

From the Pastor's Desk

What a joy it was to gather Drive-In Style with so many members and visitors for worship on Pentecost. We are certainly blessed with many members who offer their gifts, time and willingness to serve their neighbor. Some of our choir members shared their gifts of music by providing special music for our worship service. Some of our members offered their time as they ushered, lined up cars in straight lines, and helped me serve communion. Amy's gift of music – both playing and singing – are such a blessing to all of us. Tom's stage, sound equipment and his passion for helping to lead worship make it possible for us to gather outside.

As we look to the future, we are planning to gather Drive-In Style again for June 6. If our numbers of cases of Covid in St. Clair County continue to be reduced and more of us get vaccinated, we plan to add Outdoor Style worship on June 27. This means that those of you who are comfortable can bring lawn chairs to worship. You will be directed to enter the west parking lot and park your car on the gravel side. You can walk across the grass with your lawn chairs (or stay on the sidewalk in front of the church). There will be places marked for households to sit together properly distanced from other households. Masks are required. For those who are not comfortable in getting out of their car or physically are not able to walk that distance, you can tell the usher and there will still be Drive-In Style worship available. Cars will be parked a little further back in the parking lot. For those in cars, you will tune your radio to FM 89.1 and for those in chairs you will hear the service over speakers. In case of inclement weather, please watch our Facebook page and our website for cancellations.

It has been part of our tradition to have outdoor worship so we can enjoy God's creation. Outdoor worship is the safest way for us to gather as we are called to protect our most vulnerable members and visitors. On-line worship will continue at 9:30 on Facebook (you

can watch it on Facebook anytime after 9:30, too!) or on our website – stpaulslutheranph.com under the "Worship Services" tab. Virtual Social Hour via Zoom will be at 9:15 on the Sundays we have Drive-In or Outdoor worship. I look forward to seeing everyone as we take safe steps in creating our new normal.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bonnie



Thrivent offers all of their members the opportunity to receive two \$250 Thrivent Action Team Grants per year. If you have an account with Thrivent and would like to "sponsor" one of our Drive-in/Outdoor worship services, please contact Pastor Bonnie. This is a wonderful, easy way to support St. Paul and our ability to have Drive-in/Outdoor style worship for our congregation and the community. These grants have supported our Drive-thru Stations of the Cross, Heart Works knitting days, Advent-in-a-bag, Lent-in-a-bag, the community garden, food trucks and much more!



St. Paul is supporting the work of Blue Water Habitat for Humanity by hosting our Annual Nail Sale on Father's Day, June 20. Contributions can be mailed to the church. Checks should be made payable to "St. Paul Lutheran Church". Please write "Nail Sale" on the memo. If you prefer, you can give on-line on our website stpaulslutheranph.com and designate your donation to "Nail Sale". You can also bring your check to the Outdoor worship service on June 27. All proceeds will be used to build, rehab or repair Habitat houses in St. Clair and Sanilac Counties. Thank you for your generosity.

Council

Book Discussion/Mini Retreat

For the last year and a half council has been doing book discussions as a part of their opening of the meeting. Last year we read and discussed, The Church of Us vs Them by David Fitch.

This year we are doing our book study on Canoeing the Mountains by Tod Botsinger. The book is based on the Lewis and Clark expedition and the transformational leadership required when they reached the mountains as canoes could no longer provide a means of transportation. As can be imagined, a brief discussion of fifteen minutes cannot do justice to two chapters of information and ideas.

On Saturday, May 22nd, a mini retreat was held to provide for deeper discussion and sharing.

We began with two thoughts for reflection:

I believe discipleship for me is...

How can I grow my discipleship?

These are great reflective questions for all of God's people.

We spent some time on what we valued for ourselves as individuals and shared values. A few of the shared values were: a church beyond/outside of the building, adaptive, collaborators and coconspirators in carrying out Christ's mission, and fellowship/sense of community.

The following four questions are tough for St. Paul, or any church, to ponder but must be answered if we are to move forward as a missional church:

- Why do we exist as a congregation, institution, or organization?
- What would be lost in our community, in our field, or in our world if we ceased to exist?
- What purposes and principles must we protect as central to our identity?
- What are we willing to let go of so the mission will continue?

Our final thoughts center around the DNA of St. Paul Lutheran Church. The DNA of a living organism is what makes it unique to itself.

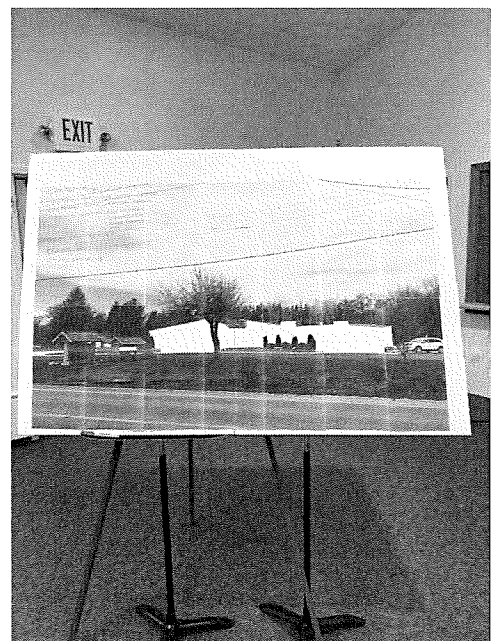
What DNA of St. Paul is essential and must be preserved?

What DNA of St. Paul can be discarded?

What DNA of St. Paul needs to be created through experimentation?

As we move forward, we ask God's continued guidance and blessing in helping us to fulfill Christ's mission.

Rich Cochrill
Council President



We spent time looking at this photo and discussing the question, "What would be lost in our community if St. Paul ceased to exist?"

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

May 10, 2021

Star Word - *Loving*

Technology Committee - Four people have agreed to work on the committee, and we are looking for more members. We are waiting to hear on the Mt. Zion grant.

Keyboard Update - Amy is working to get bids.

West Parking Lot - Council approved the bid which will include additional gravel and grading.

Habitat Nail Sale - Council approved the annual nail sale. Donations may be sent to the office or given at the June drive in worship service.

Annual Meeting Date - Council approved the date of Sunday, November 7th for the meeting date.

Nominating Committee - The committee will meet in June to begin reviewing the council offices needing to be filled in 2022.

 Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
Let's thrive.

Don't forget to direct
Choice Dollars®

Remember that if you are a Thrivent member you may have "Thrivent Choice

Dollars" to direct. St. Paul is one of the many potential recipients of your choice dollars, but your direction needs to be made each time. See Thrivent's website for more information. You can also call 800-847-4836 and Thrivent will assist you.

Our Daily Bread Devotionals

The June/July/August edition of "Our Daily Bread Devotions" has arrived. We have placed a stack of them in the Neighborhood Box outside the office door. It is located next to our Prayer Box. Please feel free to stop by and pick up a copy. Large print editions are also available in the Neighborhood Box.



Join us for a worship series in which we celebrate some of the names that Jesus gave himself, those beginning with the words "I am." Jesus identified himself with the holy name of God, the name that God gave to Moses when he set them free from slavery. He is I Am, the God who saves and sets people free! This series of worship services is based on six of Jesus' "I am" sayings. Jesus calls himself the Bread of life, the Light of the world, the Door of the sheep, the Resurrection and the Life and the true Vine. He identifies himself with the name of God, "I AM." Jesus is I AM, the God who saves and sets people free! We will begin this series online and at our Drive-in service on June 6. It will run for six weeks.

Synod Assembly

Due to Covid-19, Synod Assembly was held on-line this year in a one-day (6 hour) session on May 15. There were some technology challenges in the beginning of the day, but eventually they worked themselves out. We heard reports from the Bishop; Vice- President of the Synod, Paul Archer; Synod Secretary, Sonja Markwart; Nomination Committee, Pastor Joyce Partyka-Staib; the Synod Treasurer, Darrell Hurley; and the ELCA Treasurer, Lori Fedyk. We heard several mission moments from various organizations supported by Southeast Michigan Synod including Living Water Camp Ministry, Samaritas, Peace Not Walls, Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Portico and Mission Investment Fund. We passed the Synod's Operating Budget and the Fund For Mission Budget. Elections for Synod Council and Churchwide Assembly in August 2022 were done. Pastor Bonnie was re-elected to serve on Synod Council from Conference 2. A complete list of the elections can be found on the Synod website. While the technology issues in the beginning were a challenge, in the end the business of the Synod happened. We are hopeful that Synod Assembly will happen in person in Port Huron next year.

2021 Church Council

Rich Cochrill, Council President

Marilyn Knak, President Elect

Marcia Conard, Council Secretary

Julie Lusk, Treasurer

Susan Koglin, Financial Secretary

Jane Dennis, Asst. Financial Secretary

Karen Lee, Financial Representative

Leanne Fortushniak, Evangelism Rep

Danielle Golubinski, Parish Ed Rep

Chris Matts, Properties Rep

Ann Preimesberger, Stewardship Rep

Sue Wilson, Worship Rep

Lucy Fabick, Youth Rep

Cathy Stuewer, Youth Team Rep



Garden plot applications are available.

Call Don Strauss at 810-434-2380 for an application. Applications are also available on our website.

No boundaries

Love is a commitment to seek the good and to work for the good and welfare of others. It doesn't stop at our front door or our neighborhood, our religion or race, or our state's or [our] country's border. This is one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth, as the hymn goes. It often calls us to step outside of what we thought our boundaries were, or what others expect of us. It calls for us to sacrifice, not because doing so feels good, but because it's the right thing to do.

—Bishop Michael Curry, *Love Is the Way*

MATTS, CHRIS & CATHERINE

06/28

06/29

Re-Opening the Building Committee

We are closely monitoring the St. Clair Health Department's Covid-19 weekly report. Each month the council has conversation on the current status. We are continuing to follow the guidelines provided to us by the Synod, CDC and our insurance company for the safest way for our most vulnerable members to gather.



We're excited to share that we've launched online giving at **St. Paul Lutheran Church** through Tithe.ly, a safe and secure giving platform that allows you to give one-time or recurring gifts!

To make an online contribution go to our website, stpaul Lutheranph.com, and click on the green "Give" button in the middle of the page, select where your contribution will go (current expenses, GWIP, memorial, etc.) and whether you want it to be recurring or one time. You can use a credit card or bank account. Please consider "Cover Fees" when making your contribution. This covers the nominal fee for processing your contribution. Thank you for supporting our ministry!

Zoom Meetings without a computer-

Did you know that you can join our Virtual Social Hour on Sunday mornings without a computer? All of our Bible Studies, meetings and Virtual Social Hour can be joined by telephone – this includes landlines and cellphones! You won't have video capabilities, but you will be able to hear everyone and speak to everyone. All of our meetings have the same phone number to access the meeting. Simply dial 929-205-6099 and when prompted enter 810 982 9853#. After the next prompt enter # again and you will be able to join our conversation. We hope this enables more folks to feel connected!

Send us your email address-

We are working to stay connected with more folks in a variety of ways. We are sending out weekly emails with what is happening the coming week, devotions, birthdays and prayer concerns. Your email address will NOT be sold to a third party. Currently, we have 113 email addresses. It is our goal to reach everyone who uses email (even if you only check it once a week). Please send the church office (stpaulww@comcast.net) your email address so you can receive the latest news and updates!



Save the Dates: Drive-In/Outdoor
Worship July 4 & 25 @ 8:00 & 10:30

Puzzle!

For this cryptogram, use the clues to decode
Proverbs 3:5, NRSV.

CLUES:

Y = T, D = I

Y K T P Y D X Y J Z

V Q K R F D Y J O V V

C Q T K J Z O K Y, O X R

R Q X Q Y K Z V C Q X

C Q T K Q F X D X P D L J Y.

Answer: Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not rely on your own insight. Proverbs 3:5, NRSV

Kroger Community Rewards Program. St. Paul will receive rewards from your purchases at Kroger. To use the rewards program you can register online at krogercommunityrewards.com. All **current participants** in the Kroger Community Rewards Program **do not** need to re-enroll this year in order to earn funds for St. Paul. The rewards program runs from May 2020 to May 2021. Our NPO number is RK460. **Registration is online only.** Last quarter 34 households earned \$96.54 rewards for St. Paul.

Newsletter: The newsletter deadline for the July Ray is Sunday, June 20, 2021. Articles may be submitted via e-mail (stpaulww@comcast.net), on a flash drive or in writing.



Remember Our Members In The Military

COL. THAD MIDDLETON
2205 TANKER WAY
WICHITA, KS 67210



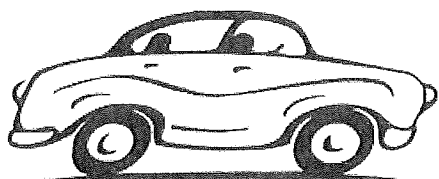
Melba Bartley
Connie Ganger
Lavina Kodet
MaryAnn Meyer



Prayer List



If you would like to add someone to our church prayer list, please email Pastor Bonnie at pastorbonniek@gmail.com. Request received by 9 a.m. on Fridays will be included in worship that Sunday. Those received after that time will be added to Pastor Bonnie's personal list and offered the following Sunday.



Drive-In Worship

Join us for Drive-in Style Worship
June 6 & 27
@ 8 & 10:30 a.m.

On-line worship opportunities

While we are not able to be face to face in worship in our sanctuary there are still opportunities to gather to hear God's word, to pray, to sing and to be encouraged. Each Sunday at 9:30am on our Facebook page worship is posted for us to gather in our homes at the same time to view worship.

The service is also posted on our website stpaulwlutheranph.com under the "Worship services" tab. We also gather on Zoom each Sunday at 10:30 for a virtual social hour. Here is the link to join us on Zoom – <https://zoom.us/j/8109829853> or see the article about join us without a computer.