
St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

837 Charles Street • Torrington, Connecticut 06790 • Telephone (860) 482-3555

July 28, 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As you know the Church is experiencing a substantial shortfall in income, along with increases in electrical and gas prices, that have left us even further behind. Fortunately, some of our members contributed their annual amount in January for the year. This enabled us to get through the first quarter without having to move money from investments. While that is good news, at the April Finance Committee meeting, a motion was made and approved to reluctantly move, as necessary, up to \$25,000.00 during the second quarter to cover expenses.

The Executive Board has been meeting to study areas where cuts can be made. In addition, there are several fund raisers that are being planned to help offset our budget deficit. The Church Council has asked that every committee that is planning a fundraiser contribute at least 25% of their proceeds to the operating budget of the church.

The Council is starting to reach out to other congregations in Torrington, which may or may not be having financial problems, to explore if there are any workshare opportunities that would prove beneficial to all parties.

In an earlier communication, capital projects were mentioned that we would need to raise funds for. They are:

- Sidewalks that need repair and/or replacement.
- Replacement of the carpet in the hallways and offices.
- Encapsulating the floor in all the rooms used by the preschool.
- Replacement of the roof on the Fellowship Hall.
- The mansard roofing along the front of the Church is showing signs of rot.

A water leak in the sanctuary, coming in around the skylights, developed during the recent rains. We have called in a contractor who has informed us that all the skylights up at the base of the bell tower need to be replaced. At this point we are waiting for his estimate for replacing the skylights. There is also staining on



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the wallboard and carpets that got wet from the leaky rain that may need replacing. A check with the insurance company revealed that this would not be a covered claim.

If you recall that when the budget was approved for 2023, it was noted to the congregation that there was a projected shortfall of approximately \$101,000.00 for the year. Each week we have been putting up a slide as part of the announcements showing that we need to collect \$4948.00 each week, for a total of \$143,492.00, to meet our approved budget through July 16, 2023. As of July 16, 2023, we have received \$90,160.00 which leaves a deficit of \$53,332.00 for the first 29 weeks of the year.

Please understand that the Council has been working to develop a 5-year plan that will bring in additional income, provide additional sources of income, and hopefully provide financial stability while at the same time meeting our current obligations.

To complete the development of the 5-year plan we need to hear from you as to what you would like to see in the plan. As a result, a special congregational meeting/breakfast potluck will take place on **Sunday, September 24, 2023, 8:30 am**, prior to the morning service to gain input from the congregation for the plan.

Thank you,

Mark Rose
Council President

