

# St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church Dallas, Pennsylvania



## *State-of-the-Church* **REPORT**

**January 1, 2021  
to  
December 31, 2021**

### **St. Paul's Mission Statement**

St. Paul's Lutheran Church is a family called together by God and united by a common faith. Our mission is to share with all people, God's Love and Grace through Word and Sacrament.

Through the Holy Spirit, we are empowered to Witness and Serve, treating one another with Love, Compassion, Forgiveness, and Understanding.

By our Commitments, Actions, Deeds, and Resources, we share the Good News of Jesus Christ, reaching out to our Community, Nation and World.

Adopted, May 1993

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## CONGREGATION COUNCIL OFFICERS

President..... Rev. Charles H. Grube  
Vice-President..... Scott Schukraft  
Secretary ..... Alice Baer  
Treasurer ..... Carol Fett

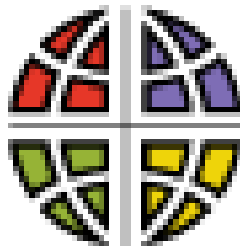
### Congregation Council Members:

2022	2023	2024
Alice Baer	Heidi Manning	Frank Mariano
Joel Eneboe	Holly O'Brien	Marissa Miller
Jon Moelling*	Cathy Ridout	Gail Smallwood
Don Pheasant	Scott Schukraft*	John Waschek*

(\*)Final Term

Pastor ..... Rev. Charles H. Grube

Director of Music/Organist, Sr. Choir, & Chimes Director ..... Margaret Quintanar  
Chapel & Emmanuel Choirs Director ..... Jean Grube  
Custodian / Sexton ..... James Madonna  
Sunday School Superintendent ..... Anthony Linnen  
Financial Secretary ..... Ruth Ide



## **AGENDA**

- 10:30 am
1. Opening Prayer and Acceptance of Agenda
  2. Approval of Minutes from 2020 Congregational Meeting  
held January 24, 2021 (via Zoom)
  3. Pastor's Report - 2021
  4. Reports of Standing Committees and Organizations
    - A. Christian Education
    - B. Communication
    - C. Evangelism (No Written Report)
    - D. Fellowship (No Written Report)
    - E. Finance
    - F. Head Start & Early Intervention
    - G. Health Ministry
    - H. Landscaping
    - I. Long Range Planning
    - J. Property
    - K. Social Ministry
    - L. Worship & Music
    - M. Brotherhood
    - N. Dorcas Society
    - O. Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Mission District Assembly
    - P. Synod Assembly
  5. Contribution Analysis
  6. 2021 Income and Designated Funds Savings Reports
  7. Old Business
    - A.
    - B.
  8. New Business
    - A. Adoption of 2022 Proposed Budget
    - B.
    - C.
  9. Adjournment

## In Memoriam

During this past year, eight members of our congregation died.

We know all of us will face death someday, but we, as Christians, also know that God promises eternal life to those who believe in Him.

So, in memory of these members and the lives of those of our loved ones who are already with God, we dedicate this annual report.

*William Volkel*

*Patricia Kramer*

*Audrey Lago*

*Alice Bereznak*

*Beatrice Pritchard*

*Ralph Ell*

*Donald Carey*

*Fred Hanadel*

Minutes of Annual Congregational Meeting  
Calendar Year 2020

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

JANUARY 24, 2021

President the Rev. Charles H. Grube

Vice-President Scott Schukraft

Secretary Marty Everhart

Treasurer Carol Fett

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m. by Council Vice-President Scott Schukraft and Pastor Grube opened the meeting with prayer.

Scott stated that Heidi Manning's name should be added to the Congregational Council Members listed on Page 3 of the report. Chris Prater's name should be removed.

1. Agenda Page 4: No 5. Mission Support Dollars removed from Agenda. Motion to accept Agenda as amended: Annie Bisher, Don Pheasant. Motion carried.

2. Motion to accept the Minutes from Congregational Meeting held on January 19, 2020: Larry Corpus, Bill Peiffer. Motion carried.

In Memoriam Page 5, a moment of silent prayer.

3. Pastoral Acts and Membership Statistics -2020 and Pastor's Report Pages 8-10:

Additional remarks from Pastor Grube. It was a difficult year and we are close to the end.

We will see a "new normal" and an opportunity for ministry in new and different ways.

Pastor accepted a call as part-time Associate of the Bishop.

Thanked Rebecca Elfman for her service to St. Paul's and all wished her well.

Thanks to Scott Schukraft for his calm leadership, and to Rebecca Ruckno and Lisa Fetterman for serving an extra eight months to their terms until elections could be held.

Thank you to Carol Fett for her diligence in securing the Payroll Protection Program loan for our church.

Also, a thank you to the Covid Worship Team: Heidi and Dave Manning, Larry and Kathy Corpus, Rebecca Elfman, Jean Grube and Marissa Miller.

Thank you to the congregation. Our weekly envelope giving was higher than in the last seven years.

Larry asked a question about Pastor being an Associate of the Bishop. Pastor stated that his primary commitment is to St. Paul's.

Minor typographical error on first paragraph of report. Last sentence should read: As a result, we may wonder about rejoicing always and giving thanks in all circumstances.

4. Reports of Standing Committees and Organizations

A. Christian Education – written report. Nothing further to add.

- B. Community Outreach
  - a. Evangelism/Stewardship – no written report.
  - b. Head Start and Early Intervention – written report. Thankful for the continual payment of rent during this time.
- C. Finance – written report. Carol added that she made the application for forgiveness of the Paycheck Protection Program loan on December 10 to Luzerne National Bank and was told that St. Paul's was the first business to submit report correctly. Subsequently she received notice that the PPP loan did not have to be repaid. We are not eligible for a second PPP loan.
- D. Property – written report. Larry Corpus thanked Carol for securing Cintas Supply Company. It has saved us money. Joe Hardisky brought up the subject of mowing the retention basins. St. Paul's is currently under discussion with DAMA regarding their request to maintain the basins.
- E. Landscaping – no written report. Landscaping to be undertaken around sign at end of driveway.
- F. Long Range Planning – no written report.
- G. Health Ministry – written report.
- H. Social Ministry – written report.
- I. Staff Support – no written report.
- J. Worship and Music Committee – written report. Scott thanked the members of the Worship and Music Committee and ad-hoc committee for the extra time needed to meet and plan worship during the pandemic. Question was raised by Kathy Corpus asking if a search committee has been appointed to hire Rebecca's replacement. Pastor said one will be selected shortly.
- K. St. Paul's Brotherhood – written report. Bill Peiffer noted one change to the report. The officers listed are for the year 2021. Further \$100.00 was given to the General Fund. Next Roast Beef dinners will be 4/10/21 and 5/15/21 take-out only.
- L. Dorcas Society – written report. Kathy Corpus added that the Christmas party scheduled for December 2020 was cancelled but reservations were made for December 2021 at Apple Tree Terrace.
- M. Fellowship – no written report. However, a special visual presentation was made by Alice Baer and Carol Fett.

Joe Hardisky thanked Scott for his leadership during this past year.

- 5. See No. 1 above.
- 6. Contribution Analysis. Thank you to Ruth Ide for her time and work.
- 7. 2020 General Fund Income Report.
- 8. Old Business
 

Annie Bisher asked about the status of the Directory. Abby said that final approval was sent to the printer this past week. Directories should be available in 15 business days.
- 9. New Business
  - A. 2021 Proposed Budget – Questions were posed about sewage fees, Zoom fees (part of equipment maintenance) and Insurance. All questions answered satisfactorily.

Motion to accept 2021 Proposed Budget: Larry Corpus and Pat Peiffer. Motion carried.

B. Congregation Council Election. Elections were to be held in May, postponed to October and had to be postponed a second time. Slate presented: Catherine Ridout, Scott Schukraft, Adam O'Brien, Heidi Manning. Scott reported that Adam O'Brien requested his name be removed from the slate. Council will appoint one person to fill the term for four months until May of 2021. The remaining above-named people will serve a term of two years, four months.

Motion to accept slate as amended: Kathy Corpus, Don Pheasant. Motion carried.

10. Adjournment. Motion to adjourn meeting: Annie Bisher, Larry Corpus. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted:  
Alice Baer, Acting Secretary

\* \* \* \* \*

## **2021 PASTORAL ACTS**

**Baptisms:** Milenia Nicole Waschek  
Afton Wren Foresman  
Vivian Rose Wyatt

**Confirmation:** Kendra Brosious  
Jacob Doran  
Claire Stretanski

**Marriages:**  
Christopher Ehret to  
Marika Pitot in Aspen, CO.

**Funerals:** Vernon Crispell  
\*Edward Day  
William Volkel  
\*James Kelley  
Patricia Kramer  
Audrey Lago  
Alice Bereznak  
William Ostrum  
\*Ralph "Donny" Parsons  
Ralph Ell  
Donald Carey

\*Non-Member

## **Removed from Rolls**

Samantha Brainard  
Jamie Sarley  
Rachael Sarley  
Emma Sarley

Jennifer Sangston - to Shavertown UMC  
John & Audrey Lose  
Larry & Kathleen Corpus - to St. Mark's Lutheran  
Huntsville, Alabama





*The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:5b-7)*

I saw a meme on social media recently that said something like, “Who knew 2020 was going to be a trilogy?” It sums up my frustration and incredulity – perhaps it reflects yours, too – that with the new year, we enter into a third year of what I have come to call the “Covid Era.” Its continued presence, and indeed current surge, continues to be a significant distraction to us in our mission and ministry. It forces us to shift our focus from how can we reach out, live, and minister to one another and our community to how can we gather safely and what of our regular ministry and activity should we do or not do because of it. Yes, we’re frustrated with the taped-off pews and limited singing in worship, but these are some of the ways that enable us to continue to do what we do with our collected safety in mind. We have also continued to provide online access to our regular worship, and plan to continue to do so. I am particularly grateful to Heidi and Dave Manning, and Tony Linnen and Marissa Miller for their occasional assistance, for the steadfast work they have done to host our online worship week in and week out. And beyond that, they have been instrumental in transitioning us to more permanent equipment for our online worship presence. Our goal is to eliminate the camera tripods in the worship space and relieve me and my smart phone from having to play cameraman in addition to presider and preacher.

We have experienced other challenges, changes, and transitions this year, too. We spent the better part of the year seeking a new director of music, organist, and director of choirs, and just recently with the new year of the church, have been blessed with the talents and skills of Margaret Quintanar, whom we called to fill that position. Welcome Margaret! We are grateful, too, for all those who led us in song from the piano when we returned to gathering in person in May, especially Adam Cavallari, who did the lion’s share of playing, and Rebecca Elfman, who worked behind the scenes throughout providing hymn selections and coordinating worship pianists.

We also said good-bye to Abby Aristeo as our administrative assistant, whose life took a different turn when her father died in September. We all owe a deep debt of gratitude to Carol Fett for filling in and using her experience to accomplish the many tasks of the church office. The search committee has been active and at this writing is conducting several interviews. In conjunction with both our online worship leaders and our office volunteers, our enthusiastic communications leaders, Marissa Smallwood and Gail Smallwood, have picked up many of the electronic and technology tasks previously done by others, have provided regular social media presence, and have taken our website under their wing. Thank you to them as well.

The year brought transitions to the larger church, too. Our missionary in Argentina, Rev. Rachael Ringlaben, ended her service, and the Young Adults in Global Mission program was canceled for a second year. We welcome Gustavo Driau, a native Argentine, in that role now, and the YAGM program is prepared to resume this coming summer. Closer to home, I was able to facilitate the

calling of a new assistant pastor in Sayre, Pastor Steve Harvey, and the call and transition process for three other congregations as Associate of the Bishop for our Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Mission District.

Through it all, we continue to do what we can to the best of our abilities, given the parameters of the Covid era and our concern for our wellbeing. I am grateful to our congregation council who has carefully and wisely led us through these days, thoughtfully and intentionally weighing both the security of our community and our calling to mission. I am also grateful to our Sunday school staff who has prayerfully and carefully sought ways to engage and form our children in the faith under very difficult circumstances.

And through it all, you have been steadfast in your care, compassion, patience, and financial support. I am as grateful as ever that if we must endure these strange and unusual times, I get to do so with you. I have long said and firmly believe that you are a special community of faithful followers of Jesus, and these unusual times have highlighted that even more. Thank you.

We pray, of course, that we will be able to return to a new day of gathering and singing like we once knew sooner rather than later. But in this meantime, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, we entrust ourselves, our community, and our ministry to the Lord who is near, who has called us in baptism to this great mission. And we rest in his peace: the peace of God that transcends our understanding and all the anxiety and strangeness that surrounds us.

The peace of Christ be with you.  
Pastor



## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Committee Members: Pastor Grube, Julie Miller, Marissa Miller, Cheryl Brosious, Tony Linnen, Jean Grube, Heidi Schukraft, Ray Manacke and Joe Hardisky.

The Christian Ed committee has been working on returning to normal, with CDC recommended Covid-19 restrictions. At the beginning of the year, we continued to offer virtual Sunday School lessons for our youth after the 9:30 am zoom service. With the new school year approaching, we chose to move back to in-person.

We offered some intergenerational congregational activities that everyone knows and loves, as well as some new activities. To start off the Sunday School year, we held an intergenerational Rally Day revolving around the Theme of Prayer. We continue to use some of these tools every week to get the students to learn to pray. In October, we held a joint event with Social Ministry in which we decorated pumpkins for Shut-ins or other members on our care and concern list. In November, we held a Turkey Decorating Contest between the Sunday School classes. The congregation donated 214.5 lbs. of non-perishable goods to help support the Back Mountain Food Bank. We also celebrated Advent, hosted by Julie Miller. In December, we had a Children's Program "Christmas Around the World" put together by Jean Grube.

We hope to continue to be able to meet in--person and host more events in the upcoming year. Thank you to all those that serve on this committee.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Marissa Miller

\* \* \* \* \*

## **COMMUNICATION**

In May, 2021, Marissa Miller and Gail Smallwood were elected to their first terms on Church Council. In June, 2021, they agreed to co-chair the Communications Committee. Since then, they have focused on several major goals:

- Evaluate the church's current website and develop plans to update it and increase its effectiveness
- Evaluate the church's Facebook account and create a plan to update it on a regular basis
- Write a new job description of the Communications Committee
- Assist in advertising and promoting job postings for new music director and new church administrative assistant

The committee has met with Jackie and Jim Siperko to learn about the website and begin updating the website pages. Most of the pages are now updated. The committee also created a new COVID-19 Update page and has begun taking and collecting photos of church activities for use on Facebook and on the website.

The committee has set a policy to update the church's Facebook account at least once a week and frequently more than that. A new job description for the committee has been written and approved by Church Council.

Classified want ads for a new music director and new administrative assistant were placed in local newspapers and shared on the Back Mountain Community Facebook page.

The committee also created an information sheet that members of the congregation can use to share information about church activities and events. This information is used for publicity about the Dorcas rummage sale, the roast beef dinners and other activities that can be shared with the public. Media used to publicize church events and activities include local daily and monthly newspapers, the Back Mountain Community Facebook page, a local magazine, public service bulletin boards and community digital events calendars.

The committee and several other members of the congregation prepared and managed a table for St. Paul's at September's Church Fair at Misericordia University, set up to give Misericordia students information about churches in the Back Mountain. We talked to a lot of students and supplied them with information about St. Paul's and its community service.

For now, the committee has begun posting the Order of Worship, bulletin announcements and Pastor's sermons to the website on a weekly basis, and we are sending out the weekly email to the congregation with links to the worship resources.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marissa Miller and Gail Smallwood

### **EVANGELISM**

No written report.

### **FELLOWSHIP**

No written report.

### **FINANCE**

2021 was another challenging year and again, we are extremely grateful for your on-going financial support of our church, staff and ministries. We are inspired by your commitment to continue financial support by dropping off your offering envelopes in person, mailing them to the church and by the number of new sign-ups for on-line giving through our web site & Vanco.

The following is a "bullet" breakdown of the committee work in 2021:

- Audit of all the church books was completed for 2020 and all was found to be in excellent order with no discrepancies. Thanks to those involved (Carol Fett, Treasurer; Ruth Ide, Financial Secretary and Dorcas Treasurer; and Brad Ide, Brotherhood Treasurer) for their cooperation with the auditor and for the countless hours they devote in their capacity which allows the church to meet day to day financial obligations.

- In cooperation with the Property Committee and with the approval of Council, the church entered into several agreements including DAMA (for repair and maintenance of our two large water retention basins); Comcast (for changing phone/internet service from Frontier); with Masonry Preservation Services (for bell tower repairs); changing from Johnson Controls to Cintas Fire (to perform necessary annual inspection of the Simplex Fire Alarm system); and also to change our property & liability insurance coverage from Selective Insurance to Brethren Mutual.
- Our largest budget expense addition for 2022 is due to the DEP mandated testing of our well for contaminants and for a Certified Well Water Inspector to perform the required monthly & quarterly tests.

The 2022 proposed budget to fund the ministries of St. Paul's may be found at the back of this annual report and again, to the entire congregation (and friends in the community), the Finance Committee says thank you for the tremendous outpouring of your support.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Fett, Treasurer  
John Waschek, Don Pheasant, Bruce Thomas, Bill Peiffer

### **HEALTH MINISTRY (Parish Nurse)**

Due to the pandemic, we have been limited in our abilities to make personal visits at this time. Below are some of the activities we have been able to achieve:

- The two first aid kits were replaced in the AED box; new kit also placed in the kitchen.
- AED provider gave instructions on how to check battery. As of today, it remains functioning.
- Talked with Cintas concerning O2 cannister possible replacement. They stated that they do not handle that anymore. We will not have oxygen cannisters available in the church.
- Red Cross was contacted for possible CPR training for a few members of the church. After the COVID – 19 pandemic is over we can possibly have a training. There would be a charge for each person with limited space available.
- “Thinking of You” cards sent to shut-ins, people on our prayer list and other various members of the congregation.
- Advised Council and members of the congregation to follow CDC's guidelines for COVID -19, such as face masks, distancing, sanitizing and importance of vaccinations.
- Monthly newsletter articles have continued with links to in-depth health related information.

As 2022 ensues we hope to expand our visibility in our church community.

In Love, Service and Gratitude,  
Cathy Ridout, RN  
Gail Ide, RN

## **LANDSCAPING**

With approximately 11 acres to cover, it takes a considerable amount of time to maintain our property including mowing & trimming grass, weeding, etc. Thank you to Jim Madonna for his efforts and to numerous volunteers for planting geraniums and other flowers in the Porte Cochere planters.

One big project this year was to finish the landscaping around the new entrance sign; the work was completed by Personal Touch Landscaping in June.

Trimming shrubs around the lighted sign facing Route 118 was started in the fall (after the poison ivy died back); there are a few larger shrubs in this area that will be tackled in the spring.

Also needing attention is the shallow water retention basin in back of the Columbarium; and, the landscaping beds outside of the narthex - thanks to our permanent resident and not so friendly groundhogs!

To any and all gardeners in the congregation, you don't need to be asked, anytime you feel like it and can spare a little time, there are always weeds to be pulled!

Jon Moelling & Joel Eneboe

## **LONG RANGE PLANNING**

The Committee has met on several occasions over this past year to begin discussions to update and revise the Church Constitution, utilizing the *2019 Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* as our guideline. We will continue to meet in the upcoming months to complete this task and will then begin the process of presenting it to the congregation for eventual approval.

I would like to thank all the members of the committee for their hard work, attention to detail and invaluable input as we work toward completion of this all-important document.

Members of the Committee are Pastor Charles Grube, Carol Fett, Don Pheasant, Frank Mariano, John Waschek and Scott A. Schukraft

Respectfully submitted,  
Scott A Schukraft

## **PROPERTY**

From January to late April the building was unoccupied due to Covid 19. Property issues during that time period were minimal; following our return to a somewhat normal schedule, property issues took off with a bang.

Again, we would like to thank Jim Madonna, our sexton, for his continuing efforts in meeting our day-to-day needs including but not limited to sidewalk snow removal, lawn mowing, restroom cleaning, floor maintenance, moving tables and chairs around, and with the additional work involving disinfecting our building which he continues to do on a daily basis. We also need to thank the numerous volunteers who assist Jim when called upon to help out.

Some of the 2021 property issues dealt with include:

- Since the building was closed from January to April our snow plowing / salt & cindering was kept to the driveway and small parking lot by Pastor's office.
- Putting Waste Management & Cintas Supply deliveries back on normal pick-up schedule after being on an "as needed call basis."
- Maintained our schedule of replacing a set of exterior doors every year by the installation of new doors in the narthex (next to fireplace).
- Canceled our contract with Johnson Controls for the inspection of the Simplex Fire Alarm Panel and began service with Cintas Fire Inspection saving a considerable amount of money.
- In conjunction with the Landscaping Committee, trees and shrubs were added to the area around the new church sign at the end of the driveway.
- Entered into discussion with Masonry Preservation Services (MPS) to determine where the moisture is penetrating the brick on the lower section of the bell tower. Following their inspection and comprehensive report (including drone pictures), council unanimously agreed it was time to take action and have the needed repairs addressed before further damage occurs. Our special thanks to Brian Doran, for his involvement and expertise in leading us through this project. Work will begin on the repairs in March/April of 2022.
- In May, we entered into an Easement Agreement with DAMA for the repair and future maintenance of our two large water retention basins at no additional cost to the church; we were asked not to do any further maintenance to the basins and their work will also begin in the spring of 2022.
- In June, Our Property & Liability Insurance policy with Selective Insurance was canceled at renewal time and placed with Brethren Mutual - same exact coverage but at a \$4000 savings.
- And then came July!!! As most of you know, our well was struck by lightning at the end of the month. A new pump was installed but the required water test came back positive for contaminants. To make a long story short, because the church is a commercial building open to the public, DEP changed our status from a "transient public community" to a "non-transient public community" (25 people or more during the week - HS & EI children & staff included) required that a 12 hour pump test then be completed by a Certified Well Water Inspector and that not only the monthly water test be performed, but

that for one year, additional quarterly testing be conducted for various contaminants which would cost \$3,000 a quarter in addition to the inspectors fee of \$350.00 a month. At the end of the first year, certain tests would be performed every year, others every two to five years. Guess this was a long story after all. And, before anyone asks, we did investigate connecting to a public water source, but neither Aqua or Suez service our location at this time.

- Council approved changing our phone service from Frontier Communications to Comcast after reviewing what Comcast could offer us and learning that Comcast would cover all the installations fees (aprox. \$15,000) because Head Start and Early Intervention were signing agreements also. To date, the wires have been run into the building and we are awaiting the final phone connections which will greatly improve our phone/internet & Zoom services.
- Four outside parking lot lights were replaced with energy efficient LED bulbs; remainder of parking lot lights will be replaced in 2022.
- For 2022, we're thinking of doing a major clean up (dumpster may be required) of the garage, shed and church storage rooms - stay tuned!

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Fett, Jon Moelling and Joel Eneboe

## **SOCIAL MINISTRY**

The purpose of the Social Ministry Committee is to support the work of our congregation, our community, our nation and our world through these various programs:

### **ONGOING PROGRAMS:**

1. We continue to request items that may be recycled, namely cell phones, eye glasses, greeting cards and aluminum tabs which are given to various organizations to assist in their mission.
2. Collecting coupons for personal items which are mailed to Women's Resource Center of Susquehanna County.
3. Shavertown Methodist Church created a Community Care Cabinet to provide personal care and household cleaning items to families in the Dallas and Lake Lehman School Districts. We are cooperating with Shavertown church by collecting items here and delivering them to Shavertown Methodist for distribution.
4. Several volunteers have resumed volunteering at St. Vincent DePaul Kitchen on the 2nd and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month.



5. Continue to collect greeting cards. A box was mailed to St. Jude's Ranch for Children in Boulder City, NV.

#### **ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES:**

6. Souper Bowl Challenge netted 136.5 pounds of food given to the Back Mountain Food Pantry.
7. Easter Care and Concern gifts delivered to 30 people.
8. Thinking of You cards mailed to 29 people living in single person households.
9. God's Work. Our Hands.
  - a. Delivered 43 pairs of sneakers to our Head Start Children.
  - b. Eleven trays of baked goods were delivered to our local police and fire departments.
  - c. Requested personal care items for the Women's Resource Center in Montrose.
  - d. Collected trash from a two-mile section of Rt. 118.
  - e. Continue to make fleece blankets and 40 were delivered to Zion Spies Lutheran Church in Reading to be given to Camp Noah.
  - f. Assisted in collection of items to benefit SPCA.
10. Requested the congregation to bring in new underwear to give to Pyramid HealthCare Inpatient Rehab Center.
11. Mailed Thinking of You cards to our shut-ins enclosing a magnetized cross bookmark.
12. The Sunday School children and adults decorated pumpkins and Social Ministry assisted in delivering them.
13. Mailed 36 Thanksgiving cards with "Give Thanks" bookmarks enclosed to those on our Care and Concern list in November.
14. Twenty-seven Care and Concern decorative bags were delivered to our homebound members for Christmas.
15. In December, a Mitten Tree was erected in the Christian Education hallway and also a Good Gifts tree was placed in the foyer.
16. Four Funeral Luncheons were provided.

A special thank you to you, members of our congregation, for all your support of our Social Ministry projects throughout the year. We couldn't do it without you.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alice Baer and Holly O'Brien, Chairpersons

#### **WORSHIP & MUSIC**

The responsibilities of the Worship and Music Committee include guidance to those who contribute to our worship services and the coordinators of our various subcommittees.

The COVID pandemic continues to present many challenges for worship. Throughout the year the committee worked to create a safe yet meaningful worship experience. In the fall of 2020,

we had outdoor worship services that were also broadcast on Zoom. As the year began, we had moved to worshipping entirely remotely via Zoom due to a surge in COVID cases that occurred around Christmas. Recorded music for the remote-only services was provided by Rebecca Elfman.

On the weekend of May 1/2, 2021, we resumed in-person worship while also continuing to provide Zoom on Sundays for those wishing to worship remotely. This format continued throughout the remainder of the year. Due to the concerns of increased probability of disease transmission with singing, we only sang one hymn at the end of the service. Distribution of communion elements was done as people entered the sanctuary and was available for pick-up at the church during the week for those who worshiped at home.

There were several notable events that were held at St. Paul's in addition to our regular Saturday and Sunday weekly church services.

Holy Week services were all conducted on Zoom with many of the traditions included such as stripping the altar, having the Passion Story and the Easter Vigil read with multiple readers.

On Pentecost, three people were confirmed and an outside reception was held for them and their families.

In the fall we held some special services including

- October 2/3: Harvest Home. Food collection and fall decorations enhanced the worship space.
- October 16/17: Service of Healing—modified to not having the traditional laying on of hands and anointing with oil, but instead had names pinned to a prayer shawl for the special service.
- October 30/31: Reformation. One person received first communion that day. Due to COVID, we did not exchange elements but did exchange letters with St. Therese's Catholic Church.
- November 6/7: All Saints. Lighting candles, striking a chime and reading names of those members who died in the past year.

This year we altered the traditional times for our Christmas Eve worship services to be at 4 pm and 7 pm; These were well attended and well received.

Throughout the spring, summer and into the fall we were searching for a Director of Music. After an unsuccessful process in the spring, we had several people provide piano accompaniment for our services. Just prior to Advent we were blessed to successfully hire Margaret Quintanar as our full-time Director of Music.

A grant application to the ELCA Open Doors program was submitted but we were not selected for funding. This grant was to help support the on-line worship experience. Nevertheless, we continued to provide an online worship experience via Zoom. A new camera and improved internet speed has made this a better experience.

Thank you to our Worship and Music committee members, worship coordinators, and musicians who supported our services throughout the year including Rebecca Elfman, Margaret Quintanar, Adam Cavalari, Claire Stretanski, and Jean Grube.

Respectfully submitted,  
Heidi Manning and Frank Mariano  
Co-Chairpersons

### **ST. PAUL'S BROTHERHOOD**

St. Paul's Brotherhood activities were limited to one drive-through roast beef dinner in September 2021 due to the ongoing Covid pandemic. Thanks to a large number of volunteers, the take-out dinner was a success, earning over \$1600.00.

The dates for the 2022 Roast Beef Dinners are April 23, May 21, September 17 and November 5. Dates are subject to change depending on circumstances that may arise.

We wish to express a special note at our sorrow at the passing of Bob Nicely in 2021. Bob was a tireless volunteer and trusted leader of Brotherhood for many, many years serving as our secretary before moving out of the area. Thanks, Bob, for helping Brotherhood succeed as a strong auxiliary for St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

The officers for 2022 will be:	President	Bill Peiffer
	Vice President	Dave Janoski
	Secretary	Keith Brosious
	Treasurer	Brad Ide

For the Brotherhood,  
Bill Peiffer, President

### **ST. PAUL'S DORCAS SOCIETY**

We are back! It was a late start for this year. We had our first meeting of the year in July – as just a business meeting.

The only Rummage Sale we had was in October. I would like to thank all the members of Dorcas who came to work the week of the sale – whether it was with sorting, finding places for everything, pricing, baking – everything that needs to be done behind the scenes. I would also like to thank Jim Madonna and members of the Brotherhood for their help with our sale. Without the combination of everyone's help, there would be no sale.

We ended the year with our annual Christmas Luncheon which was held at the Appletree Terrace. There was great food, music and fellowship. The entertainment that we had was provided by George Rittenhouse. In lieu of exchanging gifts, everyone donated to Pastor's Helping Hand Fund. We donated a total of \$195.00. Favors provided were Fan Angel Ornaments. We thank Tabitha Walters for spear heading the making of the Fan Angels Ornaments. A great time was had by all who attended.

The officers for the 2022 year are:

President – Chris Bellezza

Vice-President – Gail Ide

Secretary – Cheryl Brosious

Treasurer – Ruth Ide

Our meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m., except for January through March, when they are held at 1:00 p.m. We do not meet in July or August. All women of the church are cordially invited to join us; we serve refreshments after each meeting and it gives us some time for fellowship.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Bellezza, President

### **MISSION DISTRICT ASSEMBLY**

The 2021 Mission District Assembly was held virtually on May 15, 2021. John Waschek and Michelle Waschek represented St. Paul's Lutheran Church at the meeting. Bishop Christopher deForest opened the assembly with the message of being God reliant, Christ centered, and Spirit led. Acknowledgement was given to recently ordained Pastor Liz Koerner in St. John's, Stroudsburg. General information was then given regarding our transitions throughout the pandemic. A figure that stood out was that congregations were still able to give 97% of the budgeted amount pledged to the Mission District for 2020.

Meeting moved into some long-term goals of the district, which were themed around "Growing Young," "Gaining Strength," and "Going Beyond Death to Life." Virtual ballots followed to elect new officers and assembly members. Pastor Grube spoke as named Assistant to the Bishop; he spoke of his new role and expressed further gratitude of the support throughout the District during these troubling times.

Meeting adjourned after discussion of both Old Business and New Business bullet points.

Respectfully Submitted,  
John Waschek

## **2021 SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

The 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Synod Assembly took place virtually on June 4 and 5, 2021. John Waschek and Michelle Waschek represented St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

The June 4<sup>th</sup> afternoon session opened with music followed by Bishop Chris deForest's sermon with a message of moving forward during the unprecedented times of the pandemic. Agenda was adopted and reports were given. Bishop gave a message of reflection as well as discussing where we should focus energy short term and long term. The "Growing Young" theme remained throughout. A report of the nominating committee followed and first ballots were cast for synod and churchwide assembly positions.

Plenary session two opened with a prayer and a message of "Heal the Hurt." First ballot results were given and second ballots were cast. Messages were given by Mr. Jim Jennings of the ELCA Church Council and by Ms. Jodi Slattery, a Churchwide Representative. Treasurer's report was given and the 2022 budget was presented. The second ballot results were given and third ballots were cast. Session closed with thanks given to those who recently retired from the Synod roster.

The June 5<sup>th</sup> morning session opened with a word from the United Lutheran Seminary and a message of "Love the Land." Report was presented by Synod Council Vice President, Kristen Edelman-Weiner highlighting the fact that opposites and people from all walks of life can coexist. Second report of the committee of reference and counsel was given and a motion was adopted to include gender neutral persons in the official life of the church. Additional reports were heard from Bear Creek Camp and Synod Council Secretary, Carl Shankweiler. The constitution committee report was given and motions for revisions to last year's report were passed. Session closed with third ballot results and a fourth ballot.

Plenary session four opened with greetings from Women of the ELCA and continued with a focus of "Engage the Stranger." Ballots on compensation guidelines for clergy and deacons were passed. Companion Synods Report was given. Reverend Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA spoke to evangelism and striving to grow our church community. She shared that "one in fifty Americans is touched by Lutheran services so there are many touch points already happening." Old business was discussed and assembly closed with a hymn.

Respectfully Submitted,  
John Waschek

Our Heartfelt Thanks

and

Deep Appreciation to



the Members of St. Paul's

for the TIME, TALENTS and FINANCIAL SUPPORT

given to us in 2021!

From the Congregation Council of St. Paul's

# Dorcas Benediction

*May God be with us to refresh us,*

*Around us to protect us,*

*Before us to guide us,*

*Above us to bless us,*

*Beneath us to hold us up,*

*And watch between us,*

*When we are absent*

*One from another.*

*Amen.*