

## ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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The Rev. Jonathan P. Conrad .....Senior Pastor  
The Rev. Mark A. Opgrand .....Associate Pastor  
Deacon Susan A. Jackson.....Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator  
William H. Remele, Jr. ....Director of Music and Organist  
Kathleen P. Kalish ..... Office Administrator  
Curtis R. (Robby) Anderson .....Music Associate  
Connie Batchelder ..... Music Associate

### 2022 CONGREGATION COUNCIL OFFICERS

Nathan Askwith.....President  
Rick Struck..... Vice-President  
Louisa Miars.....Secretary  
Tom Solomita..... Treasurer  
Dan Huggins.....Assistant Treasurer  
Lynda Shell ..... Financial Secretary  
Linda Evans ..... Assistant Financial Secretary

### 2022 CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

Lynne Ashcraft  
Teresa Coleman  
Lynne Hershey  
Kathy Poole  
Carla Wiechman

Daniel Brennan  
Connie Edwards  
Jody Pfeffer  
Gregg Surratt

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION  
ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
NOVEMBER 20, 2022  
12:30 P.M.**

**AGENDA**

1. Opening Welcome and Prayer
2. Call to Order
3. Certification of a Quorum (25)
4. Approval of Minutes of the 2021 Annual Congregation Meeting
5. Constitution Ratification
6. Nominating Committee Report with Introduction of Nominees
7. Election of Four (4) Council Members
8. Election of 2023 Synod Assembly representatives
9. Election of 2023 Nominating Committee
10. Pastors' and Deacon Reports
11. Congregation Council and Ministries Report
12. Treasurer's Report
13. Presentation and Approval of 2023 Budget
14. New Business
15. Adjournment with Prayer

**St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**November 21, 2021, 12:30 PM**

*Our mission is to welcome all people; proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ;  
experience a personal relationship with Him; and joyfully share God's love with others.*

This meeting was conducted in Keever Hall.

**I. Welcome/Prayer**

Pastor Jonathan Conrad opened the meeting with a prayer.

**II. Call to Order**

President Gregg Surratt called the meeting to order.

**III. Certification of a Quorum (25)**

A quorum was established. Billy Mason served as Parliamentarian.

**IV. Approval of Minutes of the 2020 Annual Congregational Meeting**

Pastor Mark Opgrand requested a correction to the Pastors' Reports section of the 2020 meeting minutes to remove "confessed" within the description of his report. There were no objections to the correction; the minutes were approved with the correction noted.

**V. Constitution Ratification**

This topic was not discussed.

**VI. Nominating Committee Report with Introduction of Nominees**

The nominees (Lynne Ashcraft, Dan Brennan, Sue Fred, Jody Pfeffer, and Carla Wiechman) were presented in the meeting packet. Eric Mason moved to close nominations; Debbie Mason seconded. Ballots were distributed, and members voted to elect Council members. The Teller Committee consisted of Teresa Coleman (leader), Stan McLeroy, and Eric Mason.

**VII. Election of Three (3) Council Members**

Four instead of three members were elected to Council. Lynne Ashcraft, Dan Brennan, Jody Pfeffer, and Carla Wiechman were elected as Council members.

**VIII. Election of 2022 Synod Assembly Representatives**

This topic was not discussed.

**IX. Election of 2022 Nominating Committee**

A description of the Nominating Committee responsibilities was provided. In late summer/early fall, the Committee contacts members to recruit candidates for serving on Council. Guidelines for communications are provided. Pastor Jonathan Conrad, Brian Hopkins, Kitty Solomita, Tom Bertelsen, Bob Poole, and Rick Struck volunteered to serve on the Nominating Committee. Gregg Surratt moved to close nominations; Allen Mason seconded. Tom Bertelsen will chair the Committee.

**X. Pastors' and Deacon Reports**

Reports are included in the Annual Report meeting packet.

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Pastor Jonathan Conrad thanked the congregation for the support received over the past year, highlighting words of kindness, in-person and online worship attendance, and ministry participation.

Pastor Mark Opgrand acknowledged his written report and thanked Pastor Jonathan for being a partner in ministry.

Deacon Susan Jackson noted the creative ways to continue youth engagement during the pandemic. She expressed excitement for the future and noted that volunteers are needed to assist with children's church, the nursery, Sunday school, and Vacation Bible School (VBS). She encouraged those with a passion for youth and family ministry to reach out to her.

**XI. Congregation Council and Ministries Report**

Reports are included in the Annual Report meeting packet.

President Gregg Surratt reported that it has been an honor and privilege to lead Council. He added that there are numerous leaders in the church and encouraged congregation members to consider serving on Council.

Lynda Shell, Financial Secretary, reported that offering envelope numbers will be changed in 2022 after three years of keeping the same number for each giving unit. The envelopes do not need to be used when donating, but the number on the envelope should be noted on the check or noted when giving online to ensure proper accounting.

Lynne Hershey, Evangelism Committee Liaison, reported that the Good Shepherd team has reached out to many members throughout the pandemic. A "Who's Who?" Feature has been implemented in the Epistle so that members can get to know each other. The Committee will be welcoming new members with gift bags over the holiday season. The Committee would welcome any members who are interested in joining the Committee.

**XII. Treasurer's Report**

Tom Solomita, Treasurer, shared his report and explained that there are three types of funds for the church: general fund (used for the operating expenses of the church), endowment fund (investment fund using donations/endowments; principal is not disturbed but interest can be used by general fund), and designated (non-budget funds for specific areas). The monthly Treasurer's report is included with the monthly Council minutes, which are distributed to the congregation via email.

**XIII. Presentation and Approval of 2022 Budget**

Mike Mason, Finance Ministry Chairman, presented the 2022 budget within the annual report meeting packet. He explained that the Finance Ministry begins the budget development process by requesting budget recommendations from all ministries/committees. In addition, the last 12 months of income and expenses are reviewed. These items are taken into account when developing the proposed budget, which is presented to Council for approval ahead of the Annual Meeting. The initial proposed budget had a significant deficit. Following review of the initial proposed budget, the Council requested that a subcommittee be convened to determine a path

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forward. The subcommittee consisted of Nate Askwith, Kevin Clamser, Teresa Coleman, Lynne Hershey, Mike Mason, Tom Solomita, Rick Struck, Gregg Surratt, and Bob Trapp and met on four occasions to formulate a plan to address the deficit. The plan included an appeal to the congregation to increase giving by \$40,000 (a 7.5% increase over projected giving income), earmarking \$35,000 of the Endowment Fund value to support the operating budget, and delaying the \$40,000 earmarked for contributions to the Synod until the financial status in 2022 is known. A number of other options, including a reduction in staff compensation, reduction in the number of staff, and selling the Annex, were considered but not selected to be included in the proposal. Clarification was provided that the Annex is the bank building on the corner of 7th Street and Market Street. The Annex property is used for meetings, adult Sunday school, and parking. Although a significant profit could be made through the sale of the Annex, the Committee did not select the sale of the Annex as a solution, as it would not align with the spirit of growth. Questions/comments regarding the following were raised by attendees and discussed: whether a comparison of staff compensation based on the size of the church and amount of giving has been done against other churches, minimal cushion being available, no increase for staff compensation resulting in a cut due to inflation, increases in spending due to insurance deductible buy-down and security costs, Keever Hall being underutilized, and ways to attract new members. The Committee noted that community outreach, online ministry, and engagement with visitors help to bring in new members. 2021 giving has been the highest on record, with records dating back to 2000, and an increasing trend in new members has been observed. A suggestion to consider AmazonSmile as a passive income source was made. AmazonSmile allows customers to select a charity to which Amazon contributes a portion of each purchase. The donation is made by Amazon at no cost to the customer. Tom Solomita moved to bring the proposed budget for a vote; Billy Mason seconded. No oppositions to closing discussion. A vote on the proposed budget was held; two oppositions and no abstentions. The budget passed.

**XIV. New Business**

Moving forward, the Finance Committee will provide the a budget update each month so that finances can be tracked more closely by Council and the congregation. If warning signs are evident, concerns will be raised sooner than at the next annual meeting.

Tom Solomita will research adding St. Paul's as an available charity for the AmazonSmile program.

**XV. Adjournment with Prayer**

Brian Hopkins moved to adjourn; Mike Mason seconded. There were no oppositions or abstentions. Pastor Mark Opgrand ended the meeting with a prayer. Meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Louisa Miars, Council Secretary

## **SENIOR PASTOR 2022 ANNUAL REPORT**

As we look ahead to what God has planned for St. Paul's in 2023, let us take a moment and celebrate with what we, as a community based on Christ, have done over the last 12 months.

The biggest story from the past year is our much-anticipated return to in-person worship without the mask protocols that were installed in 2020 and 2021. Our attendance for both 9 AM and 11 AM continue to grow, and visitors come every week to worship with us. We also continue to have a strong Online presence, with over 150 people worshipping with us through our YouTube channel.

But while we were getting ready to return to worship on Sunday mornings, we continued to worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, through our many ministries, including:

**Monday Night Feedings**-Providing meals for the unsheltered community.

**The St. Paul's Clothes Closet**-Providing clothing (including footwear) to brothers and sisters in need.

**Mother Hubbard's Cupboard**-Providing food and essential items for families facing food insecurity.

**Family Promise**-Providing meals and eating with families facing homelessness and/or domestic violence situations. We also donated two cribs that have already been given to mothers to give their newborns a safe bed.

**The Quilt Ministry**-Providing 127 quilts to victims of Hurricane Ian in Florida and creating new Baptism Blankets that are now available to our newly baptized.

**The Prayer Group**-Praying for over 100 people each and every week to give spiritual support for members and friends going through tough times as well as sending out postcards to many on our prayer list.

**Pastoral Care**-Offering prayers, visits, communion, support, and love to members and non-members in times of crisis and celebration.

**The Caregivers-** Contacting our homebound and sick church members and delivering Communion Care Packages each and every month.

**Wilmington Faith Leaders United-** our work with this interfaith network helped raise over \$1200 for The Warming Shelter which provided emergency shelter to those without a home during nights that get below 30 degrees. St. Paul's was the proud host of the 2022 Interfaith Thanksgiving Service where our brothers and sisters from various faiths (Christian, Jewish, Muslim) gathered to show unity and grace for one another.

**Church Events:** We came together for exciting events such as Oyster Roast, Ministry Fair, Tailgate Outdoor Worship Services, First Sunday Breakfasts, Homecoming, New Member Sundays, Shrimp Boil, Pastor Mark's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ministry at St. Paul's, the renovation and christening of Hales Kitchen, Oktoberfest, and Trunk or Treat.

(I want to give special attention to **Hales Kitchen**. Our kitchen was practically Clarence and Melinda's second home. As the church came together to renovate the kitchen, we believed this was a wonderful way to keep Clarence' memory and mission alive and prospering.)

The new **St. Paul's Monthly Epistle magazine**, highlighting the events and the people that make St. Paul's a unique community in Wilmington.

We also were blessed with **Incredible Financial Giving** that helped:

- provide pastoral care to our brothers and sisters in times of need,
- have music every week
- pay for the maintenance of our campus, especially our sanctuary.
- Provide over \$5000 to Lutheran Services Carolinas "Be The Light" Campaign.

**This is what it looks like when our hearts are committed to Jesus, our neighbors, and St. Paul's.**

**In closing,**

I want to give a special thanksgiving to the St. Paul's staff. Pastor Mark, Deacon Susan, Kathleen, Bill, Connie, and Robby continue to work tirelessly to serve God and provide the best pastoral, office, and musical care possible. God certainly blessed this church with a wonderful staff who continue to put Jesus, neighbor, and this congregation above personal gains.

I want to give another round of praise for all the volunteers who have given of their time, talent, treasures, and hearts to make sure we moved forward in our worship and service. I cannot list them all because there have been so many. And that is a good thing!

I want to thank YOU, the people of St. Paul's. Your giving of time, talent, and treasures have made this a true community based on the love and grace of Jesus Christ.

And I give thanks to God! God has brought us through a tough time, and God continues to be with us every step of the way. God will continue to strengthen us and assure of His presence.

St. Paul's is a wonderful church where people come together to worship and serve God and serve all.

And at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, all means all.

*Pastor Jonathan Conrad*



## ASSOCIATE PASTOR 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

**Here's what I will remember and celebrate about 2022:**

**My 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** During St. Paul's Annual Meeting in 1996, a new budget line of \$15,000 for "staff expansion" was offered. No one quite imagined what that meant, so it was adopted with some caution. What do we need that for? Couldn't we better apply funding elsewhere? The intent was to open a door for future growth. In June 1997, with additional support from an estate gift, we learned what that meant. I was called to a one-year half-time term call. The rest is history. My history. Our history. And while I kind of came in "the back door," I celebrate our ministry together that now spans twenty-five years. Growing up in Oregon and doing ministry in Washington State, North Dakota, Texas, and Indiana, I never imagined how I would be so blessed to serve here at St. Paul's. Words cannot describe the joy I have had and continue to have in being one of your pastors. I never take for granted how, by God's grace, how all this unfolded.

**Five Hundred "St. Paul's In Your Home" Devotions:** They were first offered in March 2020 as the pandemic directed us to shelter in place. By April 2022, I finished #500. The devotions became a meaningful way to share a pastoral connection with members and friends of St. Paul's. In all, 500,000 words were written with thousands of musical links attached. With good feedback, it was difficult to take the break, but I wished to prioritize other forms of ministry as we began to re-engage each other face to face.

**The Emerging Return to In-Person Worship ... and Growth of Online participation.** I celebrate how St. Paul's continued to be a strong congregation during the more intense pandemic period. Investing in ways to do online worship has been essential in yielding great benefits. Online worship continues to be an effective way to connect with people who cannot join us for in-person worship, including homebound and regular worshippers who have moved away and miss their St. Paul's home. At the same time, it has been SO wonderful to see more and more people returning to in-person worship and other activities. We have been blessed with so many new people identifying St. Paul's as their church home. I have loved my part of welcoming people to worship through sharing in preaching, children's sermons, and the prayers of the church.

**St. Paul's History and Archive Sleuthing:** I deeply value our history, our architecture, and our beautiful stained glass windows. Thanks to member and author Ann Hutteman, much of that history is accessible and preserved through her wonderful *A Journey of Faith*, published in 2008. This past year, by turning over and examining old cornerstones, digitalizing old slides and photographs, and looking through old archive

records, I have discovered there are more stories to tell. Our first magazine gave me opportunity to feature a story of our stenciled chancel (“It’s not wallpaper”). This is an ongoing project, but one I am invested in.

**The Joy of Bible Study and Teaching:** When the proposed four evening summer study in Exodus became a ten-week program connected to Wednesdays Together at noon and 6:00pm, it provided opportunity to determine interest in studying the scriptures together. Pastor Jonathan and I took turns as we worked our way through Exodus, and we have both been grateful for the great interest among the participants. This has also directed us to propose 2023 as another year to read the Bible cover to cover (we did this once in 2010). We have improved resources this time around, journeying through the Bible will be something we will celebrate in 2023.

**Pastoral Care ups and downs:** One of the negative effects of Covid 19 and the pandemic these past couple of years has been caution regarding public places and personal face-to-face contact. Age and co-morbidities have placed many of us in that higher risk more vulnerable group. Like others, I have been cautious about doing certain things that had always been routine, like being in large crowds or making hospital or home visits. Thankfully, with vaccines and new treatments, many of us are all in a more confident place now. I mention this because looking back on the year, I am aware that Covid concerns impacted my ability to offer the kind of face-to-face pastoral care many have come to expect through all our years together. This makes me especially appreciative and aware of Senior Pastor Jonathan Conrad’s thoughtful attentiveness to our membership when sick, hospitalized, or homebound.

**Council and Committee Leadership.** The past couple of years marked the shift from two-year to three-year council terms. Our leadership recognized that an extra year would strengthen our ministry together. It has, and council leadership this past year has been outstanding, and set a very positive tone for every meeting. We also have experienced and talented leadership in our committees, particularly bolstered by our newer members who draw from rich experiences in former places they have served.

**My Colleagues:** I love them, and am so grateful for Jonathan, Susan, Kathleen, Bill, Robby, Connie, and Mike. We all serve as imperfect people in an imperfect world yet drawn together as forgiven sinners by the wonderful grace of God through Jesus Christ, who, despite ourselves, somehow keeps using us to make the gospel known. But even more, we are part of this wonderful community of faith made up of those who are also forgiven sinners, drawn together by God’s grace so that God can create a safe place where all are welcome, and where all means all. Blessings and thanks, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

*Pastor Mark Opgrand*

**DEACON  
YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY  
2022 ANNUAL REPORT**

In September, I attended a NC Synod Youth & Family Ministry Leader retreat at Camp Agape. This was our first- in person event since 2019. It was great to be in community together. Yet, one thing was clear: we were in lament over what we have lost.

In the book of Psalms, at least one- third are laments; prayers of pain and frustration, prayers wondering about God's presence, prayers about the could-haves and the should-haves. The other Psalms are prayers full of praise and thanksgiving. The pattern resembles our lives as followers of Christ. We give thanks, we praise God, but there are times when we are in deep lament over the pain we experience.

For us youth leaders, our last couple of years has been filled with laments. Laments of cancelled youth retreats and gatherings, laments of pivoting plans, laments of families that once walked in our doors who won't be back, laments over the lack of volunteers. Laments of things that we can't change, no matter how much we try.

Yet, there is much to be celebrated. This year was full of an Easter Egg Hunt, many fellowship events, excellent Lutheridge summer camp experiences. A wonderful fall absolutely FILLED to the brim with Children's Church, Youth Group, Confirmation, and a fabulous Trunk or Treat have given us much enthusiasm. I am thankful for all of you have showed up this year: from stuffing Easter Eggs at HiWire Brewery to donating candy for Trunk or Treat. I've seen tremendous growth in our community and faith lives over the course of this year- with all stages and ages of St. Paul's.

Middle School & High School students have continued to develop relationships with each other and their St. Paul's community too. I've been in awe with the discussions, questions, and of engagement of older youth as they grow into active faith lives of service. Volunteering with Media Ministry, taking photos, and helping with kid's events (along with worship leadership) are just a few ways they are involved!

While I do lament for the past, I am also excited to head into the future. I am excited to know that, while we can't ever resume to the life was in February 2020, we have a full and vibrant future ahead of us here at St. Paul's. I am glad that you are with us for this journey and hope that God sparks you to participate in our Children's, Youth, and Young Adult Ministry in the next year.

We have no idea where God will lead us over the next year. Maybe some programming will resume. Maybe some things will die for new life to occur. Maybe, just maybe, we will continue to see God at work even more than we already do! I'm greatly excited about a new ecumenical campus ministry at UNWC, the 2024 Youth Gathering, and new ways of doing ministry with and for our young people. I tell our children every Sunday and will tell you: God loves us and is always with us. May we remember this as we head into another year of ministry life together.

*Deacon Susan Jackson*

## DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND ORGANIST 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

With the seemingly worst of COVID over, the St. Paul's music program is slowly getting back to normal. All of our ensembles are back to practicing and participating in our fellowship events and worship services. Sincere appreciation is expressed to our music associates, Robby Anderson and Connie Batchelder, along with the many volunteers who make our music happen each week.

A noteworthy addition to our 9:00 Sunday morning worship services has been the addition of some brand new contemporary Christian songs to our already established repertoire. We continue to explore the huge body of hymns and liturgy settings in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, our still-relatively new "red book."

Our wonderful organ continues to provide increased joy from the console renovations that were finally completed. We have welcomed guest singers and instrumentalists from the greater Wilmington community to enhance the efforts of us "home folks."

We look forward to another great year of music at St. Paul's, Wilmington! There is plenty of room for additional ringers, players, and singers. Come join us!

*Bill Remele*

## CONGREGATION COUNCIL PRESIDENT 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

As I sit to write this letter for the Annual Report, I revisited the letter I wrote 8 years ago as out-going Congregational Council President. I find the points of that letter as relevant today as they were then: 1) Luke 22:42 'not my will but Yours be done', 2) 1 Corinthians 14:26 'Let all things be done for building up' and 3) Ephesians 2:19-22 'Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone'.

As I reflect on the last 8 years from a personal standpoint, I am reminded that Marin (now 8 yo) was a mere 2 months old as Sarah and I learned to be parents. I am reminded of the great support we received from this church, our family, and friends. I am also reminded of all the change that comes in 8 years – both the joy and sadness. The joy comes from Marin's birth in 2014 and Teddy's birth Christmas Day (a Sunday) in 2016. The sadness comes in 2018 with the loss of my dear Dad ("Papa Howie" – Howard Askwith) and my amazing Mother-In-Law ("Nana" – Linda Pless).

These last 3 years, in particular, have brought about significant change as we learned to live with a pandemic, worshipped on-line, then outside, then on-line and inside. We also struggled with the loss of loved ones, true servants of Christ.

Yet, through all of this change, the constant --- this is God's church, and He is working every day through us, no matter the circumstances.

It has been my privilege to have served as the Council President with amazing Council members, Ministry chairs, and staff who work so selflessly and tirelessly in service to Christ and His church. I look forward to continuing to grow and serve with you here at St. Paul's.

God's Peace,  
*Nathaniel B. Askwith*  
Church Council President  
St, Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

## EVANGELISM 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Members: Linda Evans, Lynne Hershey, Nancy Scheunemann

This year, Evangelism held a Ministry Fair, which was a huge event and extremely well attended. About 30 committees were represented, and many members signed up to help in one or more of these various committees. The Hospitality Committee helped by serving doughnuts and coffee, and the Fair was a success.

After the Fair, Evangelism started a "Who's Who," asking different members to write a little about themselves and send it into the church to be printed in the *Friday Epistle*. We thought that by doing this, we might get to know one another better.

In December, we plan to look at the Time and Talent Surveys, putting members' names with committees in which they are interested. In the New Year, we look forward to giving these names to committee chairs. The chairs will be able to get in touch with those interested in their committee.

In January 2023, we look forward to beginning the new year with new ideas and programs.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Nancy Scheunemann*

## FELLOWSHIP 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

For the year 2022, we divided Fellowship Team into two groups with 12 /13 members /group. Two leaders volunteered for each group. This was done to share the responsibilities for planning, preparing, serving and cleanup at each Fellowship event.

February 6, 2022 donuts and coffee for 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday

February 25, 2022 Annual Church Oyster Roast—75 in attendance

March 27, 2022 Ministry Fair—Donuts provided; Fellowship Committee Booth was set up.

April 16, 2022—Easter Egg hunt—30 participants—cookies, juice and water

April 17, 2022—Hot Cross Buns and coffee provided after early services

June 3-5, 2022—Homecoming Weekend with Henrietta Family Cruise planned on June at 7:00 (cruise cancelled due to bad weather and rescheduled for September 23, 2022)

Picnic at Long Leaf Park with grilled burgers and hotdogs—50 in attendance

Reception for new members and confirmands following 11:00 service.

Kitchen renovation project began in June. This involved getting estimates for professional cleaning of floors, stainless steel surfaces, gas stoves and ovens and hood. ServPro was awarded the contract. The kitchen was closed for use during the month of July and part of August. During this time, with the help of the Men and Women in Mission and many other church volunteers, we emptied all cabinets and pantries, replaced ceiling tiles, had the kitchen cabinets, walls, and doors repainted and installed new hardware on the cabinets. Both pantries in Keever hallway were painted. A new microwave table was built. During this time, it was decided to thoroughly clean the bathrooms and breezeway in Keever Hall. Total reorganization of cabinets and storage areas was completed. The kitchen was dedicated on August 14, 2022, as Hales Kitchen in honor and memory of Clarence and Melinda Hales for all of their years of dedication and work for St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

September 14, 2022—Wednesdays Together Meal—21 participated

September 18, 2022—Shrimp Boil at New Hanover Sea Side Club—60 participated

September 21, 2022---Wednesdays Together Meal—15 participated

September 23, 2022—Henrietta Family Cruise—25 participated—light snacks provided

September 28, 2022—Wednesdays Together Meal—12 participated

October 5, 2022—Wednesdays Together Meal—12 participated

October 12, 2022—Wednesdays Together Meal provided by choir—12 participated

October 16, 2022—Oktoberfest –grilled brats, hotdogs, covered dish meal-St. Paul's Band played—70



October 29, 2022—Trunk or Treat—grilled hotdogs—30 participated  
November 20, 2022—Annual congregational meeting—Firehouse Subs ordered.

During the 2022 year, our Monday Night Meals groups have continued to provide hot meals to our food and housing challenged community. They have provided meals to an average of 27 people each Monday night over the course of 44 weeks this year so far—almost 1200 meals!

The Fellowship Team has also provided 5 bereavement remembrances.

Report submitted by Connie Edwards  
Fellowship Chair and Council Liaison

## MEDIA MINISTRY 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Blessings to All,

The Media Ministry Team consists of Jaime Armstrong, Jackson Armstrong, Mike Berg, David Cummins, Mark Delekto, and Mary Fox. Together this team livestreams all of the Sunday services, along with special services during Lent and Advent. Upon request, a member of the team is available to livestream or record funerals, weddings, and baptisms.

During the past church year (November 1, 2021 to October 31, 2022) there were over 19,000 views of the videos made available on the St. Paul's YouTube channel. Each week the two Sunday Services average over 150 views. Sixty-seven people have subscribed to the channel over the past year. Additionally, the Media Ministry Team, working with the staff, produce video content such as the monthly *Video Epistle*, upcoming events, and other videos to help keep the congregation and public informed of all that is happening at St. Paul's.

The primary social media platform for ongoing engagement is FaceBook. During the time period previously identified, the platform has added 61 new likes to our page. In the past year on this platform we have reached over 18,000 people. This is an increase of 18% over the past year. We have started regularly using Instagram, and currently have 120 followers.

In addition to creating content for our social media platforms, the Media Ministry Team produced the premier edition of the *Magazine Epistle* in September. This 20-page magazine highlighted faith, history, and upcoming events. It was made available to the congregation both in traditional paper form and in a digital format. An Advent Edition will be available in late November.

Averaging between 20 and 25 hours of combined volunteer time each week, the Media Ministry Team continues to explore ways to communicate and highlight all that is happening in the St. Paul's faith family. If you would like to be part of the team, please let one of the members know. We are always looking for help, especially on Sunday mornings.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Mike Berg*  
Media Ministry Team Leader

## **PROPERTY 2022 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Members:** Al Cheatham, Grover Canady, Nate Askwith, Kevin Clamser, Michael Leiser, Brian Griep, Arthur Pease, Wayne Ashcraft, Bill Remele, and John Gibbons

The Property Team oversees the maintenance of the Sanctuary, the Administration Building, Keever Hall, and the Annex. In addition, we are responsible for utility billings and insurance concerns.

Building use has increased significantly this year with the resumption of church programs and use by the movie industry.

We have:

- Replaced the compressor in the sanctuary
- Started the process of adding French drains to the sanctuary
- Worked on upgrading our security system, including exterior cameras
- Saved the congregation several thousand dollars by switching insurance brokers
- Worked with many others in the cleaning of the kitchen
- Emptied, cleaned, and painted Room 207 upstairs in Keever Hall.
- Painted several areas around our campus

Our buildings are old, and several expensive repairs are needed on them. Hopefully, going forward, funds will be available to complete them.

Men-in-Mission has placed red 'suggestion boxes' in the Narthex, and outside of Kathleen's office. Please drop a note in one of them if you see something you feel needs to be repaired or 'cleaned up'.

The property team meets on an as-needed basis. If you are interested in this ministry, please give me a call at (910) 508-0494.

In his service,

*John Gibbons*  
Chair

## STEWARDSHIP 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

The Stewardship Ministry team for 2022 included Pastor Jonathan Conrad, Nate Askwith, Tom Bertelsen, Kay Griep, Kristine Hopkins, Bob Poole, Lynda Shell, Gregg Surratt, and Chairman Don Erickson.

The Stewardship Ministry has had a very active year with a large and enthusiastic team. We started the year with a "brainstorm" session intent on surfacing new ideas to not only faith giving through monetary means, but also through participation and attendance. Ideas included sharing personal experiences and insight to the congregation thru Temple Talks, developing a close working relationship with the Finance Ministry, making the Time and Talent sheet available year-round, and ensuring we are making full use of available ELCA resources.

Stewardship helped launch the Be the Light campaign and participated in Temple Talks to communicate the noble causes supported by this ministry. We also made use of the highly recommended "Stewardship for all Seasons" handbook by GSB (Gronlund, Sayther, Brunkow) which templates all facets of Stewardship objectives. The year wrapped up with a Stewardship Drive complete with talks on why we are compelled to give, pledge card Commitment Sunday, and finally Celebration Sunday to give thanks for our blessings due to the generosity of our congregation.

The lifeblood for all of God's work flowing through St Paul's Lutheran Church comes directly from the generosity and faithful spirit of our congregation. The people of the Church make serving in the Stewardship Ministry an amazingly rewarding experience. We look forward to more success in the upcoming year of 2023.

Yours in Christ,

*Gregg Surratt*

Stewardship Team Council Liaison

## **WORSHIP AND MUSIC 2022 ANNUAL REPORT**

The St Paul's Worship and Music Committee met 8 times to date during 2022, some in person and some by Zoom. Our mission is to plan and support vibrant worship and music experiences for the St. Paul's congregation. We also strive to provide support to the ministry staff as they fulfill their leadership roles. Many thanks to the staff and volunteers who built upon our pandemic experiences to continue developing creative forms of outreach to our congregation and the wider community. Some of the highlights of 2022 include:

### Worship Outreach Enhancements

The staff and volunteers built upon 2020 and 2021 efforts to reach as many people as possible to spread the word about Jesus saving grace. The new Media Ministry has blazed new trails of innovative outreach to the congregation and wider world. This creative group has produced the monthly St. Paul's Dispatch and more recently St. Paul's Magazine, as well as continuing to livestream our Sunday services and outreach through social media to communicate our programs. We expect further innovative and exciting outreach during 2023!

### Music Program Blessings

Our excellent music staff of Bill Remele, Robby Anderson and Connie Batchelder continue to lead our music programs that provide such meaningful selections that enhance all services. At 9 AM the Praise Band and singers constantly amaze with their lively singable songs. The Senior Choir presents more traditional, sacred music, some from the rich classical repertoire. We have also been able to secure special performers on occasion such as Nancy King, Lynn O'Connell, and Bob Workman with their skilled renditions of classical pieces.

### Organ Repair

Further repairs and improvements were made to our beloved church organ during the year to enrich the worship experience. After two years of varied required repairs, our organ should be able to service our worship needs now for years to come.

### Choir Recruitment Efforts

The Senior Choir has been engaged in on-going choir recruitment efforts for our 11 AM services. During recent years we have lost a few, but gained a few. We always welcome more singers, and encourage St. Paul's members and non-members to consider joining us either for the 9 AM more contemporary service or the 11 AM more traditional service.

### March Ministry Fair

The committee was an active participant in the church-wide Ministry Fair held in Keever Hall. Materials were displayed portraying our varied areas of responsibility such as Altar Guild, Communion Guild, Readers, Ushers, Senior Choir, Handbell Choir and the Praise Band. We had sign-up sheets seeking new participants in all of these groups. 8 people not previously committed to one of these functions signed up to help!

### Lenten Preparations

The committee picked up some additional duties for Lenten preparation such as ordering and placing of palms and lilies. Pastor Mark secured new crosses for use by worshippers from a source he developed from an African based ministry. In addition to our several meaningful Lenten and Easter services, a form of outreach was added when St. Paul's was included as a stop on the Wilmington Historical Tour, which allowed many new people to view the interior of St. Paul's for the first time. We gained several new regular worshippers as a result of this new form of outreach. Many thanks to Larry Hovis for making this happen!

### 2022 Homecoming!

The committee worked closely with the Fellowship Committee to organize a full Homecoming Weekend, June 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>. Using the theme "Joy, Renewal, and Celebration" this marked a revival of a former annual program, last used in 2007, to invite former members and pastors back to the church to see friends and celebrate their faith. This was a particularly important time to bring people back and bring in as many current members as possible to mark the end of the pandemic and a return to regular church life in-person! Pastor Henry Rehder, who grew up in St. Paul's, was our special guest preacher on Sunday June 5<sup>th</sup>. There was also a festive picnic on Saturday June 4<sup>th</sup> at Long Leaf Park. Our Homecoming Cape Fear River Cruise had to be postponed until September 23<sup>rd</sup> due to bad weather. The September cruise proved quite successful as well.

### New Banners for Worship!

During the summer, the W&M committee asked several people to form a new 'Banner Group' to review the status of our current seasonal banners and recommend actions to repair them or acquire new banners. This group included Melinda Sizemore, Linda Brennan, Arthur Pease, and Debbie Pyle, in addition to W&M members Fran Denninger, Rick Struck, and Pastor Mark Opgrand. The group decided to repair a few of our existing banners but also order new banners for the Pentecost season (green for Ordinary Time), a new red Reformation Sunday banner and a new blue Advent banner. This group will continue to meet into the new year to add further beauty and meaningful focus during church seasons with new banners.

### Faithful Stewards

Our St. Paul's Altar Guild and Communion Guild continued their faithful stewardship of our Sanctuary to create attractive and meaningful physical elements needed for our worship experiences. A full inventory of current items such as linens, candles and communion materials has been developed. Both Fran Denninger of the Altar Guild and Jessie Miars of the Communion Guild continue to seek out new members to assist with their vital functions. All are welcome!

### Flower Sign-Ups

The committee continued supporting and promoting flower sign-ups so that we may have beautiful fresh flowers for our worship services. We encourage everyone reading this report to consider signing up to provide flowers each week In Honor of, In Memory of, or just because!

### 2022 Christmas Preparations

W&M has begun preparations for our upcoming Advent and Christmas seasons. A 10' Fraser Fir tree has been ordered for delivery to the church on December 8<sup>th</sup>. A Chrismon decorating day will be held Saturday December 10<sup>th</sup>, to which members of the congregation will be invited. Due to popular demand, we have increased the number of red poinsettias from 60 last year to 100 this year! These will be delivered on December 16<sup>th</sup> and will be in full view of the congregation beginning with church services on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

### Thank You to Committee Members!

Many thanks to our committee members who gave of their time, talents, and faith during 2022: Robby Anderson, Connie Batchelder, Pastor Jonathan Conrad, Fran Denninger, Lori Haskins, Larry Hovis, Deacon Susan Jackson, Ron Jamieson, Mike Leiser, Jessie Miars, Doris Miller-Canady, Pastor Mark Opgrand, and Bill Remele.

Respectfully submitted,

*Rick Struck*  
Chair

# Treasurer's Report – October 2022

## Balance Sheet

The following is a short summary of the 2 balance sheet reports:

<b>Fund</b>	<b>2021 EOY Total</b>	<b>Current Total</b>
General Fund	\$48,042.58	\$36,787.75
Endowment	\$435,646.88	\$372,714.93
Designated (Non-Budget)	\$232,448.13	\$219,693.17
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$716,137.59</b>	<b>\$629,195.85</b>

Note that the Ministry Growth Fund balance is at the end of the previous month.

## Designated Funds

### Some Notes:

- Jan - Endowment Fund of \$25,000 was moved to General Fund Reserves for 2022 Budget
- Feb – New Fund: Be the Light Campaign
- Jun – Received \$2500 from Synod for “Hearing God’s Word”
- Oct – moved \$60K from Money Market to Thrivent Share Certificate earning 4%
- Oct – sent \$5238.14 to Lutheran Services Carolinas for “Be the Light Campaign”
- The 5 current largest funds (excluding Endowment) are:
  - Nehemiah Fund: \$78,908.33
  - Organ Fund: \$25,995.53
  - General Fund Reserves: \$25,025.00
  - Sanctuary Repair: \$15,000.00
  - Vehicle Rentals: \$13,437.49

## General Fund

### Some Notes:

General Fund Reserves are held in Designated Funds:

- General Fund Reserves 1/1/22: \$25,000
- Current Reserves: \$25,000



## General Fund – Monthly Cash Flow

Month	Income	Expense	Monthly Cash Flow	YTD Cash Flow
Jan	\$65,127.98	\$46,245.74	\$18,882.24	\$18,882.24
Feb	\$50,615.89	\$44,848.89	\$5,767.00	\$24,649.24
Mar	\$51,382.04	\$53,599.96	-\$2,217.92	\$22,431.32
Apr	\$52,154.91	\$53,521.50	-\$1,366.59	\$21,064.73
May	\$44,312.63	\$51,466.89	-\$7,154.26	\$13,910.47
Jun	\$42,267.06	\$51,254.14	-\$8,987.08	\$4,923.39
Jul	\$52,495.99	\$51,104.19	\$1,391.80	\$6,315.19
Aug	\$55,866.20	\$62,071.73	-\$6,205.53	\$109.66
Sep	\$50,719.46	\$50,806.63	-\$87.17	\$22.49
Oct	\$51,498.21	\$62,434.84	-\$10,936.63	-\$10,914.14

## Loans - done

BOA Loan goes from 4.75% to 3.75% effective 6/1/22.

Members have donated to pay down the principals in 2022:

- Roof Loan: \$2,224.
- BOA Loan: \$100.

Loan	EOY Amount	Current Amount	Maturity	Interest Rate
BOA	\$89,971.42	\$79,448.09	5/1/2028	3.75%
Roof	\$39,977.92	\$28,321.69	9/28/2025	5.75%

## Internal Loan

Borrower: General Fund

Loaner: Nehemiah Fund

Purpose: Paint Sanctuary Walls

Original Loan: \$9000

Current Balance: \$9000

Submitted by Tom Solomita – November 3, 2022.

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11/03/22  
Accrual Basis

**SPL General  
Balance Sheet**  
As of October 31, 2022

	<u>Oct 31, 22</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
General Fund	
TFCU Membership Savings	24.61
SPL General	<u>36,763.14</u>
Total General Fund	<u>36,787.75</u>
Total Checking/Savings	<u>36,787.75</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>36,787.75</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><u>36,787.75</u></u>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	0.00

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11/03/22  
Accrual Basis

**SPLNB Designated Funds**  
**Balance Sheet**  
As of October 31, 2022

	Oct 31, 22
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Designated Funds	
Nehemiah Checking	11,320.05
Nehemiah Savings	67,588.86
SPLNB	57,552.89
SPLNB-MM	23,231.37
TFCU Share Certificate *6838	60,000.00
Total Designated Funds	219,693.17
Endowment Funds	
ELCA Ministry Grwth Fnd - **94	263,927.79
Mission Investment - **0872	42,016.82
Mission Investment CD - **5265	66,770.32
Total Endowment Funds	372,714.93
Total Checking/Savings	592,408.10
Total Current Assets	592,408.10
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>592,408.10</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>0.00</b>

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11/03/22

Accrual Basis

# SPLNB Designated Funds

## Custom Summary Report - Non-Zero Accounts

August 2003 through October 2022

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 Aug '03 - Oct 22
 

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Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Archives Fund	1,326.83
Be the Light Campaign	350.00
Bereavement Meals	94.42
Bible Translators	35.00
Campus Ministry	7,231.49
Caregivers	594.20
Christmas/Thanksgiving Dinner	-29.00
Endowment Fund Income	372,611.30
Family Promise (Interfaith)	1,780.95
Fellowship Events	686.56
Flowers & Decorations- Seasonal	979.64
General Fund Reserves	25,025.00
Grotgen Scholarship	373.91
Hearing God's Word	2,044.03
Kairos Ministry	250.00
Landscape Fund	507.48
Library	2,290.92
Maintenance Reserves	-4,703.78
Memorial Garden	12,231.29
Men in Mission	215.17
Miscellaneous	-2,097.59
Monday Community Feedings	-118.69
Mother Hubbard's Cupboard	20.00
Music Fund	4,775.87
Nehemiah Fund	78,908.91
Operation Santa	611.02
Organ Fund	25,995.53
Parish House Roof/Bell Tower	24.00
PDF	1,587.86
PDF Assoc. Pastor	650.00
Quilting Ministry	7,502.84
Retreat	1,466.33
Sanctuary Repair Fund	15,000.00
Security and Safety	690.00
Shred Event	470.00
Stephen Ministry	6,250.62
Technology	2,708.18
Trumpet Maintenance	2,440.00
Van	0.00
VBS (Vacation Bible School)	1,291.54
VDC (Via de Cristo)	2,074.00
Vehicle Rentals	13,437.49
Window Fund	787.96
World Hunger	50.00
Youth Ministry	7,486.14
Total Income	595,907.42
Gross Profit	595,907.42
Expense	
Sales Tax	3,524.10
Total Expense	3,524.10
Net Ordinary Income	592,383.32

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11/03/22  
Accrual Basis

**SPLNB Designated Funds**  
**Custom Summary Report - Non-Zero Accounts**  
August 2003 through October 2022

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	<u>Aug '03 - Oct 22</u>
Other Income/Expense	
Other Income	
Interest	<u>11.59</u>
Total Other Income	<u>11.59</u>
Net Other Income	<u>11.59</u>
Net Income	<u><u>592,394.91</u></u>