



**ST. PAUL LUTHERAN
CHURCH AND SCHOOL**
West Point, NE 68788



Church 434 N. Lincoln
402-372-2111
Rev. Robert Schilling, Vacancy Pastor

School 325 N. Colfax
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Kari Penrose, Head Teacher

April 26, 2020

Dear Congregation and School Families,

Blessings from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Our hope is that this letter finds you well and that we can meet together in worship soon. As current restrictions do not allow this yet, the governing boards of St. Paul West Point felt it necessary to update the congregation on our current financial status.

The Church Council, Board of Parochial Education, Elders, and Trustees reviewed the financial data of St. Paul's and it became obvious that cuts would have to take place in order to ensure all workers would be able to receive compensation for the 2020-21 fiscal year.

Why do we have to make cuts? As you may know our school's budget is supplemented and supported by our church through offering as well as donations, bequests, and fundraisers. The church continues to value the school, just like it has for the past 137 years. It is an integral part in helping us to pursue our mission of "reaching the lost and to equip the saved for a life of Christian service". Currently, our giving for the 2019-2020 fiscal year is down approximately 15%, and we no longer have the funds that were generously donated by the Stalp Foundation. As a result, it was determined that we had to cut \$300,000 from our general operating expenses. We plan to have an adopted budget for the 2020-21 fiscal year by July 1.

We commend the work of our school board in their efforts to provide a balanced school budget. Their decisions have not been easy. In order to meet budgetary constraints, a reduction in staff had to occur.

Please know that we believe in the ministry of our school and while education may look different next year, the school will still offer all preschool through eighth grade classes. The church knows the value that a Christian education will continue to provide your children and there is no doubt in our minds that no matter the changes in our school, your children will still be given the best possible Christian instruction we can offer. Christ will be in their life daily!

Finally, as we draw close to the end of the fiscal year, we would like to thank those who have served in the many different positions within our church and school. Several of these members have fulfilled their terms and we are looking for individuals to fill their positions.

Currently we are seeking to fill the following positions, but strongly encourage you to consider running for any of the board or council positions at our Voter's Assembly in July:

Board of Elders, Board of Parochial Education, Congregation Secretary, Disbursing Treasurer, and Receiving Treasurer.

If you are able to give of your time and talents in any of these capacities, please contact the church office at (402)372-2111.

During this time of uncertainty, we share Romans 12:12, "Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer". We thank you for your continued support of the ministries of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School.

God's continued blessings to you and your family!

Sincerely,

St. Paul Lutheran Church & School Church Council, Board of Elders, Board of Parochial Education,
Board of Trustees, Board of Parish Education

