



St. Paul's Epistles



St. Paul's Celebrates, Declares, and Demonstrates the Love of God in Jesus Christ to Sarver and Beyond.

Intentional Stewardship -By Pastor Shawn

"The wisdom of the prudent is to discern his way..." -Proverbs 14:8

In this month's Newsletter, I want to share a new initiative we're beginning at St. Paul's. This fall, from October 11th – November 15th, we're going to be doing a stewardship campaign of sorts. The reasons for this are twofold. First, church leadership, including myself, are desiring to be more intentional, wise, and faithful in planning our annual budget and using our resources at St. Paul's. At the present, St. Paul's, along with most congregations in America, currently practices what's called a "faith-based budget" where we consider what's typically received in a given year, prayerfully think about what God may be calling us to do, and then try to plan a budget around that. The problem with this approach is that it often spirals into what Rev. H.R Curtis calls "crisis driven stewardship." In his own words:

We plan a budget that we think is reasonable and lean, and then if the money doesn't come in, we send out a letter to the people saying what dire consequences are about to ensue if we don't get a big infusion of cash.

Thanks to God's mercy and your generosity, this hasn't happened in my tenure here, but our current approach toward congregational budgeting leaves us open to such dangers. This said, a better approach, according to Rev. Curtis, would be to simply, "Teach the people God's Word, ask them what they planned on giving, and then promise to spend within their generosity."

This brings us to the second and most important reason for our fall stewardship campaign. We want to take an opportunity to hear God's Word in regard to stewardship and have it lead us in making intentional decisions concerning our giving. Psalm 37:5 declares, "Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act." Though not about stewardship specifically, the principle of this verse still applies. Let's commit the way we handle our resources to the Lord by learning his Word and being obedient in response.

So, here's the plan. From October 11th – November 15th, we're going to hear God's Word through 10-minute "temple talks" before service, newsletter articles, and bulletin inserts. During these weeks, we will be asking you to prayerfully consider what you give in light of God's Word. All of this will then culminate on Stewardship Sunday, where we'll fill out pledge cards for 2021 and then celebrate at our annual Thanksgiving Feast.

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Now, don't let the pledge cards scare you. First, they are completely voluntary. Second, only the financial secretary will see them (and she knows what you give anyways). Third, they are simply a *tool* for you to intentionally consider what God is leading you to give and for the church leadership to responsibly plan its 2021 budget. Think of it this way. If your family was living beyond its means—what would your approach be? You'd seek to balance the budget by seeing what you've got coming in, and then planning to spend accordingly. The pledge cards will practically help us to do this on a church-wide scale while at the same time helping you to thoughtfully consider what you give in light of God's Word. It really is that simple!

Finally, I want to finish with the verse passage I quoted in title. "The wisdom of the prudent," Proverbs 14:8 declares, "is to discern his way..." Ultimately that's what we're trying to be about in this stewardship campaign. We're intentionally discerning our way of stewardship in light of God's Word.

Offering Breakdown for Month of August				
Category	August Total Received		YTD Received	Annual Budget
General	12,191.26		83,963.96	
Loose	96.00		1,499.00	
Flowers	40.00		260.50	
Memorials	515.00		615.00	
Heide Hall	57.00		655.00	
Maundy Thur.	60.00		187.00	
Good Friday	60.00		292.00	
Other	1,123.00		6,905.31	
Total General	13,627.26		95,419.97	170,334.00
Benevolence	883.25		6,036.51	12,000.00
Total	19,877.51		101,456.48	182,334.00
New Building	1,414.32		20,387.63	

	Needed	Received
General	13,422.92	13,627.26
Benevolence	846.16	883.25
Building	3,296.48	1,414.32



Time for a Pop Quiz!

Tests don't end once you finish school. Churchgoers of all ages can regularly conduct these quick assessments:

- The worship test: Do I faithfully attend worship services and Bible studies?
- The weather test: Am I a "fair weather" Christian? Do conditions that wouldn't keep me from work keep me from church?
- The work test: Am I willing to put my talents to use for my church? Can the congregation count on me to help however possible, or am I too busy elsewhere?
- The wallet test: Do I regularly contribute or tithe? Am I giving my "first fruits" to God so the church can conduct his work?



Luther's Corner

"I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, and sanctified and kept me in the true church... In the same way he calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith."

-Martin Luther's Explanation of the Third Article of the Creed found in his Small Catechism



Our Sunday 10:10 worship service will continued to be livestreamed on our website: www.stpaulssarver.com. Everything you need will be directly on our homepage!

Ladies Guild

Our First Meeting this fall will be held on Tuesday, October 20 @9:30am. We will not be meeting in September.



The Post Office has requested that when mailing items to the church to please include our box number.

PO Box 128
Sarver, Pa. 16055

Thanks!



9/1	Brett Lux	9/18	Stephanie Fincher
	Diana McGregor		Jennifer Johnson
9/8	Aiden Bekina	9/19	Matt Fincher
	Bonnie Ferrenberg	9/20	Mackenzie Petras
9/9	Sue Anne Mariotti	9/21	Susan Bekina
9/10	Tina Creedon	9/23	Doug Donatelli
	Casey Lux		Gabe Johnson
9/11	Deb Venturini	9/24	Jean Jenkins-Dudas
9/12	Marj Kojadinovich	9/27	Nick Kaminski
9/13	Alyssa Snyder		
9/14	Robbie Gonzales	9/27	Isaiah Smith
	Debbie Park	9/29	Melissa Kenton
9/15	Drew Fullerton	9/30	Oliver Siemer
			Serena Wichrowski



Donations will be gladly accepted for St. Paul's Preschool as we begin the new year. Although we have enough school supplies we are still in need of hand sanitizer, Clorox wipes, and paper towels. Gift cards or monetary donations will be especially appreciated at this time. Please contact Lenya Young for more details.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

It is once again that time of year when we start to fill our shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child! Please remember that we are no longer allowed to include *tooth paste or candy* because of issues with customs. There will be brochures with packing information, ideas and gift tags available along with the shoeboxes at the entrance of the church building. Please return your filled boxes to St. Paul's by November 15. Include \$9 shipping for each box if possible but if you are only able to fill a box, the postage will be taken care of by generous donations. Feel free to fill as many boxes as possible and think of the joy you will be bringing into the life of a child!

1. **SHOE BOX:** Empty boxes will be available in Heide Hall or you may use/decorate your own standard size box
2. **BOY OR GIRL?:** Determine whether your gift will be for a boy or a girl, and the child's age category: 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14. Print out the appropriate boy/girl label shown below. Mark the correct age category on the label, and tape the label to the top of your box.
3. **FILL WITH GIFTS:** Fill the box with a variety of gifts that will bring delight to a child.
4. **INCLUDE YOUR DONATION:** Please donate **\$9** for each shoe box you prepare to help cover shipping and other project costs. *Make checks out to "Samaritan's Purse". Please place your check or cash in your shoebox.*
5. **DROP OFF:** Place a rubber band around each shoe box and lid and bring it to St. Paul's by November 15th and place them on the table at the entrance to the church.

Gift Ideas:

Toys: small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, yo-yos, jump ropes, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries).

School Supplies: pens, pencils, sharpeners, crayons, markers, stamps and inkpad sets, writing pads or paper, solar calculator, coloring and picture books.

Hygiene Items: mild bar soap, comb, washcloth

Other: T-shirts, socks, ball caps, sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, watches, flashlight (with extra batteries)

Please do not include: *Toothpaste, Candy, Used or damaged items*; war related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures; chocolate or food; liquids or lotions, medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans

Cut out the appropriate label and tape it on top of your shoe box gift. If you need additional labels, make photocopies or download from samaritanaspurse.org/occ.

USE THESE LABELS

Mark the correct age category:			Boy	
<input type="checkbox"/>	2-4 Years Old			
<input type="checkbox"/>	5-9 Years Old			
<input type="checkbox"/>	10-14 Years Old			

Mark the correct age category:			Girl	
<input type="checkbox"/>	2-4 Years Old			
<input type="checkbox"/>	5-9 Years Old			
<input type="checkbox"/>	10-14 Years Old			