

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
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THE EPISTLE

Volume 67 Issue 10

November 2024

Pastor's Column

Hello, my friends,

Nothing says “winter is coming” like the annual time change. Yes, the upside is that we gain another hour in the morning, but the downside is that we are plunged into a season of unique darkness. This is one of the things that has been the hardest for me since moving to the Lower Mainland. I remember going to my doctor and explaining that I didn't feel right because my mood went up and down periodically. He looked at me calmly and said, “We all experience that; it's the dark,” and I have been taking vitamin D ever since!

One month away, we will be at the beginning of the Advent Season, a time of great anticipation and hope as we wait for the birth of our Lord. Sometimes, the darkness is the most intense before dawn, and in the light of Advent, we get a taste of what is to come.

We are reminded that it is also a time of light. As we leave the spooky lights of Halloween - soon the lights of Christmas will usher in a new year and the birth of the true Son. Even as we are blanketed by darkness, we are encouraged to seek the light within us. Darkness is not the enemy; it is the canvas by which we see the light.

May we move forward into this season knowing Christ walks with us. Knowing that God is ever present in the shifting landscape of light and dark, may we use this month before Advent to open our hearts and use it as an opportunity to nurture the light within.

God's Blessing,

Pastor Nic



Your Call Committee Invites
You All to a:

**Pastoral Candidate
Meet & Greet
Saturday, November 23rd!**

From 1:00 - 3:00pm
St. Paul's Lutheran Church

***St. Paul's
Special Call Meeting
Sunday, November 24th – 11:30 am***

A special meeting of the congregation has been called by the Church Council of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haney, B.C.

This special congregational meeting will be held in person at St. Paul's Lutheran Church immediately after our worship service on Sunday, November 24th.

Please note that the special meeting will not be held on zoom or live-streamed.

St. Paul's Church Council has called this special meeting to vote on whether we will issue a call to the Pastor your Call Committee has selected.



We are looking for additional people who would like to serve on Ministry teams. We could use assistance with lectors, ushers, communion assistants or serving coffee after worship. If anyone is able to help out please let the office know.

Council Corner



I have been struggling with what I wanted to write for this month's Epistle. Do I write words of inspiration? Encouragement? Do I talk about my own struggles with this "in between" stage we find ourselves in as we work with our Call Committee, and the call process – and it is a process indeed!

I think, instead, I will simply express my thanks and gratitude. First and foremost, to all of you at St. Paul's. Whether you are a member or a frequent visitor, whether you join us for in-person worship or via technology – we would not exist without you. We would have a building, but without people, there is no community, and I appreciate our community.

I would also like to thank Pastor Nicolas Alexandre, and Christ The King Lutheran Church, for working with us to find an arrangement that works for both churches as we make our way through this challenging season. Without a full-time pastor, your Council members had been sailing a somewhat rudderless ship, and we are very appreciative of the guidance Pastor Nic has provided this year.

Last, but never least, I would like to thank all our volunteers – from our Council members, the ELW, the Altar Guild, the Live Streaming Committee, Property Committee, Outreach, Choir, Worship Committee, our Call Committee, and everyone else who supports St. Paul's many endeavors throughout the year. It takes a village, and though our village is small, we are mighty, and I continually pray that more will hear the call to step up and assist. Many hands make light work.

I have moved away from Maple Ridge on multiple occasions, as far away as Terrace, and although I had considered changing congregations, I never did. I was baptized at St. Paul's. It is where my daughters were baptized and attended Sunday School. It is where my soul calls home, not because of the building but because of the people found within. I am grateful for all of you, and the gifts you continually share.

Yours in Christ,

*Corinne
Council Chair*

**The LORD bless you and keep you;
The LORD make His face shine upon you,
And be gracious to you;
The LORD lift up His countenance upon you,
And give you peace.
(Numbers 6: 24-26)**

POINSETTIA FUNDRAISER

Hello St. Paul's!

It's that time of year when we are all starting to think about Christmas. This year we are bringing back the poinsettia fundraiser!



I am very excited about this year's fundraiser as the increase in living expenses have become so high that many people cannot afford basic needs, therefore, we are donating the proceeds to go to the food bank. This is a wonderful way to give back to our community in time for Christmas.

You can pick up an order form at the church, or print it off in the email sent to congregational members. Please make sure that all your purchases are directly through the fund-raiser and the order form provided.

If you have any questions please contact Stephanie

Order deadline is: Sunday, November 17th

Pick up: Sunday, December 1st at St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Time: 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Let's give back and help out our community!

Evangelical Lutheran Women (ELW) November, 2024

Upcoming Events!

Next Meeting

Come and join us at our next business meeting on Saturday, November 9 at 11:00 am at the Church. Please note the later meet time of 11:00 am as the ELW officers have a meeting at the Bank for updating the signing officers.

ELW Christmas Party

All women are invited to attend on Saturday, December 12 running from 11:00 am to approximately 2:00 pm. This will be a pot luck luncheon with everyone encouraged to bring something to share.

More information will follow later in November.



The tables below provide a quick snapshot of our financial performance as of September 30, 2024.



The first table shows our year-to-date revenue and expenses versus 2023. Our expenses exceeded revenue by \$1887.

	YTD Sept. 30, 2024	YTD Sept. 30, 2023	2024 vs 2023 Variance
Total Revenue	\$127,934	\$137,907	-\$9,973
Total Expenses	\$129,821	\$150,407	-\$20,586
Excess of Revenue over Expenses	-\$1,887	-\$12,500	\$10,613

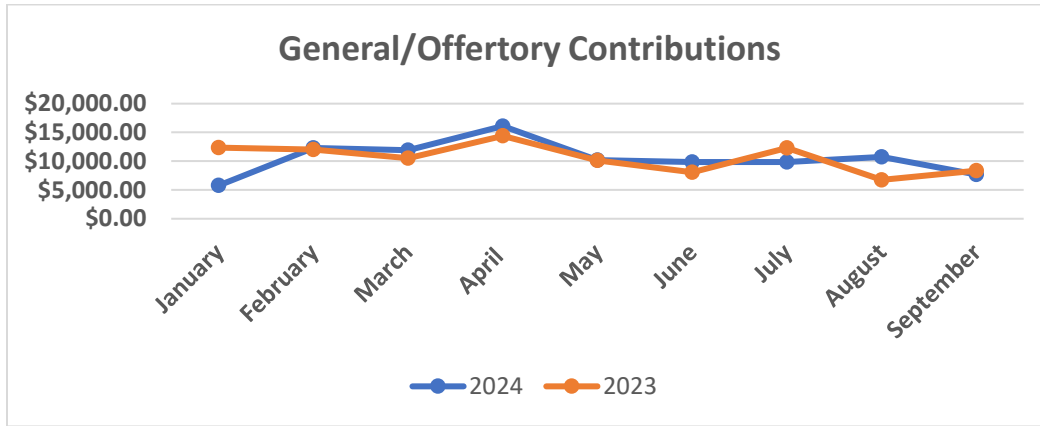


The second table shows our year-to-date revenue and expenses versus our 2024 prorated budget. We are behind our prorated budget by \$1887.

	YTD Sept. 30, 2024	2024 Prorated Budget	Actuals vs Prorated Budget 2023
Total Revenue	\$127,934	\$140,000	-\$12,066
Total Expenses	\$129,821	\$140,000	-\$10,179
Excess of Revenue over Expenses	-\$1,887	\$0	-\$1,887



Our year-to-date offertory giving is almost on par with 2023. At present we are lower by only \$479.60 (0.51%). Fortunately, our monthly giving, as shown by the graph below, does not have the strong fluctuations that we saw during 2023.



Thank You!

FOR YOUR ONGOING FINANCIAL SUPPORT!

Gary
Treasurer & Financial Secretary

ALTAR GUILD

Information about the Church Year - Part 10.

All Saints' Day

November 1 commemorates all the baptized people of God who have died in the faith. This year we will recognize it on Sunday, November 3 and the paraments will change to white.

Christ the King Sunday

This is the last Sunday of the church year, which celebrates the kingship of Christ. The paraments change to white. This year Christ the King Sunday is November 24.

The next Sunday (December 1) is the first Sunday in Advent with the beginning of the new Church year.

Linda
(Altar Guild Coordinator)



On Saturday, December 7th, our church building will be open to the neighbourhood and the congregation, as we collect gently used and new toys. The toys we collect that day will be taken to the Christmas Hamper Society and will be available for their Recycle Rudolph program (gifts and clothing are provided for families who are in need).

we are looking for volunteers to cover 2 shifts:

Shift 1 (9:45am – 12:00pm)

Shift 2 (12:00pm – 2:45 ish)

Contact Shawna if you are interested in volunteering

List of suggested new toys

Ages 0-4:

- Outdoor toys: tricycle; kick scooter; balance bike; balls
- Building blocks: Megablocks; wooden blocks; stacking blocks
- Musical toys: xylophone; maracas; drums
- Educational toys: Leapfrog; co-operative board games; Trace-n-Erase chalkboards; Magna-Tiles; Toy Toolbox
- Arts and crafts: Play-doh; crayons; paints & easels
- Imagination toys: toy cars and train sets; magnetic fishing sets; play food sets; dolls

Ages 5-11:

- Outdoor toys: kick scooter; bicycle; soccer ball; basketball;
- Games & puzzles: Pokemon Cards; Perplexus; Monopoly; Cranium Family Edition; Sorry; Twister; Chutes and Ladders
- Arts and craft sets: pencil crayons; pastels; DIY craft kits; jewelry making sets
- STEM toys: science kits; kids coding games. Imagination toys: pretend and dress up; interactive pet toys
- Building blocks and sets: Lego; marble maze; Kiva blocks

- Action figures and dolls: Barbie; play sets; video game characters; Marvel action figures
- Age-appropriate electronics

Ages 12-18:

- Sports and activities: Nerf toys; hockey gear; skateboard; activity tracker
- Games, Arts & Crafts: Settlers of Catan; Cards Against Humanity; Scrabble; Codenames; Telestrations; professional art supplies; intricate models; advanced Lego sets
- Electronics: handheld gaming devices; portable chargers; Bluetooth speakers; headphones; wireless earbuds
- Lifestyle: watch; fitness/water bottles; backpacks; travel mugs; make-up; jewelry; hair styling tools; wallets; purses
- Gift cards for clothing, electronics, etc. so that tweens and teens can pick out something for themselves that they will love and need



As you drive by the Church, you will notice that the hedges along the perimeter of the property have now been neatly trimmed. Next on the landscaping list will be to give the trees along 212th Street a long overdue pruning.

*Thank
you!*

to Mike for helping to MAKE THIS HAPPEN!

I am sure you have noticed that the flooring in the Church Hall is starting to 'show its age'.

Recently, we met with a flooring contractor who is in the process of providing us with a proposal to give us a general idea as to what this type of project will cost.

Preliminary examination of the flooring underneath the existing carpet and linoleum indicates a fairly strong likelihood that asbestos exists in the old tiles. We will do a quick test to confirm this assumption. If the test is

positive for asbestos, then the replacement costs will increase significantly, as they will need to include formal asbestos abatement.

Stay tuned for more information. In the meantime, please be aware that there is no safety risk to anyone using the hall as the asbestos is not airborne.



Gary
Property Committee

