



St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church  
 508 North Chicago Road  
 Thornton, IL 60476

Address Service Requested



# The Glad Spirit

## St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church

### November – December 2020

Message  
 From the  
 Elders



Due to COVID-19 and our vacancy, the Church service schedule for the holidays will be:

- We will not have the afternoon Thanksgiving Church service on 11/22. We also will not have our Thanksgiving dinner either.
- We will have one Advent service on Wednesday 12/9.
- District President Busse will lead our service on 12/20.
- We will have Christmas Eve service at 6:00 pm
- We will not have a Christmas Eve service at 11:00 pm
- We will not have a Christmas Day service.

Other notes:

- We have started broadcasting the Church service on Facebook.

- We have stopped broadcasting the live Church service on our web page.

Yours in Christ,  
 The Elders



## Advent Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries

### God with Us

What better news is there than to know that God is always by our side! In *God with Us*, we learn again what God the Father has done—He has kept His promise. In so doing, He has announced that grace and forgiveness are available to all, freely given in the birth of Jesus: God’s Son, our Savior. He is Immanuel, “God with us.”

The story of God coming to earth as a human child is a profound one. In *God with Us*, we find no aloof divinity who is unconcerned and remote

somewhere in the cosmos. Rather, He is deeply involved in all our affairs—our joys as well as our heartaches. He *knows* us for He became one of us. At Christmastime, we celebrate the birth of Jesus, Lord of the universe, Savior of the world, Shepherd of our lives.

Daily Devotions from LHM will help strengthen and encourage your faith as you do the same for others. Have them delivered right to your inbox, podcast the audio devotional, access them on your mobile device through the FREE app, or listen with Spotify, iHeart Radio, Alexa, or Google Home. Seasonal Devotions for Advent are available at <https://www.lhm.org/advent/> in both English and Spanish, as well as in French from our ministry center in Canada. Printed copies available on request at the church office and from our Facebook page. Perfect for personal reflection or to share with family and friends, these seasonal meditations will help prepare you to celebrate the true meaning of these seasons.



Since we have been unable to have Sunday School some booklets and devotions have been mailed out. **Happy Times** for our younger children and **My Devotions** for the older kids. Just a way for St. Paul's congregation to reach out to our younger members and share our faith.



*Adult Fellowship*



St. Paul's Sisters in Christ Book Club was restarted in October! We have enjoyed 2 books so far and the book for December is *A Dog Named Christmas* by Greg Kincaid. Book club is on the 2nd Thursday of the month. December 10 is our next meeting.

If we are unable to meet do to the pandemic we can meet virtually!



cial



ministry

Thank you for your support of our Food Basket program! It has been a blessing to many who struggle throughout the year. As we look forward to the upcoming holidays, we would like to provide support for those in need for Christmas. However, due to the continued impact of the Coronavirus, our normal distribution of food baskets will not take place. Instead, we will do as we did this past Easter, and get Aldi gift cards to send to our families in need. If you would like to donate to help purchase the gift cards in place of the items you would normally be purchasing, it would be much appreciated. Donations needed for Christmas by December 13.

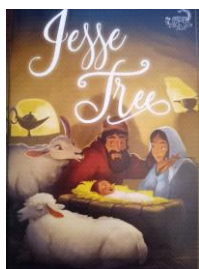


I have to start by letting you all know how much we miss you!! We pray you are all doing well and staying safe. This has been quite the year in many ways and I am so grateful that my heart knows God is and always has been in charge!

There are many ways we can journey through the Advent season together! The Advent Devotions from LHM God with Us and Let's Discuss is a wonderful way we have shared the

season with others in the past and will be continues this year as well.

A FB post New Christmas Tradition suggests beginning December 1st read one chapter of the book of Luke each evening. On Christmas Eve you will have read an entire account of Jesus's Life and wake up Christmas morning knowing WHO and WHY we celebrate!! Bob and I like to listen to a chapter in the Bible at lunch or dinner. Modern technology makes it easy! ( and you can pick you narrator and your Bible version).



Jesse Tree Daily Devotions and Jesus' Family Tree from CPH is being sent to households with children. A fun and informative way to help children stay connected during this difficult time. Ornaments for the kids, and those young at heart to color

will also be included. It would be fun if pictures of colored ornaments appeared on the St. Paul Lutheran Church Thornton FB page. We do have extra Jesse Tree Daily Devotions at church or we can mail one out to you upon request.

Three easy ways we can journey through the Advent season together in the comfort of our own homes!



## November

Wow! We currently have 156 people following our Facebook page! That is pretty fantastic! Each time we go Live on Sundays, we have the opportunity to reach 156 people, every time we share God's word, every time we share words of encouragement, we can potentially reach 156 people!

It is not too late to submit your "Gratitude" video! If you need help filming it, Micci is happy to stay after and help you make your video! If you want to type up what you are grateful for instead of doing a video, please send it to

office@splcms.org, you can also submit a picture if you want to with your writing! It is just a wonderful way for us to reflect on our blessings!

## December

Some of our favorite memories here at St. Paul's revolve around the Christmas Pageant. Since we are unable to do the Pageant this year, let's dig up our old pictures from years before! If you have pictures from previous pageants, you can bring them to church and Micci can scan them, or you can send them to office@splcms.org. We will share pictures on our facebook page, it will be a wonderful walk down memory lane.

During Advent, we will continue with the Let's Discuss Devotional on Facebook.

## January

Looking to 2021!

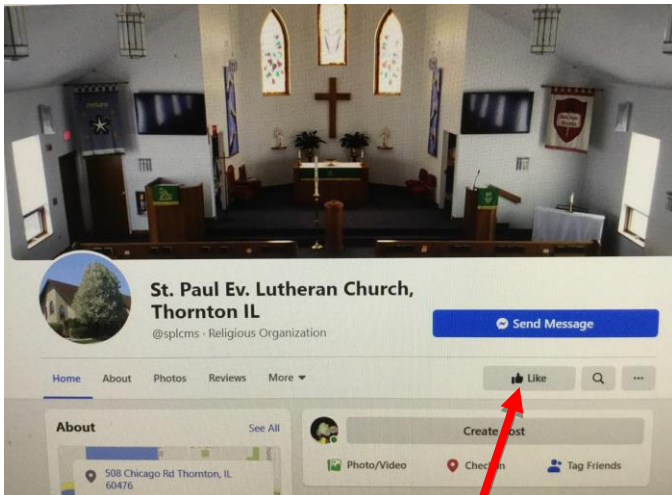
What is your Bible Verse? I once read "Over time, your favorite scripture becomes the script of your life. The promises of God become the plot line of your life. And the more you rehearse those lines, the more you get into character- the character of Christ. Your life becomes a unique interpretation of that life verse." What will be your verse of 2021? What will be the verse you go to during good time and bad? The verse that will guide you through whatever 2021 brings? In the month of January, we will be asking people to share their verse and we will share them on Facebook!

If you have any suggestions for content on our Facebook page, please feel free to share it! You can send an email to the church and give us your suggestions! We want to continue to spread the word of God, offer encouragement and bring people closer to Jesus.

There is a discussion group on Facebook about LHM's "God with Us" Advent Devotions Beginning November 29. Each day's devotion will be posted to the group. You can make a comment or a thought for discussion on one of the posts. To search on Facebook the group is called Let's Discuss the Devotions. The address is [www.facebook.com/groups/st.paul.discuss](http://www.facebook.com/groups/st.paul.discuss)

## Live

Our on-line Church Service has moved. We are no longer streaming our service on the web site. We have moved to Facebook. Simply, on your Facebook page search for:  
**St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church, Thornton IL**



Once there click the Like button.

That's it, Sunday mornings at 9:45 go onto your Facebook page and when we go live you'll get a notification.

The Service then is on Facebook for later viewing as well. For those who are not on Facebook, services will still be available on our website by the following day. For those who don't have a computer you can always call the office to get a DVD mailed to you.



# NAILS IN THE MANGER

Advent is not the time to highlight our “good” deeds, but to repent of our bad ones.

by Dr. H. Armin Moellering

I once heard of an Advent custom where children add a piece of straw to the empty manger each time they do a special good deed. I had never heard of this custom before. And I would be glad never to hear of it again.

There is something fundamentally wrong here. Christmas is not the time when we add straw to Jesus' empty manger, but when He adds straw to ours. Advent is not the time to highlight our “good” deeds, but to repent of our bad ones, for having, so to speak, put sharp nails, not fluffy straw, into Jesus' manger— nails that will hold Him to the cross and cause Him to bleed and die.

The contrast between the durability of nails and the flimsiness of straw also illustrates the poor quality of our “good” deeds and the high quality of our bad deeds.

The celebration of our “good” deeds involves an awareness of having done good, which is at variance with the question of the people on the right hand on the Day of Judgment. You remember how it goes. To those on his right hand, Jesus says: “I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was in prison and you came to visit me” (Matt. 25:35—36).

And what is the response of those on the right?

“Ah, yes, I remember those occasions when, so to speak, I put nice straw in your manger?”

Inconceivable! Rather, baffled they ask: “Lord, when?” They have no recollection of having done good deeds, because they did them spontaneously. The good deeds came so naturally that they weren't even aware of doing them.

It is not going to be like that if each Advent we trot up to the manger and stuff in the straw of our “good” deeds. Ps. 1:4—5 and 1 Cor. 3:12—13 should arm us with a healthy suspicion of straw, reminding us of how it is burned up or blown away. Don't build your hope of salvation on straw!

Instead of likening our “good” deeds to straw to be lovingly placed in Jesus' manger, it would be more helpful to think in terms of Is. 64:6: “All our righteous acts are like filthy rags.” And so, when we come with our “good” deeds, we're not bringing clean, comfortable, fragrant straw; we're stuffing Jesus' crib with filthy, smelly rags.

This misleading Advent custom of placing straw in Jesus' manger could cause us to forget that, after we have done all that has been commanded, we are to say: “We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty” (Luke 17:10).



Forget the straw! Forget the nails and the rags, too. You can dare to do that, you know, because Jesus has forgiven you. That's what Advent and Christmas are all about.



*The late Dr. H. Armin Moellering was professor of exegetical theology at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.*

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We'd love to see you in worship. If for some reason you cannot make it, you may join in the service in our live streaming at 9:45 a.m. at [www.facebook.com/splcms](http://www.facebook.com/splcms)

Our recorded worship services are archived on Facebook and at <http://splcms.org/worship-services/recorded-service>



Tara Schassburger  
Anthony Conway  
Kaitlin Dejonowski  
Robert Gastreich



Layla Cassie Ann Baker  
Olive K. Dunne

Rev. Harold Wahl  
Dick Neiman  
Cathy Gastreich  
Dorothy Graves  
Alice Jabay  
Betty Dixon  
Ed Hoeksema



# St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church



**SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
No Sunday School at  
this time.

**ADULT BIBLE CLASS**  
9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.  
September - May

St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church  
508 N. Chicago Road  
Thornton, IL 60476  
Voice & Fax (708) 877-6564

www.splcms.org  
www.facebook.com/splcms  
office@splcms.org

Church Office Hours  
By appointment.  
Bulletin Deadline  
Wednesday by 10 a.m.

Contact the church office to submit  
personal testimonials about what God  
has done for you. Or original art that is  
inspirational or humorous to the artist.

## CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

**Chairman** Bill Sommer  
**Vice Chairman** David Bloom  
**Recording Sec.** Tracy Middleton  
**Financial Sec.** Robert Brandy  
**Treasurer** Mary Sella  
**Elder** Henry Sella  
Eric Schaussburger  
Brian Wiltjer  
Jerry Wiltjer

### Trustee

### Stewardship

**Evangelism** Debi Brandy  
**Social Ministry** Norma Allen  
Sandy Budde

**S. S. Super.** Dana Krieger

**Asnt. Super.**

**Adult Director**

**Youth Director**

11/8/2020 18:23

## St Paul month end totals

2020					Transferred from Savings	TRANSFER TO
Date	Offerings	Expenses	difference		to Cover Expenses	SAVINGS
January	\$7,137.63	\$8,612.30	-\$1,474.67			
February	\$6,119.05	\$7,119.01	-\$999.96			
March	\$7,603.24	\$3,986.78	\$3,616.46			\$2,500.00
April	\$4,700.98	\$3,768.78	\$932.20			\$3,000.00
May	\$5,149.74	\$2,775.18	\$2,374.56			\$2,000.00
June	\$4,930.00	\$3,267.40	\$1,662.60			\$2,000.00
July	\$6,221.25	\$3,471.86	\$2,749.39			\$3,000.00
August	\$7,097.83	\$2,815.68	\$4,282.15			\$3,000.00
September	\$5,008.00	\$3,912.70	\$1,095.30			\$3,000.00
October	\$4,470.00	\$2,986.09	\$1,483.91			
November						
December						
<b>Year to date</b>	<b>\$58,437.72</b>	<b>\$42,715.78</b>	<b>15721.94</b>			

All balances shown are as of the end of the month

Date	MB Checking General Fund	MB Savings	MB Savings LYF (9032)	AXA Equitable Annuity	Ohio Annuity	Total assets
January	\$4,108.63	\$10,328.71	\$1,006.50	\$15,227.86	\$27,789.01	\$58,460.71
February	\$4,069.44	\$10,328.79	\$1,006.50	\$15,227.86	\$27,789.01	\$58,421.60
March	\$5,493.90	\$12,828.88	\$1,006.50	\$15,160.18	\$27,992.29	\$62,481.75
April	\$4,679.07	\$15,828.99	\$1,006.50	\$15,160.18	\$27,992.29	\$64,667.03
May	\$3,597.15	\$17,829.12	\$1,006.50	\$15,090.27	\$27,992.29	\$65,515.33
June	\$5,426.69	\$19,829.27	\$1,006.50	\$15,056.93	\$28,199.34	\$69,518.73
July	\$4,001.37	\$22,829.46	\$1,006.50	\$15,021.52	\$28,199.34	\$71,058.19
August	\$6,050.69	\$25,829.64	\$1,006.50	\$15,021.52	\$28,199.34	\$76,107.69
September	\$4,575.61	\$28,829.87	\$1,006.50	\$14,953.26	\$28,410.22	\$77,775.46
October	\$4,429.62	\$28,830.11	\$1,006.50	\$14,953.26	\$28,437.84	\$77,657.33
November						
December						

## SAVINGS ACCOUNT BREAKDOWN

<b>Oct. 31, 2020</b>	<b>\$28,830.11</b>
ALTER GUILD	\$357.44
LWML	\$8.00
NID	\$150.00
LCC	\$55.00
SUNDAY SCHOOL	\$273.00
SOCIAL MINISTRY	\$456.74
CHURCH MAINTENANCE	\$12,112.07
MUSIC FUND	\$8.00
FUND RAISING	\$0.00
<b>ACTUAL SAVINGS</b>	<b>\$15,409.86</b>

11/8/2020  
04:10p

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church  
**Treasurer's Report by Major Group**  
October of Fiscal Year 2020  
Responsibility: All  
Fund: 01 - General

	October Actual	Year-to-date Actual	Year-to-date Budget	Remaining Budget
<b>Income</b>				
01-Offerings	4,360.00	57,632.72	93,076.70	35,443.98
08-AXA Income	110.00	605.00	550.00	-55.00
09-Thrivent Funds Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10-Ohio National Ins. Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12-Hall Rental	0.00	200.00	0.00	-200.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>4,470.00</b>	<b>58,437.72</b>	<b>93,626.70</b>	<b>35,188.98</b>
<b>Expense</b>				
01-Salaries	1,485.08	23,007.02	66,966.70	43,959.68
02-Car Allowance	190.00	2,455.00	2,000.00	-455.00
03-Insurance	0.00	6,182.96	18,786.60	12,603.64
04-Utilities	484.80	5,081.60	5,500.00	418.40
05-Maintenance	459.02	2,534.47	1,250.00	-1,284.47
06-Office Expenses	88.53	711.60	1,250.10	538.50
07-Spiritual Supplies	158.66	1,621.81	1,708.40	86.59
08-Boards	120.00	745.41	583.40	-162.01
14-Conventions/meetings/Conf	0.00	354.71	625.00	270.29
15-Pay Pal Fees	0.00	21.20	0.00	-21.20
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>2,986.09</b>	<b>42,715.78</b>	<b>98,670.20</b>	<b>55,954.42</b>
<b>Income Less Expense</b>	<b>1,483.91</b>	<b>15,721.94</b>	<b>-5,043.50</b>	<b>-20,765.44</b>



11/8/2020  
04:03p

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church  
**Treasurer's Report by Minor Group**  
October of Fiscal Year 2020  
Responsibility: All  
Fund: 01 - General

	October Actual	Year-to-date Actual	Year-to-date Budget	Remaining Budget
<b>Income</b>				
<b>01-Offerings</b>				
01-03-Envelopes and Baskets	4,360.00	57,494.86	92,950.00	35,455.14
01-05-Amazon Smile	0.00	137.86	126.70	-11.16
01-07-Gap	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>08-AXA Income</b>	<b>4,360.00</b>	<b>57,632.72</b>	<b>93,076.70</b>	
08-00-AXA Income	110.00	605.00	550.00	-55.00
<b>09-Thrivent Funds Income</b>	<b>110.00</b>	<b>605.00</b>	<b>550.00</b>	
09-00-Thrivent Funds Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>10-Ohio National Ins. Income</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	
10-00-Ohio National Ins. Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>12-Hall Rental</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	
12-00-Hall Rental	0.00	200.00	0.00	-200.00
	0.00	200.00	0.00	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>4,470.00</b>	<b>58,437.72</b>	<b>93,626.70</b>	<b>35,188.98</b>
<b>Expense</b>				
<b>01-Salaries</b>				
01-01-Pastor Salary	0.00	8,125.02	54,166.70	46,041.68
01-02-Guest Pastor Salary	560.00	6,165.00	1,666.70	-4,498.30
01-03-Organist Salary	0.00	632.50	2,500.00	1,867.50
01-04-Secretary Salary	780.00	7,794.34	7,800.00	5.66
01-05-Janitor Salary	0.00	0.00	833.30	833.30
01-06-Church Portion of F.I.C.A	145.08	290.16	0.00	-290.16
	1,485.08	23,007.02	66,966.70	
<b>02-Car Allowance</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>300.00</b>	<b>2,000.00</b>	
02-01-Car Allowance	0.00	300.00	2,000.00	1,700.00
02-02-Mileage Reimbursement	190.00	2,155.00	0.00	-2,155.00
	190.00	2,455.00	2,000.00	
<b>03-Insurance</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>3,827.75</b>	<b>4,083.30</b>	
03-01-Church and Property	0.00	3,827.75	4,083.30	255.55
03-02-Pastor Insure/Retirement	0.00	2,355.21	14,703.30	12,348.09
	0.00	6,182.96	18,786.60	
<b>04-Utilities</b>	<b>212.00</b>	<b>2,161.17</b>	<b>2,500.00</b>	
04-01-Electricity	212.00	2,161.17	2,500.00	338.83
04-02-Gas	101.00	1,246.76	1,250.00	3.24
04-04-Water	9.96	89.64	166.70	77.06
04-05-Telephone and Internet	161.84	1,584.03	1,583.30	-0.73

11/8/2020  
04:03p

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church  
**Treasurer's Report by Minor Group**  
October of Fiscal Year 2020  
Responsibility: All  
Fund: 01 - General

	October Actual	Year-to-date Actual	Year-to-date Budget	Remaining Budget
	484.80	5,081.60	5,500.00	
<b>05-Maintenance</b>				
05-01-Maintenance	0.00	1,235.00	1,250.00	15.00
05-03-Maintenance Supplies	459.02	1,299.47	0.00	-1,299.47
	459.02	2,534.47	1,250.00	
<b>06-Office Expenses</b>				
06-01-Supplies	88.53	184.50	416.70	232.20
06-02-Computers/printers	0.00	139.55	416.70	277.15
06-04-Postage	0.00	387.55	416.70	29.15
	88.53	711.60	1,250.10	
<b>07-Spiritual Supplies</b>				
07-01-Spiritual Supplies	158.66	1,621.81	1,666.70	44.89
07-02-Church Supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
07-03-Music	0.00	0.00	41.70	41.70
	158.66	1,621.81	1,708.40	
<b>08-Boards</b>				
08-01-Evangelism	0.00	84.27	166.70	82.43
08-02-Adult Education	120.00	345.00	166.70	-178.30
08-03-Stewardship	0.00	0.00	83.30	83.30
08-05-Fellowship	0.00	316.14	166.70	-149.44
	120.00	745.41	583.40	
<b>14-Conventions/meetings/Conf</b>				
14-00-Conventions/meetings/Conf	0.00	354.71	625.00	270.29
	0.00	354.71	625.00	
<b>15-Pay Pal Fees</b>				
15-00-Pay Pal Fees	0.00	21.20	0.00	-21.20
	0.00	21.20	0.00	
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>2,986.09</b>	<b>42,715.78</b>	<b>98,670.20</b>	<b>55,954.42</b>
<b>Income Less Expense</b>	<b>1,483.91</b>	<b>15,721.94</b>	<b>-5,043.50</b>	<b>-20,765.44</b>

11/8/2020  
04:13p

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church  
**Dedicated Accounts**  
October, Fiscal Year 2020  
Fund 01 - General

Account	Beginning Balance	Current Month		Year-To-Date		Current Balance
		Receipts	Expenses	Receipts	Expenses	
<b>Major 01 - Altar Guild</b>						
<b>Minor 00 - Ungrouped</b>						
017-01-00-00 Altar Guild	357.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	357.44
Totals	\$357.44	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$357.44
<b>Major 02 - L.W.M.L.</b>						
<b>Minor 00 - Ungrouped</b>						
017-02-00-00 L.W.M.L.	8.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.00
Totals	\$8.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8.00
<b>Major 03 - General Missions</b>						
<b>Minor 01 - Weekly Missions</b>						
017-03-01-00 Weekly Missions	0.00	150.00	0.00	1,995.00	1,845.00	150.00
Totals	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$1,995.00	\$1,845.00	\$150.00
<b>Major 03 - General Missions</b>						
<b>Minor 02 - L.C.C.</b>						
017-03-02-00 L.C.C.	0.00	55.00	0.00	558.00	503.00	55.00
Totals	\$0.00	\$55.00	\$0.00	\$558.00	\$503.00	\$55.00
<b>Major 04 - Sunday School</b>						
<b>Minor 00 - Ungrouped</b>						
017-04-00-00 Sunday School	273.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	273.00
Totals	\$273.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$273.00
<b>Major 09 - Social Ministry</b>						
<b>Minor 00 - Ungrouped</b>						
017-09-00-00 Social Ministry	590.74	180.00	500.00	3,366.00	3,500.00	456.74
Totals	\$590.74	\$180.00	\$500.00	\$3,366.00	\$3,500.00	\$456.74
<b>Major 14 - Church Maintenance Fund</b>						
<b>Minor 00 - Ungrouped</b>						
017-14-00-00 Church Maintenance	10,972.07	30.00	0.00	1,140.00	0.00	12,112.07
Totals	\$10,972.07	\$30.00	\$0.00	\$1,140.00	\$0.00	\$12,112.07
<b>Major 17 - Music Fund</b>						
<b>Minor 00 - Ungrouped</b>						
017-17-00-00 Music Fund	8.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.00
Totals	\$8.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8.00
<b>Major 18 - Fund Raising Account</b>						
<b>Minor 00 - Ungrouped</b>						
017-18-00-00 Fund Raising Account	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Totals	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Fund 01 - General</b>	<b>\$12,209.25</b>	<b>\$415.00</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>	<b>\$7,059.00</b>	<b>\$5,846.00</b>	<b>\$13,420.25</b>