

## From the Pastor's Desk

It is hard to believe that we have not gathered in our sanctuary for worship in a full year. It has been a year of so many losses – death, job, relationships and more. So many celebrations have been postponed – funerals, weddings, anniversaries, vacations. In many ways it feels as if Lent 2020 never ended. Here at St. Paul, we have continued to follow the Synod's guidelines, monitor the cases in St. Clair County, stay current with CDC guidelines and be in conversation with our insurance company. As many of you know, the cases in St. Clair county – specifically in Port Huron, Fort Gratiot and Marysville are spiking again (as of the writing of this newsletter). The new variant has been diagnosed here in Port Huron last week. The Bishop issued an updated letter this week. He writes, "It is still safest to refrain from indoor in-person worship. Almost every congregation in the Synod has found some form of technology that allows us to gather virtually, and many members have learned that virtual gatherings can be powerfully spiritual. Gatherings outdoors (especially as the weather begins to warm up) is very safe." Some of our members are beginning to be vaccinated and for that we give thanks to God. Some of our members may choose not to be vaccinated. Many of our members are still not eligible or are having difficulty getting appointments. But there does seem to be light at the end of this very long tunnel. The light of hope.

As recommended by the Bishop, as the weather gets warmer and we are able to gather outside, we will resume Drive-in style worship. I hope to progress to lawn chairs (this requires different technology to hear the service) by the middle of the summer. Please watch the newsletter, midweek emails (send us your email, if you haven't already), Facebook, and our website as dates become available.

Grace and peace,

*Pastor Bonnie*



## Holy Week Worship Schedule

Sunday, March 28- Palm Sunday Worship on-line @9:30am on Facebook or our website under the "Worship Services" tab – bring your Palm Branch that you have colored (see enclosed in the newsletter)

Thursday, April 1 – Maundy Thursday worship on-line @7pm on Facebook or our website under the "Worship Services" tab – bring a small bowl of oil for anointing during the service

Friday, April 2 – Good Friday Drive-Thru Stations of the Cross at church 6-8pm (See article in the newsletter)

Sunday, April 4 – Easter worship on-line @ 9:30am on Facebook or our website under the "Worship Services" tab.

### Drive-Thru Stations of the Cross

Our "Journey to the Manger" on Christmas Eve was such a hit last year we have decided to create a similar opportunity for the congregation and the community during Lent. You are invited to come to the church between 6-8pm on Good Friday (April 2) to experience the Stations of the Cross drive-thru style. You are invited to stay in your car. Please enter at the east driveway. There will be signs posted directing you. Each car will receive a booklet explaining each station. The stations tell the story of Jesus' journey to the cross. Please allow approximately 20 minutes for your drive-thru experience.



## Food Trucks

**Save the dates:** Food Trucks Thursday, May 20 and Thursday, August 19. Food distribution will begin at 11:00am. Details for volunteers will be shared closer to the dates.



### **You can make a difference!**

In May of 2019, I led a group to the Holy Land. It was a life-changing experience for all of us – to see the sites and meet the people and eat the food! Covid-19 has affected the world. The people in Bethlehem are hurting. 75% of their income comes from tourists and in a year not a single tourist has been in Bethlehem.

### **You can make a difference by purchasing handmade goods from the Artisans in and around Bethlehem.**

These artisans are people we met on our trip. Maybe you weren't able to join us in the Holy Land. This is your chance to purchase items directly from the Holy Land and help the people we met. I invite you to shop at: [www.touch-grace.com](http://www.touch-grace.com)

When you buy here you make a difference. This is a wonderful opportunity to do some early Christmas shopping. I personally bought several items for this past Christmas and was very pleased with the quality.

### **Order by May 1, 2021, for free shipping if shipped to and picked up from St. Paul Lutheran Church**

Use this code for free shipping: Stpaul2021  
Have your purchases shipped to St. Paul Lutheran Church for free shipping.  
Enter your mailing address as: 3790 W. Water St. Port Huron, MI 48060

Contact Pastor Bonnie with questions.

Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. The Offering of Letters to Congress engages churches, campuses, and other faith communities in writing personalized letters to Congress. Supported with prayer, these letters are a bold witness to God's justice and mercy. Year after year, they impact the decisions made in Congress.

As Christians, we are called to seek justice, care for those experiencing hunger and poverty, and embrace our Creator's vision of hope, love, and peace. We are called to embody it in public as we commit to live in solidarity with those who are made vulnerable by the inequities that drive hunger and poverty in the United States and around the world. *"Speak out for the rights of all who are destitute. Defend the rights of the poor and needy."* Proverbs 31:8-9

This year, Bread members will urge Congress to expand anti-hunger programs in response to the pandemic and to pass legislation that increases funding for global nutrition programs. We will be writing our letters at home and then mailing them directly to our members of Congress or emailing letters online to our Representative and both Senators with a single form. You may make a letter offering once or once a week or once a month or until your pen runs dry! Check out [WWW.BREAD.ORG/OL](http://WWW.BREAD.ORG/OL) where you will find sample letters, fact sheets, social media toolkits and videos.

We will keep track of how many letters and emails are sent by asking you to let Marilyn Knak know once you have done so. [marandron@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marandron@sbcglobal.net) or 586-864-6903

Share your offerings with friends on Facebook to spread the word...and The Word!

## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

March 8, 2021

Star Word - *Loving*



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!

Mission and Vision - With the events of the past year, the Mission and Vision team has revised the vision statement which has been approved by council.

Technology Committee - With the use of technology our weekly worship has increased fourfold. Council is working to develop this committee.

Food Truck - Two dates have been set for a Good Truck. The dates are May 20, 2021 and August 19, 2021.

Grace Tours - An opportunity to support our brothers and sisters in Christ in Israel is being made available. Please check the Ray and church web site for more information.

Bread for the World - Offering of letters - This is another opportunity to support those in need through letters to elected officials. Please check the Ray and the church web site for more information.

Sanctuary Painting - The council approved the bid to repaint the sanctuary and narthex. The painting will be done in March.

To make an online contribution go to our website, [stpaul.lutheranph.com](http://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!

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### 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!

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### 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](mailto:stpaulww@comcast.net)) your email address so you can receive the latest news and updates!

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 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.

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## **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

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## **Our Daily Bread Devotionals**

The March-May 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.

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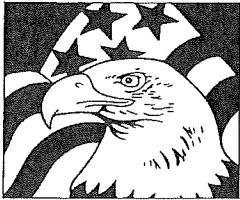
## **Re-Opening the Building Committee**

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.

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**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](http://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 36 households earned \$91.08 rewards for St. Paul.

**Newsletter:** The newsletter deadline for the May Ray is Sunday, April 18, 2021. Articles may be submitted via e-mail ([stpaulww@comcast.net](mailto: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

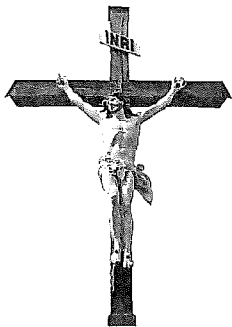


Melba Bartley  
Connie Ganger  
Lavina Kodet  
MaryAnn Meyer



*Prayer  
List*

*If you would like to add someone to our church prayer list, please email Pastor Bonnie at [pastorbonniek@gmail.com](mailto: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.*



**Join us for Drive-Thru "Stations of the Cross"  
on Good Friday—April 2  
From 6-8 pm at church**

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**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 [stpaulutheranph.com](http://stpaulutheranph.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.