

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

**Annual Report
2016**

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I. PASTOR'S REPORT

Rev. Rob Myallis

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”

Lamentations, 3:23

2016 was a year in which our congregation experienced a great deal of change and growth. In the midst of the various transitions, we discovered again that God is faithful. The Spirit is moving in our congregation, leading us to serve Christ and rejoice in God's blessings.

Here are a few areas in which I sensed God's guidance and blessing for our ministry.

- **Staff changes:** In 2016 we experienced significant change in our staff. We said good-bye to a number of excellent staff members, including Barb Paynter and Lori Nikoloff.

We also welcomed a number of new staff:

Pastor Rob Myallis as Lead Pastor

Rev. Irv Straw as Visitation Pastor

Deacon Emily Myallis as Children Ministry Coordinator

Johnna McCormick as Youth Ministry Coordinator

Brenda Penny as Volunteer and Communication Director

Audrey Hossler as Office Manager

I thank the former and existing staff for helping bring the new staff along. I also thank Council and the Personnel committee for their extra work in creating job descriptions, interviewing people and equipping new staff for their jobs. I thank the congregation for their patience and support as we continued to learn the ropes. I especially thank the office volunteers who filled in while we hired office staff. While it has proven stressful to have so much change in such a short amount of time, it is amazing to see staff grow into a team.

- **Finances:** The staff changes were also part of a significant retrenching of our finances. I have been truly moved by the efforts of so many people to help St. Paul get back on track financially. You have been so generous of your time, treasure and talent in this endeavor. It was amazing to see such an incredible increase (\$130,000) in our financial pledges compared with a year prior! I thank you.
- **Bible Study:** My first week at St. Paul I launched a Bible study for adults. My hope was to have 10-12 people with whom I could connect around the Word of God. Surpassing all of my expectations, we frequently had 40-50 people between the Thursday Morning and Evening Bible studies. We also expanded confirmation to a weekly class and have been working through the book of Acts during Council meetings. I rejoice in the hunger for Biblical teaching and preaching in this congregation. While numerical growth of our congregation has been quantifiable, I believe the more significant growth is the spiritual

growth I have observed. As we open God's Word together, we discover Christ's faithfulness in our daily lives. I look forward to building on this in years to come.

- **Summer worship:** I made a bold request very early on – that we expand our summer worship schedule beyond one service. We discussed various options at Worship and Music and settled on adding a spoken word 8 AM worship service and a mid-week child friendly service. Both services were very well attended. Thank you to all who helped make them possible. They provided a variety in our worship life and gave people with summer schedules more options for worship. The result was that attendance increased by nearly 40 to 50 people more per week! We also began offering worship services at Luther Acres and Moravian Manor for our congregation members who live there. This provided a wonderful opportunity for friends in faith to celebrate the presence and promises of Jesus Christ with each other.

Often people measure a church by the A-B-C's: Attendance, Buildings and Cash. By these standards, 2016 was a good year. For me, I am far more concerned with Discipleship, Evangelism, and Fellowship. These are harder to measure and often hidden. My deep conviction is that the congregation made great strides throughout the year. With great eagerness, I look forward to seeing where God leads us in 2017 and beyond.

I conclude with three personal notes. First, I thank the congregation for working with Pastor Straw to bring him back on staff. This was a bit unusual of an arrangement, but it has been such a tremendous blessing for me. Second, I thank the congregation for giving my wife and me an opportunity to serve in the same congregation. We did not come to St. Paul thinking this would occur; but we are very happy to serve together. Third, the last year saw many transitions for my family: new house(s), new church, new community, and new friends. I thank everyone for their love and support of my family. You have been a means of grace, showing forth God's mercies to us.

Your fellow servant of Christ,
Pastor Rob Myallis

II. VISITATION PASTOR'S REPORT

Rev. Irv Straw

Members of St. Paul. It has been my joy to serve as Visitation Pastor since September 2016. Presently I have 45 individuals on my care list. I visit 9 nursing home/rehab facilities and family homes to provide this ministry. In addition I have been relating to the Telecare and Stephen Minister programs as a staff member. Assisting with Holy Communion during the worship services gives me an opportunity to see and serve many of you on a Sunday morning, and I have assisted Pastor Rob in ministry as I am needed. Presently, I am looking forward to planning and assisting with the Confirmation Camp, August 2-5 at Camp Kirchenwald. I am blessed for this opportunity to be part of a great staff at St. Paul Lutheran Church and am looking to God for guidance in the months to come.

God Bless & Keep Us!
Pastor Irv

III. FAITH FORMATION

A. CHILDREN'S MINISTRY – Emily Myallis

2016 September – December Review

Faith StepStones

- + implemented Faith Step-Stones for ages 3 years old – 6th grade
- + K/1st grade led Lord's Prayer in worship on Reformation Day
- + 2nd grade received First Communion on Christ the King Sunday, Nov.
- + Receptions to follow worship on StepStone Sundays (the last of the month)

Sunday School

- + Registration forms implemented
- + Closets re-organized and re-purposed
- + Use of the Ark (made by Senior Shepherds) for S.S. Offering
- + Deacon Emily visits each class on Sunday with the Ark, announcements & bible joke!
- + White boards on easels outside each classroom for Welcoming Words
- + Advent devotionals purchased and used for all kids & adults
- + Christmas Pageant and reception held in Dec.

Children in Worship

- + New children's bulletins (2 options: Readers and Non-Readers)
- + Updated "busy bags" for seasons of the church
- + Children's sermons, weekly @ 10:45; sometimes @ 8:00
- + Created a "Guide to Worshipping with Children" for adults
- + Nursery care policies updated, volunteers have clearances
- + Give each baptismal child & sponsors certificates & gift from St. Paul

Advent & Christmas

- + Advent Events, 4 hosted [Wreaths, Gingerbread Nativities, Deck the Halls, Pageant]
- + Christmas message with Pastor Rob [trees!]

CELC & Church

- + Offered weekly chapel services during Advent for CELC kids & teachers. Mrs. Campbell played piano at all services – and will continue to do so! Advent devotionals given.
- + Newsletters: CELC & Church now share a page in each other's Newsletters. I contribute to the CELC newsletter on behalf of church.

2017 Happenings & Goals

- Epiphany Party with Sunday School Teachers for fellowship, appreciation and planning
- Chapel with the CELC will continue every Thursday 9:15-9:30am in the Sanctuary, accompanied by Marsha Campbell. Also the first Wed. of each month, same time.
- Birthday Cards! will be sent to children on their birthday and baptismal birthday!
- Create a Safe Child Policy for St. Paul

- Join the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association/ELEA in hopes of strengthening the relationship between the church and CELC.
- Splash – a ministry for 0-2 year olds (developmental newsletters sent home)
- Faith Step-Stones for grades 3 (bibles), 4 (acolyting), 5 (apostles' creed) & 6 (catechisms)
- Library – re-organized the Children's Material in the church library
- Children, Youth & Family Team – participate in a team to oversee ministry decisions
- Lent 2017: Praying in Color theme for all ages! Large posters of the Stations of the Cross are for our community coloring. I've made weekly coloring sheets based on the Catechism for the Lenten Small Groups and children's Sunday School.
- Book Fair: March 2017, hosted a Book Fair of kids, Christian materials published by our Lutheran Augsburg Fortress. St. Paul receives 20% of the proceeds and a free copy of the display items!
- Easter: EGGstravagnaza in partnership with the CELC on April 8th. Pancake breakfast to benefit the CELC summer programs followed by a Holy-Week Themed Egg "Hunt" for children. Our goal is to share the Love of Jesus through this fun event.
- Pentecost: planning a "Pentecost Party" to mark the end of Sunday School (June 4)
- Summer plans: VBS for 5 Wednesday evenings in July/Aug, Camp opportunities for kids
- Reformation 500: I'll help plan ways to mark the 500 anniversary of the Reformation for children this fall.

Volunteers

Thank you to all who volunteer their time for the children at St. Paul! You are a blessing!

- Sunday School Teachers: **Mallory Weiss, Katie Poje, Marty Althouse, Jody Charles, Beth Mullen, Chris Runkle, Jim Hoffer, Kathy Ross, Melissa Wainman.**
- Nursery volunteers: Thank you to all who care for our little disciples during worship:
Dave & Marty Althouse, Steve & Signe Fink, Melanie Minnich, Kelly Perkins, Chris & LeeAnn Runkle, Corey & Karen Troxell, Dave & Sandy Bingaman, Stephanie Cramer, Jim & Bethany Hovan, Jen Maryniak, Kate Martin, Kathy Smith, Samanta Smith, and Linda Reynolds.
- **Katie Poje** for making the creative treats enjoyed by all on Step-Stone Sundays, and for mailing the Splash curriculum to families.
- **Jen Maryniak and Katie Poje** for building the Gingerbread Nativities & helping set-up
- **Marty Althouse** for the Praying in Color theme, display and service project
- **Marsha Campbell** for playing piano at weekly CELC chapel services
- **Ann Millhouse and Elaine Bell** for the Library & Book Fair help

- **Pat Lamb** for keeping the “busy bags” updated and nice
- **Tom Reinfried** for acolyte training
- **Jim Hoffer** for kids communion preparation
- **Mallory Weiss** for sending birthday cards to kids from the church
- **Brenda Penny** for closet cleaning and reorganizing
- **Marc Buckwalter** for building the “kids” table at the Nave entrance; Donna Boland for the “kids” pennant decoration

Help is needed in the following areas of Children’s Ministry

- Sunday School helpers
- Nursery volunteers
- VBS station leaders
- Please prayerfully consider helping with children at church, weekly or for special events

Contact Deacon Emily Myallis: deaconemily@stpaulsititz.net or 626-4709

Typical Office Hours: Tues – Thurs 8am-12/1pm

B. CONFIRMATION

Confirmation this year by team taught by Pastor Rob Myallis, Pastor Irwin Straw, Pastor Jacki Roderick and Johnna McCormick. Pastor Roderick is not on staff at the church, but serves as a chaplain in York. She has a background in youth and family ministry and has been pitching in! The program lasts two years and covers the Bible and the Catechism (Faith basics). The hope is that the 8th graders, by the end of Middle School, are able to articulate the basics of the Christian faith in personal way.

C. YOUTH MINISTRY - Johnna McCormick, Youth Ministry Coordinator

In September of 2016, the previous structure for Youth Ministry was reorganized into two new Youth Groups. Club 56 was formed for kids in grades 5 and 6 and the God Squad for students in grades 7-12. Throughout the year, both groups had unique programming as well as events and activities for which both groups were combined. The following includes highlights and plans from our Youth Ministry Program from September 2016 through the Summer of 2017.

- Rally Day
 - The Youth hosted a pancake breakfast to kick off the Sunday School year.
 - Over \$250 was raised to support the Youth Ministry program at St. Paul.
- Monthly Meetings
 - God Squad meets the 1st Sunday of the month from 6:30-8.
 - Club 56 meets the 3rd Sunday of the month from 6:30-8.
 - Activities include games, discussion, bible study and work towards service projects.
- 5th Quarters
 - We hosted 2 events open to Warwick Middle and High school students taking place after 1 home football game and 1 home basketball game.

- We featured free food, music, games, prizes and interactive inflatable attractions.
- The goal was to make students of the community feel welcome and comfortable in a church environment and provide a safe place to have fun and make new friends.
- Attendance was 80 in the fall and 35 in the winter.
- We plan to continue this outreach ministry in 2017 in hopes of reaching even more students.
- WJTL Youth Group Night
 - In November, we were chosen by WJTL to participate in their Youth Group Night.
 - We learned about radio production, reviewed new Christian music and got to speak live on the air.
- Craft Fair Fundraiser
 - We provided concessions for the Annual Craft Fair and raised over \$600 towards our Youth Ministry Program.
- Christmas Party
 - God Squad and Club 56 combined for this event.
 - Students had a fun gift exchange and made Christmas gifts for their parents.
- Souper Bowl of Caring
 - The Youth hosted a fundraiser luncheon on Super Bowl Sunday to raise money and collect food donations for the Lititz/Warwick Community Chest Food Bank.
 - Approximately 125 people were in attendance.
 - Over 20 crock pots of homemade soup were served by our youth.
 - More than \$1000 and 150 lbs. of food was collected and donated!
- Special Events/Trips
 - Oregon Dairy Corn Maze (Club 56)
 - Laser Tag (Club 56)
 - Snow Tubing
- Lenten Activities
 - Eat, Pray, Color- Confirmation students gathered for dinner, and praying in color before attending the Holden Prayer service as a group.
 - Holy Week Youth Breakfasts- God Squad will meet for breakfast and prayer before walking together to school.
 - Easter Eggstravaganza- The Youth will help to Deacon Emily host his event for the children of St. Paul Church and CELC, and the Lititz Community.
- Work Day at Camp Kirchenwald
 - Service project for Club 56 on Saturday April 29th.
- Faith on the Field (Summer 2017)

- Program for Youth Groups hosted by the Lancaster Barnstormers at Clipper Magazine Stadium.
- Students will tour the stadium, attend Chapel with the players, and participate in other activities before attending the game that day.
- Confirmation Camp (August 2-5 2017)
 - Students completing grades 6-9 will participate in:
 - Bible Study
 - Camp activities
 - 2 service projects (Wittel Farm and Ronald McDonald House)

Overall, this year was a time of transition for Youth Ministry at St. Paul, with a new director, and a lot of new programming. I would like to thank all the parents, volunteers and the congregation as a whole for the support during this transition. A special thank you goes out to Molly Zelewicz, Christine Runkle, and Melissa Lamb, for their tremendous involvement with the God Squad, and to John McCormick for involvement with Club 56. We are still in need of some volunteers to help with Club 56. Please contact jmccormick@stpaulstitz.net if you are interested in serving this ministry.

Looking ahead, we have additional plans for 2017-2018. In September, middle school students will attend the ALiVE Middle School Youth Event at Camp Nawakwa, and in January, the high school students will attend Winterfest. We also hope to plan a mission trip for the summer of 2018. After a great first year, we are looking forward to continued growth in our Youth Ministry Program in the future.

D. ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

1. Augsburg

We meet weekly for Bible study/discussion on Sundays mornings at 9:30. Each week there is a discussion leader.

2. Families in Faith – Barb Paynter

We meet weekly for Bible study/discussion on Sundays mornings at 9:30. We also meet monthly for a social time with our families participating in activities such as pumpkin carving, cookie exchange, hikes, baseball and picnics. We have supported our friends and family through a weekly prayer chain.

3. Walk in Faith – Cynthia Kensinger

We welcome anyone who is interested in Bible based learning and discussion. This past fall we focused on the New Testament. This class offers an alternative to the Augsburg and Families in Faith classes. We hope new members will join us in our journey of faith as we “walk” and learn together.

E. PASTOR’S BIBLE STUDY

Each week on Thursday morning and evening Pastor Rob hosts a Bible study on the upcoming Sunday passages. Typically there are 25-30 people in the morning and 10-15 at night. These studies shape the upcoming sermons.

F. ST. PAUL CHRISTIAN EARLY LEARNING CENTER (CELC) - Karen Schaeffer, Director

Over the past year CELC has reached out to our community by doing the following outreach projects:

- Honoring our Police officers by collecting items for goody bags and distributing in the local community.
- Collecting can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House
- Honoring our service men and women by collecting socks and stamps, and decorating pillow cases for distribution to the troops.
- Collecting pajamas to donate to the Conner M. Holland Foundation for children with cancer.
- Holding our annual Touch A Truck Event to help the Community Chest.

Thanks to the efforts of many, CELC has enjoyed a strengthening of our relationship with the church community! The children and staff now enjoy Children's Chapel with Deacon Emily and Marsha Campbell, and story times with Pastor Rob! We have also been working together to create more joint projects like the Eggstravaganza! We look forward to a bright future together! ~ Karen Schaeffer, Director of St. Paul CELC.

IV. WORSHIP AND MUSIC

A. MINISTRY TEAM FOR WORSHIP LIFE - Jane Brye

Once known as the Worship and Music Committee, The Ministry Team for Worship Life is “responsible for development of all worship services and supporting programs.” The team works closely with the Directors of Church Music and the Pastor and is responsible for coordinating the efforts of all who participate in the worship life of the congregation from choirs and music groups to assisting ministers and Communion assistants, altar guild, greeters, ushers, lectors, acolytes, processional participants, lights and sound technicians, and banner caretakers/creators. The Worship Life Team is responsible for ordering the flowers, greens, and plants that decorate the church at Easter and Christmas, and for supervising the decorating of the church at Easter, Advent and Christmas. The team organizes ushers and hosts for special occasions such as concerts, provides refreshments for concert receptions and hosts visiting artists. The team also supported the outdoor service in the park with the other LCO churches.

During the year 2016, our church and committee experienced a change in leadership. Interim Pastor Irv Straw led us through the first four months of the year. During that time, Wednesday evening Lenten services were held using the Holden Evening Prayer. Also, Lenten Devotionals were made available to the church members, as well as an online study guide through the ELCA. Pastor Irv also helped us to bring back our traditional Good Friday Tenebrae Service. He taught the confirmation students and officiated their confirmation. We were very blessed to have had Pastor Straw as our interim pastor.

In May, Pastor Rob Myallis came on board, and the church is enjoying getting to know him and receiving a “new perspective” of worship life from him. During his time here, some much needed changes were made to our scheduled worship services. These changes include:

1. 8:00 am services were added to the summer schedule in addition to the regular 9:30 service. This was a service of the Word. There was no music, except for musical offerings by church members and an occasional a cappella hymn. This service was fairly well attended, and many of the regular 8:00 parishioners were very happy to see this service added to the worship schedule.
2. Summer Wednesday evening Family Services were added to the schedule. Since there is no summer Sunday school, it was thought that there needed to be a worship offering for the children and youth of the church. This service was also very well received.
3. A Blue Christmas Service was a new service added to our Advent schedule. This service took place at 4:00 on the last Sunday of Advent. It was a service geared to people who may be grieving in many ways, and for those who may not be ready to attend a joyful Christmas Eve service. It was well attended. There was communion, an opportunity to light candles at the crèche in remembrance of loved ones, and a soothing, contemplative sermon, as well as appropriate Christmas music.
4. An outdoor Epiphany service was added this Christmas Season, even though it took place in 2017. The Christmas greens were burned in a bonfire, made possible by the Boy Scouts, and in a short service, the Good News of Jesus as the Light of the World was proclaimed and celebrated with very joyful singing. (and dancing)
5. Emily Myallis became our deacon in the fall and has added new Faith Step Stones for the children of St. Paul. Once each month, the children demonstrate what they have learned by participating as a group during the worship service. Also, Deacon Emily has given new life to the St. Paul families with her very meaningful and well delivered children's sermons.
6. Pastor Rob has added so very much to the worship service through his sermons. He comes to us in the sanctuary and speaks, without notes, about the gospel lesson of the day and/or the new and Old Testament lessons and relates it directly to our lives and truly moves our hearts. Pastor Rob's sermons are recorded and are made available online.
7. Communion procedures were changed so that there is less movement in the altar area. It has helped to streamline communion, so that there is more emphasis on the sharing of the meal, rather than in the cleanup of the altar. Also, more duties were assigned to the acolyte. It was felt that the acolytes needed and wanted more to do, and it also freed up some of the responsibilities of the assisting ministers so that those many assisting ministers who are also choir members, could participate in both.
8. Bible Study by the pastor was added to the weekly schedule. It takes place Thursday's at 10:00 AM and again at 7:00 PM. Although this is part of the education program of the church, it directly affects worship, in that it prepares the attendees for the sermon and enhances the meaning of that sermon.

Processionals take place on festival Sundays during traditional services. Children and youth of the church are the processional participants. These dates are Easter, Pentecost, Reformation, All Saints, and Christ the King Sundays.

Volunteers and church workers are always needed to help with our worship services. During 2016, it was noted that the church is down many usher teams, and volunteers are

needed to help rebuild those teams. Also, the volunteer pool for altar guild is extremely low. Many of our older members are no longer able to help in this capacity, and new, young volunteers are needed. There is also a need for more assisting ministers, acolytes, and lectors. Additional Ministry Team Responsibilities Include:

1. Acolyte Training - Tom Reinfried

As a member of the worship committee, I serve as the adult trainer for our Acolyte Ministry. During 2016 the worship committee reviewed Acolyte duties for Sunday Worship. The committee working with Pastor Rob and Deacon Emily implemented some new duties for our Acolytes. Pastor Rob suggested that it should be part of the Faith Stepping Stones program. He expressed a desire to see our children take an expanded role in worship. Consequently Acolytes, in addition to lighting and dousing altar candles, will pass collection plates to our ushers, present the gifts collected to God at the Altar, and lead the worship team with the lighted torch of Christ from the nave as the service ends.

Acolyte Ministry at St. Paul's begins in 4th grade. This past year we conducted 2 training sessions during the Sunday School hour with 4th graders and all participating Acolytes. The children were given the opportunity to walk through their duties and ask questions about their important role in worship. During 2016, we welcomed two new Acolytes, and created Acolyte Ministry as a Faith Step-Stone in our Sunday School program. On certain Sundays, Acolytes participate in processions as torch bearers, banner bearers, Bible bearers and cross bearers. We have approximately 20 kids/youth serving as Acolytes. We invite all youth of all ages, especially confirmation age and adults to help in worship by being an Acolyte - it's a "bright" way to serve!

2. Church Decorating

Many volunteers from the congregation, Families in Faith Sunday School Class and the choirs helped decorate the church for Advent and Christmas, as well as for Easter. "Deck the Halls" takes place every year on the Friday night before Advent 2. Melodie Fair organized the Christmas decorating event into stations, which again worked very well. The Families in Faith Sunday School Class offered pizza before the decorating began. Pastor Straw gave a blessing of the crèche and Christmas Carols were sung at the end of the evening. Christmas decorations were taken down this season on Epiphany. After the "undecorating," there was an outdoor Epiphany service and bonfire. Potted Palms are placed in the altar area for Palm Sunday; Easter decorating takes place every year on Saturday morning, the day before Easter. Everyone is welcome to help decorate the church at holidays.

3. Assisting Ministers and Communion Assistants - Wayne Gongaware

The assisting minister role has deep roots in Christian history. The early church commissioned deacons to take extra food from the offering at Holy Communion to those in need. In this role they came to serve as assisting ministers in worship: reading scripture, praying for the needs of the world, receiving and giving thanks for the offering, assisting the presiding minister at the table, serving the people, and sending the people forth to love and serve their neighbor.

We have been blessed here at St. Paul with several assisting ministers and communion assistants who help both with Sunday worship services and special worship services. Each year we have new people join these ministries and have some who leave. We would like you to consider if either of these ministries fit your gifts. If you are giving this some thought, please contact Pastor Rob or Jane Brye or me.

Worship is the center of our life as the people of God. It is important that laypeople use their gifts not only on church council, committees, and in ministries of service, advocacy or hospitality—but also in worship. This is where God comes to us with the good news and nourishes us in our mission.

4. Ushering - Tom Reinfried

As a member of the worship committee I have reviewed and revised usher teams in 2016. Numerous teams have been combined to fill usher teams. In addition, several new teams were formed as congregation members stepped forward and volunteered to serve as ushers. Presently, there are thirteen usher teams. Eight serve for the early service and five serve at the late service. A number of families have joined to serve. This is an excellent way to introduce children into important ways to serve during worship. We could use a few more teams, especially for the late service. Any members may feel free to contact me and I will work to get you assigned to a team.

A special thank-you goes out to the folks that serve as head ushers for both services. They organize the duties for the scheduled teams, insure that worship leadership posts are filled for the service, set up the sound system, count attendance, and supervise the safe depositing of offering at the end of the service. At the early service the following faithfully fill this position: John Deemer, Pat Lamb, Pat Yerger. At the late service the usher captains for the team scheduled serve in this capacity. Anyone wishing to serve in this capacity can contact Craig Wagaman or me and we can get you into the rotation.

Jane Brye (janebrye@gmail.com) is the Director of the Worship Life Team along with Gayle Stauffer (gtstauf@ptd.net) who continues to help her in an advisory capacity. There are about 18 -20 members who have attended meetings this past year. Meetings during 2016 were held on January 19, May 3, June 28, August 23, and October 18. It is anticipated that there will be at least 5-6 meetings per calendar year

Contact information for Worship Participants is as follows:

Altar Guild – Gayle Stauffer (gtstauf@ptd.net)

Assisting Ministers and Communion Assistants – Wayne Gongaware (wayneg397@comcast.net) or Jane Brye (janebrye@gmail.com)

Banners – Banner Steward – Donna Boland (boland.donna25@gmail.com)

Church Decorating – Jane Brye, Gayle Stauffer, and Melodie Fair

Greeters, Lectors, Acolytes – Scheduled by Brenda Penny (bpenny@stpaulkitz.net)

Lights and Sound Technicians – Don Stauffer (donstauf@ptd.net)

Processional Participants – Tami Ruckel and Wayne Gongaware (trainers)

Ushers -- Tom Reinfried – (reinsfam@ptd.net), Scheduled by Brenda Penny (bpenny@stpaulkitz.net)

B. TRADITIONAL MUSIC - Val Hughes

1. Adult Choir

The Adult Choir rehearses on Wednesday nights September through May and sings nearly every Sunday, providing a musical offering and leadership for liturgical music. The group sings a variety of SATB music and welcomes all who are interested, regardless of their musical background. They deserve accolades for their hard work, dedication, and willingness to adapt their own schedules to the church schedule. Occasionally, the group divides into a men's choir and women's choir, which allows each group to showcase their abilities and give the other group a well-deserved week off.

2. Concert Series

St. Paul's concert series continues to host free events for the community. This year we welcomed the Lancaster Marimba Ensemble as our opening event. It was a unique group and very well-received. We also had a concert by Christ's AmBrassadors, a group of students from Manheim Central High School including member Ben Hipple, as well as guest vocalists. Bell Amis, an elite handbell ensemble, provided an end-of-Christmastide concert in early January. In May we will host youth vocal and handbell choirs from Abington Presbyterian Church for their spring runout.

3. Jubilate Bells

Jubilate Bells rehearse on Monday nights September through May and generally plays two Sundays per month and on festivals. We ring both handbells and hand chimes, and have used as many as five octaves of bells. Besides playing preludes or offering pieces, the group also contributes to worship by adding to hymns, liturgical music, or psalms.

C. CONTEMPORARY MUSIC AND KID'S MUSIC- Melodie S. Fair

Throughout the year St Paul's music program has enjoyed being an integral part in the life of worship. God continues to lead us in new directions every day as the Holy Spirit is alive and well in our music. Soli Deo Gloria!

1. Devotion

Our Praise Team, *Devotion*, is blessed to be celebrating 12 years in the music ministry. February 4, 2017 marked the 12th Anniversary of the band, "*Devotion*," and St. Paul's Contemporary Worship Service. Named after the sincere commitment of its members, *Devotion* has morphed into a full praise team consisting of St Paul members including full instrumentation and vocal sections. In addition to leading worship the 2nd and 4th Sundays of every month, *Devotion* has had unique opportunities to share their musical ministry throughout our Synod and beyond. Thanks to the commitment of its' and support from the congregation, *Devotion* and the Contemporary Worship Service is a staple part of St Paul's spiritual diet and is looking forward to the next 12 years!

2. Joyful Noise

Our youth choir, *Joyful Noise* continues to remain a unique aspect of music at our church. Ranging in ages from 7th-12 grade, the choir continues to enhance Contemporary

worship and welcomes back their “alumni” whenever possible. This youth choir has begun to sing more frequently with the praise band and is an integral part of our music program at St Paul’s. *Joyful Noise* members also graciously stick around on Sunday mornings to sing/rehearse as role models for *Kings Kidz* - we are ALL brothers and sisters in Christ!

3. Kings Kidz

Kings Kidz continues its tradition of enhancing worship through the voices and energy of our little Lutherans! Our choir consists of 3-year-olds through 6th grade. The children enjoy singing and playing the tubanos (drums) and sometimes their kazoos! These ambitious little Lutherans are leaders in our annual Sunday School Christmas Program and “present” the Nativity on Christmas Eve. *Kings Kidz* contagious enthusiasm for singing and praising is shared in worship services on a monthly basis.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. ARCHIVES - Marsha Campbell, Chairman

This committee meets monthly to organize and catalog St. Paul artifacts. It also sets up thematic displays in the showcase in the narthex.

The church Archives Room houses books, bulletins, newsletters, artwork and other church regalia.

All items are cataloged. Some are shelved; some filed; some contained in bins or under glass; others are hung on the walls.

Some paper items in the basement, under the sanctuary still need to be cataloged and filed. This is a small committee of four active members.

B. CEMETERY COMMITTEE- Tom Reinfried

Macpelah Cemetery committee consists of the following members: Christo Nickoloff, Severin Yerger, Jere Frankhouser, Don Stauffer, Bill Spacht, and Robert Singer. Our council representative is John Bell.

In January I began my third year as cemetery superintendent. During 2016 there were seventeen interments in the cemetery. Nine were traditional burials and eight were cremations. In addition, four cremation plots were sold. I received numerous inquiries regarding possible purchases of graves for a number of Saint Paul members. Purchasing a plot before it is needed is one less stressful part of end- of- life planning. I would like to continue to urge our members to consider pre-planning. There are a number of reasons I believe this is prudent. First, this can reduce some of the stress surrounding the death of a family member. Second, this can assure your family members a place in our cemetery. Although we have increased the number of graves available for sale, we have only a limited number of spaces left in Macpelah. Finally, the costs to a family will be less if pre-planning takes place.

The committee has begun a review of cemetery rules. In fact, we proposed and council approved a major change that will allow an increased number of remains in a grave. Previous rules would only allow two sets of remains in a grave. Now up to four sets of cremated remains may be interred in a given grave. The rule change as proposed and approved reads as follows:

"All deed holders, as of the date of council's approval of this Amendment, will be permitted to increase the maximum capacity of a traditional grave in Machpelah Cemetery. This change will permit an interment in one traditional grave site of four cremation burials per grave or of one traditional burial and three additional cremation burials per grave provided the traditional burial occurs first and the remaining interments are placed on top of the traditional grave interment.

Furthermore, this change will require an amended original deed approved by the Cemetery Superintendent and a stipulation that the deed holders agree to pay current prices for the cremation graves at the time of said change. This rule change does not permit multiple interments in an individual cremation grave in the Cremation Garden Section."

Again, I encourage all deed holders to provide their next of kin original deeds and final instructions for their end of life situations.

In the summer months, the side walk project was completed. Special thanks for a job well done to Ryan Perkins for completion of the side walk project. Once again, we have contracted Stacey's Property Maintenance for 2017. We will continue to use Nolt Backhoe Service for grave openings, closings, and reseeded of grave sites. Memorial foundations installations will continue to be done by Kevin Hiestand of Monumental Properties, Inc.

I had a number of meetings with Roger Moyer of the financial committee concerning the perpetual care fund. We reviewed the status of the fund. The fund is stable, but we could use additional contributions that will grow the fund for perpetuity. As a result of our meetings, we established a distribution formula for the earnings of the fund between the cemetery checking account and perpetual fund growth. We also discussed efforts to increase the investment amount in the fund. A conclusion gleaned from our discussions has led the committee to begin to review fees charged for lot sales, openings, and closings. In addition, we have agreed to call on relatives and friends of those buried in the Cemetery to prayerfully consider donating to the cemetery fund, as Saint Paul has established itself as the Perpetual Caretakers of the cemetery.

We are planning a spring clean-up of the cemetery for the Easter season. We will remove any winter memorial items, including worn and tattered flags. We welcome any friends of the cemetery to participate in our spring and fall clean ups. The dates for these cleanups will be announced soon. Also, I would like to remind relatives that planters, potted flowers, and other artifacts will be removed if they hinder the mowing and trimming of the cemetery. We encourage family and friends of those buried in the Cemetery to use attachments to the top of memorials for floral arrangements and wreaths.

C. ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE -Kathy Ross

The endowment committee hosts an Endowment Sunday annually; in 2016 it was held in February. We welcomed two new members, Don Shaub and Stephanie Cramer. We are increasing another opportunity for giving to include an honorarium for graduates. We encourage donations for Mother's Day, Father's Day, Patriots' Day and Grandparent's day, as well as when people enter the Church Triumphant. We have gone through an audit by the Endowment Finance Committee to help with the investments in the fund and to ensure the

endowment funds are monitored and clarified. Chain of information was also established. We disbursed \$64,000 this year to the church, our missions and the community as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Augusta Victoria Hospital | \$1000 |
| ELCA Global Church Sponsorship | \$1000 |
| Kanga Lutheran Church | \$3000 |
| Confirmation Camp | \$2500 |
| Wittle Farm "Growing Project" | \$7000 |
| Synod | \$1000 |
| Hammer Family | \$1000 |
| Debt Reduction | \$33,500 |
| Playground CCEC | \$5000 |
| Power Packs | \$1000 |
| Bridge of Hope | \$1000 |
| Crossfire Ministry | \$1000 |
| Habitat for Humanity | \$2500 |
| Lititz Springs Park | \$1000 |
| Lititz Fire Company | \$1000 |
| Lititz Ambulance Association | \$1000 |

D. FINANCE COMMITTEE - John Bell, Chairman

This year our church has been faced with serious financial challenges brought on by both a reduction in church giving and in average attendance. In addition we addressed Endowment Fund borrowing and making this fund more transparent to the congregation.

The Committee met on June 7, 2016 to discuss how we could reduce expenses during the summer months. We presented the committee's Proposal to Reduce Expenses. The proposal has 2 parts - expense reduction and suggestions for increasing income. The committee's recommendations are based on financial and attendance data for the past 6 years. Income has decreased by 19% or just under \$100,000. Operating expenses decreased by \$4,400. Salary and wages are estimated to increase by \$24,886 (11%) and total benefits will increase by \$10,371 (or 15%) Average attendance over the same period decreased 12.2% (from 236 to 207). The committee therefore recommends the following measures to reduce expenses:

- Reduce payroll and payroll taxes by \$650/week or the equivalent of one day a week for everyone except Pastor Myallis, Valerie Hughes, and Kim Swinko
- Make no payments toward the principal of the debt from June 27 to the end of summer
- Ask all staff to limit expenses as much as possible.
- Reductions will begin in July and continue through the end of August.

Suggestions for additional income included the following

- Consider selling advertisements in the weekly bulletin
- Continue asking people to sign up for Simply Giving
- Ask Thrivent members to consider donating their Thrivent Choice dollars to St. Paul
- When dining out at Knight and Day Restaurant (or Park City Diner) remember to use your donation card
- Continue income contribution from CELC (\$500/month)

The Finance Committee proposed that Council approve wording changes to the endowment policies that will be presented at the annual meeting. The Finance Committee

also has proposed some changes for the way in which financial information is reported in the weekly bulletin. The changes should make such reporting more transparent.

Work was started in September on the budget for 2017 with new Treasurer, John McCormick. He had a lot of work to do to streamline the process to make it more efficient. Budget worksheets were sent out to all budgeting entities and finalized. The budget was approved by the Finance Committee in November and by Council at its November meeting. A town hall budget meeting was held after both services on November 27 and approved by the congregation on December 11.

During this time and November and early December we worked with the treasurer on a draft of the 2017 budget which was ultimately approved by Council in early December. A "Town Hall" congregational meeting was then held to answer questions. A final vote of the congregation was held in Mid-December and passed.

In December, the committee also heard from Roger Moyer, who represented previous treasurers Tom Trayer and Mark Nestleroth, about previous Endowment Fund under dispensations of funds from 2011 and 2015. There was a total of about \$44,000 not given to Endowment for dissemination for those two years.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2016

Revenue vs Expenses

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Total Income | \$477,194.83 |
| Total non-Capital Expenses: | \$448,828.47 |
| Capital Expenses | \$ 70,092.17 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES OVER INCOME (Negative) | \$ 41,725.81 |

The vast majority of our expenses are related to staff (\$280K) and property (\$80K). Our income was greater than budget (\$477K vs \$466K). Our expenses unrelated to capital expense were significantly lower than budgeted (\$448K vs \$495K). The second half of the year saw significantly increased giving concurrent with reduced expenses.

Summary of Accounts (12/31/2016)

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Current Assets | |
| Operating Checking | \$ 18,707.90 |
| Memorial Checking | \$ 49,870.24 |
| Major Repair Checking | \$ 5,523.56 |
| Cemetery Checking | \$ 2,792.34 |
| Capital Checking | \$218,689.54 |
| Endowment Fund | \$610,764.00 |
| Cemetery/Perpetual Care | \$185,122.00 |
| Redcay | \$ 22,276.12 |
| Youth Activities | \$4,831.92 |
| Total Account Balances: | \$1,118,577.62 |
| Lines of Credit | \$ 63,845.39 |

E. MISSION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE - Linda Bell

The Mission and Outreach Committee members have been very busy organizing the following outreach projects for St. Paul:

1. Bridge of Hope - Two teams of volunteers have been hard at work during the past year as “friends and mentors” for two Lititz women. Both women were single mothers working to better their lives. The members on one team have suffered greatly as the woman they were mentoring passed away. The second group saw their mentee graduate as a LPN and make plans to study to become an RN.

2. Christian Service Box - Twelve organizations received additional funding from donations that St. Paul members made to the Christian Service Box. These donations average from \$150 to \$300 a month. The following benefitted from the Christian Service Box: Itete Hosp. & Pharm. in Tanzania, Lutheran Refugee and Immigration Services, Friends of Luther Acres 2016 Project, Youth Mission Trip to Detroit with Lutheran Hands, Gideons, Warwick Ministerium’s Community Summer Lunch Program, Lititz Springs Park, Power Packs, Kanga Companion Congregation, Lutheran World Relief, Senior Shepherds, and the Warwick Compassion Network Energy Fund.

3. Kanga Companion Congregation - St. Paul sends \$1,800 to our Konde Diocese, Tanzania, companion congregation which pays for an HIV orphan pre-school and \$500 which pays the congregation pastor’s annual salary. We share correspondence throughout the year which is shared in the monthly Epistle and update photographs which are on the narthex bulletin board.

4. Lancaster Free Meals - St. Paul volunteers help Zion Lutheran Church in Leola serve free dinners at two Lancaster churches. Volunteers from Zion make the hot meals and St. Paul volunteers help to set up and to serve. These dinners are part of the Lancaster city churches’ program to provide one free meal a day to the needy in the city.

5. The Lititz Project - Churches in Lititz volunteer to do yard work or home repairs for families who, either to age or to lack of finances, are not able to do the work themselves. St. Paul has three groups of volunteers who have done yard work, dry walling, and other minor home repairs. During the past years the Lititz Project has served over 170 families

6. Mission and Outreach Fair - Each outreach program that St. Paul is affiliated with set up a display in the narthex so that St. Paul members can be more familiar with the work we do in the community. This fair included a tour for some of the Sunday School classes so they could learn more about outreach and provided an opportunity for St. Paul members to volunteer for the projects that interest them.

7. Power Packs - St. Paul works with the Power Packs Program out of Lancaster which provides a weekend meal for families whose children are in the Warwick School District subsidized lunch program. Volunteers from St. Paul pick up the meals in Lancaster and distribute them to

families in the Bonfield School District. The food distributed includes all ingredients to make a meal, a recipe, cereal, and fresh fruit and vegetables.

8. Senior Shepherds - Wooden toys are made under the direction of Joe Doster and distributed locally and internationally. During 2016, approximately 450 toys were given to needy children. The group increased to about 20 shepherds, including some new congregation members and several from other churches. Most of the toys went to the Ukraine while others went to needy children in Lancaster City. St. Paul members raised \$1,045 to keep the ark that Joe Doster made and bought \$140 worth of toys at the craft fair. All the money is put back into Senior Shepherds to buy supplies. Now Sr. Shepherds is making toys for Schreiber Pediatric Center and for the Lebanon area. The group owes a huge thank you to the St. Paul family.

9. Souper Bowl of Caring - \$965 was collected with half going to the Lititz Community Chest and the other half to ELCA World Hunger.

10. Tanzania Missionary Contact - St. Paul provides \$1,000 annual support to Dr. Stephen & Jody Lynn Swanson and their children. They are a missionary family based in Arusha, Tanzania.

11. Warwick Ministerium Summer Lunch Program

This was the first year the Warwick Ministerium organized a summer lunch program to feed anyone in the community who needed assistance meeting their food needs. Lunches were provided on Thursday and Friday at the Lititz Springs Park and the Rothsville Park. A pastor was at each location to provide Christian hospitality and caring. Food was made in the St. James Church kitchen and distributed to both food sites. Each day there were approximately 100 served at the Lititz Springs Park and 40-50 at the Rothsville Park. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with food, transport, serving, and clean-up. A special thank you to the hard-working cooks who made delicious. Home-cooked meals and skillfully turned the leftovers into a delicious lunch for the next day.

A special thank you to all of the hard-working committee members and additional volunteers who helped on specific projects. We appreciate your devotion to the committee projects and your willingness to give your spare time towards outreach and to demonstrate your faith by reaching out to help others.

F. THE MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE - Al Rothermel

This committee is designed to support Pastor Rob and his ministry at St. Paul. Members of this committee include the Church Council president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. The committee meets monthly with discussions covering a wide range of church-related topics as we continue our new direction under the leadership of Pastor Rob. Ideas are exchanged in terms of our direction as a church as we continue to grow and define our outreach into the community. There is an excitement and new energy within the church and congregation as a whole.

G. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE - Carolyn Masey

The Personnel Committee has had a busy year hiring staff to continue the mission of the church. New job descriptions have been developed for the new staff positions that were created or revised. A formal plan for yearly evaluations was established and evaluations were presented to the staff who continued in their positions from 2015 – 2016. Also a process to assess new positions and new staff was devised to gauge the effectiveness of the current staffing model.

Personnel Committee will next undertake the task of revising the Employee Handbook which has not been updated in five years.

A special “thank you” to Judy Rusnock who is leaving this committee. Judy was a hard-working and essential member of the team. We welcome George Nickel as our newest member!

H. PROPERTY COMMITTEE - Marc Buckwalter

2016 Year in review:

- *Sidewalk replacement around church and cemetery
- *Repaved part of front driveway
- *4 trees trimmed bordering rear parking lot
- *30" snow storm
- *CELC upgraded their phone/ internet
- *Rearranged offices
- *Cleaned, repainted Sunday School closet
- *Installed new electric/phone outlets in offices
- *Replaced rear parking lot spotlight with brighter more efficient LED fixture
- *Replaced kitchen water heater

No major repairs concerning boilers/AC units (usual wear and tear items)

Met and discussed many future projects with contractors to get ideas and estimates for 2018 and beyond.

Budgeted for 4 projects for 2017:

- Tree trimming
- Garage roof/patio repair
- Seal side parking lot
- Honeywell control system for boilers/security system replacement

Eagerly awaiting the "green light" to get these projects underway!

I. ST. PAUL WOMEN OF THE ELCA - Marsha Campbell, Executive Board Contact

All women of the congregation are considered members of St. Paul Women of the ELCA, whose purpose is to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another, engage in ministry and promote healing and wholeness.

The organization is administered by a ten-member Executive Board.

2016 activities and projects included:

1. Yearly calendar/handbook published in August.
2. Fall letter to all congregational women with invitation to participate and opportunities to donate.
3. Seven small group Bible studies offered twice a month at both St. Paul Circle at Luther Acres and Ruth Circle.
4. September Fall Gathering and Lunch, Winnie Matthews, speaker.
5. Ingathering Sunday in October, for blessing of blankets, knitted items, health kits and school kits.
6. LSS Women's Organization Fall Retreat at Camp Hebron.
7. Thankoffering Sunday in November with St. Paul WELCA speakers.
8. Mission Awareness Sunday in January, Dr. Rose Merrell-James, speaker.
9. LCO Women of the ELCA Brunch/joint spring meeting.
10. Representation on Friends of Luther Acres Auxiliary, local World Day of Prayer committee and Lower Susquehanna Synod board.
11. Offerings of service through Blanket Making Group, Needlework Group, Funeral Luncheons, Surprise Dinners, Baptismal napkins, St. Paul Seniors Christmas Dinner, Greeting Card Ministry.
12. Offerings of fellowship through Book Club, Ladies Lunch Bunch.
13. Liberian Student sponsorship.
14. Visitation and distribution of Christmas and Easter remembrances to member shut-ins.
15. Donation of a Little Golden Book to each new baby of the congregation.

VI. SERVICE/FELLOWSHIP

A. ALTAR GUILD - Gayle Stauffer

Altar Guild at Saint Paul is a group of volunteers -- women, men, and families -- who share the responsibilities of preparing the church for worship each Sunday. Most of the tasks involve setting up for, or cleaning up after Communion. Gayle Stauffer creates a rotating schedule of volunteers who either set up before the 8:00 AM service, clean up and reset after the 8:00 AM service, or clean up after the 10:45 service. Volunteers may specify which service time they prefer, and may also specify a preference for set-up only or clean-up only. Altar Guild volunteers also replace the Eternal Light Candle (once a week before the 8:00 AM service), and set out the items given to a newly baptized member. Guidelines for each of these tasks are given to each volunteer and are posted in the sacristy. At present a volunteer might expect to be scheduled to help at one service month.

B. FUNERAL LUNCHEONS - Marsha Campbell, Chairman

This is a committee of the Women of the ELCA. Its purpose is to provide a luncheon/reception following the funeral service of a member. The menu is usually a simple lunch; however, other options have been offered. The committee itself is composed of a total twenty-nine members who are willing to prepare, serve and clean-up on the day of the luncheon.

Congregational members are charged for food costs only and asked to give a donation to the Women of the ELCA's kitchen fund. Those monies are used to purchase supplies. In 2016, seven luncheons were served.

C. MEAL SERVING IN LANCASTER - Joyce Groff

We partner with Zion Lutheran Church in Leola to serve evening meals in Lancaster at Grace Lutheran Church and Kingdom Life Assembly Church. The members of Zion do all the planning and prep work for the meals and we help with set up at the specified church the day of the meal, serving the meal and cleaning up afterwards. The meals are served at Grace on the 5th Wednesday of the month and at Kingdom Life the 3rd Thursday of odd months. Prep time starts at 3pm and the meals are served at 5pm.

D. SPEED - Church Office

This committee has been resurrected after a few years lapse here at St. Paul. Its purpose is to provide church family members with rides to doctor appointments, as needed. In 2016, there was no contact person for this particular ministry. Members in need of this service were encouraged to call the church office at 626-4709. A staff member then notified a small list of members willing to drive and connected a driver with the one in need of transport. This is an important and necessary ministry for St. Paul members. You are invited to assist; spread the word.

E. TELECARE TEAM – Marsha Campbell, Chairman

The TeleCare Team, a St. Paul ministry of caring, was begun in June, 2011. Its purpose is to provide a sense of community among members of St. Paul through telephone contacts. Team members call sick, shut-ins and inactive members as well as potential and new members. They call to offer sympathy following deaths and congratulations for births, baptisms and anniversaries. Calls are usually brief and follow-ups consist of cards, additional calls and, occasionally, visits. Needs are assessed. Reporting is done in committee and to the pastor. There are twelve members of the team. In the calendar year 2016, one hundred and ninety-six contacts within our church family were made.

VII. ADDITIONAL FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

A. BURGER BUNCH - Wayne Gongaware

Our mission is to find the best burger in Lancaster County. We travel all around the county trying out various burger joints and restaurants to find that great tasty burger. Besides enjoying the burgers, we also have fun and develop great relationships. We are multi-generational so all are welcome. We are all grateful for the abundance that God has given us and realize that many people barely have enough food for even one meal a day. So, at the end of each meal we share together, I will take up a donation that we will give to one of our local

organizations who provide food for those in need. Watch for announcements and join us as we continue our search this year.

B. CRAFTERS OF ST. PAUL – Joyce Groff

We meet once a month in a room off of the social hall from 6:30pm to 8:30pm for the purpose of planning and creating various craft items while sharing in fun and Christian fellowship. We make:

- Easter cards and Christmas cards along with a small Christmas gift to be hand delivered by our church members along with a short visit to our shut ins
- Organize and run the Craft Bazaar and choose the mission recipient for the proceeds from the vendors and sale of craft items
- Items to be sold at our Craft Bazaar“
- “Thinking of You” cards to be mailed to members by WELCA when needed
- New this year - we will be making cards for "Cancer Care Ministry"
- With time permitting, we learn new crafts taught by someone within or outside our group

On the first or 2nd Saturday in November we get together to finalize the items we have made for our Bazaar along with advertising signs, etc. while sharing a light lunch.

C. CROSSFIRE - Kathy Ross

This ministry has grown we have an average 40 people showing up for dances. There are 23 other Christian groups that get people together in the area. They’ve teamed up with us to share events and advertising. Fusion is from LCBC and is a large group, Singles together is from Grace Church in Paradise and offer 2 events a month at the church or in the community. There’s a Breakfast group that goes out once a month from the New Holland area. Ours is the only one that has regularly scheduled dances and they occur every other month. Usually on the first Sat of the month. This helps with attendance since people plan on this activity. We also host game nights and dine outs or other events. I’m the only local leader so 2 events a month is all that’s held. Ten came to the last game night and pot luck hosted at the church. Crossfire appreciates the endowment gift. Which they give back in fees for facility use.

D. 55+ (Formerly the Senior Group) - Kathy Ross

Lately the monthly meetings have not well attended; however, the trips were well received. We went to the Masonic Community to view the train (over 10 participants) and enjoyed a dinner trip that became a wine event. In the future we hope to schedule a trip to the Capital. I have had to reschedule meeting dates from the second Wed. of the month to the first. I hope to keep Bingo scheduled and on target over the next few months to see if we have more interest and if this becomes a valued event.

E. LIFE STORY WRITERS - Sandy Bingaman

The Life Story Writers meet on the 4th Tuesday of every month at 1:00 p.m. for one hour (usually in the Social Hall). St. Paul’s is one of several groups in the area that meets on behalf of Life Writers in Lancaster County. The purpose is to give everyone an opportunity to write their

own life story – create their own autobiography. It is a way to show case one’s life by writing personal stories about their unique life experiences. In Christian fellowship we write about life with all its beauty and warts. It is like entering a time tunnel and remembering things forgotten, reviewing life’s achievements, accomplishments, failures, and wisdom gained. One can write in whatever style one chooses. A person can select special events in one’s life they wish to highlight or write an historical accounting in a chronological order. “Every vivid memory is a garden of ripe ideas waiting to be harvested”.

F. MEN’S BREAKFAST - Jim Millhouse

We normally meet the first Saturdays of the month and sometimes when the first doesn’t work, we meet on the second Saturday. The churches involved include St. Paul Penry, Brickerville United Lutheran, Zion Lutheran Manheim and our church. We start at 7am with some socializing, prayer, breakfast, and Bible study. Of late we’ve been averaging 15 men with only three or four from our church in attendance. Usually we are finished between 8-8:00am.

G. PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY & KNITTING – Nancy Weiss

The prayer shawl and knitting ladies meet on the third Tuesday of the month from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in a room off of the social hall. Since this time last year, the ladies knitted/crocheted 17 sweaters, 55 baby/youth hats and 80 hat/mitten sets.

H. ST. PAUL CRAFT FAIR/BAZAAR - Carol Miller

Annual craft fair is held the third Friday evening and Saturday morning in November. 2016 had 23 vendors, the most ever. Vendors were St Paul’s members and others from outside our congregation.

2 vendor spots were at no charge to St Paul’s; senior shepherds and craft group.

Church youth group sold food as a fund raiser for their activities.

Monies collected from the vendor table fee and sales by the craft group were donated to the Bleiler Caring Cottage at Masonic Homes which is a residential caring and life enrichment setting for mentally challenged adults. Donation was \$600 dollars.

I. ST. PAUL GARDEN CLUB – Marsha Campbell, Chairman

This club is seasonal, from May through October. Its purpose is to plant annuals and tend the ten gardens visible in the front of the church.

Volunteers plant, weed, water and deadhead. No church monies are used for supplies, but the gardens themselves are cleaned up and mulched early in the spring by the spring cleanup volunteer crew.

Nine members served on this committee in 2016.

Working meetings were held Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm and Saturday mornings at 11:00am, weather permitting.

J. ST. PAUL WOMEN OF THE ELCA LUNCH BUNCH - Nancy Miller

The Lunch Bunch is a small group of women formed to not only enjoy a lunch out once a month, but to also share in fellowship without a set agenda or time frame. We meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 11:30 at local restaurants. At this time, the group has grown

to a dozen or so on any given month. Even the aftermath of a snowstorm did not keep four women from enjoying their Lunch Bunch!

North Star Initiative has been designated as a worthy agency to support as a ministry focus for the Lunch Bunch. An offering was taken in December 2016 that was then sent to North Star to assist in restoring women from human trafficking. Their mission statement is, "North Star Initiative provides support to women who are survivors of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation by addressing their physical, psychological, emotional and spiritual needs through a Christ-centered focus." In December 2016, the first donation to North Star was \$330. Feel free to sign up at the kiosk in the Narthex to join the ladies in fellowship, fun and an important cause.

K. SUPPER CLUB- Deb Rothermel

In 2016, we had 12 couples/singles who participated. There were 3 supper club groups this year, which is down from the number of participants from last year. Each group consisted of 4 couples or singles. Each group met 4 times during the year to have dinner at each of the couples or singles' homes. The host would provide the main entrée and sides for the meal, and each of the others would provide an appetizer, salad, or dessert. During the year, each couple or single would host once, and bring each of the other items once during the year.

These supper club groups have been a great way for people to get to know others who they may barely know, or to get to know others people better. All of those people who have participated have thoroughly enjoyed being involved with these groups. We hope for 2017 we can get more people involved especially new people with all the new members we have now.

L. WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB - Gayle Stauffer

The Book Club (first organized in 2010) meets in the Lounge at 7:00 PM on the first Thursday every other month to discuss books of current interest suggested and chosen by the group.

We began 2016 with a "Bring your own book" session in January at which each participant shared one or more books that she enjoyed reading. Other titles included Accidental Saints by Nadia Bolz-Weber,

Rosie Project by Graeme Simsion, A Spool of Blue Thread by Anne Tyler, All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr, and The Best Christmas Pageant Ever by Barbara Robinson. Selections for 2017 include: Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet by Jamie Ford (February), Bel Canto by Ann Patchett (April), The Museum of Extraordinary Things by Alice Hoffman (June) and Miller's Valley by Anna Quindlen (August)

M. YOGA AND TAI CHI - Kathy Ross

Fitness ministry Monday night Yoga at 6 p.m. and Wed morning Tai Chi at 9 a.m., continue to serve the congregation and community. Yoga has two regular congregant participants and 3-4 visitors over the year. I've been approached by a few new congregants that express a desire to join but it has yet to be a habit. Tai Chi enjoys the space through the winter months and will return to the park when the weather hits 70 degrees. This has 5 regular attendees 2 of which come from our congregation.