

**Voters' Assembly Agenda  
February 11, 2024**

Meeting called to order at 1:30 p.m. by President Tim Sergent

Devotion by Pastor Bruner, Hymn 411

MMSp to approve minutes for December voter's meeting

**New Voting Members**

- Dennis & Lisa Weiss
- Lonnie Kester
- Aaron Singer

MMSp to accept new members

**Old Business**

- Facility Repair Project Update Letter - available in newsletters and bulletin

**New Business**

- TIM recommendation--currently \$16,000 in the TIM account.

Council recommends 2024 commitment of \$4000 for each missionary-Rev Dr David & Joyce Erber, Rev Charles & Cheryl Ferry, Todd Roeske--this would be the same commitment as 2023. MMSp to commit \$4000 for each missionary for 2024

- Balanced budget letter-presented for Voter's assembly to review - MMS-not passed- to rescind December's Voter's directive that Church Council present a plan to balance the budget at April Voter's meeting. MMSp to accept Balanced budget letter as Council's response to December balanced budget directive.

- Trust and Investment Report - Richard Glady

Total Investment	\$753,586.83	
Total amount available for disbursement for 2024		\$62,069.48

A detailed report will be in the Church Annual. Applications are being accepted for disbursement until April 1, 2024. Forms are available at the church office or on line. If spendable funds are still available after the April voters meeting the committee will review any requests as we receive them.

**Board Reports**

Education/Principal - Angi O'Neil

-Open teaching position filled- 6th grade homeroom, 7/8th grade math science- Jon Markiewicz

Elders - Matt Ayotte

-Membership changes  
 -Transfers in - Noah & Gunner May (sons of Lindsey May) - MMSP to accept  
 transfers in  
 -Transfers out - Robert & Jeanette Keinath, and Matthew Greenan and daughter  
 Delaney to St Lorenz, Frankenmuth. MMSP to accept transfers out  
 Evangelism/Fellowship - Celeste Ketels  
 -Ash Wednesday dinner - proceeds toward church picnic  
 -Euchre Saturday, Feb 17  
 Finance - Gloria LaPointe  
 -reviewed financial reports  
 -Diane Ackerman new CEF representative- anticipate visit from CEF home officer in April  
 Salary & Personnel Committee - no report  
 Social Concerns - Patti Martinal  
 -Served 9 families (25 children) with the Giving Tree - Student Council sponsored a large  
 family  
 -Lenten Dinner on Feb 21st  
 -Parent's Night Out on Feb 24th  
 -Derby Party on May 4th  
 -Bottle Drive between Mother's and Father's Day  
 Trustees - Jon Keinath  
 -Architect working on drawings, expected done at end of month  
 -Ongoing projects  
 -removal of basketball hoops in Parish Hall, exploring using activity center for  
 larger events  
 - requested motion to allow alcoholic use during events - MMSP to move to allow  
 exploration in allowing events using alcohol - secret  
 ballot held - 24 yes, 10 no. MMSP to destroy the ballots.  
 Associate Pastor - Pastor Martinal  
 -Winter/Spring AIC started, 3 attending  
 -Accreditation in process - March 20-22 team in building  
 -"A" basketball season just ended. Hosted girl's tournament here.  
 Administrative Pastor - Pastor Bruner (written report)

Adjournment at 3:12 p.m.

Closed with common doxology

### **Balanced budget letter**

St. Paul Lutheran Church and School in Millington has been blessed by God through the years. He has been guiding us from the moment our forefathers took a leap of faith and established St. Paul over 125 years ago. From that humble beginning in a small church and school to the beautiful sanctuary, K-8 day school, preschool, and daycare housed inside our building today, God has directed our steps. Our current sanctuary was built 56 years ago, in 1968. Fifty-six years seems like a long time when you

are 8, but by the time you are 30, you realize what a short period of time 56 years truly is. The school building has been added on to, remodeled, and remodeled again since that time as well. Take a look around and see all we have been blessed with. Thousands of children have studied God's Word here, and their belief and education have been nurtured within these walls.

Our congregation is going through challenging times. The Covid pandemic affected individuals and relationships everywhere. Church attendance and participation in activities has waned. How can these improve? The world is changing daily, and we need to be prepared to meet the challenges our ever-changing world creates. Our forefathers faced similar challenges. How can we, as a congregation, best move forward? We are asking for your help—how can we improve and/or offer meaningful activities? Please reach out and offer suggestions.

The Voters' Assembly has asked the Church Council to look at ways to balance our 2024 budget. Our congregation has been blessed with resources that have covered previous budgets and are expected to cover the 2024 "deficit budget." We have not borrowed money to cover our expenses in recent years. Our line of credit has had to be accessed in the past, but currently this option is not necessary. Since 2004, we have witnessed 11 "deficit" years and 7 "surplus" years (see chart). In 11 out of the last 12 years, our actual net revenue and expenses were at (within ½%) or better than budgeted. In those 12 years, we passed \$390k worth of deficit budgets, but had actual surpluses of \$340k, for a net swing of \$746k. This is due to a variety of factors including unexpected gifts, donations, and bequests. Budgets do not typically anticipate these items, as they are nearly impossible to estimate.

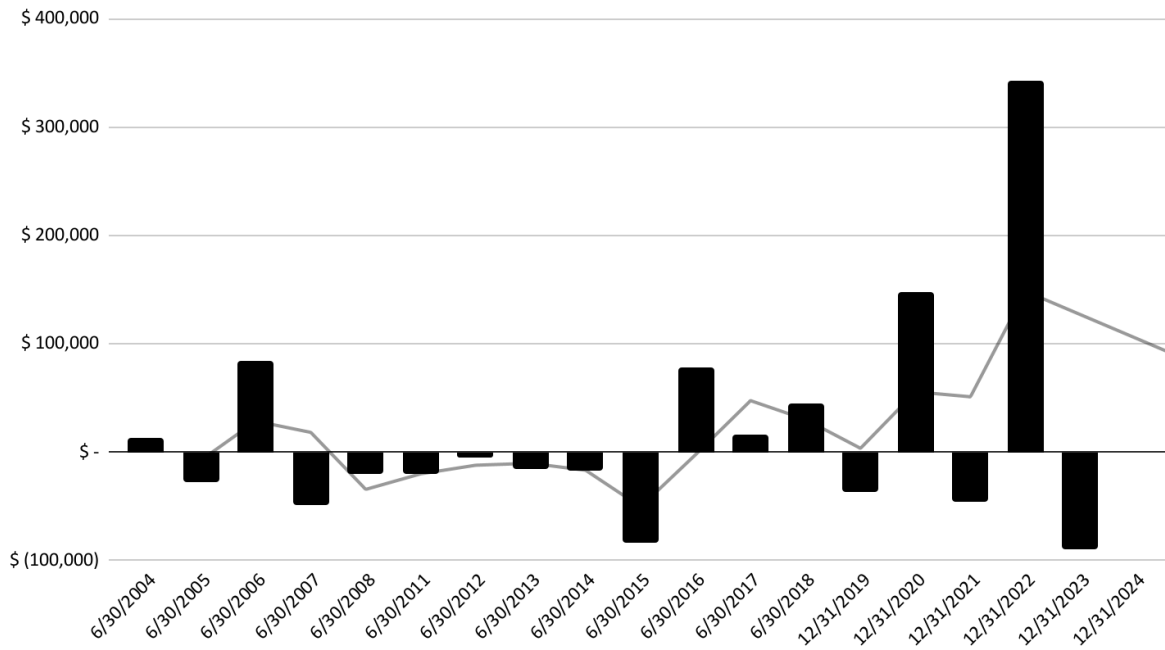
Reaching a balanced budget, on paper, will demand increased revenue as well as significant decreases in expenditures. Revenues will increase with increased member participation in activities and fundraising. Expenditure reduction will mean sharp reductions in services including personnel, benefits, and education/mission opportunities.

Mapping out these reductions in an effort to "paint a picture" of a balanced budget will create distrust and upheaval throughout our church and school. Unfortunately, doing so will also create a "snowball effect" as cutting opportunities will also result in congregational tension and exodus, thereby creating further need for reduction.

God has provided for this congregation, without fail. Church Council members faithfully and continually review our financial situation. Our members, by the grace of God, have been able to support bringing staff salaries within District guidelines over the past few years, as well as begin the process for needed repairs to our sanctuary. God has always provided. We, as members of St. Paul Lutheran Church and School, must move forward and trust in Him. None of us know the future, but God does. And His will among us will be done. To God alone be the glory.

**- Requesting motion to rescind December voter's directive that Church Council present a plan to balance the budget at April Voter's meeting -**

## Yearly Surplus/Deficit Actuals



### **Pastoral report to Voters Feb 11, 2024**

#### Visitation:

Shutins (19 total) 10 home visits, 3 to complete (1 new addition), 6 have been attending church  
 Hospital contacts - Valerie Peche, Mary White, Eugene Weiss, Lloyd Walz, Mary Jane Shreve, Mike Derscha, one in home visit to a member

#### Official Acts:

Funeral - Valerie Peche 1/29/24  
 Memorial scheduled for Mary Jane Shreve 5/11/24  
 Pre Marriage arrangements for future wedding

#### Ministry and Education:

We continue to lead multiple chapel services for the upper grades and the lower grades.  
 Pastors continue to help instruct 5-8th grade religion classes.  
 Both pastors have been leading the Faith on Fire adult class, except when Pastor Martinal is teaching an Adult Instruction Class (which is currently in session).  
 Young at Heart Fellowship and Bible study (2nd Thursday each month) continues to be received well.

#### Meetings:

Faculty morning devotions and briefing  
 Faculty teams working on NLSA

Millington Ministerial Alliance

LEAP

Projects we are working on:

Lenten series: Mysteries of Lent

Arranged for CEF representative Julie Burgess to share Planned Giving presentation on 3-17-24 between services.

Pastor Martinal is still assisting the Athletic Director.

Monthly family event, ADF agreement, Short and Long range Planning, Protecting Young Eyes (re: technology)