

St. Paul's Ministry and Financial Summary

As we finish 7 months into 2016 and 8 months into the interim time without a pastor, St. Paul's has continued to provide opportunities for meaningful Worship, Bible Study, and Ministry, while honoring our gracious Lord and serving Him as we serve others.

Worship Opportunities

With the faithful service of guest proclaimers, retired pastors Rev. David Doroh, Rev. Cliff Hellmers, Rev. J. Mark Kuehnert, and Rev. Dr. Ed Rosser, as well as previous pastors Rev. Chris Brynestad and Rev. Duane Maas, we have worshipped the Lord in Spirit and Truth at the Traditional service at 8:15 and CrossLife service at 10:45. We thank our pastoral assistants Jeff Pittman, John Mann, Michael McRae, and Josh Looney for serving in the 8:15 service and thank Michael and Josh for additionally serving as worship leaders, Mike Ringers serving as Worship planner, and Paige Cantrell serving as *Audience of One* Coordinator for the 10:45 CrossLife service as of June 13. Keyboardists and guitarists are being sought to join the praise band and may contact Paige if interested. All of our volunteers serving in worship are greatly appreciated, and we thank you for your dedication.

While acknowledging declining attendance and to better accommodate our guest pastors, the 10:45 Traditional and the 5:30 Saturday Night services have been suspended. We pray that when our attendance merits the return of additional services, we may once again enjoy the addition of service times accordingly. Please continue to celebrate the Lord's blessings with those whom you see on your row in worship; to encourage those whom you have not seen lately to re-join us again in worship; and by all means invite a neighbor, friend or co-worker to worship as we give thanks and glory to God. During the past few months the Lord has sent an increased number of visitors seeking a place to belong, so join us in greeting them and making them feel welcome.

Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday School has been meeting at 9:30 on Sunday morning with children, under the direction of Paula Brown and with the help of many faithful volunteers, as well as youth and adult classes enthusiastically led by their mentors and class leaders. Motley Crew has been meeting on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 led by Kellye Jones. Sunday School Rally Day will be August 14, and our FaithLinks Kickoff will be September 7. September will also see the return of the Thursday Morning Ladies Bible Study led by Kaye Hartley.

There are many exciting ways to serve in the Education Department: Adult Education Class Coordinator, Sunday School Teacher, Bible Study Leader, Resource Coordinator, FaithLinks Teacher, FaithLinks Secretary, Christmas Program Leader or Helper, FaithLinks Greeter, and Fellowship Meal Cooks, Servers, and Cleaner-Uppers. Please contact the Church Office to find a place to volunteer and serve and be blessed all at the same time. YOU are needed!

Ministry Opportunities

Vacation Bible School saw the return of the weekday VBS with 4 days of exciting adventures with 114 children and over 44 volunteers involved. The Preschool and Boys & Girls Club programs have enjoyed full enrollment this spring and summer. There has been learning and fun and opportunities to hear more about Jesus during Chapel, God's Place, Jesus Time, Bible studies and in activities throughout the day. We are blessed with these children on our campus and the opportunity to provide a safe and quality childcare experience with Jesus as our focus.

Our youth have been involved in Bible study, Wednesday and Sunday evening fellowship and projects of serving. Seven Middle School youth completed the Confirmation Oral Exam and Rite of Confirmation in April; nine High School Youth attended the LCMS Triennial National Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July.

In June the Elders once again hosted the Bike & Build group passing through and spending time with our Boys & Girls Club members. Thanks to those who helped host and prepare the meals that were prepared.

Our afternoon and evening Lutheran Women's Missionary League groups have been actively meeting. They sent four representatives to the LWML Gulf States District biennial convention this summer. They are busy preparing for a Casserole Sale fundraiser with proceeds going to replace the Fellowship Room floor and preparing for the Holiday Bazaar that is right around the corner on the first Friday of November.

The Outreach Team is sponsoring the Austinville School Supply collection and needs school supply donations returned by August 2 from lists placed in the mailboxes and in the *Epistle*. They are also gearing up for a congregation-wide Missions Day on Saturday, September 10 with projects in the community. We will meet in the morning, go out and serve at one of several locations, and return for a lunch together at the church. There are also Reading Buddy as well as First Priority Club opportunities at Austinville Elementary. Please contact Celia Faller to volunteer at Austinville.

There are many ways to serve God and serve each other in Ministry here, and we thank all our volunteers that donate their time, talents, treasure and testimony!

Call Committee Update

Our Call Committee (Craig Baker, David Burrell, Michael McRae, Jeff Morgan, Ron Neuendorf, Rhonda Reece, Laura Tyler) has been meeting since January, conducted a congregational survey to find the attributes of the pastor we seek, obtained 22 names from the District President to compare to those attributes, and narrowed down the search to 4 men who were open to receive a call. A call was issued on May 15 but was returned to us on July 2. A second call was issued on July 17, and we await the response of Rev. Greg J. Snow of St. John's Lutheran Church in Chaska, MN.

Attendance and Giving

Our weekly numbers were removed from the worship bulletins in June so that our visitors would not misinterpret our decline in both attendance in church and giving through the church during this interim, but it is vital for our members to understand the effect of these decreases. It must be all of our concern and prayer to encourage each other in worship, Bible study and ministry, to invite and welcome visitors, and to pray for a shepherd to lead us in serving the Lord.

	<u>Average Worship Attendance</u>	<u>Avg Bible Study Attendance</u>	<u>Avg Ministry Participation</u>	<u>First Fruits Giving</u>
2011	335	192	259	\$621,868
2012	337	193	247	\$613,224
2013	322	173	286	\$607,174
2014	289	202	283	\$602,900
2015	253	170	277	\$547,104
2016*	220	146	274	\$452,354**
*from January-June			**annualized based on 1 st 6-months Giving	

Income Summary

We are experiencing a steady decrease in Firstfruits Giving. The Financial Secretary's Report shows Giving through the end of June at \$226,177 compared to last year at \$288,786. This is a decrease of 22% or \$60,600 thus far in 2016. Loan Principle Gifts to date are \$5,560, which is an average of \$926/month.

Expenses Summary

The Financial Plan shows \$226,977 in expenses and with \$226,177 in income this means we will have spent \$800 more than what was given. This came in May with lock replacement at a cost of \$2,300 and in the month of June anticipating the replacement of 3 HVAC units at a cost of \$22,000 and the National Youth Gathering expenses in the Financial Plan of \$3,000.

The Treasurer's Report shows an increase in total monies of \$11,650 taken in as building usage fees and Memorial gifts, and the High School Youth fundraising for the NYG trip and pass thru income not yet disbursed. The Operational Trigger is at \$51,514.