

WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

We value worship as central to our communal life at St. Paul Lutheran Church. In-person worship on Sunday mornings will always remain central and our primary means of worship. Streaming services online and on the radio during this pandemic has afforded new possibilities to grow our ministry.

Your St. Paul Church Council is considering the purchase of a video camera system to continue the streaming and recording of our worship services indefinitely online. This system would not require the hours of pre-recording and editing we are presently required to do.

How would a video system strengthen our ministry?

- **Stream our worship services live on Sunday mornings and record them to watch at a later time:** Worship would be regularly available to homebound members, nursing home residents, people who are staying home during bad winter weather, and people who were unable to attend a service on a given Sunday.
- **Evangelism and Outreach:** Sharing recordings of our worship services online and on social media platforms could create connections with people who may not belong to a church. This could bring St. Paul Lutheran to the attention of people searching for a church home.
- **Funerals and Weddings:** Increasingly, families are asking for recordings of funerals and/weddings to share with members of their family who cannot attend. This system would allow a family member across the country to participate in a funeral service, even if they could not be there in person.
- **Overflow Space:** Live services could be streamed into the Fellowship Hall or any other overflow space. This could be an asset if social distancing limits the sanctuary's capacity or if we have a funeral or wedding with more guests than our capacity allows.
- **Opportunity to Enhance In-Person Worship:** Live video could be projected into a worship service. This could be used to better see the children sermon or the Christmas program for people sitting in the back.
- **Improving the Quality of our Current Recordings:** This video system would tie into our sound system for better audio quality.

A committee of four appointed by the council contacted Carey Electronics in Spencer about providing a high definition video recording system. The system we are exploring contains one camera that can easily pan, tilt, and zoom. The system is constructed so an additional camera could be added. Carey's estimate includes a camera, processing computer and programs, control panel, and all necessary cables and connectors.

The cost of the system is estimated to be \$7,000 plus \$2,500 labor if they install it.

We need your comments since we are unable to have a congregational informational meeting. Share your thoughts with the church council by August 19. A five-page design and cost estimate are available at the church office for you to study.