

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

2022 Annual Report

**Prepared for Annual Meeting on
November 20, 2022**

**25 W. Springettsbury Ave.
York, PA 17403
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- A. Call to Order Tristan Ericson
- B. Opening Prayer Pr. Reep
- C. Council President’s Remarks Tristan Ericson
- D. Approval of 2021 Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes Tristan Ericson
- E. Nominating Committee Report Tristan Ericson
- F. Nominations from floor and election
 - a. Congregation Council
 - b. Benevolence Committee
 - c. Mutual Ministry Committee
 - d. Voting Members 2023 Synod Assembly
- G. New Business
 - a. Report of elections, second ballot if needed Tristan Ericson
 - b. Financial report Peter O’Conor
 - c. Presentation of budget Peter O’Conor
 - d. Approval of budget Tristan Ericson
 - e. Pr. Reep sabbatical Tristan Ericson
- H. Parish/Ministry News and Reports
 - a. Benevolence Mike Bingham
 - b. Mpuguso Pr. Reep
 - c. Witness Earline Jones
- I. Pastor’s Report Pr. Reep
- J. Closing Remarks, Adjournment, and Prayer Tristan Ericson

SLATE OF NOMINEES	
Council	3 Year Terms
	Kathleen Lemke 2 nd Term
	Nancy Bennett 2 nd Term
	Darren Smith
	Kirsten Barnes
	Nikki Herdson
	Daniel Mays
	Sheridan Palmer
Mutual Ministry	Christine Kates
	Kathie Ruth
Benevolence	Bill Snyder
Synod Reps	Jill Striebig
	Kelly Spencer-Moore
	Dan Garber

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Mission: To Teach the World that God is Love

Annual Meeting Minutes

November 21, 2021 10:45 am both in person/Zoom

- A. Call to Order** at 10:47 am Tristan Ericson
- B. Opening Prayer** Pastor Reep
- C. Council President's Remarks** Tristan Ericson
 - a. Things that make St. Paul's successful... adaptability, committed members and more than we can count. In retrospect, the tough decision- making in regards to COVID have taken place more this last year than during 2020. Our new filtration system of our HVAC system has helped St. Paul's to make decisions in regards to COVID.
 - b. Thanks that our membership has been dedicated - we have been here in both online and in-person worship. Our membership is financially committed to the church which has helped even more. We have seen parish growth and new members to St. Paul's.
 - c. St. Paul's leadership remains focused on:
 - i. Sustaining worship safely through in-person and online services.
 - ii. Connecting members through worship and fellowship
 - iii. Securing/preparing future parish leadership
 - iv. Supporting our faith community, staff and ministries/committees, post-COVID
- D. Approval of 2020 Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes** Tristan Ericson

Motion made and seconded to approve the minutes. Motion carried.
- E. Nominating Committee Reports** Patty Snyder and Kem Vaught
- F. Nominations from floor and Elections: Slate of Nominees**

Council	3 Year Terms
	Alexis Heistand
	Christ Lipp
	Steve Schedin
	Carol Woodbury
Mutual Ministry	Jane Fitch - 3 year
	Tom Ruth - 3 year

	Mike Bingham- 2 year
	Tony Culp - 1 year
Benevolence	Lauren Smith - 3 year

G. New Business

a. Report of elections, second ballot if needed

Tristan

Ericson

Motion and second to accept the slate of candidate - approved.

b. Financial investments and bookkeeping

Peter O’Conor

i. Investment Portfolio

1. New Portfolio Manager - Fulton Financial from Wilmington Trust
2. No distributions taken in 2021
3. Year to Date Growth -13%
 - a. 12/30/20 \$3,414,500
 - b. 10/31/21 \$3,862,792

ii. Mortgage Balance

1. Balance as of 11/10/2021 - \$2,158,714.76

iii. General Offering Income

1. As of 10/31/2021 \$315,507
2. This is \$104,874 over budge of \$210,633

iv.

c. Presentation of budget

Peter O’Conor

- i. 2022 Budget has increased our general income to \$582,088 - includes, rental, trust and donations. Other income is \$2,400 for pantry. Preschool income is \$73,000. Total is \$657,488.
- ii. 2022 Budget for Expenses - we only budget the mortgage interest as the principal is not an income statement expense. Witness is looking to redo the websites so their budget has increased. Christian Education has also increased their budget slightly this year. Total budget for expenses is \$708,186. Our net income is a (50,698) deficit.
- iii. Questions from the floor:
 1. Preschool income - why has it dropped? Because of COVID the spring of 2022 participation is lower as it has been in the fall of 2021. But, by the fall of 2022 we will hopefully be back to normal.
 2. How much staff raise is included in the budget? We put in 5% for the entire year - but the amount actually awarded is under the Mutual Ministry committee. Tristan Ericson added: The numbers were discussed by the Council of 3% or 5% and we felt going with the higher number was what we felt was necessary.

d. Approval of budget

Tristan Ericson

Motion to approve the budget and seconded. Approved by all.

e. Capital projects

Kem Vaught

- i. Since we got the building renovated we discovered some items that need to be done. Over the last year we did get the sound system. We added

signage to the building and new safety items.

ii. Needs of the church

1. Steeple - we have to get it painted this year. Our current quote is actually lower than the one we had years ago.
2. The Diakon building also needs to be painted.
3. The pantry entry is having issues with water and icing on the ramp - we are thinking of building an awning to cover that entry to solve that problem.
4. The overflow parking lot needs to be cleaned up and rearranged so it works better so it adds to the building.

f. **Changes to Constitution**

Tristan Ericson

- i. Not ready to bring this to a vote but we want to tell you there are changes coming from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Most of it seems to be minor changes.

H. Parish/Ministry News and Reports

a. **Bridge of Hope**

Bill Snyder

Bridge of Hope is a national organization to help bridge homeless families from homelessness to a home. We are part of the greater Harrisburg affiliate and we are looking to have more people to sign up to be neighboring volunteers that help the families. Being a volunteer has four parts:

- Open your heart and mind to understand homelessness
- Open our eyes to learn new things.
- Opening our hands to help a family find housing and get meals. Being involved with the family.
- Opening doors to the family - and Bridge of Hope does provide rental assistance for 18 months.

The Community Resource Specialist will be working with the volunteers and the families.

b. **Christian Education**

Patty Snyder

Children and teachers are back in the building learning about Christ. We have 8 youth that have begun their journey to Confirmation. And there is adult learning both in-person and online on Zoom. The Christian Education community doubled in size through COVID because the committee meets online now and so members can use lunch time or have their children with them. So many members have helped with the education of our members and specifically Patty thanks: Pastor Tom McKee, Pastor Judy McKee, Pastor George Fitch, Pastor William Snyder, Pastor Stan Reep, Kelly Moore-Spenser, Amy Lipp, Jessica Ericson, Leah McComas, Angela Lauer, Brianne Humpal, Kathryn Gerber, Nicki Herdson, Anna Herdson, Steph Harrington, Dan Garber, Scott Herdson and Sheridan Palmer.

c. **Scout Troop 19**

Tom Gibson

Boy Scouts of America has gone through a lot of change over the last few years. We have tied the number of members who have made Eagle Scout. Unfortunately, it will end on February 28, 2022 unless we can find someone to work with Troop 19 after over 100 years of Troop 19.

I. Pastor's Report

Pastor Reep

We now have an outside bookkeeper, but now Patee has taken on more work and we wish to thank her for doing all this work. But we also thank Ted for keeping the building clean. Also want to thank Victor for keeping our music ministry in our lives and also thank Leah for our new handbell. Cody Messersmith is our new music ministry role. Kelly is due thanks for her support of our Confirmation ministry and education of our youth. On May 1, 2022 we have 5 new members through Confirmation here at St. Paul's. Also wants to thank Deb, our preschool director, and her valuable work with the Preschool. Thanks to our congregation for not only their financial support but also their words of encouragement. Also thanks to our COVID task force and all the issues of meeting in person and we are blessed to have medical professionals on our task force.

In the last 8 years, our baptized new member growth is 63 new members. In the last 8 years we have gained 14 new confirmed members. Our active members are engaged in something beyond Sunday worship - we have 468 members. Members that are actively engaged in faithful and active membership of a church live an additional 7 years. The majority of philanthropic activity in a community comes from people who are active in a faith filled life.

Also he wants to thank everyone involved in our worship and music ministries this last year. We have been singing new songs and reflecting on some of the societal challenges we are all facing. Let us continue to sing a new song as we teach the world that God is love.

J. Adjournment and Closing Prayer

Pastor Reep

Motion to adjourn at 11:52 am.

Respectfully submitted

Kathryn Wicker, Council Secretary

Annual Report of the Pastor 2022

I have the privilege of serving in Gospel ministry at St. Paul's Lutheran Church with a dedicated staff, energized Congregation Council and an encouraging Mutual Ministry Committee. I am indebted to them for all that they do, for without such faithfulness, ministry as we know and experience it, would be drastically diminished. At this current point in time I consider the congregation to be in a very healthy position.

We regularly have guests join us Sunday morning for worship. We continue to welcome new persons into our faith community. Sunday Church attendance is moving toward the levels that we recorded prior to the pandemic in 2020. Reformation Sunday we surpassed 150 in attendance and on the Feast of All Saints we pushed passed 175. The live stream component is growing as more people discover us and our YouTube presence. This electronic, social media format is an area of ministry that we have just waded into and one worth fully exploring. Sunday school participation, especially in the primary department, is increasing week over week. Mid-week Bible study has a central place in our life together each Wednesday. Weekday Chapel services with our preschoolers permit them to engage with stories from the Bible, learn songs about faith and life, and learn to pray "The Our Father." The full complement of committees as outlined in our church bylaws are meeting with regularity and are resuming their duties within the framework set out therein.

St. Paul's Preschool is a priority for the congregation. Through the years, nearly 60 of them, we have been the source of early childhood education for hundreds of children in the York community. We launch them from this nurturing environment into a future of learning and growth. Deb Becker, Director of Preschool, along with Allison Lehr, Assistant Director, worked through the time of pandemic to retool many aspects of the school; from what curriculum best meets the needs of learners to safety procedures such as student drop off and pick up. This year we have a significant number of church family children enrolled in the school. As mentioned above, I have the delight of leading chapel services for the children once each week. This opportunity to share faith, read from the Bible, teach Psalm texts, sing songs of faith, and lead them in prayer is a huge evangelistic component to our mission, *to teach the world that God is love.*

The music ministry is fully staffed. Victor Fields provides the musical stability for our liturgy with organ and piano and selects appropriated anthems and service music for the Chancel Choir. With the popularity of our Handbell Choir we had more ringers interested in playing this fall season than there are positions needed to ring our five octaves of handbells. Our Handbell Director, Leah McComas, has added a second choir comprised of mostly dads and their upper elementary aged children. (This too is a unique sign of our health noting the number of men that are actively involved with ministry.) Julianna Jones began this fall providing leadership for the Cherub and Cantabile Choirs. She regularly leads 16 of our youngest singers and 7 of our mid-elementary age children in offering their prayer, praise and thanksgiving to God. Additionally we frequently enjoy the wide array of instrumental musical talent found within our fellowship.

The church building is a critical component for carrying out our ministry. Following the most recent renovations we are blessed to have a building that is meeting our needs. We are also blessed to have a Property and Grounds Committee who monitor the needs of the building and

grounds, and who take an active role in making sure that the building and grounds are in excellent condition. This year a massive painting project brought the exterior of the Diakon property back into good repair and attractive appearance (nothing had been done to the exterior of that property for more than 20 years). Maintaining the steeple is an on-going need. Fewer companies are willing to bid on such work due to the height. This year a local painting contractor was able to provide us with basic maintenance and fresh paint. Ted Weikert, our Church Sexton, provides oversight to the daily operation and care of the building. Joey Kinkella assumed the duties of part time custodial staff providing service for the Upper Level rooms hosting the preschool. With the movement away from the days of shut down caused by the pandemic more people are meeting in person utilizing our facilities. All 38,000 square feet are being used with regularity.

The daily operation of the congregation centers on the church office and the planning calendar. Patee Pizzirusso, Church Secretary, manages the office and keeps up with the on-going requests for use of the building. She assists staff, congregation members, and community members with many different tasks daily. With her attention to detail we avoid scheduling conflicts. Using the building to its fullest is a reflection of good stewardship and the desire to be good neighbors. Musicians, music clubs and organizations, community associations, college groups, and neighbors appear on the list of people we welcomed into our beautiful house of worship during 2022. Those who find welcome here voice their appreciation not only to us but throughout the community.

The Food Pantry operates weekly providing neighbors who are in need of food with a convenient, accessible, pleasant place to shop without money. We celebrated the 40th anniversary of the pantry ministry during the month of September. We officially recognized the dedication and devotion of the late Sylvia Little for her more and two decades of leadership and service. Volunteers were honored. And we held our third Harvest Dinner and Auction to benefit the needs of the Food Pantry. I am incredibly grateful to those who support this event through purchasing a calendar depicting my artwork, and to those who secure the high bid and purchase an original painting at the auction. Thank you for your generosity to help those in need.

Remembering those in need is an important aspect of Christian community. This year we have been remembering our sisters and brothers in Tanzania at Mpuguso Lutheran Church, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania and our companion congregation. As they undertook a new church building program, we committed to providing monetary assistance as we were able. Most recently we have helped with phase #4, the roof. Special offerings received during the month of November will be sent so that they can purchase the materials needed to complete their roof prior to their rainy season. Our partnership with them is deep and long, with friendships formed and projects undertaken for more than 30 years! Letters, not so much different as those recorded in the New Testament, tell the story of God's love in Christ being lived out, baptisms being celebrated, evangelists preaching Christ crucified, and sharing in the needs of the saints. This late summer we shared in providing one another with weekly devotional materials. They were shared each week with congregants through email.

This year we confirmed 5 young people. It was a remarkable accomplishment for them to participate and receive instruction throughout the period of the pandemic. Their confirmation years were marked by masking and distance and electronic communication. However the class of

2022 marks the beginning of an increase in young people at St. Paul's. Kelly Moore-Spencer, Youth Director, nurtured relationships throughout the pandemic. She delivered materials at the homes of our church families. She texted and emailed and made phone calls. This year the Tuesday evening CREATE is bearing the fruit of her labor. Children are engaging with Bible stories and sharing stories of faith and life. They color pictures, make cards and crafts, and participate in service projects. God's Work our Hands yielded 1,000 personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief. Children are making friends at church. From such friendships spring forth lives of devotion and service. We are blessed with families who value such Christian relationships.

All of this and much more is provided for and maintained through the generosity of our members, people like you who financially give regularly. We completed our first stewardship appeal in three years. Many members willing took a step forward in their financial giving. Others stepped up by completing Time and Ability Forms identifying ways in which they will share their time and talent to strengthen and enliven our life together. Our Treasurer, Peter O'Connor, has done an outstanding job of keeping our financial records, providing reports, and giving oversight to the annual audit. His report will reflect in detail the financial health of the congregation.

Our life together is centered on and in worship. The liturgy is where we receive God's gifts to us of grace and mercy and where we offer to God our prayer, praise and thanksgiving. I am honored to serve as Pastor of the congregation. I strive to preach sermons that are faithful to our Lutheran identity and which clearly proclaim God's love made known to us through Christ Jesus. This year I have been particularly aware of the way God calls us to follow. Jesus, revealed through the Gospel of Luke, is a great story teller. He tells stories to gain followers, followers who will live lives reflective of "*the last being first and the first being last.*" Followers who listen, learn, and love their neighbors deeply. 2022 has been a year of such following. It is reflected in the pages of the staff and committee reports included in this document. As we bring to a close another calendar year I thank you for the privilege of serving as Pastor of St. Paul's.

In love and service to our Lord,
Rev. Stanley Reep
Pastor

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
2022 Parochial Information
(a/o 11-14-22)

Baptized Membership Gains:

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism – 7

Olivia Krone	1-9-22
Delaney Rose Duvall	1-9-22
Indiana Belle Jones	4-17-22
Margaret Grace Molenda	4-17-22
Jane Elizabeth Berkey	4-24-22
Molly Mae McComas	5-22-22
Weston Walker Wagner	10-2-22

Non-confirmed membership Transfers –

Confirmed membership received – 14

Margaret Staley	1-9-22
Michael Poster	1-9-22
Nancy Poster	1-9-22
Cheryl Reifsteck	1-9-22
Matthew Duvall	1-9-22
Catherine Duvall	1-9-22
Christine Kates	4-17-22
Keith Kates	4-17-22
Julianna Kates	4-17-22
Jacob Kates	4-17-22
Garret Jones	4-17-22
Joseph Molenda	4-17-22
Annie Molenda	4-17-22
George Stallman, III	6-5-22

Total Baptized Membership Gained - 21

Baptized Membership Losses:

Request to be removed –4

Rich Lloyd	2-24-22	St Matthew Lutheran Church, York
Judy Lloyd	2-24-22	St. Matthew Lutheran Church, York
Angela Piel	4-8-22	Grace Lutheran Church, Lancaster
Carla Lloyd-Rupert	5-10-22	St. Matthew Lutheran Church, York

Death- Members – 6

Betty Hoffmaster	12-4-21
Evelyn Ruth Spells	1-16-22
Elaine Mummert	3-10-22
Charlotte Mueller	6-15-22
Kathleen McDowell	7-1-22
John Uffelman	7-13-22

Funerals –

Brian Reinecke	12-8-21	St. Paul's	Non-member
Betty Hoffmaster	12-9-21	St. Paul's	St. Paul's
Frederick Lowe, Jr.	1-4-22	St. Paul's	St. Paul's Non-member
Evelyn Ruth Spells	2-16-22	St. Paul's	St. Paul's
Elaine Mummert	3-14-22	St. Paul's	St. Paul's
Charlotte Mueller	6-2-22	(Hospice Chaplain)	(Hospice Chaplain)
Kathleen McDowell	7-8-22	Mt. Rose Cemetery	Mt. Rose Cemetery Graveside
Patricia McDowell	7-15-22	Mt. Rose Cemetery	Mt. Rose Cemetery Graveside –Non-member
John Uffelman, Sr.	7-29-22	St. Paul's	St. Paul's
Anthony Kowalewski	9-22-22	St. Paul's	St. Paul's Non-member
Kathryn Everhart	10-18-22	Prospect Hill Cemetery	Prospect Hill Cemetery Graveside – Non-member
Elise Nicolaysen Harris	11-14-22	St. Paul's	St. Paul's Non-member

Total Membership Losses – 10**Confirmations – 5**

Emma Castro	5-1-22
Tanner Culp	5-1-22
Riley Jones	5-1-22
Allen Reep	5-1-22
D. J. Zart	5-1-22

Marriages – 1

Clara Jean Grube/Ryan John Orgitano 7-15-22 Trout Run, PA

Membership Statistics

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Baptized Membership	688	670	676	696	722	739	746	751	762
Confirmed Membership	594	564	578	584	595	603	604	608	617
Active Participation	374	380	405	430	450	512	463	468	472

Report of the Congregation Council President

As I look back at my 2021 annual report and meeting slides, there is notable attention towards the covid-19 pandemic, how we navigated it, and how we then yet hoped to emerge from it. Today the worries of the pandemic are not on the forefront of our minds. They remain, I admit, in the back of mine, but we are clearly living into the next chapter of our remarkable and evolving parish history, and it may be one of the best!

When I was elected Council President starting in 2018, I made it a priority to read and understand our parish history. Common themes establish threads throughout our 186 years: traditional liturgy for the people, focus on community missions, music, studying the Bible, family, and honestly... persistence. Our parish history is full of these themes, and they are clearly present today.

There is another important hallmark of our community, and it may be one of the biggest contributors to our growth and vibrant parish life. If I try to put this element into one word, it comes out as “demographics”, but that doesn’t quite capture it. What I mean is that when I look around St. Paul’s I see members who have been here for decades or generations working and worshipping alongside new members, often young families. St. Paul’s is not a “new church”, a “historic church”, a “young church”, or an “old church”. It’s all of these at once. This important element goes beyond the presence of varied member groups; I see everyone valuing the gifts that the other brings, and our collective cooperation drives collaborative efforts in all aspects of our parish life. The generational member and the brand new member working together in ministry connects the rich history of St. Paul’s with the work of the Holy Spirit today, and that is an important aspect of my suspicion that the next chapter of our parish will be a good one!

Our Congregation Council has continued to work for the success of all aspects of our parish life and ministry: staff, facilities, finances, worship, and many areas of outreach. I feel blessed to work with many great people on this team over the last six years. I’ll rotate off Council at the end of this year – having arrived at the end of my second term – but the group is in good hands! We had an exciting class of members join us this past year and another one coming in 2023. Council membership will look notably different in 2023 than in 2021, and that will allow new and exciting vision to grow. Please thank Kathryn Wicker and Dan Garber who end terms and come off Council with me for their service!

I’m also extremely thankful to our church staff for their tireless efforts and dedication to our parish. A “hidden gem” of the Council President’s role is deeper collaboration with our staff, and I’ve been blessed through working with each of them.

There is no success, however, without the faithfulness of our membership. Our talented staff and lay leadership could do nothing without the continued response from the body of Christ at St. Paul’s. You remain invested in this faith community through time, talent, and resources in a wonderfully rejuvenating way, as continually into a new day.

Yours in Christ, Tristan Ericson

Benevolence Committee Annual Report

Members: Rhada Hartmann, Michael Bingham, Lauren Smith, and Pastor Stan Reep

Members have met remotely in 2022 to review the following 3 Benevolence requests:

1. Social Ministry Committee at St. Paul's Lutheran Church submitted by committee member Nancy Bennett requesting amount of \$600 for school backpacks for food pantry clientele.
2. Blessing Bags for the College submitted by members Allison Lehr and Whitney Morgon submitted request for \$600 for 100 blessing bags containing every day needs to be distributed to people in need.
3. Request submitted for LWR Health Kits for God's Work Our Hands at St. Paul's Lutheran Church for \$8000 to buy and ship supplies such as towels, nail clippers, combs, toothbrushes, soap to those in need.

All three requests were unanimously approved by the committee.

Respectfully submitted, Dr. Lauren Smith

Annual Report of the Christian Education Committee 2022

Members: Stephanie Harrington, June Heistand, Amy Lipp, Jamie Palmer, Patty Snyder, Carrie Oberholtzer, Kelly-Moore Spencer, Pastor Reep

The Christian Education Committee strives to assist the congregation to grow in their walk as disciples of Christ. They do this by providing a variety of opportunities for instruction and reflection on the Christian faith.

With the goal of giving parents tools to help them teach their children the Christian Faith, we provide a quarterly magazine called *Spark Family Magazine* to families of children between the ages of 3 and grade 3. Families with children from age 0-3 receive a monthly mailing called *Splash* filled with ideas on ways to incorporate faith formation into the events of daily life. Thank you to Cindy Vaught for overseeing this important ministry. Advent and Lenten materials for families to use at home were prepared by the committee. Children received Bibles in church in September.

With Covid challenges, Sunday morning classes were put on hold during January and February. Classes resumed during Lent. Adult classes for the year included: Ministries of the Church with guest speakers representing our Food Pantry, Disaster Relief, Preschool, Mpuguso Lutheran Church and Lutheran Advocacy Ministry. Other classes offered were: Luther's Small Catechism with Pastor Reep, On Being a Christian with Pastor Snyder, and Advent with Pastor Reep.

A group of adults meet every Wednesday for Scripture Study in Christ Hall. They enjoy reading and delving into the upcoming Sunday lessons.

A strong team of teachers engage children on Sunday Mornings. They are Dan Garber, Sheridan Palmer, Scott Herdson, Kathryn Garber, Stephanie Harrington, Brianne Humpal, Angela Lauer, Jessica Erickson, Carrie Oberholtzer and Patty Snyder. Classes for Preschool, Kindergarten-Grade 2 and Grades 3-6 meet weekly upstairs averaging 15 students per week. They learn stories from the Old and New Testament as well as talking about ways to live a Christian life every day.

Confirmation classes met during the spring on Sunday evenings. DJ Zart, Allen Reep, Riley Jones, Tanner Culp and Emma Castro received the rite of Confirmation in May, 2022. This fall, classes are meeting on Sunday mornings with Pastor Reep and Kelly Moore-Spencer. Five students are participating.

Holy Communion Classes were offered in April and again in October this year for families seeking instruction for their children.

We would like to staff the nursery during the 10:30 worship service if there is an interest. Volunteers are needed.

Looking ahead – We are excited to announce an Intergenerational Breakfast and Learning Event being planned for January 8, The Baptism of Our Lord. Also, a new event on the morning before Palm Sunday is being planned. It will be a fun learning event for children age 2-grade 3 to learn about Holy Week and Easter. Church members and preschool families will be invited. This will replace the Easter Egg Hunt.

New ideas for classes are always welcome. Speak to anyone on the committee or better yet, join us.

Submitted by Patty Snyder, Chair

Fellowship Committee, Yearly Report 2022

The Fellowship Committee has the following members: Ann Anstadt, Becky Bingham, Shirley Thornton, Lynn Trout, June Heistand, Earline Jones, Mary Alice Heilig and chair Linda Hanson.

We meet as needed to plan and prepare for fellowship events.

Our activities this year were:

- Second Sunday Lunches in January, February, March, April, May, October, November, December.
- Breakfast for Palm Sunday
- Reception for Confirmation class
- Facilitate buffet brunch for Sundays in June, July and August
- Organize the brunch for Stewardship Sunday
- Serve dinner for Annual Congregational Meeting
- In December provide a snack tray for each of the 2 AA groups that meet at St. Paul's

Report prepared by Linda Hanson

Finance Committee Annual Report 2022

The 2022 Finance Committee is made up of Tristan Ericson, Christopher Lipp, Peter O'Connor, Pr. Reep, Harold Sargeant, Darren Smith, Norma Shue, Kem Vaught and Christopher Waddail.

This year has been a year of change for the committee. Chairperson Dottie Moore stepped down after many years of faithful service to the committee as its chairperson. She will

continue scheduling the counting teams. Thank you, Dottie, for those years of service. Harold Sargeant will serve as chair for 2023.

As St. Paul's has grown over the years the task of managing the resources of the congregation has become more complex. While our mission remains to serve the people of God both within the congregation and in the world, we need to be business like in managing our finances. Treasurer, Peter O'Connor, has made greater use of the church's church management software. This has allowed him to be more efficient and to generate better reports for the committee and Congregation Council.

As Peter worked on the process of setting up our accounts for use by our outside bookkeeping firm, he found that the number of accounts in the church's system had become overly large and difficult to work with. He worked with the firm and church secretary Patee Pizzirusso, to clean up that list. The work should be completed by January.

The schedule for our investment managers' report to the committee has been reduced to semi-annually rather than quarterly. They will produce a summary for us on a quarterly basis. Special meetings with them can be arranged should market conditions call for it.

At our October meeting with the investment managers, they pointed out that St. Paul's had not taken a distribution from the investments in over a year. They noted that the amount of such distributions would be significant and they encouraged us to begin to take distributions. The committee will consider how to deal with that suggestion and will make a recommendation to the Council in the next year.

The reason no distributions have been taken is that congregational offering and other sources of income have been strong. We have not had to use the investment income to meet regular expenses. Thank you and please continue to support the ministries of St. Paul's.

Respectfully Submitted, Harold Sargeant, Chair

Annual Report of the Mpuguso Committee

for the Annual Congregational Meeting of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, York, PA on Sunday, Nov. 20, 2022

This committee is celebrating our 25th year of ministry with our partnership congregation known as Mpuguso Lutheran Church of the Konde Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania.

Over these years we have had 14 members of our parish visit our brothers and sisters in Christ at their parish while 7 of the members of the Mpuguso congregation and the Konde Diocese have visited us. This observation alone speaks volumes about the mutual support and spiritual connection of our congregations.

The one constant and annual ministry we have nurtured is the educational support of students of pastors, evangelists and church workers. Again, at this juncture, we are asking the congregation to approve in the proposed budget the sum of \$9,000 for this purpose.

Our focus this month is to raise funds via special offerings for the erection of a roof for the new church building. To date we've contributed c. \$30,000 toward the construction of the foundation and exterior walls of the new church, and we hope to add another \$10,000 toward the "roof" phase.

On November 6 we served a meal based on Tanzanian recipes (prepared by members of our committee) to 55 persons in Christ Hall. Three African-Americans vocalists presented songs of praise and invited us to sing along.

This committee is co-chaired by Tom and Judy McKee. They are maintaining numerous communications with the Bishop of the Konde Diocese as well as the pastor of Mpuguso. Joe Moyer, who now resides in Boston, also maintains regular contact with Mpuguso members on behalf of the committee.

A special word of thanks goes to all who have provided "devotions" that are being shared with Mpuguso members as well as our own members.

We extend a warm invitation to all who may wish to serve on this committee.

Music Ministry

Organist– Choir Director's 2022 Annual Report

The opening stanza of the hymn "Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates, behold the King of Glory waits" is the triumphant hymn text of German author Georg Weisell later translated by the famous hymn text author Catherine Winkworth which is sung to the tune "Truro." The words of the last verse start, "Thy Holy Spirit lead us on until our glorious goal is won."

We are most blessed to have a strong, vital music ministry with support and commitment from the church staff and congregation. Our musical leadership along with Leah McComas and Julianna Jones provide musical activities for all ages, voices, and varying musical abilities and talents. I thank those who continue to share and enhance our worship life with those gifts.

"From earthly use for Heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy we continue to proclaim and make music unto the Lord!

Respectfully Submitted,

Victor Fields, Organist and Choir Director

Handbell Director's Annual Report 2022

Since resuming rehearsals in September, the bell choir has grown so much that forming a second choir was necessary! Each handbell choir has maintained a consistent rehearsal schedule and participated in liturgies each month. We currently have 16 individuals participating in the adult bell choir, including high school youth. This choir will continue to rehearse through May. The second handbell choir includes 7 junior high members and parents. This group will meet through

December, take a short break and resume rehearsals for the Lenten and Easter seasons. Currently, both handbell choirs are hard at work preparing for the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Respectfully Submitted, Leah McComas, Handbell Choirs

Cantabile Choir Annual Report:

Over the last couple of months, I have been having so much fun working with the children of the congregation. We have so much fun signing, moving, and playing instruments Tuesday evenings and sharing some of what we do with the congregation on Sunday mornings. I am really looking forward to continuing to work with the kids in the upcoming months - we are planning to continue to involve the kids in different aspects of worship, to collaborate with the other musical ensembles, and to continue building relationships together through music. I really appreciate the warm welcome I've received and look forward to continue the work that has been started.

Respectfully Submitted, Julianna Jones, Cantabile Choir

Mutual Ministry Annual Report 2022

Mutual Ministry began our year by setting several goals for 2022.

We wished to stream line how we tracked and figured Staff salaries and compensation. We enlisted the help of St. Paul's Treasure Peter O'Connor and Council President Tristan Erickson and after several meetings, and lots of discussion, Peter developed a spreadsheet that is what we now use to help with this task. We are able to track and compare staff salary increases and are able to go back and see where adjustments can be made. We are also able to compute total amounts for budget purposes. This is in an Excel Spreadsheet and is able to be passed from the current chairperson to the incoming chairperson.

We spent several months doing research on Staff compensation to make sure we were offering salaries that were Current Market rates for our State and Region. We also asked ourselves "Are we taking good care of our Staff?"

After quite a bit of discussion and study, we found that most of our Staff Salaries were in line with current State and Regional offerings and the ones that were out of line were tweaked for 2023.

In answer to the question of 'Are we taking good care of our Staff?' we asked them what they would like to see from Mutual Ministry. The answer was that they do not know most of us and we don't know them.

In response to that feedback we planned a Breakfast for Staff hosted by Mutual Ministry and it was held at the Linden Diner in June. Mutual Ministry hosted a Staff Appreciation Luncheon on September 11th after the 10:30 Liturgy and we are planning an Epiphany Party for Staff and their families after the Christmas and New Year's Holidays. We have also added a "Getting To Know You" profile in the Church Newsletter with a different Staff member featured each month.

The Employee Handbook has been a topic of discussion for a number of years and this year we reviewed the document with Staff and are making some minor adjustments. This is a work in progress and we will continue to review and make whatever changes are necessary.

The Mutual Ministry Team for 2022 has been:

Mike Bingham, Tony Culp, Sharon Diaczon, Janet Fitch, Carolyn Kapoun (Chair) Tom Ruth.
Ex-officio Tristan Erickson, Peter O'Connor, Pastor Stan Reep.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carolyn J. Kapoun
Mutual Ministry Chairperson 2022

Preschool Committee Annual Report 2022

The year of 2022 brought much change to the preschool beginning with the committee. A new chairperson, Stephanie Harrington was appointed along with a new secretary, Amy Lipp and a new council liaison, Alexis Heistand. The committee includes nine members, three of which are church staff. Additional changes for the preschool include an increase in tuition, a brand new preschool website, a new curriculum for our students and the return of our Preschool Parent Group.

In 2021 after researching other preschools in the community and analyzing our tuition rates it was decided to increase tuition and registration fees. This went into effect the Fall of 2022 and has resulted in a more balanced budget.

The preschool website update has been a big project that was supported by Earline Jones and the preschool committee. The preschool website was completely updated technically and visually. It is user friendly and gives prospective families a glimpse into what makes St. Paul's Preschool special. Along with the updated website we were able to set up online registration and tuition payment using Vanco. Vanco is an online payment system that the congregation already uses for online donations. This has proved to be a convenient way for our families to pay tuition.
<https://stpaulspreschoolyork.com/>

The new curriculum is called, Play to Learn Preschool. The creators of the curriculum believe that children learn best when they are actively engaged in creative, meaningful play. The curriculum incorporates hands-on centers, art projects, creative dramatic play areas, and literacy-rich activities so that the classroom is a delightful place to learn. Families may learn about this new curriculum on our website.

The Preschool Parent Group supports special events, teacher appreciation and fundraisers for the preschool. We were happy to bring this group back for the 2022-23 school year. At our first event in September, Weep and Rejoice, the committee welcomed parents on the first day of school with coffee and pastries. Parents got to meet each other, learn about the Parent Group and sign up to help with the different events for the year. Each Parent Group event is led by a parent and member of the Preschool Committee.

Finally, in the Fall of 2022 we were happy to see some growth with our enrollment. We returned to full class sizes and filled both of our two year old classes. We had nine out of twelve spots filled for our three year old classes. This gives up hope that enrollment will continue to grow as we attract new families with our updated website and new curriculum.

Preschool Director's Annual Report 2022-23

Excitement abounds and smiles brighten the Preschool rooms and hallways. It has been uplifting and rewarding to see the smiles on the teachers and students. Interaction and communication have been much easier without masks.

This year the Preschool has seen many new changes and old traditions restarted. The Preschool has a new website thanks to Earline Jones, Stephanie Harrington and Allison Lehr. We also have a new curriculum with a wealth of resources. Many new sensory props and toys have been added to accommodate the needs of a growing number of sensory children.

The Parent Group has become active again. Weep and Rejoice welcoming our new parents was held the first days of school. Table and Treat was enjoyed by the children and parents during Halloween. We are looking forward to a Christmas gathering in December. Many more activities and fundraisers will be held this spring.

Due to the pandemic, we are still finding the children are developmentally and socially behind. We have noticed numerous children having speech problems due to wearing masks. We are continually working on small and gross motor skills, listening skills and behavioral skills.

In order to stress caring is sharing, the Preschool families participated in Harvest Home at Thanksgiving by bringing in food for St. Paul's food pantry. Also, we are celebrating Christmas by having a PJ day. The theme is Wear a Pair-Share a Pair. All donated PJ's will be donated to children at Access York.

Pastor Reap continues to have Chapel with the Preschool children. The children love singing songs, hearing Bible stories, and learning the Lord's Prayer.

Enrollment since the pandemic has been pleasantly increasing. The Two Year class has two full classes. The Three Year class is rebounding in enrollment due to previously only having one class of Twos during the pandemic. We still do not have two Four Yr. Classes but we do have 19 students with two teachers and an aide. This enables more individual attention and preparation for the students entering Kindergarten.

In January, we will begin accepting registrations for the 2023-24 school year.

Thank you to the church staff and congregation for supporting the Preschool.

Deb Becker, Director

2022 Annual Report – Property Committee

Mission statement: The Property committee shall see to the proper maintenance and protection of all property of the congregation and shall take care that the same is kept in good repair and is adequately insured.

The primary objective of the Property committee this year has been the upkeep of our beautiful facility post renovation. With that in mind, we have secured a preventative maintenance agreement with Spangler & Boyer for HVAC & plumbing systems. This will reduce equipment failure and assure efficiency to lower overall energy costs.

Additional accomplishments in the year 2022 included the following:

- Secured contracts from Ausherman Painting to complete painting of the Diakon building and steeple.
- Updated exterior lighting in areas that did not provide security.
- Planted pachysandra on the north side of nave between the sidewalk and playground.
- Oversaw the inspection, repairs, and cleaning of main sewage drains.
- Installed the Wenger music library for safe storage in the music room.
- Secured a contract to prune the trees by the playground on the north side of the nave. South side trees to be completed next year.

Future projects that the Property committee will be considering include the design and construction of a roof structure to cover/protect the Pantry entrance and re-designing the lower parking lot for better egress. Additionally, we will be involved with updating our safety and security procedures. Finally, to those members who eagerly served this past year we greatly appreciated your time and energy.

Respectfully Submitted, Jeff Riese

2022 Social Ministry Annual Report

St. Paul's Bylaws state that the Social Ministry Committee:

“...shall oversee the congregation's ministry of service to all persons of all ages who are victims of illness, injustice, poverty, or any form of suffering in body, mind and/or spirit.”

In an effort to fulfill this responsibility, the Social Ministry Committee is actively involved with the following ministries in alphabetical order:

- BRIDGE of HOPE is a national organization that matches Christian groups with homeless families with the goal of moving homeless mothers and children into housing and self-sufficiency. Since the winter of 2022 a group from St. Paul's has been trained, matched with a mother, and meeting monthly with her. With a “neighborhood of friends” offering support and encouragement as well as tangible items, our mother has settled into an apartment and a job. She has expressed her appreciation for the developing friendships. Thank you for the 1 ½ - 2 year commitment made by Tristan and Jessica Erickson, Janet Fitch, Kathryn Garber, Stephanie Harrington, Amy Lipp, Q. Forbes (non-member), Tom and Judy McKee, Bill and Patty Snyder.

- CONGREGATIONAL CARE is our congregation's team, Sharon Diaczun, Audrey Houck, and Victor Fields, who send cards offering support and encouragement to our church family on behalf of our congregation. We are grateful for their personal outreach.
- GOD'S GLOBAL BARNYARD is an opportunity for our church to support family farmers around the world. Our 3rd - 6th grades Sunday school class, taught by Scott Herdson, Sheridan Palmer, and Dan Garber, is leading this ministry. With the donations of quarters for the "quarter tube," special offerings, and the Advent offerings, the students will select animals to be purchased. The kick-off is November 20, 2022.
- JACKSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL is in partnership with our congregation, so that we can ease some of the school's needs. This year we provided summer activities including 280 books, sidewalk chalk, bubbles, jump ropes, activity books, and flashcards. Thanks to Thrivent, with Jim Mummert's help we also donated 14 lice kits. The school is grateful for those gifts in addition to uniform pants, socks, tights, belts, and shoelaces we've given thus far in 2022. Thank you to Sandy Dickensheets who assists in this ministry.
- PANTRY, which is open Tuesday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 and manned by 10-11 volunteers weekly, continues to help support growing numbers of neighborhood families. From July 2021 to July 2022, the weekly average was **49** families being served. This year between July 2022 and October 2022, just four months, the Pantry is seeing an average of **63** families per week.

Making all this happen are Larry and Janet Moore, Patty Snyder, and Tom Martin who order food from the York County and Central Penn Food Banks along with Teresa Rohrbaugh who recruits and coordinates volunteers in addition to operating the Tuesday distributions. It is important to know our food pantry is funded by a state grant plus congregational contributions. In addition, the pantry is stocked with food donations from our church family and local food drives. Panera Bread and Hillandale Farms also donate food plus we're the grateful recipients of the Unitarian Universalist Church's garden harvest, this year being 1,309 pounds of produce.

On August 7th of this year a team gathered in Christ Hall to assemble 100 school backpacks for pantry clients' children. Thanks to the Benevolence Committee's \$600 grant, this project was made possible. Also, due to the talent and generosity of Connie Reed, during the month of

November of 2022, the pantry clients will receive hand knit scarves.

From 1/2022 to 11/4/2022, the pantry fund activity is as follows:

Receipts = \$9,249 Disbursements = \$3,507 End Balance = \$57,644

- SERRV INTERNATIONAL offers our congregation the opportunity to purchase items that, through fair trade, help sustain small scale artisans around the world. The sale of gift items took place November 13 – 14 of this year. All proceeds above our wholesale costs are donated to Lutheran World Relief. We appreciate our team of Steve Schedin, Patsy Griffin, Cheryl Reifsteck, Sharon Diaczun, Gail Kerchner, and Tom McKee.

- SPIRITRUST LUTHERAN AUXILIARY provides support services for residents of the campuses of the Village at Kelly Drive and the Village at Sprengle Drive. This year our church members contributed \$350 to the auxiliary. In addition, we bought 302 Mothers' Day geraniums resulting in a profit of \$377.50 for the auxiliary. Thanks to Jim Mummert and his team for their coordination and hard work.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Bennett, chair

Witness Committee Annual Report 2022

Witness Committee Bylaws - The Witness Committee shall bring new members into the Church. It shall continue to support new members. It shall foster support for outreach ministries of the wider Church and develop shared ministries with other congregations and ecumenical agencies in the community. It shall lead all members of the Congregation to awareness of the calling to be witnesses and equip them for their ministries in daily life. This committee shall also encourage congregational fellowship by promoting communication, awareness and involvement, by fostering a sense of responsibility and ownership for activities and programs.

The Witness Committee meets the second Tuesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. if there are items to discuss and for planning events. During covid we have not been meeting on a regular basis. In 2022, we met in April and November. Our April meeting was to regroup, review the bylaws, and meet with Nancy Bennett, Council Liaison and to start thinking about ways to get our members involved and our new members to meet other new members and current members while being cautious with covid in the background. Our November meeting was to discuss events we are planning for 2023.

Our major accomplishment for 2022 was working with a web designer to bring the Church and Preschool webpages into the 21st century. The Church and Preschool webpages are a great asset for bringing in new members to St. Paul's Church and the Preschool. The new Webpages are bright and fresh and very easy to maneuver and contain much information about the Church and the Preschool. On the Church webpage you can find the livestream, bulletins, newsletter (in color), calendar, make donations, watch a slideshow of events, and view the picture Gallery and connect to our Facebook page plus so much more and on the Preschool webpage you can find information about the classes, the staff, and see lots of pictures of the children being children and learning. If you haven't, please check them out: stpaulsyork.org and stpaulspreschoolyork.com

Events we discussed and are planning for 2023:

Reintroduce the Dinner Groups in January and put together a schedule for April/May. Prior to Covid, we were going into our 13th year with St. Paul's Dinner Groups. What is a Dinner Group? A time of good food, fellowship and some fun over a casual meal. Groups of around six people (couples or singles) gather at the home of the designated host. Hosts can also invite other members or guests to come and join. You don't have to host; just sign up and bring a dish to share. Those who volunteer to host will call the guests to schedule a day and time that works for all. The hosts provide the main dish and guests provide the rest (appetizers, salad, and dessert). It is a great way to get to know one another in a whole different way, socialize and get better acquainted with our church friends, new and old. The groups are randomly selected and we try to have a different mix of people at each gathering. They have been great fun and we hope you will join us in 2023.

Valentine's Dinner for our Young Families – Friday, February 10 – Mom and dad can enjoy a dinner with other young parents of the congregation while their children will be given dinner and cared for and entertained in the church on the second floor or in the nursery. No sitter required!

Ash Wednesday – Wednesday, February 22 – Have an 11:00 a.m. service with a luncheon for our seniors following the service. Some seniors may need transportation and may not have been together since covid started. A time for them to catch up and be able to come to the Church.

New Church Pictorial Directory – Our last directory was in 2019 and since that time we have a lot of new faces. We are working on the details now and will get the information out to the congregation when we finalize how it will be handled this year. It will be different than other directories we have had in the past.

Outdoor Summer Senior Luncheon – In planning stages.

The Witness Committee is made up of: June Heistand, Peggy LeCates, Nancy O'Connor, Kristine Gross, Council Liaison- Nancy Bennett and Earline Jones - Webmaster and Chairperson.

We are always looking for people who may like to join us, bring new ideas, and help to plan and be involved in our events. We thoroughly enjoy getting people together and getting to know them better.

Submitted by:

Earline Jones, Chairperson Witness Committee

Worship and Arts Annual Report

December 2021 we proposed a Christmas worship schedule that was geared to the current worshipping membership of the congregation. The 4:00 PM Christmas Eve service time worked well for the congregation's many young families as well as for senior members. The robust attendance signaled that the change was well received. It also gave shape to the planning for the 2022 calendar year. Much of our time together is given over to planning, not so much the details, but the overarching ideas that strengthen our life together in Christ.

We began this calendar year with a liturgy of lessons and carols followed by Epiphany Vespers and the Baptism of our Lord where we affirmed our baptism. The season of Epiphany focused on Jesus the light of the world. The Children's choir sang. March ushered in the Lenten Season with two Ash Wednesday liturgies. We entered into Mid-week Wednesday worship along with St. Peter's, North York and Christ, Manchester. The preaching and leadership was shared by Pastors Schlegel, McKees, Snyder, Fitch and Reep. Lent was a time of rich music proclaimed by the Chancel and Handbell Choirs and through many organ voluntaries and congregational hymnody. Palm Sunday was divided between an 8:00 AM group, a procession through the neighborhood at 9:15, and the 10:30 liturgy where The Passion Narrative was presented as a dramatic reading by three voices and chorus. Holy week services resumed their rightful place in our worship life.

The Vigil of Easter proclaimed the story of salvation from Genesis to Jesus and the women's joyful news from the tomb. Pentecost was celebrated with a combined liturgy on the south lawn. A brass ensemble led us in our hymn singing and their music stirred passersby to

stop and listen. The rush of a mighty wind blew over our Pentecost banner twice! The Fellowship committee provided a lovely reception, bagged lunches that we could take with us as we formed small groups and began getting caught up after much time spent away or a lone from the days of COVID-19 and the sheltering in place that it brought with it.

The summer months permitted us time to strengthen our relationships with one combined worship time at 9:15 AM. Each week refreshments were provided by members of the congregation and Fellowship Committee members. Large numbers of worshipers stayed for the fellowship time. It received rave reviews.

In September we resumed an 8 and 10:30 AM worship schedule. Worship attendance in the months of September and October increased over the previous year by 27%! October was given over to a stewardship appeal *A Month of Reformation*. The appeal brought new faces before the congregation in the form of those providing the temple talks with stewardship themes. And now we have come to November. All Saints Sunday we remembered those members who died in the last year and who now rest from their labors. The handbell choir rang at the necrology and played a beautiful prelude, bells and violin.

During the course of the year our Children's Choir Director Cody Messersmith resigned. A new search brought forth Julianna Jones. She began her work with the children in September. Leah McComas, Handbell Director, hosted a bell polishing party in August. With interest high regarding handbells, she has added an additional ensemble. The Altar Guild is once again taking an active role in preparing the altar and cleaning up following each liturgy. This is important work and we can always use additional help. The current committee members are; Victor Fields, Leah McComas, Julianna Jones, Deb Becker, Carolyn Kapoun, Steve Schedin and Pastor Reep.

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Reep, Acting secretary

Youth Ministry 2022 Annual Report

St. Paul's has been so blessed this year to have over 35 families with children and youth. It has been a wonderful year seeing how God has been at work in the Family Ministry and Youth activities. All our children and youth enjoy participating visibly in some aspect of the church's ministry. They assist during worship service as lectors, communion assistants, acolytes, ushers, hand bells and choir members. So many people in St. Paul's church family have been willing to help this year to make sure the events run smoothly and are held without any problems. I try to plan a wide variety of events that give both families and youth something to want to be part of. While I know, it is sometimes hard to capture the attention of the youth I always try to incorporate active, fun, and service-oriented activities. I strive to create a positive, fun, and safe environment where all children and youth feel accepted, wanted, and comfortable. This year I have witnessed the children and youth creating lasting friendships, they look forward to seeing each other while at church. As of this report there are 53 children (ages 1 through grade 6) and 11 youth (grades 7 through 12) that have participated in St. Paul's church life this year.

On Tuesday evenings we are blessed to offer Music and Create. My portion of the evening is focused on a bible story and craft.

The 2022 Winter Create program was focused on the Fruits of the Spirit. Each week the children pre-school through kindergarten heard stories and did a craft that include one of the Fruits of the Spirit. Grade 1 through 6 did activities about Fruits of the Spirit and compare it to one of the 10 Commandments they knew from the Fall session of CREATE. During the sessions they created a flag banner that contained all the Fruits of the Spirit. The last session of CREATE during Lent the children each filled 12 Easter Eggs with hands on items that helped them know and remember the Easter Story. Pastor Reep told the story while engaging the children in filling their eggs. During the Fall session they have been learning about The Animals of the bible. Each week they hear a story that is part of the Jesse Tree stories and then create the animal on Shrinky Dink. They will have 7 animals and a star that they can display on their own wood tree and can retell the Jesse Tree stories that they have learned throughout the Advent Season.

Summertime is always difficult to schedule activities so once again this year we offered Picnics at the Park. One evening each month May through August families were invited to join for a Picnic at the Park. Each week the children heard part of the Creation story and did a mini art project. The children enjoyed playing together and it was nice that the adults could spend time socializing. The three parks that we visited were Rudy Park, Rocky Ridge Park, Kain Park.

This year for the annual ELCA God's Work our Hands on September 11, the children, youth, and congregation members of St. Paul's prepared Health Kits for LWR. God's Work Our Hands is an opportunity for our congregation to come together to participate in a Service project. These kits will provide much needed self-care for people in situations of fear and uncertainty around the world. There were approximately 1,000 health kits that were put together and delivered to LWR.

As always it has been a privilege to assist Pastor Reep with teaching Confirmation. The 5 students that we have each week have been excited to be part of the class and have been a joy to teach. I look forward to the winter term.

The kickoff event for Youth Group grades 4 through 12 was a fun afternoon of Mini Golf and Ice Cream. The youth had fun playing against each other. Following golf there was discussion on what service projects and activities they would like to do throughout the year. In October they had fun carving pumpkins, November they are making soup that will be frozen and used for members in need, and in December they will be wrapping gifts they bought and donated for the residents of SpiriTrust Lutheran.

Throughout the year I am in contact with the families and youth about upcoming events and ideas, through social media, email, phone calls and text messages. This works out very well, everyone's lives are very busy and sometimes a reminder at the last minute allows them to attend an event that may have missed. This year has been filled with many opportunities to learn, grow, share, and serve. I would like to thank all the volunteers who work with our children and youth and St. Paul's church family for your prayers and constant encouragement. With the support of the congregation, great things will continue to happen here at St. Paul's. The children and youth of St. Paul's give me great hope for the future. I am looking forward to all the exciting programs that will be offered in 2023

Respectively submitted,
Kelly Moore-Spencer, Youth Director