking	\$21,168.29	3914 Property Development Balance	\$36,774.51
Other Checking & Savings		3915 Thrivent O.F. Balance	\$50.00
1001 Savings - Budget Reserve	\$273.90	3916 Thrivent Choice Balance	\$406.00
1005 Checking - Land Maint	\$17,195.20	3920 ELCA Missions Balance	\$1,110.00
1006 Savings - Land Dev	\$35,906.87	3926 EPIC Scholarship Balance	\$375.00
1010 Checking - Youth/Luther League	\$5,518.89	3932 Youth Mission Trip Balance	\$95.79
1011 Savings - Youth	\$858.63	3933 Memorial Scholarship Balance	-\$2,000.00
1015 Checking - Seminary Support	\$809.05	3935 Memorial Funds Balance	\$7,779.67
Total Other Checking & Savings	\$60,562.54	3936 Vanguard GNMA Balance	\$10,460.12
Investments		3937 Vanguard Wellesley Balance	\$41,788.56
1020 Vanguard GNMA	\$10,460.12	3938 Vanguard Wellington Balance	\$9,179.04
1021 Vanguard Wellesley Fund	\$41,788.56	3939 Money Market Memorial Balance	\$7,200.88
1022 Vanguard Wellington	\$9,179.04	3941 LWR Quilts Balance	\$68.00
1023 Money Market Memorial	\$7,193.23	3942 Interest DESIGNATED Balance	\$30.69
Total Investments	\$68,620.95	3943 Land Maintenance Balance	\$21,247.81
Total Current Assets	\$223,178.14	3945 Celebration Singers Balance	-\$270.16
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		3946 Praise Band Balance	\$400.60
1900 Church - insured value	\$1,563,000.00	3947 Hymnals Balance	\$50.00
1901 Christian Ed Bldg - insured value	\$680,000.00	3950 Local Missions	-\$5.00
1902 Parsonage - insured value	\$166,000.00	3951 Disability Ministry	\$5,704.79
1903 Annex- insured value	\$258,489.00	3952 Memorial Money Market Chkg	\$15,100.53
1904 St Paul Personal- insured value	\$362,000.00	<b>Total Designated</b>	\$162,328.07
Total Fixed Assets	\$3,029,489.00	<b>Total Net Assets</b>	\$3,252,667.14
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$3,252,667.14</b>	<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b>\$3,252,667.14</b>

**FY 2020 Performance to Budget & 2021 Budget**

Accounts	Actual (This Period)	FY20 Budget	(Over) Under Budget	FY21 Budget	Change
<b>Revenues</b>					
Operating Contributions					
4000 Regular Weekly Contributions	\$234,767.82				
4001 Interest - Undesignated	\$33.12				
4002 Other Misc Income	\$43,530.67				
4003 Fees/Use of the Church	\$120.00				
4004 Weddings/Funerals	\$3,650.00				
4010 Coffee Income	\$814.13				
Total Operating Contributions	\$282,915.74				
Designated Income					
4912 Youth Designated Income	\$216.55				
4914 Property Development Income	\$14,141.96				
4916 Thrivent Choice Income	\$406.00				
4920 ELCA Missions Income	\$1,110.00				
4926 EPIC Scholarship Income	\$375.00				
4932 Youth Mission Trip Income	\$5,059.00				
4950 Local Mission	(\$5.00)				
4951 Disability Ministry	\$7,000.00				
Total Designated Income	\$28,303.51				
Other Account Income					
4935 Memorial Fund Income	\$7,636.00				
4936 Vanguard GNMA Income	(\$60.15)				
4937 Vanguard Wellesley Income	\$3,599.49				
4938 Vanguard Wellington Income	(\$1,580.40)				
4939 Money Market Memorial Income	\$811.02				
4943 Land Maintenance Income	\$10,664.00				
4952 Memorial Money Market ckg	\$15,100.53				
Total Other Account Income	\$36,170.49				
Total Revenues	\$347,389.74				
<b>Expenses</b>					
Salaries & Benefits					
5010 Staff Salaries W2	\$99,155.32	\$137,629.94	\$38,474.62	\$118,137.46	(\$19,492.48)
5011 1099 Subcontractor Earnings	\$8,912.09	\$9,426.63	\$514.54	\$9,194.43	(\$232.20)
5021 Pastor Pension and Medical	\$39,322.15	\$34,626.60	(\$4,695.55)	\$36,872.00	\$2,245.40
5022 Pastor's Continuing Education	\$521.39	\$850.00	\$328.61	\$850.00	\$0.00
5023 Pastor's Professional Expense	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$0.00
5024 Pastor's Mileage	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00
5031 Support Labor	\$1,216.50	\$1,500.00	\$283.50	\$1,500.00	\$0.00
5041 Convention Expense	\$1,055.40	\$1,000.00	(\$55.40)	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
5051 Employer SS & Medicare	\$12,485.14	\$21,745.53	\$9,260.39	\$18,665.72	(\$3,079.81)
Total Salaries & Benefits	\$165,667.99	\$210,078.70	\$44,410.71	\$189,519.61	(\$20,559.09)
Benevolence					
5110 ELCA Mission Support	\$16,391.60	\$17,471.32	\$1,079.72	\$15,777.66	(\$1,693.66)
5120 Local Missions	\$2,361.97	\$2,500.00	\$138.03	\$2,500.00	\$0.00
5130 International Missions	\$30.00	\$0.00	(\$30.00)		\$0.00
5140 Prison Ministry	\$20.00	\$0.00	(\$20.00)		\$0.00
5150 EPIC Scholarship	\$3,000.00	\$800.00	(\$2,200.00)	\$800.00	\$0.00
5170 Miscellaneous Appeals	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$0.00
Total Benevolence	\$21,803.57	\$20,971.32	(\$832.25)	\$19,277.66	(\$1,693.66)

## FY 2020 Performance to Budget & 2021 Budget

Accounts	Actual (This Period)	FY20 Budget	(Over) Under Budget	FY21 Budget	Change
Adult Formation					\$0.00
5210 Women's Retreat	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00		(\$500.00)
5220 Men's Retreat	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00		(\$500.00)
5230 Adult Small Group	\$101.03	\$1,000.00	\$898.97		(\$1,000.00)
5240 Member Care	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$0.00
5250 Grief Support	\$205.00	\$100.00	(\$105.00)	\$300.00	\$200.00
5260 Fellowship	\$2,634.59	\$500.00	(\$2,134.59)	\$500.00	\$0.00
5270 Adult Leadership & Education	\$0.00	\$1,435.00	\$1,435.00	\$700.00	(\$735.00)
5280 Weddings/Funerals	\$1,275.00	\$0.00	(\$1,275.00)		\$0.00
Total Adult Formation	\$4,215.62	\$4,235.00	\$19.38	\$1,700.00	(\$2,535.00)
Family & Youth Formation					\$0.00
5310 High School	\$0.00	\$950.00	\$950.00	\$1,050.00	\$100.00
5320 Middle School	\$1,038.33	\$1,940.00	\$901.67	\$2,060.00	\$120.00
5330 Pre K - 4	\$1,648.32	\$1,600.00	(\$48.32)	\$2,130.00	\$530.00
5350 VBS	\$531.34	\$550.00	\$18.66	\$800.00	\$250.00
5360 Youth Leadership & Education	\$0.00	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$1,550.00	\$1,200.00
				\$2,470.00	\$2,470.00
5390 Miscellaneous	\$543.11	\$1,185.00	\$641.89		(\$1,185.00)
Total Family & Youth Formation	\$3,761.10	\$6,575.00	\$2,813.90	\$10,060.00	\$3,485.00
Worship					\$0.00
5410 Communion & Baptism	\$432.83	\$500.00	\$67.17	\$750.00	\$250.00
5420 Devotional Booklets	\$876.15	\$700.00	(\$176.15)	\$800.00	\$100.00
5430 Music/Copyright	\$943.17	\$850.00	(\$93.17)	\$900.00	\$50.00
5440 Organ & Piano Repairs	\$85.00	\$600.00	\$515.00	\$600.00	\$0.00
5450 Worship Supplies	\$1,473.99	\$400.00	(\$1,073.99)	\$400.00	\$0.00
5460 Technical Equipment	\$701.09	\$5,000.00	\$4,298.91	\$2,000.00	(\$3,000.00)
5470 Decor	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$0.00
5480 Family Camp	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00		(\$5,000.00)
Total Worship	\$4,512.23	\$13,250.00	\$8,737.77	\$5,650.00	(\$7,600.00)
Church Properties					\$0.00
Insurance					\$0.00
5710 Insurance	\$10,701.00	\$9,600.00	(\$1,101.00)	\$8,500.00	(\$1,100.00)
Total Insurance	\$10,701.00	\$9,600.00	(\$1,101.00)	\$8,500.00	(\$1,100.00)
Utilities					
5721 Gas	\$2,691.91	\$4,200.00	\$1,508.09	\$4,200.00	\$0.00
5722 Electricity	\$5,403.19	\$6,800.00	\$1,396.81	\$6,800.00	\$0.00
5723 Water	\$1,601.88	\$1,500.00	(\$101.88)	\$1,500.00	\$0.00
5724 Phone/Internet	\$3,969.32	\$4,200.00	\$230.68	\$4,200.00	\$0.00
Total Utilities	\$13,666.30	\$16,700.00	\$3,033.70	\$16,700.00	\$0.00
Yard & Parking Clearance					\$0.00
5741 Lawn Mowing	\$0.00	\$2,800.00	\$2,800.00	\$2,800.00	\$0.00
5742 Snow/Ice Removal	\$1,516.58	\$1,500.00	(\$16.58)	\$1,500.00	\$0.00
Total Yard & Parking Clearance	\$1,516.58	\$4,300.00	\$2,783.42	\$4,300.00	\$0.00
Repair & Maintenance GMT					\$0.00
5743 GMT	\$7,649.14	\$7,500.00	(\$149.14)	\$7,500.00	\$0.00
Total Repair & Maintenance GMT	\$7,649.14	\$7,500.00	(\$149.14)	\$7,500.00	\$0.00
Total Church Properties	\$33,533.02	\$38,100.00	\$4,566.98	\$37,000.00	(\$1,100.00)

## FY 2020 Performance to Budget & 2021 Budget

Accounts	Actual (This Period)	FY20 Budget	(Over) Under Budget	FY21 Budget	Change
Gifts & Advertising					\$0.00
5510 Gifts	\$800.00	\$500.00	(\$300.00)	\$500.00	\$0.00
5520 Advertising	\$82.00	\$300.00	\$218.00	\$300.00	\$0.00
5530 Receptions	\$134.71	\$200.00	\$65.29	\$200.00	\$0.00
Total Gifts & Advertising	\$1,016.71	\$1,000.00	(\$16.71)	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Administrative Office					\$0.00
5610 Office Supplies	\$395.84	\$1,000.00	\$604.16	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
5620 Printing Supplies	\$2,062.31	\$3,500.00	\$1,437.69	\$3,500.00	\$0.00
5630 Postage	\$1,113.00	\$400.00	(\$713.00)	\$400.00	\$0.00
5640 Office Equipment	\$3,204.85	\$5,000.00	\$1,795.15	\$5,000.00	\$0.00
5650 Computer Software	\$3,450.12	\$3,000.00	(\$450.12)	\$3,000.00	\$0.00
5660 Offering Envelopes	\$274.66	\$350.00	\$75.34	\$350.00	\$0.00
5670 Miscellaneous	\$1,067.71	\$1,000.00	(\$67.71)	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
5690 Website Maintenance	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$0.00
Total Administrative Office	\$11,568.49	\$14,450.00	\$2,881.51	\$14,450.00	\$0.00
Designated Expenses					
5912 Youth Designated Expense	\$37.35	\$0.00	(\$37.35)		
5914 Property Development Expense	\$1,550.00	\$0.00	(\$1,550.00)		
5932 Mission Youth Trip Expense	\$2,449.12	\$0.00	(\$2,449.12)		
5935 Memorial Funds Expense	\$22,080.45	\$0.00	(\$22,080.45)		
5943 Land Maintenance Expense	\$3,315.88	\$0.00	(\$3,315.88)		
5945 Celebration Singers Expense	\$301.34	\$0.00	(\$301.34)		
5951 Disability Ministry	\$551.21	\$0.00	(\$551.21)		
Total Designated Expenses	\$30,285.35	\$0.00	(\$30,285.35)		
Total Expenses	\$276,364.08	\$308,660.02	\$32,295.94	\$278,657.27	(\$30,002.75)
Net Total	\$71,025.66	(\$308,660.02)	(\$379,685.68)	(\$278,657.27)	\$30,002.75

## July 2019-June 2020 Ministerial Acts

### Weddings

Francis Thomas & Debra Miller	October 19, 2019
Ben Coyle & Angie Thomas	February 20, 2020
Ian Bakewell & Chelsea Jones	May 23, 2020
Regina Vrooman & George Stimpson	June 27, 2020

### First Communion

Marshall Fowler	6/3/2020
Curtis Weaver	6/3/2020
Aydin Weaver	6/3/2020
Bruce Weaver	6/3/2020
Naomi Weaver	6/3/2020
Connor Paulson	6/24/2020
Arianah Tjaden	6/24/2020
Emma Gregorich	6/30/2020
Joe Gregorich	6/30/2020

### Funerals of Members      Date of Funeral

Lucile Zimmerman	September 6, 2019
Elnora Day	October 28, 2019
Patsy Hardersen	December 3, 2019
Helen Louise Ehlt	December 5, 2019
Ruth Ann Bungum	January 15, 2020

### Death of Members      (Funeral not at St. Paul)

Gwendolyn Becker	July 12, 2019 at Murdoch FH
Dennis Hansen	Iowa Cremation April 7, 2020
Joyce Stutt	May 30, 2020 at Goettsch FH

### Funeral of Non-members      Date of Funeral

Betty Lester	August 3, 2019
Lois Terrell	September 4, 2019
Lorance Weers	September 11, 2019
Helen Osterkamp Gerst	December 7, 2019
Taylor Siebels	June 12, 2020

### Off Site Memorials

Alta Folkers (former member)	January 7, 2020
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### Baptisms

Colton Frank Vavricek	07/14/2019
Kane Aaron Narramore	8/4/2019
Seth Countryman	9/8/2019
Marshall Fowler	6/3/2020
Curtis Weaver	6/3/2020
Aydin Weaver	6/3/2020
Bruce Weaver	6/3/2020
Naomi Weaver	6/3/2020

### Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation)

Maddy Fischer	6/28/2020
Grant Lubben	6/28/2020
Allie Geltz	6/28/2020
Alex Kenny	6/28/2020
Carter Kuehl	6/28/2020
Kaylee Fairbanks	6/28/2020
Samuel Kenny	6/28/2020
Skylar Hollett	6/28/2020
Easton Wheeler	6/28/2020

### Transferred In

Jamie Hamblin & Kinsley	8/18/2019
Karon Ireland	01/05/2020
Brooke Paulsen	02/04/2020
Daniel Paulsen	02/04/2020
Connor Paulsen	02/04/2020
Harper Paulsen	02/04/2020
Sally Clapp	06/07/2020
Michael Dales	06/07/2020
Emma Dales	06/07/2020
Logan Dales	06/07/2020
Addison Dales	06/07/2020
Joshua VonSprecken	06/07/2020
Allison VonSprecken	06/07/2020
Kaden VonSprecken	06/07/2020
Samuel VonSprecken	06/07/2020

### Transferred Out

Barry, Ann, (Cecilia, & Hunter) Berger	5/15/2019 (children)
Lindsey (Keeney) Albers	6/19/2020

### New Members

Colton Vavricek	07/14/2019
Jamie Hamblin Family (2)	08/18/2019
Curtis & Kaileen Weaver Family (5)	08/18/2019
Karon Ireland	01/05/2020
Brooke & Daniel Paulsen Family (4)	02/04/2020
Sally Clapp	06/07/2020
Mike Dales Family (4)	06/07/2020
Joshua VonSprecken Family (4)	06/07/2020
Ed Allaire	06/07/2020
Matt & Kim Gregorich Family (4)	06/30/2020

### Membership Statistics July 2019-June 2020

	<u>Baptized</u>	<u>Confirmed</u>
<b>Reported Membership 06/30/2019</b>	<b>864</b>	<b>662</b>
<b>Members Received (07/01/2019—06/30/2020)</b>		
By Baptism: Children (15 years and younger)	4	0
By Baptism: Adults (16 years and older)	2	2
Received by reaffirmation of faith	5	3
By transfer from ELCA congregations	16	9
Transfer from other Lutheran congregations	0	
Baptized members confirmed		9
<b>Members Lost (07/01/2019-06/30/2020)</b>		
By death	8	8
By transfer (ELCA)	1	1
By transfer (Non-ELCA)	4	0
<b>Membership as of 06/30/2019</b>	<b>878</b>	<b>676</b>

### Average Worship Attendance\*:

<u>1989</u> 278	<u>1994</u> 244	<u>1999</u> 218	<u>2004</u> 219	<u>2009</u> 221	<u>FY2014</u> 239	FY2019 185
<u>1990</u> 266	<u>1995</u> 235	<u>2000</u> 229	<u>2005</u> 223	<u>2010</u> 212	<u>FY2015</u> 242	FY2020 192***
<u>1991</u> 250	<u>1996</u> 233	<u>2001</u> 226	<u>2006</u> 221	<u>2011</u> 226	<u>FY2016</u> 224	
<u>1992</u> 251	<u>1997</u> 230	<u>2002</u> 229	<u>2007</u> 224	<u>2012</u> 253	<u>FY2017</u> 210	
<u>1993</u> 245	<u>1998</u> 226	<u>2003</u> 225	<u>2008</u> 225	<u>FY2013</u> 254	<u>FY2018</u> 174**	

1989-2012 figures were based on calendar year. FY (Fiscal Year) after that.

\*These numbers include all worship services held at St. Paul and care centers.

\*\* This number is lower because we stopped counting WD4 as a service.

\*\*\* Due to Covid-19, this number was averaged for the weeks of July1-March 15.

A total of 38 weeks. (The average weekly service views from March 22-June 28 was **115**) The average weekly outdoor Sunday services from June 7-June 28 was **84**)

## Pastor Letter

Change; it is inevitable. Change can lead to life-giving transformation or life-stifling resistance and resentment. We have choices. We have experienced unexpected change in a radical way this year. I must admit, I struggled with my call and identity through the past six months. Being separated, unable to visit care facilities and patients, I experienced a disorientation that led to real anxiety. In an effort to find meaning and purpose, I went back to my ordination and the words of call I heard from Bishop Burk three years ago: ***“All baptized Christians are called to share in Christ’s ministry of love and service in the world, to the glory of God and for the sake of the human family and the whole creation.”***

*“Eternal God, through your Son, Jesus Christ, pour out your Holy Spirit upon Rodney and fill him with the gifts of grace for the ministry of word and sacrament. Bless his proclamation of your word and administration of your sacraments, so that your **church may be gathered** for praise and strengthened for service. Make him a faithful pastor, patient teacher, and wise counselor. Grant that in all things he may serve without reproach, that your people may be renewed and your name be glorified in the church; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

*Let it be acclaimed that Rodney James Bluml is a called and ordained minister in the church of Christ. He has Christ’s authority to preach the word of God and administer the sacraments, serving God’s people as **together we bear God’s creative and redeeming love to all the world.** C: Amen. Thanks be to God.*

As the good memories of 2019 melted away in the shadow of the pandemic, and as I looked out each week upon a mostly empty worship space and heard from very few members, I wondered how these beautiful prayers were being fulfilled. Then, as I listened to the gospels of the Easter season, it became clear to me what this time of change was offering us as the baptized people of God; a chance to reclaim our domestic churches. The Church was and is still gathered, in homes!

And so, I set out with this truth to encourage you through sermons and text to recommit yourself to serving as the primary faith leader in your domestic church, your home. I knew this could seem overwhelming given the other new responsibilities you may have shouldered in this time of quarantine and separation, but this is not about being perfect, unflawed, or sinless. It is about integrity and sincerity. I hope you have entered dialogue with God (prayed and listened) about being a vessel for God’s grace to those around you. If not, now is a great time to do so. Instead of rushing out to one more social, work, or school activity, perhaps you have had time to be still and reflect. Perhaps instead of worrying about how you were going to be more independent you have found yourself willing to rely on others and God for assistance and guidance. Perhaps you’ve been intentional in speaking kinder to your children or clarifying your spouse’s needs before responding. I know my heart has been gladdened as I have seen families outside at play in new ways. Possibly you found yourself living a simpler life and feeling more grateful for the abundance you have. Maybe you have kept a Bible or the Serenity Prayer near your computer for an occasional foraging in the Word. Maybe you have used the ten-minute live midday prayer on St. Paul’s Facebook page to gather your family together with God for a “time out.” Hopefully, you’ve been gathering for the recorded Sunday services while breaking and sharing the Body of Christ with each

other and drinking from the cup of salvation in your domestic home each week. Like those first disciples separated from others by fear and grief, this is an incredible privilege and strength for those of us called Christian. You are nourished to be Christ for one another. You are empowered to be the living Word of God for each other. Your home is meant to be a holy place where God's forgiveness and love are practiced.

I hope that my pastoring has been authentic this year because like you, it flows out of my own experience of domestic church and the daily blessing it is to first gather with those I call family.

Thank you for bringing the love of your domestic church to the times we can gather as the beloved parish community. As leaders, we are committed to the listening process we embarked upon in the new year. Charged by the Congregational Council to gather stories and input from you and civic community leaders, our ten trained listeners continue to engage in opportunities for listening. Guided by Holy Spirit, leadership intends to use this information to chart a course for mission in the future. We have tried to be creative in how we gather for prayer. What the Church will look like in the future is still unfolding? Thank you for praying with us and supporting the presence of St. Paul Lutheran in Anamosa, Iowa. Blessings upon your domestic church, the foundation of what is and what is to come!

Shalom,

*Pastor Rodney*

PS: Gratitude for the hard working, creative staff and Council at St. Paul. Thanks to Barb Wilson for her dedication to the youth program the past two years, and to Colin Stiffler and Stacie Sullivan for their service through the Council. All who serve out of their spiritual gifts (*charisms*) are a gift to us all.