

November 2020 Newsletter

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church, School, & Preschool
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)
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Worship Schedule Information!



Because spreading out worship services over three days produces a safer worship environment, the voters have determined that we will continue our "summer" worship schedule through the month of November. Services are Thursday and Saturday at 6:30pm and Sunday at 9:00am. We will evaluate this again at the next council meeting.

Financial Update

2020	<u>Current</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Mortgage</u>
Feb	-\$12,431	-\$1,041	+\$6,348
Apr	+\$15,663	-\$ 433	+\$4,987
May	+\$18,334	+\$ 822	+\$3,206
Jun	+\$ 8,433	+\$1,914	+\$ 774
Jul	-\$ 515	+\$1,071	-\$1,040
Aug	-\$ 4,003	+\$1,956	+\$9,979
Sep	-\$15,678	+\$1,170	+\$8,594

In September our Current Fund budget called for offerings of \$55,149. Our actual gifts were \$43,474. That means that most of our Current Fund budget deficit came during the month of September. Thankfully, from January through September we have *underspent* our Current Fund budget by \$15,824.

We have so much for which to be thankful individually and congregationally. Our congregation continues to share the good news during three services each week and online at your convenience. Our school, through the work of its dedicated teachers, is sharing the gospel daily in the classroom and virtually. Each day your called workers are giving their best to bring a message of hope and eternal joy to us and the community. One way our gratitude to God is expressed in a concrete way is by returning our offerings to support the work he has given his people to do. May the Lord bless us as we work together in his vineyard!

Thanksgiving Services

Even during difficult times, we have reason to thank the Lord for his blessings. We sinners, who deserve nothing but eternal punishment, have been given the gift of life through the Savior's selfless, merciful work. As Paul writes (quoting Psalm 32), "Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered" (Rom 4:7). That's why Paul could also say, "We rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us because God has poured out his love into our hearts..." (Rom 5:3-5).

We plan to have two Thanksgiving services again this year: **Wednesday, Nov. 25th at 6:30pm and Thursday, Nov. 26th at 9:00am.** We will have the service available online if you are not comfortable attending in person. There are special offering envelopes in our packets as a means to express our gratitude to God.

There is no separate Nov. Hunters Service this year since we worship on Thursdays.



Food for Families

We will gather monetary gifts for the **Food for Families** program carried out by our North Fond du Lac Police Benevolent Association to help those who are less fortunate and are struggling with material needs -- especially during the holiday season. We will have a free-will offering basket in the narthex during our Thanksgiving services (Nov. 25/26) and the following weekend (Nov. 28/29). You may also send gifts designated "Food for Families" to the church (1010 Adams Ave.) or directly to the village of North Fond du Lac if you prefer.

We have participated in this worthy cause for a number of years. A portion of what we gather helps community members and a portion helps hurting members of the congregation.

"A generous person will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed."

Proverbs 11:25

Voters' Meeting Decisions

Our voters met on Sunday, October 18th for the congregation's quarterly meeting.

- Guided by the Holy Spirit, St. Paul's congregation extended a divine call for an associate pastor. Deliberating our call is Pastor Matthew Mueller (his wife is Holly), a 2015 Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary graduate currently serving Living Hope Lutheran Church in Peoria, IL. Pastor and Mrs. Mueller have five children aged 8,7,5,3, and 3 months. Please pray for them! We ask that the Lord's will be done.
- We elected new officers. We are grateful to them and all who accepted nomination to serve the Lord! These men begin their terms in January. Elected were:
Trustees: Dean Preissner
Elders: Ron Wilhelms
Properties: Dave Jackson
Education: Randy Schoonover, Paul Rivera
- We ratified our new mortgage arrangement and a line of credit (in case it is ever needed) through National Exchange Bank & Trust. Our mortgage is about 1.5 million dollars. That includes two maintenance projects.
- We ratified two important maintenance projects (repairing/replacing the flat roof and installing LED lighting facility-wide). The cost of these projects is rolled into the NEBaT loan. Please see last month's newsletter for more specific information about this.

Altar Guild

We are very grateful to our members who prepare the Lord's Supper, clean up afterward, and make sure flowers have been set on the reredos behind the altar to complement our worship. We are looking for more volunteers to help with this task. Many of the women of our WinGS group (and other cheerful volunteers) have been doing this over the years, but some are no longer able to continue for health and mobility reasons. Any and all members, women and men, should feel free to participate in this helpful and important service to St. Paul's.

If you would like to volunteer, or find out more about what it entails, please contact Kathy Thurow at 922-8480.

WLA SCRIP News

Last school year our WLA family purchased nearly \$2 million of SCRIP! SCRIP not only benefits WLA, but *you*, too! There are many ways to buy SCRIP.

- *SCRIP on Hand:* Buy directly from the selection of cards in stock (140 retailers). Pay with cash or check.
- *Order Ahead:* at shopwithscrip.com by Friday and pick it up from WLA Wednesday. Pay online or by cash/check. (You will need to get your payment to us before your order can be processed.) When you have a shopwithscrip.com account, you'll receive email notifications of sales and limited-time specials. (Set up your online account by emailing kbendix@wlavikings.org)
- *E-Gift Cards:* Order and pay online at shopwithscrip.com and print the cards from your home printer.
- *My SCRIP Wallet* will be going away this fall. If you currently have a My SCRIP Wallet account, your account will still be active, but you will be unable to use myscripwallet.com to place your orders. The full site at shopwithscrip.com will still be active.
- *RaiseRight:* ShopWithScrip has a new app that can be found in the Apple or Google Play store. Search RaiseRight and you can download the app. Sign in with your same ShopWithScrip username and password if you currently have an account or set one up through the app. Order, check out and access your gift cards right away on this app.

Where does the rebate go?

Each retailer determines the percentage of their rebate. Of that percentage, 40% goes directly to WLA and the remaining 60% is used by you in one of the following ways - you choose which is best for you.

- Apply to your own WLA tuition account (current or future)
- Apply to another WLA tuition account
- Apply to an Association grade school tuition account
- Apply to any college tuition
- Cash rebate directly to you
- Give back to WLA

WLA SCRIP can work for you years before your child enters WLA, and long after graduation.

SCRIP School Year Hours: Wednesdays from 12:00-6:00. From 12:00-3:15 enter through door 5 on Merrill Ave. From 3:15-6:00 enter through door 1 near the football field.

Fall Into God's Word!

