



## **St. Paul Lutheran Church**

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October 22, 2020

To: The Followers of Jesus at St. Paul Lutheran Church

Subject: 2021 Proposed Church/Preschool Budget

The Congregation Council met on October 20, 2020 to review and approve the budget. The budget for 2021 will now need reviewed and if needed edited before receiving the congregation's approval.

Here's the come to Jesus moment that most people will not like to hear but needs to be said. As you can see in the budget, there is very little cushion for not meeting the budget. The balance after expenses from the church and preschool income is estimated at \$17,000.00. When you consider how little is in the budget and how small the income balance will be, you have every right to be concerned.

The average weekly giving over 2020 has been about \$5,500.00 per week. In the 2021 budget you can see that generous giving will be needed to meet the \$6,500.00 per week need. I would like to tell you that it will all be fine. You know from my past conversations with the church that I am not a doom and gloom type of person when it comes to the finances of the church. I see the progress we've made together in the debt reduction as well as the innumerable mechanical repairs done over the past few years. We've done all of this together!

Here's the concern; the average of \$6,500.00 per week must be met in order to maintain the bare-bones budget we have. If we do not meet that weekly average, we will not have the income cushion to use as a back-up. There is no other way to say that except the way I am saying it. Our faith and dedication cannot be questioned when it comes to following Jesus. Martin Luther taught the last change or transformation in the heart of a Christian is the purse. After repairing the building and grounds from the hurricane, there will be little left in the general account for any shortfall.

How many weeks do we have until it gets tight or changes have to occur? The answer is 17 weeks. That is the amount of income over expenses that are shown in the budget for 2021. If giving patterns stay at the average of \$5,500.00 per week instead of the needed amount, the congregation council will have to make changes to meet your giving. Look at the budget and see how or where changes can be made. There are not too many places.

Please consider your gift of generosity for the sake of St. Paul Lutheran Church.