

Living in an Age of Miracles

There are miracles throughout Bible history, but some periods might be called "An Age of Miracles."

- The time of Moses when the LORD was forming the Israelites into his own special people.
- The time of Elijah and Elisha when the LORD was calling the Israelites back to himself from their idolatry.
- The time of Jesus when every miracle announced that Jesus was the Messiah, the fulfillment of prophecy.
- The time of the Apostles when the Lord Jesus confirmed the message of the apostles by miracles that he did through them.

While we don't expect to see those kinds of miracles today, we don't want to miss the miracles that the Holy Spirit is working among us. If we consider those miracles, we too can celebrate an Age of Miracles here at St. Paul's.

Miracles in Worship

The Holy Spirit works miracles in our worship. Recently Kevin started coming with a friend with no intention of joining. But after last

week's worship, he wrote a staff member. "I feel that I have been a non-believer for my whole life and going to church these last couple of months has shown me what I'm missing in life." He has joined the membership Bible study and his faith in Jesus continues to grow.

"It is a privilege to serve on the staff of St. Paul's and see these miracles happening around us all the time. We never want to take them for granted."

Miracles in the Gym

Early in May, St. Paul's member Jason Kessler hosted a football concussion conference for the Muskego community in the Trinity Gym. Nicole attended and met a St. Paul's staff member. The conversation turned toward her ten-year-old son Dayton's interest in being baptized. On September 17, Dayton and his brother Cole were baptized on the same day. Dayton writes: "I'm so happy that we found a church that is so welcoming. On the day of my baptism, I was so happy to belong to a church and welcome Jesus into my life. I was also happy to share this day with my

brother Cole. I loved that all my friends and family could come to support me.”

Miracles in the Classrooms

Faith Families is part of the spiritual life at St. Paul’s Lutheran School. After chapel, our 6th, 7th and 8th grade students assemble with a small group of younger students to share highs and lows that leads them into joining together in prayer.

Our 5th graders also have become *Faith Family* leaders for our 3K students. The Holy Spirit is raising up new spiritual leaders right here in our school!

Miracles at SOEL

The Holy Spirit works the miracle of faith in the classrooms of our youngest children at our School of Early Learning Christian childcare. One mother interested in our program wrote recently, “My cousin sent their son there for awhile now and they can’t say enough good things about it. I would love for my child to be in a Christ-centered facility. I’ve never seen a four-year-old express his love for Jesus more than my little cousin.”

Miracles in our Public Schools

The Christian education we offer our children who attend our public schools—our Sunday Kids Club and public school confirmation classes—are also places where miracles occur. We share the love of Christ with our youth and they become missionaries in their daily lives. One mom just wrote us: “I wanted you to know that our daughter had a competition this past Sunday. At the competition, she led her team in a prayer. I was not even aware of this and she was not told by anyone to pray. I had a parent contact me saying my daughter’s words really impacted her daughter and gave her the confidence she needed

to perform. I just wanted to share this with you. It made me very proud of her.” We are proud of this young woman too. And thankful for another miracle of the Holy Spirit.

Miracles in the Offering Plate

Every generous gift a Christian gives is a miracle of the Holy Spirit. But this year we have seen especially amazing acts of generosity. This spring, a small group of people were asked if they could help match a \$40,000 Antioch Foundation Grant so that we could move forward with the calling of the Resident Missionary position. In one week, we received gifts and commitments of \$48,500 for this purpose!

Late this summer we realized that our anticipated receipts would be \$109,000 less than we had anticipated. We prepared to reduce staff to live within the means God provided. We were simply informing the congregation of that sad fact when we prepared a special edition of *The Messenger* the first weekend in September. But the Holy Spirit performed a miracle. One family stepped forward with an offer of \$30,000 to be matched by the congregation. Other families agreed to bring that match up to \$50,000! Three weeks later, our “Valley of Achor” or valley of trouble had been miraculously changed to a “Door of Hope,” resulting in special gifts of \$111,115, covering more than our anticipated shortfall in receipts.

The Privilege to See Miracles

It is a privilege to serve on the staff at St. Paul’s and see these miracles happening around us all the time. We never want to take them for granted. We invite you to join your staff in praising God:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost! Amen.

Ministerial Team Leader – Pastor Peter Panitzke

As Ministerial Team Leader, my duties are to serve as primary preacher, vision promotion, communication, financial stewardship, leadership promotion, and ministry coordination. In addition I serve with our Community Outreach Coordinator as the missionary on our campus.

Praise God with Me

Dave and Kristine, newlyweds and new members of St. Paul's, illustrate the kind of miracles that I get to experience here at St. Paul's as your current "resident missionary." Here is their story:

"We didn't want to join a church just to get married in, so we were happy that St. Paul's was willing to marry us without being members at first. Pastor Pete encouraged us to try going to a service to see what we thought. We loved it and loved how everyone was so friendly and welcoming to us. We also enjoy the fact that there are different services to accommodate everyone's worship 'language' and style. We decided to become members shortly after pursuing St. Paul's for our wedding.

"Dave and I both grew up in Catholic families and it was not something we pursued after we became adults and were not made to go to church. After coming to St. Paul's, we quickly decided to become members and change to Lutheran. We went to Pastor Pete's Bible basics course, or as we called it 'Bible boot camp.' We were quickly welcomed into the family by everyone and we are very happy that our relationship with God has gotten closer as well as nurturing our personal relationship with each other. "

"I ask for your prayers for the following opportunities God has placed before us..."

Missionary Opportunities

Thanks to a generous grant from the Siebert Foundation, I was able to attend the Pastoral Leadership Institute. At the close of that two-year experience, fellow members of my cohort challenged me to dream God-sized dreams. The incredible generosity of God's people in connection with the special offering this spring for the Resident Missionary position and the Door of Hope offering this fall have also encouraged me to look eagerly to the future to consider what our God might want us to do here at St. Paul's.

I ask for your prayers for the following opportunities God has placed before us:

- Calling a resident missionary to help us reach both those already coming to our campus and those in our community who don't know Jesus as their friend and Savior.
- Adding another foreign mission partner, Costa Maya Ministries, on the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico. We can offer both financial and manpower assistance.
- Responding to the needs of Barranquitas, a Puerto Rican city, devastated by Hurricane Maria. Here too, we may have the opportunity to give financial assistance and send mission teams to rebuild.
- Exploring a possible second worship site using our organization, manpower, and financial strength to bring the Gospel to a neighborhood in Milwaukee that is not currently served by a WELS congregation.

Community Outreach Coordinator – Mrs. Sally Wallner

My role as Community Outreach Coordinator is to create a positive experience for all campus guests and to represent St. Paul's in a positive way within our community. Through networking with community organizations, I determine how St. Paul's can help support and show the love of Jesus within our congregation's area of influence.

Praise God with Me

I want to share with you three examples of how our welcoming congregation, our sports ministry, and our community involvement give the Holy Spirit opportunities to bring people closer to Jesus.

A couple recently moved to Muskego and reached out to us because they heard about our Walking Club. She came to the Walking Club with her husband and quickly made friends with the group. Through these friendships, they decided to visit one of our church services. I spoke with them. They plan on returning!

Another couple recently moved to Muskego and have been church shopping for months. They came to The Bridge after searching our website and reading our core beliefs. Having relocated often, they expressed a desire to meet new friends. I had the chance to meet with her for coffee and then our husbands joined us for dinner. The wife has also attended Woman's Club meetings with me. They feel as though they have found a home at St. Paul's.

Emily Krill and I are attending the Muskego Police Department's Citizen's Academy. Over the course of the first six weeks, I have created a friendship with another female class member. She knows that I work at St. Paul's and called me to ask specific questions about St. Paul's, our worship styles, and

what resources we have available for her teenage grandson to grow in his faith. If it were not for the opportunity I have as a staff member to represent St. Paul's, I likely would have never met this woman, let alone been able to openly share my faith with her.

These are just a few of the examples of how you are making a difference as part of the St. Paul's community. People are learning more about our faith community and being led closer to Jesus in a non-threatening way.

*They came to The Bridge
after searching our website
and reading our core beliefs.*

Join Me in Prayer

First, a prayer of thanksgiving. I am so thankful to a very dedicated volunteer Cindy Proeber, who is making it possible for us to offer Volleyball and Pickleball Leagues. She is one of so many volunteers who make St. Paul's an amazing place to invite people to come. Our future Resident Missionary will help us "harvest" the mission opportunities these leagues and other activities bring to our campus.

Then, I ask for your prayers as we plan the following activities: our three postcards mailings, blood drives with the Muskego Woman's Club, elections, Christmas Wish Tree, Muskego Food Pantry Christmas Party, Safety City, use of social media, and our websites. Pray that the Holy Spirit would use these programs to start conversations that bring more people closer to Christ.

Worship / Engagement / Counseling – Pastor Jeffrey Bonack

As worship pastor I have the privilege of teaming up with literally hundreds of talented, creative, and self-sacrificing volunteers to plan and prepare our congregation's worship services. Just recently, I also stepped into the role of engagement pastor. Working closely with our Volunteer Coordinator Emily Krill, our goal is to help every member connect with other members of the congregation through life groups, study groups, and serving groups. I also enjoy the opportunities God gives me to sit down with members and member families to help them work through personal issues guided by God's powerful healing Word.

Praise God with Me

"We love St. Paul's!" In our new member meetings, we hear that said again and again. When asked what they mean by that, they say: 1) The relevant, Bible-centered messages and worship are helping us grow; 2) the multitude of opportunities for study and serving excite us; and 3) the congregation is so warm, welcoming, and alive. You can't imagine the joy those answers bring to a pastor's heart. God is blessing our efforts to make St. Paul's a place people want to come to, a spiritual home where they can grow and serve.

What's Happening

Since Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year, we are altering our Christmas schedule slightly. Weekend worship services will be held on Saturday (Dec. 23) at 5:00 p.m. and Sunday (Dec. 24) at 8:00 a.m. (Traditional) and 10:00 a.m. (Contemporary). There will be no Bridge service Christmas weekend. Our Christmas Eve worship services will be held at 1:00, 3:00, 5:00 and 10:00 p.m. Christmas Day worship will be 8:00 and 10:00

a.m. Our New Year's Eve schedule will be the regular weekend worship schedule. Due to a number of individuals moving or leaving the congregation, our Visual Arts team is looking to recruit new members. The Visual Arts team decorates the church for holidays and works with the pastoral team to prepare visual presentations that support and enhance the worship message.

"You can't imagine the joy those answers bring to a pastor's

In an effort to build our AV team and give the younger generation more opportunity to serve, we are inviting and training young people (7th - 12th grade) to assist in the audio/visual presentation, during worship.

Volunteer Coordinator Emily Krill and I continue to meet with every new member to share St. Paul's core values and connect people with our mission. We have also recruited a Small Group Coordinator (Mike Krill) who will assist in small group promotion and leader development.

Our goal is to develop a system to quantify member engagement so that we will be able to 1) determine where we need to invest our time and energy, and 2) create a reference point for evaluating what is working and what is not working.

Pray with Me

Our worship attendance remains flat. Pray that our efforts to provide meaningful worship, along with efforts to connect people in small groups and volunteer opportunities, would be used by God to encourage weekly worship in all our lives.

Volunteer Coordinator – Mrs. Emily Krill

I serve part-time at St. Paul's as Volunteer Coordinator on the Member Engagement Team with Pastor Bonack. My time is spent in three primary areas: volunteer program shaping, new member services, and small group planning. My prayer is that God uses me to bring members closer to Christ by making serving fun, faith-filled, and functional.

Fun

I am working on creating ways to shift our volunteer culture from one of obligation to one of joyful participation! Two ways I am encouraging this mindset are through:

- **An increased presence on social media:** Volunteering is where our faith takes action and I'm leveraging social media as a place for our church members and guests to have fun talking about it! We are getting between 300 and 600 views every week and dialogue that shows people are enjoying the conversation in the new setting.
- **The Volunteer Feedback Survey:** 58 people participated in a survey that gave volunteers an opportunity to share positive and negative experiences with leadership as well as suggest ways to improve the overall volunteer experience. This led to five brand new volunteers getting plugged in to meaningful roles and 58 meaningful conversations! We got a much clearer understanding of what makes volunteering fun for our key volunteers.

Faith-filled

One of the big initiatives over the course of the next nine months is to more directly connect the *act of*

servicing with the *attitude of worship*. We want everyone at St. Paul's to be able to testify how their specific volunteer role is a faith shaping experience. Maybe it happens when the challenges of volunteering lead to praying for one another. Maybe it comes in the form of joy when we discover that God can use anyone's unique talents to glorify him. Whatever it looks like in your life, we want to hear about it! I will be collecting testimonies of how your serving experiences have drawn you closer to God. These testimonies will be shared with our congregation in a variety of ways to keep our focus on the great and powerful things God is doing among us.

"Maybe it comes in the form of joy when we discover that God can use anyone's unique talents to glorify him."

Functional

My favorite quote from Dr. Joel Nelson is "Ministry doesn't *have to* be disorganized." Amen, brother! One of the top requests from St. Paul's volunteers is for clear role descriptions and well-established expectations. We have developed three initiatives that will ensure these requests are met:

- Volunteer Mentors
- "On & Off Ramps" for volunteer roles
- Clear, consistent posting of Volunteer opportunities

Your Prayers Please

Please join me in praying without ceasing that God move us to continue being ridiculously generous with our time and talent in our homes, church and community. We want to always remember Romans 12:11 "*Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.*"

Member Care – Pastor David Kuehl

As we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of God (Galatians 6:10).

Member Care seeks to bring every member of St. Paul's closer to Christ through spiritual care provided by staff and volunteers, service and support groups, and fellowship activities. The five areas of *Member Care* ministry and the number of Ministry Action Teams (MATs) that serve in each area are: Soul Nurture and Retention (4), Activities and Events (3), Social and Service Groups (3), Support Groups (5), and Others (6).

Praise God with Me

This summer, many members of the Ministerial Team participated in the Easter Every Sunday effort. As a result of that emphasis, I was able to make 95 encouraging phone calls to members and brought their prayer requests to the rest of the Ministerial Team.

Pray with Me

Regular worship attendance is a continuing source of concern for us on the Ministerial Team. Studies have shown that even "regular" worshippers are in worship less frequently. That makes it even easier for Satan to disconnect people from their Savior.

Soul Retention still presents the biggest challenge for us in the area of Member Care. Over the years three different-level teams were involved in this ministry: Elders, Visitors, and Shepherds. Because of changing life patterns, hectic daily schedules, and the complicated logistics of present-day communication, these teams found it increasingly

difficult to carry out their work in a meaningful way.

Recently I sat down with Kristen Miller, who desires to be involved in women's ministry and teaches Spanish in our elementary school, and Volunteer Coordinator Emily Krill to brainstorm about what we could do to establish and maintain meaningful relationships with our membership. It was clear to us that the old models of every-member-contact-ministry are outdated. Please keep this area of ministry in your prayers. The souls of God's people hang in the balance.

Service Opportunities

[We] brainstormed about what we could do to establish and maintain meaningful relationships with our membership.

Our Caring Card Ministry is coordinated by Sandee Keller. This ministry is intended to nurture a member's relationship with their Lord and with their fellow congregation members. Greeting cards are sent out by team members under these seven general group headings: New Members, Hospitalized, Homebound, Noteworthy Anniversaries, Noteworthy Birthdays, Deaths, and WELS Missionaries. Due to family and work-related issues, Sandee would like to be relieved of her responsibility to the Caring Card Ministry. If you would be interested in serving in this way to fulfill our mission to "*bring every person in our area of influence closer to Jesus Christ,*" please contact me at 414-422-0320 ext. 120 or dkuehl@stpaulmuskego.org.

I am also looking for a Prayer Responder to follow up on prayer requests we receive each week to see how things are going for the individuals who have requested non-confidential prayers. If this is your passion, I welcome your offer to serve.

Youth and Adult Discipleship – Dr. Joel Nelson

A disciple is “one who learns, embraces, and assists in spreading the teachings of another” (thefreedictionary.com). As Christians, we seek to learn, embrace, and spread the teachings of Jesus. To accomplish this, we need education about Jesus, and that is at the heart of my work at St. Paul’s. Youth and Adult Discipleship concerns itself with the Christian education and training of all ages so that by the power of the Holy Spirit we become the best followers of Jesus possible. In the rest of this report I focus on the Youth Discipleship aspect of my work.

Praise the Lord for Increased Youth Participation

Along with St. Paul’s Lutheran School, the congregation seeks to educate and disciple its youth through our Sunday morning youth ministries: Kids Club (3K-6th Grade) and Boost (7th-8th Grade). While of value to all children that participate, Kids Club and Boost primarily exist to disciple our children who do not attend St. Paul’s Lutheran School.

This year, 180 total children are enrolled in Kids Club and Boost: 129 non St. Paul’s Lutheran School children (72%) and 51 St. Paul’s Lutheran School children (28%). Of this 180, nine are not yet members of the congregation. This year’s enrollment represents a third-straight year of numerical growth. Two years ago, enrollment was 134. The staff has also grown to a total of 37 (27 adults/10 teens).

In addition to Kids Club and Boost, Confirmation Instruction is offered on Wednesday afternoons to non-St. Paul’s Lutheran School students in 6th-8th grade. Sixth graders take a Bible history course taught by me, and 7th-8th graders learn Bible and Lutheran doctrine via Luther’s Small Catechism. Pastor Bonack teaches 7th graders, and Pastor Kuehl teaches 8th. The Wednesday afternoon program

disciples a total of 48 youth, another increased enrollment. Grade 6 has 18 students, Grade 7 has 18, and Grade 8 has 12.

“This year’s enrollment [in Kids Club and Boost] represents a third straight year of numerical growth.”

Christmas for Kids

Mark your calendar! Christmas for Kids is Saturday, December 9, from 9:00 am to noon.

Pray for God’s Blessings on our High School Ministry

St. Paul’s discipleship of youth in Grades 9-12, includes:

- getting them actively involved in hands-on ways like Kids Club teaching, playing in church bands, babysitting for small groups, serving a dinner at the Lighthouse Youth Center
- encouraging participation in our Teens Under God (TUG) ministry.

Both of these efforts represent a change in youth ministry philosophy.

Our new approach seeks to create a teen ministry culture in which more decision making and direction setting is left to the teens themselves. Past, adult-driven agendas and activities have not attracted much teen participation or broader connection of teens to the church. They also helped to create youth who see themselves as consumers-of-ministry rather than leaders-in-ministry. Empowering teens and encouraging them to “step up” and take ownership of their ministry and join in the leadership of their church will, in the long run, bring real and lasting success.

Staff Minister Randy Fink – Church Administrator

It is such a pleasure to be back serving you again. I served here in a staff minister role from 1999-2010. The church administrator role is new, beginning July 1, 2017. This position frees the Ministerial Team Leader from much of the ministry coordination. This new role also assumes the duties of the outgoing business administrator and property manager. The ministerial team leader, church administrator, and the school administrator serve as the executive committee for the Ministerial Team.

Final Steps for the Voucher Programs

St. Paul's just completed its first official CPA firm conducted GAAP financial audit. This involved moving our last year's accounting records into new accounting software so that they would be in compliance with the Department of Public Instruction's mandates for participation in the choice voucher programs. The audit was completed with many thanks to the efforts of Becky Wetzel, our accountant/office manager. This school year we are currently participating in the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP) and the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP).

New Financial Statement Format

Included in this Messenger are the annual financial reports of the congregation. As mentioned earlier, these statements are now prepared on a Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) basis which also moves the report from a cash basis to an accrual basis report. This is a significant change in presentation. It would take a rather lengthy explanation to go into all the details of these changes. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like assistance in reading and understanding their contents.

Our goal is to develop a multi-year comprehensive plan ... to keep our campus as a great place to worship, learn, work, and carry out ministry.

Mortgage Loan

Our remaining loan balance from the Trinity addition and parking lot projects is at \$1.9 million. Our loan was recently up for renewal and we were able to negotiate a rate that will save us \$100,000 in interest over the remaining life of the note. Our current amortization has us erasing this debt in ten years. With continued generous offerings, we hope to have this debt eliminated sooner. Waukesha State Bank continues to serve us as an excellent financial partner.

Capital Expenditure Plan

Many of our roof and HVAC systems will reach the end of their life cycles in the next few years. Part of our parking lot by the playground needs to be redone soon due to its major cracking. Some of our lighting and electrical infrastructure need to be updated and/or replaced. The majority of our square footage in our school building is not air conditioned which is putting us in a position of not keeping up with community norms. Our goal is to develop a multi-year comprehensive plan that allows us to plan for and phase in portions of these capital expenditures to keep our campus as a great place to worship, learn, work, and carry out ministry.

Schools Administrator – Mr. Seth Fitzsimmons

The School Area of Ministry seeks to bring every member of our congregation and community closer to Christ through our formal school system: The School of Early Learning (SOEL) childcare center, our 3K and 4K Pre-Kindergarten, and our K-8th grade Lutheran school. To assist me in this work, the Ministry Board has appointed the following members to the School Ministry Action Team (MAT): Cherie Esmeier, Nicole Glaze, Chris Haag, Luke Hudock, Mick Meitner, and Mark Sievert.

Why St. Paul's Lutheran School?

- A current parent says, "I know my child is safe and the teachers care for him. More than abc's, when my Pre-K child comes home and tells me about his faith and knowledge of God, it is amazing and we are so thankful for this."
- A former parent reflects, "We had four children attend St. Paul's and go on to Wisconsin Lutheran High School. Two even went on to Martin Luther College. We loved everything about St. Paul's. Teachers were awesome, environment was warm and caring, academics and extracurriculars were wonderful for our children, and above all, the Word of God was a part of each and every moment at St. Paul's."

Thank you for your continued support of our childcare through 8th grade Christ-centered ministry!

Celebrate Generosity

2nd grade donates to hurricane efforts – Miss Stack's 2nd graders gathered nine boxes of school supplies during October and sent these gifts to Texas to help

students affected by hurricane Harvey. Tyson, one of the 2nd graders, wrote: "It was nice to help them because we want to help others in God's name. We want to share our things with others who lost their things." Christian Generosity in Action!



1st quarter mission offerings to Nepal and Pakistan – The students have given \$840 to bless this ministry half-way across the world. Mission offerings help our students understand the blessing of being a "synod" and the wide Gospel-reach we can have! Christian Generosity in Action!

"Door of Hope" Generosity – Wow...on behalf of our staff, we are so thankful for the Christ-motivated outpouring of generosity seen during the Door of Hope offering. We as teachers serve, working hard for the Lord, knowing that our service is on behalf of a congregation filled with so many generous, Spirit-filled supporters of the Gospel. Thank you!

Celebrate with us! 40th Anniversary and New Staff

Miss Martens was recognized on September 17 for 40 years in the teaching ministry. We also welcomed Mrs. Sami Loescher (3rd grade) and Mrs. Taryn Volbrecht (K) to our teaching staff. We ask God's continued blessing over all of our childcare through 8th grade teachers as they share God's Word and build up the Christ-centered minds and hearts of their students every day!

Celebrate with us! Great fall MAP test scores

Like them or not, standardized tests are simply a part of school. We put about 15% of our eggs in this standardized test basket, and we base the other 85% of our student assessment on daily work, quizzes, tests, projects, etc. Celebrate with us that...

- 92.2% of our 1st-8th graders scored proficient or advanced in reading (75.2% are advanced).
- 94.3% of our 1st-8th graders scored proficient or advanced in math (75.6% are advanced).
- 95.14% of our 4th-8th graders scored proficient or advanced in language (79.6% are advanced).
- 92.4% of our 5th-8th graders scored proficient or advanced in science (68.4% are advanced).

Celebrate with Our Girls!

Our 7th-8th grade girls' volleyball team heads into the state volleyball tournament (Oct. 27-28) undefeated. God's blessings to them as they try to bring home the gold trophy!

New School Choice Information for 2018-2019

Next year's income limits for the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP) will increase by 35%. If you or someone you know might qualify given the income limits listed below, please contact School Administrator Seth Fitzsimmons at 414-422-0320, ext. 118 or sfitzsimmons@stpaulmuskego.org. We would LOVE to have your family take a tour of our school! (The Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP) remains at 300% of the poverty level.)

Household Size	Single Parent Income Limit	Married Parents Income Limit
3	\$44,352	\$51,352
4	\$53,460	\$60,460
5	\$62,568	\$69,568
6	\$71,676	\$78,676
***Add \$7,500 for each additional family member		

Pray With Us

Make sure to read Randy Fink's church administrator report to see that we are working on a detailed "capital expenditure plan" as we care for our campus. Randy wrote, "Our goal is to develop a multi-year comprehensive plan that allows us to plan for and phase in portions of these capital expenditures to keep our campus as a great place to worship, learn, work, and carry out ministry." This is exciting to work on, and may God bless these plans!

*"We
serve... a
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Spirit-filled
supporters of
the Gospel."*

Jesus told His disciples in Acts 1:8, "...you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." We are all a part of this "to the ends of the earth" proclamation. Whether you live in Muskego or a neighboring community, I invite you to think – who do you know that you could invite to take a tour of our school? God wants to use each of us to make invitations to people. Cast the seed and let the Spirit bless the growth. Some invitations take months or even years to bear fruit. Whom could you invite?

Thankful

In closing, it is a great blessing to serve as the administrator of our schools and to work with Mrs. Drska, Mrs. Neubauer, and our teachers to achieve the mission of connecting kids and families closer to Christ every day! May God bless you as you do the same in your area of influence!

Financial Summary for Fiscal Year (2016-2017)

At right is the “Statement of Activities” for the past fiscal year. This report looks very different from what we have seen before because we have moved to GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles). This change occurred to be in compliance with the Parental Choice Programs.

The first column “General Fund Modified Cash” is the closest to the previous treasurer’s report of General Fund activity. As was reported in the August 2017 *Special Edition Messenger*, last fiscal year we spent \$60,376 more in General Fund moneys than we received. In our current budget, we have drilled down to a lower level of detail in anticipated expenses. Largely as a result of this more detailed budgeting process, our total expenditures for the first three months of the current fiscal year are \$25,000 less than budgeted.

On page 14 you will see the Schedule of Restricted Funds as of June 30, 2017. There are several items that we would like to call to your attention:

Debt Reduction Fund/Internal Borrowing Fund

We are thankful that \$42,119 was given to the Debt Reduction Fund. Generous gifts to this fund over the past eight years have reduced our internal borrowing from over \$265,000 to \$127,357. It is our prayer that internal borrowing could be erased within the next two years so that we could begin to build up cash reserves and eliminate the need for a line of credit to pay our expenses during months of lower receipts.

Mortgage Fund

The Mortgage Fund (gifts totaling \$264,716) is used to pay down the \$1.9 million debt on our most recent expansion. Additional principal payments have reduced the length of our mortgage to ten years. It is our prayer that additional principal payments in the next several years will enable us to repay the note well before ten years.

Capital Improvement Fund

When we sold the Gaulke Drive parsonage, those funds were placed into our Capital Improvement Fund. This past year we used approximately half of that fund to make needed improvements on our campus. We are preparing a Capital Expenditure Plan. The needs of that plan will far surpass our current Capital Improvement Plan. We are anticipating a capital fund drive beginning in 2018 to cover these costs in the years to come.

Give a Gift of Stock

The stock market is on a record-breaking run. If you donate stock directly to a charity like St. Paul’s, you could avoid paying capital gains tax, enabling you to use more of your assets to support God’s work. Contact Church Administrator Randy Fink (414-422-0320, ext. 120) for more information.

Statement of Activities – General Fund 2016-2017

Receipts	Actual	%	Ministry Financial Plan	+/-	%	Approved 2017-2018 Min Fin Plan	Revised 2017-2018 Min Fin Plan
	Offerings and Support	1,737,478	56.5%	1,761,126	(23,648)	58.4%	1,840,400
Tuition & Fees	1,303,511	42.4%	1,218,929	84,582	40.4%	1,532,400	1,453,900
Miscellaneous Receipts	32,602	1.1%	37,200	(4,598)	1.2%	155,100	108,600
Total receipts	\$ 3,073,591	100.0%	\$ 3,017,255	56,336	100.0%	\$ 3,527,900	\$ 3,467,900
Expenditures							
Compensation & Benefits	2,235,568	72.7%	2,144,522	91,046	71.1%	2,491,100	2,431,100
Church Ministries	51,735	1.7%	40,555	11,180	1.3%	40,600	40,600
School Ministries	91,074	3.0%	86,815	4,259	2.9%	234,900	234,900
Support Services	125,380	4.1%	118,940	6,440	3.9%	134,100	134,100
Campus & Facilities	258,135	8.4%	254,348	3,787	8.4%	255,100	255,100
Wis Ev Luth Synod	236,991	7.7%	236,991	-	7.9%	237,000	237,000
Wis Luth High School	135,084	4.4%	135,084	-	4.5%	135,100	135,100
Total expenditures	\$ 3,133,967	102.0%	\$ 3,017,255	\$ 116,712	100.0%	\$ 3,527,900	\$ 3,467,900
Cash Flow Subtotal	\$ (60,376)	-2.0%	\$ -	\$ (60,376)	0.0%	\$ -	\$ -

Schedule of Business Gifts and Grants 2016-2017

This report shows the benefit of using matching fund opportunities one's employer may provide. Notice that our members working at Northwestern Mutual were able to increase their offerings by \$18,467. Thrivent employees and members were able to increase their ministry support by \$12,851 through the use of Choice Dollars and other opportunities. Notice that you can also give to St. Paul's through the United Way campaign at work.

We are also seeking to expand our ministry by seeking gifts from foundations. The Antioch Foundation funds were used to begin our Extended Learning Coordinator position.

Antioch Foundation	\$ 23,000
Amazon Smile	37
Amerigas	138
Charter Communications	208
Kula Foundation - Red Robin	30
Microsoft	278
Northwestern Mutual Foundation	18,467
Northwestern Publishing House	103
Thrivent Financial	12,851
United Way	1,056
Wells Fargo	1,430
Total	<u><u>\$ 57,597</u></u>

Schedule of Restricted Funds 2016-2017

	<u>7/1/2016</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Loan Principal Payments</u>	<u>Prop & Equip Purchases</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	<u>6/30/2017</u>
Athletic Uniforms Fund	\$ (516)	\$ 5,205	\$ (3,851)				\$ 838
Awake & Alive Fund	6,722	5,155	(7,638)			216	4,455
Cancer Support Group Fund	1,573	660	(1,324)				909
Capital Improvement/Maintenance Fund	132,276	1,286	(10,168)		(38,447)	(15,214)	69,733
Cheerleading Fund	639	907	(884)				662
Debt Reduction Fund	-	42,119				(42,119)	-
EagleBots Fund	(209)	120					(89)
Gift Trust Fund	82,859	6,831	(21,961)				67,729
Gifts and Memorials from Individuals Fund	23,587	98,821				(38,227)	84,181
Gifts from Businesses	-	69,721				(69,721)	-
Grants from Foundations Fund	2,101	11,868				1,358	15,327
Grenada Child Sponsor Fund	6,855					2,625	9,480
Handbell Choir Fund	2,440		(46)				2,394
In Need Fund	18,769	28,953	(34,476)			6,210	19,456
Internal Borrowing Fund	(109,100)					(18,257)	(127,357)
Kid's Club Mission Projects Fund	(0)	431					431
Legacy Fund	59,863	6,548	(2,750)				63,661
LES Mission Projects Fund	14	3,128	(3,235)			93	0
LES Tuition Assistance Fund (LESTA)	14,616	54,096				(59,835)	8,877
Library Fund	2,641		(33)			12	2,620
Living Nativity Fund	0	2,220	(119)			69	2,170
Misc Accounts Fund	20,406	17,101			(47,389)	21,625	11,743
Mission Partners Fund	3,013	28,451	(30,513)			1,010	1,961
Mortgage Fund	162,410	264,716	(77,913)	(197,349)		16,056	167,920
Musical/Drama Fund	94	4,494	(3,171)				1,417
Old Church Fund	8,405	210	(6,142)			(78)	2,395
Scrip Fund	2,611	85,726	(85,907)			2,176	4,606
Secondary Christian Ed TA Fund (SCETA)	1,244	3,568	(7,960)			11,680	8,532
Social Media Advertising Fund	1,000		(1,000)			1,650	1,650
String Ensemble Fund	254						254
Student Council	784	162	(105)				841
Teen Ministries Fund	1,212					1,541	2,753
The Bridge Fund	9,900	13,889	(20,357)			2,825	6,257
Vending Fund	0	881	(1,401)				(520)
Wish List Fund	34,356	77,854	(26,989)		(55,006)	43,423	73,638
Youth Rally Fund	3,598						3,598
Total Restricted Funds	\$ 494,418	\$ 835,121	\$ (347,944)	\$ (197,349)	\$ (140,842)	\$ (130,882)	\$ 512,522

A Special Opportunity for Those 70½

You can give up to \$100,000 per year from your IRA directly to a qualified charity such as St. Paul's, Wisconsin Lutheran High School, or our Synod without having to pay income tax on the money. You can give to our General Fund or any of the special funds above.

You pay no income tax on the gift, even if you do not itemize your tax deductions. If you have not yet taken your required minimum distribution for the year, an IRA charitable rollover gift can satisfy all or part of that requirement.

Contact Church Administrator Randy Fink (414-422-0320, ext. 120) for more information.

Legacy Fund

Leaving a Generous Legacy

“Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments” (Deuteronomy 7:9).

Our faithful love of the Savior can impact countless generations after us. That is the domino effect of faith. While the primary way we impact future generations is through our life of faith and service, we also live at a time when the financial resources God has given us can impact future generations.

Generosity Through Estate Planning

We all have a will. The only question is: “Who wrote it?” Did you decide who will care for your children when you are gone and who will receive your estate? Or will you allow the state’s probate law to decide? I think we all would say, “I want to decide!”

When you make your estate plans, you can extend your generous support of gospel ministry. We have developed two tools to help you leave a portion of your estate to St. Paul’s.

Gift Trust Fund

St. Paul’s Gift Trust Fund is designed for those who would like their bequest to be used over the course of about seven years. Every year, 30% of the balance in this fund is designated by the congregation for non-budgetary items to enhance and expand our gospel ministry and our support of missions. Over the years, this fund has

- provided seed money to start Living Word in Waukesha and the building fund at Victory of the Lamb.
- supported campus ministries at both Madison and Milwaukee.
- purchased equipment for church and school.



- provided initial funding to bring new positions into our church and school.

This current year, the Gift Trust Fund was used to

- add a part-time volunteer coordinator position,
- continue a part-time youth ministry assistant position,
- fund Awake and Alive, our ministry to 18 to 25 year olds, and
- provide a scholarship for a member studying for the ministry at Martin Luther College.

Legacy Fund

St. Paul’s Legacy Fund was designed as our long-term endowment. Only 5% of the balance of this fund is used every year so that it continues to benefit ministry for decades. The Legacy Fund is divided into four sub-funds to which you can designate your bequest.

- Undesignated – this year designated for start-up funds for Text-to-Give (414-316-6733).
- Outreach – this year designated to provide funds for new initiatives our Resident Missionary may develop.
- Christian Education – this year designated for continuing education for our teachers.

If you would like more information about these funds or how to include St. Paul’s ministry in your estate plans, contact either Ministerial Team Leader Peter Panitzke or Church Administrator Randy Fink.

A Generous God Creates Generous People with a Generous Vision



The title illustrates the domino effect of generosity:

- A truth believed,
- leads to a truth lived, and
- results in a truth that changes lives.

A Generous God

On the weekend of November 12, we will celebrate the generosity of our God. *“God so loved the world that he gave...” (John 3:16)*. The Apostle Paul teaches us the domino effect of God’s generosity. The gift of the Savior assures us that God will give us everything we need. *“He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?” (Romans 8:32)*.

Our goal the weekend of November 12 is to find financial peace in God’s generosity. As a follow-up to this message, we will take registrations for Dave Ramsey’s course *Financial Peace University* taught beginning in January.

A Generous People

God’s children look like their Father. God’s children imitate their Father. On the weekend of November 19, we will celebrate the generosity that our generous God has created within us.

That generosity shows itself in the hundreds of volunteer hours that are given every week. Homebound members are visited. Music, visuals, and countless details are prepared for worship. The Bridge is set up and taken down. Children and adults are taught God’s word. Our grounds are cared for. Children are coached and encouraged in countless ways in our school. All this is carried out

by generous volunteers. Yes, a generous God creates generous people.

That generosity is also displayed in financial generosity. Not only is there the on-going generosity to support our ministry, but three times God’s people at St. Paul’s responded generously to a special need:

- \$48,500 given or committed in one week for the Resident Missionary position,
- special end-of-fiscal-year offerings in June made that month the second highest month of giving in the year,
- \$111,115 given in one month to change our Valley of Trouble into a Door of Hope.

On top of this, there is your generous support of our Malawi Mission Partner John Holtz, gifts for Wish List items that improve our ministry, and Mortgage/Debt retirement gifts that allow us to reduce our mortgage and prepare us for new ministry opportunities that God is giving us. When the Apostle Paul saw this kind of generosity and how it impacted the lives of others, he rejoiced: *“Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift” (2 Corinthians 9:15)*.

A Generous Vision

Generosity received leads us to look forward eagerly to the future. What new, unforeseen opportunities will God give us as a congregation to imitate his generosity? On the weekend of November 26, we will be asked to pray about our plans for giving in 2018 and share those plans to help our congregation prepare for another year of ministry in service to our generous God.