

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

EPISTLE

WINTER 2021

Names of Jesus

“You will conceive and bear a son, and you will call him ‘Jesus’” Gabriel to Mary, Luke 1.

Why did the angel tell Mary to name the baby Jesus? Was it because God knew that this name would sound so powerful and emphatic when it rolled off the tongue of a southern preachers’ radio broadcast??

Turns out that ‘Jesus’ itself is not just a name, but a title, if not a story. It means “God saves.” Jesus is named “God saves” for that is what Jesus will do! (The name Jesus is more complicated and interesting than that, but we will leave it there for now).

Jesus will be given many other names and titles as well: Christ, Messiah, Lord, Rabbi, Savior, Word of God and so forth. During the Advent and Christmas season, we hear different Scripture passages and songs that contain the various names for Jesus. A well-known one is from the Old Testament Christmas reading:

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Isaiah; also part of Handel’s Messiah.

This Advent we will spend some time with the names of Jesus. They can help us focus on who Jesus is and what he has done. Let’s face it, the weeks leading up to Christmas in the world are all about trees, presents, reindeer and cookies. All of these are lovely, especially cookies! But they do not necessarily point us back to the manger and the great work of God to become one of us in Jesus.

To learn the names of Jesus is to learn about the Bible, history, language and the faith of people centuries ago. It can also open up new ways of not only understanding who Jesus is, but how we can call upon him in prayer and praise. Our hope is that by focusing on the names of Jesus, we can help all of us keep focused on the true reason for the season: God’s act of salvation in Jesus Christ, good news of great joy for all the people.



For
Unto
us
is born
CHILD
is born
Unto us a Son
is given, and the
Government shall be
Upon His shoulders,
and His Name shall be called,
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace!
Isaiah 9:6

TO HELP US LEARN MORE ABOUT THE NAMES OF JESUS:

- *Tree decorations:* We will have new decorations made for our sanctuary Christmas tree that will have the names of Jesus. One of our advent events will be making decorations for your trees at home that have the names of Jesus.
- *Family devotions:* The devotions for our youngest children revolve around the names of Jesus.
- *Podcast & Faith Formation:* I will put out a weekly podcast on the names of Jesus. Kim Todd will use this to develop discussion questions for various faith formation groups during Advent.
- *Worship:* The Scripture, preaching and music will also focus on the names of Jesus.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Choirs are singing, bells are ringing!



St. Paul is delighted to call Rebecca "Becky" Rairigh (pronounced like it rhymes with "Mary") as a full-time Director of Music Ministry.

Becky began playing music for her Roman Catholic home church when she was still in middle school. She loved and excelled at this; she would go on to study organ performance, from West Virginia University, where she earned both her Bachelors and Master's degrees. Over the years she has served as musician at numerous churches, including a number in Lancaster County: Church of the Apostles UCC, St. Joseph RCC, the Crossings Church BIC and most recently, Zion Lutheran, Leola. Along the way, she has developed a love for contemporary music and has played in and led praise bands. In her audition she joyfully and masterfully played music of different genres, all to God's praise.

Beyond her music gifts, what drew the leadership at St. Paul to offer Becky this position is her deep faith, her warm spirit and her experience with starting new ministries. She values team-play and creativity, two essential traits as we continue to build ministry in a post-pandemic world. She has the skills to invite people into the ministry and help St. Paul reach beyond our walls through music.

Becky lives locally in Mount Joy with her husband, Jay, who serves as Executive Director for Love INC and her mother-in-law, Peggy. They have two married daughters who also live in the region and a granddaughter.



Greetings from your new Director of Music Ministry Becky Rairigh! Thank you St. Paul congregation for the wonderful welcome!

I am blessed beyond belief for this opportunity to serve your congregation. With God's leading and guidance we will worship together.

I would personally like to invite you to consider lifting your voices to sing in the Adult Choir, Praise Band, and to make a joyful sound ringing with the handbell choir.

The Adult Choir meets on Wednesday evening and the Praise Band on Thursday evening.

Jubilate Bells, St. Paul Handbell Choir meets on Monday evening. They all meet at 7 pm.



FAITH FORMATION

Winter 2021-2022

Retreat at the Wittel Farm

Saturday, Dec. 4 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

"In the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord." Join Pastor Matt Lenahan, director of the Wittel Farm Growing project, for an Advent Day Apart. Advent is the season of preparation, but its location is the wilderness, not the shopping center. We will explore the significance of the wilderness in the biblical narrative and its meaning for our own spiritual journeys. The wilderness journey can be hard and despairing. But in this season, it brings hope! Join us at Wittel Farm and discover this hope in the wilderness. Register at lutherancamping.org. Cost is \$15 and includes lunch.

Pastor Rob's Bible Study

Media Room – Thursdays at 9:30 and 10:30AM

Pastor Rob unpacks one of the week's lectionary lessons including its relevance for our time and our place. Virtual and call-in options are also available.



Adult Forum Event

Social Hall – Sunday, Jan. 23 from 12 to 1:30 PM

"Blessed are those whose strength is in God, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage." Kimberly and Nicholas Todd will give an interactive presentation about their pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago in northern Spain. A light lunch will be provided (donations accepted). Register on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex by Jan. 16.



Ponder Anew Podcast: The Names of Jesus

Pastor Rob explores a different biblical name for Jesus each week of Advent on his Bible Study podcast. Episodes will be available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify and the church website. Discussion guides for small groups accompany each episode.

Together in Christ—Weeknights

Media Room – Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. from Dec. 2 - Dec. 23.

This small group for adults in their 50's and 60's meets to listen to Pastor Rob's weekly Ponder Anew podcast episode and discuss what it means for our time and place.

Men's Bible Study and Breakfast

Social Hall - Saturday, Dec. 11 at 9:00 am.
All men are invited to attend.



Splash Families

Room 104 – Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Parents of children aged 0-3 gather for faith formation, friendship and support as they raise the next generation of Christian disciples. Infants and toddlers attend this class with their parents! This group will use the Ponder Anew podcast for Advent. After Christmas, this group will make use of discussion guides developed by St. Paul member, Melissa Reilly Wainman, Psy.D based on topics from Little Steps, Big Faith: How the Science of Early Childhood Development Can Help You Grow Your Child's Faith.

Talk the Walk with Families

Room 111 – Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Parents and caregivers of elementary-aged children gather for study, sharing, and prayer with the intent to center Christ in the family. This group will use the Ponder Anew podcast for Advent, and then continue conversations developed by Melissa Reilly Wainman, Psy.D based on topics from Little Steps, Big Faith: How the Science of Early Childhood Development Can Help You Grow Your Child's Faith.

Sisters in Christ Bible Study

(sponsored by St. Paul Women of the ELCA)

Choir Room – Sunday, Dec. 5 at 9:30 a.m.

Reconvening in Feb.

This group for women of all ages makes use of Gather publication's Bible study written by women of the ELCA. The theme for the winter sessions is, "The kingdom of God: What does it mean for God to be in charge?" by the Rev. Mark Allen Powell.



FRIENDSHIPS MADE THRU
SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY

Families in Faith

Room 107 - Sundays at 9:30 am.

Parents and educators of teenagers gather for study and discussion to nurture the faith that produces healthy family relationships and supportive friendships. In the winter, this class continues exploring the topic of Antiracism and Faith using curriculum developed and taught by St. Paul members.

Augsburg Bible Study

Media Room - Sundays at 9:30 am.

This Bible study provides insight into scripture through lesson background, questions and discussion. Each Sunday features a stand-alone lesson led by St. Paul members and guests. The winter theme is Justice, Law, History by Phil Ruge-Jones. Participants will reflect on the interplay between God's vision for a just world, the law as Israel's guide in justice making, and history as the location where diving justice takes on flesh. We are invited to walk in this long tradition of justice as people of faith.



Where do I fit in???
Kim Todd will help you
find your way!
ktodd@stpaulititz.net



CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY FALL DAYS!



Sunday School Smiles!



Waffle Wonder Wednesdays!



First Communion!

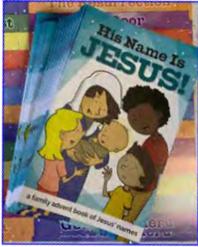


Lord's Prayer Leaders!



Advent

There is so much FOR YOU this Advent at St. Paul! Our children's ministry for Advent centers on our church-wide theme: **The Names of Jesus!**



Kids Bulletins provided on Advent Sundays match "The Names of Jesus"! When kids come up for the Children's Sermon, Deacon Emily will invite them to take a bulletin back to their pew for use during worship.

Busy Bags have been renewed with Advent Materials including the new *Spark* magazines. Feel free, kids, to use one during worship to help guide your thoughts and hands in God's good news!

Thank you, Pat Lamb, for keeping the bags refreshed!

New for Advent! Our Sunday School Children will be leading one part of the Christmas Story each Sunday in Advent during the Children's Sermon at 10:45am worship! Parents, please bring your kids to Sunday School during Advent so they can participate and practice.

Thank you to the teachers for leading our children in this special tradition of children proclaiming Christ's birth!

Our schedule will be:
Nov 28 - preschool/preK
Dec. 5 - grades K&1
Dec. 12 -grades 5&6
Dec. 19 - grades 2, 3,4

~ Deacon Emily
Myallis



All families with children will be given a Devotion Book along with a cut-out Paper Chain. Please pick up yours at St. Paul.

Starting December 1, families can make use of these books by sharing the short devotion centered on one name of Jesus each day, and then adding that name's paper to the chain. By Christmas, you'll have a beautiful chain to help decorate your home and proclaim Jesus!



Reminder

All children are welcome to the intergenerational Advent Events on Sunday evenings at St. Paul!



CONFIRMATION 2021



Gannon Ziegler, Alex Knight, Nathan Savage, Nathan Hoffer, Grace Bowman

Mentoring Mornings



Each month, grades 5&6 meet with the high school youth during Sunday school for faith-based discussions on how to live a faithful life.



St. Paul Youth are leading the way & sharing the way!



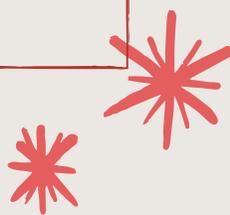
Minnesota bound in 2022!

7 youth and 2 adult leaders are planning to attend the ELCA National Youth Gathering this summer in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Over the next 8 months, they will be fundraising and attending monthly Gathering meeting to connect as a group and prepare them for this faith filled journey. Stay tuned for ways you can help support this special trip!



Pre-Caroling Pizza Party

Middle school and high school youth are invited to attend a Christmas Pizza Party before the caroling event on Sunday, Dec. 19th. Come at 5:30 and stick around for caroling around town. Please RSVP in advance!



ADVENT@ST. PAUL



*Advent Wreaths
November 28*

*Join us on Sundays at 6:30 pm
as we prepare our hearts and
homes for the coming of
Christ!*



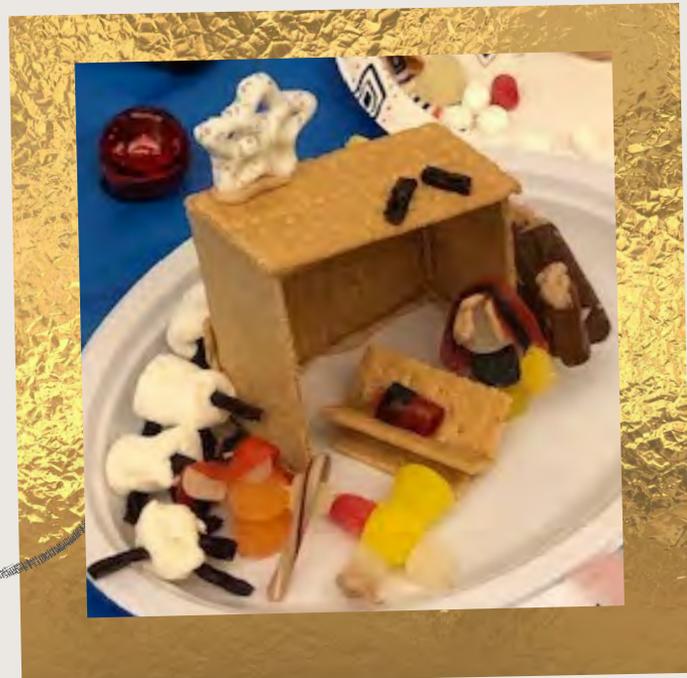
*Deck the Halls
December 5*



*Caroling & Cocoa
December 19*



*Gingerbread Nativity
December 12*



Senior Christmas Dinner



Sat. December 4
Social Hall



St. Paul Seniors are invited to a Christmas dinner on December 4 at noon in the social hall. Thank you to Kathy Ross and her team of helpers for this lovely event!



In partnership with the St. Paul Senior Shepherds, we are collecting toys for *Toys for Tots*. New toys may be placed in the designated box found in the Narthex. Donations are due by December 4.

*Donations by
December 4*

Quiet Christmas

*for those longing for peace,
especially those who are mourning*

Sunday, December 19 at 4:00 pm



Christmas Eve Worship

3:00 pm

*Traditional worship with Holy Communion
and candle lighting.
(mask required)*

6:00 pm

*"Joy to the World" worship with a child-friendly message.
(masks are encouraged in the front pews, required in the side pews)*

9:00 pm

*Traditional worship with Holy Communion
and candle lighting.
(masks are encouraged in the front pews, required in the side pews)*



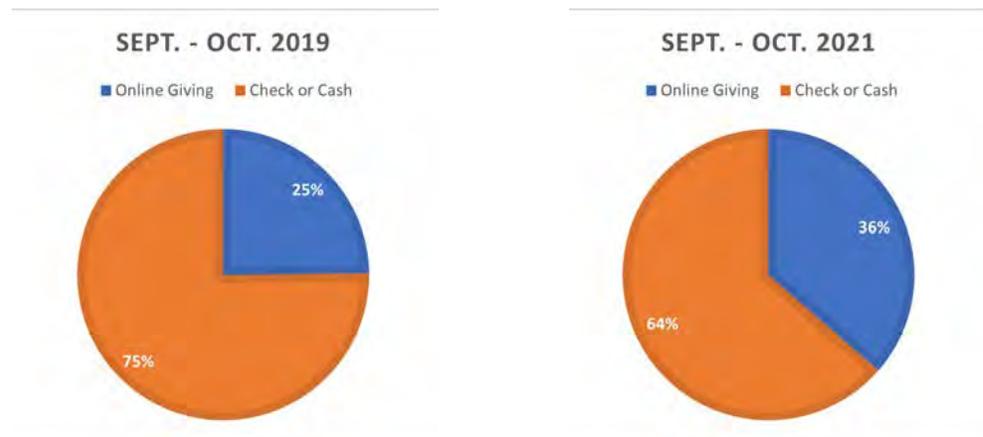
2022 BUDGET

BIG PICTURE

We will likely end 2021 with a surplus, due to strong giving and reduced spending. COVID directly or indirectly (no contractors available!) prevented intended programs. We also had two staff members retire and new people were not hired immediately.

Our proposed expenses are \$681K. While staffing is the biggest reason for the significant increase, we will outline other changes.

Our proposed income is \$681K. This represents a modest increase over last year. We will need a three percent increase in giving from 2021 for us to meet our expenses. This is at or slightly above the 2021 increase compared to 2020, but well below the rate of income increase from 2016-2020.



	2019 Expenses	2020 Expenses	2021 Budget	2021 Estimated Expenses	2022 Budget
Staff	\$340,302	\$401,939	\$393,970	\$384,791	\$437,823
Facilities	\$122,120	\$115,776	\$130,000	\$126,748	\$131,875
Admin	\$42,949	\$39,093	\$44,590	\$40,566	\$48,200
Worshipping Vibrantly	\$16,322	\$8,156	\$17,806	\$7,485	\$13,755
Forming Faith Intergenerationally	\$15,309	\$10,117	\$23,430	\$18,414	\$23,085
Equipping Servant Leaders Boldly	\$22,423	\$23,869	\$26,275	\$20,895	\$26,575
Total	\$559,423.74	\$598,950.30	\$636,071.00	\$598,899.71	\$681,312.57

2022 BUDGET

STAFF

Expenditures and increases in staff are the most significant.

Important changes:

- We welcomed Becky Rairigh as Director of Music Ministry. From a budget perspective, this means we have one full-time musician instead of 2-3 part-time musicians.
- Pastor Matt Lehanan will no longer serve as Outreach Director. His other professional responsibilities will prohibit him from doing this. We thank Pastor Matt for his work, especially with the Sacred Grounds. We will still partner with him through Wittel Farm and outreach projects we do with Zion, Akron.
- We have asked Kim Todd to increase her role and serve as liaison to the Outreach Committee. We will support her as she continues in a distributed learning program at Seminary.
- We hope to hire a congregational care pastor in early 2022. We are still refining this job description post COVID, which likely is an expanded role.

PROPERTY

The second greatest expense is the building. This includes utilities, insurance, upkeep of the grounds and service contracts.

This is a very unusual time for the property budget in that prices are changing rapidly (typically going up), building supplies are often scarce and contractors are even harder to line-up. Our facilities manager, Tim Miller, has worked with our property team to identify the intended projects for 2022, but this list is admittedly less certain than in prior budget years.

The CELC is also in the process of receiving up to \$200,000 through federal funds for improving the facility where they are located (St. Paul!). They need to use these funds within six months of receiving the funding. This may mean the church incurs less building expenses because certain projects are funded by this; or these projects get done instead of other work.

2022 BUDGET BREAKDOWN

Administrative costs include many things: phone, internet, photo copier, bulletin paper and certain online subscriptions. It also includes offering envelopes and the cost of electronic processing of donations.

- The biggest increase here is for an audit. We did an extensive internal audit in 2019, leading to changes in our practices. We believe we have implemented the controls to make an audit successful in 2022.

Equipping Servant Leaders Boldly includes local, Lutheran and international partners. Beyond the CELC (Christian Early Learning Center), the most significant partner is the Lower Susquehanna Synod. We have budgeted \$16,000 for the synod this year. We also give to a number of Lutheran ministries, although we do this directly, especially our international partners: Kanga and the Swanson family.

Forming Faith Intergenerationally includes programming for children, youth and adult faith formation.

- The 2022 and 2021 budgets are larger than previous years as we both expand programming but also budget for a number of special events that have been delayed due to COVID (for example, the ELCA youth gathering).

Worshipping Vibrantly. We are budgeting more than we spent this past year as we anticipate resuming ordering new music for ensembles!

To summarize the changes: Some are one-time expenses (Youth events and audit); others are likely on-going post-pandemic (increased building costs and resumption of full-music); the biggest changes are in the staff costs.

PPP

The church received two installments of PPP funding. The first of these installments (\$71K) was converted to a grant early in 2021; the second (\$68K) was converted to a grant this November. We applied for the second installment in order for the CELC to receive PPP funding. While the PPP funds were spent on salary, we have generated a balance in our bank account greater than our present business operations demand. Therefore, Council has:

- Authorized the purchase of a new boiler (\$40K); the older ones had deteriorated.
- Authorized an engineering study (\$10K) of the building to determine future needs. We are planning a capital campaign, likely for the roofs, but we want to make sure if we spend large amounts, that we correctly determine other potential projects.

PPP

What about the remaining funds above our present business needs? Now that the second round has been converted to a grant, we will explore two key areas that we believe will have an impact on the future of the church and community:

- Ministry with the school system: Although we have a close location to and good relationship with the schools, we have not necessarily developed long-term ministries, either with students or staff. We are exploring what this might look like.
- As we continue to repair our building, likely through a capital campaign, we are exploring what "green" renovations might entail. This might include installing roof based solar panels, but it might be that our building needs more basic energy infrastructure, such as lighting and insulation.

PROCESS

November 14: Council approved the budget for congregational approval, after finance committee met on Nov. 9 to recommend the budget to Council.

December 7: Evening Zoom presentation at 7 PM, hosted by Pastor Rob, on the vision for the congregation.

December 9: In-person presentation at 11:30 AM, hosted by Pastor Rob, on the vision for the congregation.

December 12: Congregational Budget Meeting after both worship services.

THANKS

First and foremost, a heartfelt thank you to Stan Sneegas, who stepped down as Treasurer after a three-year term. He did a phenomenal job of transitioning us to a mobile accounting platform and leading us through 2020!

Second, thank you to our new treasurer, Deb Rothermel, who is overseeing the budget process for the first time. Thanks also to Roger Moyer and the finance committee for their wise input. Lastly, to Stephanie Risser, our financial assistant for handling the majority of the back-end work on the budget.

Finally, many thanks to you! Over the past six years we have operated with a surplus as we worked out of debt. Your generosity, along with our fiscal prudence has enabled us to repay debt, complete a capital campaign, weather the pandemic and expand our ministries. Thank you.



St. Paul Lutheran Church
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Lititz, PA 17543



ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
ROOTED AND GROWING