



ST. PAUL'S NEWS

December 2023

517 Grayside Avenue, Mauston | 608-847-4108



511 West Lake Street, Friendship | 608-474-4136

Pastor's Corner

The Perfect Birth Plan

"But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

Many soon-to-be parents try and nail down an exact plan for the delivery of their child. Which hospital should we go to? What should we pack in the *go bag*? Who's going to drive to and from the hospital? Who's going to watch the pets? Who's going to be in the room with mom before/during/after delivery? Even if you have all of those plans figured out ahead of time, things still may not work out exactly how you envision it.

What do you think Mary and Joseph had in their birth plan? All that Mary had to go off of was what the Angel Gabriel had told her: you will give birth to a son, and your son will actually be God's Son, the promised Messiah. She may have picked up from the Old Testament Scriptures that this Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, but regardless, I don't think many people would have included this in their birth plans:

- Instead of having the baby at home, we'll travel three days in midwinter from Nazareth to Bethlehem (probably on foot)
- We'll desperately search for a bed to sleep in (during a time when everyone will be attempting to do the same thing)
- If we can't find lodging, we have to find *some place* to lay this baby down and keep him alive, even if it means placing him in a feeding trough next to cattle.

Martin Luther comments, "Think, women, there was no one there to bathe the baby. No warm water, nor even cold. No fire, no light. The mother was herself midwife and the maid. The cold manger was the bed and the bathtub. Who showed the poor girl what to do? She had never had a baby before. I am amazed that the little one did not freeze. Do not make of Mary a stone. It must have gone straight to her heart that she was so abandoned. She was flesh and blood, and must have felt miserable – and Joseph too- that she was left in this way, all alone, with no one to help in a strange land in the middle of winter." (*Martin Luther's Christmas Book*)

We know that Mary sang with joy in the lead-up to this delivery: **"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior, because he has looked with favor on the humble state of his servant."** But I would imagine there may also have been a brief moment of panic watching this all unfold: Is there really how the Son of God is supposed to enter into the world? Did we do something wrong?

Was *this* really the plan?

Yes! Every last detail happened exactly according to God's "birth plan." He worked his hand in history so that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. The lowly circumstances around Christ's birth fit the Son of Man who came not to be served, but to serve. All of this was done according to God's plan of salvation for you and for me.

"Let us, then, meditate upon the Nativity just as we see it happening in our own babies," Luther writes, "Look upon the baby Jesus. Divinity may terrify man. Inexpressible majesty will crush him. That is why Christ took on our humanity, save for sin, that he should not terrify us but rather that with love and favor he should console and confirm."

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace. (CW 337:1)

SPECIAL UPCOMING SERVICES

Please mark your calendars and join us as we look forward to and celebrate the birth of our Savior!

Midweek Advent services

Wednesdays, December 6 & 13:

6pm Adams-Friendship 6pm Mauston

Mauston

Sunday, December 24: Christmas Eve service

7:45 am Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols

10:30 am Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols

4:00 pm Children's Christmas Eve service

Monday, December 25, Christmas Day Service

9:00 am Christmas Day Service

**There will be no Monday night service on Dec. 25*

Adams-Friendship

Sunday, December 24: Christmas Eve service

10:30 am Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols

6pm Christmas Eve Traditional Service

Monday, December 25: Christmas Day service

10:30 am Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion

USE IT OR LOSE IT With a new year approaching, many people look to set goals for themselves. A common one is for better health through a workout plan. It starts off well and we are often encouraged by the results. However sometimes we get out of the habit of continuing the workout plan. It may be due to bad weather or sore muscles or a time issue or other pressing matters. If this pattern happens to disrupt our plan for a number of consecutive weeks, the workout plan can get put on hold or goes away.

A similar situation can happen with church attendance. It has been noted that if an individual or family misses church attendance for 3-4 weeks in a row, it can easily lead to not attending at all. That is why a lot of churches

ADDITIONS TO ST. PAUL'S

Baptisms:

Jonah Wyss (10/15/2023)

Transfer in:

Hayley Gruber (10/16/2023)

Brenda Zaft (10/16/2023)

(ours included) reach out in love to congregational members that they have not seen in attendance for 4+ weeks. The purpose is to check on the individual or family to see if there is anything in particular going on (such as a health issue or something else). The goal is to make sure everything is OK and urge them to come back to regular service attendance. There are numerous things in our lives today (i.e., weekend sporting events, COVID pandemic, only day for relaxation, etc.) that we need to be careful of drawing our attention away from our ultimate goal of reaching heaven by taking our attention off of Jesus who alone has the words of eternal life.

Our church does offer the ability to hear our services via radio and/or see the service by online video. It is very helpful for individuals and families who are unable to attend in person. However, the in-person church attendance offers much more. In Scripture the Lord says that wherever 2 or 3 believers gather, there he will be also. We get to come into the Lord's presence. It is also a time for fellowship with other believers. It is where we get to partake in communion of the Lord's Supper where the presence of his true body and true blood are there to strengthen us and forgive us our sins.

If you have been away from church for some time, we urge you to come back and realize God's amazing grace and gifts. It is too valuable to lose.

God's Blessings, Bob Storandt, Elder

PASTOR WILKE AND PASTOR SELLNOW
RECEIVE CALLS This past month both Pastor Wilke

and Pastor Sellnow received calls to serve other WELS congregations. As a reminder, pastors in the WELS who have served four (4) years at a congregation are eligible to be called to other churches once every six (6) months. Due to the high number of vacancies in our church body right now we have seen many pastors (including ours) regularly receive such calls. The pastors do not seek these calls but are selected by congregations after consulting with their district president who gives them lists of appropriate pastoral candidates for their particular congregation. We trust that God will bless all our WELS congregations, including ours, with pastors to serve in His time and with His blessing.

On November 12 Pastor Wilke was called to serve Peace Lutheran Church in Granger, IN. Peace has been without a pastor for about a year and has about 150 members

WEDNESDAY ADVENT SERVICES Please join us on Wednesdays during Advent for a midweek devotional service focusing on some of the women of the Old Testament who looked forward to the promised Savior. Pastors Sellnow, Waldschmidt, and Wilke will rotate leading these brief (about 30 minutes) worship services on November 29, December 6, and December 13. Both campuses will worship at 6:00 p.m.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKS AVAILABLE

Please pick up one of the Advent devotional booklets that are available at church in both Mauston and Adams-Friendship. These devotionals are put together by our friends at Martin Luther College and feature devotions written by the faculty of our college of ministry. Everyone is welcome to take one home, and there are extras if you would like to share one with a family member or friend.

SPECIAL VOTER'S CALL MTG. FOR PERMANENT DAY CARE DIRECTOR

A SPECIAL VOTER'S Call Meeting has been set for Sunday afternoon, December 10, 2023, at 1:15 p.m., and will be held at the ADAMS-FRIENDSHIP CHURCH. Shar Weibel has been Called yearly by our Church since we originally approved and called her to be our Lil' Lambs Day Care Director on December 03, 2017. Shar has been very instrumental in helping set up and organize the opening and operation of the Day Care facility since our Church opened it in February of 2018 after purchasing the "Lil Rascals" Day Care Facility which was being sold by the owner who was looking to retire.

Since Shar recently completed required courses for certification through Martin Luther College, at this Call Meeting, the Voter's Assembly will be asked to approve

along with a small grade school they operate. Pastor Wilke would be asked to focus especially on outreach in addition to regular pastoral duties at Peace.

On November 19 Pastor Sellnow was called to serve as an associate pastor at Grace Lutheran Church in Glendale, AZ. Glendale is part of the Phoenix metro area which is home to about five million souls. The congregation in Glendale currently serves about 700 members and has a grade school of about 140 children. Grace has been calling for a second pastor since this summer and they are asking Pastor Sellnow to serve as the school and outreach pastor.

Please keep our congregation as well as Peace and Grace in your prayers along with our pastors. They would welcome your feedback about their calls or discussions about ministry here at St. Paul's in the coming weeks.

the Calling of Shar Weibel as Permanent Director for our Lil' Lambs Day Care in Mauston. This will also enable her to be registered with our Synod as a Called Day Care Director. All members of St. Paul's in both Mauston and Adams-Friendship are encouraged to attend this meeting, as we are all one congregation, with two locations. Congregation members are invited to pick up a agenda for this meeting in the Church Narthex. Our Constitution and Bylaws state that eligible voting members are those male communicant members who have declared their agreement with the Constitution, who have been received by the voter's assembly of the congregation, who are at least 18 years of age, and who have attended at least one (1) voter's meeting in the previous calendar year, which means one (1) year previous to this present meeting.

Ron Pfaff, President St. Paul's

BUS THANK YOU At our annual congregational meeting in January, the congregation approved the selling of our school bus. Well, it finally happened. Details on the sale are noted in the next article. We had been storing the bus at the Mauston church by the garage. Twice we had to repair the bus due to vandalism. Lee Schnell did check with Brown Bus to see if we could store it on their fenced in lot, but for insurance reasons they had to decline our request.

Our Adams-Friendship congregation offered to see if their garage could be used. Lee drove the bus to Adams, but the bus was just a little too long. At that point, Lee took the bus back to his farm and stored it in one of their sheds for the winter. During the summer, it was moved outside as the shed was needed for other farming needs. Lee kept the bus plugged in to electricity so as to not wear the battery down and keep attached options in working

condition. Bob Storandt contacted St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Wonewoc as well as several bus companies to see if anyone was interested in purchasing the bus. There were no takers.

Earlier this fall Randy Marschall met with Kudick Chevrolet to see about the possibility of a trade in or some other option. Kudick took the bus to their lot and added it to an online auction they were having. The result was that the company we bought the bus from (Nelson Bus Service) wanted to look it over and consider buying it. Ron Pfaff and Randy Marschall continued working with Nelson Bus Service to finalize the sale. Our church secretary Lisa Bilka handled getting the needed title replacement documents pulled together. This project got completed due to the help of many individuals. To all of you - thank you!

CHURCH OWNED SCHOOL BUS SOLD On November 06, 2023, we accepted an offer from Nelson Bus Service to purchase our used School bus for \$10,000.00. We will be signing the title and then they will cut us a check. We originally bought the small bus from Nelson Bus Service brand new for \$57,000.00 in 2015. We mainly used it for driving our students to the Lutheran Parochial School in Wonewoc. However, it has been sitting idle for the past two years because we have not been able to find someone willing to get their CDL license which is required to drive a school bus. Requirements to get the CDL have changed, making it more difficult to obtain, therefore, making the interest in getting a bus CDL license not as appealing as previously.

The bus has been deteriorating from non-use and hard to find storage to keep it safe. The Church Council at their January 08, 2023 meeting, followed by the Voter's Assembly Annual Meeting on January 28, 2023, both passed motions to proceed with attempting to sell the bus, but give the first option to buy it to the Wonewoc Parochial School who did not want it.

Since that time many hours were spent, making contacts personally and listing the bus even online in an attempt to sell it. Finally, on October 17, we met with reps from Nelson Bus Service who were interested in it. The two reps came to Mauston, evaluated the bus, had us fix the heater and air conditioner which was not working, and then they took it to their Janesville shop to further evaluate the bus as they had concerns about many things that they knew because of code requirements that they would need to repair and update in order to prepare it for resale. They were also worried about the wiring being

chewed because of mouse droppings that were found on the bus.

Preliminary thoughts and ideas have been to possibly purchase a Van to use for Church Activities which does not have requirements for a CDL needed to drive, with the requirement being that only drivers registered with our insurance company would be able to drive it. No decision has been made yet.

Ron Pfaff, President, St. Paul's

CHURCH COUNCIL REORGANIZATION ELECTIONS HELD FOR 2024

At their Nov. 12, 2023 monthly Council meeting, the Church Council reorganized for 2024 and elected the elder positions, which will go into effect on Jan. 01, 2024. At the October 29, 2023 Quarterly Voter's meeting, Voter's approved the nominating committee's recommendation to elect Sam Wollin from the Adams-Friendship Mission Church to serve a 2nd three year term on Council.

After the October Quarterly Voter's meeting, Todd Weibel agreed to join the Council and serve as the Secretary/Worship Elder-Mauston. At the Nov. 12 Council Meeting, Todd was appointed by the Council to serve in this position starting on Jan. 01, 2024, until he can be nominated to be elected by the Voter's assembly at the January 28, 2024 Annual Meeting. Those returning Councilmen whose terms have not yet expired, all agreed to still serve in the same positions they held in 2023, except for Dennis Montey who volunteered to move from the Secretary/Worship position to the Bldgs. & Grounds Mauston position to fill Matt Wirth's expired two terms on the Council. We would like to Thank Matt Wirth for his six (6) years of serving on Church Council.

The 2024 Joint Church Council will include the following: President = Ron Pfaff-Mauston (2nd Yr./1st Term); Co-V.P./Fellowship-Mauston = Barry Voigt (2nd Yr./1st Term); Co-V.P./Fellowship-AdamsFr. = Greg Pope (3rd Yr./2nd Term); Co-Secretary/Worship-Mauston = Todd Weibel(1stYr./1stTerm);Co-Treasurer/Stewardship/Member Involvement-Mauston = Bob Storandt (3rd Yr./1st Term); Co-Bldgs. & Grounds-Mauston = Dennis Montey (2nd Yr./1st Term); Co-Bldgs. & Grounds-Adams-Fr. = Jim Cranfield (3rd Yr./1st Term); Co-Education-Mauston = Todd Krueger (2nd Yr./1st Term); Co-Education-Adams-Fr. = Sam Wollin (1st Yr./2nd Term); & Co-Evangelism-Mauston = Art Buye (3rd Yr./1st Term).

Any newly elected or appointed Council members started attending the Council meetings in November and December 2023 to shadow and learn from the Councilmen whose positions they will assume on Jan. 01, 2024. We still have three (3) of the thirteen (13) total Joint Council Positions still open, as no one has shown interest in accepting nomination for the Adams-Friendship Co-Treas./Stewardship/Member Involvement, Co-Secretary/Worship, and Co-Evangelism Chairman positions. If someone from Adams-Friendship is interested, please contact a Pastor or President Ron Pfaff. If the Council approves your nomination, you will be

appointed to serve until the next Voter's Quarterly Mtg. where Voters can then elect you to the position.

When all positions on the Council are filled, the thirteen (13) total positions will include seven (7) from Mauston and six (6) from the Adams-Fr Mission Church.

We have added positions from the Adams-Fr. Mission Church to allow their representatives to learn the knowledge and responsibilities of Church organization and to better understand what is needed to help our Church grow and function. Ron Pfaff, President

Mauston News & Notes

FREE WILL MONETARY DOOR OFFERING TO BE HELD FOR GROCERY ITEMS TO BE BOUGHT AND INCLUDED IN CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS FOR THE NEEDY:

On the two (2) weekends of Sunday/Monday, December 03/04 and Sunday/Monday, December 10/11, 2023, a monetary free will door offering will be held for the purpose of making a monetary donation to assist the Evangelism Committee to cover the costs of purchasing grocery food items such as ham, milk, butter, etc. to be among the items that are being put into the Annual Christmas Food Baskets that will be distributed to the less fortunate needy individuals and families in our community.

OTHER GROCERY ITEM DONATIONS ALSO BEING ASKED TO BE PUT UNDER THE CHRISTMAS TREE IN THE CHURCH NARTHEX: The above monetary free will offering is in addition to the normal grocery food donation items that the Evangelism Committee asks for each Christmas season to be included in the Food Basket distribution, which would include boxed stuffing, canned vegetables and fruit, instant boxed potatoes, boxed oatmeal or cereal, cookies, laundry detergent, and toilet paper. We ask that if you donate any of these grocery items, that they be put in a box or bag and left under the Christmas Tree which is in the Church Narthex Entrance.

These additional grocery items, if you choose to donate, should be placed under the Christmas Tree no later than MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2023, so the Evangelism Committee can get the Food Baskets put together and distributed before Christmas. Thank you in advance for any monetary donations or other grocery item donations you may choose to contribute. The less fortunate needy individuals and families in our community who will receive our Christmas Food Baskets will appreciate your thoughtfulness and love towards others. Ron Pfaff, President and Evangelism Committee

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY will be taking a break until the New Year. Please join us for our midweek Advent worship, Wednesdays at 6pm. We will resume bible classes on January 3rd with our next study (below):

"NOW FALLEN ASLEEP: FINDING COMFORT IN DEATH AND GRIEF" - New Midweek Bible Study, Wednesdays at 10 AM and 7:30 PM, beginning January 3rd. It's a sad reality that at some point in our lives, every one of us will be confronted with death, leading up to our own. It's good for us to be prepared! Prepared to navigate through the thick haze of grief. Prepared to be there to comfort and support each other. Prepared to lean on our Savior Jesus, our shelter in the storm. This course will help us do just that, continually drawing from our Easter joy and comfort.

Lessons Include:

Part 1: "The Poison & The Antidote" - sizing up the great enemy of death and rejoicing in the victory won by Jesus.

Part 2: "Voices in the Darkest Valley" - listening to the calls of Sheep dealing with loss, and to the response of the Good Shepherd.

Part 3: "What about..." - A Q&A for all things funeral and afterward.

Part 4: "Pointing to the God of All Comfort" - Things to do and say for those working through grief.

CHRISTMAS CARDS You can "shop" for your Christmas cards, which will be displayed by the coat rack. Prices will be \$6.00/box, \$2.50 for napkins; individual Christmas cards in the card rack will be \$.75/card.

GIVING TREE This year, our giving tree will be for nonperishable food. There will be tags on the tree with different types of nonperishable items. For example: A box of stuffing & instant mash potatoes, A can of fruit & vegetables & Cookies. You can take a tag purchase the items and leave it under the tree in a paper bag. More details to come.

MOTHER AND DAUGHTER CHRISTMAS GATHERING Join us on December 3, 2023, at 3:00pm. There will be Christmas songs, readings, stories and sweets.

_ will meet on December 20th at 6:30 pm. at church to have a devotion and then some friendly dart ball competition. See Pastor Wilke if you have any questions about the men's fellowship club — dart ball

Adams-Friendship News & Notes

WEDNESDAY CLASSES DONE FOR 2023 As noted above in the general announcements we will be offering Wednesday evening worship opportunities during Advent. This means we will suspend our Wednesday Bible Classes until the New Year. Classes will resume January 3.

WOMEN'S GROUP*—DECEMBER 2 GATHERING All women of St. Paul's are invited to join us for our Christmas-themed December women's group gathering as we prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus. Please bring a friend from church or from the community! Our gathering will include lunch, crafts, and a short Christmas themed devotion and songs. You can sign up in the fellowship hall today so we can get an idea of how many will attend. You are also welcome to sign up to bring a dish to share for lunch.

*Please note: Due to a lack of interest/ability to attend, we have suspended our men's group at this time. We will evaluate the need for this ministry in the coming year.

SAVE THE DATE—CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS DECEMBER 9 Save the date—Saturday, December 9, 10am—noon, for our annual Christmas for Kids event. Children 12 and under are welcome to come to learn the real meaning of Christmas from the Bible, to sing songs (including a song all are invited to sing on Sunday, December 10, in our morning worship service), decorate cookies, and enjoy lunch provided by the congregation. This event is open to both members and anyone in our community. If you are able to volunteer to assist with this event or provide items for this event, please sign up in the fellowship hall at church.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS We will be purchasing a number of large poinsettias to help decorate our sanctuary at Christmas. A signup sheet is in the fellowship hall if you would like to sign-up to purchase one of these plants. You may take it home with you then after we are done with the Christmas season here at church.

CHOIR TO BEGIN CHRISTMAS REHEARSALS DECEMBER 3 Anyone interested in joining the church choir is asked to join us for practice following worship on Sundays in December beginning December 3. We will meet after worship to rehearse songs for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

GIVING TREE IN ADAMS-FRIENDSHIP There is a Christmas tree set up in our fellowship hall again this December with tags you can take if you would like to provide a Christmas food basket or children's gifts for families in our congregation and community that are in need. Simply take a tag, and then attach it to the donated items (there will be a donation table set up next to the tree).

This is a wonderful opportunity to remind our fellow members and our community that we care about their physical and spiritual needs. All the tags will keep the family names anonymous and will indicate only the size of the family or age of the children. If you are aware of St. Paul's or community families who should be included on this tree, please speak with Pastor Sellnow. The tree will be up by December 3 and all donations should be placed at church no later than December 17.

FREE WILL DOOR OFFERING FOR THOSE IN NEED IN ADAMS-FRIENDSHIP On the first two Sundays in December (3rd and 10th) a free will door offering will be held here in Adams-Friendship for our congregation's fund to assist those in need in our congregation and community with basic needs like food and gas. Marked collection boxes will be available on the counter in the fellowship hall.

Lil' Lambs News & Notes

Christmas blessings to you and your family from all of us at St. Paul's Lil' Lambs! What a joy to celebrate the coming of our Savior every year at this time! Children are excited to sing songs for families at our annual Christmas Family Event on Dec.19th. We will be serving supper from 5-6pm with a short program starting at 6pm. Please know that you are invited to join us - please sign up if you plan to attend so we can plan accordingly. We are blessed to welcome a new part time staff member, Bella Stott! Please continue to keep children, families, and staff in your prayers especially now as we are entering a time with lots of sickness at the center.

MAUSTON CHURCH PARKING LOT COST SUMMARY COMPLETED SEPT. 2023

AS OF FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2023, BILLINGS

CONTRACTED SERVICES	BID	FINAL BILL	AMOUNT ABOVE BID
HAMM'S EXCAVATING	\$132,450.75	\$132,624.05	+ 173.30

(BID INCLUDED CONSTRUCTION FABRIC LAID DOWN)

GASSER'S BLACKTOPPING	\$108,426.28	\$111,230.53	+ 2,804.25
CUSTOM CONCRETE & MASONRY	\$5,870.00	\$7,100.00	+ 1,230.00
FAHRNER ASPHALT STRIPING	\$2,678.00	\$2,678.00 ???	?????

(FINAL BILL NOT RECEIVED YET TO PAY)

GRAY ELECTRIC	(NO BID ASKED FOR)	\$1,000.00	+ 1,000.00
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(HAD NO IDEA WE WOULD NEED THEIR PROMPT RESPONSE SERVICES)

BOB'S PLUMBING & CITY OF MAUSTON	(NO BILL RECEIVED YET)	????	
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TOTALS	BID	FINAL BILL	AMOUNT ABOVE BIDS
	\$249,425.03	\$254,632.58	+ 5,207.55

EXPLANATIONS FOR BEING ABOVE BIDS

HAMM'S = + 173.30 = Removed 3 evergreen trees from entrance corner, removed sod that was higher than blacktop, Dug deeper around sewer cleanout pipe to add larger breaker rock to pack better to take care of soft spot seepage around that cleanout pipe which was under the blacktop.

GASSER'S BLACKTOP = + 2,804.25 = Extra blacktop added because of widening entrance driveway and making a rounded curve to enter parking area, plus extra blacktop widened to make entrance to dumpster smoother.

CUSTOM CONCRETE & MASONRY = + 1,230.00 = Concrete slab widened by 2 feet to get further away from canopy pillars and breaker rock added under gravel base to attempt to get away from moisture under it to make cement last longer.

FAHNER ASPHALT STRIPING = +??? = Could be a little higher than bid because we asked them to add yellow paint to lower handicap access at sidewalk at front doors and added 3 arrows for better traffic flow indicators.

GRAY ELECTRIC = +1,000.00 = Never figured ahead that we would need their prompt services at the 4 light poles until digging down determined that some conduit with live wires inside had cracked loose from pole bases and needed to be replaced along with wires restrung and re-attached. Digging and adding breaker rock and gravel around the poles was delayed for a shorter period of time with their promptness. A larger new piece of conduit was delivered and put back in place that was found underground to be used in case a new added pole is ever added.

BOB'S PLUMBING & CITY OF MAUSTON = +??? = Had no idea we would have to call them until cast iron sewer cleanout pipe cover and pipe were cracked and broken, because their black color blended in with blacktop and was not recognized until it was hit when removing old blacktop. Pipe was replaced, a new cast iron cover was made, and City brought sewer truck to suck out the system, which probably had never been done before because no one knew that it was where it was.

HOW IS PARKING LOT BEING PAID FOR:

TOTAL OF BIDS MADE PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION-----\$249,425.03

TOTAL AMOUNT OF BILLS RECEIVED OVER THE BIDS-----\$ 5,207.55

TOTAL PROJECT COST AFTER BILLS ARE PAID = \$254,632.58***

STARTUP FUND FROM GENEROUS DONATIONS AND SET ASIDE FUNDS

MADE PRIOR TO APRIL 30, 2023, VOTER'S MEETING

WHEN VOTER'S APPROVED MOVING AHEAD WITH

THE PROJECT-----\$201,000.00

CASH DONATION OFFERINGS RECEIVED FROM MAY 28, 2023

THRU NOVEMBER 17, 2023-----\$ 35,135.00

TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS AS OF NOVEMBER 24, 2023, = \$ 236,135.00

***DONATIONS STILL NEEDED TO COVER TOTAL BILLS RECEIVED

THRU NOVEMBER 17, 2023, FOR COMPLETION OF PROJECT = \$ 18,497.58

TOTAL BILLS RECEIVED FOR PROJECT COMPLETION THRU

NOVEMBER 10, 2023, = \$ 254,632.58***

SPECIAL CASH DONATIONS TO CHURCH PROJECTSST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

MAUSTON & ADAMS-FRIENDSHIP CAMPUSESSUNDAY, MAY 28 THRU SUNDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2023

COLLECTED AS OF FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2023, =

<u>REPORTED</u> <u>BULLETIN DATE</u>	<u>DOLLAR</u> <u>AMOUNT GIVEN</u>	<u>PURPOSE</u> <u>GIVEN TOWARDS</u>	<u>UPDATED</u> <u>TOTAL RECEIVED</u>
06/04/2023-----	\$ 1,000.00	Mauston Parking Lot	\$ 1,000.00
06/11/2023-----	\$ 1,000.00	Mauston Parking Lot	\$ 2,000.00
06/18/2023-----	\$ 225.00	Mauston Parking Lot	\$ 2,225.00
06/25/2023-----	\$ 25.00	Mauston Parking Lot	\$ 2,250.00
07/02/2023-----	\$ 35.00	Mauston Parking Lot	\$ 2,285.00
07/09/2023-----	\$ 4,125.00	Mauston Parking Lot	\$ 6,410.00
07/16/2023-----	\$ 4,125.00	Mauston Parking Lot	\$ 10,535.00
07/30/2023-----	\$ 30.00	Mauston Parking Lot	\$ 10,565.00
08/06/2023-----	\$ 225.00	Mauston Parking Lot	\$ 10,790.00
08/13/2023-----	\$ 225.00	Mauston Parking Lot	\$ 11,015.00
08/20/2023-----	\$ 25.00	Mauston Parking Lot	\$ 11,040.00
08/27/2023-----	\$ 25.00	Mauston Parking Lot	\$ 11,065.00
09/03/2023-----	\$ 130.00	Mauston Parking Lot	\$ 11,195.00
09/10/2023-----	\$ 1,375.00	Mauston Parking Lot	\$ 12,570.00
09/17/2023-----	\$ 10,055.00	Mauston Parking Lot	\$ 22,625.00
09/24/2023-----	\$ 55.00	Mauston Parking Lot	\$ 22,680.00
10/01/2023-----	\$ 3,185.00	Mauston Parking Lot	\$ 25,865.00
10/08/2023-----	\$ 470.00	Mauston Parking Lot	\$ 26,335.00
10/15/2023-----	\$ 1,110.00	Mauston Parking Lot	\$ 27,445.00
10/22/2023-----	\$ 6,035.00	Mauston Parking Lot	\$ 33,480.00
10/29/2023-----	\$ 285.00	Mauston Parking Lot	\$ 33,765.00
11/05/2023-----	\$ 565.00	Mauston Parking Lot	\$ 34,330.00
11/12/2023-----	\$ 235.00	Mauston Parking Lot	\$ 34,565.00
11/19/2023-----	\$ 430.00	Mauston Parking Lot	\$ 34,995.00
11/26/2023-----	\$ 140.00	Mauston Parking Lot	\$ 35,135.00

*****TOTAL DONATIONS STILL NEEDED = *** \$ 18,497.58

CASH DONATIONS TO ADAMS-FRIENDSHIP PROJECTS

<u>REPORTED</u> <u>DATE</u>	<u>DOLLAR</u> <u>AMOUNT GIVEN</u>	<u>PURPOSE</u> <u>GIVEN TOWARDS</u>	<u>UPDATED</u> <u>TOTAL RECEIVED</u>
06/30/2023-----	\$ 2,300.00	Video Cameras	\$ 2,300.00
08/---/2023-----	\$ 1,572.10	Church Candles	\$ 3,872.10
08/---/2023-----	\$ 700.00	2024 Church Garbage Pickup	\$ 4,572.10

Ron Pfaff/Bob Storandt, St. Paul's

St Paul's Council 10-8-2023 at Adams-Friendship

Attendance: Pfaff, Voigt, Buye, Krueger, Pope, Sellnow, Storandt, Wirth, Waldchmidt and Montey

Opened at 1:18PM by Pastor Sellnow with prayer and Bible study of Colossians 3:1-5

Called to order at 1:41PM

August and September minutes Motion to approve with corrections by Art Buye, 2nd by Gregg Pope, carried.

Pastors' reports/actions Corrections made to add Mary Frantel funeral, Scott and Mary Gronholz to Adams from St. Paul's in Lake Mills, Francis Waffle to Faith Ev in Reedsburg. Motion to accept with corrections by Bob Storandt, 2nd by Dennis Montey, carried.

Elders Committee Written Bob Storandt

Evangelism/Mauston Written Art Buye

Evangelism/Adams Pastor Sellnow Nothing to report.

Education Written Todd Krueger Report on school interest/support survey. Planning cottage meetings with parents.

Worship Committee Dennis Montey Meetings to resume in October.

Building and Grounds/Mauston Written Matt Wirth

Building and Grounds/Adams Pastor Sellnow reported that parking lot repair contractor fell through. Looking for another.

Fellowship/Mauston Barry Voigt Interest in and planning on reviving Dart Ball

Fellowship/Adams Gregg Pope Nothing to report.

Synod No updates.

Pastor Waldschmidt Nothing to report.

Pastor Sellnow Preaching at Mission Fest in Marshfield next Sunday.

Newsletter deadline is October 24th.

Old Business:

A/V at Adams. Installing contractor no longer servicing A/V systems. Looking for another contractor.

Bus going to online auction via Kudick Chevrolet

Parking Lot/Mauston Work is complete. Good report on all contractors involved. Landscaping to take place in the Spring. Invoice was \$1200 more for additional concrete work.

Lil Lambs board position vacancy remains.

2024 Budget proposal Motion to approve by Dennis Montey, 2nd by Barry Voigt, carried.

Nomination Committee No nominations accepted.

Snow plowing/deicing contract for Mauston proposed for Bellson at rate of \$75 and additional for salt by the pound. Motion to approve by Bob Storandt, 2nd by Dennis Montey, carried.

Adams plowing tabled until next meeting.

Service times schedule for Christmas/New Year presented. Motion by Dennis Montey to accept, 2nd Bob Storandt, carried.

100th Birthday party for June Hermann to be on November 5th following late service at Mauston.

Voters' agenda presented. Motion to approve by Dennis Montey, 2nd by Barry Voigt, carried.

Ministry Plan presented by Bob Storandt Motion to approve by Matt Wirth, 2nd by Todd.

Krueger, carried.

Closing by Pastor Sellnow with prayer.

Motion to adjourn by Dennis Montey, 2nd by Barry Voigt, carried.

Meeting adjourned at 3:28PM

Respectfully submitted by Dennis Montey

ELDER'S REPORT – Bob Storandt We continue to look for a couple more elders. Making contacts with a few members who have not been in church for some time. We have not done any work yet on right-sizing our membership list, but it is still on our to do list.

EVANGELISM REPORT- Mauston – Art Buye All of us can help fulfill the Great Commission- “Go make disciples of all nations”. Show by examples of our joy because of what Jesus did for you. Both Bible Study Classes going well. We are open to new ideas for Christmas. “May the good Lord take a liking to you.” Yours in Christ, Art Buye

EDUCATION REPORT – Mauston – Todd Krueger Sunday school, JAM, and Bible classes have resumed with good attendance.

We had our second school exploratory committee meeting. We are using God's word for guidance and encouragement as we move slowly forward. We reviewed the results of the congregational survey and plan to share these with the congregation soon.

Based on the positive feedback that we received from our members, we are planning the next step of setting up meetings with the parents in our congregation. Thank you all for taking time to fill out the surveys and for your comments, questions, and prayers.

Yours in Christ-Todd Krueger

STEWARDSHIP/MEMBERSHIP REPORT-Mauston – Bob Storandt

Working on updating the “Time & Talents” form to be used at church is still on the docket of work to be done.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS REPORT - Mauston - Matt Wirth

The parking lot is complete. However, we need to backfill around the lot with dirt and gravel. Seeding may come next spring. We will need volunteers to help with this. I am also looking at options to put reflective tape around the light posts.

I have also removed the name board for the sign. I should be able to remove some of the lettering and am investigating new lettering that I can put on. Your Brother in Christ, Matt Wirth, Buildings & Grounds Chairman

FELLOWSHIP REPORT-MAUSTON – Barry Voigt

There were no fellowship events in the Month of September at St. Pauls in Mauston. Work is ongoing to plan future fellowship events. 2 Corinthians 13:14 May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Respectfully submitted, Barry Voigt/Fellowship Chairman
Nothing strange or unusual to report God's blessing to all.

FINANCIAL / MINISTRY PLAN MAUSTON- Bob Storandt

We have received a safety recall notice on the vehicle that we will need to address. Continue to look for a buyer of the bus. I also need to find a place to store the bus if not sold or traded in. The cement work under the main church entry is completed and the parking lot has been completed. Invoices for the work are coming in and will be reviewed before approval is made. Need to get approval of where the remaining funds for the bills will be.

taken from. See attached financial reports for more details.

Community Sharing Pantry Information November 2023

Serving families in the Mauston/Lyndon Station School District

What we are doing and where you can help

Starting 40 years ago, through 2019, we were serving families a complete balanced choice of food that was to last 3 to 5 days. COVID caused us to change to 2 weeks of food at a time. We had lower numbers of families served during COVID as they were receiving extra food stamp assistance. Our families do not come if they don't need help. Now that the extra part of food stamps is done and the cost of groceries continues to rise, we decided to still do two weeks of food per family. Below is a sample of our increase of products distributed:

Sept. 2022, we served -- 113 Households -- 39 children 82 seniors 111 Adults 232 total people served

Sept. 2023, we served -- 190 Households -- 122 children 106 Seniors 240 Adults 462 total people served

By December 2023 these numbers will probably be over 250 households each month

Comparison of some items distributed each month 2022 -first number- to now 2023:

Fresh Fruit/potatoes 565# each, now 950# ----- Canned Veggies 1137 cans, now 2005

Peanut butter 128 jars, now 235 ----- Canned Fruit 426 cans, now 736 ----- Soup 241 cans, now 421

Juice 113, Now 190 ----- Fresh Eggs 241 dozen, now 421 ----- Frozen meat 1,384#, now 2,470#

We use your cash donations to purchase the above items if they are not donated. We also are able to purchase items through Second Harvest Foodbank at lower or no cost.

Families that do receive food stamp assistance are not allowed to use their food stamps to purchase personal health care items such as shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toilet paper, etc. They also are not able to purchase cleaning items such as dish soap, laundry soap, cleaners, etc. We do try to have at least one of these items available each month. If you travel and have unopened sample/travel sizes – we can distribute them.

We are not able to accept home baked or home canned items. Garden produce, however, is gratefully accepted. If you are cleaning out your cupboards – we do watch dates. We don't distribute items that are over 1 year past the date.

We do have 2 walk-in coolers and 2 walk-in freezers. Any meat donations should be frozen and if it is fresh beef, pork, venison, etc. It must be processed through a licensed processor. One or two pound packages are the best.

Community food drives are a lifeline for us. We are totally funded by donations. We have no paid staff. All our volunteers donate their time to serve our fellow families in need. Thank you for assisting us in our mission.

St. Paul's – Mauston

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 New Year's Eve 7:45 am Worship Service 10:30 am Worship Service					1	2 11:00 am Rock and Shield <i>Shut in Cookies</i>
3 7:45 am Worship Service 9:00 am Sunday School Adult Bible Study 9:45 am Praise Choir 10:30 am Worship Service 3:00 pm Mother & Daughter Christmas Gathering	4 1:00 pm Lil' Lambs Staff BIC. 3:45 pm Lil' Lambs Chapel 6:00 pm Worship Service 6:45 pm Choir Practice 7:00pm Bible Information Class	5 6:30 pm Bible Information Class	6 Midweek Advent Service 11:15 am Lil Lambs Chapel 6:00 pm Advent Service 6:45 pm Catechism Class	7 11:15 am Lil Lambs Chapel 1:00 pm Lil' Lambs Staff Meeting 3:30 pm JAM	8	9 9:00 am WOW
10 7:45 am Worship Service 9:00 am Sunday School Adult Bible Study 9:45 am Praise Choir 10:30 am Worship Service 1:15 pm Voters' Meeting in Ad/Fr (Council Mtg after Voters' Meeting)	11 1:00 pm Lil' Lambs Staff BIC. 3:45 pm Lil' Lambs Chapel 6:00 pm Worship Service 6:45 pm Choir Practice 7:00pm Bible Information Class	12 Pastor's Circuit Meeting 6:30 pm Bible Information Class	13 Midweek Advent Service 11:15 am Lil Lambs Chapel 6:00 pm Advent Service 6:45 pm Catechism Class	14 11:15 am Lil Lambs Chapel 1:00 pm Lil' Lambs Staff Meeting 3:30 pm JAM	15	16 10:00 am Fairview worship service
17 7:45 am Worship Service 9:00 am Sunday School Adult Bible Study 9:45 am Praise Choir 10:30 am Worship Service	18 1:00 pm Lil' Lambs Staff BIC. 3:45 pm Lil' Lambs Chapel 6:00 pm Worship Service 6:45 pm Choir Practice 7:00pm Bible Information Class	19 10:00 am Crestview service 6:30 pm Bible Information Class	20 11:15 am Lil Lambs Chapel 6:00 pm Catechism Class	21 11:15 am Lil Lambs Chapel 1:00 pm Lil' Lambs Staff Meeting 3:30 pm JAM 6:30 pm Men's Dart Ball	22	23
24 Christmas Eve 7:45 am Christmas Eve Service <i>Lessons and Carols</i> 10:30 am Christmas Eve Service <i>Lessons and Carols</i> 4:00 pm Children's Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Day 9:00 am Christmas Day Service	26 Blood Drive	27 11:15 am Lil Lambs Chapel	28 11:15 am Lil Lambs Chapel 1:00 pm Lil' Lambs Staff Meeting	29	30

St. Paul's – Adams-Friendship

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 10:30 am Worship					1	2 11:00 am Women's group
3 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Choir practice 11:30 am Fellowship Potluck	4	5	6 6:00pm Midweek Advent Service	7 10:00 am Bible Class 1:00 pm Catechism Class 6:00 pm Bible Information Class	8	9 10:00 am Christmas for Kids
10 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship – Kids Singing 11:30 am Choir Practice 1:15 pm Voters' Meeting in Ad/Fr (Council Meeting after Voters' Meeting)	11	12 Pastor's Circuit Meeting	13 6:00pm Midweek Advent Service	14 10:00 am Bible Class 1:00 pm Catechism Class 6:00 pm Bible Information Class	15	16 10:00 am Bible Information Class <i>(Held off campus)</i>
17 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Choir Practice	18	19	20	21 10:00 am Bible Class 1:00 pm Catechism Class 6:00 pm Bible Information Class	22	23
24 Christmas Eve 10:30 am Christmas Eve Service Lessons & Carols 6:00 pm Christmas Eve Service Traditional	25 Christmas 10:30 am Christmas Day Service With Holy Communion	26	27	28	29	30

Mauston December Birthdays

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Bud Jacobson, Dawn Thomas, Vicki Linder, Albert Schmiede | 17 Crystal Dahlgren |
| 2 Douglas Robinson, Benjamin Eastman, Sarah Bourgeois, Catherine Kennon, John Schneeweis | 18 Hazel Metke, Isaac Metke, Carmen Onsager |
| 3 Matt Wirth, Gene Homan | 19 Amber Culotta |
| 4 Dorothy Dobbratz, Brittney Jacobson, Jacob Weber, | 20 Isaac Duerr, Sandra Busche, |
| 5 Olivia Persons | 21 Johanna Fielitz |
| 6 Billie Burdick, Thomas Klein, Alexandro Evangelista | 22 Tamara McCaffery, Andrew Deisinger |
| 7 Helena West, | 23 Casey Krueger, Steve Bolton, |
| 8 Cody Smith, | 24 Cassandra Hansen, |
| 9 Joann Johnson, Wendy Fritz | 25 Diane Moen, Christine Madero, Thomas Siebert, |
| 10 Chris Clements | 26 Lee Schnell, Mallory Jacobson, Thomas Klewer, |
| 11 Bill Laack, Stephan Gonyo, Chris Davis | 27 Brian Scharnow, Jennifer Buelow, Kentley Fritz, Monica Brecklin, Madelin Buda, Natalie Piotek |
| 12 Colleen Dahl, Nancy Klein, | 28 Danielle Klinker, Kyler Mayer |
| 13 Jacob Weiland, Heather Dodge | 29 Mike Jirousek, Josh McCaffery |
| 14 Neal Falk, Tanya Onsager, Sandra Montey, Christopher Swan | 30 Jeanne Jahnke, Matthew Lueneberg |
| 15 Gina Niehausen | 31 Foxy Storm McClurg, Hunter Puhl, Auden Schonasky |
| 16 Dawn Trute, Pamela Zander | |

Adams-Friendship December Birthdays

- 1 Paul Cook,
- 4 Leanne Klumb
- 7 Vicki Arndt
- 8 Terry Quigley
- 12 Karley Schultz
- 19 Krystle Baumgarten,
- 20 Connie Hilson, Jenna Stainbrook
- 22 Victoria Collins,
- 23 Don Becker
- 24 Paul Holford
- 25 Dustin Lecy, Kay Krause
- 26 Thomas Klewer

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church
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2023 December's Newsletter



In Mauston: 517 Grayside Ave. - across from the Mauston schools
In Adams-Friendship: 511 West Lake St., Friendship
Worship in Mauston: Sunday at 7:45 and 10:30 am, Monday at 6 pm
Worship in Adams-Friendship: Sunday at 10:30 am
Sunday School: 9:15 am in Adams-Friendship (during school year)

The Good News Letter