

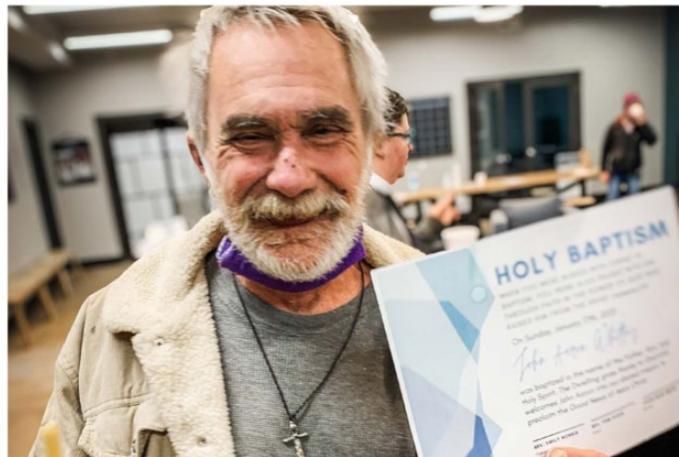


St. Paul's Lutheran Church

712 Schilling Avenue, Baytown, TX

ANNUAL REPORT

2021



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.



A message from ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

Dear friend in Christ,

The last year has been one of adapting and learning. In many places we have seen vibrant and vital ministry spring forth from changes made due to the pandemic. Digital worship opportunities have introduced to our congregations people who may never have walked into one of our buildings. Many congregations have found new ways to invite people to share their generosity through online giving. And many ministries have found just how vital they are as they continue to serve alongside people in their communities.

The first chapter of James, verse 17, reminds us that “Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.” Yes, this has been a season of change, but Scripture also reminds us that we serve a generous, steadfast God.

While we stay rooted in God’s enduring, unchanging promise, God also gives us the gifts of creativity and learning. Across all three expressions of the church we have used those gifts to serve God, love our neighbor and share the good news of Jesus Christ. In this time of change, we have opened our arms wider to meet people where they are, living into the reality that we are not defined or confined by the four walls of our buildings.

Through all this, I am so grateful for your generous sharing of creativity, time, talents and resources. All good gifts do come from God, and we are called to share and use those gifts. We have and will continue to answer that call. There is still much change and learning to come, but God’s steadfast love energizes us for the work God is still doing in the world through this church.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth A. Eaton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

“Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.”

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Annual Congregational Meeting Agenda

January 23, 2022

- Opening Litany (pg. 17) Pr. Nancy Simpson
1. Approval of the Minutes of the 2021 Congregational Meeting
 2. Report of Nomination Committee, Elections John Schlobohm
 3. Reports
 - A. Pastor Nancy Simpson
 - B. President Donna Reavis
 - C. Ministries of St. Paul's
 - Youth & Family Donna Reavis
 - Education Donna Reavis
 - Worship & Music Susan Clanton
 - Altar Guild Debbie Gillespie
 - Property Ian Gillespie
 - Women of the ELCA Rosie Haas
 - Inreach/Outreach John Schlobohm
 - D. Treasurer
 - Presentation of 2022 Budget Kim Holle
 - Explanatory Notes 2022 Budget Kim Holle
 - Treasurer's Report Kim Holle
 - E. Audit Report Debbie Gillespie, Beverly Tomsic
 - F. Nominating Committee Ballot Results
 4. Action on 2022 Budget
 5. New Business

Closing Prayer Pr. Nancy Simpson

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes January 31, 2021

The annual congregational meeting of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Baytown, Texas, was called to order at 11:00 AM, by Church Council President John Schlobohm.

Pastor Nancy Simpson led the congregation in the opening liturgy printed in the annual report.

Mr. Schlobohm read the definition of a voting member from the Constitution. He asked for a show of hands of voting members present. Ushers verified a quorum of voting members was present.

Schlobohm asked the congregation if there were any corrections to the minutes from the 2020 Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes. There were none.

Kim Holle MOVED, Stan White seconded to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

On behalf of the Nominating Committee (John Schlobohm and Donna Reavis), John presented the church council nominees for 2021 as follows:

- President Donna Reavis (1 year.); Vice President John Schlobohm (1 year.); Secretary Angie Ash (2 years).

Council members at large -2 year terms

Susan Clanton, Sandra McGee, Natalie Seymour, Stan White

Returning council members (1 yr remaining on 2 year term): Kim Holle (Treasurer), Rosie Haas, Birdie Torberson, Kurt Migl, Becky Linsenhardt

There were no nominations from the floor. Birdie Torberson MOVED, Mary Schlobohm seconded, to accept the nominations as presented. Motion carried. Natalie Seymour MOVED, Sandra McGee seconded, that the ballot be approved by acclamation. Motion carried.

Schlobohm referred the congregation to the Pastor's Report and Committee reports printed in the annual report. There were no questions about the reports. Kim Holle MOVED, Ian Gillespie seconded to approve the reports. Motion carried.

Schlobohm reported that St. Paul's had a successful audit. He thanked Rip Clanton and Debbie Gillespie for their work on the audit.

Kim Holle, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report and 2021 budget to the congregation. Kim noted that St. Paul's ended the year with a negative balance. John and Kim reported that income from the YMCA has been extremely beneficial to St. Paul's. Jada noted that there are a number of ways to donate to the church each Sunday.

Ian Gillespie MOVED, Hoya Ash seconded, to approve the 2021 budget as presented. Motion carried.

Schlobohm reported that we continue to wait on funds to begin construction of the food pantry wing which must be gutted due to mold, etc. and rebuilt.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:28 AM after prayer led by Pastor Nancy.

Respectfully submitted,
Angie Ash
Secretary

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Nominating Committee Report – 2022 Council Members

Officers:

President: Donna Reavis (1 year term)

Vice President: Ian Gillespie (1 year term)

Treasurer: Kim Holle (up for election)

Secretary: Angie Ash (1 year remaining of a 2 year term)

Members at Large (1 year remaining of a 2 year term):

Susan Clanton, Natalie Seymour, Sandra McGee

New Member at Large:

Beverly Tomsic (fulfilling a 1 year term)

Clarke Crizer (2 year term)

Returning Council Members (up for election):

Rosie Haas, Kurt Migl, Becky Linsenbardt

Respectfully submitted,

John Schlobohm, Ian Gillespie, and Mary Schlobohm

Pastor's Report 2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The Lord God has blessed us through this year with Word and Sacrament in worship and equipped the church to carry out the mission of the Church – GO, MAKE, BAPTIZE, TEACH. I am thankful for the members and friends of St. Paul's who have a heart for following Jesus in this 78th year since St. Paul's was organized. Ministry is happening by the grace of God and your faithfulness and dedication to the Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you!

It has been a year of stretching our creative muscles. We adjusted worship and ministry for safe practices during a widespread COVID virus and utilized new technology for broadcasting. It is a work in progress. We tackled many property issues: termites in breezeway, car crash into the church parlor, property insurance cost increase and change of carriers, ice storm damage to pipes and plants, and the need for food pantry remodel. Through grants, the generosity of church members and friends, and an anonymous donor gift with congregational challenge, Phase 1 of St. Paul's Food Pantry remodel is underway.

The YMCA at St. Paul's was a haven for children in the community and contributed financial resources. St. Paul's and Baytown PD joined together to get food and hygiene collections into Louisiana for Hurricane IDA relief. Volunteers, under the direction of Food Pantry Director Lorrie Andrews, continue to feed individuals who are food insecure coming through our drive through Food Pantry and 211 emergency number. Comfort was provided through hand-made prayer shawls and blankets for individuals and Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital.

We began devotional time online with First Sunday Zoomers (for teenagers) and “Treasures of the Bible” study on Wednesday mornings.

Lent services with Bible skits utilized members’ dramatic reading skills to get the Good News out there utilizing Facebook, U-tube, and church website.

Adult Sunday school provided a welcome space for Christian Education before worship.

Our bell and vocal choirs offered their time and talents for practice sessions and in worship.

Eucharistic ministers, Rosie Haas and Kurt Migl, took home communion to members as facilities opened.

To plan and implement all these ministries, it takes staff and members all using their God-given gifts. Committees meet monthly for vital planning sessions. Please consider serving on a committee that fits your interests:

Property – 1st Sunday

Youth and Family/Education – 2nd Sunday

Worship and Music – 3rd Sunday

Inreach/Outreach – 4th Sunday

As the Bible tells us, for everything there is a time and season:

Baptism: Scarlett Blake Rein 4/25/2021

First Bibles: Luna Moreno, Caroline Rein 11/28/2021

2nd Grade Bibles: Brooks Bruner, Allie Stephens 2/28/2021

First Communion: Gavin Parker, Cori Stephens 8/22/2021

Confirmation: Emilia Landry 6/6/2021

New Members: Luis Estrada, Linda and Erwin Hendricks 7/18/2021

Memorial/Commendation Services:

Mike Pate 1/13/2021

Rip Clanton 3/26/2021

Cynthia Eschberger 4/14/2021

Pat Swanson 9/11/2021

Nancy Porter 9/25/2021

Robert Steffler 3/20/2021 (live streamed in Dallas)

Pat Loudy (private)

Glenroy Harewood (private)

Thanks be to God for his mercy in Christ Jesus and his Spirit among us, as we worship and serve to his glory!

Thank you to the whole church and friends of the church; staff – Jada Hylton (Dir. of Office Ministries) and Rick Falconi (Director of Music Ministries); and council members: Donna Reavis, John Schlobohm, Angie Ash, Kim Holle, Susan Clanton, Rosie Haas, Becky Linsenbardt, Sandra McGee, Kurt Migl, Natalie Seymour, Birdie Torberson, and Stan White.

Onward by faith and perseverance in 2022!

Blessings in Christ to you all,

Pastor Nancy

President's Report 2021

What a year it has been! We have all been challenged and caused to rethink every step we made this year. We did what we needed to keep our families safe and healthy. We changed our routines and activities. We had to think outside of the box and figure out new ways to come together safely. All of these things had to be done and I applaud you all for the sacrifices you have had to make.

Another thing happened in the life of our church when we had to take all these precautions; we stopped coming together to worship and we stopped giving of our time and talents and we stopped contributing financially to the growth and upkeep of our church.

As we begin 2022 with the hopes of making different choices to better ourselves, I challenge you to come worship again. These pews are not full. We miss you. Make Sunday morning at St. Paul's part of your week again. Get back into the habit of coming together as a group and worshipping.

I encourage you to step out of your comfort zone and share your God given talents. Try something new. Join the choir, come to adult Sunday school, go on a Golden Group trip, help where you see a need. Start a small group and get people involved in what you like to do. There are many opportunities.

You have read about the financial needs we have at church. Set aside money in your budget that you will tithe to keep our church up and running. Keep giving your offerings as the plate gets passed down your pew; or use Tithely for recurring payments. Thank you for your continued giving.

St. Paul's is not just a building, it is home. Come home. We need you here.
Will you accept my challenges?

With love to all my church family,
Respectfully submitted, Donna Reavis

Our Mission Statement

**Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.**

Matthew 28:19-20

Our Vision Statement

**St. Paul's will be a Community of Faith;
Alive in Spirit,
Alive in Baytown,
Alive in the World.
We will be actively sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ
While continuing to grow in God's Grace.**

Youth & Family/Education Annual Report 2021

We had hopes to return to a more normal way of life this year. Safety concerns due to the pandemic kept people safe in their homes. This caused a decrease in youth and youth activities. We were able to bring back favorites such as the Flea Market and the back-to-school pool party but unable to safely bring back others like the German Dinner. As we take this pandemic one step at a time, here is what we were able to accomplish this year:

- Second grade Bibles were presented to Brooks Bruner and Allie Stephens.
- Flea market in the parking lot- no BBQ this year due to Covid concerns. All proceeds benefited the general fund.
- Instead of an Easter egg hunt, small goody bags were set out for the children. The bags were stuffed with plastic eggs, candy and an Easter craft.
- Adult Sunday school resumed in April with Joyce Crizer leading the class.
- Graduation Sunday celebrated Morgan Perry, Megan Hess, and Logan Hylton.
- Emilia Landry was confirmed.
- New driver milestone for Logan Crizer, Jackson Crizer, Kirsten Ellis, and Lauren Perry.
- Back-to-school pool party at Lakewood Pool.
- First Communion for Cori Stephens and Gavin Parker.
- Backpack blessing and kaleidoscope craft for Rally Day.
- First Sunday Zoomers- virtual class for high school students led by Pastor and Jada.
- Confirmation classes continued through email.
- Elementary age Sunday school lessons available for pick up in Fellowship hall.
- Three year old Bibles were presented to Luna Moreno and Caroline Rein.

I wish you peace and grace during this season of our lives.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Reavis

Youth & Family/Education Committee

Altar Guild Annual Report 2021

The Altar Guild continues to be maintained by a small group of volunteers. Throughout most of this past year we continued to use the prepared grape juice and wafer packages, for communion in the pews. In late Fall communion resumed at the Altar railing. Disposable wine glasses are now being used. Home communion continues to be provided by trained volunteers. The Paraments and banners are changed with the changing of the church calendar. Thank you to the volunteers who assist in this service throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Gillespie

Property Report 2021

As we state every year, the daily upkeep and inspection of the church property continues to be a top priority. We are very fortunate that Jake Fojt is at the church daily to inspect the property, identify any concerns, and also liaise with any contractors that are doing work at the church. Jake's unflagging devotion to this job is a blessing to the congregation.

Throughout this past year, in addition to regular maintenance, there have been several large projects that have required extensive work:

- In February as a result of the freezing temperatures, a pipe burst in the kitchen ceiling. Fortunately this was discovered before major damage occurred. It did require replacement of PVC piping and ceiling repair.
- In April, a traffic mishap occurred on the 146 feeder road, a driver lost control of his vehicle and the vehicle collided into the parlor window. Extensive repair was required to the parlor: new window and casing, repair of the exterior brickwork, thorough cleaning inside the parlor and replacement of both the drapes and drapery rods. The vehicle insurance paid for the repairs.
- This fall a termite problem in the ceiling of the south walkway was repaired, once the funding had been secured. This involved replacement of damaged lumber and painting of all soffits. Chatham construction completed the work.
- Up until this present school year, the YMCA continued to use the building for their after school program and for summer day camp.
- The church yard is kept mowed, edged, and shrubs trimmed by a small group of volunteers.
- All permits and inspections for the church are coordinated and kept in compliance by Jake Fojt. This included Fire Marshall Inspection, alarm system, fire extinguishers, City of Baytown Health Dept., and all Planned Maintenance of the heating and cooling systems.
- The church sign is kept updated with inspirational messages as well as church activities.
- The renovations to the Food Pantry wing are ready to begin in January 2022 with Phase One. This involves gutting the existing Sunday school rooms. The existing walls will be removed to divide the wing into 2 rooms. New sheetrock, and A/C ducting will be inspected and either cleaned or new ducting installed. A large entry door will be installed. This work is expected to take 4 weeks. During the construction, the Food Pantry will be closed. Phase Two is renovation of the outside bathrooms. This will be done when funding is obtained. Chatham construction is the contractor for this job. The budget for Phase One is \$40,000.

In closing, Thank You to the volunteers who helped throughout the year to maintain the church property.

Respectively submitted,
Ian Gillespie
Property Committee Chair

Worship & Music Annual Report 2021

We again have been blessed with a year of spiritually inspired worship services. Thanks to Pastor Nancy, Rick and Jada and all others who helped to make our services beautiful and meaningful. We have been able to continue our in-person services throughout the year. We removed many of the restrictions that were in place due to COVID. We have resumed sanctuary choir and bell choir activities and communion at the altar rail, all while advising social distancing. We were able to have a very "normal" Christmas service, with a nativity and the procession, gathering in the center aisle and sharing of light with real candles. The sanctuary was adorned with beautiful Jingle Bell poinsettias. I am so grateful for the various ways that we have been able to worship our Lord.

Thanks also to all those who have volunteered their services at St. Paul's, serving as ushers, Assisting Ministers and Altar Guild. A special thanks to Beehive Florist for providing beautiful floral arrangements for our Sunday services and thanks also to the Gillespie's for picking up the arrangements and delivering them to the church. Thanks also to Rosie Haas for ordering and picking up the poinsettias for Christmas and the lilies at Easter time.

Thanks to those who have contributed their time and talent as members of the Worship and Music Committee over the past year. I truly appreciate your help with planning services. I am especially grateful for all who stepped up to take care of Worship and Music responsibilities as I went through a very difficult year personally.

Thank you St. Paul's for another blessed year.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Clanton

St. Paul's Women of the ELCA Financial Report December 2021

DESCRIPTION	DEPOSITS	EXPENSES	BALANCE
BALANCE as of December 31, 2020			\$778.48
DEPOSITS			
-0-			
TOTAL DEPOSITS	<u>\$.00</u>		
EXPENSES			
Church Women United (dues)		25.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES		<u>\$ 25.00</u>	
BALANCE as of December 31, 2021			----- \$753.48
DESIGNATED FUNDS			-----
Convention \$653.58			\$ 99.90

Respectfully Submitted,
Rosie Lee Haas--Treasurer

Inreach/Outreach Annual Report 2021

**For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.
Matthew 25:35**

Inreach/ Outreach committee promoted 50+ Wedding Anniversary celebration, Food Pantry Kick Off, Picnics in the Courtyard, Pool Party, Prayers for Pets, 80 and Over Birthday Celebration, and Blessing of Veterans this year. Pot Luck Lunches successfully restarted on October 31st. Retirement Milestone celebrated Elaine Lucke and Mary Schlobohm.

- **Lay Eucharistic Ministers:** Provide home communion for our shut-ins and those who are in the hospital. Rosie Haas and Kurt Migl were blessed and served as St. Paul's Eucharistic Ministers'.
- **Memorials and Honorariums:** Rosie Haas continued the work of sending cards to notify families of monetary donations given in the name of their loved ones.
- **Golden Group:** Monthly luncheons resumed in April with a group of 27 Golden people at Luna's. Our seniors were ready to get out and get going! Bus trips started up in September with a trip to the Painted Churches, followed by our Annual Pre-Christmas shopping trip. We finished out 2021 with a trip to Orange, TX. Although we were a little late getting started, 2021 was a success for the Golden Group.
- **St. Paul's Food Pantry:** We continued our drive through distribution in 2021. A grant of a commercial refrigerator was given to our pantry by the Houston Food Bank in August. Volunteers picked up our orders at Hearts and Hands on Tuesdays, restocking and packing 120 bags of shelf stable food in preparation for Thursday's distribution. Pick up on Thursday included bread, milk, and refrigerated items to be given out that day. Thanksgiving turkeys were purchased from HEB and Coldwell Banker realtors donated 130 bags of all the fixings to go along with our 130 turkeys. Our last pantry distribution was December 16th as we closed for the holiday season and to begin dismantling the pantry rooms for remodeling. All the rooms were cleared and food was stored. The Food Pantry East Wing Remodel Fund Raiser started in June with \$10,000 and the food pantry donated another \$7000. We raised more than \$47,000, including an anonymous challenge matching funds donation in the amount of \$14,680. Thank you for all your generous gifts and support of the food pantry. Thank you to all the volunteers who faithfully worked to provide food to those in need in the community.
- **God's Work. Our hands:** Hurricane Ida Recovery donations included food, toiletries, soaps, and detergents. The Baytown Police Department delivered our donations to Louisiana.
- **Prayer Shawl/Hospital Prayer Blanket:** St. Paul's members continued to make shawls and blankets. These beautiful items were blessed each month. The prayer shawls were given or mailed to those in need of healing and comfort. The prayer blankets were given to Houston Methodist Hospital Baytown.
- **Technology Upgrade:** Equipment was purchased to improve the sound of our live broadcasts. Thank you Jada Hylton and Cliff Torberson for your diligence in the purchase and installation of the new equipment.
- **Spirit of Christmas Gift Giving:** The congregation brought 26 gifts for children of specific ages. A Thrivent Seed Money gift card was used to purchase 10 more gifts.

A special thank you to the entire congregation for your support of the ministries of Inreach/Outreach.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorrie Andrews Committee Member

Technology and Social (Communication) Committee

Annual Report 2021

In 2021 we created 49 worship videos which were streamed live on Facebook or published on our YouTube channel and our website! I would give myself a pat on the back for this accomplishment but was recently informed that the audio portion of the worship videos was poor. All the videos that were streamed live had an issue with sound.... it had something to do with the livestream lag/delay. Oh boy! It was time for me to learn new technology.

Sweetwater Sound has terrific customer service. We used this company last year when we purchased a new “Madonna” mic for pastor Nancy. So, I contacted our customer rep. AJ Becerra and told him about our problem. I even sent him a link to our YouTube channel so he could hear first-hand what was going on. AJ set us up with 2 wireless mic systems that have transmitters (one for the assisting minister and one for the Pastor) and one receiver, with and adaptor, that connects to my iPhone. When everything arrived in the mail it looked very intimidating. I called Cliff Torberson (Birdie Torberson’s son) and asked if he could help me with the set-up. He said, “Sure, how hard can it be? It’s not rocket science!” I found that very funny since Cliff works for NASA. Anyway, Cliff came by and setup the new audio system in minutes. We gave it a test run, and eureka! We have sound!

There were a few hiccups in the beginning (like how to charge the wireless transmitters and the receiver) but I think our sound issue is finally a thing of the past. I’m almost afraid to print these words. But I will walk in God’s grace as he transcends my limitations and remember that he has called me for such a time as this.

Thank you to AJ Becerra and Cliff Torberson for being patient with me and being so generous with their time and talent. You guys’ rock!

Several people are watching our worship videos on Facebook. These are people that are not members of our congregation. On average, we have about 15-20 people “engaged” weekly with our videos. Please share the videos to your friend group. What an easy way to spread the Good News!

Respectfully submitted, Jada Hylton
Technology & Communications Chair/Committee

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Expenses

2022 Budget Worksheet

Benevolence

	2021 Budget	2021 Actual *	Proposed 2022 Budget*	% Change vs. '21 Act.	Notes
TX LA Gulf Coast Synod Benevolence	10,751	12,949	7,772		1
Subtotal	10,751	12,949	7,772	-40	

Ministry

Pastor:

Salary	26,780	26,780	26,780		2
Housing Allowance - Rent	24,720	24,720	24,720		3
Social Security Off-set	4,266	4,266	4,266		4
Reimbursable Expenses	2,000	368	2,000		5
Pension, Health & Life Insurance	19,239	19,239	19,351		6
Pastoral Coverage, Vacation	800	889	800		7
Pastor Continuing Education/Prof Expense	1,000	290	1,000		8
Subtotal	78,805	76,552	78,917	3	

Worship

Director of Music Ministries:	20,394	20,394	20,394		9
Matching Social Security	1,560	1,560	1,560		10
Pension, Health & Life Insurance	7,060	7,060	6,484		11
Worship & Music Supplies	1,600	1,682	1,600		12
Subtotal	30,614	30,696	30,038	-2	

Education

Education Supplies	750	471	750		13
Subtotal	750	471	750	59	

Church Property

Utilities	23,350	20,236	23,350		14
Janitor/Cleaning Service	6,204	5,689	4,500		15
Maintenance & Grounds	10,000	7,740	10,000		16
Kitchen & Restroom Supplies	1,000	1,175	1,000		17
Insurance	27,000	30,276	40,000		18
Subtotal	67,554	65,116	78,850	21	

Church Office

Director of Office Ministries:	23,940	23,946	23,940		19
Pension, Health & Life Insurance	13,971	13,971	14,115		20
Matching Social Security (secretary & nursery)	1,831	1,832	1,831		21
Office Expense	4,500	6,868	6,500		22
Copier Maintenance/Lease Payments	6,000	4,296	4,500		23
Subtotal	50,242	50,913	50,886	0	

Inreach/Outreach & Congregational Care

Synod Convention & Council Retreat	1,200	175	1,200		24
Inreach(Congregational Care)	500	137	500		25
Outreach Ministries	800	660	800		26
Subtotal	2,500	972	2,500	157	

Grand Total, General Fund Budget ----->

241,216	237,669	249,713	5	
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Explanatory notes for Year 2022 Budget

(Comments apply to 2022 budget figures unless otherwise noted)

1 Benevolence 3% (2% decrease from 2021)

2 Sum of Salary/Housing/Matching S.S. will remain the same as 2020

3 See above

4 Synod guidelines require S.S. offset to be ~8.3% of salary & housing

5 Includes cell phone expense, other travel expenses, etc.

6 Based on ELCA Board of Pension's % of the sum of Pastor's salary/housing/matching S.S.

7 Will remain the same as 2021

8 Continuing education expenses & other professional expenses for Pastor

9 Salary to remain the same as 2021

10 S.S. amt. based on 7.65% of salary of Director of Music Ministries

11 Based on ELCA Board of Pension's % of salary

12 Includes bulletins, candles, communion supplies, offering envelopes, music, etc.

13 Ed materials for Sun Sch/VBS/Confirmation/First Communion/Adult Education & Christ in our Home booklets

14 Includes natural gas, water, telephone, electricity, e-mail service, security system

15 Cleaning services once a week plus several large jobs per year

16 Includes routine maintenance expenses (other than janitorial & copier service) & small repairs (less than \$1,500)

17 Includes all supplies for bathroom and kitchen

18 Allows for increase in 2022 vs. 2021 as rate will change mid-year (rates for 2022 unknown at this time)

19 Salary \$13.15 per hour (35 hours per week)

20 Based on ELCA Board of Pension's % of salary

21 S.S. amount based on 7.65% of wages for Director of Office Ministries

22 Office supplies and expenses, including computer maintenance & website costs

23 Decrease from 2021

24 This expense covers req'd attendance by Pastor and 2 voting members at annual Synod assembly

25 Expenses associated with various Inreach activities and stewardship

26 Expenses associated with various Outreach programs including The Baytown Sun

Based on \$259,075.32 2021 Giving

* Preliminary actual General Fund expenditures (unaudited)

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Treasurer's Report for 2021 Calendar Year

	2021	2021
	Opening Balance	Closing Balance
<u>Assets:</u>		
Checking Account Balance	99,265.50	156,711.84
Thrivent Financial Investments	52,559.22	54,015.90
	151,824.72	210,727.74
<u>Fund Balances:</u>		
General Fund	2,468.04	23,874.24
Capital Improve/Major Repairs Reserve Fund	14,406.03	16,252.90
East Wing Repairs Fund	7,296.80	47,435.05
Campus Ministry	500.00	500.00
Youth Fund	11,046.40	10,729.91
Education Fund	1,345.37	1,345.37
Food Pantry Fund	6,088.74	1,823.87
Insurance Deductible Reserve	10,000.00	10,000.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	305.05	305.05
Music Fund	6,138.26	4,597.04
General Pass thru items	39,670.81	39,848.05
General Ledger Balance	99,265.50	156,711.48
Land & Landscaping	87,000.00	87,000.00
Parking Lot & Sidewalks	122,000.00	122,000.00
Bell Tower	115,000.00	115,000.00
Building & Contents	1,217,300.00	1,217,300.00
Property & Equipment subtotal	1,541,300.00	1,541,300.00
Total Assets	1,693,124.72	1,752,027.74

	2020	2021
<u>Income:</u>		
Undesignated (i.e. for covering general expenses)	215,082.44	259,075.32
Special gifts/pass-thru items	20,522.78	70,288.87
Paycheck Protection Program	28,200.00	0.00
Transfer From Thrivent Investment	20,000.00	0.00
Thrivent Financial Investment Interest	768.65	1,456.68
Checking Account Interest	13.59	0.00
	284,587.46	330,820.87

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Audit Report 2021



St. Paul's Lutheran Church - ELCA

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19

January 5, 2022

Donna Reavis

President

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Dear Mrs. Reavis,

On January 5, 2022 we reviewed the 2021 financial records of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and found them to be in good order. Also, reported year-end cash balances reconciled to the year-end bank statement.

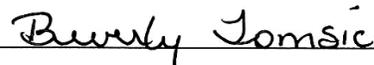
Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

The Audit Committee



Debbie Gillespie



Beverly Tomsic

cc: Kim Holle, Treasurer

Opening Liturgy

Today our congregation gathers in prayer and hope to begin another year of ministry. We bring with us the memory of a year like no other, even as we move into a future that we cannot yet imagine. Yet even now, as in every age, God is our refuge and strength. In times of plenty and want, in times of conflict and peace, in times of growing and pruning, we remember:

God has called us for such a time as this.

We remember the past year with lament and gratitude. We have lost so much, and so much still feels uncertain. We have also witnessed God's hand at work in new and unexpected ways. We delight at hidden seeds bearing surprising and wonderful fruit. When our own resources fail, when we cannot predict the future, when we must rely on God alone, we remember:

God has called us for such a time as this.

We celebrate this moment and the many ways God has held us together as a community. We give thanks for the gift of our church building and the welcome it provides, even as we bless God for the marvel of technology and the new bonds of connection it makes possible. When our bodies need sanctuary, when our minds need expanding, when your grace must transcend our limitations, we remember:

God has called us for such a time as this.

We look ahead to the road we will travel together this year. We anticipate and receive with joy the new gifts God's love has planned. We pray for the grace to let go of what has served its holy purpose. When we are trailblazers or followers, when we are seekers or visionaries, when we must walk by faith and not by sight, we remember:

God has called us for such a time as this.

And so we pray: Grace our meeting, O God, with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the Spirit who has guided the church from the beginning, the Spirit of our risen Lord Jesus, the Spirit who sends us as healers and restorers of your beloved world. You are the source of our life together. You are the rock and cornerstone.

You have called us for such a time as this.

O God,

you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

2022 Ballot for Election of Church Officers & Council Members

St. Paul's Lutheran Church -- Baytown, Texas

Officers (vote for one per office)

President (1 year)

Donna Reavis

Vice President (1 year)

Ian Gillespie

Treasurer (up for election)

Kim Holle

Council Members at Large (2-year term)

Clarke Crizer

Beverly Tomsic (fulfilling a 1-year term)

Returning Council Members (up for election for a 2-year term)

Rosie Haas

Becky Linsenbardt

Kurt Migl

Returning Council Members (1 year remaining of a 2-year term)

Angie Ash (Secretary), Susan Clanton, Sandra McGee, Natalie Seymour

Change and the need for creativity have become constants over the last year and a half in many aspects of life, including the church. This was the case for **Living Christ Lutheran Church** in Flagstaff, Arizona, even before a global pandemic caused many of us to rethink what it means to be church.

Generosity from all three expressions of the ELCA (the churchwide organization, the Grand Canyon Synod and members of Living Christ) helped turn a congregation “on the road out of town, near the mall” into an online presence reaching over 500 people a week from Phoenix to the Philippines. (Read more about Living Christ in the current issue of “**Stories of Faith in Action**” at [ELCA.org/SOFIA](https://www.elca.org/SOFIA).)

Many other congregations have found new ways to connect both when in-person worship was impossible and when congregations began to return to their sanctuaries. Generosity, especially through Mission Support, helped us find and support these new ways of being connected. Early in the pandemic, ELCA Worship launched the “Worship in the Home” webpage, with Scripture, hymn links, prayers and reflections for each Sunday.

These resources were and continue to be used in congregations across the ELCA—even at **Sitka Lutheran Church** in Alaska, whose members printed and hand-delivered “Worship in the Home” resources to fellow members without internet access.

Change and creativity have taught us many things. As Pastor Sandra Rudd of Sitka Lutheran Church noted, “The pandemic was a stark illustration of the fact that the church is not a building. A lot of people say that, but we didn’t fully know it until we didn’t have a building to use. We learned that there are many ways to be connected as the church.” Throughout the pandemic, the ELCA has changed and adapted, doing ministry in new and creative ways, because of the generosity of its members. Even now, you may be gathering in a new way for your annual meeting, to discern how you will steward the gifts shared generously with your congregation to do ministry in your community and beyond. As you have these important conversations, remember that your gifts of time, talent and resources have helped create new spaces beyond our walls and buildings where we continue to worship, serve and love God and each other.

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