

7/10/2025 Update

It has been a few weeks since I've uploaded an update here, but that doesn't mean the pastors and Council are sitting idly by.

On Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, Pr. Jen Beamsley and Ms. Lori Whalen from the Northern Illinois Synod met with St. Paul's Council and Finance Committee. The purpose of the meeting was to get on the same page of St. Paul's financial troubles. They also helped refocus our efforts from "small rocks" like printing costs and the garbage to "big rocks," things which will make a substantive change to the \$61,000 projected deficit. The meeting concluded with the recommendation to create a Task Force. This Task Force, currently being assembled by the pastors, will make suggestions to Council and the Congregation on how to better approach the "big rock." Doing nothing is not an option for the health and wellbeing of our church, its members, or its pastors.

Wednesday, July 9<sup>th</sup>'s Finance Meeting helped paint an accurate financial picture. Year-to-date, St. Paul is -\$22,322. While our current bank balance is not negative, we have used *all* of the surplus from 2024 when St. Paul did not pay for a full-time pastor.

The negative YTD balance proves the projected deficit is a real problem.

Moving forward, St. Paul's Council will meet next week and be updated on the church's finances. The Task Force will meet within the month and hopefully suggest actions for August's Council meeting.

Work continues behind-the-scenes. We ask for your continued prayers and strong financial support of St. Paul and its ministries.

-Pr. Anthony